

Role Description

Vicar – Southport St Simon and St Jude with All Souls



Signed off by: Archdeacon of Knowsley and Sefton
Date: March 2020

Role title: Vicar
Name of benefice: Southport St Simon and St Jude with All Souls
Deanery: North Meols
Archdeaconry: Knowsley and Sefton

The Context

The past year or so has not been easy for the congregation as they debated the passing of a resolution for extended episcopal oversight. When the PCC agreed to do so, they recognised that there are a range of views held with varying degrees of commitment amongst the congregation. As a Diocese we are pleased that Bishop Rod Thomas has agreed to give oversight as requested. There is a very commendable sense that the church wants to look to the future and look out to the community. They are looking for a new incumbent who can bring people together around their vision 'to call people into a loving community that follows Jesus Christ'.

The PCC have put together the parish profile with great skill and care and included a SWOT analysis at the end. A particular strength is their music and worship and the numbers of children's activities that take place through the week and they certainly embrace the church school and want an incumbent to develop the work there further.

They are looking forward to this new chapter and wanting a new incumbent to build on the past but also to shape the future direction by developing the gifts and skills of all its people.

Area Dean's statement

The clergy and lay people of St Simon and St Jude's with All Souls have been active participants in the life of North Meols Deanery and I pray that will continue to be the case. The church has a lot to offer other churches here with its focus on scripture and mission. It is a church with a real sense of 'family' and desire to be faithful to God in every way.

The Deanery Synod has recently decided to work on developing a vision that will enable us to work better together in reaching the people of Southport with the Good News of Jesus and in facing the various challenges facing us as we look to the future. I believe that this is an exciting time to come into the Deanery with a lot of scope to develop new ideas.

The Leadership role:

As a leader in the Diocese of Liverpool, as well as the local tasks you need to do in your context, the Bishops and senior clergy of our diocese expect you to:-

- constantly advocate diocesan strategy
- sign people up to the Rule of Life (10,000 disciples)
- nurture existing congregational leaders (1,000 leaders)
- identify and release new leaders (1,000 leaders)
- identify and commission teams to plant new congregations/worshipping communities (100 congregations)
- build and lead a leadership team to shape and implement local missional strategy
- create a positive culture of accountability

- establish connections between worshipping communities
- attend to financial health of your worshipping communities.

The Priorities:

- love and teach the Bible in a relevant and inspiring way
- encourage the gifts of all God's people
- develop the prayer life of the church
- reach out to the local community and Bishop David Sheppard CE school and work with mission partners
- encourage more and regular giving

Other Key Responsibilities:

- develop women's ministry in the church
- care for the congregation and bring them together under their common vision
- oversee the development of Connect groups

This Role Description will be reviewed annually at the Ministerial Development Review (MDR) and may be updated subsequent to the MDR to reflect important changes in the ministry of the priest and the context of that ministry, including wider responsibilities in the diocese. Significant changes to this role description should be agreed with the church wardens in consultation with the PCC, in a team ministry with team clergy and with the area dean and signed off by the Archdeacon.

Being part of the Clergy Team in Liverpool Diocese

For many years we have been working to achieve growth in our diocese. We have used different ways to express this but the aim and direction of travel has remained the same – consistent with the whole of the Church of England. Bishop Paul has articulated a vision for this growth by saying

“We are asking God for a bigger church so we can make a bigger difference”; said another way, “We long to see more people knowing Jesus and more justice in the world.”

To achieve this vision we are working to develop:

- **100 new congregations**
- **1000 new leaders**
- **10,000 new disciples**

Further, we are asking every worshipping Christian in our diocese to:

1. Sign up to the Bishop of Liverpool's rule of life which will encourage and support us to Pray, Read, Learn, Tell, Serve, Give, **#RuleOfLife** www.ruleoflife.org.uk
2. Bring 1 person into the regular worshipping and serving life of the church **#BringOneFriend** www.liverpool.anglican.org/BringOneFriend
3. Do 10 acts of service or find 10 new points of connection beyond the walls of the church **#DoTenThings** www.liverpool.anglican.org/DoTenThings

