

Diss Team Ministry

Profile for a Team Vicar

April 2018



DISS TEAM MINISTRY



What you might offer us
What would you add?



What we can offer you

Background

Diss Team Ministry, part of the Redenhall Deanery within the Diocese of Norwich is made up of the 6 parishes of Diss, Bressingham, Fersfield, North Lopham, Roydon and South Lopham, with the furthestmost parishes just 6 miles apart.

Diss is a pretty market town with various facilities on offer including an excellent range of local and national shops, sporting facilities, health centre, library, bustling auction room and schooling to sixth form level. There is a mainline railway station providing frequent commuter services to Norwich, Ipswich and London Liverpool Street (in around 90 minutes). The regional retail, cultural and business centre of Norwich lies approximately 23 miles to the north and the historic town of Bury St Edmunds some 24 miles to the south west. The Suffolk Heritage Coast at Aldeburgh, Southwold and Walberswick are about an hour's drive away.



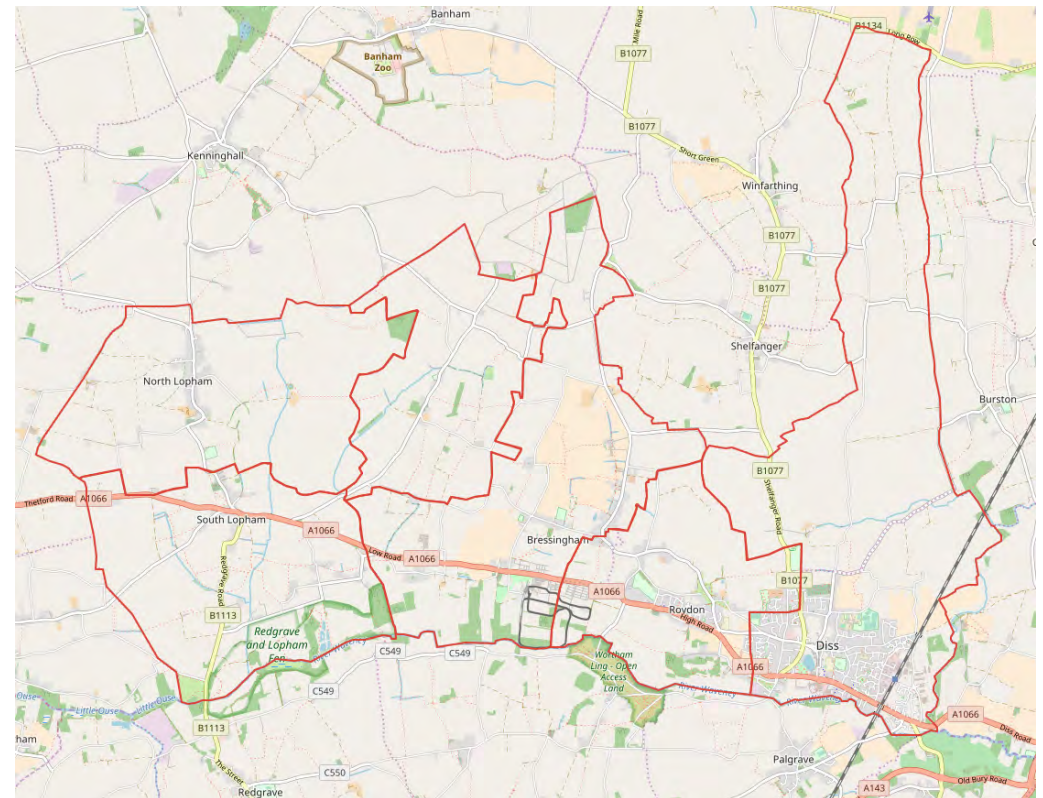
bottom left: The Mere, clockwise from top left: The Boardwalk, The Heritage Triangle, the Mere, The Corn Hall, Mere Street, Diss town sign, Quaker Wood, Diss Market

The area offers a vast array of attractions, entertainment, culture and leisure activities and the rural location encourages opportunities to relax in tranquil surroundings, walk through rolling countryside, and explore the market towns and idyllic villages.

There is a tremendous feeling of collaboration among the clergy and the laity to make each parish part of a cohesive Team whilst maintaining its individuality. The team, which is led by the Team Rector and supported by an Assistant Priest, Lay Readers, Worship Leaders and a number of retired clergy, enables each church to provide services to their congregations and every member of each congregation knows they are warmly welcomed to worship at any of the other churches. This has been especially noted at periods such as Christmas and Easter where people from all the parishes have enjoyed special services across the Ministry.

Churchmanship is 'middle of the road' with a liberal Catholic theology. Our services include Morning Prayer, Family Service, Sung Eucharist and Choral Evensong

Following the retirement of the current Team Vicar, we are now excited to invite applications for a new Team Vicar to join us in what continues to be a time of nurture and development. The following pages will give insight as to what we can offer you, what we want from you, and more information on each of the Parishes.



Benefice map (current)

Our Vision

Diss Team Ministry is a true partnership under the direction of the Team Rector, committed to the Benedictine emphasis of 'Worship, Learning and Hospitality' through a 'Minster Model'. This provides us with the focus needed to work towards achievable discipleship and effective management of the needs of the six parishes. We want to celebrate our Christian heritage and the sense of community that already exists within our six distinctive parishes. Our Team is not about making each church the same as the next but about bringing out the best within each, enabling each parish finding its own unique ways of serving the wider community.



Photos representing a selection of events across the benefice

Through delivery of Sunday services, the occasional offices, a teaching and learning programme, and social events a common thread can be perceived. The thread would show that we are all following Jesus Christ and desire to know him more in the life that awaits us each day. Each member of this team tries to harness this belief among those they serve thus providing a sort of glue that holds things together.

There is a high level of commitment to meeting bi-monthly to oversee and plan future strategies and, with the Wardens, who also meet regularly, unity is experienced and a common purpose is shared. As a team we prefer working in twos when leading worship together, rather than individually, and this is also reflected in how we deliver our faith sharing *Discover* groups. All this expresses our firmly rooted belief in collaborative ministry both in worship and in planning.

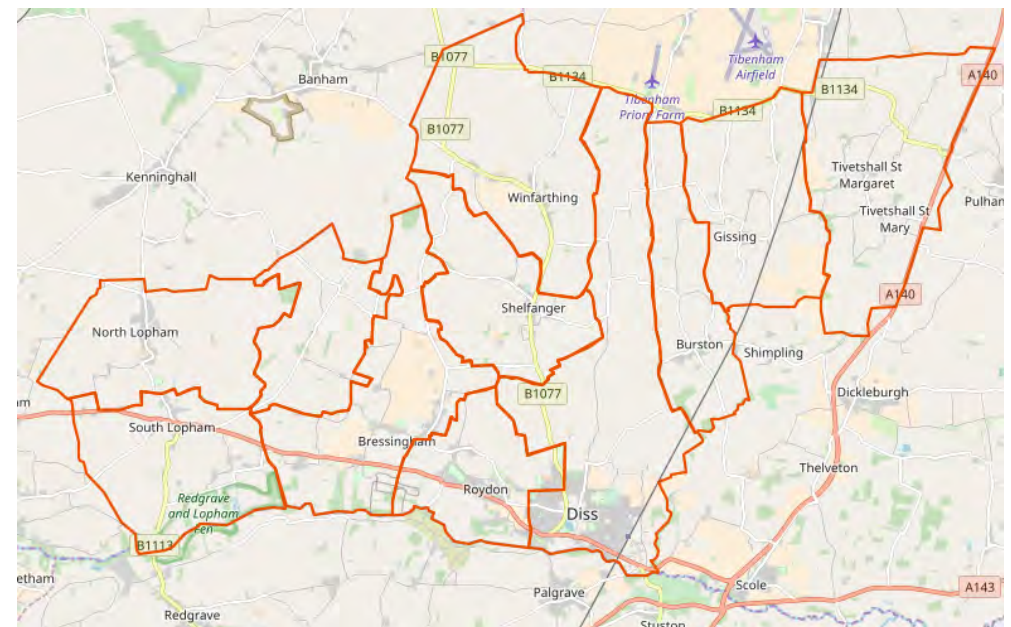
We also hold to two more important phrases which under-pin our vision; we believe in '*breaking open the life of God*' together and '*following love into mystery*'. What these ideas actually mean continues to be explored daily within our team.

We are preparing for the prospect of taking on a further 5 neighbouring parishes into the Diss Team Ministry following the impending retirement of the existing incumbent of that benefice. We see this as an opportunity to develop the strengths we have for delivering ministry across multiple parishes utilising our 'Minster Model' of mission. Whilst we know this will not be easy, we have the experience of our great success in bringing together the existing Team and are confident that we can help ease and welcome the new parishes into this model.

In summary, the key words in our vision are;

- Togetherness
- Difference
- Openness
- Risk
- Journey
- Collaboration
- Fun

If they are your words please apply!



Benefice Map (future)

What can we offer you?

We value greatly our Clergy and are passionate about ensuring they have the resources to deliver their ministry throughout the Team. As we expect you to look after us, we will do our very best to look after you. We don't want our Team Vicar to be exhausted whilst working with us, but rather to have the time to develop as a person and priest!

Ministerial Support

The Rev'd Canon Tony Billett is the Team Rector and enjoys a collaborative approach to leadership. He believes in mutual trust, honesty and a shared desire for the common goal.

Diss is a recognised training parish for stipendiary curates. An Ordinand will be joining the Team in July thus giving a new Team Vicar the chance to assist in the training of a new curate with the Team Rector.

There is an Assistant Priest who was priested in 2012 following some 30 years as a Lay Reader.

We are also blessed to have the services of 3 retired clergy including a Bishop, 3 Lay Readers (one with Permission to Officiate) and a number of Worship Leaders. Between them they deliver around 6 or 7 services on a typical Sunday. For further

details as to who makes up the Team please look on our website, www.dissteamministry.org.uk

There are numerous opportunities available throughout the week to meet as a Team and to share ideas, experiences and mutual support.

Practical Support

The Office, run by the Parish Administrator, adjoins St Mary's Church in Diss and is open between 9am and 12 noon each weekday. All administrative tasks for the Team are run from here, including the weekly Team News, all the necessary paperwork and liaison for baptisms, weddings and funerals, general enquiries, ticket sales for events, rota management and many other tasks.

Alongside a developing culture of lay ministry, there is huge support from the members of the churches to ensure smooth running of the Team Ministry and enhancing communication across the parishes. Examples include:

- 6 sets of excellent Churchwardens ensuring the smooth running of each church. The Wardens meet regularly both with the Clergy and without, collaborating with ideas, experiences and resources. There is mutual trust and a strong bond between all the wardens which enables collaboration and consensus

- Refreshments - provided by a small nucleus of volunteers for concerts, events, special services, and just whenever the need arises
- Church Fetes - summer fetes, Christmas fairs, Teas at the Rectory, all enabled by volunteers from their respective parishes
- There are a number of study and sharing groups called 'Discover' that meet during set 'terms' to look at faith and how it is lived out in daily life.
- A Team Ministry website, actively maintained with valuable material provided from across the ministry
- Prayer Groups - hosted by members of the congregations
- Organists - the ministry is very lucky to have the services of some fine organists to support the worship, and a few other volunteers who are very able on the keys to support during holidays or peak times
- 6 very active PCCs who seek to provide the right level of management for each Parish



Photos representing a selection of events across the benefice



The Vicarage

The Vicarage is a delightful 4 bedroom detached house in Diss just a few minutes walk to the centre of the town. It is modern build, of approx 2,000 sq ft, with gas-fired central heating, four ground floor reception rooms, a large kitchen with integrated appliances, and a double garage. It is rumoured to be the envy of other clergy in the Diocese!



What you might offer us

To complement your ministerial gifts, we are specifically seeking someone who will assist the Team Rector and the rest of the Team to:

- maintain and enhance the excellent links with all the schools across the benefice from nursery through to sixth form
- engage and encourage the wider community with special focus on the needs of those who do not attend church

To that end, the Rector and the congregations of the 6 Parishes hope that you would come and be willing to:

- **be yourself** and be prepared to risk sharing it
- **share** your gifts and be prepared to learn from others
- **lead** and be led
- **enthuse** Christian spirituality through preaching and teaching
- have **fun** and enjoy each others' company

There are 6 schools within the Ministry area; one high school (1200 pupils), 3 primary schools, 1 junior school and 1 infant school (total approx. 830 pupils). Two of the schools, in Diss and in North Lopham, are Church schools.

'Open the Book' has also become a feature across the Team in recent years and is met with great enthusiasm. Excellent

communication skills are an essential element for the role and we would welcome any ideas you may have with regard to increasing our profile within the community, reaching out to people who may not otherwise engage with the church and increasing its relevance.

Ultimately, it is important to note that there is a strong sense of team work amongst our very welcoming congregations with a large number of willing volunteers giving of their time to support the activities of the Ministry. We would love to invite you to join in with that and share in the enjoyment we have in developing our Christian journey together



Events involving our children from around the benefice

Further Information

Parish	Electoral Roll
Bressingham	8
Diss	156
Fersfield	12
North Lopham	23
Roydon	32
South Lopham	18

Service	Parish(es)	Average Attendance
8am	Diss	20
9:30am	Bressingham / Fersfield / North Lopham / South Lopham	15 - 20
10:30am	Diss	90
11am	Roydon / North Lopham	15 - 20
6pm	Diss	30

	1st Sunday			2nd Sunday			3rd Sunday			4th Sunday		
Bressingham				9:30			9:30					
Diss	8:00	10:30	18:00	8:00	10:30	18:00	8:00	10:30	18:00	8:00	10:30	18:00
Fersfield				9:30						9:30		
N Lopham	9:30	11:00			11:00			11:00			11:00	
Roydon		11:00			11:00			11:00			11:00	
S Lopham							9:30			9:30		

A typical monthly service plan is shown. There is also a mid week Eucharist at Diss on Wednesday at 10:30am. Services are mostly Common Worship, with two churches using the Book of Common Prayer. For more details on the types of services please look at the website. The 5th Sunday is celebrated at Diss with a Benefice Sung Eucharist at 10:30am.

Bressingham and the Church of St John The Baptist



Bressingham is a fairly large parish bounded by the River Waveney to the south which separates it from Suffolk. There are approx. 570 adults living in the village and Parish Council is shared with the neighbouring village of Fersfield. The market town of Diss is just 3 or so miles away to the east. Most of the village is set back from the main A1066 road. A local bus can be taken to Diss on some days from various stops in the heart of the village.

There is a good deal of local community support for St. John the Baptist, Bressingham. In 2015, members of the local community sought external funds to help repair the much loved large medieval church. Their endeavours resulted in a £250,000 Heritage Lottery Fund grant (2016-2017) to repair and relay the lead roofs and install new rainwater goods and soakaways, thereby ensuring the survival of the magnificent early 16th century hammer beam roof and superb bench ends, carved just prior to the Reformation.



The Primary School currently provides education to approximately 120 children and draws from the surrounding area as well as from the village. The original 19th century building has been extended in recent years to provide much improved facilities and the children are encouraged to take part in varied activities.

The pride of the village is our Village Hall which we share with Fersfield. Originally a barn, this was donated to the village many years ago by a farming family. This is used for meetings, stage productions, ballet, Yoga etc the playing field behind the hall has a hard tennis court, a children's play area and football pitches.

Opposite the village hall is our shop. This is an excellent facility for the village and run by a local chef who who lives next door, and bakes wonderful pies, sausage rolls puddings etc on the premises which are sold in the shop along side a good variety of fresh meat and groceries.



Perhaps the biggest attraction in Bressingham is the Steam Museum and the ever popular Dad's Army Museum which attracts thousands of visitors each year. This is combined with Bressingham Gardens, the home of the late Alan Bloom, and Adrian Bloom's gardens called Foggy Bottom. Next door is a Wyevale Garden Centre which has all the facilities you could ask for. There are several bed and breakfast establishments in the village all of which appear to do very well.

We no longer have a village pub but in the same 17th century building we now have a restaurant called '1066 at The Chequers' where Smorgasbord lunches, delicious afternoon teas etc are available and dinners.

Diss and the Church of St Mary the Virgin



Diss is a delightful market town on the Norfolk-Suffolk border with the Mere at its centre, a natural six acre lake.

The main shopping centre is served by a range of traditional shops and larger stores, including three supermarkets. There is a choice of banks, building societies, estate agents, pubs, restaurants, a post office, a public library, a museum and charity shops.

The town has a population of approximately 7,500. However, the town also serves a recognised rural catchment area of approximately 40,000 people.

The church is open every day during daylight hours and welcomes visitors. There are a range of services on Sundays, a mid-week Eucharist and daily prayer.

The weekly Friday market is one of the town's many attractions. Also on a Friday is the weekly auction at the Diss sale ground offering antiques, second-hand furniture and other objects of interest to collectors.



A number of successful community led initiatives have recently been introduced including the hugely successful Heritage Triangle development celebrating the best of its independent traders and rich history, and the regeneration of Diss Corn Hall into a successful centre for the arts, education and entertainment. A new Boardwalk has been developed taking visitors through the Wildlife Gardens and around the Mere. The Diss Carnival grows

in popularity year on year and other annual events include the Heritage Transport Fayre, the Diss Organ Festival, Park Alive, and this year the town will host its first 'Gig in the Park', a celebration of new music for the whole community.



The town boasts its own 24hr community radio station, Park Radio, run by volunteers and which was recently licensed. The Diss Youth & Community Centre, owned by the Town Council, is leased to and managed by a group of volunteers providing a centre of activities for young people. Other local amenities include a museum with a wide variety of exhibitions, a leisure centre with swimming pool, a library, a tennis and squash club, both a rugby and a football club and a wide range of interest groups.

An exciting initiative by St Mary's PCC is exploring the possibility of significant reordering of the church and hall to provide yet more facilities for the community and to welcome more visitors to our church in the coming years.

Fersfield and the Church of St Andrew



Fersfield is a long-established village: the name may be a reference to the plant or it could mean 'open land where heifers graze'. Since 1935, the 'political' Parish Council embraces both Bressingham and Fersfield – both villages share a village hall and an excellent website. Fersfield has a wide representative age range with an impressive profile of careers. Most young people here choose to progress to further and higher education.

Our well-loved church is a perpendicular gem. It has great historical significance and occupies a salient, central position in the village. It is currently experiencing significant restoration. Our community does not uniformly demonstrate high routine service attendance: it IS friendly, kind, supportive and industrious. St Andrew's is the hub for our village life, and provides a home for such diverse activities as Parish Council & Allotment Society meetings, concerts and a young person's 'music camp'. Church and village events enmesh, as evidenced by the bi-annual 'Open Gardens' (with Bressingham), the plant sale (spontaneously organised by a community group in aid of St. Andrew's) and sporting/social events on the Church Meadow. High profile services (such as Mothering Sunday, Harvest



Festival, Remembrance Sunday, a flagship Carol Service and Christmas Morning Service) attract brimming attendances and are excellently catered and resourced by the community.

We look forward to securing in our village and church the resources for a forward-looking 21st century community. In addition to the preservation of our cultural and architectural heritage, we look forward to planning and installing up-to-date kitchen and cloakroom facilities and a comfortable meeting area. State-of-the-art electrical supply and roof security system are achieved – wi-fi and new a/v system must not be far away. We aim for 'open door and warm welcome' identity.



North Lopham and the Church of St Nicholas



North Lopham, an attractive small village five miles West of Diss, is fairly compact, with most houses situated along the winding (C)1113 road and its branching lanes.

The Lophams' claim to fame is the Lopham Linen Industry, which flourished for several centuries and became world famous in Victorian times when T Buckenham of North Lopham gained the royal warrant, sending a regular supply of fine linen to the Palace and other venerable London institutions.

St Nicholas' Church is a 13th century building, probably on an older foundation, built of flint and stone, with a square tower housing a fine ring of eight bells, and with an impressive stained glass East window. The church was originally dedicated to St Andrew. The modern dedication is a result of an error by an 18th century clerk, who transposed the dedication here with that of South Lopham.



There is a weekly family service and one other service each month plus occasional 4pm services to mark special festivals. Church members are lively and outreaching - concerts, exhibitions and other social events are a particular feature of N. Lopham life.

We have recently introduced an annual Knitted Bible Festival and this has been a great outreach to the community and beyond. In 2016 we showed 35 scenes, depicting significant stories from the bible, all using knitted figures, and some knitted 'props'. We increased to 50 scenes in 2017 and hope for 60 in 2018. We have had over 500 visitors each year, and even gone on tour!

Our exciting building project is to install a toilet for all and a wash-up area plus some re-ordering to enable the church to become a Hub for the community, providing services to complement those at the village hall, such as aids for ancestry research, and a regular drop in for lonely or elderly people.

St Andrew's C.E.V.A. Primary School in the village serves both Lophams and also the village of Blo' Norton. The school currently has 62 children, and since 2014 is in a three way Federation with the church primary schools at Winfarthing and Hapton. Church members are in the Open the Book Team, taking bible stories into school each half term.



The Kings Head Public House is very popular with residents & visitors alike, and the village has so far retained its Post Office.

The Lophams share a Playing Field & Village Hall which plays host to the Lophams' Society, Lophams' Ladies, Over Sixties, a monthly Bingo Group, the Garden Club, an Art Group, a monthly Farmers' Market & the local Kumo Judo Club, and further facilities are under development.

Roydon and the Church of St Remigius



Roydon, one mile west of Diss is an independent village with a strong community spirit.

The Church is in an excellent state of repair and the facilities include a modern Parish Room with small kitchen and toilet, effective central heating, sound system and a large car park. The unusual Patron Saint is the frequently mis-spelt, St Remigius, who as Bishop of Rheims baptised Clovis, King of France which led, ultimately, to France becoming a Christian country.



A recent and very successful venture for children is a regular "Doughnut Church" on the last Saturday of the month. With games, stories, crafts and fun these are growing in strength and together with the annual Holiday Club they are well supported. There is also an annual Tree Lights Switch-On followed by Village Carols and an Easter Parade Service. The annual carol singing evening organised by the Church is held in the White Hart, with the proceeds of the raffle going to a local charity.

Social events are held regularly, including a monthly Coffee Morning and an annual Harvest celebration. Roydon Church is active on the local Christian Aid Committee and Diss Churches Together.

Roydon Church maintains strong links with the Parish Council and Roydon Primary School and although it is not a Church School, the Rector regularly

visits and takes assemblies. There are Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, who with the excellent support of Brown Owl attend Church for Mothering Sunday and Remembrance.

The Primary School is rated Good, there is a garage with a shop, a thriving pub/restaurant, modern village hall and numerous clubs and societies.



A vital feature of the village is the monthly magazine The Herald, produced by the Church and delivered free to every home.

The Church in Roydon is truly a village Church and the villagers feel that it is theirs. Brides want to be married there, want their babies baptised and many people request to have their funerals in the Church. This presents the congregation with the welcome challenge of engaging with the non-church goers in the village who request help and prayers in times of trouble and clearly consider themselves part of their village Church.

South Lopham and the Church of St Andrew



South Lopham is a small village in the Breckland district, with a population of around 400.

St Andrews Church lies to the north of the A1066 Diss to Thetford road. The Norman tower is its pride and joy and was described by Pevsner as no later than 1120 and compares the detail with that on Norwich Cathedral.



At St Andrews we have two services a month, on the third Sunday 9.30am Holy Communion and on the fourth Sunday 9.30am Morning Prayer.

The Church is also used for concerts, flower festivals, craft fairs and quilting exhibitions. The Norman tower is usually open at these events.

Three Coffee Mornings are held each year and are well attended by local villagers and at Christmas we hold a carol concert in our local pub.

The church is open daily.

St Andrews C.E.V.A. Primary school shares its services between North and South Lopham.

Community events are also held at the Lophams Village hall which hosts a monthly Farmers Market.

The Church is well supported by the Friends of South Lopham Church.

The White Horse is our village pub and there are a couple of B&Bs in the village.

