

The Rt. Revd Dr Jane Steen
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December 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

Fountain of Life Network Church (Extra Parochial Place): Associate Minister

Thank you for your interest in the post of Associate Minister (Priest) in the Fountain of Life Church Network. This letter is intended to supplement the information given in the Profile, adding a slightly wider perspective and some further information.

Fountain of Life is a family-focused church in the New Wine tradition. Its history and present life are well described in the profile. The original church in Ashill is an Extra Parochial Place, that having been the only mechanism for such churches within the Church of England when it started. Fountain was designated a Resource Church by the previous diocesan bishop in connection with the Strategic Development Funding bid referred to below. That description has now become a reality as Fountain has a congregation based in Swaffham under a Bishop's Mission Order. Further, Swaffham parish church has a new incumbent, and the two churches are working together to resource the ministry of children and young people, Fountain supporting this work which is at an early stage in the parish church. From this you will see that, although Fountain has its own strong identity, it is fully committed to the wider life of the Diocese and willing to support and encourage churches whether or not they are in the same tradition.

Diocese and Deanery

The Diocese of Norwich's vision is to be Transformed by Christ: Prayerful, Pastoral, Prophetic. You can find out more information about this at <https://www.dioceseofnorwich.org/about/about-vision/>. Following the success of our Church Revitalisation project (for which we had Strategic Development Funding before the pandemic), we are looking to take forward learning from the churches involved in that and to determine our strategic priorities for a Strategic Mission and Ministry Fund bid. The Diocesan Synod on 29th November approved the latest draft working of the strategy and will see further proposals in March 2026. The Associate Priest of at the Fountain of Life will, in keeping with Fountain's ethos as a diocesan church, want to support strategy in the churches of the network and the wider deanery as it is developed.

The Fountain of Life falls within the Archdeaconry of Lynn and is in the Breckland Deanery. The Rural Dean is the Revd Canon Stephen Thorp and the Fountain of Life plays a full part in the life of the deanery. The Diocese of Norwich operates an informal area scheme and the Bishop of Lynn's area of oversight is coterminous with the archdeaconry. The Bishop and Archdeacon of Lynn work closely together to lead and to care for the benefices and Christian communities of the Area.

In the Breckland Deanery there are 9 posts of incumbent status, 8 Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers), 3 of whom have PtO, and 23 Authorised Worship Assistants (AWAs), 13 of whom are authorised to the Fountain of Life. The deanery is blessed with the ministry of retired clergy. 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.

Questions about the house should be directed to the Archdeacon of Lynn, the Venerable Catherine Dobson (archdeacon.lynn@dioceseofnorwich.org).

Enquiries, Applications and Interviews

An application can be made through Pathways, or the diocesan website at

[Clergy vacancies - Diocese of Norwich](#)

The closing date for applications is Thursday 8th January 2026 (9.00am) and interviews will be held on Friday 30th January 2026. If you would like to have an informal discussion with the Archdeacon about this role, please get in touch with Mrs Ann Whittet (contact details at the top of this letter).

You will be much in our prayers as you seek to discern whether God is calling you to this role and we ask that you hold us and this benefice in yours, that all our futures may indeed be as the Lord wills.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jane Steen', with a stylized, flowing script.

The Rt Revd Dr Jane Steen
Bishop of Lynn