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March 2026

Team Rector – Barnham Broom & Upper Yare benefice

Dear Friends in Christ,

Benefice and Role

Thank you for inquiring for details for this post, and I very much hope that you enjoy reading the profile. Perhaps the most important thing to say about it, is worth saying first. Despite its apparent – and actual – considerable number of parishes, this is a benefice which has worked well together for decades, with laity committed to its future and with an effective governance structure empowering lay leaders and ensuring that the incumbent is neither exhausted nor overwhelmed.

The profile gives glimpses of both the potential and the actual life of the benefice but if you were to come to visit, you would find energy and enthusiasm, not least in the rural pioneering venture of Bubble Church. Bubble Church, an urban mission initiative during the pandemic, is drawing new families to the life of the church in the benefice and may well turn out to be a significant initiative for children and families ministry elsewhere in the Diocese.

There is much hospitality in the benefice and a real enthusiasm for joining together in food and friendship as well as in worship. The population of the benefice includes farming families whose contribution to the life of the county and wider country cannot be overestimated and have been very supportive of incumbents. If you are not from a rural background, do not let this discourage you. We are a welcoming and friendly county always willing to explain our ways and to share our practices. If you are new to incumbency, I would be delighted to welcome you to the Thrive group of new incumbents in the Area with whom I meet termly. This is a great diocese and county in which to minister and I pray that we might have an opportunity to discern together at interview whether God might be calling you to join us.

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 Licensed Lay Ministers but also as Authorised Worship Assistants and Authorised Pastoral Assistants.

The Benefice falls within the Archdeaconry of Lynn. The Diocese of Norwich operates an informal area scheme, and the Bishop of Lynn's area of oversight is coterminous with the archdeaconry. The Archdeacon is the Venerable Catherine Dobson and the Rural Dean is the Revd Canon Paul Cubitt. Paul has commented, '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 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 and 5 Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers). There are 9 Authorised Worship Assistants (AWAs) in the benefice, 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; The Earl of Kimberley; Mrs Anthea Briggs; The Church Society Trust; Henry Bartholomew Esq; The Martyrs Memorial & Church of England Trust; The Exec. Of the late Jonathan Boston.

The closing date for applications is 09:00am on Wednesday 29th April and interviews will be held on Wednesday 17 June. 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