

## **Role Description: Benefice of Blyth St Mary**

### **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 Blyth St Mary
- 2.2 Name of benefice: Blyth St Mary
- 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 – Growing Church Bringing Hope – 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 development of Mission Action Plans, in the work of the Deanery through the Deanery Development process and more widely in the life of the Diocese. A number of supports are available to you through the provision of work consultants and spiritual directors, 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 Mary.
- 3.7 To encourage and lead the congregation to grow in faith and in numbers through preaching, worship, teaching, prayer, and service to the community and lead the parish in the development of its vision and strategy for growth.
- 3.8 To grow and develop local ministry that recognises the talents and skills of lay people, which encourages, motivates, and where appropriate links into the diocesan authorised ministry initiative.
- 3.9 To build on the parish links with children and young people through the schools and seek ways to include children and young people in the worshipping life of the church.
- 3.10 To help the parish develop links with the local community, including the foodbank and other community development opportunities, as well as fostering ecumenical partnerships and activities.
- 3.11 To lead the parish in cooperation and collaboration for mission with the parishes of Newsham & Horton and Cowpen focussed through the work of a shared lay community missionary supervised by the Vicar of Newsham & Horton.
- 3.12 To lead the parish and church community into creative and active partnership in the deanery, and particularly to explore developing collaborative work with Blyth St Cuthbert.
- 3.13 To be pro-active in creating time for personal development and spiritual wellbeing.

### **Key contacts and relationships**

#### 4.1 Generic

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

#### 4.2 Specific

- a. Children and Families Lay Missioner;
- b. Blyth clergy in Newsham & Horton, Cowpen and Blyth St Cuthbert;
- c. Lay leaders and volunteers;
- d. Churches Together in Blyth;
- e. Hall users, the food bank, and other community groups.

#### 4.3 Supportive

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

#### 5. Role Context

St Mary's Blyth is a local parish church ready to be led in renewed engagement with its local community. There is already a solid foundation of Sunday worship, partnerships with other local churches, a commitment to serving the vulnerable, and considerable use of the church buildings for a wide range of community activities. This is a congregation ready to grow and challenge the current decline, but seeking sensitive and imaginative leadership. During the last incumbency, resolutions around the ordination of women were rescinded.

The opportunities are huge, both for engagement with existing residents and new communities as the population grows. The burgeoning tourist industry in Blyth, following the regeneration of the beach areas, also provides significant opportunities for the parish church in welcoming and engaging with visitors.

The church building and hall are significant assets, both in location, quality, and condition. There is considerable room for development and growth in the church's engagement with children and young people, including involvement with the local schools and seeking ways to welcome children and young people into the worshipping life of the church. The recent engagement with 'Leading Your Church into Growth' and subsequent work to develop the mission and ministry of the church suggests a declaration of intent and commitment to church growth, mission and outreach in partnership within the locality.

Through the diocesan vision of *growing church bringing hope* there is a commitment to further resourcing Blyth, an area of deprivation, by introducing a fulltime lay community missionary to work across three parishes including St Mary's focussed on Children and Families. This 'new area of mission' requires collaboration and partnership between the clergy and congregations of Newsham & Horton, Cowpen and Blyth St Mary. It is hoped that his new resource will provide valuable capacity to engage in new work.

There is also the hope of developing collaboration between St Mary and St Cuthbert in their shared responsibility for mission in across the main township of Blyth.

## 6 Benefice summary as at time of compilation

Number of parishes	One
Churches and listing	St Mary, grade II listed
Parsonage	1920s semi-detached house adjacent to church
Other buildings	Church Hall
Churchwardens	Two
Ministers (including local ministry)	No other licensed ministers
Population	9,127
Usual Sunday Attendance (2018)	41
Parish Share (2019)	£29,500, paid £24,512 (87%)
Resolution under the House of Bishops Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priest?	No
Church tradition	Catholic
Pastoral Reorganisation Proposals	None
Outreach/service to the wider community	Volunteers at local food bank Contact with local schools Support given to various charities
Business element	Church hall lettings
Ecumenical links	Active 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.

Date