

The Rt Revd Ian Bishop

Bishop of Thetford

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Priest in Charge of the Harling and Guiltcross 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 Priest in Charge of the Harling and Guiltcross 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 Pastoral Scheme to create the new benefice has taken a significant amount of time to develop but is now in the final stages allowing the minister in charge to become Rector.

The parishes are developing a strong group identity and there is significant collaboration in a number of ways. This is particularly noticeable in the way a ministry team is emerging to support the clergy and parishes in maintaining a strong worship base.

The team ethos needs to be developed and any new minister coming into post will need to be committed to encouraging the gifts of a wide group of people, both lay and ordained, into discovering how they can together build up the work of the Church.

There should be a focus on how to create an approach that prioritises a younger and more diverse congregational base. This may include planting new congregations as this becomes possible, so that the growth of the Church is evidenced.

The Diocese is at an important and exciting point, and 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/app/uploads/2020/12/Our-Life-Together-2021.pdf> - which gives details of our structures and the character of the Diocese.

The Harling and Guiltcross 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 Thetford and Rockland deanery, with a Rural Dean, The Revd Canon Matthew Jackson, Rector of the Attleborough benefice. There are 9 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 East Harling in the geographical centre of the benefice and is further described in the benefice profile.

Patronage

The Patrons of the benefice are the Lord Chancellor, the Bishop of Norwich, the Diocesan Board of Patronage, David Napier, Peter Goldson and Andrew Noel.

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 9th February at 11.59pm, with interviews to be held on Wednesday 25th 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.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "+ Ian Thetford." The signature is written in a cursive, slightly informal style. The plus sign is at the beginning, followed by the name "Ian" and "Thetford" with a period at the end.

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