

Role Description: Benefices of Blanchland with Hunstanworth, Edmundbyers & Muggleswick, and Shotley St John

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 (0.5 FTE) of Blanchland with Hunstanworth, Edmundbyers & Muggleswick, and Shotley St John
- 2.2 Name of benefices: Blanchland with Hunstanworth, Edmundbyers & Muggleswick, and Shotley St John
- 2.3 Patronage: (1) Mrs D.E. Scott-Harden (2) Lord Crewe's Trustees & Chapter of Durham Cathedral (Blanchland with Hunstanworth and Edmundbyers & Muggleswick), Lord Crewe's Trustees (Shotley St John)
- 2.4 Deanery and archdeaconry: Corbridge; 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 Blanchland with Hunstanworth, Edmundbyers & Muggleswick, and Shotley St John.

3.7 To collaboratively lead the parishes in the development of their vision and strategy for growth, including growing younger and more diverse, developing sustainable local ministry that recognises the talents and skills of lay people, and encourages, motivates and enables their use in worship, service and outreach.

3.8 To work across the deanery with clergy and laity, supporting the role of the Area Dean and taking an active part in Chapter, Deanery Synod and Deanery Development Group.

3.9. To work collaboratively with all PCCs in the development and implementation of their vision and strategy for growth, assisting the parishes as they learn to share a priest and discern where it might be appropriate to share other gifts, skills, resource and roles.

3.10 To work with churchwardens and PCCs to proactively identify and encourage those who have a vocation to a diverse range of lay ministries, recognising the fundamental theological principle that the whole baptised people of God are blessed with gifts and skills with which to bless the wider community.

3.11 To work with others in deanery to help embed a culture of clergy and lay partnership, and partnership and collaboration between parishes.

3.12 To support the PCCs as they discern, develop and implement their plans to make their church buildings more open and sustainable.

3.13 To be pro-active in creating time for personal development and spiritual well-being.

Key contacts and relationships

4.1 Generic

- a. The Bishop of Newcastle, The Bishop of Berwick and the Archdeacon of Lindisfarne;
- b. The Churchwardens and the Parochial Church Councils;
- c. The Deanery Chapter and Synod;
- d. Staff at Church House, especially Clergy and Lay Development Officers, Generous Giving Team and Safeguarding Team.

4.2 Specific

- a. Management committees and user groups of the church and village halls;
- b. Those engaged in the heritage, pilgrimage and tourism industries;
- c. those working in local shops and the hospitality sector;
- d. Local Parish Councils and Community Associations;
- e. Local Foodbanks and Community Hubs.

4.3 Supportive

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

5. Role Context

These parishes lie along the beautiful Derwent Valley, partly within the 'North Pennines National Landscape' and containing a large section of the 'Way of Light' Northern Saints Trail, which means that pilgrims and tourists are important as well as the resident farming, business and commuting communities. Although the villages themselves are deeply rural, they are within easy commuting distance of Newcastle, Durham and Consett as well as the market towns of Hexham and Corbridge. The newly purchased parsonage is in the largest of the villages and has good transport routes to schools.

This will be the first time these parishes have shared a priest, although all but Shotley St John were previously together as part of a larger grouping, which also included the nearby villages of Slaley, Healey and Whittonstall. Pastoral re-organisation is part of a wider Deanery Planning Process as we discern the most sustainable patterns of worship, collaboration and outward facing mission.

The lack of schools in the group is a challenge to mission but is offset by the close links between church members and many other organisations. There is an aspiration to grow younger and more diverse. The large number of visitors, tourists and pilgrims to the area offer an underdeveloped mission opportunity. Most of the churches took part in the recent Heritage Lottery Funded 'Rural Churches for Everyone' Project to discern more open and sustainable futures, and Blanchland, Muggleswick and Edmundbyers all have well-developed vision and imaginative projects at different stages of implementation to realise some of the insights gained from it.

A recently retired priest with PTO, an experienced Reader and many other very engaged lay leaders and officers will be a great asset to any incoming priest.

6 Benefice summary as at time of compilation

Number of parishes	Three
Churches and listing	Blanchland St Mary, grade I listed Hunstanworth St James, grade II* listed Edmundbyers, St Edmund, grade II listed

	Muggleswick All Saints, unlisted Waskerley St Matthew, unlisted Shotley St John, grade II listed St Andrew, Greymare Hill, grade II listed (in the care of the CCT)
Parsonage	A modern house in Edmundbyers is being purchased.
Other buildings	Church Hall at Shotley St John (run by an independent Management Committee)
Churchwardens	Three at Blanchland with Hunstanworth Two at Edmundbyers Two at Muggleswick Two at Shotley St John
Ministers (including local ministry)	One Reader One retired priest with PTO A former Reader is currently in training to take on a leadership role.
Population (2021 census)	Blanchland with Hunstanworth 242 Edmundbyers & Muggleswick 285 Shotley St John 380
Usual Sunday Attendance	Blanchland with Hunstanworth 8 Edmundbyers & Muggleswick 10 Shotley St John 26
Parish Share offered (2023)	Blanchland with Hunstanworth £4,500, paid in full Edmundbyers £3,000, paid in full Muggleswick £612, paid in full Shotley St John £16,000, paid in full
Resolution under the House of Bishops Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priest?	No
Church tradition	Low to middle Anglican.
Pastoral Reorganisation Proposals	See role context
Outreach/service to the wider community	Ministry to visitors at Blanchland and camping project at Muggleswick Support for local food bank Events involving the local community
Business element	None
Ecumenical links	No other churches locally

7 Review

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