

## Diocese of Manchester

*'a worshipping, growing and transformative Christian presence  
at the heart of every community'*

Role Description signed off by: The Acting Archdeacon of Salford and Bolton

*Date:*

To be reviewed 6 months after commencement of the appointment, and again after three years or at the first Ministerial Development Review.

### 1. Details of Post

Role Title:	Incumbent (Rector)
Name of benefice(s):	The United Benefice of Atherton & Hindsford with Howe Bridge
Deanery:	Salford & Leigh
Archdeaconry:	Salford

Initial point of contact on terms of service: The Archdeacon of Salford and Bolton

### 2. Role Purpose

#### General

- i. To exercise the cure of souls shared with the bishop in this benefice in collaboration with your colleagues.
- ii. To have 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.
- iii. To work to advance the Kingdom of God through servant leadership, collaboration and example, and with particular regard to the current diocesan mission vision and mission goals
  - a) **Growing** - growing new disciples in missionary church communities which are younger, more diverse, active and spiritually engaged
  - b) **Nurturing** - increasing vocations, nurturing new and existing disciples, increasing financial giving
  - c) **Serving** - present for all, speaking and acting prophetically for justice, supporting pastorally especially the vulnerable, deprived and excluded

- iv. To share in the wider work of the deanery and diocese as appropriate, for the building up of the whole Body of Christ.

## **Specific**

To build up the faith of the Church:

1. To lead the four churches of the United Benefice in prayer and spiritual growth, encouraging ongoing and deepening discipleship that will enable God's people to grow in their relationship with God and with each other.
2. To support and lead on the Benefice vision of being a welcoming, worshipping, relevant Church reflecting God's love in our communities.
3. To engage creatively with the communities around us in mission and ministry – and to help the churches and people of the benefice become more outward-looking in mission.
4. To work collaboratively with the ministry team, PCCs and congregations to deliver our vision and mission across the benefice, and to encourage, value and support lay ministry, shared leadership and developing vocations, lay and ordained – including potentially taking on the role of training incumbent for our OLM curate.
5. To offer pastoral care with compassion, presence and wisdom, and to model, encourage and nurture a benefice-wide culture of mutual care and wellbeing.
6. To develop stronger links between the churches and children, young people and families – through active involvement with schools ministry, and by exploring opportunities for different approaches to worship, events and activities aimed at inviting and engaging people outside the churches.
7. To work with the churches in developing fresh styles of worship while respecting and honouring the traditions of each church and the place of more traditional worship services alongside new ideas.
8. To bring resilience, a sense of humour and a hopeful vision for what God can do among and through his people across the United Benefice.
9. To be a change leader within the ongoing transformation programme of the Diocese, and a full and enthusiastic participant in the life of the Deanery through regular Synod, Chapter and Mission Community meetings.

## **3. Key contacts**

### **Generic**

The Churchwardens and PCCs of the United Benefice  
Mission Community  
Deanery Chapter and Synod

St John's House staff

### **Specific**

The Ministry Team

A Place to Be team, Toddler Groups, Bible Study, Knit & Natter,  
Forest Worship, Men's Breakfast, Messy Church, Craft group,  
Coffee Morning leaders and volunteers

The Head Teachers, Governing Bodies/Board and staff of St Philip's CE Primary School, St George's CE Primary School, both in Atherton; Hindsford CE Primary School; St Michael's CE Primary School, Howe Bridge

### **Supportive**

Deanery Lay Chair: James Cowley

Acting Area Dean: Revd Rob Jackson

The Archdeacon: The Venerable Rachel Mann

The Suffragan Bishop: Rt Revd Dr Matthew Porter, Bishop of Bolton

The Diocesan Bishop: Rt Revd Dr David Walker, Lord Bishop of Manchester

## **4. Role context and any other relevant information.**

The United Benefice of Atherton and Hindsford with Howe Bridge is located in the north-west of Salford & Leigh Deanery, offering excellent transport links to Manchester city centre, and to nearby towns such as Bolton, Wigan and Leigh.

Atherton is a traditional Lancashire town, home to commuting professionals, tradespeople and a diverse mix of urban and suburban residents, with opportunities and challenges around building and sustaining community while seeking regeneration in a context where a rich industrial history is being repurposed for today's world. Howe Bridge is a suburb of Atherton with a rich industrial heritage, originating as a model village for colliery workers, and retaining its identity both as a conservation area and as a community proud of its village status.

The Benefice has good relationships with the local authority, councillors and community groups, schools and other organisations, and is held in positive and high regard by many people in the area, even if they are not regular church attendees. A new Rector will need the enthusiasm and the skills to build on these relationships and to find new ways to connect with the wider communities around each of the Benefice churches.

Any candidate appointed to this post will be expected to be fully committed to the Diocesan Strategy with its focuses on growing younger, church planting and revitalisation, developing missional leaders, and parish renewal, based on our mission goals of growing, nurturing and serving. The Diocese of Manchester's vision to be 'a worshipping, growing and transformative Christian presence at the heart of every community' requires creative approaches to the mission and ministry of our churches in these focus areas, including greater cooperation and sharing of resource between parishes across Mission Communities, within the structure of our seven Deaneries.

We expect that candidates for a post in the Diocese of Manchester will be committed to working together with ordained and lay colleagues in our Mission Communities so that we can be more mutually supportive and accountable to each other, and better able to meet the diverse needs of the local people and communities we serve. A successful applicant for this post would be expected to participate fully in the Mission Community as well as the Deanery, and encourage the ministries of others (lay and ordained).