*Clergy Role Description*

**Diocese of Durham**

*Role description signed off by:* Archdeacon of Auckland Date: 9.32.23

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 of:

*Name of benefice:* St Peter’s Stockton and St John’s Elton

*Deanery:* Stockton

*Archdeaconry:* Auckland

*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'.**

**General**

* To share with the Bishop in the cure of souls in these parishes, in line with the Diocesan Vision, Priorities and Plan described above.
* To be Priest-in-Charge 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 Priest-in-Charge must give due regard to safeguarding policy and practice.
* To work with the PCCs towards the development of the 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, 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.

**2. Specific (in line with the Parish Profile)**

The minister serving these parishes will:

* be a person of prayer, offering spiritual leadership in both parishes.
* work in partnership with a team of committed lay people in both churches to nurture the faithful and then reach out in mission to their communities.
* be highly collaborative, working well with the Associate Priest and a small team of retired clergy.
* make it a priority and have the skills to nurture the discipleship of church members actively through individual support, group study, parish weekends and retreats.
* work within and value the Liberal Catholic tradition, understanding and celebrating the beauty and rhythm of formal worship, including (at St Peter’s) a much-valued musical heritage.
* have the skills to encourage, support and develop new missional initiatives and worship opportunities.
* have the skills to grow and develop mission with children, young people and young adults (St Peter’s have a committed lay team who are keen to expand this work).
* be able to relate to a wide range of people in both communities, represent the church visibly in them, and enable church members to do the same.
* value and promote partnership and shared working with both ecumenical and Deanery colleagues.

**3. Key Contacts**

* The Churchwardens and PCC members of both churches
* Associate Minister and retired clwergy
* Stockton Civic leaders / MP.
* Headrteachers of both local primary schools
* Ecumencial colleagues in Stockton
* Area Dean and Chapter clergy of Stockton
* Archdeacon of Auckland

**4. Role Context (notes written from the perspective of the Archdeacon)**

St Peter’s is a church with a clear sense of mission, deeply engaged in its parish, with excellent relationships and partnerships with organisations in the local community. This reflects its very clear commitment to loving service to the people – especially those with the greatest needs – in this urban community in the heart of Stockton-on-tees. This work has been impressive in many ways. This Christian service is also rooted in a deep spirituality, and so is inspired by and renewed through vibrant worship in the Liberal Catholic tradition.

The church’s excellent welcome of all is currently creating a renewal of ministry among children and young people, with children and families from across the world, including some seeking asylum, finding a home here.

The church has also demonstrated its confidence and commitment by engaging in a significant reordering programme, which is underway. They see the cost of this as justified and necessary, as the building needs to be fit for mission. This is also impressive and commendable; the project will need support from the new Priest-in-Charge, but this should not daunt applicants: the work is well underway, with Faculty permission granted.

For a priest who values a Liberal Catholic tradition that is rooted in rich worship and expressed in vibrant, socially-engaged mission, St Peter’s is a really exciting parish.

St John’s serves a small village. The context is different, even though the physical distance is slight. In this small congregation relationships are valued, and the people of St John’s pride themselves on being welcoming and friendly. This is important, for while the congregation is rooted in and serves the village of Elton, they are also partly a gathered congregation: the tradition here is BCP communion, and some travel to belong to a worshipping community with this liturgical preference. So, the welcome matters both for those who are local and those who come for this specific liturgical tradition. How mission will be developed at St John’s is a question which the new priest-in-charge and PCC of St John’s will need to work on together.

*SPS SJE PiC RD*

*09.2023.v01*