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April 2024

Priest in Charge of the High Oak and Hingham Benefice and Great Ellingham (Shellrock) Benefice

Dear colleague,

Thank you for your interest in this post, as together we seek to discern who God may be calling to serve as Priest in Charge of the High Oak and Hingham Benefice and Great Ellingham (Shellrock) Benefice as we bring these two benefices together. These notes are intended to supplement the information given in the Benefice Profile, adding a slightly wider perspective and with some further information.

The Parishes and this job

There is a degree of realism among the congregations of the need to work together to try to make sure their churches remain faithful and fruitful, for example with a viable worship pattern. Key to this is a collaborative way of working, valuing and appreciating, encouraging and resourcing lay leaders, both office holders (churchwardens etc.) and those engaged in lay ministry as LLMs, Authorised Worship Assistants and in other forms of lay ministry beginning to emerge.

Central to the role of all our clergy is this need to nurture the vocation of the lay members of our churches, recognising that ministry and mission belong to all God's people. In part, this is a theological imperative, but it is also driven by the need to rethink and refocus ministry in a period that is challenging for the church as it is for every other voluntary organisation and business. The Diocese is at an important and exciting point with a new vision emerging under a still relatively new diocesan bishop, and work is currently underway that will see the development of strategies for the outworking of the vision across the diocese.

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

Diocese and Deanery

Under the leadership of the Bishop of Norwich, the Rt Revd Graham Usher, a vision is emerging for the Diocese – *Transformed by Christ: Prayerfully, Pastorally and Prophetically*. Work is currently underway on the strategies that will help us live out and deliver this vision. Bishop Graham has written an Ethos and Culture Statement, available on the diocesan website - <https://www.dioceseofnorwich.org/app/uploads/2020/12/Our-Life-Together-2021.pdf> - which gives details of our structures and the character of the Diocese.

Both benefices fall within the Archdeaconry of Norfolk, and so under the care of the Bishop of Thetford (The Rt Revd Ian Bishop) and the Archdeacon of Norfolk (The Venerable Steven Betts). The new High Oak and Hingham benefice will be in the Thetford and Rockland deanery with a very experienced Rural Dean. 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 new energy efficient Rectory is in Hingham and is further described in the benefice profile.

Patronage

The Patrons of the benefice are The Bishop of Norwich, The Archdeacon of Norfolk, The Earl of Kimberley, the Dean and Chapter of Norwich Cathedral, The Dean and Chapter of Canterbury Cathedral, The Trustees of the former parish of Hingham with Wood Rising and Scoulton, The Earl of Verulam and Sir Algernon Heber-Percy (High Oak and Hingham) and The Bishop of Norwich, David Napier and Corpus Christ College, Cambridge (Great Ellingham (Shellrock)).

Enquiries, Applications and Interviews

An application form and confidential declaration form can be found both can be made through Pathways (<https://pathways.churchofengland.org/search/category-diocese-of-norwich/page-1>) or the diocesan website at <https://www.dioceseofnorwich.org/about/vacancies/>.

The closing date for applications is 2nd May, with interviews to be held on 30th May.

Any priest wanting an informal discussion before deciding whether to apply is welcome to be in touch with me.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Ian Bishop". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

The Rt Revd Ian Bishop

Bishop of Thetford