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Interim (Two years) House for Duty Priest-in-Charge in the Waterside benefice

Dear colleague,

Thank you for your interest in this post, as together we seek to discern who God may be calling to serve as Interim House for Duty Priest in the Waterside benefice. These notes are intended to supplement the information given in the Benefice Profile, adding a slightly wider perspective and with some further information.

The Parishes and this job

We are looking to appoint an Interim (for a term of two years) House for Duty Priest in the Waterside benefice, set in the centre of the tranquil and beautiful Norfolk Broads. Currently four parishes, the parish of Hickling will be moving to join the Coastal Group of Parishes under The Revd Canon Catherine Dobson. In the short-term, Catherine is taking the lead in pastoral care and worship in Hickling, and in time, pastoral reorganisation will make this change a formal one. The Benefice Profile has been prepared as though Hickling has moved to the Coastal Group of Parishes, although formal confirmation of this still awaits the completion of the pastoral scheme.

The three remaining parishes in the Waterside Group, Ludham, Catfield and Potter Heigham, will themselves be working towards a closer partnership with the neighbouring United Benefice of St Benedict, and its incumbent, The Revd David Smith, will be licensed to the Waterside Group, with the successful candidate for the Waterside post being in turn licensed to The United Benefice of St Benedict.

Continued overleaf

We are looking for a priest willing and able to collaborate, not only with the existing Ministry team but also with their new colleague in the United Benefice of St Benedict. There is a need for someone who has good interpersonal skills, and a sense of humour will be important along with a friendly, accessible and caring approach. It will also be important that the successful applicant will appreciate traditional forms of worship (as well as being open to developing newer forms) and is happy to work with ecumenical aspects of the benefice's work with the local Methodist church.

There is currently a Licensed Lay Minister with permission to officiate in the benefice, Ian Watton, although Ian lives and worships in Hickling. There are also some Authorised Worship Assistants within the Waterside benefice, and two LLMs within the United Benefice of St Benedict.

The post of interim house-for-duty priest-in-charge is currently an interim appointment for two years. It is possible that a house-for-duty post could continue beyond this timeframe if sufficient funding is in place across the proposed united benefice.

Central to the role of all our clergy is the need to encourage and nurture the vocation of the lay members of our churches, recognising that ministry and mission belong to all God's people. In part, this is a theological imperative, but it is also driven by the need to rethink and refocus ministry in a period that is challenging for the church as it is for every other voluntary organisation and business.

The Diocese is at an interesting and exciting point with a new vision emerging under a still relatively new diocesan bishop, and the next year will see the development of strategies for the outworking of the vision across the diocese.

We would love to hear from you if you feel that God might be calling you to this new role in this beautiful part of the county., or if you have questions about this role.

Diocese and Deanery

Under the leadership of the Bishop of Norwich, the Rt Revd Graham Usher, a vision is emerging for the Diocese – *Transformed by Christ: Prayerfully, Pastorally and Prophetically*. Work is currently underway on the strategies that will help us live out and deliver this vision.

Bishop Graham has written an Ethos and Culture Statement, available on the diocesan website - <https://www.dioceseofnorwich.org/app/uploads/2020/12/Our-Life-Together-2021.pdf> - which gives details of our structures and the character of the Diocese.

The Waterside benefice falls within the Archdeaconry of Norfolk, and so under the care of the Bishop of Thetford (The Rt Revd Dr Alan Winton) and the Archdeacon of Norfolk (The Venerable Steven Betts). The benefice is in the St Benet at Waxham and Tunstead deanery whose Rural Dean is The Revd Canon Catherine Dobson, Rector of the Coastal Group of Parishes. There are 7 posts of

incumbent status in the Deanery, along with 1 Assistant Curate, 1 Self-Supporting Clergy, 6 Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers) and a number of PTO clergy and Authorised Worship Assistants.

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 a spacious modern Rectory set within a good-sized garden in a residential area a short walk from St Catherine's Church, Ludham, and is further described in the benefice profile. Questions about the house should be directed to the Archdeacon of Norfolk.

Patronage

The Patron of the Waterside Benefice is The Bishop of Norwich.

Enquiries, Applications and Interviews

An application can be made through Pathways, via the diocesan website at <https://www.dioceseofnorwich.org/about/vacancies/>.

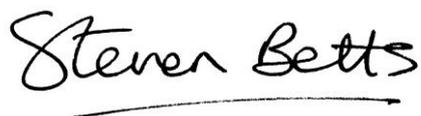
The form, after we have removed the confidential declarations for safeguarding and other purposes (Section 7 to the end), will be forwarded to the Patron(s) if appropriate.

The closing date is Tuesday 19th October, with interviews to be held on Monday 15th November.

Any priest wanting an informal discussion before deciding whether to apply is welcome to be in touch by telephone or e-mail with me or with The Archdeacon of Norfolk, the Venerable Steven Betts (01603 559199, archdeacon.norfolk@dioceseofnorwich.org).

With best wishes

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven Betts". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a simple horizontal line.

The Venerable Steven Betts
Archdeacon of Norfolk