

Role Description

St Marys Hale with Halebank & St Marys West Bank

Signed off by: Associate Archdeacon of St Helens and Warrington
Date: August 2024
Role title: Two-year Interim minister, St Marys Hale & St Marys West Bank

Deanery: Widnes
Archdeaconry: St Helens and Warrington

We are two very different churches in terms of size, strength and demographics, but we share a common desire to reach our communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ, leading people into a personal relationship with him and raising up 'disciples who make disciples'. The Parish of St Mary's Hale numbers around 3,750, with a congregation of around 80 regular worshippers. The Parish of St Mary's West Bank numbers around 2,000 with a small number of committed Christian's who meet weekly, and a strong youth element of around 120 under 16,s in Girl Guide and Boys Brigade units. Run by members of our church family they have a strong link to the church.

St Mary's Hale is a thriving multi-generational church (including over 20 children) which places a strong emphasis on the truth of scripture and the leading of the Holy Spirit. We have 5 discipleship groups and strong links with two church schools, with foundation governors in each. The varied nature of our congregation means that traditional and contemporary worship styles are valued with equal importance. We are asking God to send us a born again, Spirit-filled leader who will help to develop both sides of the congregation, teaching the Word of God and helping to raise up lay leaders. You will be supported by a Lay Reader, two Churchwardens, an experienced PCC and a vibrant team of lay people who are passionate about leading people into a real and tangible relationship with our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

St Mary's West Bank is a 'major church of huge historical significance, set in the centre of a small isolated community in the south of Widnes. We are a welcoming community, strong in faith, mission and fellowship.

We are very aware that most people learn of Gods love for them when they see it in practice. So we are praying for someone to help us with our mission to further demonstrate Gods love in our community. Reaching out to the children in our school, the elderly, vulnerable and lonely; while building on the work we are already doing within our thriving youth organisations.

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The Priorities:

Key priorities for both communities differ in line with the opportunities and challenges each face, and these are highlighted below. However, the incumbent will find strong support from the churches, who look for prayerful leadership to both build on existing mission and pastoral work, and create new relationships with the wider communities of which they are part.

St Marys Hale with Hale Bank	St Marys West Bank
Provide strong, godly leadership to support the existing traditional and contemporary styles of worship across a range of services, with a particular focus on deepening discipleship in both groups of people.	To invest in and build on missional opportunities with the local primary school.

<p>Invest in families, children, and young people, with a particular focus on building the church's strong links with two local CofE primary schools within the parish.</p> <p>Utilise every church service and community event as an opportunity to spread the gospel and foster relationships with Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Invest in the existing relationships with local community groups, building on regular services and patterns of worship that will embrace the diversity of the community.</p> <p>Commit to effective stewardship, including increasing parish income, encouraging the church family to be generous with their time, talents and money, looking at stewardship as a fundamental part of discipleship.</p> <p>Train believers for ministry work, ensuring they are well-prepared to serve and build up the body of Christ.</p>	<p>To shepherd and spiritually care for the existing congregation amid potentially significant change, embracing the challenge of being a relatively small community within a very historic parish setting.</p> <p>Be happy to lead a variety of worship styles, accommodating our varied service patterns and imbuing them with fresh ideas .</p> <p>Build on the relationship and missional opportunities within the uniformed organisations at St Mary's West Bank. Developing a realistic and sustainable vision for mission with all users of our church hall.</p> <p>Help the church and the wider community develop a long term strategy to safeguard the future of the historically significant building. To provide continuation of mission, and offer opportunities for people of all denominations to spread the word of Christ across both West Bank and into the wider and increasingly diverse Widnes Deanery.</p>
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Shared Priorities

<p>To Lead the parish in serious engagement and conversation around the diocese vision for Fit for Mission, and its aim of making this programme workable in the deanery in the next few years.</p> <p>To shepherd and spiritually care for the existing congregations and wider church community, encouraging all to live out their faith and vocation within the context of their everyday lives.</p> <p>To ensure that the commitment to safeguarding is current and maintained.</p> <p>Support the church to work collaboratively with the Deanery by engagement in chapter and synod.</p>
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The Leadership role:

For many years we have been working to achieve growth in our diocese. We have used different ways to express this but the aim and direction of travel has remained the same – consistent with the whole of the Church of England. We have articulated a vision for this growth by saying

“We are asking God for a bigger church so that we can make a bigger difference: more people knowing Jesus and more justice in the world.”

In our diocesan vision we have identified four priority areas for our work in mission in this season:

- Introducing people to God through Jesus Christ
- Deepening discipleship, especially by means of our Rule of Life
- Developing Christian leaders in every place
- Working for justice

Like everyone entering a new role in the Diocese, you will accept the priority of these areas, and will measure your ministry by effectiveness in these areas. You will be supported and expected to

be accountable (through the Ministerial Development Review as well as through regular meetings with your colleagues) for how they are being implemented within your area of responsibility.

In common with all clergy in the diocese, you will work together with others to: -

1. Establish a culture of invitation in evangelism across both parishes.
2. Start new worshipping communities and maintain existing healthy worshipping communities that are accessible to all.
3. Establish a culture in the local church of expecting a deepening of discipleship and putting into practice the 6 disciplines of the Rule of Life.
4. Develop prayerfully a strategy for mission and church growth and aligning it with the Diocesan strategy Fit for Mission.
5. Identify, train, release and support new Christian leaders and teams.
6. Encourage vocations by identifying the gifts of others and assisting people to seek God's calling for their lives.
7. Develop the distinctive ministry of the local Church within the wider context of the Diocese, Deanery and local ecumenical setting by establishing and maintaining good collaborative working relationships with clergy and lay colleagues.
8. Lead your congregations both to pray for justice in the Church and the world and to recognize how, working with others, your congregations can work for more justice in the Church, your local communities, and the world.
9. Ensure that safeguarding, financial and other governance disciplines are followed.

This two-year interim role will require a commitment and willingness to work across two neighbouring parishes, developing a realistic vision for the shape and long-term ministry of both. Working through the practical challenges of finance and buildings for St Mary's West Bank will be an inevitable part of this post, as will encouraging both communities to focus on the distinctive missional priorities already in place, whilst encouraging the development of the new.

This Role Description will be reviewed annually at the Ministerial Development Review (MDR) and may be updated subsequent to the MDR to reflect important changes in the ministry of the priest and the context of that ministry, including wider responsibilities in the diocese. Significant changes to this role description should be agreed with the church wardens in consultation with the PCC, in a team ministry with team clergy and with the area dean and signed off by the Archdeacon.

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