

Role Description – Interim Priest-in-Charge, Middlewinch Benefice

1. Details of the post:

Role Title: Interim Priest-in-Charge
Deanery: Lynn

Name of benefice: Middlewinch
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.

Full details <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

The benefice is made up of the parishes of West Winch (population 3,176), Middleton (population 1,474), North Runcton (population 431) and East Winch with West Bilney. (population 848).

The overall resident population is 5,929.

There is one school within the benefice: West Winch Primary school (roll 214).

The vision of the benefice is 'to seek share the love of Christ in our communities through prayer, service and outreach.'

We long to grow in number, faith, capacity and service to the benefit of the whole community.

4. Responsibilities

General:

- A. To exercise the cure of souls shared with the bishop in this benefice in collaboration with your colleagues and to have regard to the responsibilities of clergy as set out in the Canons, the Ordinal (*see overleaf), the Code of Professional Conduct of the Clergy, [Guidance for Clergy \(formerly Clergy handbook\) - Diocese of Norwich](#), the Covenant for Clergy Care and Wellbeing [Clergy wellbeing - Diocese of Norwich](#) and other relevant legislation.

Specific:

To lead us and help us grow the churches by

- Taking a lead in building links with our communities, to know and be known within the community, prayerfully discerning where God is already at work
- Developing links with partnerships already at work in the community and being actively engaged in West Winch school and other organisations
- Providing opportunities for exploring faith through course and bible studies
- Working together with the PCCs in shared commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults
- Seeking opportunities to build new worshipping communities through engagement with new people as the opportunity arises (e.g. all age worship, Bubble church etc.)
- Encouraging and enabling existing church members so that the churches are ready for the change which comes with growth

- Enabling us to become financially sustainable to meet our parish share and financial obligations
- Building on the success of the outreach services in West Winch village hall and similar events in other parishes
- Engaging with the community through a regular social media presence
- Conducting a review of the current pattern of worship and implementing any changes as a result
- Meeting the challenges of a changing benefice through the proposed new housing

5. Key contacts

Groups & Committees	Parish	Support Structures
PCCs (Middleton and East Winch PCC have a joint meeting)	Churchwardens	Rural Dean: Revd Canon Karlene Kerr
Deanery Chapter	Ministry Team: 1 Authorised Worship Assistant	Archdeacon: Ven Catherine Dobson
Deanery Synod	Heads of West Winch Primary School	Bishop of Lynn: Rt Revd Dr Jane Steen
		Parish Support Team - Diocese of Norwich

6. 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 offer a diocesan new incumbents' induction programme.

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.'

'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](#)