

## Diocese of Durham

*Role description signed off by:* Archdeacon of Sunderland      *Date:* 24/4/24

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  
*Name of benefices:* St John's Birtley and St Andrew's Lamesley  
*Deanery:* Chester-le-Street and Houghton and Gateshead  
*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 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'.**

#### 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 the Parish 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*.
- To work with the PCC 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 new Priest-in-Charge should be enthusiastic with the appropriate leadership, interpersonal and motivational skills to maintain and develop spiritual wellbeing. Someone to help the parishes towards making our churches a haven for all the people of both parishes promoting the love of God and Christ Jesus. Someone to help us to identify what we already do well and areas where we need to change and innovate. We are open to new ideas and initiatives to ensure we are both welcoming and relevant to all. To value, encourage and develop our worship traditions. It is essential that our new Priest-in-Charge can further develop pastoral care with the help of other church members. We require the new person to lead us in developing a clear shared vision of how we see the future of our parishes working together and the vital role our churches can fulfil in our communities. There is also an expectation that the new priest will work within the ethos and ongoing ministry of the Deaneries and the Diocese of Durham.

### **3. Key contacts**

Churchwardens:

PCC Secretary:

Area Dean – Revd John Lintern

Area Dean Yvonne Greener

Clergy of the deanery, Area Deans and Archdeacon of Sunderland