

Priest in Charge and Archdeaconry Mission Enabler

Role description signed off by: Archdeacon of Suffolk

Date: March 2024

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 (0.5 – three days/week plus Sundays) Sproughton, Burstall, Copdock with Washbrook, Belstead and (0.5) Archdeaconry Mission Enabler
Name of benefice	Part of the Samford Group Ministry (yet to be decided)
Deanery	Samford
Archdeaconry	Suffolk
<i>Initial point of contact on terms of service</i>	Archdeacon of Suffolk, The Ven Rich Henderson

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 as the Priest in Charge of these parishes, 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 work with any 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 ensure compliance and effective practice regarding all safeguarding matters including training.

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 schools – the parish priest is required to sit on the Governing Body of Sproughton CEVCP School. 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.

Specific tasks and responsibilities

Develop and exercise a local episcopal oversight role, working collaboratively with the ministry team to enable effective and fruitful ministry across the four parishes in the benefice.

Help the four parishes to discern their future together in light of the proposed move of two other parishes to a neighbouring benefice.

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 the benefice.

It is expected that you will help start two new worshipping communities in the benefice within the first five years of the post, as part of the *Growing in God* strategy.

Work closely as appropriate with the benefices of the deanery, especially with the benefice of Capel and the Wenhams, to enhance ministerial and missional strength and confidence.

3 Key contacts

Generic

Bishops	The Deanery Chapter & Synod
The Archdeacon	The Churchwardens
The Rural Dean	The Lay Chair
The PCCs	Headteachers

Specific

Ordained and lay colleagues (those holding the Bishop's licence, office holders and administrative staff)

Aspirational

To build stronger links with Copdock Primary School.

Supportive

The Archdeacon, who will review this role description with you when you are six months into post.

The Lay Chair, the Rural Dean

Diocesan Director of Mission and Ministry

The Archdeacon for Rural Mission

Patrons

The Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

Diocesan Board of Patronage

The Dean and Chapter of The Metropolitan Church of Christ

Role context and any other relevant information

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.

4 Benefice Summary

Parishes	Sproughton, Burstall Copdock with Washbrook, Belstead
Churches	All Saints, Sproughton (Grade II*) St Mary's, Burstall (Grade I) St Peter's, Copdock with Washbrook (Grade II*) St Mary the Virgin, Belstead (Grade II*)
PCC	The PCCs seek to work together, to be supportive and effective in mission and growth.
Schools and Colleges	Sproughton Church of England Primary School Copdock Primary School
Churchwardens	Sproughton x 2 Burstall x 2 Copdock with Washbrook x 2 Belstead x 2

Ministers	Readers x 1 Lay Elders x 8 PTO x 1 Local Leader x 1
Buildings	Church Hall at Sproughton Church Room at Copdock
Churchyards (Open or closed)	All Saints, Sproughton (closed) St Mary's, Burstall (open) St Peter's, Copdock with Washbrook (both open) St Mary the Virgin, Belstead (open)
Population	Sproughton : 1,376 Burstall : 198 Copdock : 1,114 Washbrook : 517 Belstead : 220
Average Sunday Attendance	Sproughton with Burstall Copdock with Washbrook and Belstead
Parish Share	2022 : £49,855 (Received : £40,989) 2021 : £49,582 (Received : £41,192) 2020 : £50,507 (Received : £36,397)
Expenses	Reimbursed in full
Resolutions	n/a
Church Tradition	Central
Pastoral re-organisation	Immediately prior to this appointment two parishes from the benefice have started working with a neighbouring benefice as part of a process towards possible permanent pastoral reorganisation. The person appointed will be in charge of the four remaining parishes.
Presence of other Christian denominations	n/a
Presence of other faith communities	n/a

Archdeaconry Mission Enabler

Purpose

To work alongside the Diocesan Mission Enabler to achieve the objectives of our Growing in God vision and strategy through the implementation of the Strategic Transformation Programme to ensure an outward facing culture of mission, evangelism, and service primarily in the Archdeaconry of Suffolk

Reporting to

Diocesan Mission Enabler

Key Relationships

Archdeacon of Suffolk

Rural Deans, Lay Chairs.

Benefice Incumbents in the Archdeaconry of Suffolk

Diocesan Mission and Ministry Team (of which you will be a part)

Suffolk Centre of Mission Evangelist located in the Archdeaconry. (If applicable)

Lightwave Associate Leader/Hub Leaders in the Archdeaconry

Key Tasks

- 1) Promote and support Incumbents and their Benefice Ministry Teams and PCCs to develop and implementation of Benefice Plans for Growth on a three yearly cycle to encourage growth in depth, influence, number and younger as determined by prayerful discernment in the Benefice.
- 2) Promote appropriate pathways for discipleship from exploration to commitment to a worshipping community both in parish and new worshipping community contexts.
- 3) Encourage integration and synergy with Lightwave Groups in the Archdeaconry to continue experimentation in mission and sustainability that benefits all.
- 4) Contribute to the delivery of Diocesan programmes to support mission in the different contexts of Rural Multi Parish Benefices, Market Towns and Larger Towns.
- 5) Assist with the promotion of Diocesan Wide Mission projects in the Archdeaconry as needed and directed by the Diocesan Mission Enabler (e.g., Mission in areas of New Housing; 'Music and Mission with Young People'; 'Thy Kingdom Come').
- 6) Promote plans for growth and other aspects of the missional focus of Growing in God at Chapters and Deanery Synods across the Archdeaconry as directed by Diocesan Mission Enabler.
- 7) Support incumbents with their applications to the Growing in God Fund Panel, in particular the Mission Fund, reflecting their Plan for Growth and inclusion of Growing in God impact measures.

Person Specification

Note: In accordance with the Equality Act 2010 it is a genuine occupational requirement that the post holder is ordained and has been in Holy Orders for a minimum of 6 years as the post holder will be required to represent the Christian faith in relation to mission and ministry of the Church of England.

ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
Qualifications/ Experience	
Theology Degree or Diploma.	MA or higher qualification in Mission Studies.
Ordained person for a minimum of 6 years in Holy Orders and parochial experience in the C of E at Incumbent Status.	
Developing vocations and ministries both lay and clergy.	Diocesan wide responsibility.
Developing mission in number, depth, and service.	Leading a growing Church.
Proven track record in enabling effective formation, training, and reflective learning practice regarding discipleship pathways.	
Experience of missional experimentation with those outside the life of the church	Leading in Church Planting or developing a Fresh Expressions of Church
Skills	
Good interpersonal skills and the ability to engage with a wide range of people.	Coaching, work consultancy or mentoring skills.
Analytical and inquisitive curiosity about people & contexts.	
Good written and oral communication skills.	
Familiarity with Microsoft Office & other relevant IT programs.	
Comfortable with social media and digital platforms.	Expertise.
Ability to self-manage a complex workload in a variety of settings.	
Ability to enable, delegate and support colleagues and volunteers.	

Excellent facilitation skills.	
Ability to travel across the Archdeaconry and to the Diocesan Office	
Knowledge	
Good understanding of differing traditions of the Church of England.	
Some knowledge of the practice and theory of Congregational Development, Church Growth, and effective Mission strategies.	Church of England programmes – <i>Everyday Faith, Growing Faith, etc</i>
Range of Evangelistic and Discipleship resources appropriate for different traditions and ages and stages of faith.	
Personal Qualities	
Vibrant and attractive Christian Faith, secure in their own tradition but appreciative of other traditions.	
Self-aware and appreciative of feedback.	
Flexible and positive.	
Committed to their ongoing discipleship, theological learning, and practice.	

GENERAL INFORMATION

About Us

The Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich has 445 parishes, 18 deaneries with 478 churches and around 110 stipendiary clergy. It serves approximately 631,000 people living in a geographical area of more than 1,400 square miles.

The Diocesan Board of Finance serves and supports our parishes and schools offering the people of Suffolk the opportunity to encounter God and grow in Christian faith. We strive to do this in line with our Values of Respect, Transparency, Quality and Support.