

Role description for Priest-in-Charge of the benefice of Swaffham and Sporle

1. Details of the post:

Role Title: Priest-in-Charge
Deanery: Breckland

Name of benefice: Swaffham and Sporle
Archdeaconry: Lynn

2. Wider Vision and Context:

The vision for mission and ministry in the Diocese of Norwich, is for us to be

Transformed by Christ: Prayerful, Pastoral and Prophetic. Further details are at <https://www.dioceseofnorwich.org/about/about-vision/> The Bishop's Senior Staff have agreed to implement the national Church's strategic aims and bold outcomes, prioritising 'Growing Younger and More Diverse' as we create 'A parish system revitalised for mission so that churches can reach and serve everyone in their communities'.

3. Local Vision and Context (taken from the parish profile)

- To build up the profile of the church within the town of Swaffham and the village of Sporle.
- To work especially with schools, children and families, to share Christ from churches which are committed to growing younger and more diverse.
- To become churches of missionary disciples, intentionally engaging in deepening faith and discipleship and gaining confidence in mission and evangelism.

The benefice comprises of the parishes of Swaffham (population 8,575) and Sporle (population 1,051). There are 2 Church of England primary schools (combined roll of 427), 1 high school in Swaffham (roll 656) and Sporle Church of England Primary Academy (roll 62). There are areas of new housing within Swaffham, and making connections here is a priority. Good relationships with ecumenical colleagues, with the Fountain of Life Extra Parochial Place working within the town and deanery clergy are key. Links with civic organisations, including the town council need to be developed.

4. Responsibilities

General:

- A. To exercise the cure of souls shared with the bishop in this benefice in collaboration with local lay and ordained colleagues and to have regard to the responsibilities of the clergy (as set out in the Canons, the Ordinal (*listed overleaf), the Code of Professional Conduct of the Clergy) and other relevant legislation.

Specific:

- To build up and encourage both churches to be vibrant focal points of their communities, as a witness to the love of God for all
- To represent and be an ambassador for both churches to strengthen links with the wider community, especially in areas of new housing
- To develop work within schools in Swaffham and the church school at Sporle
- To work to develop styles of worship that will reach a different demographic, becoming younger and more diverse
- To discern and encourage new vocations, and develop teams for pastoral care
- To grow congregations through outreach activities, including a greater use of social media

5. Key contacts

Parish	Details
Churchwardens	Swaffham, Sporle
Ministry Team	Licensed Lay Minister, 4 retired clergy with Permission to Officiate
Heads of local schools	Heartwood CofE VC Primary Swaffham CofE Primary Nicholas Hamond Academy (high school) Sporle CofE Primary Academy

Groups & Committees	Details
PCCs	Swaffham, Sporle
Deanery	Breckland Deanery Chapter colleagues. Fountain of Life church (Extra Parochial Place)
Deanery Synod	

Support Structures
Rural Dean – Revd Stephen Thorp
Archdeacon – Ven Catherine Dobson
Bishop of Lynn – Rt Rev Dr Jane Steen
Parish Support Team - Diocese of Norwich

6. Diocesan New Incumbents Programme

The Diocesan Mission & Ministry department offers two training events for those new to incumbency in the Diocese. Both are residential courses, one on skills for incumbency and one on new incumbency, more focused on person in role.

The Archdeacons of the Diocese are also reinstating the diocesan new incumbents' induction programme following the pandemic.

1. *From the Ordinal

'Priests are called to be servants and shepherds among the people to whom they are sent.

With their Bishop and fellow ministers, they are to proclaim the word of the Lord and to watch for the signs of God's new creation.

They are to be messengers, watchmen and stewards of the Lord; they are to teach and to admonish, to feed and provide for his family, to search for his children in the wilderness of this world's temptations, and to guide them through its confusions, that they may be saved through Christ for ever.

Formed by the word, they are to call their hearers to repentance and to declare in Christ's name the absolution and forgiveness of their sins.

With all God's people, they are to tell the story of God's love.

Role description for Priest-in-Charge of the benefice of Swaffham and Sporle

They are to baptize new disciples in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and to walk with them in the way of Christ, nurturing them in the faith.

They are to unfold the Scriptures, to preach the word in season and out of season, and to declare the mighty acts of God.

They are to preside at the Lord's table and lead his people in worship, offering with them a spiritual sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

They are to bless the people in God's name.

They are to resist evil, support the weak, defend the poor, and intercede for all in need.

They are to minister to the sick and prepare the dying for their death.

Guided by the Spirit, they are to discern and foster the gifts of all God's people, that the whole Church may be built up in unity and faith.'

'In the name of our Lord we bid you remember the greatness of the trust that is now to be committed to your charge.

Remember always with thanksgiving that the treasure now to be entrusted to you is Christ's own flock, bought by the shedding of his blood on the cross.

It is to him that you will render account for your stewardship of his people.

You cannot bear the weight of this calling in your own strength, but only by the grace and power of God. Pray therefore that your heart may daily be enlarged and your understanding of the Scriptures enlightened.

Pray earnestly for the gift of the Holy Spirit.'

[Common Worship Ordination Services | The Church of England](#)