

Role Description

Team Rector - Eccleston Team Ministry & Priest-in-Charge - St Mark's North Road



Signed off by: Archdeacon of St Helens and Warrington
Date: November 2024

Role title: Team Rector and Priest-in-Charge
Name of benefice: Eccleston Team Ministry, St Mark's North Road
Deanery: St Helens
Archdeaconry: St Helens and Warrington

The Context

The Eccleston team ministry is a team of three parishes on the north-western side of the town of St Helens, with a range of different housing and socio-economic circumstances, but on average slightly more affluent than the average for the borough. There are three well-maintained parish church buildings with three worshipping communities, plus a chapel of ease (previously also a parish church) with a significant community ministry.

The three parishes are all broadly evangelical, but with different characters and senses of identity. The current leadership is working to bring the churches and the ministry team to work more collaboratively together across the benefice.

St Mark's North Road is a separate benefice closer to the centre of the town of St Helens, previously in a different team ministry and will be sharing ministry provision with the Eccleston team for the first time. St Mark's is also broadly evangelical in character, with a strong local team and ministry on two sites, at the church and in the Gamble hall.

It is envisaged that that the four parishes will act more and more as if they were one team ministry, and in the future there may be proposals for St Mark's to become formally part of the team ministry. In the meantime the post-holder will be Team Rector of the Eccleston Team and Priest-in-Charge of St Mark's, with overall responsibility across the four parishes. The post holder will have a full-time stipendiary colleague, currently Team Vicar in the Eccleston team, who will also be licensed in the parish of St Mark's. We envisage that the two stipendiary clergy will each provide focal ministry to two of the four congregations.

This is a full-time stipendiary appointment and a four-bedroom vicarage is provided next to St James Church on St Helens Road L34 2QB.

The Leadership role:

As a leader in the Diocese of Liverpool, as well as the local tasks you need to do in your context, the Bishops and senior clergy of our diocese expect you to:-

- constantly advocate diocesan strategy
- sign people up to the Rule of Life (10,000 disciples)
- nurture existing congregational leaders (1,000 leaders)
- identify and release new leaders (1,000 leaders)
- identify and commission teams to plant new congregations/worshipping communities (100 congregations)
- build and lead a leadership team to shape and implement local missional strategy
- create a positive culture of accountability

- establish connections between worshipping communities
- attend to financial health of your worshipping communities.

The Priorities:

What are the top four or five things which the new clergy person will need to do to fulfil the leadership role articulated above.

- Together with the Team Vicar, shape the team including St Mark's North Road and build them up in fellowship, discipleship and mission
- In consultation with the team vicar and the communities, take responsibility for focal ministry in two of the congregations
- as the team discerns together, lead on developments according to your strengths and skills
- teach and proclaim the Christian faith yourself in our communities
- encourage and embed a culture of serious discipleship and evangelism

Other Key Responsibilities:

What are the other required key tasks that the new clergy person will need to do to support the priorities articulated above.

- embody a life shaped by regular prayer and study of Scripture
- identify, develop and lead existing and new lay leadership
- support and build on ecumenical and chaplaincy links
- engage with financial health and viability

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.