

Role Description: Benefice of Riding Mill

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 (half time) of Riding Mill
- 2.2 Name of benefice: Riding Mill
- 2.3 Patronage: Viscount Allendale (suspension of presentation in place)
- 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 – 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 Riding Mill.
- 3.7 To work closely with the clergy and lay leaders of the parishes of Bywell and Mickley, and Corbridge in developing the cluster within the framework of deanery development.
- 3.8 To be a visible presence within the village of Riding Mill, embracing and working with local concerns and enabling the parish church to be a good partner with others.
- 3.9 To lead and inspire the PCC and worshipping community as it seeks to implement its vision for the next stage of its journey, helping the parish to build on its present strengths but also to manage appropriate change.
- 3.10 To be a discerning facilitator, identifying gifts and skills, and enabling others to flourish in their discipleship and in contributions to secular life and to the church, both in Riding Mill and beyond.
- 3.11 To work with and help lead the young person's team to shape the engagement of the parish with children and young people, including working closely with the school to support the Headteacher, staff and governors during a time of major change for education.
- 3.12 To help the PCC develop creative and possibly new ways of worshipping for people of all ages, whilst valuing the existing service pattern.
- 3.13 To encourage all those involved in local ministry to strengthen the existing sense of collaboration, enabling clergy and laity to work more deeply together.
- 3.14 To be a supportive presence in and around the Shepherds Dene Retreat House, but especially to the warden and their staff team

Key contacts and relationships

4.1 Generic

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

4.2 Specific

- a. Readers and retired Ordained Local Minister with Permission to Officiate
- b. Churchwardens and PCC members
- c. Ecumenical colleagues in Riding Mill Churches Together (Roman Catholic, Methodist and Quaker)

- d. The Management Committee members of the Parish Hall and the Millennium Hall
- e. The Head Teacher, staff members, governors and pupils at Broomhaugh First School (the priest in charge will be an ex-officio governor)
- f. Warden and staff members of Shepherds Dene Retreat House
- g. Riding Mill Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and their leaders
- h. House group, Cursillo group, Meditation Group and prayer group members
- i. Cafe@The Foyer group
- j. Wentworth Grange nursing home, residents and staff
- k. Millennium Hall management committee

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

Riding Mill might be a smallish village in terms of numbers (around 1000 inhabitants) but it is a community, is very active and vibrant and has a wide impact in the Tyne Valley and beyond. There is a strong sense that the parish church is for everyone in the village. The ecclesiastical parish is more or less co-terminus with the civil parish of Broomhaugh and Riding.

The parish of Riding Mill has a well-developed understanding of its own faith journey and therefore it has also some clarity about its future direction. There are four key strands that have been identified: sustaining the congregation in their love of God; building on the existing relationship between the church and the local community; growing the community of faith, and connecting the parish more effectively with the wider world. This gives an incoming parish priest a framework within which to lead, and the parish has set out (helpfully) the resources and activities that currently exist in each of the four strands.

The PCC is cohesive and represents strong collaborative culture. There is however a need now to develop clearer patterns of working together amongst all who participate in the parish's ministry. There is an appetite for growth, especially in the mobilisation and empowerment of the many gifts and talents available in the congregation so that they are more widely available to the local church beyond the parish boundaries. During the current vacancy a small committee of the PCC was established to develop a vision statement which describes the aspiration to be more deeply in partnership with the local community. This is an exciting development and the details are set out in the parish profile.

Broomhaugh Church of England First School (Voluntary Aided) has over 70 pupils, of which 58% come from outside of the village. As an ex-officio governor, the parish priest leads on the agenda of 'faith and community' within the governing body as well as exercising a more general pastoral ministry to the head teacher, staff and pupils.

Over the past few years, the Corbridge Deanery Development Group has been doing work with all its parishes to envision the future of the deanery and to explore where the most preferable

boundaries and relationships are. The deanery vision statement is about the deanery 'actively responding to God's mission, transforming the lives of individuals and communities. In particular it focuses on developing accessible worship and promoting discipleship for all. In response a number of possible cluster arrangements are being explored across the deanery. Riding Mill is in an emerging cluster with Corbridge, and Bywell and Mickley. Thinking and practice is developing. It will be important for the parish of Riding Mill to continue its engagement in deanery thinking and develop its cluster relationships. In the longer term it may well be that Riding Mill parish will need to become part of a larger benefice. It's important that the new incumbent works closely with the Area Dean, Lay Chair, the Deanery Development Group and the Archdeacon of Lindisfarne as this agenda becomes clearer.

Shepherds Dene Retreat House is held in partnership with Durham Diocese, employs its own warden and welcomes guests from well beyond the diocese. The priest in charge of Riding Mill does not have a formal relationship with the retreat house, but will be a welcome visitor and the role of the parish priest at Shepherds Dene will develop organically according to the gifts and skills of the person appointed.

6 Benefice summary as at time of compilation

Number of parishes	One
Churches and listing	St James, grade II listed
Parsonage	1960s detached house adjacent to the church
Other buildings	St Andrew, Bywell (in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust) Church Cottage (owned by St James's Church) Parish Hall
Churchwardens	Two
Ministers (including local ministry)	One Ordained Local Minister (Permission to Officiate) One Reader (Permission to Officiate) Reader in Training Lay people are involved in worship and in pastoral visiting, including home communion
Population	966
Usual Sunday Attendance	50
Parish Share (2019)	£47,581, paid £44,000 (92%)
Resolution under the House of Bishops Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priest?	No
Church tradition	Mainstream Anglican
Pastoral Reorganisation Proposals	None
Outreach/service to the wider community	Good links with the local C of E School, the local care home and with various village organisations

	Church is used as a venue for community/cultural events Support is given to a number of charities
Business element	Use of Parish Hall
Ecumenical links	Active member of Riding Mill Churches Together

7 Review

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

Date

ArchdeaconofLindisfarne/ridingmillroledescription/200520