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Glaven Valley Benefice

Dear Colleague,

Thank you for your interest in discerning a call to the Glaven Valley benefice. These notes are intended to supplement the information given in the Benefice Profile, adding a slightly wider perspective and some further information.

The Parishes and this job

Glaven Valley is a benefice of five parishes, all relatively small coastal/rural villages. The benefice is situated in a glorious part of Norfolk, with the benefits of the amenities of the larger village of Blakeney (in which the rectory is situated) and the peace and tranquillity of the countryside. In many ways, Blakeney is the heart of the benefice. The benefice administrator works out of the Blakeney office and many (but not all) of the larger benefice activities happen here. Blakeney has a tradition of supporting the rest of the benefice and relations across the parishes are very good.

The tradition of the parishes is varied, and is perhaps best described as open, central. Holy Communion is celebrated simply in accordance with The Book of Common Prayer and Common Worship. Other services, including what might be called 'seeker services' intentionally drawing others to the faith in a gentle and accessible manner, take place across the benefice. There is a genuine desire for people to go deeper into their faith, to understand Scripture more fully and to draw others to the love of Jesus.

The populations of the Glaven Valley parishes vary with the seasons. Like many villages on the North Norfolk coast, the benefice has second homes and holiday accommodation. A future incumbent with a heart to reach out to these 'part time parishioners' would be a great gift to the Glaven Valley benefice and indeed to neighbouring parishes. There is a real mission need along the north Norfolk coast to find ways to enable the gospel to be preached to holiday makers, whether home/static caravan owners or those who rent accommodation. If the next incumbent of the Glaven Valley could work with the benefice's longing to develop this mission and also to do so in ways that were replicable or shareable with other coastal benefices, this would be a great gift.

The Norwich Diocesan Vision is to be Transformed by Christ: Prayerful, Pastoral, Prophetic. The next incumbent of the Glaven Valley will be one who rejoices in this vision and seeks to make it a reality in the life of the people of the parishes. In terms of the national Church of England vision and strategy, we are working for 'a parish system revitalised for mission so that churches can reach and serve everyone in their community'. This will be the way in which Norfolk parishes can play their part in enabling a younger

and more diverse church of missionary disciples in which the kind of mixed ecology already at work in the Glaven Valley becomes the norm. We are seeking to raise lay and ordained vocations and a future incumbent who can encourage lay ministry would be very welcome. The Diocese has Licensed Lay Ministers but also Authorised Worship Assistants and latterly, Authorised Pastoral Assistants. These are discerned and trained at benefice level and can often be the first step towards other ministry.

The Glaven Valley benefice currently has a title curate (due to move on in 2025). There is no curacy house in the benefice, the current house being just over the border into a neighbouring benefice. If there is no curate in that benefice in future, it may be possible to replicate this arrangement. The Archdeacon and I would welcome an incumbent in the Glaven Valley of the calibre to be a training incumbent.

Diocese and Deanery

As indicated above, the Diocese of Norwich's vision is to be Transformed by Christ: Prayerful, Pastoral, Prophetic. You can find out more information about this on the diocesan website. Please see: <https://www.dioceseofnorwich.org/about/vision-priorities/>. The Diocese is geographically large and predominantly rural. This is especially true of the Lynn area where we have glorious coastal and deeply rural benefices as well as thriving market towns and the larger town of King's Lynn.

The benefices fall 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 benefices are in the Holt deanery whose Rural Dean is The Revd David Longe, incumbent of the Matlaske benefice.

There are 5 posts of incumbent status in the Deanery, along with 3 Assistant Curates, 2 Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers) 17 PTO clergy and 4 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 described in the profile for the Benefice. Questions about the house should be directed to the Archdeacon of Lynn.

Patronage

The Bishop of Norwich
Keeble College, Oxford

The closing date for applications is Thursday 12th December (9.00am) with interviews held on Thursday 6th February.

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 Lynn. We can be contacted via our PA, Mrs Ann Whittet by email at ann.whittet@dioceseofnorwich.org.

Grace and peace,

Yours,



The Rt Revd Dr Jane Steen
Bishop of Lynn