

Role Description: Benefice of Scremerston, Spittal and Tweedmouth

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: Vicar of Scremerston, Spittal and Tweedmouth
- 2.2 Name of benefice: Scremerston, Spittal and Tweedmouth
- 2.3 Patronage: The Bishop of Newcastle, the Mercers' Company and the Dean and Chapter of Durham Cathedral (jointly)
- 2.4 Deanery and archdeaconry: Norham; 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 parishes of Scremerston, Spittal and Tweedmouth.
- 3.7 Further develop the spiritual life of the church – leading, equipping and encouraging the congregation to be a power for Christ in the community.
- 3.8 Continue to build the fellowships established through our homegroups and prayer groups.
- 3.9 Build on existing mission and outreach in our schools, care homes and with children and families.
- 3.10 Be a visible presence and an approachable point of contact in our communities.
- 3.11 Network with and encourage those with whom we have existing relationships in the wider communities.
- 3.12 Engage the hard-to-reach in our communities, whilst bridging the gaps between incomers and local people and across class boundaries.
- 3.13 Build stronger foundations for discipleship especially among previously unreached 25 to 44-year-olds.
- 3.14 Further develop our environmental presence.

Key contacts and relationships

4.1 Generic

- a. The Bishops of Newcastle and Berwick and the Archdeacon of Lindisfarne;
- b. The Churchwardens and the Parochial Church Councils;
- c. The Deanery Chapter and Synod;

4.2 Specific

- a. The Ministry Team of retired clergy, Readers and ALMs
- b. The Children and Families Leader, once appointed
- c. Key players in our ministry and outreach activities, including Anna Chaplaincy
- d. Local parish and district councils
- e. Headteachers, staff and pupils of local schools and Rascals Nursery
- f. Ecumenical colleagues in Berwick Churches Together
- g. Staff and volunteers with the RNLI
- h. Mission partners at home (Mission to the Seafarers) and abroad (Joswigs – Wycliffe Bible Translators.)

4.3 Supportive

- a. The Archdeacon of Lindisfarne
- b. The Area Dean, Lay Chair and colleagues in the Norham Deanery
- c. Work consultant or spiritual director.
- d. The Mercers' Company
- e. Diocesan Director of Mission and Ministry and his Church House based ministry support team.

5. Role Context

These parishes are situated in a beautiful part of North Northumberland, close to the Scottish border and the picturesque town of Berwick upon Tweed. The area attracts increasing numbers of pilgrims, visitors and tourists with its rich Christian heritage, as well as beautiful coastline and its industrial and agricultural heritage. We are also seeing increased numbers of people choosing to make this part of the world their home and there is considerable new housing development locally.

The parishes have been working together as a benefice to support and enhance one another's ministry, each playing to its unique strengths. The worshipping tradition ranges from central Anglican in Spittal to open Evangelical in Tweedmouth and Scremerston. There is a strong focus on discipleship and mission as we seek to connect with wider cross-sections of the overall population.

The benefice is in good health spiritually and this is reflected in the financial and structural health of the buildings and church communities. A recently created servery in Tweedmouth for instance, facilitates community outreach and hospitality, whilst the spaces created by re-ordering in Spittal and Scremerston offer multiple opportunities to diverse groups and activities. A priest bringing vision and energy to lead the worshipping communities, as they work collaboratively towards their priorities, will be well-supported and will discern many exciting opportunities to meet the challenges as they live and share the Gospel across the benefice.

6 Benefice summary as at time of compilation

Number of parishes	Three
Churches and listing	Scremerston St Peter, grade II listed Spittal St John the Evangelist, unlisted Tweedmouth St Bartholomew & St Boisil, grade II listed
Parsonage	Detached house near the church in Tweedmouth
Other buildings	Vicarage and Church Hall at Spittal – currently let by the diocese Church hall at Tweedmouth – currently let to Berwick Rascals Nursery
Churchwardens currently in post	Scremerston – two Spittal – one Tweedmouth - three
Ministers (including local ministry)	Two retired clergy with PTO, one Reader, one Reader with PTO, 2 Authorised Lay Ministers
Population (2021 census)	Scremerston 509 Spittal 2,789 Tweedmouth 6,113
Usual Attendance Currently Sundays for Scremerston and Tweedmouth; occasional Sundays and weekly Wednesdays for Spittal (2024 figures)	Scremerston 14 Spittal 12 (Wednesdays) Spittal 4 adults/ 10 children (Teatime Church Sundays) Tweedmouth 44.5

Parish Share (2023)	Scremerston £8,400, paid in full Spittal £9,000, paid in full Tweedmouth £22,500, paid in full
Resolution under the House of Bishops Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priest?	No
Church tradition	Scremerston: Central Anglican Spittal: Central Anglican Tweedmouth: Open Evangelical
Pastoral Reorganisation Proposals	None
Outreach/service to the wider community	Work with families and young people at Spittal Links with local schools Links with local care homes Events for the local community The incumbent has traditionally been chaplain to the local RNLI station Mission to the Seafarers Mission Partners – Joswigs – Wycliffe Bible Translators
Business element	Income from Tweedmouth Church Hall – Berwick Rascals Nursery
Ecumenical links	Member of Berwick Church Together group

7 Review

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