



CHRIST CHURCH
MORETON HALL



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Minister &
Archdeaconry Mission Enabler

PARISH PROFILE

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“A FRIENDLY AND WELCOMING CHURCH”

We are Christ Church Moreton Hall, a modern, lively, evangelical church based around sound biblical teaching and with an ecumenical background – we’ve just celebrated 40 years!

It is our aim to share the love of Christ with everyone and we cater for a diverse range of ages from the very young to those who are, shall we say, more mature in years!

Our modern parish church is based in the heart of Moreton Hall Estate in Bury St Edmunds and is next to the main hub of local facilities and serves a fast-expanding area, around 6,000 homes and over 14,000 people along with modern business and facilities expansion – and with more on the way, it’s the place of growth in Bury St Edmunds.



WE'D LIKE TO GIVE YOU A QUICK VIEW OF THE OPPORTUNITY

This exciting position we are offering is due to the recent retirement of our longstanding Minister and is based upon Spirit led growth over the years.

It's a role that will enable someone new to come in and not only build on the existing vision and activities, but we trust will bring enthusiasm, leadership and with the Lord's leading, develop new ways forward with our Spirit led PCC and congregation.

All this whilst focussing on the needs and opportunities of a modern and developing parish with a fantastic opportunity to further bring Christ into our community, schools and businesses.

At present, we're not able to be totally self-funding so this unique opportunity has been provided to work part of the week as the Minister of CCMH (2½ weekdays and Sundays) and the remaining time as an Archdeaconry Mission enabler.

Therefore, providing a full-time position based at Christ Church.

With half the week available to CCMH, the PCC and church members are totally committed in supporting this arrangement to work effectively. We have shown during our recent interregnum that there are many varied skills and talents that can support a new Minister in this position to be effective in his/her ministry in the parish.

(More detail of the Mission Enabler role and requirements are available separately.)



WHAT WOULD ANYONE JOINING US EXPECT TO FIND?

A warm welcome from us all!

Fully committed and hardworking collaborating ministers, PCC and volunteers from the congregation supporting solid initiatives.

A modern detached church building with high quality facilities to match.

A community church in the heart of an expanding and lively parish with a family biased population.

Plenty of opportunity for local mission to further develop church attendance.

Worship being important to us with a mix of both formal and informal services.

The church being an effective witness to the estate.

As an Ecumenical church we invite those of all Christian traditions who believe in the doctrine of the Trinity to share in our ministry and mission, worship with us and take part in our decision making.

We have strong links to our three local schools and support the excellent work of BCY (Bury Christian Youth) in their work there.



WHAT ARE THE ATTRIBUTES A NEW LEADER MIGHT HAVE THAT WOULD SUIT OUR PARISH?

A Bible based evangelical approach to faith, worship and the church's relationship with God.

Be an excellent leader and communicator but also a good and sensitive delegator.

Have an ability to recruit, train, inspire, support pastorally and coordinate a team of volunteers for each of our key church groups.

Demonstrate a passion for engaging children, young people and families into the church maintaining existing connections with families and building up new connections.

Previous involvement with local schools & communities.

A willingness to engage in a mix of worship and praise within our regular services.

An awareness to explore the needs of the local community and identify new opportunities for the church to be involved.

Providing an impetus for financial growth to enable solid development to be sustained in the long term.

Whilst we might not expect you to have all these, we see them as a foundation for CCMH moving forward with the Lord.





OUR VISION AND VALUES

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Christ Church Moreton Hall is a Christian Church that welcomes all people.

Knowing the love and compassion of Jesus Christ, we want to serve our community.

We respond to God by learning to love Him through:

Relevant worship

Meaningful ministry

Genuine fellowship

Biblical teaching

Effective evangelism.

Everyone is welcome, whoever they are and wherever they're from.

ECUMENICAL

As previously mentioned, we have an ecumenical background.

We were founded by several of the Christian denominations in Bury St. Edmunds in 1985. Over the years we have developed into a Church of England parish where every Christian is able to worship and serve Christ regardless of denominational background.

We have a Declaration of Ecumenical Welcome and Commitment which gives more background information about Christ Church Moreton Hall and can be found in Appendix 1.

A Short History of the Parish

Christ Church Moreton Hall was planted by a single group of Christians from different denominations at the instigation of the Council of Churches for Bury St Edmunds, with the consent of the vicar of St Mary's.

It has always been envisaged that Christ Church Moreton Hall would be a single body working ecumenically in the clearly defined mission area of Moreton Hall estate. Moreton Hall estate was designated a mission area by both Diocese and Churches Together in Bury St Edmunds and District and recognised as such by Churches Together in Suffolk.

Although a distinct area, Moreton Hall is very much an integral part of the historic town of Bury St Edmunds. The Borough designated Moreton Hall to be a new community and it is developing new community resources there. The concept of being a new mission church is a powerful and unifying feature in the character and self-understanding of the church members.



OUR CHURCH BUILDING

Our church has lots of facilities which are well used and supported.

The church and its facilities are based on two storeys and include a large main church hall, a smaller hall, a prayer room, a creche, a church office, kitchen, toilets (including disabled and baby changing facilities). For adult baptisms, we have a baptistry under the main stage.

The site also has other meeting rooms which includes a fitted-out office facility for single hot desk working, which is currently rented out and we have plenty of storage areas.

Many activities take place during the week as the building is used regularly for Christian activities but also for other regular activities such as dementia support, parents & toddlers, AA, breakfast meetings, fitness classes, local orchestra rehearsals to name just a few and so is seen as an important focal point for the general local community. It is also a drop off point for food bank donations.



WHERE ARE WE LOCATED?

Bury St Edmunds is a historic market town in the heart of East Anglia, with a growing population of nearly 42,000. It has a fascinating heritage, and the town centre is a vibrant mix of medieval and Georgian architecture, with Victorian and 20th century additions.

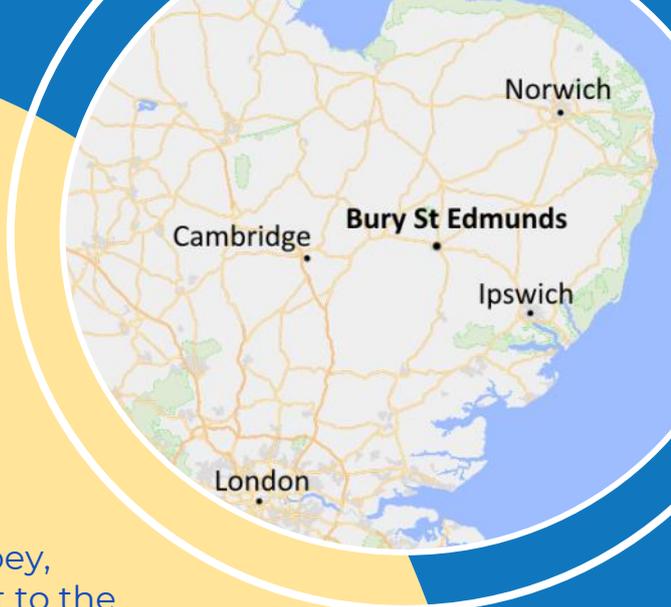
The town was built around a vast Benedictine Abbey, whose ruins lie within the public gardens adjacent to the Cathedral & St Mary's Church. It was founded on an ancient Christian settlement and became an international centre for pilgrimage in the Middle Ages, centred around St Edmund, former king of East Anglia, martyred for his faith.

Bury has a good range of shops, as well as many small independent retailers and a thriving market. There is a wide variety of restaurants in the town, as well as pubs serving beers from the Greene King brewery which is in the centre of the town. The Theatre Royal dates from 1819 and is the only surviving Regency playhouse in Britain.

There are a good number of excellent schools in the town, both state and in the private sector. The thriving college of Further Education is now part of the University of Suffolk.

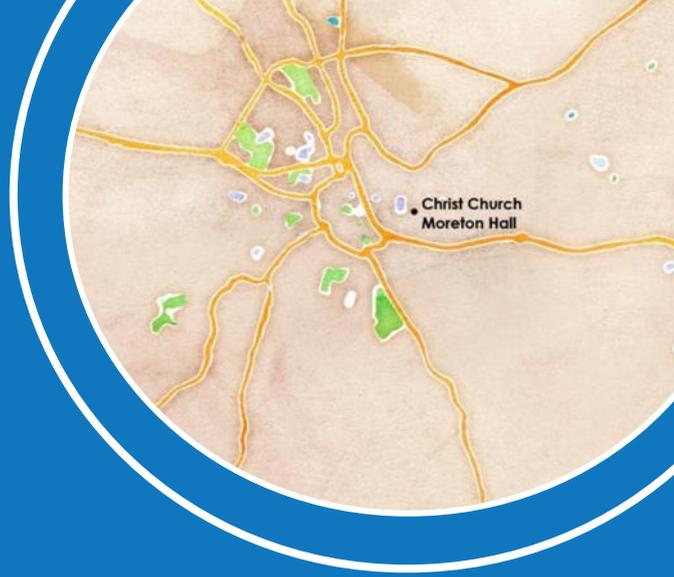
Situated midway between Cambridge and Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds has good road links to London (under 2 hours), Stansted Airport, the east coast, and the Midlands. Train services to London, the Midlands or the North are good. Bury also has good bus/coach links to other parts of the country. Despite this, the character of the town remains rural: we are surrounded by beautiful countryside and well-used footpaths.

There are a diverse range of businesses and employers spread throughout the town which has a low level of unemployment. The town has a leisure centres with swimming pools, as well as numerous other fitness centres and sports facilities. It has a large, busy hospital with a hospice on site and a wide range of GP services. There are several residential care homes as well as sheltered accommodation.



OUR PARISH LOCATION

Christ Church Moreton Hall,
Lawson Place,
Bury St Edmunds,
Suffolk, IP32 7EW.



We're about a mile and a half from the centre of Bury St Edmunds and the Parish of Christ Church covers the Moreton Hall estate, from the A14 to the west and south, to Barton Road and the railway line to the north, and Sow Lane to the east.



WHERE WILL YOU LIVE? AND WHAT'S THE ACCOMMODATION LIKE?

The vicarage, positioned within 200m of the church, is situated in a quiet residential road near to all local amenities. There are supermarkets, a pub, coffee shop, dentist, medical surgery with pharmacy, butcher, and an essential 'take away' to name a few, all within an easy strolling distance of the vicarage.

The house is well suited to a family with both primary and secondary schools close by.

It's a modern 1980's building. It is centrally heated with 4 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, utility room and downstairs cloakroom. All utility services are connected.

There is a room at the front of the house used as an office with access that does not require entering the family area.

There is a garage attached and gardens to the front and the rear which are mainly laid to lawn with borders.



CURRENT CHURCH SERVICES

8.30am Communion Service

Once per month, generally a more formal service which doesn't include a musical element.

10.30am Morning Worship

This is a mixture of Family Services, Morning Worship, Holy Communion, Free Church Communion, and sometimes a specific themed service e.g. mission. We always have a creche available and activities for children.

This service is also broadcast 'livestream' and can be accessed live or later online through our comprehensive website .

6.30pm Evening Service

Generally once per month, a more informal service with music and an emphasis on prayer and praise.

Attendance

The number of people on our electoral roll is 82. Average attendance at the morning service is 55.

Music

We have a regular worship group which plays mainly at the 10.30am services and includes pianist, singers and other instruments such bass, guitar and sax (we're awaiting someone to play our drum kit!).

Our music is based around the full suite of 'Songs of Fellowship' songs and hymns, but we also include songs from other Christian influences.



RESOURCES

We currently have the following key roles underpinning the running of our church:

- A Self Supporting Minister and several ecumenical voluntary leaders who preach and help lead our services.
- Churchwarden.
- Treasurer.
- Full PCC.
- Youth leaders.
- Parish office with part time volunteer administrator.
- Safeguarding Officer.
- Bookings and Hiring Officer.
- Parish Nurse.
- Worship committee.



CHRIST CHURCH MORETON HALL

 DAVID CARPENTER ACTING MINISTER	 LESLEY WILLIAMS PARISH NURSE	 GRAHAM UNSWORTH CHURCHWARDEN
 JONATHAN COWLIN TREASURER	 HEATHER LOVELL SAFEGUARDING OFFICER	 ELAINE CARPENTER EPWORTH COUNCIL # CHURCH OFFICE
 CLAIRE JOHNSTON CHURCH COUNCIL	 ADRIAN LOMAS CHURCH COUNCIL	 TIANA WORLOCK CHURCH COUNCIL
 KATIE GILL CHURCH COUNCIL	 MARGERITA BUTLER CHURCH COUNCIL	 SAM EDD COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

INFORMATION

WEBSITE: www.ccmh.org.uk
 EMAIL: enquiries@ccmh.org.uk
 PHONE: 0284 725301
 FACEBOOK: fb.com/christchurchmoretonhall
 INSTAGRAM: instagr.am/christchurchmoretonhall
 TWITTER: twitter.com/ccmh

CHILDRENS WORK

STAY & PLAY BABY & TODDLER GROUP
 Fortnightly 11.15am - 10.30am. See Margaret Beale
 KIDS CHURCH, Craft, Games, Bible stories & Songs
 Third Sunday of month. Ages 5-10. See Vicky Thomas
 SUNDAY SCHOOL
 Second Sunday of month, 10.30am. See Carol Hibbard
 YOUTH CLUB. Ages 11-15. Food & Games.
 Fortnightly Sundays, 4pm. See Anne Lomas

ALPHA COURSE

Introductory course to Christianity, for a
 conversation about faith, life & God.
 See Selma Dornbusch

PRAYER MEETING

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS 7.30pm
 See David Mathers

HOMEGROUPS

TUESDAY MORNINGS at CHURCH
 Fortnightly. See Gill Shaw
 TUESDAY EVENINGS at RAEDWALD DRIVE
 Fortnightly. See David Mathers
 THURSDAY EVENINGS at CHURCH
 Weekly. See Graham Unsworth
 THURSDAY EVENINGS at APPLEDOWN DRIVE
 Fortnightly. See Adrian Lomas

LADIES GROUP

MEETS MONTHLY
 Saturday Breakfast or Wednesday Afternoon Tea.
 See Trish Robillard or Gill Shaw

MENS GROUP

FORTNIGHTLY, TUESDAY EVENINGS
 See Nigel Richardson or Javed May

POSITIVE STEPS

Exercise class for the elderly
 Thursdays at 11.15am.
 See Parish Nurse Lesley

DECAF

Support Café for those with dementia & their carers
 Thursdays at 10am.
 See Catherine Ridgepell or Parish Nurse Lesley

COFFEE CLUB

Coffee, cake and chat!
 Every Third Tuesday of the month, 10am.
 See Ross Lilly

PARISH FINANCE

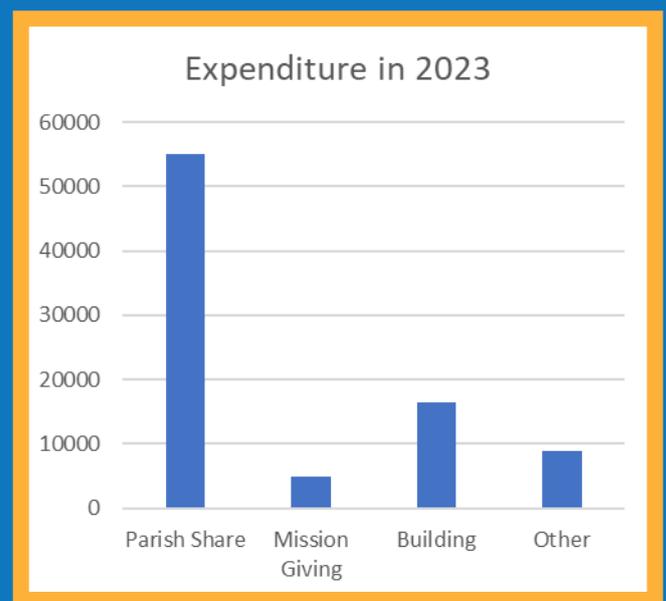
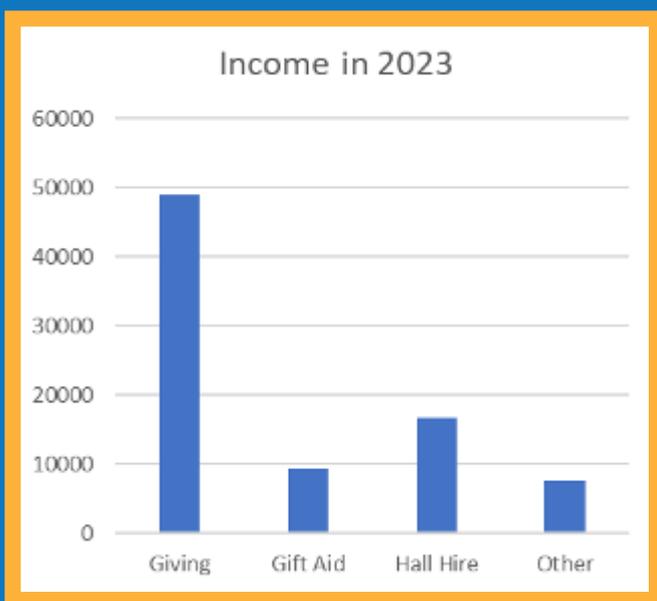
The Parish operates a balanced budget and importantly continues to support local, national and international causes through a 'Blessings fund'.

We have reserves to cover maintenance work and 6 months expenditure.

42 members of our church give regularly by standing order.

We have income from regular hall hire bookings from 12 groups.

Our Parish share payments in 2023 were £55,000, and our payments have increased by £5,000 a year over the past 3 years.



REGULAR CHRISTIAN ACTIVITIES

Other Christian activities take place on a regular basis during the week such as teenage and young people's groups (see below), prayer meetings (weekly prayer meetings are currently via Zoom), house groups, separate Ladies and Men's groups undertaking various social activities including breakfasts and afternoon teas.



Young People's Work

Our committed leaders run: -

All age family services monthly based on the topics suggested by the rota, it is interactive and age appropriate.



A "Kid's church" is held once a month for 0-12 years similar to 'messy church' which explores big events in the Christian calendar.

We also have a large Parents & Toddlers 'Stay and Play' that takes place every other Friday.

Other events have taken place in the past including after school club, youth summer camp, holiday club and seasonal celebration events.



Bible Studies & Home Group Meetings

At Christ Church Moreton Hall we are committed to genuine Christian discipleship, and this takes place in our home groups as well as in our public worship and our daily lives.

Alpha Courses

These take place normally twice a year both in person and online.

SAFEGUARDING

We have voluntary Safeguarding Officers for the church who are responsible for ensuring we adhere to the correct policies and procedures to protect all relevant people within CCMH.

Christ Church Moreton Hall fully endorses the safeguarding policies of the Church of England regarding children and vulnerable adults. Our PCC has adopted the House of Bishops' "Promoting a Safer Church" document and created a policy statement with this as a foundation.

PARISH NURSE

Jesus said he had come to give people life in all its fullness – and that's what parish nursing is all about.

The Parish Nurse provides a confidential service to support the whole person, and is a way of adding to whatever is offered by health services. The Parish Nurse works 2 days a week and may pray with the person assisting in their health care. A Parish Nurse doesn't implement invasive treatments but supports Christ Church Moreton Hall's mission in the community.

We are fortunate to have a Parish Nurse who had an exceptional nursing career before retiring from the NHS.

COMMUNICATIONS

Website

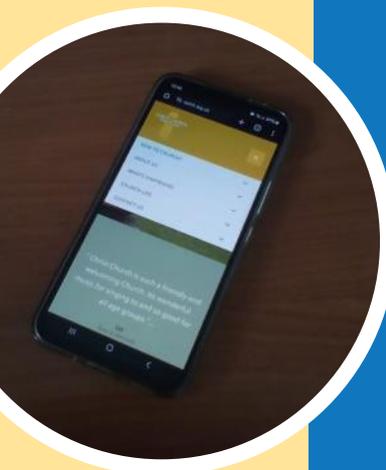
We operate a fully interactive website which is regularly updated by our web team. It includes upcoming services, meetings, general information of interest, contacts and other useful information relating to the church and its activities. We also have an active facebook page which hosts our livestreamed services. <https://www.ccmh.org.uk/>

Parish Newsletter

In addition to the Website a Newsletter is published monthly which contains a more detailed view of the Services and activities taking place and is circulated by email.

Community Magazine

Each month we contribute an article and event calendar to our local community magazine which is distributed to all on the Moreton Hall housing estate.



THE LOCAL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

THINGOE DEANERY

Situated in the West of the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, Thingoe Deanery encompasses the parishes found both within and around the Cathedral town of Bury St Edmunds. As such our deanery mirrors the diocese in offering a wonderful mix of both urban and rural life and ministry.

Bury St Edmunds itself is a historic market town with a range of shops, businesses, schools, and housing and there are many new and growing housing estates in and around the town, offering the various challenges and opportunities that new populations present to both the church and others alike.

Equally many of our parishes are based around villages found in the beautiful countryside of Suffolk, with the joys and other issues that such smaller communities bring.

As a deanery we have a good and supportive chapter made up of both incumbents and ministers engaged in chaplaincies located in Bury St Edmunds and the surrounding area. We meet every other month, to offer mutual support and a listening ear to one another. At least twice a year we gather for purely social reasons.

Deanery Synod meets three times a year and is well attended. As well as engaging in discussion of issues of import in the life of the church in the deanery and beyond, synod members hear from a variety of speakers invited by our Deanery Officers to offer insight into mission and social action in our region. In recent times this has included such topics as local chaplaincy, help for those who are sleeping rough and safeguarding.

The Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee has just begun to meet again in a new form to discuss the Deanery Plan and its further development as we continue to engage with the Diocesan Missional Strategy of Growing in God.

Our aim is to discern together where God is leading us as his people in Thingoe Deanery.

We very much look forward to welcoming you to our deanery to join us as we seek to learn more of God and His plans for growth of the kingdom here in our delightful part of Suffolk.

Revd Dr Andrew Miller Rural Dean

Canon Michael Wilde Acting Deanery Lay Chair



APPENDIX 1

DECLARATION OF ECUMENICAL WELCOME AND COMMITMENT BY A CHURCH OF ENGLAND PARISH

FULL DOCUMENT

The [full document](#) containing all the annexes* can be downloaded from the website of Christ Church Moreton Hall.

**History, Property, Ecumenical Commitment, Worship, Mission and Service, Mission Statement, Representation, Local Ecumenical & Pastoral Support, Appointment of Incumbent.*

INTRODUCTION

In September 1992 a Declaration of Ecumenical Commitment was signed by the Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, the Provost of St Edmundsbury Cathedral and the Vicar of St Mary's, Bury St Edmunds. It was replaced in 1996 by a second Declaration of Ecumenical Commitment that brought to completion the ecumenical and local processes outlined in the former declaration. It was signed by the General Superintendent of the Eastern Area of the Baptist Union, the Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, the Chairman of the East Anglia District of the Methodist Church, Divisional Commander of the Eastern Area of the Salvation Army and the Moderator of the Eastern Province of the United Reformed Church. It was stated that the "agreement will be reviewed on or before seven years from the date of signing (i.e. on or before 31st December 2003)". This new Declaration of Ecumenical Welcome and Commitment is the outcome of the review in 2004 and subsequent reviews. It is based on the Declaration agreed by the House of Bishops "when the Anglican Church is the only Church in the village".



DECLARATION OF ECUMENICAL WELCOME AND COMMITMENT

We, the Minister and people of Christ Church Moreton Hall invite all the Christians of Moreton Hall to be as fully a part of our life and fellowship as they are able.

We invite those of all Christian traditions who believe in the doctrine of the Trinity in so far as their own church allows: •

- To share in the ministry and mission of the church in this community
- To worship and, if baptized and communicant members of other churches, to receive Holy Communion at Christ Church
- To be part of the decision-making of the church and to contribute to a common fund for the mission and ministry of the wider church in so far as their continued giving to another church will allow

We undertake:

- To give pastoral care to everyone within the parish who desires it
- To invite ministers of other churches whose tradition permits to take part in leading worship
- To incorporate the riches of worship of other traditions as appropriate
- To share with neighbouring churches concerning the mission of the church on Moreton Hall
- To include this ecumenical declaration as an integral part of the parish profile

Following the decision made by Churches Together in Suffolk that such declarations may be made in the area which they serve, we have sought and followed their advice as to which churches should first be consulted, and those mentioned below have given us their blessing and encouragement.

Date: 11 October 2018

Signatories: *The Minister & Churchwardens of Christ Church Moreton Hall, Regional Denominational Leaders for Churches Together in Suffolk, Church Leaders in Bury St Edmunds, the Chair of Churches Together in Bury St Edmunds and District, and the Chair of Christ Church Moreton Hall Support Group.*

