

# Haughley with Wetherden and Stowupland



The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Haughley



St. Mary the Virgin, Wetherden



Holy Trinity, Stowupland

## Benefice Profile 2023



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
**Diocese of St Edmundsbury  
and Ipswich**

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## The Benefice of Haughley with Wetherden and Stowupland are seeking...

**A Rector who will be a Christian leader in a rural benefice.**

**One who, working with the PCCs, will serve the existing congregations and widen the Christian participation among all sections of the community through 'Growing in God'**

All three churches have agreed that the benefice needs:

A Rector who will support, develop and encourage the existing congregations by

- Leading prayerful and worshipful services which are appropriate across the benefice.
- Developing individuals' talents by encouraging lay participation in services and the consideration of vocations.
- Being passionate about sharing the Christian faith with all people and keen to work with us to widen the profile of the congregations.
- Continuing to develop the gifts of the members within the three church communities through Bible Study and Home Groups to help build a benefice identity so our parishes become stronger together.
- Being open to being a training benefice for Assistant Curates.

A Rector who will strengthen contact with the wider communities by

- Making effective pastoral visits both to meet the needs of the isolated and lonely, and reaching out to those who have recently moved to the area.
- Maintaining and building the relationships with our local schools.
- Having an ecumenical approach by reaching out to other Christian churches in our villages.
- Working with and supporting the PCCs to innovate, develop and participate in activities that draw in members of the community.
- Making regular and effective contributions to parish magazines.

## What We Can Offer

The benefice is in the beautiful Suffolk countryside, with excellent road and rail links to London and Cambridge.

All three churches can offer the following to our new Rector:

- A warm and hospitable welcome to a new Rector.
- Effective and well run PCCs with experienced and knowledgeable members and officers supporting the Rector.
- Each church has its own churchwardens and vergers support.
- An existing Ministry Team currently made up of 2 lay elders, one of which is a prospective ordinand.
- Friendly welcoming parishes keen to welcome new members and find ways to reach out into the community.
- Well supported churches with strong links to the local community in each parish whose members are involved in the social life and events of each village.
- Many committed church members who give of their time, talents and money.
- Good links already in place with local primary schools, sheltered housing developments and supported living complexes with regular worship events held in them.
- A commitment to Safeguarding with an independent Benefice Safeguarding Officer.



### **The Vicarage in the village of Haugley**

The Vicarage is a spacious, detached house situated on the edge of the former outer bailey of the castle in Haughley. It stands in a good sized but manageable plot and has a secluded garden to the rear. There is a secure garage and hard standing for at least four cars, with an electric car charging point.

Downstairs: Lobby leading to a hall and a large sitting room with a wood burner; dining room; good sized study; cloakroom/lavatory; storage room; utility room (with access to garage) and a good sized and well fitted kitchen and larder with views across the rear garden to the church tower.

Upstairs: Stairs from the hall leading to the landing with bedroom 1 with 2 built in cupboards, bedroom 2 with a built in cupboard, bedroom 3 (front aspect) with a built in cupboard and bedroom 4 with wet room. All bedrooms of a good size with hand basins; separate lavatory; box room.

The house has oil-fired central heating.





## **The Benefice of Haughley with Wetherden and Stowupland**

### **Location**

The benefice lies approximately 13 miles to the north west of the county town of Ipswich, and approximately 13 miles to the east of the Cathedral town of Bury St Edmunds. Stowmarket (pop. 22,000), the nearest market town, has a variety of shops, restaurants, entertainment and sporting facilities.

There are excellent road and rail connections from the benefice to London, the Midlands and the North. To the south of the benefice there is easy access to the A14 trunk road and the main line railway from Norwich to London Liverpool Street stops at Stowmarket, (journey time 90 minutes).

All three parishes in the benefice fall within the Local Authority of Mid-Suffolk District Council.

### **The Churches**

There are three churches in the benefice: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Haughley; Holy Trinity, Stowupland and St Mary the Virgin, Wetherden all of which fall under the Patronage of the Lord Chancellor, the Bishop of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich and Diocesan Patronage.

Other Christian denominations are cared for locally by the Wetherden Baptist Church; the Stowupland URC and the Roman Catholic Church in Stowmarket. The URC congregation shares worship in Haughley Parish Church, where one service each month follows the URC tradition.

### **The Services**

At present the benefice uses a Common Worship Service Book for most of the services as well as the Book of Common Prayer and other orders of services for bespoke services. All three churches use the same Hymn Book- "Hymns Old and New".

A list of current regular services is shown in **Appendix 3**, which also shows that if there is a fifth Sunday in the month a benefice Holy Communion service is held in one of the three churches by rotation. Other occasional services are held at special times of the year.

## Benefice wide activities



Ready to set off on the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Annual Sponsored Cycle Ride

## A summer benefice trip to Southwold



## **Church Tradition**

The church tradition at all three churches is considered to be Central.

## **The Ministry Team**

In addition to the Rector, there are two lay elders within the benefice who are involved in pastoral work and leading worship.

Lay involvement is encouraged in the administration of the parishes through the PCCs, there is also lay involvement in services by leading intercessions and reading lessons.

## **The Church Finances**

All three churches aim to pay their parish share in full. The Rector's expenditure claims are also paid promptly in accordance with a benefice formula.

## **Social Media**

The benefice understands the importance of social media for communication. At the moment we use 'A Church Near You' for all three parishes to highlight the services as well as any events and news. There is a benefice Facebook page. Church events are also shared on individual village platforms.

Each PCC has considered their own strengths and areas for development and these are detailed in the parish sections below.

## **The Parish of Haughley**

### **THE VILLAGE**

For more detail of the village see Appendix 1: 'Living in Haughley', and for population and age profile, see Appendix 2.



## **Amenities**

The village has a pub, restaurant, Post Office, bakery, hairdresser and beauty salon, second-hand furniture shop, Co-op grocery shop, and veterinary surgeon.

As a community, Haughley has a number of active associations and activities. These include Scouts (male and female), Football, Bowls, W.I., Haughley Nature Watch, H.A.T.S. (Haughley Amateur Theatrical Society), The British Legion, Haughley Hoofers Clog dancing, a Community Café in the village hall, and a twinning association (France). There are numerous regular social events, such as quizzes, Haughley Open Gardens, photography competitions, etc. A number of these are associated with or run by the church.

## **Housing**

There is a mixture of privately owned and council housing. There is also a large complex of sheltered homes (Thompson Court) and very sheltered homes (Mere View) for the older people in the village. In 2021 – 2022, two major new housing developments have been built in the village, one of over 90 homes and the other of 60. These have added an estimated 400 people to the overall population. The church has made significant efforts to welcome and involve new residents, by providing a Welcome Pack, leaflets, making house visits and inviting new residents to a range of church events; for example, a Community Barbeque in August 2022.

## **Employment**

People in Haughley are mainly employed in retail, industry or public services in Stowmarket, Ipswich or Bury St Edmunds. There is still some agricultural work and a poultry processing plant is situated in Haughley. Some residents commute to London.

## **Schools**

Haughley Crawford Primary School (current roll 75 as of January 2023) caters for children from Haughley and Wetherden aged 4-11. This is a Church of England Voluntary Aided School, and the grounds are adjacent to the churchyard. Most children proceed to Stowupland High School from 11 onwards. There is a pre-school feeding the primary school. The Rector is expected to be a Governor of the primary school.

Collective worship happens at the end of each school day and on Tuesdays there is a visit from the “Open the Book” team or from a local pastor.

## Some of Open the Book Benefice team



## The CHURCH

### The Church Building

It is a very attractive, large flint building mostly dating from between 1300 and 1500 and is Grade 1 listed. It has a South Porch Tower, a South Aisle and large Chancel, all earlier than 1500. The South Aisle pews have been removed, and we have 50 stackable chairs. It stands in the outer bailey of the former Norman castle. Modifications include the installation of a toilet and catering facilities and a small meeting room/ vestry known as the Castle Room, and most recently glass doors at the main entrance. Solar panels have been installed inconspicuously on our new South Aisle roof to reduce the annual electricity bill. The church building is open every day in daylight hours.



Furthermore, work is currently nearing completion on the cleaning and enhancement of Haughley's First World War Memorial Cross, which itself has a Listing and is sited in the church yard.

### **Ecumenical partnerships**

We happily welcome and receive visits from all denominations. Sixteen years ago, following closure of the URC chapel in Haughley, the Church entered into a groundbreaking and successful ecumenical partnership with the URC, underwritten by a formal 'Declaration of Ecumenical Welcome and Commitment'. The two congregations have become integrated and share worship following both Anglican and URC traditions. The URC is traditionally represented on the PCC, but there is currently a vacancy for this role. This partnership has enriched both congregations and is regarded as a model for the future. A special service was held in September 2016 to mark the 10-year anniversary of this partnership.

### **Services**

See Appendix 3. Baptisms usually take place privately or at a regular service; there are a few weddings each year. Funerals and memorial services take place at the Church and at the crematoria in Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds.

We have very successfully developed two new forms of worship and religious engagement with people in Haughley. One service, on the first Sunday each month, is a light "Songs of Praise" service called "Sunday Praise". Another initiative, on the fourth Tuesday of each month, is a "messy church" type of service called "PIZZA", which involves children and their parents in engaging activities, including eco-church. These two services are currently our best-attended services, and they are planned and led by groups from the congregation, with the help of elders.

On the second Sunday of each month our common worship communion service is enhanced by a full choir. On the third Sunday of each month the URC usually provide a leader for our ecumenical service. On the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, we have a BCP communion.



### ***Christingle Service***

#### **PCC Sub-Committees**

We are very proud that the Post Office is owned and managed by the church. It has a specific committee, mainly consisting of PCC members, but also members from outside the church community, which reports back to the PCC. The PCC also appointed a committee of some members to develop both our approach to the new housing residents and a “commonly owned” Church Development Plan; and there is an Eco-Church Working Group and a Services Review Group. The PCC has not appointed further formal committees, decisions being taken by the full council which meets seven times during the year.

#### **Church Organisations**

There is a bell ringing team and a very active Choir with about 12 singers. We have recently introduced a Ukulele group with players from Haughley and Wetherden learning the instrument.

#### **The Church in the Community**

The Church Development Plan was endorsed by the PCC in 2021 and currently covers the period 2021 – 2023, as a three-year plan. It was developed by canvassing as many individuals and groups within the community as possible, and collating all responses into key themes for development, as well as identifying areas regarded as good practice. The four main themes are: a review of services, expansion of activities associated with the church, enhanced communication about church activities and



developing strong Eco-Church projects. These strengths and areas for development of the church within the community are shown in the relevant sections below.

A portion of a legacy was used in 2009 to purchase the Post Office building which had closed. It re-opened with a flat above the Post Office which helps to finance the ongoing running of the new Post Office. Another church-owned community room (named after the legacy donor, Maxwell Charnley) is used for many purposes within the village including serving tea and at specific events, Lent lunches, and monthly changing exhibitions.

The church has endeavoured to provide support to individuals and families in the community in the form of a Telephone Tree and assistance during lockdown; working with the primary school to provide food parcels to families in poverty in the village, including Christmas hampers; and for many years through Haughley Voluntary Service which provided lifts to medical appointments etc, for the elderly, although this has had to cease through the retirement of key personnel. The incumbent takes regular services for residents at the sheltered housing. Additionally, dating back to medieval times and amalgamated in 1928 from four separate charities for the relief of the poor of the parish, Haughley Joint Charities provides assistance in some small way to those in the parish of Haughley who are most in need. There is a small group of trustees that, through its constitution, includes the Rector.



***PIZZA activities  
November 2022***



A major initiative which has seen significant success with young families is 'Pizza', which is a monthly 'messy church' service for children of all ages and their parents. It consists of the provision of food alongside religious themed activities, games and a current focus on the wildlife in Haughley. This can attract up to 40-50 attendees.

Many of the children who come also attend the primary school. In the last few years links between the church and Haughley Crawford Primary School have been significantly strengthened. The school uses the Rector incumbent. This service is well attended and popular. The school participate in the Christian Aid week collection and are now focused on becoming a Global Neighbourhood School through the Christian Aid scheme, the Rector is a Governor, there is a church link Governor who is a member of the PCC. Members of the PCC and the congregation help with lunchtime and after-school clubs; for example, additional Maths tuition and a Gardening Club. Some classes have contributed illustrations to the Haughley Wildlife Exhibition which was led by the church.

Another significant community initiative as part of the Church Development Plan is to focus on applying for Eco-Church membership at the Gold Level and to develop a range of Eco-Church projects. These have included the creation of a bug hotel with children from the primary school; leaving the church yard grass uncut in many areas to stimulate the growth of wildflowers and insects; a major exhibition of photographs in 2021 of Haughley wildlife; and working with other organisations such as Haughley Nature Watch and Haughley Parish Council.





***The 'big cut' – images of the community summer cut of the churchyard as part of the Eco-Church project***

The church has close links with Haughley British Legion and they have worked together to commemorate the centenary of the erection of the Haughley War Memorial in 1920, raising significant funds to clean and enhance the memorial. The work will be completed (because of the interruption of lockdown) by March 2023.

Activities led by the church include: an annual Flower Festival, Harvest Supper, Christingle, Carols by Candlelight and Remembrance Day services. There are Lent lunches with a bible quiz each week. The village Christian Aid representative is a member of the PCC and there is a collection in the community each year, as well as planned events during Christian Aid Week. The church is involved in other special events – for example the village Platinum Jubilee celebrations.



***Images from Haughley Platinum Jubilee celebrations 2022***

The Haughley and Wetherden Parish News is delivered free of charge to every household monthly and provides full information about church and community activities. Financially underwritten by Haughley PCC, it is funded entirely by advertising revenue and a Parish Council grant. It is produced, edited and distributed by volunteers from both villages.

Our Pew News is published every Sunday to feature and provide relevant information to the congregations attending the main services. It includes details of the main events and meetings during the forthcoming week. The purpose is to ensure that accurate information in a printed form which can be retained by each member of the congregation, and to avoid time which would otherwise be spent by the Rector in providing this verbally during the Service.

### **The PCC's Assessment of Parish Strengths**

- The Rector is supported by an active, experienced and dedicated PCC.
- The PCC takes safeguarding in the community very seriously and as a result a significant number of the PCC are trained in safeguarding at Leadership Level.
- The church received a substantial legacy a few years ago, which helped to ensure its financial security for several years, and complete some alterations and improvements. The Church still benefits financially from this legacy and has always succeeded in paying the Parish Share, though with a deficit each year. Our financial situation has been helped by the Gift Aid scheme, a hard-working team of fundraisers and a number of regular donors.
- The church is well supported with a regular congregation and there is strong community support for the more popular and special/seasonal services.
- The church has a commonly owned Development Plan produced with the community.
- There are active links with the adjacent primary school and with the sheltered accommodation.
- The church itself is a fine, spacious and light building, generally in good repair. Use is made of the church for concerts, talks and drama.
- There is an active and talented choir that supports all the main services and arranges a number of concerts each year, in support of the fundraising efforts of the church.
- The church is the principal leader in the community in organising social events and enjoys the goodwill of the community.
- The church purchased the Post Office building in 2009 which provides an essential service to the village.
- The Parish News keeps the village updated about local events.

## **The PCC's Assessment of Areas for Development**

### **Churchwardens and PCC**

- Currently, to appoint a second churchwarden.

### **Review of Services**

- A Church Working Group reviewed services in 2021 and a significant outcome was to introduce a Sunday Praise service engaging the congregation with topical themes once a month. This is very well attended and it is planned to develop and enhance it further.
- The Church would like to invest further in its attempt to broaden interest from young families in the village. Also, to consider the possibility of helping with transport to encourage attendance at Services.

### **Expansion of Activities Associated with the Church**

- Ensure the continuity of current initiatives – e.g. Post Office, Maxwell Charnley Room, Parish News – especially post lockdown.
- To continue closer involvement with the Primary School.
- The enlargement of the Choir and enrichment of music.
- Over time the church would like to grow a Haughley Festival.

### **Enhanced Communication about Church Activities**

- To further develop the church presence on 'A Church Near You' website.
- To create further displays in the church and the feeling of a really welcoming environment.
- The church would like to widen further the use of its buildings to encourage more members of the community to use them (including the elderly, lonely and isolated).

### **Strong Eco-Church Projects**

- We are seeking to apply for Eco-Church status in the Spring of 2023. There is an established Eco-Church working group leading this initiative.
- To continue the current initiative of 'churchyard development' including further planting, seating, a new cremation area and the possibility of a community sensory garden.



## **The Parish of Wetherden**

### **The Village**

Population and age profile (see Appendix 2)

### **Village Amenities & Activities**

There is a local pub, The Maypole, and an independent Village Hall both of which provide facilities for many clubs and activities for a variety of ages. The sports field adjacent to the Village Hall has facilities for a range of outdoor sports. In November there is the annual bonfire night, with stalls, which draws people from outside the village.

The Parish Plan carried out in 2008/9 and the subsequent Action Plan led to a number of initiatives in the village, e.g. the purchase of the car park site and its development, improvements to the Village Hall and the children's play area, conservation work groups, the establishing of the Wetherden History Group.

### **Housing**

Predominately privately owned houses which are a mix of old timber framed houses and more modern properties. There is some Council housing and a few second homes.

### **Employment**

There is one local food processing plant and a very small industrial unit that provide some employment. A small number of people are employed in rural work, but most commute to Stowmarket or Bury St Edmunds, or further afield to Ipswich, Cambridge and London. About a third of the population are retired, but active!

### **Schooling**

Most children attend the primary school in Haughley and then Stowupland High School.

The Village School closed in 1986 and the Pre-School that occupied the building after that ceased in 2015. The site, which was owned by Wetherden School Trust was sold and the school building is now a private house.



## Trusts

The money raised by the sale of the school was added to the funds of the **Wetherden School Trust**. The trustees are the Rector and churchwardens. The Trust's funds are used for educational and other charitable purposes for the benefit of the parishioners of Wetherden. The trustees have recently offered a £100 winter fuel payment to households in the parish who wish to apply.

The Rector is also a trustee on the **Crawford Widows Trust** and the **Crawford Educational Trust** (annual meeting).

## The Church

### The Church Building

Our beautiful Church is a 14<sup>th</sup> century Grade 1 listed building with a fine false double hammer beam roof and pews with animal carved ends and is maintained through the generosity of our congregation and local community. It is in the centre of the village and is surrounded by a churchyard commended for its grounds management.



A recent generous bequest, restricted to the church fabric, will allow us to continue improving and developing the building and grounds.

The tower has a peal of six fine bells and following a village fundraising initiative in 2012/13, led by the bellringers, a clock was added to the south face of the tower to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.





The centenary of the church organ was celebrated in May 2022 and new gates were installed to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The church is open to the public every day.

There is a talented and enthusiastic group of flower arrangers in the church who regularly and seasonally decorate the church.

After some services, e.g. Easter and Harvest Festival, in addition to our normal notices that the church is open, we especially invite visitors to look at the flowers and decorations. This has generated interest in the community and led to an increase in visitors to the church.

**Occasional Services** See Appendix 3

### **The Church in the Community**

Many events are organised by members of the church for the village community. These include monthly coffee mornings/tea afternoons, occasional charity 'Tea & Cake' events in The Maypole, Music events in the church, and a Bingo, Bangers & Beans evening.

Church members organise Carol Singing around the Christmas tree in the churchyard (Doorstep Carols) and in the pub.

Each year Robert Williams of Haughley Park opens the Gardens and Bluebell Woods on the last Sunday in April and the first Sunday in May to raise funds for the church. The event attracts in the region of 1000 visitors over the two days, and raises £6000 or more for the church. Church members and their friends staff the entry gate, look after car parking, and provide and serve refreshments.



*The Bluebell Woods at Haughley Park*

## **The PCC's Assessment of Parish Strengths**

Church members:

- Are welcoming and inclusive;
- Are supportive and caring of the community;
- Have a variety of talents and experiences, are hardworking and contribute in many ways not only to the church but also to village activities and events;
- Give of their time and money so that the church is kept financially sound;
- Are mindful of those in need through supporting various charities.

## **The PCC's Assessment of Areas for Development**

- To be a more visible sign of God's presence and blessing in the heart of our community.
- To use varied worship formats to reach out to those currently under-represented in the age profile of our church members (i.e., the middle aged, young families and children) while at the same time valuing the traditions of the present church members who in the main are enjoying retirement.
- To be more sensitive to the needs of new members and visitors who may be unfamiliar with our services.
- To deepen the faith, Christian knowledge and commitment of church members through worship and teaching, and to encourage individual growth by regular home and prayer group activities.
- To support members of the church community in developing lay participation in leading worship and contributing to services.
- To develop the facilities of the church.

## **Recent Developments**

Attendance records had shown that numbers were growing in the 10 years or so before Covid, there is now some evidence that numbers are starting to increase once more.

The replacement gates and newly laid path now provide improved access to the church.

## **The Parish of Stowupland**

### **The Village**

Population and Age profile (see Appendix 2).

## **Social Amenities**

- There are two pubs serving food, a Chinese takeaway and a fish and chip shop and occasional Thai take away van.
- Butchers, garage and general store.
- Fast Fit garage and a Plumbing supply centre.
- A well-appointed village hall offers facilities to a variety of social groups including parent and toddler groups, fitness classes, bingo, country and western evenings and a community hall for hire.
- The High School has a community fitness suite and IT facilities.
- Youth and adult football and cricket teams.
- Outdoor and indoor bowls clubs.
- Sports and social club.
- Various groups including Book group, Local History Group, Dance Club, URC Afternoon fellowship.
- Good Neighbours Scheme and Neighbourhood Watch.
- Community events organised by the Parish Council and other village groups including quiz and bingo plus other social events.

## **Housing**

There is a mix of privately owned, social and rented accommodation in this spread-out village. There has been a recent increase in new builds with more planned to be built. There is also sheltered housing at Jubilee Court, very sheltered housing at Steeple View and a Centre for dual sensory impaired personnel at Barley Close.

## **Employment**

There is some commuting to London and principal towns in the region including Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds, Cambridge and Colchester. Local employment is mainly manufacturing and retail in Stowmarket. There are small businesses and self-employed people in the village.

## **Schools**

There is a secondary school (roll 1,100) with a wide catchment area in Mid Suffolk, a primary school (roll 210) and a pre-school feeding the primary school.

## **Community News**

The community Telstar magazine is delivered free of charge to every household monthly, it includes information about the church services as well as all the clubs and organisations in the village. It is financially underwritten by Stowupland Parish



Council, and is funded by advertising revenue and a grant from them. It is produced and edited and distributed by volunteers from the village.

## **The Church**

### **The Church Building and Churchyard**

The Victorian church building is a listed Grade II building, an un-spoilt example of a “Commissioners’ Church”. The interior is light, welcoming and well heated.



In 1984 a church hall linked to the Church was added, This is used widely for church activities and is available for hire to the whole community. The hall can accommodate up to 50 people and has a fully fitted kitchen and cloakroom.

Coffee and chat after a Sunday morning service





Both buildings are well maintained and have been extensively adapted to comply with disability legislation.

The churchyard is classified as a closed churchyard. Regular meetings take place with the Parish Council to maintain and protect it.

The Parish Council manages the cemetery which is approximately 200 meters up the road from the church

### **Ecumenical relations**

Relationships with the URC in the village are good and joint services with them are held on special occasions throughout the year.



### **Services**

See Appendix 3.

We offer a wide range of regular services though the month as well as special services during the year. Most of our services use the structure of Common Worship with an easy to follow service book or the more traditional Book of Common Prayer.



### Other Church Activities

- A group from the church go into both Stowupland and Haughley Primary Schools for 'Open the Book'.
- Coffee, Cake and Chat (CCC) is a monthly Saturday morning session that brings in members of the church and the wider community to the Church Hall.
- Clergy regularly lead the primary school assemblies and pupils come into the church once a term for a whole school assembly.
- Occasional Songs of Praise/Holy Communion to sheltered housing.
- Non PCC members are involved in sub committees especially with Social and Fund Raising events.
- Annual Craft Fair.
- Annual Flower Festival.
- Annual Christmas Fair.
- Carol singing in the pub.
- Working with the Parish Council to provide an annual Civic Service both within the church and in the village.



### The Church in the Community

There is a high level of involvement by church members in village organisations and there are good links with the Parish Council, which has raised the profile of the parish church and led to a greater awareness and understanding of its extended role in the community. A variety of social and fund-raising events are organised with the aim of uniting the church and community. The church takes a leading role in welcoming newcomers to the village. A 'welcome pack' has been developed which is delivered to people who move into the village, this was predominately designed for the new housing developments but is also used when any houses change hands – a member of the church will physically deliver these and hopefully have a conversation

with the new homeowners.

There is a constant flow of information from the church to the community through the mon, as well as other publications and posters.

The Rector and / or a churchwarden attend the annual meeting of the “Stowupland Town Lands and Calthorpe Trust”.

### **The PCC’s Assessment of Parish Strengths**

- We try to live up to our mission statement:
  - At Holy Trinity, Stowupland, we seek to know and love God and to share His love with everyone.
  - We want to grow in our faith and help others to do so.
  - We aim to use our Christian faith to serve the whole community.
  - We respect the past, respond to the present and prepare for the future.
  
- We are one of the organisers of social activities in the village through regular coffee mornings, Flower Festival, Craft Fayre and Christmas Fayre.
- Good Links between the Parish Council and church.
- Active mission and outreach to the sheltered housing developments in the village.
- Considerable ‘quiet’ support in the village for the ministry of the church.
- Relatively sound financial position.
- Good support from the community for special services for example Christmas and Remembrance.

### **The PCC’s Assessment of Areas for Development**

- We have regular and well attended baptisms and we seek to build on this in terms of regular church attendance by families or young people in general.
- Encouraging more people approaching retirement to engage in church activities and worship.
- Developing participation in fellowship and Home Study groups,
- Increasing the mission and outreach activities.
- Expanding the lay participation in reading lessons and leading intercessions during services.
- Building an understanding of and addressing the spiritual needs of all people.
- Providing spiritual growth for those new to church.
- Maintaining pastoral care for those no longer able to attend church due to ill health.
- Developing relationships with the residents of the new housing areas





## Appendix 1: Living in Haughley



### The Village

Haughley is a historic village, being one of the three ‘honors’ awarded to the commanders of the Norman Conquest. Haughley was awarded to Hugh de Montfort. A substantial Norman Castle was built in the village, possibly on the site of an earlier earthwork and what at first sight appears to be a village pond is in fact the moat surrounding the remains of the castle. Since those days, the lordship of the manor has passed through a number of hands, including many years belonging to the Crown. The present Lord of the Manor is resident in the village.

Haughley Parish consists of Haughley Village and outlying hamlets: Haughley Green to the north, Tothill to the south-east, and Haughley New Street to the south-west. Residents of Haughley New Street and the nearby house at Haughley Park use the Church at Wetherden, which is more conveniently situated.

The community is a good mix of long-established local families and more recent newcomers, making it a lively and friendly place in which to live. The breadth of employment reflects this diversity.



## **Communications**

The A14 Felixstowe to the Midlands trunk road runs a mile or so south of the village and this gives easy road access to Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds (both approximately 13 miles) or the main roads leading to London or the North.

Stowmarket Railway Station is less than 10 minutes by car and there are frequent trains to London (90 minutes), Norwich (30 minutes), Bury St Edmunds (15 minutes), Ipswich, Cambridge and Peterborough.

## **Key Services**

There are two health centres in Stowmarket in addition to one in Bacton and one in Woolpit (3 miles). Stow Health in Stowmarket is highly rated and progressive, at the cutting edge of NHS enhanced services.

There are several dental practices in Stowmarket and one in Woolpit.

There are large District General Hospitals in Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich.

There is local community policing covering the area.

Fire services are located at Stowmarket and Elmswell, a village about 1 mile west of Wetherden.

The Haughley village Post Office (reputed to be the oldest in Suffolk and one of the oldest in the country) is owned by St Mary's Church, Haughley.

The Maxwell Charnley community room (part of the Post Office building) is used for weekly meetings by a range of organisations and Lent lunches, organised by the church. It is an important hub of the community.

### **Local Amenities**

The village is well served by a Co-op shop (which also sells newspapers), a hairdresser, shoe repairs, second hand furniture, bakery, pub, restaurant and veterinary surgeon. There are several local plumbers, electricians, builders, decorators and roofers (contact details mostly in the free monthly Parish Magazine). In the village and surrounding villages and countryside there is fresh local produce available at front-gate stalls. Meat is also available from several nearby farms and from some high-quality shops in neighbouring villages.

There is a petrol station just off the A14 and there are garages for repairs, MOTs and fuel at Stowmarket and Bacton, 3 miles to the north of Haughley.

There is a large playing field with a good sized modern pavilion and two football pitches, a bowling green, a children's play area, and a skateboard area. There is a small village hall next-door-but-one to the Vicarage.

### **Clubs**

There is a wide range of active clubs and societies: Scouts; bowls; football; keep fit; dancing; choir; varied groups; WI; reading group; bell ringers and the British Legion.

### **Parish Council**

The Parish Council plays an important active part in the village. The PCC no longer has anyone serving on the Parish Council.

### **Schools**

The village has a pre-school feeding into the primary school, which caters for some 70-80 children from Haughley and Wetherden up to age 11. This is a Church of England Voluntary Aided School and the school building and playground back on to the churchyard. Children then move on to Stowupland High School from 11.

## **Social Life**

There are many social events throughout the year, with the Church taking the lead in several of them. The coffee mornings are always popular and special lunches, quiz evenings and talks are well-attended. There is a twinning arrangement with Noyelles Les Seclin, near Lille in France.

## **Further Information**

Further details of the village, its amenities, activities and history can be found on the village website: <http://www.haughley.org.uk/> where you will also find several photographs.



## Appendix 2: Benefice Statistics

Ward numbers are from the 2011 Census website

		Haughley		Wetherden		Stowupland	
<b><u>The Community</u></b>							
Population (2011 Census)		1,638		543		2,263	
Age profile							
	0-4 years	68	4.1%	27	5.0%	94	4.2%
	5-15 years	211	12.9%	59	10.9%	263	11.6%
	16-24 years	161	9.8%	35	6.4%	190	8.4%
	25-44 years	303	18.5%	101	18.6%	471	20.8%
	45-64 years	489	29.9%	193	35.5%	665	29.4%
	65-74 years	199	12.1%	73	13.4%	324	14.3%
	75+ years	207	12.6%	55	10.1%	256	11.3%
Electoral Roll (Gov't)		1,322		487		1,846	
<b><u>The Church</u></b>							
Church Electoral Roll		47		31		42	

### Appendix 3: Current Benefice Services

#### Haughley

Sunday In month	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday
Time	11.00am	11.00am	11.00am	9.30am	5pm
Form of Service	Sunday Praise	CW Parish Communion	Joint service with URC	BCP Holy Communion	Pizza
Average attendance	39	20	15	12	39

#### Wetherden

<i>Sunday in month</i>	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Time	11.00 am	11am	11.00 am	11.00 am
Form of Service	CW Morning Worship	Sunday Praise	All-age family Worship	CW Parish Communion
Average Attendance	20	22	28	19

#### Stowupland

<i>Sunday in month</i>	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Time	9.30 am	9.30 am	9.30 am	6.30pm
Form of Service	CW Parish Communion	Worship for All	CW Morning Prayer	Evensong or CW Communion
Average Attendance	14	20	14	12

**On any 5th Sunday in the month there is a Benefice CW Communion (11.00 am) only at one of the three churches, by rotation.**

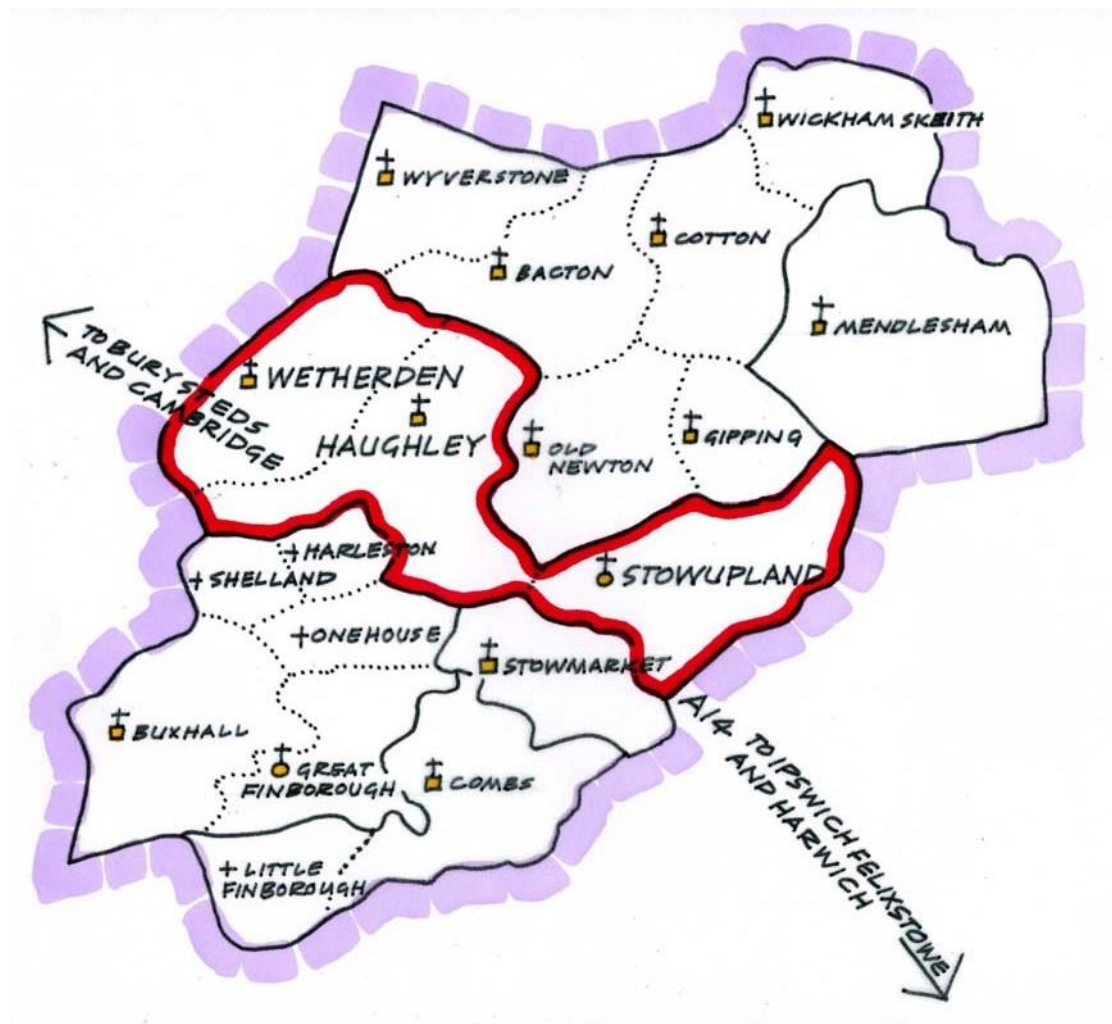
**Occasional Services (2022)**

	<b>Haughley</b>	<b>Stowupland</b>	<b>Wetherden</b>
<b>Baptisms</b>	0	7	0
<b>Weddings</b>	1	0	1
<b>Funerals</b>	6	7	4

#### Appendix 4: The Gipping Valley Deanery

The Deanery is situated in the centre of the County of Suffolk and of the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. The Deanery comprises 10 benefices with forty-two individual parishes/churches.

The map below features the northern half of the Deanery which includes the Benefice.



In the Deanery there are nine stipendiary clergy posts, one House for Duty post and two self-supporting ministers.

The Clergy Chapter meets monthly and is friendly and very supportive, with a wealth of experience upon which to draw. Everyone's voice is heard.

There is active lay participation throughout the Deanery, with a number of Readers, Lay Elders and other licensed lay ministers, including a licensed evangelist.



## **Appendix 5: The Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich**

### **The Diocese**

The Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich was founded in 1914 and includes the county of Suffolk, except for an area of North East Suffolk around Lowestoft, and one parish in the county of Essex. It serves about 631,000 people living in a geographical area of more than 1,400 square miles. Out of this population, around 20,000 identify themselves with the Church of England by being members of the church electoral roll. An average of over 14,000 attend Anglican Church activities weekly (20,000 including other denominations). Over 12,000 attend an Anglican service of worship each Sunday (18,000 including all denominations). A wide range of communities exists in the diocese – from small rural villages to urban centres such as Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds, Stowmarket, Haverhill, Sudbury and Beccles. The region has many sites of historic interest among which are Sutton Hoo, the Saxon village at West Stow and the ruins of the old Abbey at Bury St Edmunds – famously where, in 1214, the barons of England met and swore to force King John to accept the Charter of Liberties, later known as the Magna Carta. The whole county, together with its Heritage coastline, is also a haven of delight for lovers of natural history.

### **Oversight and Mission**

The diocese is overseen by the Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, the Right Revd. Martin Seeley supported by the Bishop of Dunwich, the Right Revd. Dr. Mike Harrison. The Cathedral Church of St James and St Edmund, the mother church of the Diocese, has been a place of pilgrimage and tourism for centuries and remains today a focal point for the Christian faith in Suffolk.

The communities of the Diocese are served by 454 parishes with 125 benefices and 18 deaneries. There are 478 church buildings of which 457 are listed. There are around 118 stipendiary clergy and 44 self-supporting ministers, some 180 Lay Licensed Ministers, including 172 Readers and a few Licensed Lay Pastors and Local Evangelists and 570 commissioned lay assistants (lay elders) in the parishes. There are 88 Church of England Controlled and Aided schools in the Diocese. The Anglican churches across the Diocese seek to develop close links with other Christian denominations and to build understanding with members of other faiths. The Diocese also has close ties with churches across the world, most especially with the Diocese of Kagera in West Tanzania.

## **Administration**

The Diocese works through the synodical structures and is served by a small team of Diocesan Office staff led by the Diocesan Secretary, most of whom are based in modern offices in the centre of Ipswich. The Diocese has a total annual revenue budget in excess of £8 million and the Diocesan Board of Finance manages a total balance sheet of £80 million. The office staff provide administrative, financial, secretarial, property, communication and general support to clergy and parishes as well as supporting the Church of England schools across the county.

As part of the body of Christ in Suffolk, staff strive to encapsulate the Diocesan vision for Growing in God by helping the parishes, schools and community of Suffolk to flourish and develop by leading Christ-centred lives enriched by the Holy Spirit. Through work in the four key areas of Faith and Discipleship, Vocation and Ministry, Resources and Buildings, and Relationships and Structures staff at the Diocesan Office are committed to ensuring congregations increase in number, youth, influence and depth.

## **Mission and Pastoral Policy**

As a Diocese we seek to live by the Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion:

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.
- To teach, baptize and nurture new believers.
- To respond to human need by loving service.
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society.
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

The Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee works to policies approved by the Diocesan Synod which seeks to encourage Church growth and allocate resources across the Diocese in order to provide leadership in mission and ministry in all its communities. The policies encourage collaboration and the Diocese and/or region provides training and support for local and licensed ministries, ordained and lay. Lay and ordained officers and parochial clergy work collaboratively, sharing ministry with all types of ministers both lay and ordained, to encourage and nurture vocation to various ministries both formal and informal.

## **Centenary Share**

Centenary share enables all the people of the parishes to contribute towards costs, with a priority of maintaining mission and ministry across the whole Diocese. Occasionally there are genuine financial difficulties in parishes, but parishes are expected to pay the parish share in full. Lay and ordained officers and parochial clergy encourage realistic and sacrificial giving by upholding, teaching and preaching this Gospel.

The Benefice of Haughley with Wetherden and Stowupland is in the Gipping Valley Deanery

*Last updated on: 31/01/2023*