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July 2024

Dear Friends,

### **Priest-in-Charge: Coltishall**

Thank you for your interest in this post. We seek God's wisdom and grace to discern the person being called to this role, just as we are sure that you too seek God's call for your future ministry. I hope that reading the profile, accompanying material and these notes will assist you in that process.

As you pray about this post, may God grant you, too, the wisdom and the grace to discern whether it is here that you are next called to serve.

### **The Parishes and this job**

There are five parishes in the Coltishall benefice: Coltishall with Great Hautbois, Horstead, Hainford, Frettenham and Stratton Strawless. They have been faithfully served by a long-standing incumbent and are now also searching for the way into their future under God.

The profile is honest in its assessment of the challenges faced by the benefice. Any priest coming to Coltishall will find a faithful flock wishing to see change and needing leadership and encouragement to take steps in that direction. Such a priest will find good, retired colleagues and will want to prioritise areas of mission and ministry. Areas on which to focus include

- being a visible presence in the community, known to parishes as well as congregations
- encouraging a younger and more diverse church through building relationship with families, especially through the schools (Coltishall, Frettenham and Hainford) and the Horstead centre (a young people's activity centre affiliated to the Diocese of Norwich).
- prayerfully discerning and implementing vision and change.

These are important areas – too important to rush. Coltishall is not a benefice in which to expect to bring great change in six months; but it is a benefice in which the change God might bring about within three to five years should not be underestimated. It is a benefice for a priest who prays and plans, who builds teams and holds both self and others to account. It offers a great opportunity for growth and development.

### **Diocese and Deanery**

The Diocese of Norwich's vision is to be Transformed by Christ: Prayerful, Pastoral, Prophetic.

The Priest-in-Charge of Coltishall will be someone who is excited by this vision and who is able to see ways in which it can be made a lived reality. That will entail collaborative working, quite possibly across deanery boundaries and almost certainly with Garden Church, new worshipping communities across the Diocese under the auspices of the Garden Church Missional Communities Bishop's Mission Order. We have embraced the national church's three strategic aims and are currently focusing on developing a younger and more diverse church, with a parish system revitalised for mission so that churches can reach and serve everyone in their community. We came to this point following previous work summarised in the next paragraph.

Following a consultation in 2020, the Diocese has had eight strategic projects to take forward this vision and its associated nine priority areas for our mission and ministry. The Bishop of Norwich also commissioned a review of our church buildings, and we are committed to achieving Carbon Net Zero by 2030. The eight projects have been consolidated into three workstreams: Mission & Ministry, Carbon Net Zero and Church Buildings. The recommendations of the Church Buildings Commission are currently being examined and a plan drawn up for appropriate implementation. We have received Church Commissioners' funding to take forward both our Carbon Net Zero and our Mission & Ministry work and are currently beginning to use both the GROW and MYRIAD programmes from the CCX (Gregory Centre for Church Multiplication).

For more on our current life, see

<https://www.dioceseofnorwich.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Our-Life-Together-2023.pdf> and if you would like further information, <https://www.dioceseofnorwich.org/about/about-vision/#:~:text=pastoral%20and%20prophetic,-.Our%20Life%20Together, every%20person%20in%20every%20place.>

The Coltishall benefice falls within the Archdeaconry of Lynn, and so under the care of the Bishop of Lynn and the Archdeacon of Lynn. The benefice is in the Ingworth & Sparham Deanery. The Rural Dean is the Revd Keith Rengert. 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 described in the profile for the Benefice. Questions about the house should be directed to the Archdeacon of Lynn, The Venerable Catherine Dobson: [archdeacon.lynn@dioceseofnorwich.org](mailto:archdeacon.lynn@dioceseofnorwich.org).

### **Enquiries, Applications and Interviews**

Please submit applications to Mrs Ann Whittet (PA to the Bishop of Lynn and Archdeacon of Lynn), by email [ann.whittet@dioceseofnorwich.org](mailto:ann.whittet@dioceseofnorwich.org) with a hard copy posted to – Mrs Ann Whittet, The Bishop's Office, Lynn House, Commercial Road, Dereham NR19 1AE.

The closing date for applications is 18<sup>th</sup> September (9.00am) with interviews to be held on 29<sup>th</sup> October.

Any priest wanting an informal discussion before deciding whether to apply is welcome to be in touch by telephone or e-mail with the Archdeacon.

With best wishes

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jane Steen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

The Rt Revd Dr Jane Steen  
Bishop of Lynn