



DIOCESE OF WINCHESTER **“WALKING THE WESSEX WAY”**

Role Description for the Rector of the Arle Valley Benefice

Details of Post

Role Title: Rector
Name of benefice: The Arle Valley Benefice
Deanery: Alresford
Archdeaconry: Winchester

Role Context – An Introduction from Bishop Philip

Thank you for your interest in this role.

In this Diocese, we serve a whole range of diverse communities, from the historic city of Winchester with our glorious Cathedral, to the great port city of Southampton, the burgeoning boroughs of Basingstoke, Bournemouth and Christchurch, thriving market towns such as Andover, Alton, Alresford and Romsey, and innumerable picture-perfect Hampshire villages. In all that there is much wealth – but there is also significant deprivation too, especially in our large urban conurbations where our churches are supporting some of the diocese's poorest communities.

In every context, we are committed to the making the love and life of Jesus Christ known, through our churches, schools and chaplaincies, in a way that makes a tangible difference to those communities and their people.

In parish ministry we seek people who are aware of the challenges that we face, but who are motivated above all by faith, hope and love in addressing them. We welcome those who are committed to help God's church to be the very best it can be, in the power of the Spirit, releasing all God's people into the mission and ministry to which they are called. And we recognise too our need to develop in diversity.

We are excited by the opportunities before us, and warmly invite applications from those who want to join us in addressing them.

With the assurance of my prayers as you seek God's best next step for you.



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 regard to the current diocesan mission vision and values.

a) **Serving** - Our diocese has played a major role in shaping this nation, and the life of the diocese is still marked by loving service, in innumerable ways, reaching out in love to those on the margins, serving the wider community, the nation and the wider world.

b) **Learning** - Our diocese has been a major engine of Christian learning and education, from the time of King Alfred onwards, and remains a centre of education, learning and discipleship, through its universities and colleges, through its schools and churches.

c) **Growing** - Our diocese has been a huge catalyst for church growth and mission. Today, we are still working for the revitalisation and renewal of our churches, equipping and enabling them for the challenges of this generation and beyond, nationally and internationally.

d) **Loving** - Our diocese has emanated love that has changed our communities and the wider world. Today, as people encounter our churches, schools and chaplaincies, they find themselves brought face to face with the love of God in Christ, and find their lives changed as a consequence.

Specific

We are looking for an experienced, resilient and wise priest to develop intergenerational churches at the heart of the Arle Valley communities in which everyone can flourish. Following a more frequent than desired turnover in incumbents, we need stability and revitalisation at St John's, along with good, attentive oversight of the village church communities.

We seek an incumbent who will encourage new leaders and build the benefice to be generative of ministry and resource for those it serves and beyond.

A commitment is needed to work with and lead closer working together across neighbouring



benefices, particularly for clergy and ministry teams for mutual support and the sharing of resources; exploring the best future for parishes and clergy across the deanery.

The priest will be someone who:

- ❖ Attends to God's vocation for the churches and has prayer at the heart of all they do; maintaining a strong and healthy personal discipline of prayer and spiritual life
- ❖ Leads the churches in considering a range of services across the Benefice that will enable people from all backgrounds and ages to see what a life in Christ can bring
- ❖ Helps the churches to increase the number of children, younger people and families attending and engaged, not least by good engagement with our schools
- ❖ Helps the parishes continue their growth together as a benefice enabling the effective sharing and development of resources
- ❖ Encourages and builds a stronger leadership team and collaborative effort in all the benefice does, working closely with authorised ministers and volunteers
- ❖ Establishes healthy church structures with clear delegations in shared leadership
- ❖ Identifies and trains further lay people to take on roles in church and community life, recognising and nurturing their talents in the process while deepening their spirituality
- ❖ Ensures the provision of good pastoral care across the parish
- ❖ Increases the church's digital media presence across the benefice enabling more people to engage with the Church and its mission to spread the Gospel of Christ
- ❖ Is committed to work creatively together with other clergy and laity in the Deanery to formulate new strategies for the future; most especially involving closer collaboration with Arle Valley benefices and other parts of the Deanery
- ❖ Will fully participate in and contribute to the life of the Deanery (including synod and chapter) and Diocese

Key Contacts

Generic

The Ministry Team

The Church Wardens and PCC

The Deanery Chapter and Synod of Alresford Deanery

The Diocesan Staff at Old Alresford Place

Specific

Head teachers and staff at local schools: Sun Hill Junior & Infant Schools. Perins School.

Local councillors



Supportive

Lay Chair: Mrs. Gillian Gray Knight

Area Dean: The Revd David Chatell

The Archdeacon: The Venerable Richard Brand

The Suffragan Bishop: The Rt Revd Kelly Betteridge, Bishop of Basingstoke