

The Rt Revd Ian Bishop

Bishop of Thetford

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Rector (designate) of the proposed parish of Diss

Dear colleague,

Thank you for your interest in this post, as together we seek to discern who God may be calling to serve as Rector (designate) of the proposed parish of Diss. These notes are intended to supplement the information given in the Benefice Profile, adding a slightly wider perspective and with some further information.

The Parish 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. It is the local centre for shopping and business and the place to which a very significant area relates for all sorts of services. The town has great communications and is on the mainline into London and Norwich.

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. There has been a significant musical tradition in the past, although this has been hard to maintain through the vacancy and finding a good way forward for the liturgical life of the parish will be an early task for the new incumbent. 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.

It has been really heartening to see the way the Church has responded to the challenges of their vacancy in recent months, and they seem to be in a much better place than they were. The potential in the town for Church growth is huge.

The community are longing for an outward facing priest who will re-build links with the town especially in the schools. The possibilities for creative use of the Church and Church Hall as a centre for ministry and evangelism is very significant and requires a priest with drive and imagination to

realise the vision and ideas. The congregation are committed to supporting someone who will help them demonstrate the love of Christ and by word and action to make a genuine impact locally.

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

The Diocese is at an important and exciting point with a new vision emerging under the diocesan bishop, and work is currently underway that will see the development of strategies for the outworking of the vision across the diocese. Diss needs to be a significant part of that strategic approach.

The Deanery is a very supportive group and there is a strong commitment to mission throughout the area.

We would love to hear from you if you feel that God might be calling you to this 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/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 The Revd Chris Hutton, Rector of the Earsham benefice. There are to be 5 incumbents, 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

There is an excellent Rectory that is technically in the parish of Roydon but within the built environs of Diss.

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 15th July at 11.59pm, with interviews to be held on 6th August

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 Rt Revd Ian Bishop

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