*Clergy Role Description*

**Diocese of Durham**

*Role description signed off by:* Archdeacon of Auckland Date: Aug 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:* Priest-in-Charge

*Name of benefice:* Christ Church, New Seaham

*Deanery:* Easington

*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 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'.**

**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, in line with the Diocesan Vision, Priorities and Plan described above.
* To be Priest-in-Charge 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 Priest-in-Charge must give due regard to safeguarding policy and practice.
* To work with the PCC towards the development of the church (both the people and their building) so that the church is 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**

* To help the PCC and the congregation to develop their mission and ministry, showing leadership in this area while working collaboratively. In this, building well on recent growth is essential.
* To enable people to grow as disciples, nurturing new and established Christians and helping the church to become better at discipleship-development in and through its worship and activities.
* 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 facilitate growth in children’s and youth ministry.
* To work with the congregation in serving the parish, fostering a commitment to social justice.
* To actively seek partnerships and collaboration with local people and organisations in pursuing the mission of the church.

**2. Key Contacts**

* Churchwardens and members of the PCC.
* 5th Seaham Christ Church Cubs and Scouts
* Governing body of West Lea Primary School.
* Clergy of the deanery, Area Dean of Easington, and Archdeacon of Sunderland.
* Ecumenical colleagues.
* Local elected members and community leaders.

**3. Role Context**

Towards the end of 2023 Hope Family Church in Washington began to work with the congregation of Christ Church with the aim to revitalise the church. In January 2024, the Curate from Hope Family Church took on the role of leadership, revitalisation, and church planting at Christ Church Seaham, with Rev Gavin Ruston as Priest in Charge.

Initially there was a small core group of volunteers who offered additional support from Hope Family Church, however as the congregation returned to Christ Church, this support withdrew as members of Christ Church Parish stepped into these roles.

Christ Church has been blessed by the partnership with Hope Family Church. However, once a new incumbent is appointed, the relationship will change, and any future work with Hope Family Church network will be at the discretion of the new incumbent and the PCC of Christ Church New Seaham.

The PCC have a clear vision for the mission of the church and have been able to significantly develop thier missional activities during the last 12 months. They have a real passion for mission with all ages from young children to older members of the community and have seen substantial growth in the past 12 months. They are therefore looking for a Priest-in-Charge who will build on the good foundations laid in recent months, helping them to continue to grow and develop ministry at Christ Church. It will be important to have a minister able to recognise and raise up new leaders, and continue to deliver effective missional work and discipleship development.

The parish has a population of 8,158, and it ranks 2948 out or 12178 in Index of Multiple Derivation, where I the most deprived parish. This means that it is – overall – in the top 25% of parishes experiencing deprivation, and there are therefore pressing social needs in some areas of the parish.

**4. Person Specification:**

Christ Church seeks a minister who will help them to embrace the opportunities for mission in their parish and energise growth. They will work with the church members in developing their faith, gifts and mission, helping them to:

Belong – to the Christ Church family

Believe – in Christ as saviour

Become – the person God intends you to be

Bless – others everywhere

Specifically, the new Priest in Charge will:

* be loving, approachable, charismatic, and a good listener
* have a deep, personal faith centred on prayer
* have strong leadership skills
* be a team player that is accepting of all and able to engage all in mission
* develop effective missional work and discipleship
* be servant-hearted
* have a good sense of humour
* have good organisational skills
* be a forward thinker
* have a passion for working with children and young people
* be passionate about intergenerational mission
* have a passion for our community and for social justice