

The Rt Revd Ian Bishop

Bishop of Thetford

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January 2026

Rector of the Belton and Burgh Castle 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 Belton and Burgh Castle 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

There is so much to commend this post. The churches offer excellent lay support and a positive outlook. Belton is a busy church that has been creative and imaginative in worship, dedicated to children and young people's ministry, serious about discipleship and servant hearted in outreach. In an area with much new housing there are significant opportunities for growth.

Burgh Castle is a more traditional setting in the shadow of the historic Roman fort. The congregation are embedded in the community and there is a warmth of welcome that is deeply pleasing.

The task is to be able to take the parishes and find ways to grow. Parish share is a struggle at times and the incoming minister will need to prioritise missional growth in order which in time we hope and pray will cover the financial gaps. There would be an expectation, as with all posts in the Diocese of Norwich that you would discern further opportunities to build new worshipping communities, especially those that are younger and more diverse.

You will find very good support from the surrounding Deanery where there are huge strides being made missionally.

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 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*.

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 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 Great Yarmouth deanery, with a Rural Dean, The Revd David Wells. There are 8 posts of incumbent status in the Deanery, along with 3 Assistant Curates, 3 Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers) and a number of PTO clergy 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 in Belton, within easy walking distance of the church.

Patronage

The Patrons of the benefices are The Bishop of Norwich and the Lord Chancellor acting on behalf of His Majesty in right of his Crown.

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 Monday 26th January, with interviews to be held on Friday 13th February.

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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