



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

**Diocese of St Edmundsbury
and Ipswich**

Role description signed off by: Archdeacon of Suffolk

Date: October 2021

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

1 Details of post	
Role title	Priest in Charge
Name of benefice	Mid Loes
Deanery	Loes
Archdeaconry	Suffolk
<i>Initial point of contact on terms of service</i>	Archdeacon of Suffolk

2 Role purpose
General
To share with the Bishop both in the cure of souls and in responsibility, under God, for growing the Kingdom in this benefice.
To ensure that the church communities in the benefice flourish and engage positively with 'Growing in God' and the Diocesan Vision and Strategy.
To work together as the Priest in Charge to this benefice, having regard to the calling and responsibilities of the clergy as described in the Canons, the Ordinal, the Code of Professional Conduct for the Clergy and other relevant legislation.
To collaborate within the deanery both in current mission and ministry and, through the deanery plan, in such reshaping of ministry as resources and opportunities may require. To attend Deanery Chapter and Deanery Synod and to play a full part in the wider life of the deanery.
To work with the ordained and lay colleagues as set out in their individual role descriptions and work agreements, and to ensure that, where relevant, they have working agreements which are reviewed. This involves discerning and developing the gifts and ministries of all members of the congregation.
To work with the PCCs towards the development of the local church as described in the benefice profile, and to review those needs with them. To recognise and value the individuality of each community.
To ensure that a high standard of worship, preaching, and pastoral care is provided.

To work together, as appropriate, with other Christian denominations which have a presence in the parishes and the wider deanery.
Schools
To work closely with the local school/s. The diocese is committed to work with both community and church schools and this should be seen as a key part of the priest's role.
Specific tasks and responsibilities
This priest in charge role has two specific foci: i) Lead the benefice by working with the ministry team and parishes to develop a shared vision and plans for Growing in God with a particular focus on community engagement and mission ii) Foster a culture of generous giving and an understanding of Christian stewardship to enable future financial sustainability. In order to do this, the priest in charge will also :-
Be a biblical shepherd who will inspire and invigorate church members, encourage lay participation in services and identify and develop people's talents.
Share the Christian faith with people of all ages and work with parishes to widen the age profile of congregations through building on some of the initiatives already implemented.
Maintain existing links and continue work with Headteachers of all local schools to help develop ministry amongst young people and children, and particularly to build on the opportunities provided by schools.
Strengthen and encourage links with young people, families, the middle aged and newly retired and help to expand outreach, pastoral care and visiting capabilities for those in need such as the elderly, lonely and isolated.
Be willing to contribute to community life in all the villages of the benefice.

3 Key contacts
Generic The PCC's The Deanery Chapter & Synod The Church Wardens The Rural Dean and Lay Chair
Specific Ordained and lay colleagues (those holding the Bishop's licence, office holders and administrative staff)
Aspirational Headteachers Local community leaders and organisations

<p>Supportive The Archdeacon, who will review this role description with you when you are six months into post. The Rural Dean and Lay Chair Diocesan Director of Mission and Ministry Bishop’s Ministry Officer Archdeacon for Rural Mission</p>
<p>Patrons The Lord Chancellor The Martyrs’ Memorial & Church of England Trust (CPAS) The Church Pastoral Aid Society Patronage Trust The Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich The Warden, Fellows and Scholars of Wadham College in the University of Oxford</p>
<p>Role context and any other relevant information</p>
<p>The diocesan ministry deployment principles affirm an intention to maintain stipendiary clergy numbers if possible, subject to availability of financial resources, and to develop an understanding of local episcopal oversight ministry and local ministers in parishes ministering in teams or clusters. A key aim of this is to reduce clergy isolation and increase mutual support.</p>
<p>An understanding of the Centenary Share process and how it is applied across the benefices and deanery and its importance for the sustainability of ministry across the diocese is fundamental.</p>
<p>The Bishops expect and encourage clergy to take their rest days, holidays and regular retreats or similar. Clergy are strongly encouraged to have a spiritual director or equivalent.</p>

<p>4 Benefice Summary</p>	
<p>Parishes</p>	<p>Ashfield cum Thorpe Charsfield with Debach Cretingham Dallinghoo Earl Soham Hoo Letheringham Monewden</p>
<p>Churches</p>	<p>Ashfield cum Thorpe St Mary : Grade II Charsfield St Peter : Grade I Cretingham St Peter : Grade II* Dallinghoo St Mary : Grade II* Earl Soham St Mary : Grade I Hoo St Andrew and St Eustachius : Grade II* Letheringham St Mary : Grade I Monewden St Mary : Grade II*</p>

PCC	The PCCs seek to work together, to be supportive and effective in mission and growth.
Schools and Colleges	A Church of England Primary School in Charsfield A community primary school in Earl Soham
Churchwardens	Ashfield cum Thorpe St Mary : 1 Charsfield St Peter : 1 Cretingham St Peter : 2 Dallinghoo St Mary : 1 Earl Soham St Mary : 1 Hoo St Andrew and St Eustachius : 0 Letheringham St Mary : 0 Monewden St Mary : 2
Ministers	1 x Assistant Curate SSM 2 x Lay Elders PTO priest
Buildings (PCC responsible for other than the church)	NIL
Churchyards (Open or closed)	Ashfield cum Thorpe St Mary : open Charsfield St Peter : open Cretingham St Peter : open Dallinghoo St Mary : open Earl Soham St Mary : closed Hoo St Andrew and St Eustachius : open Letheringham St Mary : open Monewden St Mary : open
Population	Ashfield cum Thorpe St Mary : 234 Charsfield St Peter : 355 Cretingham St Peter : 196 Dallinghoo St Mary : 171 Earl Soham St Mary : 491 Hoo St Andrew and St Eustachius : 90 Letheringham St Mary : 70 Monewden St Mary : 120
Average Sunday Attendance	Ashfield cum Thorpe St Mary : 7 Charsfield St Peter : 12 Cretingham St Peter : 8 Dallinghoo St Mary : 14 Earl Soham St Mary : 19 Hoo St Andrew and St Eustachius : 9 Letheringham St Mary : 8 Monewden St Mary : 13

Parish Share	2020 £43,548 68.98% 2019 £55,402 92.14% 2018 £52,515 91.71%
Expenses	Reimbursed in full
Resolutions	None
Church Tradition	Central, rural 'middle of the road' Anglican
Pastoral re-organisation	The benefice is currently suspended as the deanery plan is still under discussion with other benefices soon to become vacant which may result in future pastoral reorganisation.
Presence of other Christian denominations	Baptist chapel in Charsfield
Presence of other faith communities	Nil