



The Bishop of Norwich

The Rt Revd Graham Usher

Diocese of Norwich

23 May 2023

THE MISSION AND PASTORAL MEASURE 2011

THE BENEFICE OF

HUNSTANTON AND SAXON SHORE

The benefice of Hunstanton and Saxon Shore is to become vacant following the appointment of the Team Rector, The Revd Rachel Dines, to another parish on 18 June 2023 and resignation of the Team Vicar, The Revd Kirsty Allan, on 31 May 2023.

To enable consideration of a sustainable plan for mission and ministry, that may include consideration of possible pastoral reorganisation, it is proposed that the right of presentation be suspended for up to five years so that a full consultation can take place before any appointment is made.

If you have any comments on the proposal to suspend the right of presentation, please let Michele O'Keefe, Pastoral Administrator, (Diocesan House, 109 Dereham Road, Easton, Norwich, NR9 5ES) have them within five weeks of the date of this letter. If you wish, you may also request a meeting with my representative and, in that case, again please contact Michele O'Keefe within the same time period.

Graham Usher

Bishop of Norwich

TO:

The Hunstanton and Saxon Shore Team Ministry Patronage Board (Patron)

Comprising of: The Bishop of Norwich, The Archdeacon of Lynn, Revd James (Alexander) Monro as serving Curate, Mr M le Strange Meakin, Mr N T de Winton, Lady Estelle Graham, and Mrs Davidona Muscat.

The Bishop of Lynn
The Archdeacon of Lynn

Revd Peter Cook
Vacant

Revd James (Alexander) Monro

Verity Borthwick

Ann Rosington

Garry Langham

Stephen Rimmer

Paul Baisbrown

John Crofts

Janet Needham

Jamie Campbell

Susan Campbell

Sheila Spink

Sandra Betterton

Josephine Griffin

Marie Jarvis-Johnston

Megan Greef

Janet Lake

The Diocesan Registrar

(Area Bishop)

(Area Archdeacon)

(Rural Dean of Heacham and Rising)

(Lay Chair of Heacham and Rising Deanery)

(Clergy – Assistant Curate)

(Churchwarden, Burnham Deepdale)

(Churchwarden, Holme-next-the-Sea)

(Churchwarden, Hunstanton)

(Churchwarden, Hunstanton St Mary)

(Churchwarden, Hunstanton St Mary)

(Churchwarden and PCC Secretary, Ringstead)

(Churchwarden, Thornham)

(Churchwarden, Titchwell with Choseley)

(Churchwarden, Titchwell with Choseley)

(PCC Secretary, Burnham Deepdale)

(PCC Secretary, Holme-next-the-Sea)

(PCC Secretary, Hunstanton)

(PCC Secretary, Hunstanton St Mary)

(PCC Secretary, Thornham)

(PCC Secretary, Titchwell with Choseley)

Suspension of Presentation

Introduction

On occasion, letters are sent to parishes and other interested parties to consult with them about a proposed "suspension of presentation" in their benefice. But what is a suspension?

It starts with a patron

Every benefice has a patron, or patrons. Patrons can be very varied, some of the patrons in this Diocese include individuals, The Crown, patronage organisations or trusts, institutions, college scholars and Cathedral chapters and even The Ministry of Defence. The Bishop of Norwich is the patron of many benefices in the Diocese as well, either solely or jointly with others.

When a benefice becomes vacant, the patrons have the legal right to present a priest to the Bishop to become the incumbent of the benefice. If someone talks about a benefice being "suspended", it really means the patrons' rights are suspended – it is a temporary restriction on their right to present a new incumbent.

Why does this happen?

The Bishop can suspend the patrons' right of presentation for any reason, however it is usually done because there are changes anticipated to the benefice or the surrounding benefices, known as "pastoral reorganisation". If the patrons' rights are not suspended, these changes can be harder to make. Whenever pastoral reorganisation takes place, parishes and patrons are always consulted as part of the process.

What's the process?

Before introducing (or extending) a suspension, the consent of the Mission and Pastoral Committee, which meets as part of the Bishops' Council of Trustees must be given.

The Bishop then consults, via the Pastoral Administrator, with interested parties. Legally, this must include:

- The patron(s) of the benefice
- The area Bishop, Archdeacon and Rural Dean
- The Churchwarden and PCC(s) of the parishes in the benefice
- Chair of the Deanery Synod

Any of these interested parties can reply in writing with their views or ask for a meeting with the Bishop or their representative. The Bishop considers these views before making a final decision about whether to go ahead.

Does a suspension mean they won't have a minister whilst in vacancy or interregnum?

No. A suspension just means there is a technical difference in the appointment.

When a benefice is suspended, usually a priest-in-charge would be appointed or support from a local minister or the Rural Dean organised, and they would have the same general role and duties as an incumbent.

The recruitment process is often the same as if the patron's rights were not suspended and would involve patrons as well as the parish representatives.

How long will the suspension last?

Suspensions last for up to five years initially but can be renewed if needs be. The Bishop can also end a suspension early if all parties are in agreement, in that case a lifting of suspension consultation is undertaken.

Need more information?

All of the above processes and rights are outlined in two pieces of legislation:

- The Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 [Click here to view](#)
- The Patronage Benefices Measure 1986 [Click here to view](#)

If I can be of further help, please do not hesitate to contact me: michele.okeefe@dioceseofnorwich.org

Michele O'Keefe
Administrator to the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee