



 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Norwich

Middlewinch Benefice Interim Priest-in-Charge

'Seeking to share the love of Christ in our communities
through prayer, service and outreach'

Welcome!

Thank you for taking the time to read our Benefice profile. If you are interested in talking to us further, we would be delighted to hear from you.

The post is an Interim appointment, initially for a period of 3 years to discern the change needed for our parishes to grow and lead us into a sustainable future.

Our congregations are small and welcoming, and are working hard to grow and become the heart of the life of the parishes.

We are looking for a leader who will unite us in mission as we seek to share the love of Christ through prayer, service and outreach.

Middlewinch benefice is made up of four parishes and is situated in West Norfolk on the outskirts of King's Lynn. It is easy to feel at home in an area of varied geography and abundant social, recreational and commercial facilities. Our parishes fall within a small, easily manageable area.

Each parish has small groups of friendly, committed folk with faithful, forward-looking church officers.

Our churches are steeped in history and provide not only a calm place to worship but also many other activities to bring the community into the churches to help grow the congregations.

We are excited by the opportunities that a new road network and infrastructure, between the parishes of North Runcton and West Winch will bring. Eventually, the plans are for a further 4,000 new homes.

This will provide wonderful opportunities to share the love of Christ with these new communities.

Our Vision

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 and are excited by the prospect of the arrival of a new Priest-in-Charge to lead us.



The Task

We are looking for a priest who will lead us and help us grow the churches in Middlewinch 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 with other organisations.
- Providing opportunities for exploring faith through courses and bible studies.
- Seeking opportunities to build new worshipping communities through engagement with new people (eg 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 held 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 development.

We hope our priest will be:

- Outgoing, approachable, positive and resilient to be able to cope with pressure
- Someone who will care about our communities and be visible within them.
- A team builder who is able to inspire and encourage others to get involved in the many aspects which make up church life.
- A good communicator and well organised to ensure all fully understand our vision and goals.
- Someone with a strong desire to live out their faith and point people towards God in our communities.

Safeguarding

Promoting a Safer Church

The PCCs of the parishes are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults. All post holders and volunteers are expected to share this.

All appointments are subject to acceptable pre-appointment checks, including a satisfactory Enhanced DBS Check.

What we offer to our new priest:

- Small but committed groups of volunteers who are open to new ideas to drive the Benefice forward.
- A recently appointed and enthusiastic Authorised Worship Assistant and Anna Chaplain who minister across the four villages.
- Opportunities to build on existing relationships with the schools, outreach services and community engagements
- A comfortable modern four-bedroom Rectory in West Winch.
- We are committed to supporting the wellbeing of our clergy through honouring days off, annual leave, retreats and the timely reimbursement of expenses.
- We are committed to the wellbeing of people of all ages and endeavour to be a safe church for all. Safeguarding is a high priority which is guided by two Parish Safeguarding Officers, one covering West Winch and the other East Winch, Middleton and North Runcton.

The Benefice

The benefice was originally formed in 1992 by the joining of West Winch and North Runcton. Subsequently they were joined by Middleton and in 2014 joined by East Winch and West Bilney when it became known as Middlewinch.

This close proximity of the churches maximises the opportunity to unite the Benefice. We hope to re-establish bi-monthly Ministry Team meetings chaired by the parish priest with each church being represented.

St Cecilia's church, West Bilney is a redundant church in the parish of East Winch with West Bilney. St Cecilia's is maintained by the Norfolk Churches Trust who give permission for three services to be held there per year.

The four parishes have an agricultural tradition but are now mainly commuter villages for King's Lynn and much further away. King's Lynn is the principal business and administration centre for West Norfolk. However, farming continues in the benefice area and it would be good to reach out to that community, possibly with appropriate services.

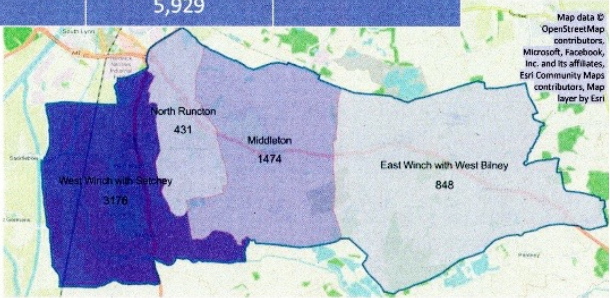
The West Winch Housing Access Road will ensure the road network between the A47 and A10 on the outskirts of King's Lynn will have the capacity to meet the planned growth in the West Winch Strategic Growth Area. The road will ease congestion in West Winch and North Runcton and the current A10 where West Winch church is situated will become a local road for the village.

More information can be found here: www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/76935/About-West-Winch-Housing-Access-Road

The charts below show the current 2021 Census breakdown of the population for each parish:

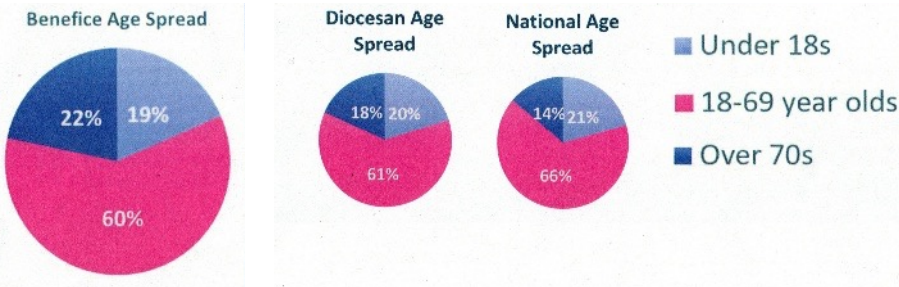
Parish population

Parish	Population	% Population
West Winch with Setchey	3,176	54%
North Runcton	431	7%
Middleton	1,474	25%
East Winch with West Bilney	848	14%
Population per the 2021 Census::	5,929	



Parish age spread

2021 Census:	Population	Aged 0-4	Aged 5-19	Aged 20-69	Aged 70 and over	Aged 0-4	Aged 5-19	Aged 20-69	Aged 70 and over
Middleton	1,474	41	194	905	334	3%	13%	61%	23%
North Runcton	431	10	58	248	115	2%	13%	58%	27%
East Winch with West Bilney	848	33	115	535	165	4%	14%	63%	19%
West Winch with Setchey	3,176	142	505	1,855	674	4%	16%	58%	21%
	5,929	226	872	3,543	1,288	4%	15%	60%	22%



The population of this benefice is slightly older than the diocesan average, the majority of people live in the parish of West Winch, which is in the scope of further major housing development.

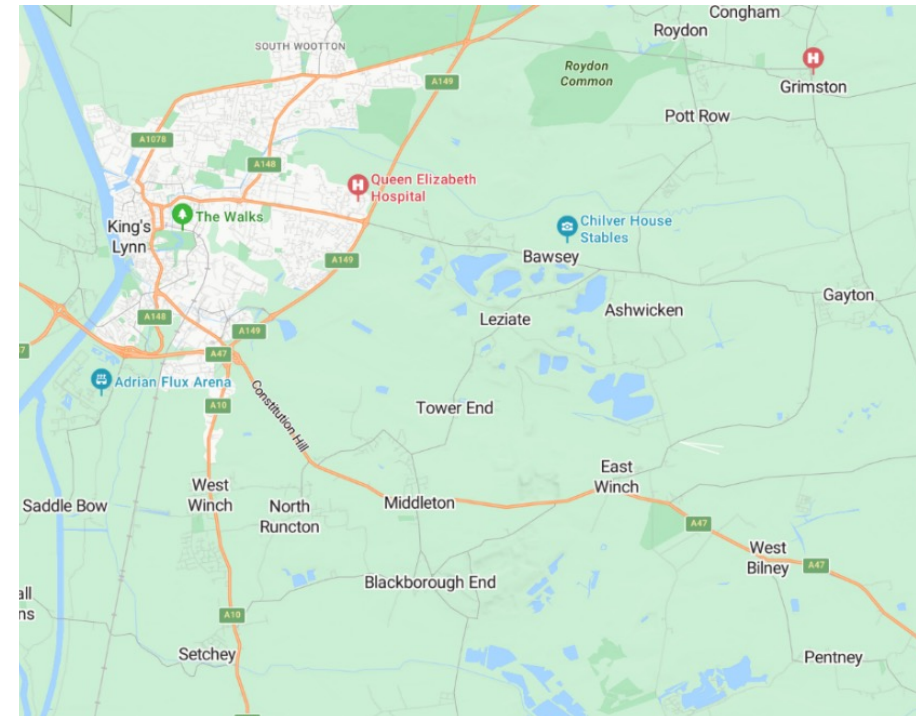
Location

Middlewinch is located to the south east of the market town of King's Lynn, with the Sandringham Estate, with its wonderful wooded walks, a few miles to the north. The parishes incorporate woodland, farmland and rivers leading to the Wash, a very important nature reserve. A short drive away are the long, sandy beaches of the beautiful North West Norfolk coast with its abundant wildlife and peaceful atmosphere. King's Lynn has a rich heritage as a Hanseatic League trading town with the Baltic countries and was an important port from as early as the 12th century. It offers a pedestrianised shopping centre, restaurants, a swimming pool, sports and leisure facilities and an impressive entertainment venue being the Corn Exchange.

King's Lynn also boasts two music festivals in July; the "King's Lynn Festival", involving a wide variety of music types from the "Black Dyke Band" to the "Royal Philharmonic Orchestra" plus many smaller coffee concerts. Festival Too, features outdoor events, held on a stage in the famous Tuesday Market Place. Events cover a range of popular music featuring both local and national bands plus well-known know pop artistes. The two cinemas provide the opportunity to view films from reruns to new releases. King's Lynn has hosted a "Mart" in the Tuesday Market Place each February for the last 800 years. Today, the Mart is a large fair providing fun for all ages making King's Lynn a place where family entertainment is available throughout the year.

The area has excellent educational facilities, a pre-school, three high schools and a College of Further Education.

There is a regular, fast, electrified rail service linking King's Lynn with Ely, Cambridge and London. The A47 links King's Lynn with Norwich in the east and Peterborough in the west, the Midlands and the North East of England, whilst the A10 provides easy access to Cambridge, the M11, Stansted Airport and London. Within the Benefice there is a supermarket, village pubs, village halls, takeaways, Post Offices and a camping and caravan park. There is good provision for education with a pre-school, nursery and a primary school. There are lots of clubs, community events, and a good local bus service.



The Rectory

The Rectory is a 4-bedroom detached house on a corner plot in a secluded location on the outskirts of West Winch, just a ten-minute walk from West Winch church.

The property was built in 1982 and has an EPC rating of C with gas central heating and open fireplace. There is a utility room and a spacious separate study with the benefit of being recently redecorated with new carpets and flooring throughout.

The parking available is for a minimum of 3 vehicles on the drive.



Our Parishes

North Runcton

All Saints'

North Runcton PE33 0RB

Churchwarden: Ken Matthews

Email: kennethmatthews1

@btinternet.com



Welcome to All Saints

We are very passionate about our church and its place within our community. Work in progress includes raising around £541,000 through grant funding which is already in hand as we look to make our building fit for purpose in the 21st century. We already have toilet and kitchen facilities which are a great asset. All Saints' is the only operational Georgian style church out of the 658 churches in Norfolk. The building holds a great deal of history including connections with prison reformer Elizabeth Fry, Captain George Vancouver, explorer Samuel Gurney Cresswell, the Gurney family and local, famous Architect, Henry Bell.

The churchyard is open for burials and ashes interment and has been the subject of a survey by the Norfolk Wildlife Trust which will form the basis of a biodiversity plan. We hope the churchyard will be place for reflection and peace and provide space for prayer and reflection.

The Community

Currently, the population of the parish is 431, 30% of which are 70+ years old (2021 census). The parish will increase by 1,100 homes in the next few years but will not affect the character of the original village. Around 13% of the parish population are members of the Plymouth Brethren and we continue to build good links with them.

Various community events are held in All Saints'; an annual Community Hour, monthly coffee mornings, flower festivals and, as the church has fine acoustics, choral concerts and organ recitals.

Further community events are being developed as a result of The National Lottery Heritage Fund consultation.

All Saints' is promoted through the Borough Council of King' Lynn and West Norfolk's "Explore West Norfolk" and "Hansa 2" websites and the True's Yard Museum in King's Lynn.

The parish also boasts a cricket club with an excellent pavilion and ground, tennis club, art club and a camping and caravan site with a shop which is open to all.

Outreach with Schools

A strong relationship with seven local schools has been developed under the Diocesan "Inspired Classrooms" Initiative as part of their curriculum. The new development will not only increase the need for more school placement space but also other facilities such as infrastructure, shops and medical facilities. Pupils at the Buttercups Pre-School, which operates in the Village Meeting Place across the village green from All Saints', make familiarisation visits to the church and hold a Christingle service each December.

All Saints' is the designated emergency refuge point for the Pre-School.

Worship

There is one eucharistic service in our church per month as we worship across the benefice each Sunday in turn. More frequent worship is a priority for the future. Other types of service adopted in the past have included Plough Sunday, Pet Service and Stations of the Cross. Refreshments are always served at the end of services to promote good fellowship. Congregations move around the Benefice services and transport is shared by some.

Congregation

Our average congregation is 10, including members from other churches. The challenge has always been to steadily grow that number.

We look forward to working with our new priest who will bring new ideas and thinking to help us achieve bringing folk back to God.

During the week

Faith in Action – The church is open from 9:00am to 4:00pm seven days a week for private prayer and visitors from many countries.

A box, placed in the porch is for the donation of goods for the Trussell Trust Foodbank in King's Lynn. This is managed by two parishioners. Well attended coffee mornings are held on the first Saturday of every month. It is hoped that by getting folk through the door that, overtime, some will join the congregation!



Presentation of new chairs



Organ Recital 2025

The PCC

Chairman, Churchwarden/Fabric Officer and Churchyard Officer, Secretary, Treasurer, A "Church Near You" administrator and two Members.

Peter Denison, Churchwarden at East Winch, is our Parish Safeguarding Officer.

There is a Charitable Trust, Hope's, which bears the name of the incumbent who set it up in the 17th century, to help the poor and needy of the parish.

Regular giving is operated on a limited scale.

PCC meetings are held in All Saints' every two months but retreats to a member's home in the colder months.

There is a strong team of fundraisers and volunteers who are willing help with the many activities throughout the year including: coffee mornings, flower festivals, open gardens and harvest suppers. This work is also carried out, in some cases, in partnership with the Parish Council and the Plymouth Brethren.

Currently the PCC is working with The National Lottery Heritage Fund to raise around £656,000 to restore the tower, spire, 60% of the roof and all the rainwater gear and drains. We will know if we have been successful in raising the funds sometime next year. The work should be complete by the end of 2027 early 2028.

Opening the church every day is part of the requirement of the Heritage Fund. It has been very successful because over 100 visitors, who might otherwise not have bothered to contact the key holders, have signed the visitors' book and quite a few more who didn't!



Below, Christmas Eve service 2025



Visitors to an Art exhibition in All Saints' Church as part of the "Open Gardens event" in June 2025



Food kitchen supplied by the Plymouth Brethren on our "Community Day" on 26th April 2025

East Winch



Welcome to All Saints Church

There has been a church in East Winch since Norman times. It stands on a slight elevation immediately south of the A47. What is seen now is a Grade II* listed perpendicular church of 14th and 15th century origin, financed by the Howards, Lords of the Manor and ancestors of the Dukes of Norfolk. They would recognise the church today!

The church is generally good repair but without toilet or kitchen facilities. The organ is in good condition and is regularly played. The church is open at certain times during the summer months.

The church has its own car park. The churchyard is well tended and open for burials and interment of ashes.

The Community

The village is situated to the east of King's Lynn on the A47. It consists of three parts; East Winch Hall to the east development around the junction of the A47 and stretching along school road in a linear pattern and the largest part of the village around the A47 and then follows Gayton Road north and east containing estate development.

Unfortunately, the primary school is now closed but the village benefits from a regular bus service, Post Office and general store and popular public house. The Village Hall is regularly used by various local groups and organisations. The village Play Group for babies and toddlers meets every week during term time. As part of the outreach programme the "Singing Kettle" group was started by a former Middlewinch Curate. This is a chance to meet people, enjoy a cuppa and a chat and sing (or listen to) songs. The group meets on alternate Thursday mornings in the Village Hall.

The local Village History Society recently held a very successful history day of the village, its buildings and people. It was extremely well attended. With a number of fascinating displays and artefacts from years ago, the event was deemed a tremendous success and it is hoped it will be repeated. Villagers were invited to make their way to the church to pick up produce as such was the abundance from the Harvest Festival.

The village also has an airfield. It benefits from local employment at East Winch Hall and the local RSPCA Wildlife Hospital. Also, a short distance away is RAF Marham, another key employer in the area.

Worship

Holy Communion is celebrated once a month using Common Worship at 10.30am. The service is attended by members from other Benefice congregations and there is a time of fellowship following the service.

We recently held a lovely traditional Harvest Festival Service with Holy Communion. The church was overflowing with flowers, fruit and produce. Entering the church it smelt like a fragrant orchard! The photographs below were taken at the service

Last year the Remembrance Services were held at other churches in the Benefice. However, the Parish Council wanted to place a wreath on the All Saints' War Memorial inside the church. The church was opened up on Armistice Day for any villagers who wished to pay their respects and also view the biographies of those named in the memorials.



Congregation

The number on Church Roll is 6. Average attendance at services is about 12 but Christmas and larger services are better supported. The congregation is elderly but young at heart. We consider ourselves to be a warm, welcoming bunch!

The church owns the former Bowling Green site from which it receives a small rent as it is now let out to the Carpenter's Arms.

The church is clearly valued by the villagers who all express the hope a priest will be appointed as soon as possible. Whilst they may not attend the church regularly, all say the church and what it stands for is extremely important to the village community.

They would like to see the Harvest Festival Dinner, the Christmas Fayre, the Village Carol Singers, the Good Friday procession and the traditional Village Frolic, as it was known, resurrected. The hope has to be, that this strong expression of support is built upon and will enable the church to become the centre of the village as it once was.

PCC

East Winch has a combined, strong and committed, Joint PCC with Middleton.

Churchwarden/Parish Safeguarding Officer:

Peter Denison

Treasurer: Wendy Smith

Organist: Peter Denison

PCC Secretary: Vicki Pidcock



St Cecilia's Church, West Bilney



Now in the parish of East Winch is the adjacent village of West Bilney. Its church (a Grade II* listed building) is small and unassuming and is dedicated to St Cecilia. No longer in regular use it is maintained by the Norfolk Churches Trust and opened for special services. There is no permanent electrical power or heating at St Cecilia's. It is the only church in Norfolk to be dedicated to St Cecilia, the Patron Saint of music.

Middleton



Welcome to St Mary's

The large church stands at the village centre by the junction between the A47 main road and Station Road and across the way from School Road and the Crown Inn, now Middleton's Restaurant. A church has stood at this site for many centuries – the first recorded vicar served from 1191 but the beginnings date back into Saxon times, perhaps 300 years or so before that. It is a large Grade II*listed building with carstone walls and a high embattled tower. It is wheelchair accessible and has parking nearby. It has an extensive and well-kept churchyard.

St Mary's is the only church in East Anglia with furnishings by Robert Thompson, the Yorkshire based 'Mouseman'. You'll find his signature mouse carved on the base of the lectern and on the communion rails and prayer desk. As you step into the chancel you will be struck by the riot of gold of the organ and the old rood screen depicting the apostles.

We are a welcoming church. There is a large vestry, toilet and a small kitchen. The organ is in good condition and is played regularly. The church clock in the tower is regularly serviced and announces the passing of time with two bells.



'Mouseman' Mice

Middleton Organ

The Community

Travelling east, Middleton is the second village on the A47 after North Runcton, effectively divided in half by the main road. The village extends north and south, extending to Fair Green in the northern part of the village and Blackborough End in the southern end.

At the centre is the church, the large village hall, the Golf Club, the Post Office/General Stores and Middleton's restaurant. The Gate Inn public house is in Fair Green. The village has a garage, a car wash and a thriving equestrian centre.

The Village Hall is used by many organisations, including the Playgroup, the Youth Club, the Short Mat Bowls Club and the Badminton Club, as well as holding meetings, fairs and sales.

The bi-monthly parish magazine is currently being restructured to an exciting new version, providing a vehicle for all local church and community news.

Unfortunately, the village Primary School closed last year and the church misses the regular attendance of its children. Collective worship and religious education had been a central role of the school and, of course, with this the church had been involved.

Middleton seek a warm and capable leader who will take us forward with love and encouragement.

Worship

A service of Holy Communion takes place once a month with the service attended by members from other Benefice congregations. Refreshments are always served after services. The church uses 'Hymns Old and New' and, along with East Winch, uses service sheets prepared for each service, with lessons read and intercessions said by members of the congregations.

Congregation

The number on the Church Roll is 6. Average attendance at services is about 12 but larger services such as Remembrance are better supported. Over the last year there have been 2 funerals, 2 interments of ashes but no baptisms or weddings.

PCC

The church is served by a joint PCC with East Winch
Treasurer: John Dunn / Fred Pidcock
Fabric Officer: Fred Pidcock
PCC Secretary: Vicki Pidcock
Parish Safeguarding Officer: Peter Denison

At present there are no churchwardens.

Middleton seek a warm and capable leader who will take us forward with love and encouragement.

St Mary's Church, West Winch

St Mary's, Main Road,
West Winch,
King's Lynn. PE33 0NP

Dating back to 12th Century

Village Population: 3,176 (2021 Census)

Electoral Roll: 12

Congregation: Av, 15 (at Benefice services)

Safeguarding Officer: Duncan Garford



Welcome

The church of St Mary's has parts dating back to the 12th century with some original stonework believed to date from Saxon times. Much of the present building dates from the early 14th century. Overall, it is in a good state of repair with the advantage of modern gas heating.

The Church Hall (the old village school) is located within the churchyard and has a small kitchen, toilet and office and benefits from gas heating. It is available for hire and this is currently the main source of income for the parish with several groups making regular use of the hall, ie Art Group, Pilates, Tai Chi. There is also a Table Tennis Club which meets in the hall. This started as an outreach to the village.

The churchyard is a credit to the small group of volunteers who work hard to keep it attractive. The Parish Council makes an annual grant to assist with maintenance costs. The graveyard is still open for burials.

In a move to align civilian and ecclesiastical boundaries Setchey become part of the parish in 1992. With this came the responsibility for a derelict church and churchyard. The derelict church was subsequently sold and is now a private dwelling. The graveyard has been restored and is maintained for the residents of Setchey.

Worship

There are currently two services each month. One on the first Sunday at 10am which is Holy Communion and the other on the third Sunday at 10am which is a Morning Praise service.

There is a church organ which is in good condition and regularly played. The church is always available for baptisms, weddings and funerals.

There is also a Crib service on Christmas Eve which is enjoyed by many families. Two outreach services are held in the Village Hall each year, one being a harvest thanksgiving and the other Christmas carols and readings followed by mulled wine and mince pies. These services attract parishioners who would not normally attend a church-based service.



Harvest Service in the Village Hall 2025

PCC

The church has one Churchwarden, a Health and Safety Officer and a PCC of 8 which meets six times per year. We have recently been fortunate to have the assistance of an Authorised Worship Assistant (who is also an Anna Chaplain) who is currently taking the services on the third Sunday of the month.

We have recently started to hold monthly coffee mornings and a Bereavement course is now available. A monthly service at the Winchley Care Home has recently been introduced too.

Community

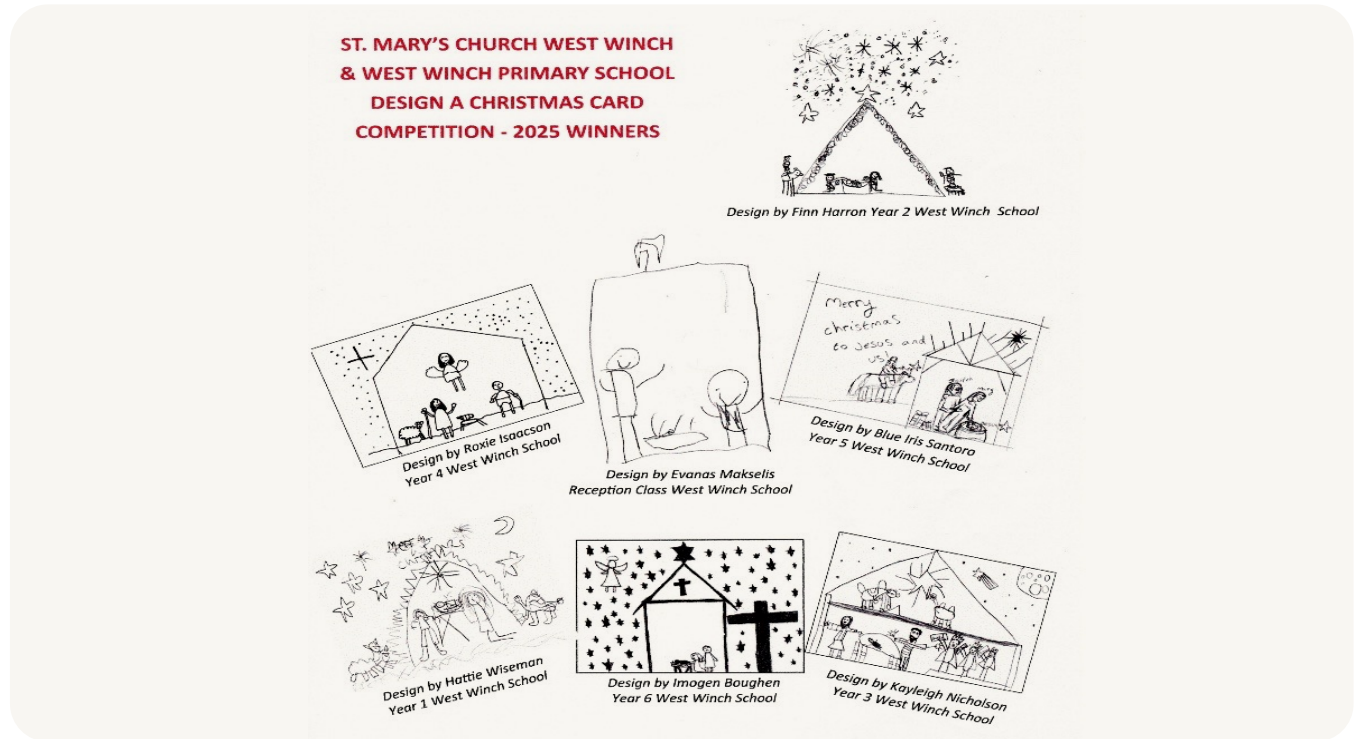
West Winch is a large growing village three miles from King's Lynn and set in rural countryside on the A10. Cambridge, Peterborough and Norwich are all within an hour's drive and there is a direct rail line from King's Lynn into London King's Cross arriving in the capital in just one hour forty minutes.

There is a village hall built in 1974 and a social club offering both a bar and function room. There are also sporting facilities such as tennis courts, football pitch and bowls green as well as junior and senior badminton clubs. There is a fish and chip shop, takeaway and a hairdresser along with a post office and store.

School

There is a primary school in the village which holds three services per year in the church with the themes of Harvest, Christmas and Easter. It is very uplifting to see the church full of young children all worshipping together enthusiastically. Each year we hold a competition where the schoolchildren design a Christmas card. Copies of the prize-winning entries are then distributed throughout the village detailing Christmas services.

With contacts such as the table tennis, the school and outreach services, there is a good potential for growth even before the proposed new housing development.



Thank you

Thank you for reading our profile.
We are praying for our new priest
and look forward to meeting you.

Helpful links

Diocese of Norwich

www.dioceseofnorwich.org

Church of England

www.churchofengland.org

Living and working in Norfolk – Norfolk County Council

[www.norfolk.gov.uk/jobs-training-and-volunteering/
living- and-working-in-norfolk](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/jobs-training-and-volunteering/living-and-working-in-norfolk)



The background of the entire page is a purple-tinted image of a large stained glass window. The window features several panels depicting religious figures, likely saints or apostles, in various poses of prayer, teaching, and holding books. The figures are rendered in a traditional, detailed style characteristic of medieval or Gothic stained glass art.

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Norwich

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