

## Role Description: Benefice of Blyth St Cuthbert

### 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: Priest in Charge of Blyth St Cuthbert
- 2.2 Name of benefice: Blyth St Cuthbert
- 2.3 Patronage: The Bishop of Newcastle
- 2.4 Deanery and archdeaconry: Bedlington; Northumberland
- 2.5 Initial point of contact on terms of service: The Archdeacon of Northumberland

### 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 Blyth St Cuthbert. Re-establishing good links with funeral directors and welcoming those approaching the church for baptism.
- 3.7 To care for and encourage the congregation to grow in faith and in numbers through preaching, worship, teaching, prayer, and service to the community and to lead the parish in the development of its vision and strategy for growth.
- 3.8 To develop and grow an active team, recognising the talents and skills of lay people, and where appropriate making links into the diocesan authorised lay ministry initiative.
- 3.9 To bring a mission focus to the wide range of contacts and activities which take place in the life of the church and through the congregation, and support those who lead them.
- 3.10 To lead the parish and church community into creative and active partnership with the deanery in a time of change, to be open to closer cooperation with neighbouring parishes, and communities than previously expected, particularly St Mary's in Blyth town centre, in the sharing of wider responsibilities in mission. Active engagement with Deanery Chapter, Synod and the Deanery Development Group is expected.
- 3.11 To encourage and enable the congregation in the principles of stewardship and financial giving as part of discipleship.
- 3.12 To encourage and develop existing work with children and young people in the church and build on engagement with local schools.
- 3.13 To engage creatively with the community through existing relationships with hall users, ecumenical partners and others. To seek out new missional opportunities and discern potential for new worshipping communities.
- 3.14 To be pro-active in ensuring that you continue to access new resources for your ministry and that personal spiritual nurture, refreshment and development is given priority.

## **Key contacts and relationships**

### **4.1 Generic**

- a. The Bishop of Newcastle and the Archdeacon of Northumberland,
- b. The Churchwardens and the Parochial Church Council,
- c. The Deanery Chapter and Synod.

### **4.2 Specific**

- a. The Ministry Team at St Cuthbert's, including church musicians and choir,
- b. Affiliated church groups such as Mothers Union and Holy Weeds,
- c. Hall users such as the Asylum Seeker Support Group,
- d. Bede Academy in partnership with Newsham parish clergy

### 4.3 Supportive

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

## 5. Role Context

Blyth is a Northumberland coastal town with a strong identity – a proud past and currently going through a major town-centre redevelopment to secure a growing future. The parish of St Cuthbert’s Blyth, whilst not including the town centre, does contain key players in the life of the town, particularly, the Port of Blyth, Bede Academy, the beach front, Blyth Spartans football team and the RNLI station. Blyth has expanded recently with the building of new housing estates. The town is about to be re-connected to Newcastle and Ashington via the Northumberland Trainline, stopping at new stations Newsham or Bebside.

Blyth’s parish churches have been divided by tradition in the past, particularly the question of women’s ministry. However, more recently there has been an appetite for closer partnership across the town. St Cuthbert’s and St Mary’s, in the town centre, have particular opportunities for collaborative working over the next few years. There are major opportunities to increase the church presence in the commercial and educational life of the town as well as rekindling relationships with organisations such as the Royal British Legion and the RNLI. St Cuthbert’s traditional model of presence still attracts a good number and the ministry team are highly effective in running day-to-day, week-by-week church life. The work of the Food and Friendship group also has close links to St Cuthbert’s and are seeking to grow a new worshipping community.

## 6 Benefice summary as at time of compilation

Number of parishes	One
Churches and listing	St Cuthbert, grade II* listed
Parsonage	Four-bedroom semi-detached house five minutes walk from the church
Other buildings	Church hall
Churchwardens	Two
Ministers (including local ministry)	One active Reader with PtO and one active retired clergy person with PtO
Population (2021 census)	12,751
Usual Sunday Attendance	65
Parish Share (2024)	£25,000, paid in full
Resolution under the House of Bishops Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priest?	No
Church tradition	Traditional ‘middle of the road’ Anglican
Pastoral Reorganisation Proposals	None
Outreach/service to the wider community	Involvement with Blyth Community Food and Friendship

	Involvement in work with asylum seekers. Links with local schools Links with local care homes Special services for addiction recovery group Support for local charities
Business element	Income from church hall
Ecumenical links	Member of Churches Together in Blyth

## 7 Review

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