

**The Rt Revd Ian Bishop**

Bishop of Thetford

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### **Priest in Charge (Rector designate) in the Brooke Benefice and the Hempnall Group of Parishes**

Dear colleague,

Thank you for the interest in the Brooke Benefice and the Hempnall Group of Parishes in the Depwade Deanery and in the heart of the Norwich Diocese.

This is a most attractive place to live and work and there is a vibrancy to the ministry that is challenging and exciting. There is huge potential for growth, given that there is a strong team who have worked exceptionally hard to build great relationships between the two benefices and to develop supportive ways of working together. The Ministry Team in particular has recognised the need to be stronger together and planning and strategy is collaborative and effective. The vacancy has been beautifully managed.

The Revd Canon Susanna Gunner has been chosen to be the new part-time Associate Priest living in Hempnall. Susanna brings significant experience and many gifts, and she will be a valued colleague and a huge support as the partnership develops between the two benefices. Susanna joins a Ministry Team comprising two LLMs (John Ash and Liam Pilgrim) and 3 AWAs (1 in LLM training) who offer significant support to the new incumbent. There are also strong lay teams in both benefices of experienced officers willing to exercise responsibility for a wide range of operational matters and in addition valuable assistance is provided by an employed part-time administrator.

Working well as a team will be essential and, if that can be achieved, the opportunities to shape and mould the local mission are immense. This post has the potential to be a model of rural ministry and mission.

The Diocese is at an interesting and exciting point with a new vision and strategy emerging under the diocesan bishop.

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 Brooke Benefice and the Hempnall Group of Parishes fall 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 benefices are in the Depwade deanery, with a Rural Dean, The Revd Michael Windridge. There are 6 posts of incumbent status in the Deanery, along with 2 Associate Priests, 1 Assistant Curate, 5 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 two benefice houses are described more fully in the Benefice Profile. The intention is that the new Rector will live in the Brooke Vicarage. Please direct questions about the houses to the Archdeacon of Norfolk ([archdeacon.norfolk@dioceseofnorwich.org](mailto:archdeacon.norfolk@dioceseofnorwich.org)).

The Benefice Patrons at this turn would be The Lord Chancellor acting behalf of Majesty the King (Brooke) and The Norwich Diocesan Board of Finance (Hempnall).

### **Enquiries, Applications and Interviews**

An application can be made through Pathways at [Diocese of Norwich Vacancies | Church of England](#) or the Diocese of Norwich website at [Vacancies - Diocese of Norwich](#).

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 Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December with interviews to be held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January.

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,

+ Ian Thetford.

**The Rt Revd Ian Bishop**

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