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Priest-in-Charge Hunstanton & Saxon Shore benefice

Thank you for your interest in the Hunstanton and Saxon Shore benefice. These notes are intended to supplement the information given in the Parish Profile, adding a slightly wider perspective with some further information.

The Benefices and this Role

The Hunstanton & Saxon Shore benefice draws together eight parishes whose formative experience of being together, including the consultation over their union, coincided with the Covid-19 pandemic. Both previous clergy were also appointed during the time in which the pandemic persisted. It would be fair to say that this did not give the benefice the best start in life, but that there is a real determination among the lay people of the parishes to work well together in the future for the good of all the parishes.

Any priest coming to this benefice will find a group of hard-working laity with a real commitment to seeing the churches in the area flourish. There is a willingness to work together, to discuss and debate, to support each other's parishes and to take the benefice forward in mission. You will see that in the profile, they hope for a priest who will draw them together and enable them to realise 'their as yet unrealised potential'. The benefice is ecumenically minded and looking to work well with other Christians.

The benefice was formed as a Team Ministry. We wish, however, to appoint a priest of the calibre to be a Team Rector while decisions are made as to whether a Team or some other form is the right way forward. We also wish to discern whether the current configuration is appropriate, given the increase in housing between Hunstanton and Heacham. It may be that the benefice could become a training benefice and we would certainly hope to appoint a priest able to become a training incumbent. Additional administrative support together with increased vocations to different lay ministries might

represent a more flourishing future for the parishes. It is for these reasons that the benefice is currently suspended. The second house is not earmarked for disposal and we hope to appoint to a second post.

Good communication and building strong relationships with the ministry team and the Churchwardens will be important for the new person in post. The ideal candidate will be someone who can listen well, who is not fazed by difficulties, and who can work with a range of people with varied background and experience. A new parish priest with a track-record of building up and growing churches would be welcome, and it will be important that this can be done across a range of traditions and styles of worship. A priest with a heart for raising up vocations, and a real willingness to explore with people the increasing range of lay ministries becoming available in the diocese, would also be excellent.

Areas of opportunity in the benefice include seasonal provision for the many visitors who come to the area as well as regular ministry to its resident population which comprises both affluent and notably deprived areas. A priest willing to work with the incumbent of Heacham on possible joint mission would be positive. The new priest-in-charge will have a real heart for the county of Norfolk, appreciate the challenges of aspects of rural life (including lack of transport and low-paid and seasonal work). There is ample opportunity to develop new ways for people to encounter the gospel and the Lord in more informal worship as well as a real need for discipleship formation rooted in Word and Sacrament.

Diocese and Deanery

The Diocese of Norwich's vision is to be Transformed by Christ: Prayerful, Pastoral, Prophetic. You can find out more information about this at <https://www.dioceseofnorwich.org/about/about-vision/>. Work is currently underway on the priority areas that will help us live out and deliver this vision. The new priest-in-charge of the Hunstanton & Saxon Shore benefice 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.

The benefice falls within the Archdeaconry of Lynn, and so under the care of the Bishop of Lynn (The Rt Revd Dr Jane Steen) and the Archdeacon of Lynn (The Venerable Catherine Dobson). The benefice is in the Heacham & Rising Deanery whose Rural Dean is The Revd Peter Cook who is the Rector of the Docking Benefice.

There are 6 benefices in the Heacham & Rising Deanery with 5 licenced stipendiary clergy, 3 licensed SSM clergy and 9 clergy with PtO. There are also 4 Licensed Lay Ministers and 3 Authorised Worship Assistants. Attendance at Synod and Chapter is an expectation.

Ministerial Development Review

The MDR scheme operates on a four-year cycle, of which one year is with the bishop and one with the archdeacon.

Patronage

The Hunstanton & Saxon Shore Team Ministry Patronage Board, comprising
The Bishop of Norwich
The Archdeacon of Lynn
The Vicar of the Team Ministry
The Deacon of the Team Ministry

Mr M LeStrange
Mr N T de Winton
Lady Estelle Graham
Mrs Davidona Muscat

Enquiries, Applications and Interviews

Information about the post and an application form to download can be found on the following websites:

<https://www.dioceseofnorwich.org/about/about-vacancies/>

<https://www.dioceseofnorwich.org/about/vacancies/>.

Completed Application Form and Confidential Declaration Form are to be submitted to Mrs Ann Whittet (PA to the Bishop and Archdeacon of Lynn), The Bishop's Office, Lynn House, Commercial Road, Dereham. NR19 1AE.

The closing date for applications is Monday 16th December (9.00am) and interviews will be held on 3rd February.

If you would like to have an informal discussion before deciding whether to apply, please do be in touch by with the Archdeacon by email, archdeacon.lynn@dioceseofnorwich.org

With kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jane Lynn', is positioned below the text 'With kind regards'.