

Diocese of Durham

Role description signed off by: Archdeacon of Durham Date:

To be reviewed 6 months after commencement of the appointment, and at Ministerial Development Review, alongside the setting of objectives.

Details of Post

Role Title:	Priest in Charge
Name of benefice:	Belmont, St Mary Magdalene & Pittington, St Laurence
Deanery:	Durham
Archdeaconry:	Durham
Initial point of contact on terms of service:	Diocesan Secretary

1. Role Purpose

The vision of the Diocese is 'Blessing our communities in Jesus' name for the transformation of us all'. Within this the four core priorities are to:

- Energise Growth
- Engage with Children, Youth and Young People,
- Challenge Poverty and
- Care for God's Creation.

These are outlined and expressed in the Diocesan Mission Strategy, 'Renewing Pilgrimage'.

General

- To share with the Bishop in the cure of souls in these parishes, in line with the Diocesan Vision, Priorities and Strategy described above.
- To be the parish priest of this parish, having regard to the calling and responsibilities of the clergy of the Church of England as described in the Ordinal, the Canons, national safeguarding policies, and all other relevant legislation, and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the Professional Conduct of the Clergy 2015*. Specifically, the parish priest must give due regard to safeguarding policy and practice.
- To work with the PCCs towards the development of the local churches (both the people and their buildings) so that the churches are sustainable and effective in mission.
- To ensure that a high standard of worship, preaching and pastoral care is provided so that people are enabled to live as disciples of Christ.
- To nurture discipleship and develop the ministry of all God's people, through training, cooperation, delegation, support and example, so that they take more responsibility for the mission and ministry of the parishes; to seek to identify potential future leaders and ministers. Where there is a Shared Ministry Development Team, to work with it as described in the SMDT agreement.
- To encourage all church members to participate in generous giving for the mutual support of one another across the diocese, and the wider Church of England.

- To collaborate within the deanery in mission and ministry and, through the Deanery Plan, participate in the shaping of ministry as resources and opportunities may require. (See further under “Role Context below.)
- To be proactive and persistent in seeking the fullest degree of ecumenical cooperation wherever possible.

Specific

- To encourage visionary and strategic thinking with a focus on mission and growth, leading to realistic yet ambitious goals, with a clear plan for implementation
- To be the Area Dean for Durham Deanery, as agreed in the deanery plan
- To continue to help the churches and their congregations to work well together, developing and growing in their relationships
- To help those in the congregations share their Christian faith, nurture their discipleship and help new people come to faith
- To encourage and enable lay ministry, recognising the vocation of all God’s people, identifying and developing the gifts that God has given his people
- To develop ministry among children, young people and families, encouraging them to begin a journey of discipleship
- To work well with local schools, particularly Belmont Church of England Primary School (ex-officio governor role)
- To actively seek partnerships and collaboration with local people and organisations in pursuing the mission of the churches, with regard particularly to the desire of all to connect positively with their neighbourhood
- To actively lead and encourage the environmental net zero footprint and 2030 challenge.

3. Key Contacts

- The Churchwardens and members of the PCCs
- Clergy and laity of the Deanery
- Archdeacon of Durham
- Bishops of Durham & Jarrow
- Local MP and councillors
- Head Teachers of local schools
- Ecumenical colleagues

4. Role Context

The benefice was created in 2007 linking the parish of St. Mary Magdalene Belmont with the smaller parish of St. Laurence Pittington. The benefice is in Deanery of Durham. Although the parishes of Pittington and Belmont are different in many ways the benefice has proved to be successful and the two churches work well together, each bringing different history, experiences and complementary talents and gifts that strengthen the whole.

The parish of Belmont is situated on the outskirts of Durham and has an estimated population of 8,769. St Mary Magdalene has an IMD Score of 10.7 and is ranked 9496 out of 12443 in terms of most deprived parishes. It is a popular and sought after place to live, with many families with children of all ages and a significant number of retired people. The parish has a Care Home and a house that supports people with severe physical and mental disabilities, one 11-16 school – Belmont Community Arts College, and four primary schools, one of which is Roman Catholic, one (St Hilds C of E Aided Primary School) is constitutionally linked with the neighbouring parish. The main responsibility is for Belmont C of E Controlled Primary School. There are three foundation governors including the incumbent who is an ex-officio governor. The parish also has a community centre, a health and fitness club, shops, library, 2 doctors' surgeries and a large retail park.

The parish of Pittington is adjacent to Belmont, but slightly further out from Durham City Centre. It has an IMD score of 10.26 and is ranked 9780 out of 12443 in terms of most deprived parishes. The parish population is about 1,578.

St Laurence Church is set in the small community of Pittington and is popular for weddings – Hallgarth Manor (hotel) is next door. The church family is gathered from a wide range of people and backgrounds, but they recognise that they have a predominantly aging congregation.