*Clergy Role Description*

**Diocese of Durham**

*Role description signed off by:* Archdeacon of Durham Date: July 2025

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:* Interim Priest in Charge

*Stipend Allocation:*  0.5 plus house

*Name of benefice:* St Matthew’s, Newbottle

*Deanery:* Chester le Street & Houghton

*Archdeaconry:* Sunderland

*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:**

* **Energising Growth**
* **Engaging with Children, Youth and Young People**
* **Challenging Poverty**
* **Caring for God’s Creation**

**In addition to the priorities, the Diocese is working to a Transformation strategy, and the expectation is that all our clergy will participate in this. Diocesan Transformation is designed to enable a future that leads to missional growth and financial sustainability for our churches and diocese.**

**The Diocese of Durham is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults. All post holders and volunteers are expected to share this commitment.**

**General**

* To share with the Bishop in the cure of souls in this beneficein line with the Diocesan Vision, Priorities and Transformation Strategy described above.
* To be the Priest in Charge for 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 PCC towards the development of the local church (both people and building) 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. Where there is a Shared Ministry Development Team to work with it as described in the 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 to participate in the shaping of ministry as resources and opportunities may require.
* To be proactive and persistent in seeking ecumenical cooperation wherever possible.

**Specific**

* To work with the PCC and congregation in

1. *providing opportunities for encounter between God and people.*
2. *providing a prayerful, caring, safe and learning environment.*
3. *being a welcoming, generous and outward looking community.*
4. *reaching out to local, national and international concerns with prayer and practical help.*
5. *seeking peace and reconciliation with the help of God’s grace.*

* To enable the worshipping life of the church to continue to evolve by establishing new forms of church liturgy where faith can be explored by beginners/returners, and people can grow in discipleship.
* To develop work with children and youth, through which the good news can be shared, and young people might realistically begin a journey of discipleship.

**2. Key Contacts**

* Churchwardens, Officers and PCC of St Matthew’s
* Area Dean, Lay Chair and Deanery Chapter
* Archdeacon of Durham
* Incoming Archdeacon of Sunderland
* Mission, Discipleship & Ministry Team – especially the Growing Younger Team

**3. Person Specification**

The Priest in Charge will be a person who:

* Understands and works with good processes and practice; ensuring the PCC and congregation have a dynamic relationship to their vision, enabling growth in all its aspects, along with building discipleship and mission
* Models what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ and who can enable others to grow as disciples, nurturing new and established Christians
* Optimises the gifts and talents of the congregation through discerning, developing and using their gifts both within the church and in mission to the community.
* Continues the culture of generous giving, resulting in increased giving, increased income and increased opportunities
* Establishes strong relationships in the community
* Promotes and encourages a missional mindset and sees the whole of church life through this lens
* Supports and enables the congregation and their relationships in the community as tools for mission
* Helps the congregation to discern new missional opportunities and enable them to develop new sustainable ministries
* Encourages and enables growth through mission, an accessible and welcoming culture, harnessing those on the fringe and vibrant worship
* Champions ministry among children, young people and families ensuring the church is “growing younger”
* Develops strong pastoral relationships so that the church can develop and implement processes for pastoral care and growing new leaders