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Aylsham Team Ministry
Team Vicar, Bure Valley Group of Churches

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your interest in the post of Team Vicar for the Bure Valley Group of Churches in the Aylsham Team Ministry. This letter is intended to supplement the information given in the Profile, adding a slightly wider perspective and some further information.

The Parishes and this job

The next Team Vicar of the Bure Valley group of churches will be a person who values collaboration with lay and ordained colleagues across the team. While the benefice is structured to allow considerable autonomy to the different areas of pastoral charge, good working relationships are essential. This is the case for the well-being of the Team but also for its mission. The benefice and the Bure Valley churches are firmly rooted in their communities, and it is axiomatic to their approach to mission that they work in partnership with each other and with those around them. In that sense, the role is one of traditional 'parish priesting done excellently'. Bure Valley would rejoice in a priest who knows the people and is known by the people, a priest who speaks naturally of the things of God in the midst of ordinary life, a priest who values community, the Church calendar and its seasonal opportunities, an encourager of others, a nurturer of vocations, a person of prayer and praise whose faith is caught as well as taught.

The mission ethos of the Aylsham team is very much that described in the profile, of bringing the church to the community and the community to the church. It is also an ethos of team, and the next Team Vicar will be at ease with this understanding of mission as well as with a collaborative and open approach to ministry, sharing responsibilities and joys. As well as enabling the church to reach out to the community, the appointed candidate will be enthusiastic in welcoming the church into the community. You will model attractive faith and the joy of the Lord Jesus, mindful that people may belong before they believe yet able to enable them to believe as well as belong.

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 next Team

Vicar of the Bure Valley 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 Aylsham Team falls within the Archdeaconry of Lynn and within the Deanery of Ingworth & Sparham. The Rural Dean is the Revd Keith Rengert. 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 support the benefices of the Area.

There are 7 posts of incumbent status in the Deanery of Ingworth & Sparham There are 5 Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers) and 10 Authorised Worship Assistants (AWAs). The deanery is blessed with the ministry of retired clergy, 20 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.

Aylsham itself 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. The Aylsham Team is arguably one of the most attractive Teams in the Archdeaconry in which to minister. 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 to these rural parishes. It is a priority of the Bishop 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, the Venerable Catherine Dobson (archdeacon.lynn@dioceseofnorwich.org).

Patronage

The appointing bodies for the Team Vicar are the Bishop and the Team Rector.

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 Monday 2nd December (9.00am) and interviews will be held on Monday 20th January. If you would like to have an informal discussion with the Team Rector or the Archdeacon about this role, please do be 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 these parishes in yours, that their future may indeed be as the Lord wills.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jane Steen', with a cross at the end of the line.

The Rt Revd Dr Jane Steen
Bishop of Lynn