



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

**Diocese of St Edmundsbury  
and Ipswich**

# MISSION-FOCUSSED TEAM VICAR WILFORD BENEFICE, SUFFOLK



## INDEX

1. Welcome and Introduction	page 2
2. The Opportunity	page 3
3. The Situation	page 4
4. Your Colleagues	page 7
5. The Wilford Benefice	page 8
6. Benefice Map	page 9
7. Deanery of Woodbridge	page 10
8. Accommodation	page 11
9. Lightwave	page 12
10. The Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich	page 13

**Growing in God**

FEBRUARY 20, 2022  
DEANERY OF WOODBRIDGE  
Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

# 1. Welcome and Introduction

Thank you for considering this post of Team Vicar in the Wilford team, based in Hollesley. This is a newly shaped role with a real focus on mission and outreach in our communities. We know it will mean changes to some of our more traditional ways of doing things but read on and feel our excitement at the possibilities and opportunities this role offers as we shape and deliver a strategy on mission for our young people and families as part of a diverse and dedicated body of disciples.

## Background

The Hollesley Cluster comprises 7 churches in the beautiful Wilford Peninsula (see page 9 for a map of the benefice) on the Suffolk Coast 16 miles north-east of Ipswich. Your main focus will be in these “Deben Churches” and you will have the active support, help and guidance of the Team Rector (based in Orford) and Team Vicar (based in Rendlesham). We cannot wait to welcome another valuable member to enable us to “Grow Younger” in our mission whilst upholding our traditions customs and pastoral care ethos shared throughout the benefice .

Do you:

- place prayer at the heart of your ministry
- have a desire to focus in your work on leading young people’s and families’ mission in a diverse rural context as part of a supportive team
- have a passion for making new disciples
- have a positive approach and the ability to build on our faith
- have an ability to foster Christian community, including small missional groups starting new forms of worship and encouraging younger people in discipleship
- have the energy and ideas to meet the challenges of pioneering the new forms for people who are not yet members of any church alongside cherishing existing forms of church
- have sympathy and support for the natural environment in a rural area
- have a commitment and ability to help churches to grow in depth, in number, younger and in making a difference?

**If so, then please contact us to discuss how you could be part of our journey**

With all blessings



*Revd Giles Tulk*

Team Rector



*Revd Mandy Reynolds*

Team Vicar



## 2. The Opportunity

### What we are looking for

We feel that God is moving us towards young people and families' ministry and outreach and see this as being key to growing the kingdom of God in our Churches. We are clear that for this to be successful, we need someone who will champion this vital part of our mission.

Many of us are directly involved every week in the delivery and dissemination of the Word. Despite the impact of the pandemic there is a vibrancy and a feeling of progress, a testament to the commitment to shared values and team spirit. You will need to be a true team player, a leader of initiatives, sharing ideas and learning from others.

We are committed to ensuring that ministry and mission can flourish in the benefice, so you will need to be someone who will challenge and encourage us towards generous Christian giving and financial sustainability.

Above all, we are praying for someone with a real passion for and experience of mission and outreach with young people and families who would be prepared to guide, shape and help deliver our strategy to "Grow Younger" always considering the invaluable contribution of our senior members.

### What we offer

Our Churches will be warmly supportive and will genuinely encourage you to take risks in leading ministry with young people and families. There will be opportunities for formal and informal learning together with a framework for personal development and mentorship. Relevant courses and retreats will be part of your schedule.

Your personal targets will be mutually established to be achievable in the terms of your working agreement always returning to your primary focus and allowing for rest days and holidays.

### Vision for Lightwave Fresh Expressions of Churches

The Hollesley Cluster already has promising activities including messy church, Just42 Youth Club, Bistro Church, café church and more. With intentional loving ministry, these may become stepping stones by which new people grow into Christian discipleship. There are also opportunities for new initiatives especially engaging with our beautiful outdoor environment.

We look forward to praying and discerning with you which opportunities may be right for this time.

For the first three years, the Hollesley team vicar post will be part-funded (£10,000 pa) through Strategic Development Funding. This brings with it a specific focus on making and growing new disciples and a special relationship with the Lightwave Community.

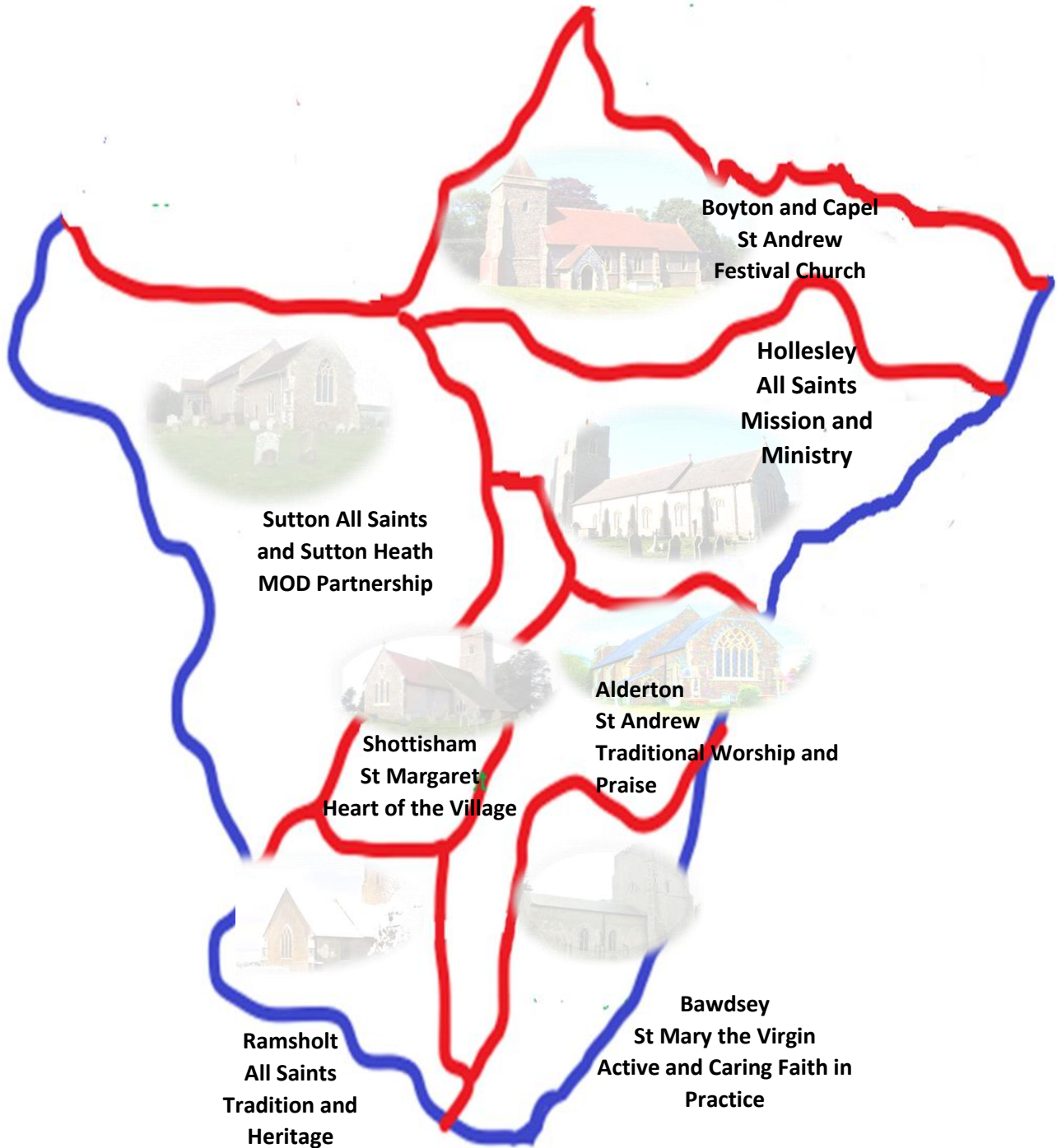
The vision is for the new team vicar to work with us to establish a Lightwave missional group which will then develop one or more fresh expression of Church for younger generations who are not yet part of any Christian community.

We would expect the team vicar to spend at least one day a week specifically on this work, building a Lightwave group (mission team) and engaging in outreach in the villages of the cluster.



### 3. The Situation

#### The Parishes and Churches of the Hollesley Cluster



For further information on each parish go to <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/>



## Our Schools



**Bawdsey** CEVC Primary School and Orford CEVA primary School work closely together. Our Self-Supporting Curate, Rev'd Brian Jolley is a member of the board of governors here whilst Rev'd Giles is Head of Governors at Orford and has an excellent relationship with the executive head and her staff. During the pandemic opportunities for school visiting were limited but the children and their parents enjoyed zoomed Bible stories and assemblies.



**Hollesey** School comes to Church for special services at Christmas, Easter and Harvest and also for educational visits hosted by the Churchwardens. "Church Club" was, and hopefully will again be, a popular choice in the After-School programme on Thursdays. There are plans to establish a junior choir when appropriate.



**Sandlings** Primary School is located within Sutton Heath Estate adjacent to Rock Barracks, home of 23 Royal Engineers. The school is multicultural and has a large proportion of military children. Rev'd Mandy, herself experienced as a Military Chaplain, is a member of the Board of Governors.



## Our Communities



Contact with children and families is at the heart of our mission to 'Grow Younger', building on our close collaboration with all our primary schools through **Open the Book, Messy Church** and church-based after school clubs. We aspire to continue and grow our contact with schools through governorship and support with RE learning and collective worship. **1<sup>st</sup> Woodbridge Scout Group** has recently relocated to Sutton Heath.



"Soul Survivors" 2019



Hollesley PCC run an After School Club during term time, when permitted for the children at Hollesley Primary School. Activities include Games, Craft, Bible teaching, food, and prayers.

We have been fortunate in that **Just42** "the only open access youth provider in 200 square miles of rural Suffolk" visits our villages "To deliver innovative, high quality and professional youth and children's work and to facilitate the social, emotional, physical and spiritual development of young people and children." [Just42.org.uk](http://Just42.org.uk)




There is a cluster choir known as the **Deben 8**.



## 4. Your Colleagues

Our discipleship is extensive and theologically wide-ranging. Together with the Team Rector, the Team Vicar and a self-supporting Curate, the benefice has six further priests with Permission to Officiate, two Readers, fifteen Lay Elders and many other active lay people who use their gifts to help the benefice run smoothly.

Clergy and Readers meet at least monthly to share ideas, plan activities and provide mutual support. Meetings continued during the pandemic through the medium of 

Networks exist throughout the benefice for those with specific roles such as Treasurers, Churchwardens, PCC Secretaries and Elders.

Our Benefice Safeguarding Officer and Administrator are invaluable in keeping us safe and connected.

### LAY ELDERS

Lay Elders began in our Diocese in the late 1960s as a pioneering experiment in lay ministry in our North Suffolk Deanery. Their ministry was developed and expanded so that by now there are over 500 Elders, spread across the whole Diocese.

Elders are men and women chosen by the local Church and authorised by the Diocesan Bishop for ministry in the local Church and community. They work mainly in the area of pastoral care and/or leading worship.

Their Commissioning takes place at any appropriate date in their parish Church.

They serve initially for a maximum of three years and may be re-commissioned for further periods of up to three years.

Anyone who is baptised and confirmed, a regular communicant, in good standing in the local Church and community, and able to fulfil the tasks of an Elder, may be considered for this ministry. There is no lower or upper age limit.

Lay Elders are unique to Suffolk, so they are not named in Canon Law. However, their ministry falls within what Canon Law permits lay people to do. In effect the ministry of Lay Elder gathers into a coherent ministry, valid in its own right, what Canon Law permits lay people to do occasionally.



## 5. More about the Wilford Benefice

Comprises 18 churches across the Wilford Peninsula on the beautiful Suffolk Coast, bordered by the rivers Alde, Ore, Deben and the North Sea. The market town of Woodbridge (with rail links to Ipswich and London) is found just outside the Benefice.

Within the Benefice the churches are grouped into three 'Clusters,' each led by a full-time priest, to ensure good links with the local communities:

<b>Orford Cluster</b>	<b>Hollesley Cluster</b>	<b>Rendlesham Cluster</b>
<b>Team Rector</b> <b>Revd Giles Tulk</b>	<b>Team Vicar</b> <i>The role being recruited for</i>	<b>Team Vicar</b> <b>Revd Mandy Reynolds</b>
St Bartholomew, Orford	All Saints, Hollesley	St Felix, Rendlesham
All Saints, Sudbourne	St Mary, Bawdsey	St Gregory, Rendlesham
St Botolph, Iken	St Andrew, Alderton	All Saints, Eyke
St Michael, Tunstall	St Andrew, Boyton	St Edmund, Bromeswell
St Peter, Chillesford	All Saints, Ramsholt	St John, Wantisden
St John, Butley	All Saints, Sutton	
	St Margaret, Shottisham	

The cluster framework provides the opportunity for each full-time priest, working with their PCCs and colleagues (and for this particular role the Lightwave Community) to have the freedom and autonomy to shape services, mission and outreach within the cluster, whilst being part of a genuine supportive benefice team. Each of the clusters has a different feel and approach to services and mission to reflect their communities which is something we celebrate and wish to continue.

We have a number of Benefice wide volunteer roles where this makes organisational sense such as: Benefice Safeguarding Officer and Administrator and Benefice Administrator. We also have a team which produces a Benefice Pew Sheet, so that people are aware of what is happening across the Benefice; during Lent people have the opportunity to attend Lent courses within their own cluster or join in with other different style courses across the benefice. In 2021 we started up a benefice wide 'Open the Book' team so that working together we could offer this to our different schools.

We have good relations with our Church of England Schools in Orford, Bawdsey and Eyke, and our community primary schools in Hollesley, Sutton and Rendlesham, and see a real opportunity to build on this to develop outreach amongst young people and families outside of the existing church congregations.

*Giles*

Revd Giles Tulk – Team Rector





## 6. Benefice Map



For further information on each parish go to <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/>



## 7. The Woodbridge Deanery

This is an exciting time for Woodbridge Deanery. Over the last two years four of our six stipendiary clergy retired and recent new appointments have brought fresh ideas and new possibilities of support and encouragement. New members have also brought renewed energy and commitment to creating a supportive and friendly Chapter in person and on Zoom.

The Deanery is facing many challenges as we support each other post pandemic. We are reviewing new possibilities for working together and have all learned much about live streaming worship and the benefits and pitfalls of virtual groups and meetings. Within the five benefices we now have several Little Pantries and in the town of Woodbridge a Food bank based in the Salvation Army and supported by Churches Together. We are working on a programme of Pilgrimages to forge relationships and deepen our prayer life.

At our recent deanery synod workshop we identified our priorities for this next year:

- Training for ministry with Children and Young people, seeking to establish a deanery network of those involved and passionate about this work.
- Encouraging more churches to get involved with Eco Church and environmental issues.
- Exploring and encouraging Vocations to Lay and Ordained Ministries.

A major task in 2022 will be to formalise a new vision for the deanery plan as we seek to be faithful in mission and ministry in each of the 32 parishes across the deanery. There are great opportunities for rural networking and sharing ideas as we seek to “Grow in God”.

The deanery looks forward to welcoming you to your new post in the Wilford Team.

*Ven Annette Cooper*

Rural Dean of Woodbridge



**Growing in God**

Our priorities for mission in the benefice are inspired by the diocesan vision of Growing in God. We are called both to preserve and grow the rural church as a focal point of each community through pastoral visiting, engaging with community initiatives, a long-standing tradition of choral and music celebrations and encouraging the imaginative use of our wonderful church buildings. We aspire to improve communications across the benefice through the judicious use of websites and social media.



**Growing in God**

## 8. Accommodation

### Location

Your home will be in the heart of the village of Hollesley, one of the larger villages in the Benefice. Hollesley is a working community with rural businesses, mixed housing and consequent mixed population many of whom work locally including at Hollesley Bay and Warren Hill Prisons, about 1.5 miles away. There is a 'Good' Primary School, a Public House and a Village Stores with Post Office.

### The Vicarage



A modern, recently redecorated and upgraded two-storey family home with an enclosed rear garden, front yard and garage. The oil-fired centrally heated home with solar assistance comprises;

- Lounge with doors to rear aspect
- Large kitchen and utility room
- Study with bookshelves
- Rear conservatory
- Downstairs WC
- Master bedroom with en-suite shower room
- Three further bedrooms and family bathroom





## God's Light Shines in Suffolk

The creation of the Lightwave Community with a Bishop's Mission order covering the whole diocese is an important part of diocesan-wide growth in local mission. The name of the community comes from the idea of light waves 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.

## Small groups shining Christ's Light

The Lightwave Community is made up of small groups, shining Christ's Light all over Suffolk. Our groups meet in homes, pubs, offices, schools and online. We are simple worshipping communities that work alongside and complement traditional Sunday services. We try to be down to earth and to be the sort of place you can feel at home even if you've never been part of church before.

Each group aims to find its unique way of shining Christ's light in the local community. Lightwave groups can deliver food parcels, visit the isolated, run community choirs, lead after-school clubs, support parents and toddlers, welcome people moving into the neighbourhood, empower teenagers, engage with nature, organise clay-pigeon shooting... You get the idea.

## Love God. Love People.

Jesus said the greatest command is to Love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind soul and strength and the second is to love our neighbour as we love ourselves. It's simple really. Our ability to love people and ourselves comes from receiving God's love.

## Listening and learning together

In a Lightwave group, everyone has a part to play. It is not just for leaders. Everyone has talents. Everyone has needs. We care and pray and learn and work and have fun together.



*Archdeacon Sally Gaze*

Leader of the Lightwave Community and the Lightwave Staff Team

*"God calls the church in each generation to show and share his love in ways both old and new. I believe Lightwave is one of the new ways - rooted in the wisdom of the old - that God is calling us to embrace here in Suffolk."*

*Right Rev'd Martin Seeley, Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich*

For more information visit <https://www.lightwave.community/>





THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

## 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**



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 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, which focusses on developing Rural Resourcing Churches and nurturing and discipling new Christians through small Lightwave groups.

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 do this?

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!**

To find out more, visit: [www.cofesuffolk.org](http://www.cofesuffolk.org)

