

DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

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

Role Description: Interim Priest of the Benefice of Littleborough

Date: 23/03/26

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

1. Details of Post

Role Title:	Interim Minister of the benefice of Littleborough (Initial period of three years. Possibility of a further three.)
Deanery:	Rochdale
Archdeaconry:	Rochdale

Initial point of contact on Terms of Service: The Archdeacon of Rochdale

2. Role Purpose

General

- i. To exercise the cure of souls shared with the bishop in this parish 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 diocesan vision:
 - a) parish renewal
 - b) growing younger
 - c) church planting and revitalization
 - d) developing missional leaders
- In all of this we are deeply committed to championing *racial justice* and ensuring that our clergy, lay leaders and congregations represent the rich diversity of our diocese.

We are working towards the 2030 *net zero carbon* goal set by General Synod, by supporting our churches and schools with measuring their energy use and taking simple, practical steps to reduce their carbon footprint.

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

Specific

- i. To play a full part in the Mission Community and Deanery
- ii. To enable, encourage and develop established and new ministries in schools, with young people, and with families
- iii. To discern and encourage vocations to lay and ordained ministries and fostering 'whole life discipleship' amongst all church members
- iv. To be mindful of the existing worship traditions within the parishes and to explore and try new liturgies to enable the congregations to grow
- v. To strengthen links with the local communities and build new partnerships, especially mindful of those who feel 'left behind.'
- vi. To examine ways of encouraging stewardship and develop new income streams
- vii. To prayerfully examine the configuration of buildings in the benefice

3. Key contacts

Generic

Churchwardens
PCCs
Mission Community
Deanery Chapter and Synod
St John's House staff

Specific

Holy Trinity CE Primary School (VA)
Stansfield Hall CE/Methodist Primary School (VC)
Littleborough Community Primary School
Bible Study Group
Sunday School
Youth Theatre Workshop
Benefice Church Council
Pastoral Response Group
Social Committee
Churches Together

Supportive

The Mission Community Leader
The Area Dean
The Archdeacon of Rochdale
The Bishop of Middleton
The Bishop of Manchester

The Reverend Janet Pitman
The Reverend Anne Gilbert
The Venerable Karen Smeeton
The Right Reverend Mark Davies
The Right Reverend Professor David Walker

4. Context

The Diocese of Manchester's vision (to be 'a worshipping, growing and transformative Christian presence at the heart of every community') cannot be achieved without radical rethinking of our present structures. We expect that candidates for a post in the Diocese of Manchester are committed to working together with ordained and lay colleagues in Mission Communities so we can better be mutually accountable to each other and be better able to meet the needs of local people. 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). As there is expected pastoral reorganization in the Mission Community this is an interim post of three years, with the possibility of an extension of a further three. This will allow the benefice to take a full part in the Mission Community and the Deanery and the successful candidate will be expected to lead and encourage this process, develop creative partnerships as well as demonstrate flexibility. The parishes are open to a review of the current pattern of worship.