

The Rt Revd Ian Bishop

Bishop of Thetford

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September 2025

Rector of the Hopton, Corton and Gunton 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 Rector of the Hopton, Corton and Gunton benefice. 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

The three parishes have been working together since coming together in 2021. Part of the role for the person appointed will be to continue to deepen the friendship and collaboration between the three parishes, whilst recognising the need for each church to retain its own identity and particular vocation. There are opportunities to serve and reach out to both the resident population, as well as the many visitors to this part of East Anglia.

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.

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.

The Hopton, Corton and Gunton 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 Lothingland deanery, with a Rural Dean, the Revd Helen Jary, and an Assistant Rural Dean, the Revd Sharon Lord. There are 10 posts of incumbent status in the Deanery, along with 1 Assistant Curate and a number of PTO clergy, Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers), and Authorised Worship Assistants.

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 Rectory is a large four-bedroomed house in Gunton, with easy access to Corton and Hopton by road, and is further described in the benefice profile.

Patronage

The Patrons of the benefice for this turn are The Dean and Chapter of Norwich Cathedral and the Church Pastoral Aid Society.

Enquiries, Applications and Interviews

An application can be made through Pathways, via the diocesan website at <https://www.dioceseofnorwich.org/about/vacancies/>.

The form, after we have removed the confidential declarations for safeguarding and other purposes (Section 7 to the end), will be forwarded to the Patron(s) if appropriate.

The closing date for applications is Friday 24th October at 11.59pm, with interviews to be held on Monday 24th 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 or with The Archdeacon of Norfolk, the Venerable Steven Betts (archdeacon.norfolk@dioceseofnorwich.org)

With best wishes

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "+ Ian Thetford." The signature is written in a cursive, slightly informal style.

The Rt Revd Ian Bishop

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