



Role description signed off by: Archdeacon of Ipswich

Date: February 2021

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	Priest in Charge (0.8)
Name of benefice	St Thomas the Apostle & Martyr, Ipswich
Deanery	Ipswich
Archdeaconry	Ipswich
<i>Initial point of contact on terms of service</i>	Archdeacon of Ipswich

<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 Inspiring Ipswich Deanery Vision and Strategy.
To work as the Priest-in-Charge of 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 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 ordained and lay colleagues as set out in their individual role descriptions and working agreements, and to ensure that, where relevant, they have working agreements which are regularly reviewed. This involves discerning and developing the gifts and ministries of all members of the congregation.
To work with the PCC towards the development of the local church as described in the benefice profile, and to review those needs with them.
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 parish and the wider deanery.
<b>Schools</b>
To work closely with the local 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 parish, develop a shared vision for the Inspiring Ipswich Parish Plan; encourage lay participation in services; identify and develop people's gifts; and help start a new worshipping community or more.
Share the Christian faith with people of all ages and work with the parish to widen the age profile of the congregation 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.

<b>3 Key contacts</b>
<b>Generic</b> The PCC The St Thomas Pilgrim Community The Deanery Chapter and Synod The Church Wardens The Deanery Leadership team The Mission Accompanier The Inspiring Ipswich Team
<b>Specific</b> Ordained and lay colleagues (those holding the Bishop's licence and office holders)  (See later)
<b>Aspirational</b> A priest-in-charge with a passion for spreading the word and love of God in the parish, to build upon what has already been achieved and to help lead the continuing growth of the church and the kingdom of God in this area.
<b>Supportive</b>

<p>The Archdeacon, who will review this role description with you when you are six months into post. The Area Dean and Deanery Leadership Team</p>
<p><b>Patrons</b> Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich</p>
<p><b>Role context and any other relevant information</b></p>
<p>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.</p>
<p>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.</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><b>4 Benefice Summary</b></p>	
<p><b>Parishes</b></p>	<p>Ipswich: St Thomas the Apostle &amp; Martyr</p>
<p><b>Churches</b></p>	<p>St Thomas</p>
<p><b>PCC</b></p>	<p>The PCC seek to work together, to be supportive and effective in mission and growth.</p>
<p><b>Schools and Colleges</b></p>	<p>Strong connections with the Whitehouse Primary School and Westbourne Academy and Nature Den Nursery</p>
<p><b>Churchwardens</b></p>	<p>2</p>
<p><b>Ministers</b></p>	<p>Curate (in final year) Retired Clergy x 3 Licensed Parish Evangelist x1 Licensed Pastoral Elders x2</p>
<p><b>Buildings</b></p>	<p>Attached Community Room (the old Church Hall now belongs to the nursery)</p>
<p><b>Churchyards</b> (Open or closed)</p>	<p>Closed</p>
<p><b>Population</b></p>	<p>Around 10,700</p>
<p><b>Average Sunday Attendance</b></p>	<p>Average Sunday attendance 63 Average weekly attendance in October 94</p>

<b>Parish Share</b>	2020: £33,000 2019: £30,000 2018: £25,000
<b>Expenses</b>	Reimbursed in full
<b>Resolutions</b>	None
<b>Church Tradition</b>	Liberal Catholic
<b>Pastoral re-organisation</b>	None planned but the Deanery is part of an ongoing Deanery Planning process
<b>Presence of other Christian denominations</b>	Whitehouse Baptist Church Roman Catholic Church
<b>Presence of other faith communities</b>	Sikh Gurdwara