



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of St Edmundsbury  
and Ipswich

Role description signed off by: Archdeacon of Sudbury

Date: July 2023

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
Name of benefice	Lakenheath, Santon Downham and Elveden
Deanery	Mildenhall
Archdeaconry	Sudbury
<i>Initial point of contact on terms of service</i>	Archdeacon of Sudbury

<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 and ensure a plan for growth (PFG) is in place within 6 months.
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 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.

To ensure compliance and effective practice regarding all safeguarding matters including training.
<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 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 the benefice.
It is expected that you will help start two new worshipping communities in the parish/benefice within the first five years of the post, as part of the <i>Growing in God</i> strategy.

<b>3 Key contacts</b>								
<b>Generic</b>								
<table> <tr> <td>Bishops</td> <td>The Deanery Chapter &amp; Synod</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The Archdeacon</td> <td>The Churchwardens</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The Rural Dean</td> <td>The Lay Chair</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The PCCs</td> <td>Headteachers</td> </tr> </table>	Bishops	The Deanery Chapter & Synod	The Archdeacon	The Churchwardens	The Rural Dean	The Lay Chair	The PCCs	Headteachers
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The Archdeacon	The Churchwardens							
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<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 The Rural Dean Diocesan Director of Mission and Ministry								

<p><b>Patrons</b>  The Right Hon Arthur Edward Rory Guinness – Earl of Iveagh  Dean and Chapter of Ely Cathedral  The Lord Chancellor on behalf of His Majesty in right of his Crown</p>
<p><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.</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>

<b>4 Benefice Summary</b>	
<b>Parishes</b>	Elveden Lakenheath Santon Downham
<b>Churches</b>	Elveden : St Andrew and St Patrick (Grade II*) Lakenheath : St Mary (Grade I) Santon Downham : St Mary and Virgin (Grade I)
<b>PCC</b>	The PCCs seek to work together, to be supportive and effective in mission and growth.
<b>Schools and Colleges</b>	Forest Academy in Brandon works in partnership with Elveden Church of England Primary School
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Elveden : 2 Lakenheath : 2 Santon Downham : 2
<b>Ministers</b>	Lay Elder : 2 Reader : 1 Retired Priest : 1
<b>Buildings</b>	
<b>Churchyards</b> (Open or closed)	Elveden : St Andrew and St Patrick (open) Lakenheath : St Mary (closed) Santon Downham : St Mary and Virgin (open)

<b>Population</b>	Elveden : 248 Lakenheath : 4,691 Santon Downham : 211
<b>Average Sunday Attendance</b>	Elveden Lakenheath Santon Downham
<b>Parish Share</b>	2022 : £20,200 (100% received) 2021 : £19,850 (100% received) 2020 : £19,850 (100.28% received)
<b>Expenses</b>	Reimbursed in full
<b>Resolutions</b>	n/a
<b>Church Tradition</b>	
<b>Pastoral re-organisation</b>	
<b>Presence of other Christian denominations</b>	
<b>Presence of other faith communities</b>	