



ORWELL & DEBEN RURAL BENEFICE

2023

BENEFICE PROFILE

ST MARY, BUCKLESHAM - ST ETHELBERT, FALKENHAM - ALL SAINTS, HEMLEY
ST MARY & ST MARTIN, KIRTON - ST PETER, LEVINGTON - ST MARTIN, NACTON
ST MARY THE VIRGIN, NEWBOURNE - ALL SAINTS, WALDRINGFIELD

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Welcome to The Orwell and Deben Rural Benefice

Thank you for showing interest in the full-time post of Rector of The Orwell and Deben Rural Benefice. We hope very much that, having read our Benefice Profile, you might discern that this is the group of churches you feel called to inspire and lead in the months and years ahead.

Introduction

The Orwell and Deben Rural Benefice is seeking a full time Rector to take responsibility for this multi-parish benefice of eight churches situated in beautiful Suffolk countryside between the River Orwell and the River Deben. Significant parts of this rural landscape are designated as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Much of the land use is focused on arable farming and small, allied industries.

Our Benefice is situated within easy reach of the towns of Felixstowe, Ipswich and Woodbridge. While a proportion of those living in the benefice are retired, (38% over the age of 60), there are major employers in the area including the Port of Felixstowe and BT Research Laboratories at Martlesham, with Sizewell Nuclear Power Station further up the coast. Scattered throughout the Benefice are small start-up companies, light industrial units and holiday parks providing employment. Ipswich is about 70 minutes by train from London Liverpool Street. The East Suffolk District Development Plan has no plans for major housing developments within our benefice at present. Large developments are planned within our deanery by 2028: in the neighbouring benefices of Martlesham (+5,000), Trimley (+3,500) and Felixstowe (+3,000).

Our churches are active with hard working members of the PCCs and committed congregations, keen to see their worshipping communities grow and thrive. There is much goodwill throughout all the parishes in the benefice to welcome the Rector and any family into our village communities. This benefice offers good schools, excellent social and sporting facilities, and a myriad of outdoor activities.

Our new Rector will be able to develop the role according to their particular interests and strengths. We are now looking ahead to a new chapter in the growth and collaboration within our benefice, working together as a group of churches, while retaining the identity of our individual parishes. It would be an advantage to have had some previous experience of rural ministry, but other applicable experience, skills and capabilities will also be important. There is a part time Benefice Administrator in post to offer administrative support. One of the key challenges for the Rector of this multi-parish benefice will be one of time management. A good sense of humour will be an essential attribute, as will a current driving licence.

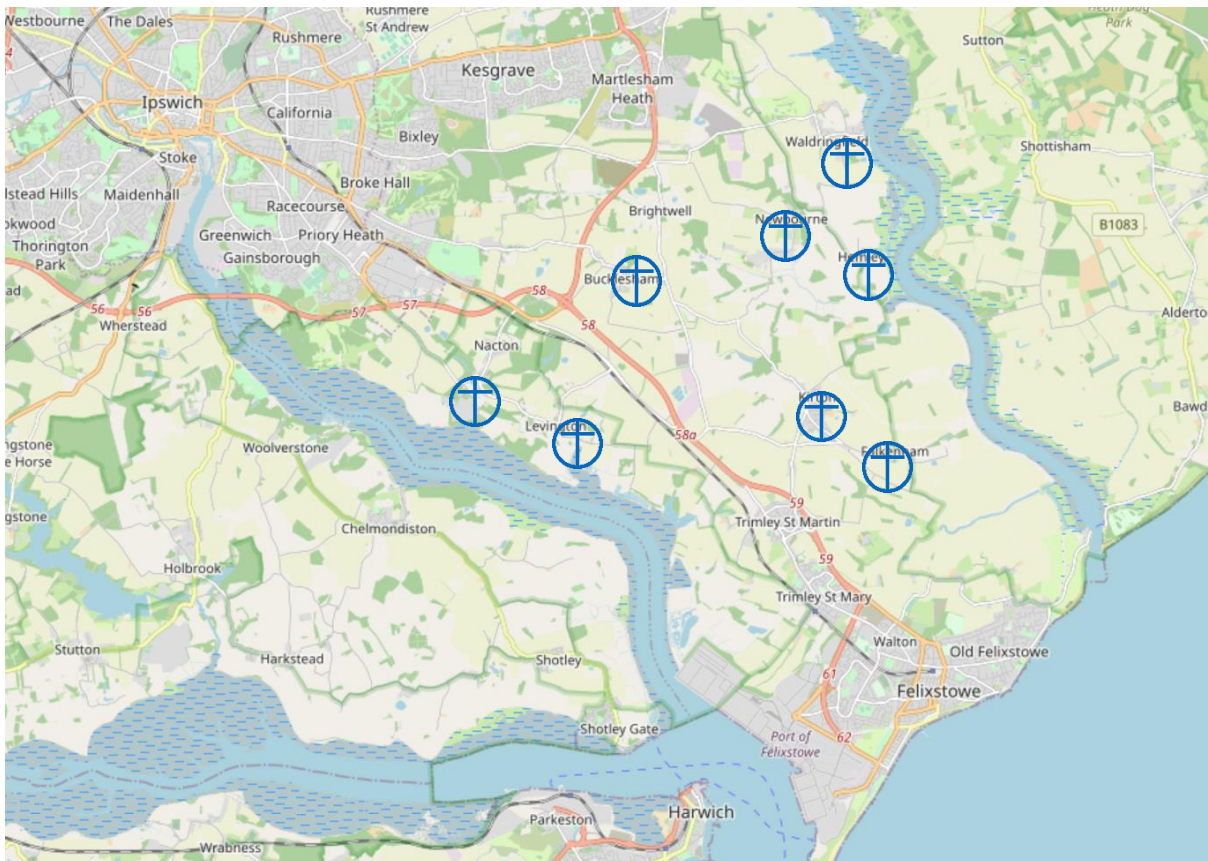


A benefice of eight churches situated in beautiful Suffolk countryside between the estuaries of the Orwell and the Deben rivers.

Location in United Kingdom



Benefice Parishes Map



We are hoping for a priest who will be:

- a. A caring priest, a person of prayer, able to nurture our worshipping communities and inspire us on our own Christian faith journeys, through prayer, teaching, preaching and pastoral support.
- b. An enthusiastic and well organised leader, with good communication skills, who will encourage collaboration with both the ministry team and the laity to aid mission, outreach and planned growth for the future. A team player, motivator, delegator, listener and networker.
- c. Able to lead the benefice and enable it to become an effective body in spreading the gospel, building on the diocesan 'Growing in God' strategy.
- d. Skilled at using available resources and parish plans for growth: also developing opportunities for parishes to work in partnership with one another.
- e. Keen to engage with families and young people in the parishes and be seen not only inside our churches, but also outside at events and activities, which are a key part of our communities.
- f. Discerning and able to value the subtle differences between our individual church communities and build on existing patterns of worship, while developing their own ideas of ministry and mission.
- g. Accepting of others' gifts and contributions, helping to train, empower and support others to play their part in the life of the church.
- h. A wise manager - someone with a good grasp of key underlying risks within the benefice such as Safeguarding and Health and Safety.
- i. Aware of their own strengths and weaknesses and be willing to draw upon support from colleagues and congregations.
- j. Prepared to work with others to develop existing traditions and explore new ideas in the light of changing needs: balancing the old with the new.



What are our Benefice priorities?

1. Creation of a benefice which is seen to be progressive and optimistic about the future. While now a legal entity, our eight-parish benefice is still in its infancy. There are opportunities ahead for us all in terms of ministry and mission but also challenges to face such as a slow decline in numbers attending services, falling income and the rising cost of fabric repairs.
2. A planned increase in the number of lay elders in each parish and other members of the Ministry Team to support regular services.
3. Maintain, as a minimum, the two services a month which we currently have in each church. Some churches may wish to increase this and/or develop new forms of worship on Sundays where there is no scheduled service.
4. Maintenance and development of current links with local schools – see above.
5. Support for the parishes in maintaining and developing good plans for outreach programmes and community links. Each parish, over the years, has developed its own range of community activities, which take place on an annual basis such as fetes, concerts and coffee mornings, some of which are fund raisers. It is hoped that the Rector will support such events and use them as opportunities to get to know and engage with people within the benefice, whether or not they attend church.
6. Development and subsequent maintenance and update of a Benefice Web site. The Benefice Administrator will help with setting this up and updating it. It is important that we improve our communication skills across the benefice and beyond, if we are to encourage a wider, younger group of people into our churches.

The Benefice

In 2019 two separate benefices were finally drawn together into one legal entity and there is now a solid foundation on which to continue to build greater ties and co-operation between our churches. There is a rich tapestry of community life in each parish with our worshipping communities contributing actively to the warp and weft of village life.

Current Structure and organisation

Comprising eight churches, 'The Orwell and Deben Rural Benefice' has an informal Benefice Council, with a separate financial structure. It holds at least four meetings a year and all these meetings are chaired by the Rector. Three representatives from each of the eight Benefice churches may attend, including one churchwarden and two members of the PCC, together with members of the Ministry Team. Minutes are taken and the contents of these meetings are shared with PCC members.

PCCs

Each church continues to run its own affairs. Working Party meetings of each PCC are held at least four times a year, with an agenda format used across the Benefice. While the Rector may choose to attend any or all of these meetings, they are usually chaired by the Vice Chair. Minutes are taken and forwarded to the Rector. Any significant resolutions, passed in a Working Party meeting, have to be ratified by the Rector at a Benefice Council meeting. All APCMs are chaired by the Rector.



The Ministry Team

The Ministry Team currently comprises two Self Supporting Ministers with Permission to Officiate (PTO), three experienced Lay Readers and nine Lay Elders, many of whom work across the Benefice, and all are involved in regular Sunday worship. There are 'Open the Book' teams involved in local schools, a Benefice Book Club, two Bible Study groups and an active, benefice wide, Mothers' Union. Members of the Ministry Team are involved in all of these activities and outreach. They support Lent courses and initiatives such as 'Christianity Explored'. A weekly Benefice Newsletter is distributed throughout the parishes.

The Ministry Team is seeking:

- a team leader who can build on and develop initiatives and grow the team.
- an incumbent who will hold regular meetings with the team to discuss wide ranging policies and issues that will impact the individual parishes.
- a priest who will draw out the different gifts, skills and experience within the team and members of the congregations to enable us all to support the new Rector wherever it is necessary.

Schools

There are over 500 children living in the Benefice under the age of fifteen.

In the Benefice there are three state Primary schools,

- Nacton C of E Voluntary Aided DMAT (Diocesan Multi-Academy Trust) (93 pupils) where the Rector serves as a school governor.
- Bucklesham Primary School (98 pupils) where lay elders work within the school.
- Waldringfield Primary School, is looked after by the Pastor of the Waldringfield Baptist Church

In addition, Trimley St Martin Primary School is not within our benefice, but it does educate approximately 65 pupils from Kirton and Falkenham parishes and has close links with Kirton church.

Orwell Park Preparatory School (Independent) Reception to Year 8 - 235 pupils.

Orwell Park School is situated next door to St Martin's Church Nacton. There has always been a close connection between the school and the church, and for many decades, the serving incumbent has been their official school chaplain. There is an opportunity for our new Rector to continue this role alongside their ministry in the benefice.

Benefice Office

There is a part-time administrator working on a self-employed basis, who assists the incumbent in the day-to-day running of the Benefice, completing necessary paperwork, taking minutes at the Benefice Council meetings and dealing with online documentation as required. Other duties include the running of the Benefice social media and management of the website, liaising with the members of the eight PCCs where needed.

The Rectory

The current Rectory in the village of Nacton is a substantial red brick detached house built, circa 1990, in the garden of what is now The Old Rectory. It has a large mature garden, suitable for children and pets, with glebe land beyond, an integral garage (6m x 5m) with solar panels on the roof, a smaller, free-standing garage/store and a log shed. There is plenty of parking space. The house has a gas central heating system. The front door leads straight into a small front hall where there is a door to the Rector's study, (4.5m x 3.5m), and a small adjacent cloakroom. From the front hall another door leads into the main house and an inner hall. Downstairs is split level. There is a well-appointed kitchen and a dining room (4m x 3m) on the same level. The dining room and sitting room are separated by concertina doors. The sitting room can be accessed down two steps from both the inner hall and the dining room. The sitting room has a central fireplace and large windows overlooking the garden. A garden door leads outside to a patio area. From the inner hall, stairs lead up to a galleried landing serving four good sized bedrooms and a further room over the study, a family bathroom and a separate lavatory and shower.



The churchwardens have suggested to the Diocese that, in due course, the Rectory should be moved from Nacton, to the village of Kirton, which is more centrally positioned within our multi parish benefice, has a larger population and where the church is adjacent to the church hall and meeting room. A suitable property is being sought by the property department of the diocese.

St Mary, Bucklesham



“St Mary’s stands in a quiet, idyllic, tree shaded corner at the north-east end of Bucklesham village.”

The Community

The parish of Bucklesham is located five miles east of Ipswich, placed in the centre of a triangle between Ipswich, Woodbridge, and Felixstowe. The village is surrounded by arable farmland and despite the proximity of the A12 and A14 retains a quiet, peaceful situation. In addition to the Parish Church, the village facilities include a primary school, village hall, public house and playing field.

The Church

St Mary’s stands in a quiet, idyllic, tree shaded corner at the north-east end of Bucklesham village. A church was recorded on this site, originally the village centre, in the 11th Century Domesday Book. However, it was probably in the 12th Century that a new church was built of flint rubble. Some of the original flint remains in the north wall of the present church which required major reconstruction in the 1870’s.

Strengths

- Our church is supported by an excellent Ministry Team.
- Congregation which encourages a friendly and welcoming church.
- Church Monthly Coffee Morning and Library open to all.
- All aspects of maintenance of Church fabric and churchyard are managed seamlessly without fuss and with valuable help from the community.
- Has support of local community through regular giving by non-church goers.
- In addition to our normal Holy Communion and Morning Prayer Services our three Elders take an All-Age Praise service each month.
- Regular visits to Primary School Assembly for Open the Book bible stories. We also welcome the children to church for Harvest and Christmas services.
- Church Lunch held monthly, in the Village Hall, for older residents.
- Church opens every day for private prayer or quiet reflection.

Challenges

- It is recognised that there is an ever present need to encourage new worshippers to attend our services with an emphasis on attracting younger people.
- The latest Quinquennial Review has revealed a pressing need for extensive repairs to the north facing tiled roof. Currently four roofing companies have been asked to tender for the roof replacement, which will necessitate a considerable fund-raising effort including grant applications.

St Ethelbert, Falkenham



"The Church, which is open every day until dusk, is located in a beautiful countryside setting with views across to the River Deben in the East."

St Ethelbert's Church dates mainly from the 14th century but has a 15th century Tower which has a Grade 11* listing.

The Church, which is open every day until dusk, is located in a beautiful countryside setting with views across to the River Deben in the East. The churchyard is noted for its brilliant display of snowdrops in the spring.

Falkenham is the only Church in the Benefice to be blessed with a peal of bells, the 6 bells are rung on a weekly practice night and before most of the church services. We follow the Common Worship form of service using the Hymns Old and New hymn book. Our congregation enjoy a time of tea, coffee, and fellowship after our services.

The Crib, Carol, Easter, Harvest Festival and Remembrance services are particularly well supported. We share the World Day of Prayer and Palm Sunday services with friends at Kirton Church and Kirton Methodist Chapel.

The Church is used for fundraising activities as there is no church hall in Falkenham. Clubs etc are joint with Kirton, as is the Parish Council.

As a congregation we are keen to grow in God, so that the church in Falkenham can be relevant and active to serve and be a witness to the Lord in the 21st century. Falkenham would welcome the resumption of weekly services to help support, maintain and grow our community.

Most of the houses are owner occupied, the oldest being 15th century with 9 listed buildings in the parish including the Grade II* church tower. Farming in the village is mainly arable and vegetable crops. Some farm buildings have been made into units which are rented out to other businesses and there is a DIY horse livery.

What is the PCC focus for development?

- We have an aspiration to restore weekly worship so as to consolidate the Falkenham community.
- To continue re-establishing pre Covid fundraising activities that create outreach whilst enabling us to raise funds to maintain the church and churchyard as is our legal and moral obligation.

We are aware of the need to reflect on the provision of the church to the wider village community, both as community resource and place of worship. We also seek to make more use of the church's unique setting as a place for quiet time or retreat, a true 'thin place' offering a sense of calm.

What the PCC has to offer a new priest

We are a happy, harmonious and hard-working group, committed and determined to keep things moving forward and seeking to bring the love of God to all.

All Saints, Hemley



“Our aim is to continue attracting more people, both from Hemley and outside, to our services, to make it a special welcoming place which people feel drawn to.”

Sitting up above the salt marshes with views of the River Deben meandering down towards Felixstowe, this is a special spot. **All Saints Church** is a simple and very peaceful church. It lies at the heart of the rural village of Hemley, with a population of approximately 40.

Our **congregation** consists mainly of adults, and the majority of services held at the moment cater for this age group. We do however have occasional services such as the Christmas Carol Service, concerts, a pet service etc, which tend to attract a more diverse age range. Since 2018 we have really enjoyed joint services and meetings within the Orwell and Deben Rural Benefice – we are becoming a more and more cohesive group.

We have a **service** every fortnight, which alternates between Holy Communion and Morning Service, with an occasional Evensong. Our services are generally well attended with people from neighbouring parishes as well as Hemley. We are very lucky to have two lay elders in the parish of Hemley. The numbers attending services at All Saints Hemley average out at around 12, however at Easter, Harvest Festival and Christmas the numbers often swell to over 40. The number on our electoral role is 18.

Financially we rely on our congregation and members of the village. Various fundraising events take place throughout the year including coffee mornings, a pudding club, a ‘Big Breakfast’, a sewing group, concerts, and the Historic Churches Bike Ride. The car park opposite the church is very popular with walkers, as we are right on a stunning circular walk around Kirton Creek - we have a contactless giving terminal in the church, and QR codes in the porch and also where cars park, which are proving successful.

We are very blessed in having a charming **Church Room** adjacent to All Saints Church, a very intimate space which has a kitchen and shower room. Our previous curate loved this room, and held retreats here, as well as choosing it as a quiet place to write her dissertation. In the last year it has been redecorated and is available for hire to locals for functions.

Our aim is to continue attracting more people, both from Hemley and outside, to our services, to make it a special welcoming place which people feel drawn to. We offer coffee and biscuits after services, which has proved very popular.

We are fortunate to have wonderful support from the village who keep our Churchyard cut and tidy.

St Mary & St Martin, Kirton



“Kirton is a lively active parish, and the church plays an important role at the heart of it.”

Kirton is a lively active parish to be found in the centre of the Benefice between the Rivers Orwell and Deben. The church plays an important role at the heart of the village. We are lucky to have three musicians who play at all of our services, two organists and an accordion player. The regular traditional Eucharists and Morning Prayer services are augmented with more informal Family, Café, and Messy Church services, usually held in the church hall. This large, well-equipped building and car park is home to a wide range of church and village activities, which help fund the building, and is a valuable asset to the outreach of the church. The church is always open.

The church activities, including Services, Bible study, prayer groups and the Mothers Union, are supported by enthusiastic lay involvement at all levels. The church building and attractive churchyard are lovingly cared for by a number of willing volunteers. Financing the inevitable repairs to the church building, which is in a good state of repair, is partly borne by The Friends of Kirton Church, who hold regular fund-raising events.

Currently there are no regular services or Sunday School for young people, but we are keen that these should be revived, particularly as there is huge potential with recent new building bringing young families to the village. We also have historic links with the local scouts, cubs, and beavers, who have their Scout Hut within our boundaries, and we are assisting them in upgrading this.

Kirton and Falkenham churches and Kirton Methodist chapel support each other with services and events, with the Palm Sunday Walk of Witness from church to church being an excellent example. Kirton Church is an active member of Churches Together in Felixstowe, and one or two members are involved with Town Pastors in Felixstowe.

The church in our parish is the people who are committed through their faith to work for the well-being of all in the community. The successful running of the church is a reflection of the involvement of the ministry team and members of the congregation.

Further information is available in The Kirton and Falkenham Review, a magazine delivered to many homes, on the village web site: www.kirton-suffolk.info and on the Community and Church Facebook pages.

St Peter, Levington



"St Peter's is increasing its outreach to our village community, to our Benefice and to those beyond. We want to demonstrate our clear sense of Christian mission to the wider world."

The Grade II* C13th church of St Peter's, Levington, is open daily & is greatly admired for its simplicity, plus its commanding position overlooking the Orwell estuary. It is much loved by the whole community & is well known for its friendly welcome. The flag of St George flies permanently to show that we are a living church. Special services are held for all the religious festivals plus Remembrance Sunday: carols by candlelight being a particular favourite. Our level of churchmanship is central & we have a talented organist with music forming an important part of our worship. (HC Order 1 Common Worship, Hymns Old & New).

We serve refreshments after each service and members of the congregation enjoy this opportunity for social interaction. At Christmastide, we hang an enormous, illuminated star (see photo) from the west face of the church tower, plus an angel on the South side: outward-looking signs of inner resolve and purpose.

In addition to concerts & services with visiting choirs, church members run social and charity projects, which involve the whole village. In 2022 we had a 'Sunflower Day' for Ukraine, a Harvest Festival collection for local food banks, a 'Festive Feast' for village residents & a children's Advent craft activity, while the W.I. used the church for a Christmas concert. Last summer we organised an 18-stage pilgrimage from our benefice churches to Bury Cathedral for Evensong. The Salvation Army played at our Carol Concert on the village field: a 'thank you' for a Village Appeal (2022 = £5,000).

Levington has 110 houses (mostly owner-occupied), but no school, no shops & few buses, however it is an active & vibrant community including a very large marina, agricultural research station and offices for transport companies. We have 'The Ship' pub next door to the church & a number of social activities are run regularly in the well-appointed Village Hall. The Church and the Parish Council work closely together on events such as Remembrance Sunday, Royal celebrations, and Carols on the village field.

One of our great assets is our "Friends of St Peter's Group" with 150 members. Founded in 1998 to preserve the church & maintain the churchyard; both are now in superb condition. People give financially and of their time and their talents and have invested over £250,000.

The Friends remain very active and are lauded as a model of good practice. Together with the PCC, they have plans for further exterior improvements and hope to undertake some gentle internal 're-ordering'.

St Peter's is in a sound financial position, largely due to the success of the Friends in paying for church maintenance, but also because of some generous bequests to both the church and 'The Friends'.

The PCC agrees and reviews annual 'Aims and Purposes': it continues to take initiatives and is increasing its outreach to our village community, to our Benefice and to those beyond. We want to demonstrate our clear sense of Christian mission to the wider world.

St Martin, Nacton



"Our churchyard is filled with wildflowers, insects and birds, throughout the summer months."

We are a widespread rural parish along the banks of the beautiful River Orwell with the benefit of easy access to Ipswich and further afield along both the A14 and A12. The parish is the current location of the Rectory.

Nacton has a varied community of parishioners with a wide range of ages, backgrounds, expertise, and interests. In particular though, our village centre is shaped by its past development as a farming estate, which is still a major employer, and their base now includes a set of business units. A number of people have strong connections with IT, social media and other internet-based industries in part due to the nearby location of the BT research establishment at Martlesham. Shipping and warehousing are also key employers due to the location of nearby Felixstowe.

There are many walks along public footpaths, and the parish is therefore popular with dog walkers. To the west, along the River Orwell, is Priory Park, a private residential park home estate for those aged over fifty, with more than one hundred residents. There are two schools and a pre-school which operates from the village hall. The present church building dates back nearly 800 years but was much altered in 1898 – 1902. Its exterior is sound, and interior is intimate and in good condition. The interior reflects the strong naval traditions of the area with memorials to past local Admirals. We are lucky to have a good organ and our organist is highly dedicated having served for over 60 years. The grand piano within the main body of the church is used in concerts.

We aim to provide a range of services which have a variety of appeal. We have a tradition of an early morning communion at 8am once a month, morning prayer and a 10.30 am communion. We encourage parents to bring children and we involve them in our worship, but sometimes the sermon has to compete with children playing with toys. The two local schools have 4 celebratory services a year. We also have 3 'Messy Church' events planned this year. The church contributes other events organized in the village. God is glorified through the displays during the year from Easter to Epiphany by an enthusiastic group of flower arrangers. Our churchyard remains open for interments and is filled with wildflowers, insects, and birds, for much of the year.

We are good fund raisers. The November coffee morning is widely supported and signals the start of Christmas celebrations. To cheer up January, a Soup and Sweet Lunch is held both as a social occasion and in aid of funds. Other regular activities within the church include the triennial Christmas Tree Festival, biennial Flower Festivals and two annual school leavers' services. The PCC is currently working to expand its presence on social media in order to develop its pastoral ministry in the local community.

St Mary the Virgin, Newbourne



"Our church is a friendly, welcoming place, open all the time and has a strong Christian presence in the community."

St Mary's is a Grade 1 listed building dating from the 12th century. It has an attractive square bell tower topped by stone angels and is one of the few Suffolk churches with a porch within the bell tower itself. It sits on a rise and thus has a prominent position in the village.

Newbourne is equidistant from Hemley and Waldringfield and the river Deben. Some six miles from Woodbridge and just a mile off the A12. The village increased considerably in size during the 1940's when the Land Settlement Association built 50 houses, each with a large plot of land. There are several small businesses run from the village which also boasts a lovely Village Hall, Café and very busy Pub.

The church is very much part of village life and special and celebratory services are very well attended. Although our average congregation is small, approx. 12, the spiritual life of the church is strong and the atmosphere in the church is appreciated by the many people who visit, and comment in our visitors' register. We are very fortunate to have the services of a wonderful organist who plays at all our services, weddings, funerals, and baptisms. A very enthusiastic Lay Elder takes one of our fortnightly Morning Worship services and is very well regarded by the congregation.

We have an excellent relationship with the village hall which enables us to hold larger fund-raising events there. We accommodate small fund-raising events such as Bring and Buys, Flower Festivals etc in the church. These are well supported by the community, who also support the churchyard work parties to keep our churchyard in a neat and tidy condition.

Several large and small maintenance projects have been carried out over the past few years with the aid of grants and monies raised through fund raising events. Currently the PCC are applying for funds from various bodies and charities to fund the re-roofing of the North side of the church, which is in a very poor condition.

Our church is a friendly, welcoming place, open all the time and has a strong Christian presence in the community. Being illuminated at night by outside lighting, the building acts as a real beacon in the village.

We would welcome a candidate who has enthusiasm, warmth, and a sense of humour! Someone with ideas about growing and encouraging our congregation and above all who will guide our church family.

All Saints, Waldringfield



“Waldringfield nestles on the southwest bank of the River Deben Estuary, about halfway between Woodbridge and Felixstowe Ferry, where the river runs into the North Sea.”

All Saints Waldringfield serves the small community of around 500, and although the church is outside the main part of the village, it is within walking distance of most residents.

All Saints dates from the 14th Century but the tower, with one bell, was added in the 16th Century. It is furnished with Victorian oak pews, has a Georgian pulpit and some good Victorian stained-glass windows. The ‘pièce de résistance’ is the very fine, almost undamaged, 16th Century octagonal font. The Church organ is in good condition, and we have a well-used, if slightly rustic, Church Room.

It is of interest that the “living” was held by four generations of the Waller Family since 1862, until the death of John Waller in 2013.

The Village and its Community.

Waldringfield nestles on the southwest bank of the River Deben Estuary, about halfway between Woodbridge and Felixstowe Ferry, where the river runs into the North Sea. Historically, there was a certain amount of industrial activity in the village, but today it is very much quieter with a number of residents being retired although over the past few years there has been a welcome influx of younger families with children who attend the village school. It is a vibrant and friendly community with a busy website.

The village facilities are impressive and are as follows:

- A Primary School - Very well thought of and popular.
- Sailing Club - Sailing, on the beautiful River Deben, is a prominent activity in the village. We have a busy sailing club with moored boats and dinghy parks and, most importantly, an annual Yachtsman's Service conducted from a yacht with the congregation, both in boats, as well as on the beach. This occasion is accompanied by the Woodbridge Excelsior Band.
- A modern and very well-equipped Village Hall - There are many regular events including Pilates, Karate, exercise groups and two lots of very popular Art Groups. There's a wine Club, History Group, organised Winter Talks, Waldringfield Gardeners, and we have well attended monthly coffee mornings with the most delicious cakes!
- The mobile post office visits three times a week.
- There is an active Baptist Chapel at Waldringfield Heath.
- A well-equipped playground recently updated and also, a wonderful Church Field for recreation overlooking the stunning River Deben.
- A popular and well-known pub on the waterfront called The Maybush.
- A village tennis court.

We endeavour to welcome and encourage new members of the village to join our congregation and/or volunteer to help with regular maintenance of the Church and Churchyard.

Appendix A. Benefice Stats

ORWELL and DEBEN RURAL BENEFICE																
VILLAGE Church	TOTAL POPULATION (2021)	UNDER 15	CHURCHWARDENS	ELECTORAL ROLL (2022 APCM)	LAY ELDERS	Baptisms (2022)	Weddings (2022)	Interments (2022)	Av. ATTEND. (2022)	No. on PCC	Max. Seats	Toilet	Kitchen	Church Hall / Room	Parish Share Requested (2023)	SCHOOLS (Pop. 2022 ³)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
BUCKLESHAM St Mary's	554	84	1	40	(3) [§]	4	2	2	20	11	110	Yes	Yes	No	£10,900	98
FALKENHAM St Ethelbert's	182	25	2	47	0	0	1	6	17	8	75	Yes	No	No	£7,441	
HEMLEY All Saints	40	1	2	17	2	0	0	2	11	6	45	Yes	Yes	Yes	£2,829	
KIRTON St Mary & St Martin	1192	183	1	63	2	1	1	4	29	9	140	Yes	Yes	Yes	£20,776	
LEVINGTON St Peter's	259	28	1	33	0	0	2	5	16	7	80	No	No	No	£7,798	
NACTON St Martin's	873	125	1	31	1	2	0	6	24	9	250	Yes	Yes	No	£14,453	93 O.P. 200+
NEWBOURNE St Mary the Virgin	319	36	1	19	1	1	1	1	12	4	100	No	No	No	£5,531	
WALDRINGFIELD All Saints	464	54	2	24	0	0	0	6	17	6	90	Yes	Yes	Yes	£9,159	97
TOTALS*	3883	536	11	274	9	8	7	32	146	60.0		6	5	3	£78,887	
Please note:	§ They serve together in Bucklesham only. * The population figures for 2021 have been taken from the East Suffolk website, however several Churchwardens believe the numbers quoted of Under 15s, in particular, are higher than they recognise.												% Paid in 2021	89.48%		
													% Paid in 2022	100.00%		

Appendix B. Current Monthly Service Pattern

CURRENT MONTHLY SERVICE PATTERN		
in the Orwell and Deben Rural Benefice		
All services at 10.00am, unless specified otherwise		
WEEK 1	Falkenham (9.00am)	Morning Prayer
	Newbourne (9.00am)	Holy Communion
	Waldringfield	Morning Prayer
	Nacton (10.30am)	Holy Communion
WEEK 2	<i>Occasional 8.00am Holy Communion</i>	
	Bucklesham	Holy Communion
	Hemley	BCP Holy Comm.
	Kirton	Morning Prayer
	Levington	Morning Prayer
WEEK 3	Falkenham (9.00am)	Holy Communion
	Bucklesham	All Age Worship
	Nacton	Morning Prayer
	Newbourne	Morning Service
	Waldringfield (10.30am)	Holy Communion
WEEK 4	Bucklesham	Morning Prayer
	Hemley	Morning Prayer
	Kirton	Holy Communion
	Levington	Holy Communion
5th SUNDAY	BENEFICE SERVICE	Holy Communion

Appendix C. The Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

Where are we?

The Diocese covers the county of Suffolk, excluding the area around Lowestoft in the north-east, and one parish in Essex. It is a mainly rural Diocese with a large number of small villages, plus market towns including Woodbridge, Halesworth, Sudbury and Beccles and the cathedral town of Bury St Edmunds with its historic ruins of the old Abbey. Ipswich is the county town with a population of about 137,000. Suffolk's population is c 650,000. The county embraces historic places of interest such as Sutton Hoo, culture at Snape with the famous annual Aldeburgh music festival, is on the Heritage coast and is a haven for lovers of natural history and birdlife. The busy port of Felixstowe is at the end of the A14 which runs via Cambridge to the Midlands and the A12 which gives access to London and the Norfolk Broads.

Who are we?

We are often known as 'the Church of England in Suffolk'. The diocesan bishop is the Right Reverend Martin Seeley, and the suffragan bishop is the Right Reverend Dr Mike Harrison. Both work from the Bishop's House in Ipswich. They work together closely to help us shape our vision and strategy, and amongst a plethora of other tasks offer regular teaching mornings to nurture the faith of people in our congregations – and a regular Vlog which can be found on Facebook. There are 3 archdeaconries and over 450 churches where visitors will find a wide range of worshipping styles, from the traditional to contemporary, as well as Fresh Expressions and growing numbers of 'Lightwave' groups for those who haven't connected with traditional church previously. The Cathedral of St Edmund and St James in Bury St Edmunds is the mother church of the Diocese and is proactive in offering support to clergy and parishes including welcoming parishes on pilgrimage. We also work closely with our 88 Church of England primary schools. All this is, of course, supported by a small and committed diocesan staff based in the diocesan office in Ipswich.

What is our vision?

Our diocesan vision is to be 'Growing in God', aiming to grow 'flourishing congregations making a difference'. This vision was accepted by Diocesan Synod in 2014 and since then we have been focussing on four key priorities:

- Growing in Depth: responding to the call of Christ in every part of our lives
- Growing in Number: drawing the contacts we have into the life of God's kingdom
- Growing in Influence: reaching beyond ourselves in our impact on the wider world
- Growing Younger; building churches whose age-range reflects our communities

Growing in God

Parishes are encouraged to use a simple Mission Action Planning tool to help us all to focus on these priorities and how they might be worked out in each different context. We are trusting God that this vision, underpinned by a commitment to Christian stewardship, will bear fruit as we look to the future.

As part of this vision, we have recently received Strategic Development Funding for two major projects: Inspiring Ipswich, overseen by the Archdeacon of Ipswich which aims to grow the church in Ipswich through church planting and reaching out to those who live in the town, and 'Growing God in the Countryside', overseen by the Archdeacon for Rural Mission. This focusses on nurturing and discipling new Christians through small Lightwave groups and hubs such as the one being established at Bungay. (The Growing in God in the Countryside project plan is available among the documents at www.light-wave.org/vacancies)

We have also been part of a pilot scheme exploring how we can use our church buildings more creatively both for those who worship regularly and for the benefit of our communities and many churches have benefitted from this.

We are broadening our vision through a growing partnership with the Diocese of Kagera in Tanzania, with fruitful visits and links being established.

How can we fulfil our "Growing in God" vision?

We value our huge range of different ministries: we have over 100 stipendiary clergy, plus many SSM and PTO clergy as well as lay and ordained chaplains who can be found in such diverse places as schools, prisons, hospitals, hospices, the army, RAF and the police. Some clergy are ordained to serve in their local benefice through our pioneering 'auxiliary ordination pathway' which enables people's vocations to ordained ministry to be discerned within the Diocese.

All clergy work alongside lay ministers – Readers, elders, and the growing number people exercising recently introduced licensed ministries: pioneer ministers, evangelists, youth ministers and children's and family workers. Our ministry deployment principles encourage teams or clusters of lay and ordained ministers to work together so that clergy feel less isolated and ministry resources the mission of the church more effectively. We are just beginning to develop the principle of 'local ministers' in our benefices, releasing people's gifts to serve in their locality.

We are excited about these new developments which are playing an important part in our diocesan vision of Growing in God.

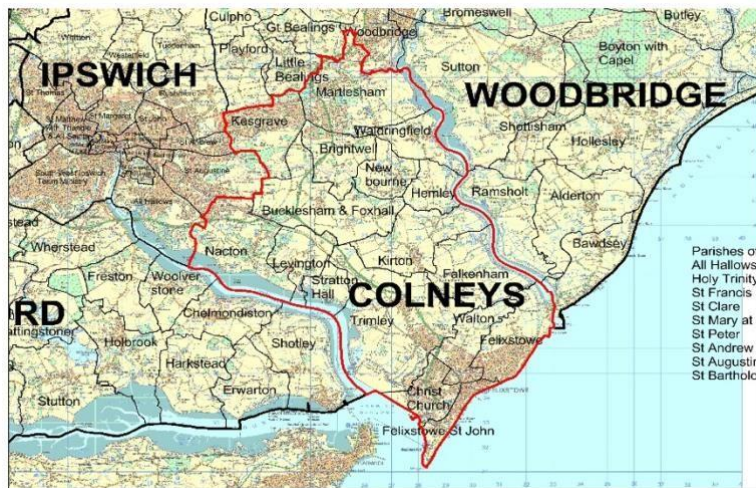
So, in summary:

As our Growing in God vision states, we aspire to be people who know that 'God is with us, gathering us as Christ-centred communities, calling us to make Christian disciples, sending us in loving service, empowering us by the Holy Spirit'.

Appendix D. Deanery of the Colneys



Colneys deanery is within the diocese of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich and lies in the extreme southeast of Suffolk, bounded by the estuaries of two rivers, the Deben on its north-east and the Orwell on its south-west. Ipswich, the County town of Suffolk, bounds the northwest; the North Sea borders Felixstowe in the southeast, and the market town of Woodbridge lies to the northeast.



It is approximately twelve miles from Felixstowe to Ipswich. Some of the deanery is rural, but there are three significant centres of population: Felixstowe, Walton and the Trimleys, Kesgrave and Martlesham. New houses are currently being built in most of these areas, which will increase the population significantly.

Led by the deanery leadership team, we support and encourage one another. We meet for chapter once a month, often over lunch, where we pray and discuss any issues and share things to celebrate. Sometimes we include other licensed ministers for social. Deanery Synod is held once a quarter, and we are keen to ensure that no parish feels alone. We discuss ways in which we can support one another.

Recently we have begun the process of creating a new deanery plan which places emphasis on how we support each other in the diocesan 'Growing in God' strategy. The aim is not just to produce another document but for it to be a workable and practical plan. As such, we have effectively started from the beginning, and all parishes are involved in building connections that will be meaningful and long-lasting.



Rev Paul Clarke, Rural Dean



God's Light Shines in Suffolk

The diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich strongly encourages all incumbents to promote the growth of small missional groups and fresh expressions of Church in their benefices. "Lightwave" has been created with a diocese-wide Bishops Mission Order in order to support clergy and lay people to work together in mission-shaped communities, reaching out in innovative ways.

The Lightwave Community meets in small groups in homes, pubs, offices, schools and other places and complements other ways of being church. The name of the community comes from the idea of lightwaves being the way in which light spreads into dark places. Lightwave is committed to shining the light of Jesus in Suffolk through acts of kindness and practical service as well as worship and witness.

Each lightwave group aims to do one activity together to bless their local community and to share faith in their locality or network. Each group receives support and training in their outreach through a growing network of coaches. Each is mainly concerned to bless people who are exploring faith for the first time, while simultaneously cooperating closely with local parish churches and others. The Lightwave Community is being developed through a Project called "Growing in God in the Countryside" funded by the Strategic Development Unit of the Church Commissioners until 2025. While both urban and rural Christians are part of this community, there is a particular focus on helping 1500 new disciples come to faith in rural areas in the period of the funding. Many Lightwave groups are planting fresh expressions of Church. The understanding is that such fresh expressions of Church will be new or different ways of being established primarily for the benefit of people who are not yet members of any church.

The Lightwave Community is developing three Rural Resourcing Churches, in different parts of Rural Suffolk to create and support the development of the small missional groups in their area and to intentionally provide sufficient critical mass for particular ministries which are currently under-represented in rural churches, for example with young adults and those in lower income brackets. Every part of the Lightwave Community has a vision for the great wave of God's love, bringing light to our county.



making Jesus visible through loving action

Loverural (launched in early 2020) – is about "making Jesus visible through loving action" in the Suffolk Countryside. It is part of the diocese's strong commitment to rural areas. Loverural has 3 strands:-

- a) Drawing attention to the enormous role of the rural Christianity in building social capital
- b) Acting as a convenor for projects and congregations in the countryside including those of different streams and denominations so that good rural practice can be shared and mutual support offered
- c) Enabling those engaged in Christian-based social action to gain confidence and wisdom in how to make exploration of the Christian faith accessible to those engaging with their initiatives

www.light-wave.org