

## **Role Description: Benefice of Allendale with Whitfield**

### **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 Allendale with Whitfield, Area Dean of Hexham and Deanery Lay Ministry Enabler
- 2.2 Name of benefice: Allendale with Whitfield
- 2.3 Patronage: (1) Viscount Allendale (2) J.H. Blackett-Ord
- 2.4 Deanery and archdeaconry: Hexham, 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 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 benefice of Allendale with Whitfield.
- 3.7 To collaboratively lead the benefice in the development of its vision and strategy for growth, 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 as Area Dean, chairing Chapter meetings, co-chairing Deanery Synod and offering support and encouragement to any benefices in vacancy.
- 3.9 To collaboratively lead the deanery in the development and implementation of its vision and strategy for growth, building a strong and diverse Deanery Development Group which models effective, strategic shared leadership between lay and ordained.
- 3.10 As Deanery Lay Ministry Enabler, 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 the diocese to develop and deliver lay training across the deanery to help embed a culture of clergy and lay partnership, and partnership and collaboration between parishes.
- 3.12 To be pro-active in creating time for personal development and spiritual well-being.

## **4 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 Council;
- c. The Deanery Chapter and Synod;

### **4.2 Specific**

- a. The Lay Reader
- b. Authorised Lay Worship Leaders and Lay Pastoral Assistants
- c. The staff and communities of Allendale Primary School and Whitfield Primary School
- d. Trinity Methodist Chapel Community
- e. Trustees of Allendale Almshouses
- f. Parish Councils
- g. West Tyne Foodbank
- h. Numerous local community organisations (Allendale has a hugely-developed sense of community of which the priest will be an important and valued leader)

- i. West Allen and Allendale Churches Together
- j. All clergy and lay leaders in The Parishes Along the Wall
- k. Members of the Deanery Development Group
- l. Diocesan Lay Ministry Development Officer

#### 4.3 Supportive

- a. The Archdeacon of Lindisfarne
- b. The Lay Chair and colleagues in the Hexham Deanery including a very effective Deanery Development Group
- c. Work consultant or spiritual director.

### 5. Role Context

The Benefice is situated in the south west corner of Northumberland. To the west is Cumbria and to the south is County Durham. It lies within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and is a popular destination for walkers and holiday-makers. The nearest town is Hexham, (11 miles from Allendale). The churches lie in the East and West Allen Valleys. There are three congregations, each worshipping in their own special way, and the communities are diverse and dynamic, having engaged very positively and creatively with one another and with the wider community during recent periods of lockdown, including extensive on-line worship, a church-and-community-centred Environment Group and other meetings. There is a strong commitment to lay leadership and to setting free the gifts of all of God's people with about six people from the parishes having just completed a deanery-developed Authorised Lay Ministry course in leading worship. A good number from the benefice are engaging currently in lay training and we seek someone who will encourage the considerable potential among the laity.

Hexham Deanery is actively engaging in the Diocesan Vision of 'Growing Church Bringing Hope' and working towards increased collaboration between ordained ministers and laity, and between parishes.

As Area Dean you will be part of a cohort of Area Deans who meet regularly with the Archdeacon, and you will be overseeing the fruits of some creative pastoral re-organisation in the 'Parishes Along the Wall' (Hadrian's!) from Greenhead in the West to St John Lee and Warden with Newbrough in the East.

As Deanery Lay Ministry Enabler you will work with clergy and lay leaders from across the Deanery to discern ways to encourage others to begin to recognise and exercise more confidently their God given gifts and to work with others from the Deanery and Diocese to develop lay training opportunities, including the Diocesan Lay Ministry Development Officer.

### 6 Benefice summary as at time of compilation

Number of parishes	Two
Churches and listing	St Cuthbert, Allendale, Grade II listed Holy Trinity, Whitfield, Grade II* listed St John, Whitfield, Grade II listed

	St Mark, Ninebanks, Grade II listed
Parsonage	Modern five bedroomed detached house in Allendale.
Other buildings	Church hall at Allendale Church hall at Ninebanks
Churchwardens	Two at Allendale, two at Whitfield, two at Ninebanks
Ministers (including local ministry)	One Reader. Strong tradition of lay involvement.
Population	Allendale 2,000 Whitfield and Ninebanks 546
Usual Sunday Attendance	Allendale 35-45 Ninebanks 15 Whitfield
Parish Share (2020)	Allendale £24,850, paid in full Whitfield & Ninebanks £4,642, paid in full
Resolution under the House of Bishops Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priest?	No
Church tradition	Common Worship is used, traditional language at Whitfield and Ninebanks.
Pastoral Reorganisation Proposals	None
Outreach/service to the wider community	Involvement in community events, church members involved in community organisations. Links with local schools, including a church school at Whitfield. Eco Church project.
Business element	Group using church hall
Ecumenical links	Allen Valley Churches Together hold joint events and services

## 7 Review

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