**Associate Priest (House for Duty), Parishes in Plurality of Chilton Moor, Lumley, and East and West Rainton**

**The Post**

We are seeking a Priest to share in ministry and mission in these four semi-rural parishes that straddle the border of County Durham and the City of Sunderland.

The Associate Priest will work on Sundays and two other days per week alongside the incumbent, curate and other ministers.

The house is the Rectory in the attractive village of West Rainton. The City of Durham is five miles to the South, and the City of Sunderland is 9 miles to the North East.

Church tradition is generally central, with Lumley rooted in the Catholic tradition of the Church of England and applications are welcome from both men and women.

**The Place**

The four parishes each centre on a good sized village. With Chilton Moor and East Rainton being part of Sunderland City, and West Rainton and Lumley part of County Durham. All four formerly had mines, and the four churches were built on the back of the wealth created in the Victorian era from mining. After this time the populations of all four parishes have grown extensively with new developments continuing across the group of churches. There is still farming within the area but most people commute to the larger towns and cities for work. Though the Rainton Bridge business park is a location many commute to for work. All four parishes have people living with poverty, which is also impacted by the distance to some resources to assist with this. Generally people are very happy living within these communities. With many benefiting from close local family ties, long lasting friendships and long established support networks.

We are continuing to build links with schools in all four parishes, including through Open the Book and would like to develop this further.

**The Role**

The role will involve sharing general duties of leadership and ministry with the Priest in Charge, including preaching, pastoral care and occasional offices, but will specifically include the following:

* Sundays plus 2 days during the week
* Work alongside the Priest in Charge, curate, churchwardens and lay ministers.
* Full range of parish ministry including occasional offices.
* Lead worship on Sundays (usually 2 services)
* Shares responsibility in caring for everyone outside and inside our churches. Across all ages, and reflecting the diocese priorities of Challenging Poverty, Energising Growth, Caring for God’s Creation and Engaging with children, youth, and 18-25’s.
* Work together with PCC’s, congregations, community groups, and colleagues to ensure our churches are flourishing life giving places.
* Explore mission opportunities
* Supports the training and development of our congregations, our curate, and readers or ordinands on placement.

**The Ideal Candidate**

We are praying for someone who:

* Recognises their dependence on the grace and power of God in all things, and is consequently a person of prayer, humility and integrity, and is open to the leading of the Holy Spirit.
* Loves God and loves people and believes that the good news of Jesus Christ needs to be lived and shared with others.
* Is caring, pastoral and relatable
* Is able and keen to work as part of a team, and able to build good relationships with the Priest in Charge and other leaders in the church.
* Is an ordained priest within the Church of England

**Conditions**

House provided by Durham Diocese

The post is subject to an enhanced DBS disclosure.

**For enquiries:** Revd John Estall 0191 3882228 revjestall@gmail.com.com