**Diocese of York**

Role Description:

Rector, Thirsk Benefice

**1 Introduction**

This role description takes into account the Parochial Church Councils’ statements of the condition, needs and traditions of the parish (the ‘parish profile’). It should be reviewed 6 months after the commencement of the appointment, and if necessary at Ministerial Development Review, alongside the setting of objectives.

**2 Details of post**

2.1 Role title Rector

2.2 Name of benefice Thirsk

2.3 Deanery and archdeaconry Mowbray, Cleveland

2.4 Initial point of contact on terms of service The Diocesan Human Resources Adviser

2.5 Patron The Archbishop

**3 Role purpose: Generic**

3.1 To share with the Archbishop and the Bishop of Whitby in the cure of souls in the benefice.

3.2 To be the priest of the benefice, having regard to the calling and responsibilities of the clergy of the Church of England as described 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.

3.3 To work with other ministers and with members of the Parochial Church Councils in the development of the Church’s mission and ministry, having regard to the need for sustainability and effectiveness in mission in each place, and jointly where appropriate.

3.4 To ensure that a high standard of worship, preaching and pastoral care (appropriate to each setting) is provided.

3.5 To nurture discipleship and develop the ministry of all God’s people, through training, co-operation and support, encouraging all people, as appropriate, to take responsibility for the mission and ministry of the parishes, and seeking to identify potential future leaders and ministers.

3.6 To be personally committed to, and to promote the Diocesan vision of ‘Living Christ’s Story’, prayerfully working to engage with the five marks of mission in the parishes and to explore with the congregations how they can respond effectively to the Diocesan goals of: becoming more like Christ; reaching those we currently don’t; growing churches of missionary disciples; and transforming our finances and structures.

3.7 To collaborate with others in the deanery in mission and ministry, and through deanery planning, participate in the future shaping of ministry according to the resources and opportunities available, and to be pro-active and constant in seeking the fullest possible degree of ecumenical co-operation and commitment.

**4 Role purpose: Specific**

4.1 To build on the work of the previous incumbent to grow the church and to be fully supportive of the Diocesan strategy expressed in *Living Christ’s Story*.

4.2 To enthusiastically support the Deanery Plan, which envisages the benefice as enabling and resourcing ministry across the southern part of the deanery.

4.3 To value local ecumenical relationships and the civic role of Thirsk parish church.

4.4 To continue reaching out to the local community (especially children, young families and those who have benefitted from *Multiply* work) and ensure good use of all church buildings.

4.5 To nurture and strengthen links with the local primary schools.

4.6 To support the variety of ministries offered in the parishes and to be respectful of the various styles of worship enjoyed by different congregations.

4.7 To continue to be a place of welcome to visitors drawn by local history (the James Herriot connection) and the beautiful surroundings.

4.8 To encourage and enable lay ministries of all kinds, in conjunction with the Diocesan Ministry and Mission Team and to support the work of the lay ministers in the benefice.

4.9 To grow generous financial giving through Free Will Offer.

**5 Key contacts and relationships**

5.1 *Generic and local*

a The Archbishop, Suffragan Bishop and Archdeacon

b The Churchwardens and the Parochial Church Councils

c The Area Dean, Lay Dean, Deanery Leadership Team, Chapter and Synod

d Diocesan and archdeaconry advisers in specialist areas

5.2 *Locally based assistant ministers and colleagues*

a Assistant Curates, the Revd Dawn Ward and the Revd Richard Grant

b Multiply Minister, the Revd Mary Rolls

c Five PTO priests and a PTO Distinctive Deacon, the Revd Bob Sidgwick

d PTO LLM, Pauline Sidgwick

5.3 *Supportive*

a The Area Dean

b The Diocesan Director of Mission and Ministry

c The Archbishop’s Adviser and Co-ordinator of Pastoral Care

**6 Role Context**

The Deanery Plan does not anticipate any reorganisation of this benefice in the foreseeable future.

**7 Benefice summary as at time of compilation**

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| Number of parishes | 4 |
| Churches and listing | St Lawrence, Carlton Miniott (2), St Leonard, Sandhutton (2), St Wilfrid, South Kilvington (2\*), St Mary, Thirsk (1) |
| Parsonage | A modern, detached five bedroom house in Thirsk |
| Other buildings |  |
| PCCs | 4 |
| Churchyards | Thirsk (closed), South Kilvington, Carlton Miniott, Sandhutton |
| Population | 6936 (2021 census) |
| Average Sunday attendance | 103 |
| Free Will Offer 2025 | £56,625 |
| Schools | Primary schools in Thirsk, Carlton Miniott, South Kilvington (VC) |
| Expenses | Paid in full |
| Letter of Request / Extended Episcopal Oversight? | No |
| Liturgical practice | Central with vestments |

**8 Review**

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

Date: 21 January 2025