

The Orebeck Benefice



Profile 2022

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Thank you for considering the Orebeck benefice.

The Orebeck Benefice was formed in July 2017. We are a group of seven parishes who have become really close in our worship, and prayer and in our desire to make Christ known to those whom we serve. We are praying for a new Priest-in-charge and will offer a very warm welcome.

The benefice gets its name from the parishes which form the group. The River **Ore** runs through Hacheston, Marlesford and Parham and the other parishes are **Brandeston**, **Easton**, **Campsea Ashe** and **Kettleburgh**. The parishes all lie close to the A12, to the south of Framlingham.

Whilst we are a close and cohesive group, each parish has retained its own character. We provide a wide range of services and activities for all members of the community,

- Zoom services
- Care home services in Campsea Ashe
- Weekly school services in Brandeston church, conducted by the college chaplain
- Compline services
- Seasonal Taizé services
- Occasional pet services
- Community Cafes
- Traditional and more modern services
- Christian book group and discussion group
- Holiday club
- Bell ringing across all 7 churches

Our churches are never locked, as we feel it is very important that parishioners and visitors are welcome to access their beauty and quiet at any time. Our churches offer shelter from the storms of life.

A Slice of Suffolk - Our full colour Benefice magazine starts with a letter from the Priest-in-charge, Elder, Reader or occasionally the Bishop or Archdeacon and then gives details of all the services for the month. Following on comes news from each of the seven parishes, together with general community news for the Benefice. It is available both as a printed copy and also electronically. "

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

An inspirational new Priest-in-charge who will value and build on existing initiatives while bringing their own ideas of ministry and mission. This will help us to further the Growing in God focus of the Diocese.

We need an Priest-in-charge with the ability to engage with all members of our communities while maintaining and supporting the current core of worshippers-someone with good pastoral skills who has the enthusiasm to enter into village life. We also need to ensure that – as a benefice – we can meet the financial requests made of us. The position of the church as a focal point in the community is also a priority.

Our new Priest-in-charge will be looking for the flexibility that 3 or 4 days plus Sundays (0.5/0.8) post will offer. They will need to have excellent communication skills, leadership qualities and a sense of humour, but above all, faith to inspire us. We value thought provoking teaching and preaching to help us deepen our own faith. We hope our new Priest-in-charge will build enduring relationships in the parishes, being able to drive will be essential in this..

Our vision is to work with our new minister to take Orebeck forward as a thriving Benefice.

WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO US?

We recognise the need to reach out into our villages. We believe that if we engage deeply with our communities it will both sustain our current congregations as well as welcoming more people, especially families, into the life of faith and the family of the church



WHAT DO WE OFFER?

A diverse group of parishes who work together as one without losing their individual characters. Our total congregation is far greater than the sum of its parts.

An enthusiastic, engaged and forward thinking ministry team, who with the churchwardens, have the faith and determination to ensure that the church flourishes in this rural part of East Anglia.

A real desire for you to flourish in your ministry. We appreciate the pressures and challenges of a multi parish benefice and we seek to work with you, pray for you and encourage you. Our support will help you to achieve a healthy work/life balance.

A house with all the arrangements and facilities of a parsonage will be provided and, given the availability of housing in the benefice, this task is approached with confidence by the Diocesan Property Department.

WHAT ARE WE PRAYING FOR?

The Orebeck Benefice prayer was written by our ministry team and introduced when we held our first Benefice Palm Sunday pilgrimage in 2019. It is used regularly in benefice services.

Our Orebeck Benefice Pilgrim's Prayer

is a sign of our unity in Christ and our pilgrimage together as individuals and churches

Open our hearts to your love, Father God, as we journey with you;

Renew us each day, as we dwell in your presence.

Encourage us when we feel downtrodden,

Bring us comfort when we are sad,

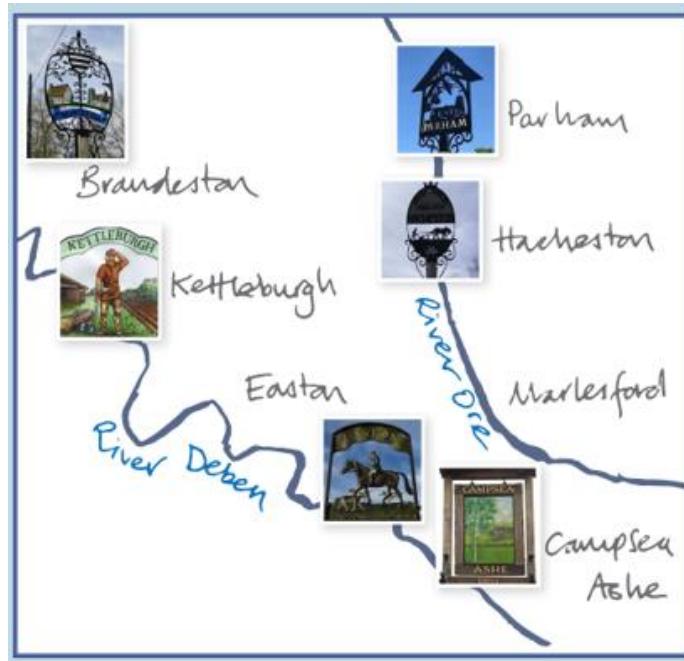
Enlighten us so that we may always be ready to serve You and

Care for others in the strength of God's love,

Kindle, we pray, all that works towards the coming of your kingdom. Amen.



WHERE ARE WE?



(drawn and copyright Jan Balwin)

Whilst in a beautiful part of rural Suffolk we have excellent links to the 'outside world'. Easy access to the A12, A14 linking us to Ipswich Colchester, Chelmsford, London, Cambridge and Bury St Edmunds. There is a regular train service from Wickham Market station (which is actually at Campsea Ashe) and this links us to Ipswich and onwards to London within about 1 1/4 hours.

For those interested in music and the arts, these are well represented in the nearby villages' rich cultural heritage but we also have Snape Maltings with its concert hall and regular art exhibitions. There are theatres in Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds as well as a number of local amateur dramatic groups and choirs.

If sport is your passion then there is Ipswich Town FC! Within the benefice parishes we have cricket, tennis, table tennis, lawn green bowls and petanque which welcome new members.

The popular seaside resorts of Aldeburgh, Thorpeness and Southwold are just a short drive away.

For families there is an excellent primary school in Easton and a prep school in Brandeston which is a feeder to Framlingham College. There is a further primary school in the nearby village of Charsfield. The state senior schools are Thomas Mills in Framlingham and Farlingaye in Woodbridge, both of which have very good reputations. There are further private school facilities for all ages at Woodbridge School.

TYPICAL SUNDAY WORSHIP AT PRESENT

Church Services for July 2022				
3rd	Trinity 3	9.30am	Benefice Holy Communion	Hacheston
10 th	Trinity 4	9.30am	Holy Communion	Brandeston
			Morning Prayer	Campsea Ashe
		11am	Morning Prayer	Easton
				Hacheston
6.30pm	Evening Prayer	Marlesford		
17 th	Trinity 5	9.30am	Zoom Morning Service	
			Holy Communion	Marlesford
		11am	Morning Prayer	Parham
24 th	Trinity 6	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Brandeston
			Campsea Ashe	
		11am	Holy Communion	Easton
		6.30pm	Evening Prayer	Kettleburgh
31st	Trinity 7	9.30am	Benefice Holy Communion	Kettleburgh

WEEKDAY SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Fridays	4.00pm	Benefice Prayers	Various locations
1st Wednesday	10.30 am	Discussion Group	Easton - various locations
Wednesdays	5.00 pm	Marlesford church (Complie)	

OCCASIONAL OFFICES

Numbers in 2021

	Brandeston	Campsea Ashe	Easton	Hacheston	Kettleburgh	Marlesford	Parham
Baptisms	3	0	0	3	0	1	2
Weddings	1	2	2	1	0	1	1
Funerals	2	3	1	1	3	0	1

(Funerals are church based figures only)

OUR MINISTRY AND PARISH TEAMS

The Orebeck Benefice has:

- 1 retired clergy, Rev Deirdre Parmenter, supporting the ministry
- 6 Lay Elders working across the parishes – Mary Baker, John Bradfield, Jackie Clark, Carol Cooke, Jane Slade, and Jane Woodbury-Eggins
- 1 Reader – Martin Crane
- 9 churchwardens (Hacheston has vacancies)
- 7 individual PCCs

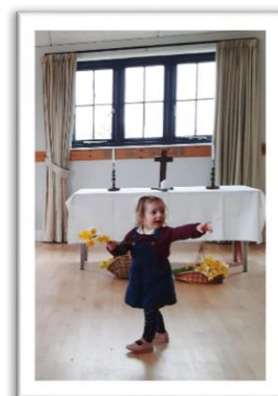


OUR PARISHES

Parish of All Saints, Brandeston

Brandeston is a small village of about 250 residents, but it is big when it comes to community action, spirit and ambition. We are fortunate to live in a village where everyone works together. The church has representatives on the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee and church members are involved in village lunches and weekly coffee mornings which are held in our excellent village hall. The fete and plant stall, both held at the pub, are our main fundraisers and reflect the cooperation in the village, with the work and the proceeds being shared between the village hall and the Church. The pub is also the venue for our village carol singing.

All Saints' holds a mixture of services each month with Common worship and BCP services as regulars on the calendar, but we are also anxious to bring in a younger element to the congregation and we achieve this by holding a range of all age worship throughout the year, such as Harvest, a well-supported Good Friday service, Christingle, and Remembrance Sunday. We are fortunate to have benefice elders and a recently appointed reader who lead these less formal services when no clergy are available. The Scouts join us for Remembrance Sunday, and Framlingham College Prep School (at Brandeston Hall) join us for Christingle. The chaplain of the school brings the pupils to church every week for a service.



Mothering Sunday in the Village Hall



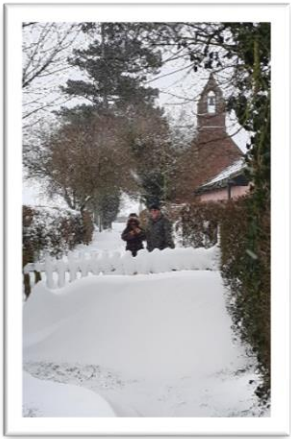
One of the highlights of the year is our holiday club, held at Brandeston Village Hall and run by elders from our benefice and from the Mid Loes benefice. We had a full house of 24 children for each of the 3 days last year and everyone had a lot of fun!

The church is well maintained by an active PCC and we are fortunate to have help with the churchyard from the school groundsmen. We are also responsible for the mortuary chapel in Mill Lane where we have a beautiful display of orchids every year. The Friends of the Chapel give us valuable support with its maintenance.



All Saints' Church

The Cemetery Chapel



Good Friday all age service

Holiday club



Benefice Mothering Sunday service in the village hall

Parish of All Saints, Easton

Our church sits in the centre of the village next to the pub and the village green and we would love it to be the central point in the lives of those living in our village.



Easton Primary school in church

We have a small group of committed people who worship regularly and participate in the tasks to keep the worship and the building running smoothly. Our PCC is small but efficient! We hope our new Priest-in-charge will be someone who can help us reach out to the wider community.

Special services such as Harvest (important to a rural parish), Christmas and Easter are more popular than the regular monthly services. (Photo below) Usually we have two services a month, one Morning Prayer (lay led) and one Holy Communion. We host the Benefice Communion on the first Sunday of the month once every seven months and in the summer we have regular monthly Taizé services (see below).

Some years ago the PCC decided to start a Sunday Cafe on the Sunday when there was no service in church. This was as outreach by the church and to support community spirit and cohesion. The cafe has been immensely successful and is picking up well after two years of suspension during the pandemic. (Photo below)

Three times a year Easton primary school comes into the church for a service at Easter, Harvest and Christmas. It is a joy to have a full church with lots of enthusiastic and tuneful singing from the children. One of the ministry team does the thanks, prayers and blessing at the end of the service. (Photo below)

For four or five months in the summer Easton church is the venue for a Taizé service in conjunction with Mid Loes benefice. This takes place in the late afternoon and attracts people from across the deanery. Revd. Wendy Gourlay, a retired Priest, prepares the service and it involves a number of readers, musicians and singers.

For many years we had an active children's church meeting during the Communion service on a Sunday. The Cosmic (Children On Sunday Morning In Church) Club was a delight but the children have grown up and find other things to do on a Sunday! However, two members of the ministry team visit Easton primary school to do reflective storytelling to give the children an opportunity to learn Bible stories. This had to be suspended during the pandemic.

Our fundraising events, especially the May Fair on the village green, and the Open Gardens and Christmas Fayre are a great help with raising funds and provide an opportunity for all the Easton community to come together. (Photo) Like all small churches, Easton has financial challenges and at present is paying most of the Parish Share from reserves.



Photos: Harvest parable of the sower, Fun at the May Fair and Easton Sunday Cafe

Parish of All Saints, Hacheston



Since Saxon times a church has stood on this spot beside the B1116, on the busy road to Framlingham. Although there have been many changes to the fabric and worshipping practice we still offer a place of peace and tranquillity to anyone who wishes to come in. There are approximately 180 homes in the village, which also has a popular garden centre and café and 2 very useful garages. Our hosting of broadband equipment on the tower has been helpful for community outreach and a valuable source of revenue for the church. It enabled us to start our own website and provide modern QR codes which are placed around the church on interesting artefacts. We pride

ourselves in keeping All Saints unlocked at all times. The local community has supported our endeavours to maintain the fabric wholeheartedly and, although our regular worshippers are few, the church is much loved and used for local baptisms, weddings and funerals.

A small team of volunteers maintains the churchyard which has large areas which are left to “wild” which is fast becoming a haven for birds, insects and visiting mammals. Luckily our local bats seem to prefer an old oak tree rather than roosting inside the church. Recently one of our elders had to rescue a swarm of bees! Other volunteers include 2 teenagers who, for their Duke of Edinburgh award scheme, have joined the rota to clean, prepare and generally help.

We are able to use our modern and well-appointed village hall cost free for informal services, for outreach workshops and for provision of refreshments at other village activities. Here are a very proud bunch of children exhibiting their Christmas candle arrangements in 2021. Other outreach activities in recent times include providing a venue in the church for some musical concerts both religious and ecumenical which we hope to continue.



Our Benefice pattern of worship has allowed us to offer a short monthly midweek communion which is well attended as well as our 2 regular monthly Sunday services. The final stage of the Palm Sunday services in 2021 saw the Benefice coming together at All Saints. We are also blessed with a small band of bell ringers.

Our biggest challenge is the diminishing and aging congregation and we hope our new Priest will help us look to the future with hope, and think about how we can attract new and younger people into the life of faith and into the church.



Parish of St Andrew, Marlesford

We are the venue for a variety of community events – regular concerts, the monthly cake sale and art and history exhibitions.

The Church in Marlesford is small but alive with enthusiasm and enjoy playing our part in the life of the Orebeck benefice.



We have an international heroine to celebrate – Flora Sandes – the only British woman to have fought in the front line during WWI. Visitors come to our church from around the world to pay their respects to her, and recently Scottish TV filmed her story as one of the features in BBC's Antiques Road trip in 2020.



Our Christmas Eve service is very well supported by our local community and is a great social occasion with mulled wine and mince pies for all, plus a small gift for the children.



Our pet service is always popular, and the last time, pre-Covid, that we held it, we were able to use the Rectory garden. On another occasion when work was taking place at church we held our Mothering Sunday service in our village hall, following it with afternoon tea.

The “Here But Not Here” figures that we were lucky enough to receive when we applied, are a poignant reminder of the eight men we lost in WWI, and, during Covid, we used them to represent our missing congregation when the church was locked.

Three years ago we had our defunct heating system replaced by under seat heating, and our congregations value the warmth it gives. In addition, we have created a space for wheelchair users in the centre of the church. We have an excellent Churchyard plan and group of volunteers who care for it and we have been advised by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust with regard to bio diversity.

Our seven strong PCC is forward looking and we welcome new ideas and are very effective fundraisers, even during difficult times. Our monthly cake sale not only raises funds but gives people a chance to meet and chat, as does the Soup’nScone



lunch we hold in the village hall during the winter months. We are praying for a new Priest to come and walk with us.



The Parish of St. Mary The Virgin, Parham

Set in a picturesque part of the county the Church is a central part of the community, the structure of the building is sound and in generally good order (including an efficient heating system).

Services are normally held twice a month with occasional benefice services, perhaps three or four times per year. The congregation here tend to favour BCP which is reflected in that we hold morning prayer most months.

The congregation though small has increased in recent years and in spite of the pandemic numbers have remained steady. We do attract larger numbers at the main festivals Christmas, Easter, Harvest Festival and Remembrance Sunday and any special service for instance the Her Majesty's Jubilee. Our relations with the village are good and whilst many of the villagers are very occasional visitors to Church this engenders general goodwill. Our outreach is by our coffee mornings not possible during the periods of lockdown but successfully restarted earlier this year and was well attended and others will follow during the course of the year.

Various members of the congregation keep in touch with our community especially the vulnerable older residents some of whom we visit on a regular basis.

Going forward there is a new estate being built at this time and as people move in they will be welcomed and given details of the various local services that are available and encouraged to visit our Church.

We look forward to our new Priest being appointed they will be welcomed with joy and supported by all of the congregations of our benefice.



Parish of St John the Baptist Campsea Ashe

Campsea Ashe is the one parish in the Orebeck Benefice that lies east of the A12, 5 miles north of Woodbridge. The 2011 census recorded a population of 375 living in 150 dwellings of which 58% were owner-occupied, 23% were privately rented and 19% were social or council housing. 57% of households had dependent children, 60% of the population was of working age and 22% had long-term health problems or disabilities. In the last 10 years approximately 33 new homes have been built, bringing the population to 375.

The village has a shop, pub, auction centre, village hall with recreation ground and a railway station (on the East Suffolk line with hourly services between Lowestoft and Ipswich, and on to London). The Station House Community hub has a café and information centre, with rooms for hire (www.stationhousecampseaashe.co.uk). We have no schools. Younger children attend primary schools in Eyke, Rendlesham or Wickham Market (3 miles away); young people attend secondary schools in Woodbridge or Framlingham (5 miles away).



The 14th Century Parish Church of St. John the Baptist, lies at the east end of the village. Church and village history have been researched by the village Heritage Group who maintain an exhibition in the church building. Details can be found at www.campseaashechurch.org.uk

The church, which is never locked, has a C15th floor brass of a Priest, C14th armorial shields and a fine east window dedicated to William and Alice Lowther. Their son, the 1st Lord Ullswater, was Speaker of the House of Commons from 1905 to 1921.

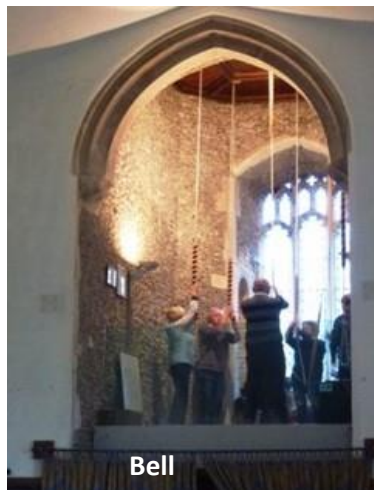
Thanks to a great deal of fund raising and a Lottery grant, a project to restore and augment the bells was undertaken between 2007 and 2010. We now have a beautiful glass-fronted ringing chamber and a ring of six bells. It is encouraging that within the benefice there is plenty of enthusiasm for bell ringing and several young people have been trained to ring. We have regular practices on Saturday mornings, ending with a coffee at the Station House.

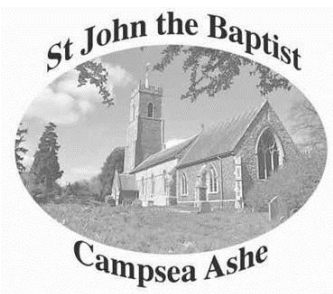
Being such an ancient church, the fabric sometimes needs care and attention and we are currently facing a bill of £80,000 for repairs to the tower, of which £35,000 has been raised through grants, donations from individuals and businesses, and pre-pandemic fund-raising events. We would also like to improve heating, remove a small number of pews and move the font in order to create a flexible space for small group meetings, And we long for a small kitchen area and toilet facilities!



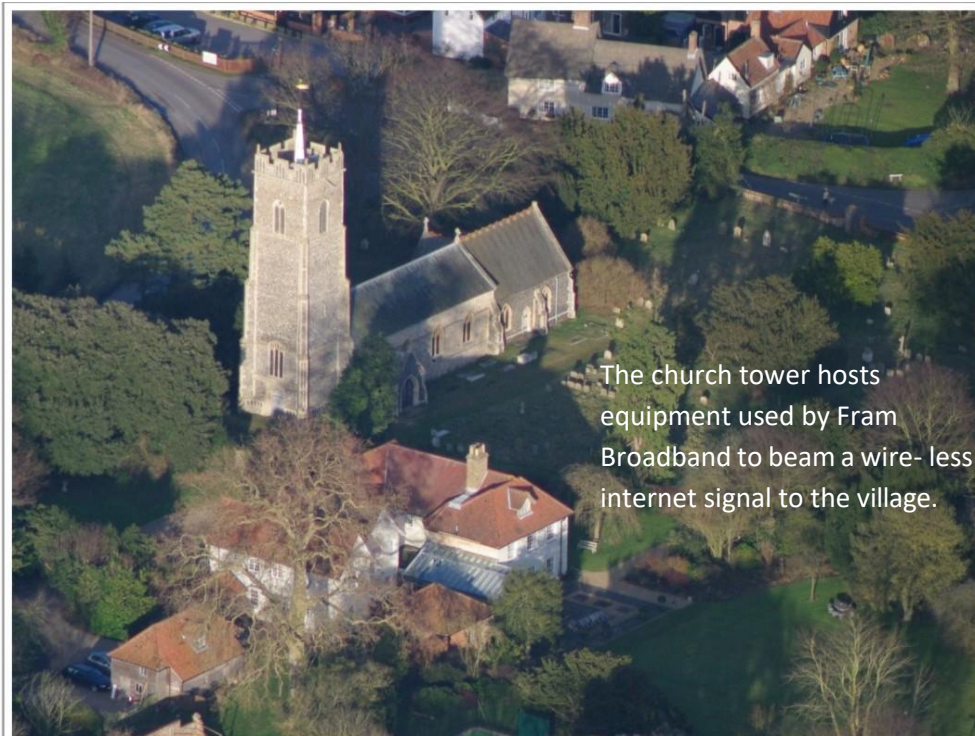
We currently have a monthly service of Holy Communion, and a monthly Service of the Word taken by a Lay Elder, plus a combined benefice Eucharist when it is our turn on the rota. We have an average congregation of around 12 for ordinary services, including a few staff and residents from the Allonsfield home for the elderly who join us when they can. Special services, and occasional choral concerts are well attended. There were 36 at the Remembrance service and 45 at Christmas.

Before the pandemic, monthly family-friendly services were held at the Station House and, post lockdown, monthly outreach services have resumed at Allonsfield care home.





We have a beautiful church building set in peaceful countryside but we are conscious that the Church consists of people not property and we seek to build relationships in order to encourage and support one another, not just on Sundays but throughout the week.

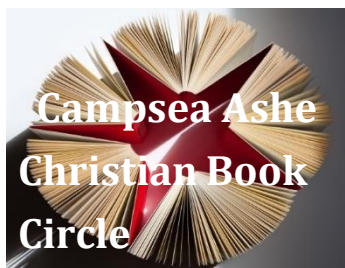


The church tower hosts equipment used by Fram Broadband to beam a wireless internet signal to the village.

Although we are small in number we are also an outward-looking congregation who believe that engagement with the village population is important in order to forge friendships, serve the community and act as salt and light where we live.

A monthly service is conducted at Allonsfield residential home for the elderly and some of our members have established a weekly knitting club and help to run the Station House Community hub.

Members have also started a Christian Book Circle which meets fortnightly in the Station House. This discussion group is ecumenical in that it attracts participants from Roman Catholic, Anglican, Methodist and Baptist backgrounds. We are currently reading and discussing a new collection of writings on the challenges of the Sermon on the Mount.



Churchyard Biodiversity: Volunteers raking off the late summer mow in order to maintain low soil fertility, conducive to wild flower, insect and bird diversity. We hope to continue species surveys in future years in order to monitor biodiversity trends.

We are aware that creation-care and people-care go hand in hand and several of us are involved in a wildlife-friendly village initiative that seeks to improve biodiversity in village gardens and establish a community food garden and nature reserve on village open spaces, engaging young and old in sharing knowledge, skills and enthusiasm for nature-friendly gardening. This group helps to look after the churchyard which is managed under the guidance of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust.

Late 20th century churchyard surveys recorded 73 species of fungi, 26 species of moss and 92 species of flowering plants. 3 species of bat roost in the church.

Parish of St Andrew, Kettleburgh

We are here to worship God and to nurture believers in Jesus Christ and to serve the community.



The village of Kettleburgh is situated to the North West of the Orebeck Benefice in the Deben valley. The community has a good mix of age ranges and there are just over 100 dwellings - these are a mix of mainly privately owned (around 80%), social housing (around 18%) and farms (2%). As well as St Andrew's church, we have a newly refurbished pub, a village hall and a village green. Our many village activities centre around these places – the village hall is used for many local meetings and events, including monthly coffee mornings, quiz nights, thriving Beavers, Cubs and Scout groups, and an annual pantomime, as well as fundraising activities to support the hall, the green and the church. The Chequer's Pub garden, which runs down to the river, is an ideal location for our annual village fete.

St Andrew's Church is grade 1 listed and situated towards the north of the village. It is always open. It has a capacity for seating around 80 people. The building is well maintained and has efficient under pew and overhead heaters making it the warmest church in the Benefice. The churchyard is maintained by a community working party. Recently, the rear of the church has been re-ordered to make a more flexible and accessible worship and social space at the West end of the nave. A long term aim is to provide toilet and kitchen facilities. The entrance to the church has been recently enhanced with new oak doors, given in memory of a parishioner. The tower has a peal of 6 bells which are regularly rung for services and often by visiting bellringers.

The age profile of regular worshippers is definitely at the older end of the spectrum. Our Harvest Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve candlelit carol services are especially well attended. We have a PCC of 6 members, one churchwarden, one deputy churchwarden and one lay elder.

Financially, we have been able to pay our portion of the Parish Share in full for the last few years. Outreach to the local community is supported by a Parish Magazine, which will shortly be benefice wide under our current editor. We would like to forge stronger links with the Scout group that meets in our village hall, in order to 'Grow Younger'. The recent pandemic has curtailed use of the building, but the recent re-ordering will enable a more flexible use of the church building, with the hope that we may 'Grow in Influence' and 'Grow in Number'.

FINANCE

All of our churches pay Priests' expenses in full. We have worked to introduce new ways of giving including contactless and we have made progress in maintaining a planned and structured progression towards paying our Parish Share (See role description for figures). We would hope a new Priest-in-charge would continue to help us to continue to look at stewardship from a grateful heart.

POPULATION

Brandeston	Campsea Ashe	Easton	Hacheston	Kettleburgh	Marlesford	Parham
300	375	230	300	200	220	300
280 (at the prep school)		54				

DEANERY OF LOES

Loes is a rural deanery situated in a beautiful part of the Suffolk countryside. Here, small rivers start and head towards the nearby sea, with lovely villages and gently rolling countryside. There are good schools, teashops and pubs! What's not to like?

There are three larger population centres, Debenham, Framlingham and Wickham Market, with the rest being small villages. There is a total population of about 15,000 people across the deanery. Rural communities are varied and socially diverse.

As a deanery our clergy have a strong and supportive chapter and, after a number of new appointments, now have a new senior leadership team in place to help us focus on how we can collaborate and support each other across the 32 churches that make up the Loes deanery. We are looking forward to welcoming a new colleague to work with us in Orbeck as we seek to further our engagement with the developing Diocesan strategy of Growing in God.

Chris Davey, Priest in Charge of Framlingham and Rural Dean
Framlingham Rectory,
Framlingham
Woodbridge
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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

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.

Growing in God

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’.

We hope you will come and join us on our journey!



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 (to be 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

**WE ARE EXCITED AND LOOKING FORWARD
TO WELCOMING AND WORKING WITH YOU**