

# Parish of Great Yarmouth

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## PARISH PROFILE

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Team Vicar 2022



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# Overview

**Benefice:** Great Yarmouth Team Ministry comprising Great Yarmouth Minster, St Paul's Newtown and St Mary's Southtown. Parish population c.30,000.

**Nature of post:** A post for a stipendiary Team Vicar on Common Tenure

**Context and Location:** Urban – seaport, seaside, market and industrial town

**Church Traditions:** Sacramental focused; Liberal catholic; Inclusive.

**Team Rector:** The Revd Canon Simon Ward

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Great Yarmouth is a single parish which operates as a team ministry with three churches. An historic town, which in the past was extremely wealthy through its fishing and port although today it is amongst the most deprived in the country.

Great Yarmouth Minster is the parish church along with the churches of St Mary Southtown and St Paul Newtown. Both St Paul's and St Mary's possess good halls with extensive community use. In addition, The Minster Mission is home to Great Yarmouth Café & Support Centre which serves free hot lunches and is a centre for Foodbank.

The Minster has a special affection for the people of the town where civic occasions are cherished and a value of sacred music is prized. The parish has traditionally maintained a liberal catholic ethos. Vestments are worn at all services and the sacrament is reserved in all churches. The Minster provides a heart and focus for ministry and is a haven of prayer with the daily offices being the core of Ministry Team life. Great Yarmouth PCC recently voted to become part of the Inclusive Church Network.

In 2022 the Parish is looking to recruit two new Team Vicars. Each with their own areas of responsibility and with their own unique gifts to bring to the parish.





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# Our Setting & Context

## The Town

Great Yarmouth is a town of many sides: A port, a holiday destination, a market town, an ancient town, a deprived community, a business hub, and a place of great beauty. It is located at the mouth of the River Yare, 20 miles east of Norwich. It has been a seaside resort for centuries and is the gateway from the Norfolk Broads to the sea. "The Golden Mile" attracts millions of visitors each year to its sandy beaches, indoor and outdoor attractions and amusement arcades.

For centuries it was a major herring fishing port but the fishing industry suffered a steep decline in the second half of the 20th century, and has now disappeared. The discovery of oil in the North Sea in the 1960s led to a flourishing oil rig supply industry. Today it services offshore natural gas rigs and more recently, the development of renewable energy sources, especially offshore wind power, has created further opportunities for support services. A wind farm is within sight of the town on Scroby Sands. Gigantic sea jacks raise huge turbines further offshore.

The town itself is on a spit sandwiched between the North Sea and River Yare. Its well-known features include the historic rows (narrow streets) and the main tourist sector on the seafront. The urban area that makes up the town of Great Yarmouth has a population approaching 30,000. The wider Borough of Great Yarmouth has a population of around 97,000. In summer the population is boosted by the holiday makers who come to stay in hotels and caravan parks.

The Market Place is the heart to the town's shopping sector and the famous and numerous Yarmouth chip stalls. Also, on the Market Place is our wonderful church school, St Nicholas Priory VA Junior School serving the centre of Yarmouth. The school community is a vibrant part of the life of our parish.

Great Yarmouth Borough Council have been successful in securing funding and a number of notable new projects give a sense of emerging change: A Market Place redevelopment, a third river crossing, a new leisure centre, planting of many new trees, floodlighting of heritage buildings and renovated boating lake and Waterways. Culturally there are significant changes too: the circus scene is thriving via the Hippodrome and Out There Arts, the BBC Concert Orchestra is beginning a 3 year residential in the town, new galleries have opened and Banksy visited last summer. There is a lot going on.

However, there is a marked lack of aspiration and self-belief in the community. Many young people have low aspiration and it's a challenge to enable the community to see that it has many positive attributes. Great Yarmouth is placed at 148 in the deprivation indices of parishes (*1=most deprived, 12,307=least deprived*) which gives some indication of the scale of social issues.

The town offers a range of housing from spacious 4 bedroom detached to multi-occupancy bedsits. People come from a range of ethnic backgrounds with significant groups of Portuguese, Lithuanian and other nationalities. Many migrant workers find work in various factories and food processing plants and these communities add great vibrancy to the town.

The town is gateway to the Norfolk Broads a short journey to beautiful Norfolk countryside and smaller seaside villages. There are a range of tourist attractions within the town or in easy travelling distance. Walking routes stretch out from the town along the estuary shores of Breydon Water which is home to enormous flocks of bird life.

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# The Three Churches

## Great Yarmouth Minster

St Nicholas' Church and Priory was founded by Herbert de Losinga (Bishop of Norwich) in 1101. It is the largest parish church in the country and arguably the oldest building in Great Yarmouth. It grew to colossal size in medieval times when Great Yarmouth was the fourth richest town in England. In 1942 the church was completely gutted during a German air raid leaving only the Norman tower and the walls standing. The church was rebuilt and re-consecrated in 1961. In 2011 the Bishop of Norwich designated St Nicholas as a Minster Church along with St Margaret's in King's Lynn.



The style of worship is traditional and the Minster has a long choral tradition. The main Sunday service is a choral Eucharist and until the pandemic, there was a choral evensong every Sunday. The robed choir sing and servers assist at most Sunday services with the occasional incense at major festivals. Sometimes the Pilgrim Eucharist offers a slightly simpler style which the congregation appreciate. There was Sunday School on Sundays during term time but this has not been possible to sustain since the lockdown.

However, there are great links with local schools and especially St Nicholas Priory, our wonderful church school. The Minster has teams of bellringers and handbell ringers.

The Minster is an excellent cultural venue and finds wider community use in many ways. There are regular concerts and exhibitions and the church holds a number of civic services during the year which can be huge occasions. At Christmas time a successful Fayre brings thousands through the door over a weekend and many groups and schools come for carol services.

The daily offices are shared by the Ministry Team. The Minster is opened daily by volunteers for just a couple of hours. Until autumn 2020 a Steward was employed to keep the doors open but regrettably redundancy was necessitated due to financial constraints. The PCC are aware of the need to open the doors to welcome all and the fact that so many visitors to Great Yarmouth do not notice the Minster.

The Minster is also in need of development in terms of heating and facilities. Being such a vast church, this is no ordinary challenge but there is a desire shared throughout the town to see this work done.

*Right: Palm Sunday 2022*



## St Paul's Newtown

A small community church serving the Newtown area of Great Yarmouth. The church has been re-ordered so that people gather around the altar. Many community groups such as the Brownies and Guides meet here and a large number of social events are held this church which are popular and connect to the local community. The hall provides a steady revenue and is busy most weekends and evenings.

The main service is the fortnightly Eucharist on a Sunday morning (average 15-20) with a midweek Eucharist every other Wednesday (average 10-15).

The new Team Vicar will take a pastoral lead with this church in exploring how it can increase engagement with and service to the community. There is much community affection and goodwill towards St Paul's Church to be found in the Newtown area.



## St Mary's Southtown

St Mary Southdown serves as a community church for the areas of Southdown and Cobholm which being over the other side of the river, often feel slightly apart from the rest of the town. It has small but dedicated congregation who work hard together to lay on regular fundraising and community events. The main service is the fortnightly Eucharist on a Sunday morning (average 10-15), a fortnightly Wednesday morning Eucharist (average 8-10) and the church is aware of its catholic traditions.



Behind the church is a small but useful church hall that is used by community groups such as the busy, weekly Wednesday Club (a church group), Brownies, Guides and Cadets. The groups often enjoy use of the well-maintained gardens around the church. The congregation works hard to lay on community fundraising events.

The Ministry Team share together in leading worship across all three churches. It is hoped that the new Team Vicar will take a lead with this church in exploring how it can increase engagement with and service to the community.

*(Left: A family celebration at St Mary's)*





## Minster Mission: Great Yarmouth Pathway Café & Support Centre

The Pathway Café was set up by a group of dedicated volunteers in 2014. It set out to serve a community meal to a small number of people but it grew year by year and was funded by the PCC. Under direction of the Team Rector, in 2018 it was set up as an independent charity (charity number: 1178940) and is very much part of the work of the Parish. Presently it serves a free, hot lunch three days each week to about 80-90 visitors each day. It is funded through grant and community fundraising at an annual cost of over £55K.



Pathway today employs a full-time manager and a part time chef as well as benefitting from a loyal and able band of volunteers. Recently it has become a Foodbank in partnership with St Mary Magdalen Church, Gorleston, under Trussell Trust and now owns its own van to assist in this task. The whole project is overseen by a board of trustees.



*Staff and Volunteers with Bishop Graham, March 2022*

***“Pathway is an incredible piece of social outreach doing amazing Kingdom work” Bishop Graham Usher***

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## St Nicholas Priory School

Our Church School is located very close to the Minster in the very heart of the town with the gates opening onto the Market Place. It is a Voluntary Aided school with a role of over 400 pupils aged 4-11 and was rated Good at the most recent Ofsted in 2019. It's a diverse, vibrant, multicultural community with higher than average levels of children on pupil premium and with English as an additional language. The school has a strong and proactive Senior Leadership Team and the Headteacher is passionate about Christian ethos, values and helping the school to connect with the life of the church and wider community. The Chair of Governors is Dr Harry Taylor, a church member.

Members of the Ministry Team have taken weekly Collective Worships which since lockdown have been pre-recorded and uploaded on YouTube then watched in class. We have learned this format encourages higher discussion participation and staff have embraced the change. The whole school comes for a service in the Minster at the beginning and end of each term and the school is highly enthusiastic about increasing links and participation. The school uses the Minster for a variety of other activities such as concerts, recitals and awards nights.

It is hoped that the new Team Vicar will lead the development of this exciting relationship; deepening and connecting our partnership and championing this school.



***“As a Church of England school, we aim to develop and nurture every child, meeting their spiritual, moral, social and cultural needs” Maria Grimmer, Headteacher***



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## *PCC Organisation*

There is one PCC for the Parish of Great Yarmouth with two Churchwardens. The PCC employs a very good part time administrator whose work supports the whole parish. There is one bank account and one treasurer. There are currently four sub committees of the PCC: Safeguarding, Finance, Fabric, Inclusive Church. These may be added to. The PCC has been successful in securing significant grant funding for a variety of projects, both fabric and missional.

Team Vicars will attend all meetings of the PCC, Deanery Synod and Chapter apart from unavoidable other duties or holidays. The Team Vicar may be asked to join ad hoc working parties and PCC subcommittees, especially if these are relevant to their particular area of responsibility.

Emerging from the pandemic and with opportunity to appoint two new Team Vicars is understood by the PCC to represent a unique opportunity for the development of ministry in the Parish of Great Yarmouth. The Team Rector has been working with the Wardens and PCC towards this goal which is a work in progress although vision and structure is becoming clear. There have been recent consultations with the PCC and a strategy and vision evening held in March 2022 has helped to develop our thinking and clear strands are emerging. The PCC feel positive about developments and are looking forward.

The PCC did employ a full time Director of Music & Music Outreach until summer 2021. This was a creative partnership funded between PCC, Priory School and Arts Council Funding and recruited an excellent musician in Martyn Marshall. Currently he is on long term leave due to illness and the PCC will need to consider how to sustain this important aspect of parish life and outreach.

Different groups have met to stimulate and nurture faith but these have diminished post pandemic. The PCC are keen to encourage new groups and structures for Christian nurture alongside some existing groups such as Women's Fellowship and Mother's Union. Groups offering prayer and devotional nourishment are also lacking. This Team Vicar post will take a lead for developing a culture of growing faith and this is a great opportunity to develop something new.

Members of the Ministry Team will work together day by day and share in the leading of worship in all three churches. Team Vicars will have clear areas of ministry in the life of the parish which they will be responsible for. They will be expected to show leadership, imagination and vision in their delegated tasks while still sharing in the collegial life of the Ministry Team and the PCC. It is hoped that the team growth will offer complementary skills. This is a new way of working in this parish and it will need commitment and empathy as it develops so that both the congregation can embrace change and so that the team can develop and flourish.

Great Yarmouth has been a fruitful training parish and many curates have served here. Revd Helen Lynch has just completed her curacy.

**"2022 is a unique opportunity for the development of ministry in the Parish of Great Yarmouth"**

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## *New Structure for Ministry*

A framework for ministry is being adopted from HeartEdge, emanating from St Martin in the Fields, London which offers a network and resources to help churches reimagine themselves and society. The aspiration is to shape ministry according to HeartEdge's 4Cs model. Each "C" to be led by a different member of the Team: Compassion, Culture, Congregation, Commerce. The areas of responsibility will be as follows:

- **Compassion** (Team Vicar 1): Responsible for leading the response of the parish to address social need and increase community engagement beyond the church, especially focussing on the work of Pathway and the outreach of St Paul's and St Mary's.
- **Culture** (Musician): Responsible for animating the musical and cultural life of the parish with a particular focus on the diverse cultural outreach of the Minster
- **Congregation** (Team Vicar 2): Responsible for developing our congregational life through worship and nurture of all ages with a special focus on the spiritual life of our church school.
- **Commerce** (Team Rector): Responsible for generating income and maintaining good systems and structures to allow the work of the Kingdom to grow and flourish.

This is an exciting time to join a team which is seeking to change, grow and develop. The new clergy will need to work effectively together with the Team Rector and others to help navigate the way. HeartEdge offers an international network with many rich resources and inspirational stories to share and they are watching developments in Great Yarmouth with interest.

## *Pattern of Services*

Like all parishes the pattern of worship was disrupted by the pandemic. Regular worship has returned but not to the same pattern as previously. The PCC noted at their strategy evening that there is scope for the parish diversify the pattern of worship and embrace different traditions. Therefore, it may be noted that the current pattern may evolve and grow in response to local need and missional opportunities.

### *At the Minster*

Monday to Friday 9.00am Morning Prayer (and Eucharist)

Saturday 9.30am Morning Prayer

Sunday 11.00am Sung Eucharist with Choir (average attendance 50)

12noon Holy Baptism

6pm Evening Prayer or Evensong

Generally, major festivals are held at the Minster and also a number of larger diocesan and deanery services and events.

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## At the other churches

Sunday A sung Eucharist alternates between St Pauls (9.30am: average attendance 15-20) and St Mary's (10.30am: average attendance 10-15)

Alternate Wednesdays 10.15am Wednesday Holy Eucharist either at St Paul's or St Mary's

## Occasional Offices

Accompanying people through significant life events is a privilege of ministry. All members of the Ministry Team will share in leading occasional offices. Again, the numbers of these services diminished through the pandemic but we hope to see numbers rise. With all occasional offices there is a feeling that as a parish there is more we could do to build on these links and follow up the warm contacts made through these life events.

### Baptism & Confirmation



Most Baptisms (around 40-50 per year) take place on Sunday at 12.30pm in the Minster. Baptisms (3-5 per year) can take place at St Paul and St Mary. Baptism preparation is currently the responsibility of the clergy. We have an open baptism policy seeing this as an important part of mission to offer an open door to families and a number of baptisms come from eastern European families. The parish normally presents a number of candidates for confirmation each year (*left: Confirmation 2021*) and often welcomes the bishop to preside over a service at the Minster.

### Weddings

The Minster is a popular venue and many couples come to the Minster because of a qualifying connection. We celebrate around 15-20 weddings per year mostly in the Minster although a few (around 2 or 3 per year) do take place at St Mary's and St Paul's. We offer remarriage to those who have been previously married, observing the House of Bishops guidelines. Preparation for marriage is carried out by the priest who will be conducting the service.





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## Funerals

Members of the Ministry Team take about 40 funerals every year. Larger 'town' funerals take place in the Minster and it has been known for 900 people to attend particular funerals and of course other services gather just a handful of mourners. Funerals also take place in the other churches. Many funerals take place at the Crematorium in Gorleston where there is also the local cemetery along with one at Caister. The Minster churchyard is closed but there is a large garden of remembrance where many people choose to have the ashes of the loved ones interred. There is a well-supported All Souls service held at the Minster each year.

## *The Team Rector and Ministry Team*

### The Revd Canon Simon Ward

Born in Great Yarmouth and brought up in Norwich, Simon worked as a teacher before being ordained in 2000 in the Diocese of Guildford, serving his title in Aldershot. In 2003 he moved with his family to rural Suffolk and served as Team Vicar and then Acting Team Rector in the Sole Bay Team Ministry. In 2009 he was appointed chaplain to the then Bishop of Norwich, Rt Revd Graham James, before moving across the city to the Parish of Earlham in 2014. In 2017 he was instituted as Team Rector of the Great Yarmouth Team and then installed as a Canon of Norwich Cathedral and also serves as Rural Dean of Great Yarmouth. He enjoys cycling and running and is equally passionate about rugby and Great Yarmouth.

### The Ministry Team

The Team presently consists of:

The Team Rector and Two vacant Team Vicar posts. Revd Ashley Hines has been appointed and will be licensed in September 2022 as Team Vicar leading the Compassion strand of our strategy.

In addition, we are assisted by:

The Revd John Greenway a retired OLM who holds PTO. Fr John was ordained to serve as an OLM and his ministry was focused chiefly at St Paul's.

Pat Stringer a Licensed Lay Minister (LLM) with PTO. Pat is an experienced LLM and much of her ministry has been focused around the community of St Mary's.



*(Right: First Eucharist of Helen Lynch, 2020)*

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## *Team Meetings*

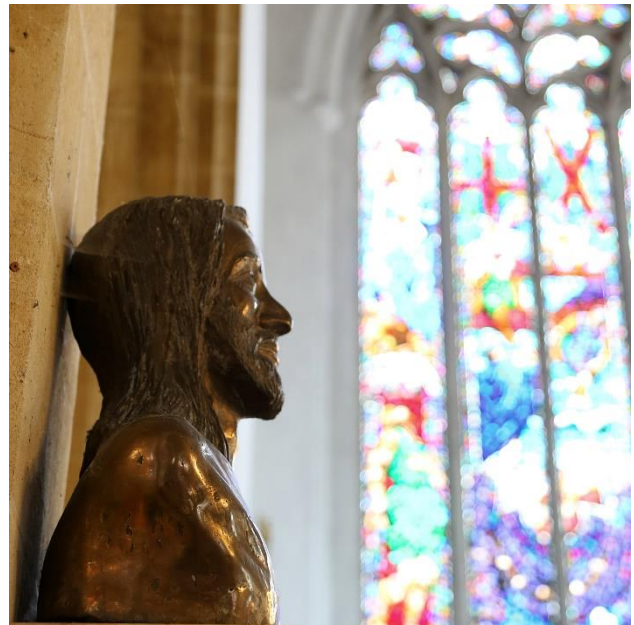
Currently the full ministry team meets once a month on Mondays at 4.30pm but this may change as the team grows. The clergy in the team meet together every Monday morning for a diary meeting and to look ahead.

- The Team Vicar will attend full staff meetings and other such staff meetings as agreed with the other team members.
- Team Vicars and Team Rector will meet monthly for 1:1 planning, mutual support and supervision.
- Team Vicars shall be ready to deputize for the Team Rector as necessary.
- The Ministry Team will also take away days to develop our shared vision and strategy.

## *Spiritual Life & Work/Life Balance*

Parochial ministry in Great Yarmouth is demanding: There will always be something else you could be doing so Team members need to pay attention to their own work/life balance. Clergy should support each other in taking days off and the Bishop of Norwich hopes all clergy will monthly take an additional day off, ideally next to an existing day off. This requires thoughtful diary management and supportive colleagues.

Taking time day by day for family and personal needs is essential as are hobbies and recreation. The Team Rector leads by example and may be seen running along the seafront at the end of a working day; he expects colleagues to take time for themselves in whatever way is right for them and collectively to look out for each other.



The Ministry Team meet daily for Morning Prayer, occasional Evening Prayer and the regular Eucharist, often with others joining them. It is expected that all stipendiary members of the Ministry Team will attend and share in leading daily offices and to share in other team services such as various holy days and festivals.

A personal rhythm of spiritual life is also important and the Team Vicar should seek to take regular quiet days and is encouraged to meet with a spiritual director.

Annual retreats, quiet days, conferences and CMD are essential and should be agreed in advance among the team.

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## General Information

### The House

The Team Vicar appointed will live at 18 Royal Avenue which is a very spacious, detached 4 bedroomed property located in the north of the town, nearly a mile from the Minster and close to St Paul's Church. The house is in a very pleasant suburban area of the town and surrounded by mature gardens giving a secluded feeling. There are four reception rooms on the ground floor and a spacious kitchen with patio doors. There is a double garage, a single garage with additional store room and off-road parking spaces. A good bus goes into town and nearby, local convenience shops. It is within easy walking distance of the beaches and about 20 minutes' walk into the town centre.



### Schools

Within walking distance of Royal Ave the nearest Primary school is Northgate St Andrew School. There is St Nicholas Priory VA School in the town centre and North Denes School on the northern edge of the town. Great Yarmouth Charter Academy (Inspiration Trust) is nearby and some pupils also go to Caister High School Gorleston. Charter Academy is due to open a sixth Form and East Norfolk Sixth Form College is in Gorleston. Some young people travel to Norwich for sixth form education.

### Transport links

Within the town there are good buses and very good bus links to Lowestoft, Norwich and Peterborough. There is a regular hourly train service to Norwich from which it is possible to travel to London, Cambridge and the Midlands.

### Expenses

Expenses should be submitted on a monthly basis to the Treasurer and will be met in full by the PCC from the ministry endowment funds.