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Priest-in-charge of the North Walsham benefice

Dear colleague,

Thank you for your interest in this post, as together we seek to discern who God may be calling to serve as the next Priest-in-Charge of the North Walsham benefice. This letter is intended to supplement the information given in the Benefice Profile, adding a slightly wider perspective and some further information.

The Parishes and this job

North Walsham is a significant market town with an impressive church building at the heart of the community. It has an important place in the civic life of the town and there are good relations on which to build. It has for some years been combined with the village of Edingtonthorpe whilst the two further villages of Worstead and Westwick were added to the benefice within the last four or five years.

The tradition is central but, as is often the case, each church has its own local character. There is a good and effective ministry team and a strong tradition of effective lay office holders.

Along with many of our benefices, there is a desire to grow and develop further its work with children, young people and families, and a need for some imaginative thinking and practice in this area. The long-standing tradition of a boys' choir is impressive among churches in the diocese, and whilst it has suffered in terms of its membership during the lockdown, this is something upon which a new priest-in-charge will wish to build. Whilst there is no church school in North Walsham, there are links with schools and the Sixth Form College which could be further developed. Worstead VA Church of England Primary School takes seriously its Christian ethos and relationship with St Mary's Church and the priest-in-charge would be invited to be a Foundation Governor.

Continued overleaf

The challenges facing this benefice are not unique, and there are good foundations, many gifts and good relationships within the church community on which to build. Central to the role of all our clergy is the need to encourage and nurture the vocation of the lay members of our churches, recognising that ministry and mission belong to all God's people. In part, this is a theological imperative, but it is also driven by the need to rethink and refocus ministry in a period that is challenging for the church as it is for every other voluntary organisation and business.

The Diocese is at an interesting and exciting point with a new vision emerging under a still relatively new diocesan bishop, and the next year will see the development of strategies for the outworking of the vision across the diocese as we continue to come out of lockdown.

The St Benet at Waxham and Tunstead deanery is one of the larger deaneries in the diocese and serves a beautiful part of the East Norfolk Coast and many communities on the Broads.

We would love to hear from you if you feel that God might be calling you to this new role in this beautiful part of the county, or if you have questions about this role.

Diocese and Deanery

Under the leadership of the Bishop of Norwich, the Rt Revd Graham Usher, a vision is emerging for the Diocese – *Transformed by Christ: Prayerfully, Pastorally and Prophetically* - <https://www.dioceseofnorwich.org/about/vision-priorities/> . Work is currently underway on the strategies that will help us live out and deliver this vision.

Bishop Graham has written an Ethos and Culture Statement, available on the diocesan website - <https://www.dioceseofnorwich.org/app/uploads/2020/12/Our-Life-Together-2021.pdf> - which gives details of our structures and the character of the Diocese.

The benefice of North Walsham falls within the Archdeaconry of Norfolk, and so under the care of the Bishop of Thetford (The Rt Revd Dr Alan Winton) and the Archdeacon of Norfolk (The Venerable Steven Betts). The benefice is in the St Benet at Waxham and Tunstead deanery whose Rural Dean is The Revd Canon Catherine Dobson, Rector of the Coastal Group of Parishes. There are 8 posts of incumbent status in the Deanery, along with 1 Assistant Curate, 1 OLM Curate and 1 NSM Curate, 7 Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers) and a number of PTO clergy and LLMs, and Authorised Worship Assistants.

Attendance at Deanery Synod and Chapter is an expectation, and all diocesan clergy are encouraged to give some part of their time and energies to the wider life of the Diocese.

Housing

The accommodation provided is a four-bedroomed modern Rectory with private gardens in North Walsham. It is further described in the profile for the Benefice. Questions about the house should be directed to the Archdeacon of Norfolk.

Patronage

The Patrons for the benefice are Her Majesty the Queen in right of Her Duchy of Lancaster, the Bishop of Norwich and the Dean and Chapter of Norwich Cathedral.

Enquiries, Applications and Interviews

An application can be made through Pathways, via the diocesan website at <https://www.dioceseofnorwich.org/about/vacancies/>.

The closing date for applications is Friday 20th August, with interviews to be held on Wednesday 8th September.

Any priest wanting an informal discussion before deciding whether to apply is welcome to be in touch by telephone or e-mail with me or with The Archdeacon of Norfolk, the Venerable Steven Betts (01603 559199, archdeacon.norfolk@dioceseofnorwich.org)

With best wishes

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Alan Winton". The signature is written in a cursive style.

The Rt Revd Dr Alan Winton
Bishop of Thetford