

## Role Description: Benefice of Upper Coquetdale

### 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: Rector of Upper Coquetdale

2.2 Name of benefice: Upper Coquetdale

2.3 Patronage: (1) The Chancellor of The Duchy of Lancaster (2) The Lord Chancellor (3) The Duke of Northumberland

2.4 Deanery and archdeaconry: Alnwick; Lindisfarne

2.5 Initial point of contact on terms of service: The Archdeacon of Lindisfarne

### 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 Upper Coquetdale.
- 3.7 To be a visible and involved presence in the benefice and to take an active interest in local matters as they impact on local communities, recognising and adapting to the diverse demographic needs in the villages and church communities.
- 3.8 To help lead and nurture new and deepening collaborations across the churches of the parish so that the gifts and skills of all are developed, new vocations to a variety of ministries emerge, and the partnership between lay and ordained strengthens.
- 3.9 To work pro-actively in Alnwick Deanery Chapter and Synod, maximising the positive impact of formal and informal links with stipendiary, self-supporting and active retired clergy and playing your part in the implementation of the deanery plan for mission and ministry.
- 3.10 With PCC, to develop an action plan for the benefice to enable the growth of the local churches in numbers, spiritual depth and missional engagement, developing ways for those interested in exploring faith to learn more about the Gospel.
- 3.11 To review with the PCC the existing activities with children, young people and their families – including schools work - and to plan for new styles of effective engagement, including suitable acts of worship.
- 3.12 To create opportunities for parishioners to explore the scriptures in small groups and to develop in their Christian knowledge and practical discipleship.
- 3.13 To stimulate the PCC to develop the use of their buildings so that they better serve the needs of their local communities.
- 3.14 To guide the laity in supporting, jointly with the clergy, those in need of help, welcoming newcomers and nourishing the faith of those already part of the established congregations.
- 3.15 To continually access fresh resources for ministry, to engage in the diocesan programme for Continuing Ministerial Development and to take time to develop personal spirituality.

## **Key contacts and relationships**

### 4.1 Generic

- a. The Bishop and Archdeacon of Lindisfarne;
- b. The Churchwardens, the Parochial Church Council and District Church Councils;
- c. The Deanery Chapter and Synod;
- d. Diocesan support staff including Safeguarding, Generous Giving and Vocations teams.

### 4.2 Specific

- a. Associate priest; retired clergy, Readers and ALM

- b. Ecumenical colleagues in Upper Coquetdale Churches Together
- c. Headteachers, staff and pupils in the three first schools (one of which – at Harbottle – is Church of England) and the Church of England Middle School: Dr Thomlinson at Rothbury.
- d. Local businesses, especially those engaged in agriculture and tourism.
- e. Local community organisations such as the uniformed organisations and Young Farmers
- f. Local residential care homes.

#### 4.3 Supportive

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

### 5. Role Context

Situated within the beautiful region of North Northumberland, much of this large parish lies within Northumberland National Park and the River Coquet is an SSSI, offering spectacular walks and views. Yet the parish is also well connected by road networks and is therefore commutable distance to the city of Newcastle and the nearby market towns of Morpeth and Alnwick. Rothbury is the main settlement offering all the amenities of a large village and is growing significantly through new build estates. The other villages are smaller with a deep rural feel and some unique heritage. The demographic of the parish is mixed: although largely white British and older than the national average, a wide diversity of professions and skills are practiced and the IMD score, almost exactly on the national average, belies wide variation in income. The churches seek to grow in diversity, spiritually and numerically and to increase their financial sustainability.

Despite an ongoing and active diocesan-wide deanery planning process, there are no plans for pastoral re-organisation in this part of Alnwick Deanery. But there is scope for increased working between the churches of the parish, between clergy and laity, and between church members and wider community. Each church has its distinctive identity and something unique to offer. Proposals for significant re-ordering in All Saints Rothbury need careful attention and discernment.

### 6 Benefice summary as at time of compilation

Number of parishes	One
Churches and listing	All Saints, Rothbury, grade II* Christ Church, Hepple, grade II St Andrew, Thropton, unlisted St Michael & All Angels, Alwinton, grade II* St Mary the Virgin, Holystone, grade II St Michael & All Angels, Alnham, grade I
Parsonage	A new house in Rothbury has recently been purchased to replace the old Rectory.
Other buildings	Parish hall in Rothbury

Churchwardens	2 each at Alwinton, Holystone and Alnham; 1 each at Hepple and Thropton; currently two vacancies at Rothbury.
Ministers (including local ministry)	One Associate Priest (SSM), three retired clergy with PTO, two Readers, one Authorised Lay Minister.
Population (2021 census)	3, 929
Usual Sunday Attendance	Rothbury 46 Hepple 12 Thropton 10 Alwinton/Holystone 20 Alnham 12
Parish Share offered (2022)	Rothbury/Hepple/Thropton £34,000, paid in full Alwinton/Holystone £7,000, paid in full Alnham £1,305, paid in full
Resolution under the House of Bishops Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priest?	No
Church tradition	Medium
Pastoral Reorganisation Proposals	None
Outreach/service to the wider community	Strong links with local schools. Churches are involved in local community activities. Bereavement Visiting Service (through Churches Together group). Parish hall and churches used for community events
Business element	Parish hall bookings
Ecumenical links	Upper Coquetdale Churches Together has a programme of activities and shared worship throughout the year.

## 7 Review

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