

Role Description

Priest in Charge – East Widnes Team



Signed off by:

Archdeacon of St Helens and Warrington

Date:

September 2018

1. Details of the post

Role title: Priest in Charge
Name of benefice: East Widnes Team
Deanery: Widnes
Archdeaconry: St Helens and Warrington

Initial point of contact on Clergy Terms of Service: The Diocesan Secretary

Please note that this Role Description focuses on the particular needs and opportunities in the East Widnes Team. It should be read and understood in conjunction with the Bishop's Statement and the parish profile and, for the successful candidate, alongside the Bishop's formal letter of appointment.

This Role Description will be reviewed annually at the Ministerial Development Review (MDR) and may be updated subsequent to the MDR to reflect important changes in the ministry of the parish priest and the context of that ministry, including wider responsibilities in the diocese. Significant changes to this role description should be agreed in consultation with the other team ministers and PCC and with the area dean before sign off by the archdeacon.

Archdeacon's Statement

This is a post for a capable and gracious priest who is willing to think creatively about three worshipping communities and how to use the ordained and lay leaders to support the worship and to develop the mission opportunities. There is significant new housing around the area and this has provided opportunities to make new connections. There is plenty of variety in the team which would need to be appreciated by a new Rector, from the more traditional historic parish church to a congregation which meets in a school hall. Each church has a significant lay team and during this vacancy they have developed an increased sense of unity and purpose. The Diocese will provide a suitable house for the new Rector, as the previous Rector lived with her husband in his clergy house.

Role Responsibilities

A priest shares with the Bishop both the privilege and responsibility of oversight within the Church and is charged with leading God's people in the offering of praise, the proclamation of the gospel, the celebration of the sacraments and the mission of God. This privilege and responsibility will be exercised with due regard to servant leadership, mutual ministry and personal example and a commitment to maintaining and developing personal spirituality and wellbeing

Entrusted with the inheritance of faith in East Widnes, a priest is also charged to be faithful in the stewardship of church finances; the mutuality of parish share which underpins ministry and mission in our Diocese; oversight of church governance; care of the church building and PCC property, and encouraging the vocation of God's people to discern their vocation and to exercise their ministry, lay and ordained.

The Priest in Charge will spend the majority of their time overseeing the ministry at St Luke's with Cronton Mission. The Team Vicar will support this work, but will focus on the St Ambrose ministry. (St John's church is moving out from the team to be part of Transform Widnes with St Paul's).

The clergy in Widnes Deanery have recently made a new commitment to work closely together in mutual support and common mission across the town. The new Priest in Charge will be expected to take a key role in this partnership.

The outworking of this charge will include the following:

The following headings draw on the insights of Anecdote to Evidence (www.churchgrowthresearch.org.uk/report) an Anglican report which explores aspects of parish life correlated with spiritual and numerical church growth.

Vision, mission and purpose

- identifying the mission opportunities across East Widnes and over time building up capacity in the congregations to serve in different ways
- encouraging the congregations to have confidence in their different styles and be willing to adapt as they respond to the changing environment
- continue to encourage a wider team ministry identity alongside the individual congregations

Leadership, collaboration and releasing lay ministry

- work with the existing Team Vicar to understand and use each other's gifts
- help the current lay leaders review their roles and gifts to continue to develop their vocations
- be open to the possibility of including a curate in the future
- be able to identify potential in others and to encourage this to develop
- have the ability to connect with people on the edges of church life and find ways to encourage them to become more connected to faith and the life of the church

Welcome and nurture

- introduce a nurture course that can be used across the team to allow people to explore faith

Actively engaging with the wider community

- build on the good will towards the church that allows the congregations to be seen as key parts of local life

Actively engaging children and young people

- work with the Deanery schools and youth teams and identify strategically how the East Widnes team connects well to each of the local schools
- consider how to link the numerous baptism families into a strategy for connection that can lead to an effective ministry for the whole family