

Diocese of Durham

Role description signed off by: Archdeacon of Durham

Date: 15 November 2024

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

1. Details of Post

Role Title: Priest in Charge
Name of benefice: Belmont and Pittington
Deanery: Durham
Archdeaconry: Durham
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, and as part of our Diocesan Transformation Programme, the four core priorities are to:

- **Energise Growth**
- **Engage with Children, Youth and Young Adults**
- **Challenge Poverty and**
- **Care for God's Creation**

General

- To share with the Bishop in the cure of souls in these parishes, in line with the Diocesan Transformation Programme and Priorities.
- To be the parish priest 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 parish 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 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 encourage visionary and strategic thinking; to create a new Mission Plan and work with the PCC to enable the Diocesan priorities and Transformation agenda to be part of the parishes agenda.
- To continue to help the churches and their congregations work well together, developing relationships with one another and growing and thriving.
- To help the congregations share their Christian faith, nurture discipleship and help new people come to faith, so that the churches grow in discipleship, reach and numbers.
- 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 develop ministry among children, young people and families.
- To work well with local schools and colleges, particularly Belmont C of E Junior School
- To explore different forms of worship and services.
- To work alongside the PCC in reviewing their buildings and the usage of them and to support, encourage and enable any consequent reordering of those buildings and support the search for any funding necessary for this work.
- To actively seek partnerships and collaboration with local people and organisations in pursuing the mission of the churches, with regard particularly to the desire of all to connect positively with their neighbourhood.
- To actively lead and encourage the environmental net zero footprint and 2030 challenge.

3. Key contacts

- The Churchwardens and members of the PCC
- Other local clergy (including retired) and lay leaders
- Clergy of the Deanery, the Area Dean and Archdeacon of Durham
- Local MP and councillors
- Head Teachers of local schools, especially Belmont C of E (Controlled) Junior School.
- Ecumenical colleagues
 - Locality partners (St Giles, Shadforth and Sherburn)
 - Belmont C.E. (Controlled) Junior School,

- Other schools (Belmont Infant, Cheveley Park Primary, Belmont Community, Pittington Primary)
- East Durham Churches Together, including Carrville Methodist

4. Role context and any other relevant information

St Mary Magdalene has an IMD Score of 10.7 and is ranked 9496 out of 12443 in terms of most deprived parishes. (where 1 is ranked the most deprived and 12443 is the least deprived). The parish population is estimated at 8,769.

The church is a Grade 11 listed building.

There are four other denominational Christian churches within the parish boundaries.

St Laurence has an IMD Score of 10.26 and is ranked 9780 out of 12443 in terms of most deprived parishes. (where 1 is ranked the most deprived and 12443 is the least deprived).

The parish population is estimated at circa 1,578.

The church is a Grade 1 listed building.

There is one other denominational Christian church within the parish boundaries.

5. Benefice summary

Parishes:	Two
Churches:	Two
PCCs:	Two
Churchwardens:	Four
Ministers:	One LLM with PTO, one Lay Chaplain, one Pastoral Minister
Buildings:	Community hall at Belmont
Churchyards:	Two closed
Population:	10,254
Average Weekly attendance:	40 + 25
Bapt/Wedd/Funs	see Profile
Parish Share:	
Expenses:	Paid in full
Resolutions:	None
Liturgical practice:	Central, alb and stole
Pastoral Reorganisation:	None planned