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Team Rector and Team Vicar of the Diss Team Ministry

Dear colleague,

Thank you for your interest in this post, as together we seek to discern who God may be calling to serve as Team Rector or Team Vicar of the Diss Team Ministry. 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

Diss, in the south of the Diocese, is a beautiful, historic and geographically significant market town to which much of the rural area relates. The town has great communications and is on the mainline into London.

The Church of St Mary in the centre of the town is itself a most significant centre of worship in the central tradition of the Church of England. On the admission of the Church members, there is a real need for the revitalisation of the congregation and a need to see growth urgently. The Team consists of a further ten churches in the surrounding villages. There are two posts available - for a Team Rector and for a Team Vicar, who will work closely together to serve the needs of all the parishes. This could suit a clergy couple who wish to share their ministry.

There has often been a training curate in the benefice, subject to the gifts of the incumbent/Team Rector.

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. Diss is a significant part of that strategic vision.

The Deanery are a very supportive group and there is a strong commitment to mission. Diss itself has expanded rapidly recently and is planned to expand further and whoever comes to minister in

the parishes must have a strong commitment to mission and evangelism and a heart to see the Churches grow. There are huge opportunities to engage with the civic life of the town and great relationships with the schools to develop.

We would love to hear from you if you feel that God might be calling you to these roles 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/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Our-Life-Together-2023-Updated-v2.pdf> - which gives details of our structures and the character of the Diocese.

The benefice falls 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 benefice is in the Redenhall Deanery whose Rural Dean is currently Canon Nigel Tuffnell, Rector of the Redenhall with Scole benefice. There are 4 incumbents, 1 Team Vicar, 2 OLM Curates and 6 Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers) in the Deanery, together with a number of PTO clergy and Authorised Worship Assistants.

Colleagues will be very supportive and 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 Team Rector's house is in Roydon, close to Diss, while the Team Vicar's house is conveniently situated near to Diss town centre. Both are described in the Benefice Profile.

Patronage

The Patrons of the benefice are The Lord Chancellor acting on behalf of His Majesty in right of His Crown and Diss Team Ministry Patronage Board, the Lord Chancellor having the Right of Presentation at this turn.

Enquiries, Applications and Interviews

Applications can be made through Pathways at [Diocese of Norwich Vacancies | Church of England](#) and the Diocese of Norwich website at [Vacancies - Diocese of Norwich](#).

The forms, after we have removed the confidential declarations for safeguarding and other purposes, will be forwarded to the presenting Patron if appropriate.

The closing date for applications is 6th June at 11.59pm, with interviews to be held on 1st July for the Team Rector, and to be confirmed for the Team Vicar.

Any priest wanting an informal discussion before deciding whether to apply is welcome to be in touch by telephone or e-mail with me (01953 528010 or bishop.thetford@dioceseofnorwich.org)

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "+ Ian Thetford." The signature is written in a cursive style with a plus sign at the beginning.

The Rt Revd Ian Bishop

Bishop of Thetford