



DIOCESE OF **Hexham & Newcastle**

Parish Secretary

**St. Robert, All Saints, St. George,
St. Cuthbert**



Candidate Pack

INTRODUCTION

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle is the sixth largest Diocese in England and Wales and is situated in the north-east of England. With an area of 3195 square miles, the boundaries are the border with Scotland in the north and the River Tees in the south. The Diocese consists of 152 separate parish communities, grouped together into 18 Partnerships, within five Episcopal Areas. The population of the region is 2,368,000, with an estimated Catholic population of 214,257.

There are 156 schools serving 54,000 pupils and their families. 151 schools are now within the four Catholic Education Trusts.

The Bishop of the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle is the Right Reverend Stephen Wright.

Diocesan Values

Integrity | Respect | Trust | Service | Compassion



PARISH SECRETARY

JOB DESCRIPTION

To support the parishes and clergy of **St. Robert, All Saints, St. George - English Martyrs, St. Cuthbert** with general administration.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Provide a general confidential administrative support to the parish clergy
- Record, respond to and take enquiries by telephone, post and email
- Co-ordinate the priests'/parish diaries
- Deal with callers to the parish offices
- Produce documents and reports as required
- Create publicity materials and manage the parish websites and social media updates
- Produce the weekly bulletins from contributions from parishioners and priests
- Take and record details pertaining to baptisms, marriages and funerals and respond to enquiries for certificates of baptism etc.
- Maintain a directory of parish groups and co-ordinators
- Support the Parish Finance Committees to maintain effective financial systems including:
 - Pay invoices and other expenditure and file all related documents
 - Update the Online Parish Accounting System (OPAS)
 - Maintain book-keeping records on a weekly basis
- Support the Parish Welfare Officers by maintaining a schedule of Health and Safety inspections
- Liaise with the local Catholic schools as required
- Maintain comprehensive filing systems to a high standard, including archiving and secure disposal of documents in line with Data Protection legislation
- Order and distribute resources at the request of the priests and parish group coordinators



- Maintain a list of key holders and distribute keys as necessary
- Undertake other reasonable duties by request of the parish clergy

Post-holder must be conscientious and loyal to the aims and objectives of the Diocese, having regard at all times to its Catholic character.



PERSONAL SPECIFICATION

Essential Criteria

You must have:

- Experience in general office management and administrative procedures
- Excellent and up-to-date IT skills
- A good level of general education, including GCSE A*-C/L5+ in English and Maths or equivalent
- A good grasp of English grammar, accuracy and a high level of attention to detail Excellent customer service skills with experience of dealing with sensitive situations A good sense of responsibility and be self-motivated, with the ability to work independently with minimum supervision
- A professional approach with excellent interpersonal skills with the ability to develop good working relationships
- Good organizational and excellent planning skills
- Experience of co-ordinating diaries and people in a work environment
- The ability to work with complete confidentiality and integrity, adhering to all internal procedures
- The ability to work with volunteers in a supportive and encouraging manner
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It will be good, but not essential, if you also have:

- A willingness and availability to work flexible hours when required



APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply, please send:

- A letter of application saying why you want to work with us and what you'd bring to the role, with examples of how your skills and experience would enable you to fulfil your duties and responsibilities
- A CV, including the names of two people we may approach for professional references Please send these by email to human.resources@diocesehn.org.uk

Deadline for applications: 11 July 2025

PAY AND CONDITIONS

What we will offer you

- Salary: £11942.84 per annum and a workplace pension scheme where we match up to a maximum of 7.5% of your salary
- Hours: Part-time, 17 hours per week. Working pattern to be agreed at interview.
- Permanent contract subject to 6 months probationary period

Location

St. Robert, English Martyrs, St. Bede

Benefits

- Holidays: 28 days holiday per year plus statutory holidays (72 hours pro rata per annum, including statutory holidays)
- Health and well-being support
- Cycle to Work Scheme



OTHER INFORMATION

This appointment will be subject to:

- Two satisfactory professional references
- Evidence of right to work in the UK
- Completion of mandatory safeguarding training

Safeguarding

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle is committed to safeguarding all children and vulnerable groups at risk within its community. All employees are expected to contribute to the creation of a safe environment, challenge inappropriate behaviours and report concerns in line with procedures. In fulfilling the duties of this role, the post holder may come into contact with children or vulnerable adults. Therefore, they must adhere to diocesan safeguarding policies and procedures.

Data Protection

We won't hold the information you give us longer than necessary. Our Candidate Privacy Notice is available on our website www.diocesehn.org.uk

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