

**Role Description: Pioneer Minister to the Benefices of Seaton Hirst, Ashington and Woodhorn
with Newbiggin: three years fixed term appointment**

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: Pioneer Minister, Seaton Hirst, Ashington and Woodhorn with Newbiggin
- 2.2 Name of benefices: Seaton Hirst, Ashington and Woodhorn with Newbiggin
- 2.3 Deanery and archdeaconry: Morpeth, Lindisfarne
- 2.4 Initial point of contact on terms of service: The Archdeacon of Lindisfarne
- 2.5 Supervision: the incumbent of Holy Sepulchre Ashington

3 Role purpose: General

- 3.1 To promote the development of lay ministry, community engagement, engaging those exploring faith, strengthening links between the parishes, developing pathways between social outreach and faith exploration, working alongside the incumbents in attending to the cure of souls of the whole parishes.
- 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 development of Mission Action Plans, in particular a mission action plan encompassing the three parishes' joint working. A number of supports are available to you through the provision of work consultants and spiritual directors, 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 enable the incumbents and PCCs to realise their ambition for mission and growth to take place, and enable the parishes to fulfil their contribution to the diocesan vision of *Seeking Sharing Sending* as we face outwards in mission and grow younger and more diverse.

3.7 To be an engaged and pro-active presence with local communities, embracing local concerns and engaging with those who plan for the future of these communities, and with the incumbents, identifying and building on partnership opportunities for the parishes.

3.8 To discern and build pathways between community engagement and deeper engagement with church life, for instance through assisting the incumbents in their responsibility for pastoral care, leading of regular public worship in the parishes, building on best practice and discerning and initiating new discipleship routes.

3.9 To work with the Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Vocations, the Diocesan Lay Ministry Development Officer and PCCs to discern, enable and release lay ministry within the parishes, and especially to promote vocations to new ministries, lay and ordained. To promote best practice regarding clergy and lay partnership throughout the parishes.

3.10 To work with incumbents in placing a particular emphasis on the quality of the outward facing ministries such as major festivals, occasional offices, and assist in the broader task of enabling a deeper connection between those receiving the church's pastoral ministry and the life of the parishes' worshipping communities, propagating best practice.

3.11 To work with the parish priests and the PCCs in exploring new ways to work with children and young people, building pathways so they can make more effective connections with the life of the parishes.

3.12 To pro-actively develop a three-parishes Mission Action Plan to make a clear plan for deeper engagement and growth.

3.13 To contribute to the work of the chaplaincy at the Northumberland Church of England Academy Trust and other local schools, increasing lay participation in schools work and expanding best practice.

3.14 To work collaboratively with the clergy and lay leaders in the surrounding parishes in the Morpeth Deanery through full and active participation in Chapter and Deanery Synod; to support the implementation of the deanery vision for re-shaping local and mission and ministry in this part of south east Northumberland.

3.15 To be responsible for your own ministerial and spiritual development, ensuring that appropriate time is set aside for personal growth and for accessing fresh resources for ministry.

Key contacts and relationships

4.1 Generic

- a. The Bishops of Newcastle and Berwick; and the Archdeacon of Lindisfarne;
- b. The Incumbents, Churchwardens and the Parochial Church Councils;
- c. The Deanery Chapter and Synod;
- d. The Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Vocations;
- e. The Diocesan Lay Ministry Development Officer;
- f. The Diocesan Continuing Ministerial Formation Officer;
- g. The Diocesan Children and Youth Team.

4.2 Specific

- a. Headteachers, staff and learners at local schools including the four campuses of the Northumberland Church of England Academy Trust and their lay chaplain; the Grace Darling School in Newbiggin
- b. Staff and residents of local retirement/residential homes
- c. Ashington Town Council
- d. Staff and members of Hirst Welfare Centre
- e. Clergy and laity active within Churches Together in Ashington and in Newbiggin
- f. Members of the Mothers' Union Branches
- g. Those involved in NCoS and LET
- h. RNLI, Veterans' Association, Traders' Association in Newbiggin
- i. Those involved in all children's and youth work, especially through 'Beyond Youth'
- j. Wansbeck Valley Foodbank
- k. Newbiggin Community Hub

4.3 Supportive

- a. The Archdeacon of Lindisfarne
- b. The Area Dean; Lay Chair and colleagues in the Morpeth Deanery
- c. Work consultant or spiritual director.

5. Role Context

There is enormous potential in this South East corner of Northumberland for:

- The development of lay ministries,
- Increased cross-parish working,
- Deeper engagement with the wider communities in the parishes,
- Building bridges between community initiatives and faith exploration,
- Spiritual and numerical growth of the Christian communities.,
- Encouraging generous giving which permits sustainable provision of priestly ministry

It is important that the three benefices increasingly develop ways of working together to share good practice, inspire and encourage one another in faith and action and grow in confidence in partnership working.

The numerous schools in the parishes are a rich source of mission opportunity and the chaplain of NCEAT is an important mission partner as all these parishes live out their aspiration to grow younger.

Developing pastoral work with asylum seekers and refugees at St Andrew's is an area of collaboration to be built upon and the church has hosted several confirmation classes in recent years from among this population.

The pioneer priest will be supervised by the priest in charge of Holy Sepulchre, Ashington, who is also Area Dean of Morpeth Deanery.

6 Benefice summary as at time of compilation

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| Number of parishes | 3 |
| Churches and listing | St Andrew, unlisted St John, unlisted Holy Sepulchre, grade II listed St Bartholomew, grade 1 listed |
| Parsonage | There is clergy house adjacent to St Andrew's, which will house the Associate Priest. |
| Other buildings | Church hall at St Andrew's Parish Hall at Ashington Consecrated church centre and church shop at Newbiggin |
| Churchwardens | Two at St John's and St Andrew's, and at Ashington, four at Woodhorn with Newbiggin |
| Additional Ministers (including local ministry) | One active retired priest at Seaton Hirst. One retired priest and one Reader at Holy Sepulchre Ashington. One Reader and one Reader with PTO, three retired clergy and one SSM curate at Woodhorn with Newbiggin. Licensed lay chaplain at NCEAT Lay people are involved in worship in reading lessons, leading intercessions and administering the chalice. |
| Population | Seaton Hirst 18,578 Ashington 9,592 Woodhorn with Newbiggin 6,318 |
| Usual Sunday Attendance | St Andrew 28 St John 45 Holy Sepulchre 44 St Bartholemew's 45 |

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| Parish Share offered (2023) | St Andrew £10,000, paid in full St John, £17,500, paid in full Ashington £20,000, paid in full Woodhorn with Newbiggin £31,600, paid in full |
| Church tradition | The three parishes are in the modern Catholic tradition |
| Pastoral Reorganisation Proposals | None active. |
| Outreach/service to the wider community | There are links with NCEAT and with other local schools. “Beyond Youth’ was launched in September 2023 working across the parishes offering detached, church and community youth work. The Learning English Together project, based in St Andrew’s is a joint parish initiative to teach English to refugees. |
| Ecumenical links | Ashington Churches Together and Newbiggin Churches Together meet regularly for prayer and worship, and hold joint events. |

7 Review

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