

The Rt. Revd Dr Jane Steen
Bishop of Lynn
Lynn House, Commercial Road,
Dereham, NR19 1AE
01362 709200
bishop.lynn@dioceseofnorwich.org

PA: Mrs Ann Whittet
ann.whittet@dioceseofnorwich.org

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House for Duty Team Vicar – South Launditch benefice, comprising Beeston next Mileham, Little Dunham, Great Dunham, Bittering Parva, Little Fransham, Great Fransham

Dear Friends in Christ,

Benefice and Role

Thank you for inquiring for details for this post. You will find much detailed information about the parishes 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, you will find a warm welcome and a supportive diocese. Those who do come from elsewhere remark upon the positive reception they have received, including the excellence of the Parish Support Team including in mission and ministry, safeguarding and property.

The South Launditch parishes are currently part of the much larger Launditch & the Upper Nar Team Ministry of eighteen villages with nineteen churches. The Team Ministry had a full time Team Rector, one Team Vicar and, at the outbreak of the Covid pandemic, a stipendiary curate. Financial constraints following the pandemic led to the ending of the full time Team Vicar role. The curate moved to be the new incumbent but the original Team benefice has proved too large for one stipendiary priest as well as unwieldy in its own right. There has therefore been extensive consultation with the whole benefice and a decision has been made to divide it into two. The House for Duty Team Vicar role currently advertised will therefore become the House for Duty incumbency of the South Launditch benefice when the pastoral reorganisation is completed.

The lay people of South Launditch are committed to the flourishing of their churches and work hard to that end. The new priest will be willing to work with and along side them as well providing leadership. You will also be someone who is able to accompany people on their faith journey and who actively seeks opportunities to draw others into the household of faith. There is plenty

of scope to ensure that there are opportunities for inquirers to learn about the faith and for disciples to deepen their faith. The Bishop and Archdeacon hope to see those taking up new posts in the Area starting at least one new worshipping community within three years and we would welcome a new priest who will discern how this is most appropriately done. There is a good foundation upon which to build, not least by expanding current Easter and Christmas activities and enabling good follow-up.

Rural Norfolk includes areas of considerable affluence and also surprisingly high deprivation. As you explore the possibility of a call to this role, you might wish to consult the Church Urban Fund tool (<https://cuf.org.uk/shinealight>) and the most recent census data (<https://one.gov.uk/explore-local-statistics/areas/E10000020-norfolk>) for more insight into the parishes.

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 and Area of Lynn and within the Dereham in Mitford Deanery. The Deanery is predominantly rural but includes the market town of Dereham. The Bishop of Lynn's area of oversight is coterminous with the archdeaconry and both the Venerable Catherine Dobson and the Rt Revd Dr Jane Steen are committed to the flourishing of rural benefices. The Rural Dean is the Revd Canon Paul Cubitt who writes:

The deanery is currently in a season of renewal, with benefices seeking new leadership, discerning fresh vision, and moving forward in hope. This is always an exciting time of opportunity. As Rural Dean, I look forward to working with you and with Chapter, as together we support and encourage one another for the sake of the Kingdom.

There are 8 posts of incumbent status in the Deanery and 5 Licensed Lay Ministers (LLMs). There are 9 Authorised Worship Assistants (AWAs) across the deanery, enabling laity to lead services of the Word and 5 Authorised Pastoral Assistants (APAs).

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 at (archdeacon.lynn@dioceseofnorwich.org).

Patronage

The Bishop of Norwich
Norwich Diocesan Board of Patronage
The Church Society Trust
Church Pastoral Aid Society
Magdalen College, Cambridge
Hertford College, Oxford

The closing date for applications is 09:00 on Thursday 19th March and interviews will be held on Friday 8th May. 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', with a stylized, cursive script.

The Rt Revd Dr Jane Steen, Bishop of Lynn