

The Rt Revd Ian Bishop

Bishop of Thetford

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Rector-designate of the prospective benefice of Winfarthing and Upper Waveney (pastoral reorganisation)

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 prospective benefice of Winfarthing and Upper Waveney. 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 village Churches that make up this new group of Churches have been working well together for several years as part of the Diss Team Ministry, which is currently going through pastoral reorganisation.

There is real life in each place and committed folk who have worked tirelessly to maintain the worship of God during a lengthy vacancy. There is every expectation that a new incumbent will find huge support as they seek to grow and develop the congregations.

All the Churches are deeply embedded in their communities and whilst this is traditional village ministry and worship, it comes with a dynamism that is commendable and a heart for mission that wants to secure the future and grow the Kingdom of God. There are terrific opportunities in the village schools to develop work with young people to which you will find an open door as incumbent and the many village links will make community engagement very easy.

The area is in a beautiful part of the Waveney Valley and has excellent links with the substantial market towns of Diss where trains to London run every 30 minutes.

The Diocese is at an important and exciting point with a new vision and strategy 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 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 The Revd Chris Hutton, Rector of the Earsham Group. 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

The Diocesan Director of Property is currently assessing the possibility of changing the Rectory to enable the new Rector-designate to live in one of the villages.

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 Thursday 20th November at 11.59pm, with interviews to be held on Tuesday 16th December.

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 "+lan Thetford." The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first name "lan" in lowercase and "Thetford" in title case. There is a plus sign before the first name.

The Rt Revd Ian Bishop

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