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May 2026

Dear Friends in Christ,

### **Priest-in-Charge and Team Vicar posts, Hunstanton & Saxon Shore benefice**

Thank you for your interest in the Hunstanton and Saxon Shore benefice. These notes are intended to supplement the information given in the Parish Profile, adding a slightly wider perspective with some further information.

#### **The Benefices and this Role**

The Hunstanton & Saxon Shore benefice draws together eight coastal parishes, of which one is a substantial town, and the others are villages. There is a strong team of churchwardens who are committed to the flourishing of all the parishes and who work well together across their different contexts. The SSM licensed to the benefice as well as the retired clergy share this commitment and there are good relationships across the benefice. Clergy coming to the benefice will want to work with these well-established relationships to take the benefice forward in mission and ministry. North West Norfolk has a friendly and stable population and many of those whom you will encounter and with whom you will minister have generations of presence in the area. It is important that new clergy work with and not against this, accepting that where connections exist and ministry is being exercised, there is much to be said for supporting that, allowing those more newly arrived to start new mission and ministry in other ways.

You will see from the benefice profile that the roles each have a focus: either Hunstanton and Old Hunstanton, or the villages. It is, however, fair to say that this is slightly arbitrary and we would expect to discuss the different roles with candidates to ensure that people are best enabled to inhabit the role to which they are both called and best suited. The benefice is currently suspended while we complete the legalities of changing the parsonage house (which is purchased and available to inhabit) and this is the reason for the suspension of presentation. There are no plans for pastoral reorganisation.

The priest-in-charge will have responsibility for the whole benefice as the anticipated Team Rector. Although each role will have its focus, both clergy should anticipate knowing and being known across the whole benefice, so that there are no silos and, if anything, the tendency is to increased joint working. This includes the possibility of bringing together PCC meetings (something currently being discussed in Brancaster and Titchwell), reducing administrative burden. The Archdeacon and I anticipate that both will start at least one new worshipping community within their first three years in post, and will have a concern for Christian social action as a gospel imperative, ensuring that the church's pastoral care is extended to those who are disadvantaged by poverty (economic, but also of opportunity, education and so on). Rural poverty is less apparent than urban poverty, but it is definitely present. Hunstanton is among the most deprived parishes in the country, with much seasonal and low-paid employment. The Diocesan Mission Team is available to provide support in these areas.

It may be that you are reading this profile with a particular call on your heart, either to the villages or to Hunstanton and Old Hunstanton. There are aspects of the Hunstanton role which bear comparison with a much more urban ministry and the villages offer the potential for creative rural ministry. Whether you have experienced either context before, I would encourage you seriously to consider each role. I hope very much that clergy will come to this part of the Diocese who wish to learn and develop in their ministry and each post offers that opportunity. Hunstanton has much unrealised potential and rural multi-parish ministry comes with a range of experience second to none in the Church of England. Ideally, we would hope to attract someone of the calibre to be a training incumbent, but we are open to conversations with clergy at all stages of ministry as we discern who God is calling to these roles.

We would hope for clergy who are enthusiastic about rural and coastal ministry, urban and village, willing to try new initiatives, who both listen and communicate well, who can work with a range of people with varied background and experience and who is comfortable sharing the gospel 'in season and out of season' in contexts of affluence and deprivation. Clergy with a heart for raising up vocations, for reaching out to those who are visiting and vacationing in the area, and a real willingness to explore with people the increasing range of lay ministries becoming available in the diocese, would be very welcome.

Anyone coming to either of these roles will also come to have, if you do not already, a real heart for the county of Norfolk, and an appreciation of the challenges and joys of rural life. You will find ample opportunity to develop new ways for people to encounter the gospel and the Lord in more informal worship as well as a real need for discipleship formation rooted in Word and Sacrament. Please do be in touch with me or the Archdeacon about this through our PA (details above) for a conversation about the roles.

### **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/about-vision/>. Work is currently underway on the priority areas that will help us live out and deliver this vision. The

new priest-in-charge of the Hunstanton & Saxon Shore benefice will be someone who is excited by this vision and who is able to see ways in which it can be made a lived reality.

The benefice falls within the Archdeaconry of Lynn, and so under the care of the Bishop of Lynn (The Rt Revd Dr Jane Steen) and the Archdeacon of Lynn (The Venerable Catherine Dobson). The benefice is in the Heacham & Rising Deanery whose Rural Dean is The Revd Mark Capron who is the Rector of the Dersingham Benefice.

There are 6 benefices in the Heacham & Rising Deanery with 5 licenced stipendiary clergy, 3 licensed SSM clergy and 9 clergy with PtO. There are also 4 Licensed Lay Ministers and 3 Authorised Worship Assistants. Attendance at Synod and Chapter is an expectation, especially as the Deanery is beginning to explore working with the neighbouring deanery of Lynn. This is in part to enable greater potential for training and development within a larger deanery (it is easier to attract good speakers to a larger body of people), and partly to reduce the administrative burden of multiple meetings.

### **Ministerial Development Review**

The MDR scheme operates on a four-year cycle, of which one year is with the bishop and one with the archdeacon.

### **Patronage**

The Hunstanton & Saxon Shore Team Ministry Patronage Board, comprising

The Bishop of Norwich

The Archdeacon of Lynn

The Vicar of the Team Ministry

The Deacon of the Team Ministry

Mr M LeStrange

Mr N T de Winton

Lady Estelle Graham

Mrs Davidona Muscat

### **Enquiries, Applications and Interviews**

Information about the post and an application form to download can be found on the diocesan website (<https://www.dioceseofnorwich.org/about/about-vacancies/>) and on Pathways.

Completed application forms are to be submitted to Mrs Ann Whittet (PA to the Bishop and Archdeacon of Lynn), The Bishop's Office, Lynn House, Commercial Road, Dereham. NR19 1AE.

The closing date for applications is Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2026 (9.00am) and interviews will be held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2026.

With grace and peace,

