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Easter tide 2025

Rector – Mattishall and Tudd Valley

Dear Friends in Christ,

Benefice and Role

Thank you for inquiring for details for this post. You will find much detailed information about the benefice in the profile, and this letter supplements that with further information about the diocese and about the background to the post. If you are exploring this role from outside the diocese, and especially if you do not come from a rural background, let me encourage you to continue in this discernment. Norfolk people don't shout about themselves or their county or their diocese, but if you come here, there's a very high chance that you will never wish to leave.

The Mattishall and Tudd Valley benefice includes the parishes of East Tuddenham, Hockering, Mattishall, North Tuddenham, Welborne and Yaxham. Mattishall is the largest of these and the church building enjoys a prominent place in the centre of the village. Its worship is informal and friendly and there is a range of different worship across the benefice. As the profile states, the parishes have not engaged with the LLF material. It is worth noting this, since there undoubtedly will be, as the profile indicates, a range of views.

The parishes take care to be welcoming and hospitable, whether the congregations are large or small, and to develop good community relationships. The benefice will value a rector who is seen around and who is known not only by the congregations but by the wider community and who makes connections with local organisations and institutions from schools to care homes. Many of the parishes' events, whether it be the Hockering coffee morning or Mattishall's Drop In, are designed to encourage the boundaries of the church to be porous so that the wider 'fringe' of the Church of England still apparent in rural areas, can know that the parish church is their church. The benefice is thus open to those who feel that they belong before they believe.

That having been said, the benefice has long had a genuine commitment to people's personal journeys of faith. The next rector will be someone who is able to accompany people on their

faith pilgrimage and who actively seeks opportunities to draw others into the household of faith. There is a good foundation upon which to build, not least by expanding current Easter and Christmas activities and enabling good follow-up. There is also plenty of scope to ensure that there are opportunities for inquirers to learn about the faith and for disciples to deepen their faith. The Diocese of Norwich is actively looking to have a Missionary Disciples Advocate in each deanery to support parishes and benefices in the provision of these and other opportunities.

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/vision/>.

We are drawing together the strategic project work you will see described there to create a mission and ministry strategy for a sustainable and flourishing future. The Diocese has various ways in which lay people can participate in pastoral care and in leading worship, including as LLMs but also as Authorised Worship Assistants and Authorised Pastoral Assistants.

The Benefice falls within the Archdeaconry of Lynn and within the Dereham in Mitford Deanery. The Rural Dean is the Revd Tim Weatherstone. The Diocese of Norwich operates an informal area scheme, and the Bishop of Lynn's area of oversight is coterminous with the archdeaconry. The Archdeaconry is also cared for by Archdeacon Catherine Dobson who works closely with the bishop for the welfare of the benefices.

There are 6 posts of incumbent status in the Deanery, one of which is half-time in village parishes and half time in the schools of that benefice. There are 7 Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers) and several benefices have Authorised Worship Assistants (AWAs), enabling laity to lead Services of the Word. 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. Questions about the house should be directed to the Archdeacon of Lynn, the Venerable Catherine Dobson (archdeacon.lynn@dioceseofnorwich.org).

Patronage

Patrons for the benefice are:

The Bishop of Norwich; Gonville & Caius, Cambridge; The Norwich Diocesan Board of Patronage; The Prayer Book Society
(all exercised jointly)

The closing date for applications is 09:00 on Monday 16th June 2025 and interviews will be held on Thursday 24th July 2025. The post is subject to a Genuine Occupational Requirement and a satisfactory enhanced DBS disclosure.

If you would like to have an informal discussion before deciding whether to apply, please contact Ann Whittet (PA to the Bishop and Archdeacon of Lynn) at ann.whittet@dioceseofnorwich.org or phone the office on 01362 709200.

It is usually better to direct inquiries to Ann but alternatively, you are able to contact one or other of us at: bishop.lynn@dioceseofnorwich.org or archdeacon.lynn@dioceseofnorwich.org.

With grace and peace as you discern the role to which God is calling you,

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jane Steen', written in a cursive style.

The Rt Revd Dr Jane Steen, Bishop of Lynn