

Role Description: Benefice of North Shields

1. Introduction

The role description gives an outline of the responsibilities of a position. These may develop while someone is in post and this document will need to be kept up to date. It should be reviewed as necessary at Ministerial Development Review, alongside the setting of objectives.

2. Details of post

- 2.1 Role title: Team Rector of North Shields
- 2.2 Name of benefice: North Shields Team Ministry
- 2.3 Patronage: Patronage Board
- 2.4 Deanery and archdeaconry: Tynemouth; Northumberland
- 2.5 Initial point of contact on terms of service: The Archdeacon of Northumberland

3. Role purpose: General

- 3.1 To share with the Bishop in the cure of souls.
- 3.2 Ever prayerful and mindful of the responsibilities laid upon you in the Ordinal, the Canons, national Safeguarding policies, and all other relevant legislation, in accordance with the Archbishops' statement *Guidelines for the Professional Conduct of the Clergy*, your ministry will be shaped by the Diocesan vision Seeking, Sharing, Sending and marked by a generosity of spirit, an engagement with the people and situations you serve, and an openness to the promptings of God's love.
- 3.3 Your priestly vocation demands the careful preparation for, and the leading of public worship, the imaginative proclamation of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and the loving service of all God's people entrusted to your care. Together with your priestly colleagues and lay ministers, you will work collaboratively to enable the gifts of all God's people to be developed in the Service of his Kingdom.
- 3.4 In your priestly ministry you will take an active part in the Diocesan strategy Seeking, Sharing, Sending. This will include collaborative parish conversations and planning for mission and ministry as well as working with colleagues across the Deanery and more widely in the life of the Diocese. A number of supports are available to you through the provision of work consultants, spiritual directors and Continuing Ministerial Formation programs, and you will be expected to participate in the scheme of Ministerial Development Review.
- 3.5 Above all, you will remember that we are called to minister by a gracious, generous self-giving and loving God, as together we seek the Kingdom, share the faith, search for truth, serve our neighbour and follow Jesus in his suffering love for the salvation of all people.

Role Purpose – Generic and Specific

- 3.6 To take responsibility for pastoral care, occasional offices and leading of regular public worship in the parish of North Shields,
- 3.7 Develop a Mission Action Plan with and for the whole parish to prioritise and encourage church growth and turning outwards in mission,
- 3.8 Encourage and develop lay vocations and ministries, particularly in work with Christ Church Primary, Sunday Schools/children's work and Pastoral Care,
- 3.9 Strengthen and develop relationships with other local schools,
- 3.10 Develop engagement with the town centre and local small businesses,
- 3.11 Explore greater partnerships for mission with the neighbouring parish of Holy Saviour in response to the Deanery Plan,
- 3.12 Explore the possibilities of a new worshipping community at the Fish Quay among the new housing, commercial, cultural, social and retail developments,
- 3.13 To facilitate and enable a conversation about worship patterns across the churches in the parish,
- 3.14 To be pro-active in ensuring that you continue to access new resources for your ministry and that personal spiritual nurture, refreshment and development is given priority.

4. Key contacts and relationships

4.1 Generic

- a. The Bishop of Newcastle and the Archdeacon of Northumberland
- b. The Churchwardens and the Parochial Church Council
- c. The Area Dean, Deanery Chapter and Synod
- d. Church House staff, including the Mission and Ministry team.

4.2 Specific

- a. Ministry teams in both churches, including the parish secretary
- b. Headteacher, staff and pupils of Christ Church CofE Primary School
- c. Churches Together in North Shields group
- d. Hall Users at Christ Church, particularly the Uniformed Organisations
- e. Groups using St Augustin's including the Craft Group, Table Tennis and AA
- f. Mothers Union.

4.3 Supportive

- a. The Archdeacon of Northumberland
- b. The Area Dean, Lay Chair and colleagues in the Tynemouth Deanery
- c. Pastoral Supervisor, work consultant and/or spiritual director.

5. Role Context

North Shields is a key commercial and residential centre in North Tyneside with an ancient history and a contemporary civic profile. The town centre has had varying fortunes and there is a mix of branches of national retailers, small businesses but also some empty shop fronts. There is diversity and variety within the local community too, reflected in the attractive and desirable Victorian and Edwardian housing stock and 'executive' new builds which sit alongside more temporary accommodation for asylum seekers and other vulnerable groups. A key part of life in North Shields currently is the North Tyneside Council project, Ambition for North Shields and the Fish Quay - northtyneside.gov.uk/ambition-north-shields

This is a parish with a large population and a vibrant community life. Christ Church particularly is a well-known building with a high profile in the community for civic events and occasions. Regular Sunday worshipping community numbers have struggled more recently and the historic expectations of a team parish with three or more clergy are no longer realistic. There is an opportunity to create a new profile for the church in a town that is changing rapidly.

6. Benefice summary as at time of compilation

Number of parishes	One
Churches and listing	Christ Church, grade II listed St Augustin, grade II listed
Parsonage	Semi-detached house close to Christ Church
Other buildings	Parish centre at Christ Church
Churchwardens	Four at Christ Church, two at St Augustin
Ministers (including local ministry)	One Reader with PTO. One Authorised Lay Minister
Population (2021 census)	14,539
Usual Sunday Attendance	Christ Church 50 St Augustin 20
Parish Share offered (2023)	Christ Church £38,000, paid in full St Augustin £15,636, paid in full
Resolution under the House of Bishops Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests?	No
Church tradition	Christ Church and St Augustin are both eucharistic with vestments
Pastoral Reorganisation Proposals	None
Outreach/service to the wider community	Events for local community Link with Church school Work being done on outreach on the Fish Quay Support for church overseas through Mothers Union
Business element	Parish centre and St Augustin's community space are rented out to community groups.
Ecumenical links	Members of Churches Together in North Shields

7. Review

The Archdeacon will review this role description with you when you have been in post for six months.