

# Role description for Priest-in-Charge of the Hunstanton and Saxon Shore benefice

## 1. Details of the post:

Role Title: Priest-in-Charge  
Deanery: Heacham and Rising

Name of benefice: Hunstanton and Saxon Shore  
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 become a stronger, more united benefice, better sharing resources
- To actively seek God's will and to grow in faith together
- To be prayerful, vibrant communities of faith
- To be outward looking in bearing witness to the Good News that Jesus has brought us
- To make a difference to our communities by harnessing and growing the talents we have to serve others

The benefice of Hunstanton and Saxon Shore comprises of the parishes of Hunstanton (population 4,090), Old Hunstanton and Ringstead Parva (659), Ringstead (288), Holme-next-the-Sea (208), Thornham (333), Titchwell with Choseley (85). Brancaster (396) and Burnham Deepdale (303). The combined population of the parishes is 6,362 (2021 Census). There are 4 schools in the benefice. Hunstanton Primary has 172 children on roll. Brancaster Church of England Primary currently has 24 children, making it vulnerable to closure. Smithdon High School in Hunstanton has 581 pupils aged 11 to 16. Glebe House is an independent nursery and preparatory school with a combined roll of 116.

## 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:**

**B. To**

- Hold overall responsibility for the oversight of the team/benefice
- Have specific responsibility for the mission and day to day running of the parishes of Hunstanton and Old Hunstanton
- Foster a good working relationship with the Team Vicar who will hold specific responsibility for the villages (Ringstead, Holme next the Sea, Thornham, Titchwell, Brancaster and Burnham Deepdale), and with the Associate Priest (SSM) who works across the town and villages
- Help us to listen to our communities and understand their needs
- Discern and own with us a vision for mission and ministry as we seek to be a church for all in our parishes
- Be prepared to take risks and to try out new ventures
- Sustain and equip the ministry team (clergy, readers, Licensed Lay Ministers, clergy with Permission to Officiate) for our shared mission by praying together and meeting regularly
- Continue to enable the ministry of the Churchwardens of the benefice by meeting regularly together for mutual support
- Work together with the PCCs to inspire and realise vision
- Inspire and work with willing community partners as we look to serve the needs of our town
- Make provision for youth ministry within both within the schools and beyond
- Discern and encourage vocations
- Strengthen civic and ecumenical links within Hunstanton
- Help to develop mission and ministry within the new housing developments of the town and exploring partnership with the neighbouring parish of Heacham where beneficial to do so
- Look for seasonal worship opportunities which connect with the life of our community e.g. beach services, lifeboat service, summer praise, civic services
- Understand the importance of and enable pastoral visiting
- Be known in the villages of the benefice, working collaboratively and supportively with the Team Vicar
- Don't try to do all this at once
- Support, enable and empower lay people while recognising that many are tired after a long vacancy

#### 4. Key contacts

Parish	Details
Churchwardens	Hunstanton, Old Hunstanton, Ringstead, Holme-next-the-Sea, Thornham, Titchwell with Choseley, Brancaster and Burnham Deepdale
Ministry Team	Assistant Priest, 6 retired clergy with Permission to Officiate, 2 Authorised Worship Assistants, 1 retired Church Army Officer.
Heads of local schools	Hunstanton Primary School; Brancaster Church of England Primary; Smithdon High School, Hunstanton; Glebe House independent nursery and preparatory School.

Groups & Committees	Details
PCCs	Hunstanton, Old Hunstanton, Ringstead, Holme-next-the-Sea, Thornham, Titchwell with Choseley, Brancaster and Burnham Deepdale
Deanery	Heacham & Rising Deanery Chapter colleagues
Deanery Synod	

Support Structures
Rural Dean – Revd Peter Cook
Archdeacon – Ven Catherine Dobson
Bishop of Lynn – Rt Rev Dr Jane Steen
<a href="#">Parish Support Team - Diocese of Norwich</a>

#### 5. 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.

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.'

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'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](#)