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Rector of the Stalham and Smallburgh Benefices

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 Stalham and Smallburgh benefices, held in plurality. 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

These parishes have a significant resident population but also receive many visitors throughout the year, drawn to the beautiful coastline and the splendours of the Broads. They have been working together since 2016, when the then Rector of Smallburgh retired. Mindful of the challenges of ensuring benefices remain financially sustainable, the Rector of Stalham offered to take on responsibility for Smallburgh alongside their existing role. Initially done through an interim licence for two years, that appointment was renewed without a fixed term.

It was possible to hold these two benefices in plurality because of a strong Ministry Team, with licensed and authorised colleagues in both benefices, and that continues to be the case today. Collaboration has to be the nature of ministry in rural Norfolk, and anyone applying for this post needs to be comfortable working with colleagues in an encouraging and supportive way, recognising the need for any Ministry Team to renew itself by encouraging new vocations to lay and ordained ministry.

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 Stalham and Smallburgh benefices 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 benefice is in the St Benet at Waxham and Tunstead deanery whose Rural Dean is The Revd David Chamberlin, Rector of the King's Beck benefice. There are 6 posts of incumbent status in the Deanery, along with 2 Assistant Curates, 1 Self-Supporting Minister and a number of Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers), Authorised Worship Assistants and Authorised Pastoral 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 Stalham, within easy walking distance of the church, and is further described in the benefice profile.

Patronage

The Patrons of the benefices are The Bishop of Norwich, Jonathan Charles Wickham Esq. and Dr Geoffrey Thomas Cubitt (Smallburgh), and The Bishop of Norwich, the Diocesan Board of Patronage and Miss Susannah Wilcox (Stalham).

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 7th April, with interviews to be held on Monday 28th April.

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

Bishop of Thetford