

Role Description – Priest-in-Charge, Hunstanton & Saxon Shore Benefice

1. Details of the post:

Role Title: Priest-in-Charge
Deanery: Heacham & Rising

Name of benefice: Hunstanton & Saxon Shore
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 Hunstanton (population 4,090), Old Hunstanton (population 659), Ringstead (population 288), Holme-next-the-Sea (208), Thornham (333), Titchwell with Choseley (85), Brancaster (396) and Burnham Deepdale. (303).

The overall resident population is 6,392.

There are 3 schools within the benefice: Hunstanton Primary school (roll 172), Smithdon High School (roll 581) and Glebe House Independent School (roll 116).

The vision of the benefice is to make Christ known and to be a church for all, across the town and villages.

- to actively seek God's will and to grow in faith together
- become a stronger, more united benefice, better sharing our resources
- to be prayerful, vibrant and welcoming communities of faith, actively seeking God's will
- to be outward looking in bearing witness to the Good News that Jesus brought us
- to make a difference to our communities by harnessing, and growing the talents we have to serve others

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:

Overview

The Priest in Charge will focus on sustaining and enriching the worshipping life of the benefice, alongside providing compassionate pastoral care across the coastal villages and wider parish network.

Key Responsibilities

- Lead **regular Sunday worship** with the ministry team across the benefice
- Develop **inclusive, prayerful, and liturgically rich services**
- Provide **pastoral care** to parishioners
- Support and train **lay worship leaders, pastoral assistants, and volunteers**
- Maintain strong connections with **village communities and traditions**
- Drive the shared leadership and strategic planning of the benefice, starting at least one new worshipping community within 3 years

Person Specification

- An experienced priest with a heart for **pastoral ministry and spiritual care**
- Comfortable leading both **traditional and more modern styles of worship**
- Strong organisational skills to manage **multi-parish responsibilities**
- A collaborative approach to ministry and team life
- Empathy and ability to **minister across all ages and backgrounds**

Shared Expectations for Both Roles

- Commitment to **team ministry and mutual support**
- Work together with the PCCs in shared commitment to Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults
- Participation in benefice-wide planning, prayer, and vision setting
- Flexibility to serve across **Hunstanton and adjacent coastal villages**
- Willingness to engage with the unique opportunities and challenges of a **coastal, rural benefice**
- Uphold the values and mission of the Church of England

5. Key contacts

Groups & Committees	Parish	Support Structures
PCCs	Churchwardens	Former Rural Dean: Revd Peter Cook (continuing support for benefice during vacancy) Rural Dean: Revd Mark Capron
Deanery Chapter	Team Vicar. Ministry team - Assistant Priest Revd Dr James Monro; Clergy with PTO; Authorised Worship Assistant	Archdeacon: Ven Catherine Dobson
Deanery Synod	Heads of Hunstanton Primary, Smithdon High and Glebe House Schools	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](#)