

The Rt. Rev'd Dr Jane Steen
Bishop of Lynn
Lynn House, Commercial Road,
Dereham, NR19 1AE
01362 709200
bishop.lynn@dioceseofnorwich.org

PA: Mrs Ann Whittet
ann.whittet@dioceseofnorwich.org

January 2022

Rector: Fakenham, St. Peter and St. Paul
Priest in Charge: Fulmodeston, Christ Church

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for your interest in the post of Rector of Fakenham and priest-in-charge of Fulmodeston. This letter is intended to supplement the information given in the Profile, adding a slightly wider perspective and some further information. Please join me in holding the benefices in your prayers as to discern who might be called to serve as their next parish priest.

The Parishes and this job

Fakenham and Fulmodeston are delightfully different churches set in very different contexts, who have learned to enrich each other's life and ministry by working with the same parish priest. You will find collaborative and engaged communities, desirous of supporting their priest and their parish, and keen, with you, to share the joy of the faith with those around them. Their 'can-do' approach makes this one very attractive post and not two impossible ones.

Both the parishes of Fakenham and Fulmodeston need, and want, to nurture missionary disciples who can draw others into the joy of faith. While the diversity of worship available at Fakenham has many advantages, a new Rector will want to ensure that the church knows its tradition and is confident in that, in order to grow. We will be looking for a candidate who is able to encourage lay people to take active leadership roles, and to support those who already have such roles, who is intentional about church growth with concrete ideas as to how to bring this about, and who has a good track-record of building relationships. Underpinning this, we are seeking a candidate who is rooted and grounded in prayer. We do not need someone who can do everything, but rather an incumbent who can envision, motivate and liberate colleagues to engage young and old alike. We hope for a priest who can build up the Christian congregation, create compassionate community in and beyond the churches, and concentrate enough, but not too much, on finance and administration. We believe that our new diocesan vision, to be Transformed by Christ: Prayerful, Pastoral and Prophetic, provides an excellent foundation on which to build and against which to revise and update Fakenham's Mission Action Plan.

We hope very much to appoint someone of sufficient calibre for these to become training parishes, not least because their being held by the same incumbent offers excellent experience of market town and rural ministry. The parish finances are well understood and there has been a long custom of paying the parish share in full. You will see in the profile that, like many benefices, Fakenham has struggled to maintain this during the pandemic but is working hard to return to its former practice. While it is not possible to give any guarantees at the point of writing, due to the continued uncertainty of diocesan finances generally, we earnestly desire

to purchase housing for a curate in one of the new residential areas being built around Fakenham and thus to have a ministerial presence in that community

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

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/vision-priorities/>. Work is currently underway on the nine priority areas that will help us live out and deliver this vision. The next parish priest of Fakenham and Fulmodeston will be someone who is excited by this vision and who is able to see ways in which it can be made a lived reality in the benefices.

The Rt Revd Graham Usher, Bishop of Norwich since 2019, wrote an introduction to the Diocese which you can find at <https://www.dioceseofnorwich.org/app/uploads/2020/12/Our-Life-Together-2021.pdf>. This will tell you more about the character, structure and organisation of the Diocese. Please be aware that it was written when the Diocesan vision was still being worked out and when the Bishop of Lynn who writes this letter to you had not been appointed. The document is nevertheless well worth reading.

The benefices of Fakenham and Fulmodeston fall within the Archdeaconry of Lynn. They are in the Burnham and Walsingham deanery whose Rural Dean is The Revd Clive Wylie, and in the Archdeaconry of Lynn. The Diocese of Norwich operates an informal area scheme and the Bishop of Lynn's area of oversight is coterminous with the archdeaconry. The Archdeacon is the Venerable Ian Bentley and Bishop and Archdeacon work closely together for the welfare of the benefices.

There are 9 posts of incumbent status in the Deanery of Burnham and Walsingham. There is one Licensed Lay Minister (Reader) and one Authorised Worship Assistant (AWA). The deanery is blessed with the ministry of retired clergy, twenty-three of whom hold the Bishop of Norwich's Permission to Officiate. 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.

Fakenham is a significant area of population in the Archdeaconry of Lynn and is increasing as new housing is built; this is described in the parish profile. It is a testimony to both the significance of this benefice and our commitment to rural ministry, that we have decided to make an appointment at a time of some financial strain for the Diocese. We are coming to the end of a time of reducing stipendiary numbers by 10% and have urgently to ensure that we do not continue to ask clergy to take on more and more parishes. It is a priority of the Bishop and Archdeacon of Lynn to encourage new and younger clergy into the Diocese, to support clergy in mission and pastoral care and to raise up vocations, lay and ordained, to serve in this wonderful diocese.

Housing

The accommodation provided is described in the profile. Questions about the house should be directed to the Archdeacon of Lynn.

Patronage

The Patrons for the benefices are:

The Master and Fellows of Trinity College, Cambridge (Fakenham)

The Master and Fellows of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge (Fulmodeston)

Enquiries, Applications and Interviews

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

The closing date for applications is 11th February, with interviews to be held on 28th February. **It is likely that we will interview in Cambridge.**

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, the Venerable Ian Bentley (01362 688032) archdeacon.lynn@dioceseofnorwich.org

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jane Steen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Rt Revd Dr Jane Steen
Bishop of Lynn