

Role Description: Benefices of Cowgate and Newbiggin Hall

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 Cowgate and Priest in Charge of Newbiggin Hall
- 2.2 Name of benefices: Cowgate and Newbiggin Hall
- 2.3 Patronage: The Bishop of Newcastle
- 2.4 Deanery and archdeaconry: Newcastle West; 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 Diocesan strategy – Growing Church Bringing Hope: Next Steps. 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 Cowgate St Peter and Newbiggin Hall St Wilfrid and to build confidence and enable growth in faith and in numbers through preaching, worship, teaching, prayer, evangelism and engagement with the community.
- 3.7 To work with both congregations to build confidence and vision, to grow and develop an active ministry team across the parishes, recognising the talents and skills of lay people, and where appropriate, making links into the diocesan authorised lay ministry initiative.
- 3.8 To work with both congregations to assess the current role of the church in the community and enable the development of its vision and strategy for growth.
- 3.9 Explore new purpose and vision for the mission of both parishes, with particular focus on the partnership with Sporting Chance and their use of the church halls in both places as well as other partnerships.
- 3.10 To engage creatively with the communities of both parishes and to seek out new missional opportunities, particularly in areas of new housing and discern potential for fresh expressions of church.
- 3.11 To encourage and enable the congregations in the principles of stewardship and giving as part of discipleship.
- 3.12 To encourage and develop existing work with children and young people in the churches and build on engagement with local schools across both parishes to work towards our diocesan aim of growing younger.
- 3.13 To lead the parish and church community into creative and active partnership with the deanery in a time of change, and to be open to closer cooperation with neighbouring parishes and communities than previously expected and the sharing of wider responsibilities in mission. Active engagement with Deanery Chapter, Synod and the Deanery Development Group is expected.
- 3.14 To ensure that you continue to access new resources for ministry and that personal spiritual nurture and refreshment is given priority in your ministry.

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;
 - d. Head Teachers of local schools.

4.2 Specific

- a. Retired clergy who have been working with congregations through the vacancy in order to establish a sustainable pattern for Sunday worship across the two parishes;
- b. Sporting Chance;
- c. Diocesan children and youth team, building on recent work by a community missionary across the parishes.

4.3 Supportive

- a. The Archdeacon of Northumberland;
- b. The Area Dean, Lay Chair and colleagues in the Newcastle West Deanery;
- c. Mentor;
- d. Spiritual director

5. Role Context

The Cowgate estate was built in the 1920s and is just under 3 miles northwest of the City Centre. The name is believed to come from the gate the local farmers would use from the Nuns Moor area to herd their livestock to the Newcastle cattle market.

In 2007 the Index of Multiple Deprivation identified the southern part of the estate as the most deprived area in the city and the 28th most deprived in England

Newbiggin Hall estate was built in the 1970s and has recently felt itself to be undervalued and even ignored in council regeneration initiatives. There has however, been some recent redevelopment around the church including a new medical centre, a new shopping centre and a new school complex and new estates are being built around the edges of the estate.

The previous Vicar of Cowgate agreed to work across both parishes and despite a strong sense of local identity relationships between the two estates have been built as a result, particularly through the Covid pandemic. A priest is sought to build a team and develop a vision for the Christian communities on both estates, honouring the local and distinctive but sharing resources, energy and vision where possible for the flourishing of the churches and the building of God's Kingdom.

6 Benefice summary as at time of compilation

Number of parishes	Two
Churches and listing	St Peter, Cowgate, unlisted St Wilfrid, Newbiggin Hall, unlisted
Parsonage	Four bedroomed, early 1970s house at Cowgate
Other buildings	Church hall at Cowgate, small hall and large hall at Newbiggin Hall.
Churchwardens	Two in each parish

Ministers (including local ministry)	One Reader and one Reader Emeritus at Cowgate. There are no other licensed ministers at Newbiggin Hall. Lay people are involved in worship, administration and pastoral care, including home communions, in both parishes.
Population	Cowgate 8,450 Newbiggin Hall 9,057
Usual Sunday Attendance	Cowgate 25 Newbiggin Hall 20
Parish Share (2021)	Cowgate £10,487, paid in full Newbiggin Hall £8,826, paid £5,500 (62%)
Resolution under the House of Bishops Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priest?	No
Church tradition	Cowgate: modern Catholic Newbiggin Hall: central
Pastoral Reorganisation Proposals	Parishes currently held in plurality
Outreach/service to the wider community	Cowgate and Newbiggin Hall have links with Sporting Chance that works with young people on education and well being. Involvement with D2 Youth Zone based at Newbiggin Hall. Newbiggin Hall work in partnership with Galafield Project, providing activities for children during the summer holiday. Cowgate have links with local schools and with a nursing home in the parish. Support for local, national and international charities.
Business element	Newbiggin Hall have an agreement with the charity Sporting Chance, who will extensively renovate the church halls to meet their needs in return for a long term lease.
Ecumenical links	Cowgate is a member of Churches Together in Fenham.

7 Review

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