

Role Description – Priest-in-Charge, Benefice of Walsingham, Houghton and Barsham; Hempton with Pudding Norton (to be held in plurality)

1. Details of the post:

Role Title: Priest-in-Charge

Name of benefices: Walsingham, Houghton and Barsham; Hempton with Pudding Norton
(to be held in plurality)

Deanery: Burnham and Walsingham

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 benefices are made up of the parishes of Walsingham & Houghton (population 808), East and West Barsham (population 191) and Hempton with Pudding Norton (population 746).

The overall resident population is 1,363. The Walsingham benefice is ranked 1,745 by the rural deprivation index. Hempton is ranked 1,970

There is 1 school within the benefice: Walsingham Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary school (roll 26). The school is part of the Pilgrim Federation which included Blakeney, Hindringham and Kelling Primary schools.

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:

- God-centred and rooted in Anglo-Catholic prayer and spirituality, with a deep regard for the Seven Sacraments and for the Divine Office, who utilises the opportunities for outreach afforded by the Occasional Offices and who is committed to village community
- Equipped with a real sense of mission to parishioners, to visitors and to pilgrims;
- Aware of the character of the rural way of life, and able to embrace the particular challenges presented by deeply rural parishes;
- Possessed of an awareness of the variety of the Benefice's liturgical heritage, and committed to its further development;
- A fluent Preacher of the Gospel and Teacher of the Faith;

- Keen to work with, and minister to, the Primary School and the younger residents of the Benefice, whilst at the same time valuing older generations in our communities
- Convinced that the all-age growth of each of our churches is nothing less than a Gospel imperative;
- Committed to building further collaboration between the seven churches of the planned Benefice, and to strengthening our relationship with the Anglican Shrine, with the Deanery and with the Diocese
- Prepared to oversee the retired clergy in the Benefice by offering them pastoral care, as well as inviting them to share in his ministry on occasion
- Committed to the further development of the ecumenical links throughout the Benefice;
- A discreet listener, an effective Spiritual Director and experienced Confessor;
- Committed to visiting all his parishioners in health and in sickness, whether at home, in care, or in hospital and to the necessary Celebration of the Sacraments in their presence, especially for those in end-of-life care;
- Willing and able to travel where necessary at all times of the day or night
- Interested in, and has an appreciation of, our mediaeval churches, and their maintenance and improvement
- Prepared to delegate to those willing and able to assist
- Approachable, determined to become involved with the wider communities of the Benefice and possessed of an excellent sense of humour

5. Key contacts

Groups & Committees	Parish	Support Structures
PCCs	Churchwardens	Rural Dean: vacant
Deanery Chapter	Clergy with PTO	Archdeacon: Ven Catherine Dobson
Deanery Synod	Head of Walsingham Primary school	Bishop of Lynn: Rt Revd Dr Jane Steen
	Anglican Shrine of our Lady of Walsingham	Bishop of Richborough: Rt Revd Luke Irvine-Capell
		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](#)