

The Rt Revd Ian Bishop

Bishop of Thetford

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Rector for Diss and Team Vicar of the surrounding villages

Dear colleague,

Thank you for showing interest in the parish of St Mary Diss and the surrounding villages. I think there can be very few more exciting opportunities for market town and rural mission than these two posts in the south of the Diocese of Norwich.

The parish profile makes clear that the parishes have a focus on worship, learning and hospitality. There is much to do, especially in the central Church of St Mary Diss, where there is huge potential. Recent differences have emerged in the St Mary's congregation and there is a real need to discover a new unity and vision in the congregation and a belief that God can transform and heal and bring new life.

The Team Rector will need to be a visionary leader who can listen well, heal what is broken, sense the way the Holy Spirit is working and inspire a re-start for the work of the Kingdom of God. The Team Vicar will need to be a talented pastor who can bring people together, foster excellent relationships and drive missional efforts forward. It would be perfectly possible to appoint an ordained clergy couple but both posts are equally open to all clergy and we especially would welcome applications from under represented groups.

The town of Diss is growing fast. It has the advantages of great communications by road and rail. The mainline to London goes through the town and Diss is only one hour and thirty minutes from Liverpool Street Station and has become part of commuter belt for London and Norwich. Consequently, new estates seem to emerge regularly and it is an aspirational place to live and work. Therefore, central to the role is the need to encourage and nurture the vocation of the lay members of the churches, recognising that ministry and mission belong to all God's people.

The Diocese is at an interesting and exciting point with a new vision emerging under a still relatively new diocesan bishop, and two new suffragan Bishops.

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.

The Diss Team Ministry 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. The Rural Dean in November will be Chris Hutton Vicar of the Earsham benefice. It is a relatively small and very supportive chapter.

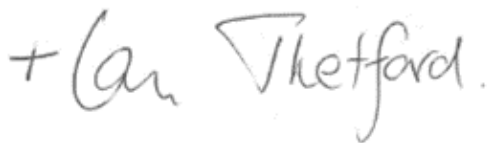
Attendance at Deanery Synod and Chapter is an expectation, and all diocesan clergy are encouraged to give some part of their time and energies to the wider life of the Diocese. A detached, 4 bedroomed rectory is provided and is described more fully in the Benefice Profile.

Enquiries, Applications and Interviews

An application can be made through Pathways, via [Diocese of Norwich Jobs | Pathways \(churchofengland.org\)](https://www.churchofengland.org/pathways).

The form, after we have removed the confidential declarations for safeguarding and other purposes will be forwarded to the Patron(s) if appropriate. The closing date for applications is 1st November, with interviews to be held on 21st November. Any priest wanting an informal discussion before deciding whether to apply is welcome to be in touch by telephone or e-mail 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

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