

Role Description: Benefice of Haltwhistle and Greenhead and Parish of Beltingham with Henshaw

1 Introduction

The role description gives an outline of the responsibilities of a position. These may develop while someone is in post and this document will need to be kept up to date. It should be reviewed as necessary at Ministerial Development Review, alongside the setting of objectives.

2 Details of post

- 2.1 Role title: Priest in Charge of Haltwhistle and Greenhead and Assistant Curate of Beltingham with Henshaw
- 2.2 Name of parishes: Haltwhistle and Greenhead and Beltingham with Henshaw
- 2.3 Patronage: The Bishop of Newcastle
- 2.4 Deanery and archdeaconry: Hexham; Lindisfarne
- 2.5 Initial point of contact on terms of service: The Archdeacon of Lindisfarne

3 Role purpose: General

- 3.1 To share with the Bishop in the cure of souls.
- 3.2 Ever prayerful and mindful of the responsibilities laid upon you in the Ordinal, the Canons, national Safeguarding policies, and all other relevant legislation, in accordance with the Archbishops' statement *Guidelines for the Professional Conduct of the Clergy*, your ministry will be shaped by the Diocesan vision – Growing Church Bringing Hope – and marked by a generosity of spirit, an engagement with the people and situations you serve, and an openness to the promptings of God's love.
- 3.3 Your priestly vocation demands the careful preparation for, and the leading of public worship, the imaginative proclamation of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and the loving service of all God's people entrusted to your care. Together with your priestly colleagues and lay ministers, you will work collaboratively to enable the gifts of all God's people to be developed in the Service of his Kingdom.
- 3.4 In your priestly ministry you will take an active part in the Diocesan strategy – Growing Church Bringing Hope: Next Steps. This will include collaborative parish conversations and planning for mission and ministry as well as working with colleagues across the Deanery and more widely in the life of the Diocese. A number of supports are available to you through the provision of work consultants, spiritual directors and Continuing Ministerial Formation programs, and you will be expected to participate in the scheme of Ministerial Development Review.

3.5 Above all, you will remember that we are called to minister by a gracious, generous self-giving and loving God, as together we seek the Kingdom, share the faith, search for truth, serve our neighbour and follow Jesus in his suffering love for the salvation of all people.

Role Purpose – Generic and Specific

3.6 To take responsibility for pastoral care, occasional offices and leading of regular public worship in the parishes of Haltwhistle and Greenhead and Beltingham with Henshaw, making a reality of this new group of parishes.

3.7 To be a visible and involved presence in the settlements of the benefice and to take an active interest in rural matters as they impact on local communities, recognising and adapting to the different contexts of Haltwhistle, Greenhead, Beltingham and Henshaw parishes.

3.8 To help lead and nurture new and deepening collaborations across the Hadrian's Wall parishes so that the gifts and skills of all develop, new vocations to a variety of ministries emerge and that the partnership between lay and ordained deepens.

3.9 To work pro-actively in Hexham Deanery Chapter and Synod, maximising the positive impact of formal and informal links with stipendiary, self-supporting and active retired clergy.

3.10 With the three PCCs, to produce action plans for the benefices to enable the growth of the local church in numbers, spiritual depth and missional engagement.

3.11 To review with the three PCCs the benefices' existing activities with children, young people and their families – including schools work - and to plan for new styles of effective engagement, including suitable acts of worship.

3.12 To create opportunities for parishioners to explore the scriptures in small groups and to develop in their Christian knowledge and practical discipleship.

3.13 To stimulate the PCCs to develop the use of their buildings so that they better serve the needs of their local communities.

3.14 To recognise, nurture and encourage the gifts of the laity and actively support deanery and diocesan lay ministry development initiatives.

3.15 To continually access fresh resources for ministry, to engage in the diocesan programme for Continuing Ministerial Development and to take time to develop personal spirituality.

Key contacts and relationships

4.1 Generic

- a. The Bishop of Newcastle, the Bishop of Berwick and the Archdeacon of Lindisfarne;
- b. The Churchwardens and the Parochial Church Councils;
- c. The Deanery Chapter and Synod;

- d. The Diocesan Lay Ministry Development Officer

4.2 Specific

- a. Staff, governors and pupils of Greenhead Church of England Primary School, Henshaw Church of England Primary School and Haltwhistle Primary Academy (part of WISE Academy Trust).
- b. Staff and patients at Haltwhistle Memorial Hospital
- c. Staff and Directors of Haltwhistle (Regeneration) Partnership
- d. Local traders, businesses and those involved with the tourism industry eg the World Heritage site 'Housesteads Fort and Visitor Centre' 'The Sill' 'The UK Landscape Discovery Centre' and 'Vindolanda'.
- e. Members of the Mothers' Union
- f. Ecumenical partners, including Haltwhistle Methodist Church and the local Roman Catholic Church
- g. Leaders and members of Messy Church (ecumenical)
- h. Greenhead Village Hall committee members
- i. NCC elected members and parish councillors

4.3 Supportive

- a. The Archdeacon of Lindisfarne
- b. The Area Dean, Lay Chair and colleagues in the Hexham Deanery
- c. Director of Mission and Ministry
- d. Clergy Development Officer and Lay ministries Development Officer
- c. Work consultant, mentor and spiritual director.

5. Role Context

Haltwhistle is the geographical centre of Britain. It is also at the centre of a very exciting development in the life of the Parishes by The Wall. For some four years now the parishes of Haltwhistle and Greenhead, Beltingham and Henshaw, Haydon Bridge and St. John Lee with Warden and Newbrough AKA 'The Parishes by The Wall' (Hadrian's of course!) have collectively been exploring and developing ways of working together. This is much more than swapping pulpits every so often. This is a root and stock growth in Licensed ministry, lay ministry and ecumenical partnership. It is about asking how can we be church better together? How can we release the power of God's love into our communities? How can we be inspired by the Holy Spirit to live as Christ here today? It is about transforming our churches and communities for the benefit of all of God's people. Out of that positive decision has grown a genuine appreciation of those who worship in parishes other than our own. This has been strengthened during recent lockdowns by The Parishes by The Wall sharing in Zoom worship together Sunday by Sunday during the lockdown.

Situated in a beautiful part of the Northumberland countryside, The West Tyne Valley, the town of Haltwhistle and the villages in the parishes of Greenhead, Beltingham and Henshaw

offer a rich combination of contexts, worship styles and potential for mission. There are challenges as in any context, but also genuinely exciting potential for growth numerically and spiritually as we grow in our commitment to collaboration between parishes and between clergy and laity. You will be the first priest with oversight of all of these parishes, and work is ongoing to form a new benefice.

Haltwhistle is a market town in West Northumberland with a population of around 4000. The historic Holy Cross Church (grade 1 listed) is well-maintained and received a recent major re-ordering at the West End with the installation of a kitchen, storeroom and WC together with the creation of a flexible space for after service refreshments and community activities. The congregation have embraced the opportunities this re-ordering has brought to the parish enthusiastically but recognise that there is more to be done to make Holy Cross the lively community hub that it has the potential to be. Haltwhistle has all the characteristics of a small town, including the intensity of relationships that might be expected. The parish priest has a public role in the locality and plays a significant part in community leadership.

Greenhead is a village of under 400 in population terms, five miles further west than Haltwhistle and lies on the diocesan boundary and just within the border with Cumbria. Like its sister church, St Cuthbert's is well maintained and cared for and the large chancel kneeler is testimony to the craft skills of local people and the liveliness of the community. Greenhead Church of England Primary School is in federation with Henshaw Primary School, one governing body and one executive head teacher, and the parish priest is an ex-officio governor. The number of pupils on roll is well-over 50, a figure that has increased in recent years. St Cuthbert's Church has an aspiration to have a WC and servery developed within the existing envelope of their building.

The parish of Beltingham and Henshaw is rural, covering about 20 square miles. There is a railway station with trains to Newcastle and Carlisle and also a regular bus service. The main population lives in the adjoining villages of Bardon Mill, Redburn, Tow House, Henshaw and Thorngrifton. There are also scattered hamlets at Ridley and Beltingham and a significant number of isolated farms.

Beltingham and Henshaw have previously been in a benefice with neighbouring Haydon Bridge, whilst Haltwhistle and Greenhead were a separate benefice, so our new priest will be the first to be the priest of Haltwhistle, Greenhead, Beltingham and Henshaw. There is strong commitment from lay leaders and local clergy to ensure this new group of parishes flourishes.

6 Benefice summary as at time of compilation

Number of parishes	Three
Churches and listing	Holy Cross, Haltwhistle, grade I listed St Cuthbert, Greenhead, grade II listed St Cuthbert, Beltingham, grade I listed All Hallows, Henshaw, grade II listed

Parsonage	At Haltwhistle, five bedroomed semi-detached house near to church.
Other buildings	None
Churchwardens	Four at Haltwhistle, two at Greenhead, two at Beltingham with Henshaw
Ministers (including local ministry)	One Associate Priest is based in the neighbouring parish of Haydon Bridge and assists with services in Beltingham and Henshaw. Two local retired clergy are very active. Lay people are involved in worship, in producing the parish magazine and in pastoral visiting. Members of the congregation have participated Authorised Lay Ministry training courses.
Population	Haltwhistle 3,811 Greenhead 385 Beltingham with Henshaw 1,200
Usual Sunday Attendance	Haltwhistle 33 Greenhead 14 Beltingham with Henshaw 34
Parish Share (2020)	Haltwhistle £26,407, paid in full Greenhead £9,636, paid in full Beltingham with Henshaw £26,231, paid in full
Resolution A, B, C	None
Church tradition	Modern Catholic at Haltwhistle and Greenhead. 'Middle of the road' at Beltingham and Henshaw
Pastoral Reorganisation Proposals	The parishes are to be formed into a single benefice and are currently held in plurality.
Outreach/service to the wider community	Strong links with local schools. Support given to local, national and international charities. Support given to the local food bank. Community events held in churches. Visiting at Haltwhistle Memorial Hospital. Representatives on the Partnership and Chamber of Trade at Haltwhistle. Parochial charity (Bowes Lyon Trust) at Beltingham.
Business element	None
Ecumenical links	Member of Churches Together in Haltwhistle. There have been joint study groups with local Methodist and Roman Catholic churches.

7 Review

The Archdeacon will review this role description with you when you have been in post for six months.