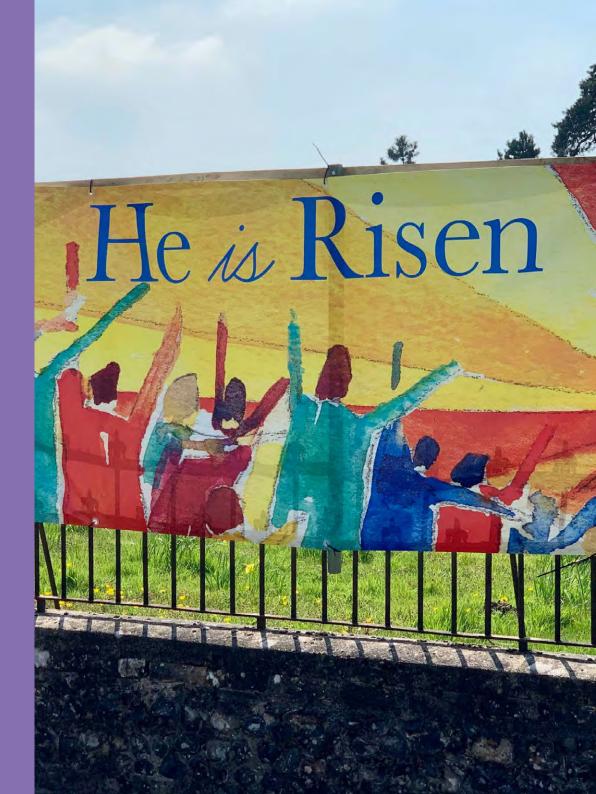


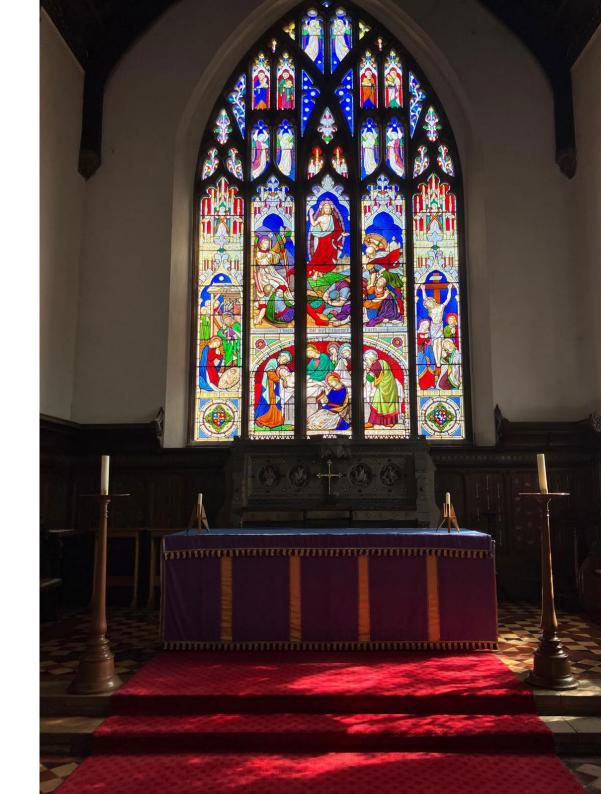
The role	03
Our vision	04
What are the tasks?	05
Who are we looking for?	06
Location	07
Our schools	08
Diss	09
Church life	10
What we can offer you	11
Our buildings	12
Thank you	13



The roles

We are looking for a Rector to serve the Parish of St Mary the Virgin Diss.

Are you an inspirational, collaborative leader with a Passion for Christian Mission and Outreach into the local Community, who will build on our present foundations and inspire us to move forward with Vision?



Our vision

To enable people of the Town and wider area to come to know God and His unconditional love, as revealed through his Son, Jesus Christ. By:

- Ensuring a warm welcome to parishioners, community, visitors, and people of all ages
- Through our Prayers, for them and with them
- Being a visible witness in our Parish, practically involved in community events and projects

Thereby embracing the Diocesan Vision to be:

Prayerful, Pastoral and Prophetic

Leading to Growth in Discipleship, Service and Numbers.



What are the tasks?

We need a person to help us to further develop our vision and unite us in our purpose, a leader who will guide us upon our Spiritual journey and enable us to spread the Good News by reaching out to the whole community, and to spread the Good News of the joy of knowing our loving God.

We need a Priest with the enthusiasm for bringing the Gospel Message alive and inspiring Church members to share their own Faith in Christ with others and to celebrate our Christian Heritage.



Who are we looking for?

- lively and Biblical Preaching relevant to everyday life
- being comfortable with both the BCP and Common Worship
- praying with us and for us
- encouraging and developing Pastoral Care both within the Membership and throughout the Parish
- initiating and encouraging links with families, who at the present time come to some social occasions within the Church. Play school, Sunday school and a Youth groups to be reintroduced
- helping us to engage with the wider community, sharing with us your own Gifts
- working with us as we seek a way forward for St Mary's to progress
- looking with fresh eyes to discern alternative views which we may have overlooked
- being ready to learn from others, whilst having fun and enjoying their company
- a Leader who is able and willing to work with and encourage the Ministers who already serve St Mary's - One Licensed Lay Minister (LLM) and four retired Clergy.

We look forward to welcoming a person with an engaging personality and a ready smile!



Location

Diss is a busy and pretty Market Town situated in South Norfolk on the border with Suffolk. It has a Mere (Anglo Saxon: Ditch) at its centre, within a large and busy Park. The park is well used for numerous events, Fayres, Celebration days, Annual Carnival, Open Air Theatre.

- Diss has many facilities on offer. It has an excellent range of traditional, local and national shops including three large supermarkets, pubs, restaurants and cafes, together with a wealth of sporting facilities including a football club, a rugby club, athletics field, two bowls clubs, a cricket club, new swimming pool and a soon to be built Health and Fitness centre.
- We boast a health centre with two medical practices, Pharmacies, Museum, the famous Bressingham Gardens close by. School provision covers all ages, with a range of nursery places locally.
- There are excellent communication links with a main-line railway station providing frequent trains to Norwich (13 minutes) and London (90 minutes) and all points between (Ipswich for example).
- The main trunk roads into the area are good quality dual carriageway which are in the process of being upgraded.
- The stunning and long coastline of Norfolk and Suffolk is easily accessible within an hour.
- Whilst there may a misconception that Norfolk is sleepy and remote, its appeal is such that that those who do venture here usually stay and grow to love the friendliness of the people, the beautiful skies, and the landscape of the coast, the Norfolk Broads and the Waveney Valley. Many say that a major asset of the area is the fresh air!



One important feature of Diss is that it is growing! There are several new sites being developed for housing, and increased leisure facilities.

Our Schools

There is one VA Primary School serving the town, split between Infants and Juniors.

There was, for many years, close involvement of St Mary's, in the life of the school... Christingle, Crib Service, Harvest, Easter etc. The children were regular visitors to the Church and a number were also members of St Mary's Sunday School. At a recent meeting between the Chair of our PCC and the RE Coordinator at Diss Junior Academy School, it was resolved that every effort should and would be made to re-invigorate that relationship. There are a number of Church Members who would likely wish to support our Rector in that endeavour

We have a large Academy Senior School and a busy Sixth Form centre. There used to be links with the school, mainly through a 'Youth Group' for older children. In some years, there would be a 'Harvest' Assembly' where personal items and non-perishable foodstuffs would be collected and delivered (by the Children and Church leaders) to a homeless centre in East London. Again, we look forward to renewing contact with these young people and their families

We are very hopeful that St Mary's might renew Links with these schools.



Diss

A delightful town enjoying a beautiful natural Mere at its centre. Our estimated population is 11,000 with a rural catchment area of 4,000.

St Mary's from its prominent position overlooks the bustling main thoroughfare and weekly Market. The Church Building is open daily and welcomes visitors throughout the year.

We enjoy excellent relationships with the other Christian denominations in the town. There is an active 'Churches Together' organisation which shares a Lent Course, a Walk through the town on Good Friday, ending with a service at St Mary's.

The Salvation Army band has put on concerts for us, and supports other events.

Community

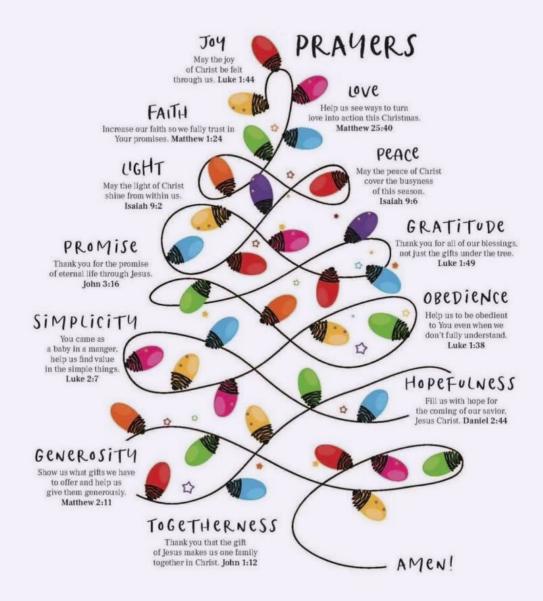
There is a Friday Market, Gaze Auction Rooms hold weekly auctions, attracting a wide range of collectors.

- Our Corn Hall is a successful Arts/Education/Entertainment centre.
- Our local park is well used by the families of the Parish
- The park also hosts many events throughout the year: An Annual Carnival, Gigs in the Park, often supported by the local Radio Station.



Church Life

- Sunday Service Eucharist/Holy Communion
- We are looking into the possibility of reinstating our 'live streaming' for the housebound
- Mid-week Communion
- · Weekly Silent Prayer Group
- Home Communion Team
- Anxious as we are to serve a wider demographic than is the case, we are open to all musical expressions within our worship.
- An active Congregation, warm and welcoming. Our Sides Persons and Church Wardens make certain that all, especially visitors or new people, receive a warm welcome. They are invited to coffee and fellowship and informed about Church activities and where appropriate, helped to understand the Liturgy. We have a small group of Adults with learning difficulties who attend regularly with those who care for them. Our aim is to extend the hand of friendship to everyone who comes through the door and to the wider Parish/community.
- Activities include monthly Walking group, monthly 'Bring and Buy sale,' suppers, regular quiz nights, regular concerts, strawberry tea, weekly coffee morning/mini market etc.



What we can offer you

- a team of dedicated and enthusiastic retired Ministers, both Ordained and Lay
- there is active participation of the congregation in in the life of the Church
- a well-resourced and staffed Administration Office

Clergy Wellbeing

The wellbeing of our Clergy is a priority. We are passionate about ensuring that they have the resources they need to deliver their Ministry, with regular time off to enjoy their home life, while developing as our Parish Priest.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is vitally important, and all the relevant policies are adopted by the Parish.

Parish Share

We aim to meet our Parish Share commitment each year but recognise that this is becoming a greater burden with each passing year. In 2024 St Mary's paid 75% of the requested amount.



Our Buildings

St Mary's Church

- 750-year-old Gothic stone building with active Bell Tower.
- A well-used Church Hall with a fully stocked kitchen, providing opportunities for Fellowships events.'
- Administration office.



Helpful links

Diocese of Norwich

www.dioceseofnorwich.org

Church of England

www.churchofengland.org

Living and working in Norfolk – Norfolk County Council

www.norfolk.gov.uk/jobs-training-and-volunteering/ living- and-working-in-norfolk

Thank you

Thank you for reading this benefice profile. We look forward to hearing from you.



