



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

**Diocese of St Edmundsbury  
and Ipswich**

Role description signed off by: Archdeacon of Sudbury

Date: August 2022

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

<b>1 Details of post</b>	
Role title	Rector of the Claydon Benefice and Rural Dean of Gipping Valley
Name of benefice	Claydon Benefice
Deanery	Gipping Valley
Archdeaconry	Sudbury
<i>Initial point of contact on terms of service</i>	Archdeacon of Sudbury, The Ven Dr David Jenkins

<b>2 Role purpose</b>
<b>General</b>
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 Rector 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 lead as Rural Dean 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 ensure the smooth running of 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.
<b>Schools</b>
To work closely with the local schools, particularly the High school and two primary schools. The diocese is committed to working with both community and church schools and this should be seen as a key part of the priest's role.
<b>Specific tasks and responsibilities</b>
Develop and exercise a local episcopal oversight role, working collaboratively with the ministry team to enable effective and fruitful ministry across the whole benefice.
Working with the parishes, develop a shared vision and plans for Growing in God; encourage lay participation in services; 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.
Teach and encourage an understanding of Christian stewardship across the benefice.
Strengthen and encourage links with young people, families, and other groups of people including the newly retired to help expand outreach, and offer 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.
<b>Rural Dean</b>
The Rural Dean has a key role in both the deanery and the diocese. This role is a partnership with the Bishops and the Bishop's Staff in helping to shape planning and policy. Within the deanery the Rural Dean sets the pattern for leadership and pastoral care.
The Rural Dean also shares in the Bishop's leadership in mission in the deanery. The leadership in mission is primarily expressed and articulated through the deanery mission plan. Given the wide-ranging nature of the duties and responsibilities of the Rural Dean s/he is expected to model collaborative leadership (for example with clergy, lay ministers and the Lay Chair).
Appointments are initially for a period of five years. The bishop is keen to rotate this office more frequently among a wider number of clergy than hitherto therefore renewal of appointment after five years is not automatic and should not be presumed.

<b>3 Key contacts</b>	
<b>Generic</b>	
Bishops	The Deanery Chapter & Synod
The Archdeacon	The Churchwardens
The Assistant Rural Dean	The Lay Chair
The PCCs	Headteachers

<b>Specific</b> Ordained and lay colleagues (those holding the Bishop's licence, office holders and administrative staff)
<b>Aspirational</b>
<b>Supportive</b> The Archdeacon, who will review this role description with you when you are six months into post. The Lay Chair and Assistant Rural Dean Diocesan Director of Mission and Ministry
<b>Patrons</b> The Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Mrs M Rusinow Martyrs Memorial and Church of England Trust Diocesan Board of Patronage
<b>Role context and any other relevant information</b>
The diocesan ministry deployment principles affirm an intention to maintain stipendiary clergy numbers if possible, subject to the 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.
An understanding of the Centenary Share process and how it is applied across the benefice and deanery and its importance for the sustainability of ministry across the diocese is fundamental.
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.

<b>4 Benefice Summary</b>	
<b>Parishes</b>	Claydon & Barham: St Mary & St Peter Great Blakenham: St Mary Henley: St Peter
<b>Churches</b>	Claydon & Barham: St Mary & St Peter – Grade I Great Blakenham: St Mary – Grade I Henley: St Peter – Grade I Retired Church in Claydon : St Peter
<b>PCC</b>	The PCCs seek to work together, to be supportive and effective in mission and growth.
<b>Schools and Colleges</b>	Claydon Primary School Claydon High School Henley Primary School Pre-Schools in Claydon and Henley

<b>Churchwardens</b>	Claydon & Barham: St Mary & St Peter x 2 Great Blakenham: St Mary x 1 Henley: St Peter x 2
<b>Ministers</b>	Assistant Priest x 1 Licensed Evangelist x 1 Reader x 3 PTO Clergy x 3 Lay Elders x 2
<b>Buildings</b>	Great Blakenham Parish Room Barham Church Hall
<b>Churchyards</b> (Open or closed)	Claydon & Barham: St Mary & St Peter - Open Great Blakenham: St Mary - Closed Henley: St Peter – Open retired Claydon : St Peter churchyard extension - Open
<b>Population</b>	Claydon & Barham: 3,500 Great Blakenham: 2,255 Henley: 573
<b>Average Sunday Attendance</b>	Claydon & Barham: St Mary & St Peter - 35 Great Blakenham: St Mary - 15 Henley: St Peter – 15
<b>Parish Share</b>	2021 £55,781 80.02% 2020 £57,806 81.38% 2019 £63,304 89.12%
<b>Expenses</b>	Reimbursed in full
<b>Resolutions</b>	None
<b>Church Tradition</b>	Central
<b>Pastoral re-organisation</b>	n/a
<b>Presence of other Christian denominations</b>	Baptist Church in Great Blakenham
<b>Presence of other faith communities</b>	