

The Venerable Steven Betts

Archdeacon of Norfolk

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October 2024

Rector of Kessingland, Gisleham and Rushmere

Dear Colleague,

Thank you for your interest in this post, as together we seek to discern who God may be calling to serve as Rector of the Kessingland Benefice. 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

Kessingland is in a delightful position on the Suffolk coast, in the south-east corner of the Diocese. The Benefice has been established in its current form for a number of years with Kessingland itself by far the largest of the three communities and obviously where the majority of activity is located. The Church in Kessingland was recently entirely reroofed which will no doubt be a relief and encouragement to potential applicants!

There are two main priorities for a new incumbent. The first is to grow the congregation which is reflective of our own mission strategy in the Diocese. There is a desire and commitment to strengthen links with the school and local community, the local demographic very much encouraging that. The second is to address parish share, which reduced both during the pandemic and the building works referred to above. This is highlighted in the benefice profile so there is a willingness locally to work on this.

Central to the role of all our clergy is this need to 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 important and exciting point with a new vision emerging under a still relatively new diocesan bishop, and work is currently underway that 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 new role in this beautiful part of the diocese, or if you have questions about this role.

Diocese

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/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Our-Life-Together-2023-Updated-v2.pdf> - which gives details of our structures and the character of the Diocese.

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 Rectory is in Kessingland, close to the church and beach, and is further described in the benefice profile.

Patronage

The Patron of the benefice is the Bishop of Norwich.

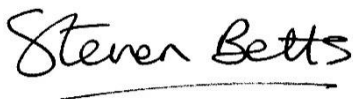
Enquiries, Applications and Interviews

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

The closing date for applications is 11 November, with interviews to be held on 27 November.

Any priest wanting an informal discussion before deciding whether to apply is welcome to be in touch by e-mail with me (archdeacon.norfolk@dioceseofnorwich.org) or with the Bishop of Thetford (bishop.thetford@dioceseofnorwich.org).

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven Betts". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a simple horizontal line.

The Venerable Steven Betts
Archdeacon of Norfolk