**Diocese of Durham**

*Role description signed off by: Archdeacon Bob Cooper*

Date: 18/5/23

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

**1. Details of Post**

*Role Title: Associate Priest (House for Duty)*

*Name of benefice:* Plurality of Chilton Moor, Lumley and East and West Rainton

*Deanery:* Chester Le Street and Houghton

*Archdeaconry:* Sunderland

*Initial point of contact on terms of service:* Diocesan Secretary

**2. Role Purpose**

**The vision of the Diocese is 'Blessing our communities in Jesus' name for the transformation of us all'. Within this are the 4 core priorities are Care for God’s Creation, Energizing Growth, Children and Young People, and Poverty. These are outlined and expressed in the Diocesan vision and strategy documents.**

**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 the Associate Priest to 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 and its successors.
* To work with the PCC’s towards the development of the local church (both people and buildings) so that it is sustainable, and effective in mission.
* To ensure that a high standard of worship, preaching and pastoral care is provided so that people are more able 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 parish; and seeking to identify potential future leader 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.
* To be proactive and persistent in seeking the fullest degree of ecumenical cooperation wherever possible.

**Specific**

* 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:
* Someone who cares 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.
* Someone who will work together with PCC’s, congregations, community groups, and colleagues to ensure our churches are flourishing life giving places.
* Someone who has a mind for mission.

**3. Key contacts**

**The Archdeacon of Sunderland, The Priest in Charge of Chilton Moor, Lumley and East and West Rainton, The Area Dean and ministerial colleagues, The Churchwardens, Parish Officers and members of the PCC’s.**

**4. Role context and any other relevant information**

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.