**Diocese of Durham**

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

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:* Priest in Charge of Dunston, St Nicholas

*Name of benefice:* see above

*Deanery:* Gateshead West

*Archdeaconry:* Sunderland

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

The new scheme will come into force on the retirement of a local incumbent in 2026

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 parish and in the new team (when the pastoral scheme comes into force), in line with the Diocesan Vision, Priorities and Transformation Strategy described above.
* To be the Parish Priest to 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.
* 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 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 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 establish a clear vision for mission, evangelism and ministry in the parish.
* To enable that vision to be communicated and implemented in the church, parish and deanery, supporting the congregation in making that vision a reality, being resilient to challenge.
* To be a visible presence in the community, seeking to draw people in by connection and relationship and meeting local need around isolation, poverty and care for one another, specifically through the work of the church’s charity shop.
* To encourage and support lay ministries already in place, seeking to further release and develop those ministries, enabling a focus on mission and evangelism in Dunston.
* To be a leader, an enabler, a teacher and encourager in the Spirit who will grow the worshipping community of the church, helping them to engage with children, teenagers and young adults and create opportunities to involve them in new church and discipleship activities.
* To build and encourage relationships with local schools and encourage engagement between the church and local schools.
* To enable church members to grow as disciples, encouraging lay ministry, recognising the vocation of all God’s people, identifying and developing the gifts that God has given his people.
* To increase engagement between the church and local community around particular concerns, including the diocesan priorities. To encourage greater commitment to mission and evangelism in the local community and be committed to pastoral care and social action in the parish.
* To work collaboratively with Churchwardens and the PCC, encouraging lay leadership and lay participation.

**3. Key Contacts**

* Churchwardens and PCC
* Area Dean, Lay Chair, deanery colleagues (including retired clergy)
* Archdeacon of Sunderland
* Mission, Discipleship and Ministry Team
* Heads and Governors of local schools
* Civic leaders, including local MP and councillors

**4. Role Context**

The parish of Dunston, St Nicholas is situated in the West of Gateshead with excellent local amenities and travel networks close by. The large village of Dunston is home to around 10,000 people, and is divided by the A1 cutting through the middle, although this affords opportunities to serve those areas in distinct and creative ways.

Historically an area of heavy industry alongside the river Tyne, there is now housing and smaller industry in those areas. There are some well developed green spaces across the parish, although areas of deprivation exist alongside. In an attempt to support and assist with this, as well as to encourage sustainable living, the church developed a charity shop in the Hall a number of years ago, which has grown and flourished into a place of support and encounter which local residents greatly value.

There are good local amenities including a swimming pool, local park, supermarkets and the Metro Centre Shopping Centre within easy reach. The 2 local primary schools and local secondary school are all rated ‘Good’ by OFSTED and keen for links with the Church, having congregation members serving as Governors.

**5. Person Specification**

Mission:

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| * A person of mature faith, prayer and spiritual vision with a passion to communicate the Gospel.
* A person with a vision to see people come to know Christ, with a passion for helping people to become Christians, and equipping the whole church body to share in Christ’s commission to make disciples.
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| * An ability to articulate and co-ordinate mission and enable others to be missional.

Ministerial Experience:* Open to, and comfortable with, leading both traditional and more alternative styles of worship.
* Proven pastoral skills across ages and personalities – especially with children and young people.
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Leadership:

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| * Able to manage change and development of people and place.
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| * Able to encourage and motivate others.
* Able to carry responsibility and pursue vision.
* Able to manage challenge and maintain focus on vision

Skills, Knowledge and Aptitude:* Excellent written and verbal communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to listen and respond sensitively.
* A person of sincerity: discreet, approachable and enthusiastic.
* Competent in digital technology and social media.
* A good manager of their own time; discerning about the best strategic use of that time within the development, mission and ministry of the church
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