*Clergy Role Description*

**Diocese of Durham**

*Role description signed off by:* Archdeacon of Auckland / Rev James Harvey Date: 7.11.2022

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:* Pioneer Priest (Assistant Curate)

*Name of benefice:* St Cuthbert’s, Darlington

(licensed also to Holy Trinity, Darlington)

*Deanery:* Darlington

*Archdeaconry:* Auckland

*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 three core priorities are: Growing the Church, Children and Young People, Tackling Poverty and Care for God’s Creation. These are outlined and expressed in the Diocesan Priorities documentation.**

**General**

* To share with the Bishop in the cure of souls in these parishes, in line with the Diocesan Vision, Priorities and Plan described above.
* To be an Assistant Curate of these parishes, 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 Assistant Curate (Pioneer 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. .
* 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 (as in the Job Description document)**

The Pioneer Priest will:

* develop a coherent strategy of church mission and growth for those in their 20-50’s based on initial enquirer groups leading to missional communities and resulting in the development of new congregations.
* express the Gospel through actions and words, so allowing people to discover an experience of belonging, to consider the call of Christ upon their lives and to learn to become disciples of Christ.
* foster an entrepreneurial and creative approach towards evangelism within the church, and develop invitational evangelistic and missional initiatives around particular seasons, events and opportunities.
* have responsibility for developing new expressions of worship which are contextually sensitive and accessible for those who are exploring faith in Jesus, as well as develop a programme of seeker courses (Alpha etc.), and training others in personal evangelism.
* exhibit elements of a town centre chaplain, developing relationships with the Town hall, businesses, shoppers and visitors to establish an intentional and visible presence in the town centre.
* develop initiatives to increase the presence of the church and seek to utilise the potential of town centre events run by the Local Council town centre team through offering hospitality and relationship.
* work in partnership with and have line management responsibility for the Emerging Generations Lead and the Community Music Director (seeking to develop choirs and new congregations with children and adults through music).
* assist in recruiting, using safer recruitment guidelines, and supporting a team of volunteers, providing them with opportunities for appropriate training.
* develop new leaders as this will be integral to the post for the sustainability of future missional groups and new congregations.
* be responsible for ensuring that new services are delivered with excellence at all levels, in both worship and teaching.
* be accountable for growing the church numerically, spiritually and financially while working collaboratively with the local team and other stakeholders.
* be engaged in preaching and presiding on a rotational basis, and will have responsibility for some occasional offices as a missional tool. They will also provide occasional cover at Holy Trinity church for the Priest-in-Charge.

**3. Key Contacts**

* Priest-in-Charge, Rev James Harvey
* The Churchwardens and members of St Cuthbert’s PCC, and also Holy Trinity church and PCC
* Other employees of St Cuthbert’s (likely to include Operations Manager and Community Music Director)
* Trainee Assistant Curate of St Cuthbert and Holy Trinity Darlington
* Reader with PTO Hylda Hopper at St Cuthbert’s
* Patron of St. Cuthbert's, Lord Barnard
* Civic leaders – Chief Executive of Borough Council, Mayor, Council Leader, Deputy Lord Lieutenant.
* Local MP
* Heads of local schools, including Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College, St. Aidans Academy, and Polam Hall school
* Churches Together Forum Darlington
* Area Dean
* Archdeacon of Auckland

**4. Role Context**

St Cuthbert’s is a significant, Grade 1 Listed church in the heart of Darlington. It traditionally fulfils the role of the civic church here, with an expectation (for example) of some civic services taking place.

It has now successfully received a major Strategic Development Fund Grant (c. £2,000,000) to become a Resourcing Church, enabling both a reordering of the building and revitalisation of mission. There is a vision for the building to be transformed into a welcoming and flexible space open throughout the week, for new avenues of mission to be explored in the town, and – ultimately – for the church to support mission in the wider Deanery (as a Resourcing Church).

The Pioneer Priest role is a key position within this project, the aims of which are set out clearly in the separate “Job Description” document.

The Priest in Charge of St Cuthbert’s is also Priest in Charge of Holy Trinity, a growing church half a mile west of St Cuthbert’s. While these are separate parishes, the churches aim to work together wherever possible, and share their Priest in Charge and Trainee Curate. Therefore, while the focus of this role is clearly at St Cuthbert’s, it makes sense for the post-holder to be licensed to Holy Trinity as well, and they should expect to sometimes officiate at Sunday services and occasional offices as a member of the ministry team.

*SC Darlington PP RD*

*2022.11 v03*