

The Rt Revd Dr Alan Winton
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Team Vicar in the Great Yarmouth Team Ministry

Dear colleague,

Thank you for your interest in this post, as together we seek to discern who God may be calling to serve as Team Vicar in the Great Yarmouth Team Ministry. These notes are intended to supplement the information given in the Benefice Profile, adding a slightly wider perspective and with some further information.

The Parishes and this job

Great Yarmouth is a town of great character and tremendous opportunity in mission and ministry. It is also a place of significant deprivation and poverty. The churches have responded with imagination and generosity to the needs of its communities, particularly through projects to feed the unwaged, support the provision of foodbanks and address issues of homelessness. There is much to give thanks for and much still to do.

There has been some rationalisation of church buildings over recent years so that there remain three church buildings in the Team as well as the Minster Mission Hall, the location for the Pathway café. Canon Simon Ward, the Team Rector is now well established in his role and is looking to build the Team to help deliver the vision that has been emerging. The opportunity comes about through the departure of one Team Vicar and the commitment of the Diocese to ensure that our areas of highest deprivation – and Great Yarmouth heads that list for the Diocese of Norwich – are adequately staffed in terms of stipendiary clergy, hence the creation of a second Team Vicar post.

There is good support across the deanery and, although contexts differ significantly and there is a good spread of church traditions, there is a genuine sense of collegiality and a desire to support each other. In recent years, the Diocese has cooperated with the Church Urban Fund to fund a post for an Imagine Norfolk Together worker, Anna Heydon, whose role is to support churches and projects that address the huge social need across the community in a spirit of Christian service.

The post of Team Vicar is an exciting opportunity to work within a welcoming and supportive Team in a community of real character, need and opportunity.

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.

We would love to hear from you if you feel that God might be calling you to this 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*. 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 Great Yarmouth Team Ministry 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 Great Yarmouth deanery whose Rural Dean, Canon Simon Ward, is also Team Rector of the Great Yarmouth Team Ministry, and there is also an Assistant Rural Dean, the Revd. Steven Sivyver, Rector of Flegg Martham, one of the rural benefices to the north of the deanery. There are 10 posts of incumbent status in the Deanery, along with 2 Assistant Curates, 1 Curate (NSM), 1 Assistant Minister (NSM), 5 Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers) and a number of PTO clergy 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 spacious, detached 4-bedroomed house is situated about a mile from the Minster, close to St Paul's church and is described more fully in the Profile. Please direct questions about the house to the Archdeacon of Norfolk (archdeacon.norfolk@dioceseofnorwich.org).

Patronage

The Patron is the Patronage Board for the Team Ministry (the Bishop of Norwich, the Archdeacon of Norfolk and the Dean and Chapter of Norwich Cathedral). The Team Vicar will be appointed jointly by the Bishop of Norwich, through delegation to the Bishop of Thetford and the Team Rector.

Enquiries, Applications and Interviews

An application can be made through Pathways, via [Diocese of Norwich Jobs | Pathways \(churchofengland.org\)](https://www.churchofengland.org/pathways).

The form, after we have removed the confidential declarations for safeguarding and other purposes (Section 7 to the end), will be forwarded to the Patron(s) if appropriate.

The closing date for applications is Thursday 15th September, with interviews to be held on Tuesday 11th October.

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 Thetford". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

The Rt Revd Dr Alan Winton
Bishop of Thetford