

Haughley with Wetherden and Stowupland



The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Haughley



St. Mary the Virgin, Wetherden



Holy Trinity, Stowupland

Benefice Profile 2025



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of St Edmundsbury
and Ipswich

SUMMARY: KEY ASPECTS OF OUR BENEFICE

A Strong and Supportive Team:

We offer a strong and supportive Ministry Team, supported by three PCCs each with full membership. Additionally, we have discussed and agreed the appointment of a part-time Benefice Administrator, not appointed before the vacancy occurred, but an appointment a new incumbent might wish to oversee.

Benefice Ministry Team



Dynamic PCCs engaged in the community

Our 3 PCCs have a full complement, they are dynamic and active, with highly experienced Churchwardens, and many members also with key roles within the wider community; for example, one of the Stowupland Churchwardens is the Chair of Governors at Stowupland Community School, and a member of the Haughley PCC is a link Governor to the Crawfords Church of England Primary School in Haughley. Wetherden and Stowupland each have two Churchwardens, and while Haughley currently has one, this is complemented by a diversely talented and active PCC team.

Effective Coordination Across the Benefice

The three parishes work well together across the Benefice; for example, we have one Safeguarding Officer, who is independent of the Ministry Team, for the whole Benefice. Our **Ministry Team** have undertaken leadership in safeguarding training as part of our commitment to 'leadership in depth'. Collaboration has extended to management of the parish share between parishes, where we have experienced any minor shortfall in recent years.

The benefice understands the importance of social media for communication. At the moment we use 'A Church Near You' and there is a Benefice Facebook page. Church events are also shared on individual village platforms.

Clarity about expectations of key aspects of the incumbent's role

We also offer clarity in relation to expectations of the Incumbent regarding taking Services; for the expectation of which Services would normally be led by the incumbent, please see the table of Services in **Appendix 3**. We are open to the possibility of some changes of service times and keep our service format and pattern under review.

Membership of various local Trusts require the incumbent's relatively limited engagement only, as set out in more detail in **Appendix 4**.

There is an expectation that the incumbent will be a Governor at the Haughley Crawfords C of E Primary School, but no expectation that they take on the role of Chair.

Gold Eco Church Award

As a rural Benefice we nonetheless have a significant profile in terms of encouraging biodiversity and eco awareness and lifestyle. The Parish of Haughley has been awarded the A Rocha Eco Church Gold Award, in January 2025, and this has been driven over the last three or four years by an Eco Church Group which includes the Chairman of the Parish Council, the Headmistress of Crawfords Church of England Primary School in Haughley, members of the RSPB, of Haughley Nature Watch, and of the PCC. This is a significant achievement – St Mary's Haughley is only the 69th church in England and Wales to achieve the Gold Award. A Rocha have also requested they may use Haughley's Land Management Plan and Plan for Nature as a national exemplar.

ST MARY'S HAUGHLEY ECO CHURCH TEAM



Left to right: Gerald Brown, Chairman, Haughley Parish Council, and Liaison with the Parish Biodiversity Group; David Bryant, Treasurer, St Mary's PCC, and buildings specialist; Adam Faiers, Manager Hollow Tree Farm, RSPB member, and Haughley Nature Walks specialist; Mike Walker, Chairman of the Eco Church Group, and specialist in Churchyard Development; and Gordon Slack, Secretary, St Mary's PCC, Lifestyle Coordinator. Unable to be in the photograph but also members of the Group are Jo Ling, Headmistress, Haughley Crawfords C of E Primary School, and founder of Haughley Nature Watch; and Natasha Faiers, Secretary, Haughley Crawfords Primary School, and Communications Coordinator.

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The Benefice is seeking a Rector who will be a collaborative leader in a rural benefice, and 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’.

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

- Leading prayerful and worshipful services.
- 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.
- Through Bible Study and Home Groups to further build a benefice identity so our parishes become stronger together.
- Being open to be a training benefice for Assistant Curates.

A Rector who will strengthen contact with the **wider communities** by

- Having a pastoral heart for our communities.
- Maintaining and building the relationships with our local schools.
- Having an ecumenical approach.
- Working with and supporting the PCCs to innovate, develop and participate in activities that draw in members of the community.
- Being a visible presence of the church in each of our village communities.

We Offer

- A warm and hospitable welcome.
- Friendly welcoming parishes keen to welcome new members and find ways to reach out into the community.
- Effective and well run PCCs with experienced and knowledgeable members and officers.
- Church Warden and Verger support in each church.
- An existing Ministry Team currently made up of 1 SSOM assistant curate being priested in June 2025, 1 lay elder and a lay elder in training.
- 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 their time, talents and money.
- Good links with the local primary schools, sheltered housing developments and supported living complexes with regular worship events held in them.
- A commitment to Safeguarding with a Benefice Safeguarding Officer who not a member of the ministry team.
- A good house in the busy village of Haughley,
- Lay involvement is encouraged in the administration of the parishes through the PCCs. There is also lay involvement in services by leading intercessions and the reading of lessons as well as assisting with the chalice at communion.
- Haughley Church has been awarded (January 2025) the Gold A Rocha Eco Church Award – the 69th Gold Award nationally and in the top 2% of the 4,000 Eco Churches in England and Wales.

The Vicarage in the village of Haughley



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 and solar panels.



The Benefice of Haughley with Wetherden and Stowupland

Location

The benefice lies in beautiful Suffolk countryside 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, just a mile away, has a variety of shops, restaurants, entertainment and sporting facilities.

There are excellent road and rail connections 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. The URC congregation shares worship in Haughley parish church, where one service each month follows the URC tradition. The church tradition at all three churches is considered to be Central.

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**. Occasional services are held at special times of the year.

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.

The Parish of Haughley

The Church



The Church Building is a very attractive, large flint building mostly dating from between 1300 and 1500 and is Grade 1 listed. It stands in the outer bailey of the former Norman castle, having 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. Modifications include

the installation of toilet and catering facilities and a small meeting room/vestry 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.

Services

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 2nd Tuesday of each month, is a "messy church" type of service called "PIZZA".



PIZZA activities

This attracts up to 40-50 attendees.. These two services are currently our best-attended services, and they are planned and led by groups from the congregation, with the help of lay elders. 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.

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 4th Sunday, we have a BCP communion. Baptisms 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.

Ecumenical Partnerships

We happily welcome and receive visits from all denominations. Seventeen years ago, following the 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.



Governance and the PCC

- We are very proud that the **Post Office is owned and managed by the church**. A portion of a legacy was used in 2009 to purchase the Post Office building which had closed. It reopened 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 at specific events, Lent lunches, and monthly changing exhibitions. The Post Office has a specific committee, mainly but not solely consisting of PCC members, which reports back to the PCC.
- The **Church Development Plan** was endorsed by the PCC in 2021, on a rolling three year cycle, and is therefore regularly updated. The four main themes include a review of services, expansion of activities associated with the church, enhanced communication about church activities and developing strong Eco-Church projects, all of these have been accomplished, the renewed focus for us now on developing further as a Gold Award Eco Church. These strengths and areas for development of the church within the community are shown in the relevant sections below. During the vacancy the PCC has not appointed further formal committees, decisions being taken by the full council which meets seven times during the year.

The Church in the Community

The church endeavours to support individuals and families in the community in the form of a Telephone Tree; working with the primary school to provide food parcels to families in poverty in the village, including Christmas hampers. The incumbent/curate/ministry team takes regular services for residents at the sheltered housing and administers home communion when requested. The historic 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.

The Village

For the amenities, see Appendix 1.

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 and 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.

Employment

Haughley people 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 (CofE VA) (current roll 91 as of January 2025) caters for children from Haughley and Wetherden. It is adjacent to the churchyard. Most children proceed to Stowupland High School. There is a pre-school feeding the primary school. The Rector is expected to be a Governor of the primary school. Collective worship takes place in the church each week. We collaborate over various school initiatives, such as recycling of toys and uniform, and we are about to set up a small library in the room adjoining the post office.

Another initiative, on the second Tuesday of each month, is a “messy church” type of service called “PIZZA”. 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. This service is well attended and popular. 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 the recent successful application for A Rocha Eco-Church membership at the Gold Level and the development of 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 of Haughley wildlife; and working with other organisations such as

Haughley Nature Watch and Haughley Parish Council. “PIZZA” always involves an Eco-Church session. Please see the church website on a Church Near You for further details.



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 was completed in 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 fundraising events such as the Christmas Fair.



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.

The PCC's Assessment of Parish Strengths

- 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
- The church now holds the A Rocha Gold Eco Church Award, and is also a Fairtrade Church.
- 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 performances
- 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

- To appoint a second churchwarden
- Further develop *Sunday Praise* engaging the congregation with topical themes once a month
- 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
- Ensure the continuity of current initiatives – e.g. Post Office, Maxwell Charnley Room, Parish News
- To continue to develop 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
- 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)
- To continue the current initiative of 'churchyard development' including further planting, seating, and the possibility of a community sensory garden.

The Parish of Wetherden

The Village

Population and age profile (see Appendix 2).

The Church



Our beautiful Church is a 14th 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 center of the village and is surrounded by a churchyard commended for its grounds management.

The church is open every day during the daylight hours.

The tower has a peal of six fine bells which are rung before services. And to mark national events.



The Church in the Community

Events are organised by members of the Church for the village community. These include monthly successful and popular coffee mornings/tea afternoons and music events in the church.

Last October 2024 a very interesting day long event celebrating stained glass was held in the church, which was attended by over 100 people.

Wetherden church hosts the annual Christmas Carol service for the local WI, some of those attending now join our regular Sunday services.

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, raising £6000 or more for the church. Church members and their friends staff the entry gate, look after car parking, and provide and serve refreshments.



In November there is an annual bonfire night celebration supported by members of the church; this attracts visitors from across Suffolk.

Every Christmas the church has a stall at the Village Christmas Market and conversations with visitors encourage attendance at our regular Christmas services.

A talented and enthusiastic group of flower arrangers regularly and seasonally decorate the church. At Easter and Harvest Festival, in addition to our normal notices publicising that the church is open, we especially invite visitors to look at the flowers and decorations. This has generated interest from the community and led to an increase in

the visitors to the church. The flower arrangers hold a monthly workshop in the church which encourages new members from the community.

Members of the Wetherden History Group, many of which are regular church goers, helped in the production of the Church and Graveyard Guides. The group has held events in the church featuring different aspects of local history.

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 and includes a children's play area.

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 provides some employment. A small number of people are employed in rural work, but most commute to Stowmarket, Bury St Edmunds, 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 Secondary 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 Rector is also a trustee on the **Crawford Widows Trust** and on the **Crawford Educational Trust**.

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 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

- The replacement gates and newly laid path provide improved access to the church.
- The French drain around the Garden of Remembrance has been cleaned and restored, this work is currently being extended around the entire church.
- The clock was installed on the south side of the tower to mark the Queen's diamond jubilee. This was a collaborative effort by the Bell Ringers, the Church and the Community.
- There is an ongoing programme to clean and restore the altar linen, which has included the purchase of a new purple altar frontal.
- The Mother's Union banner has been cleaned and remounted ready to be hung in the church.

The Parish of Stowupland

The Church



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 with full access.

Both buildings are well maintained and have been extensively adapted to comply with disability legislation. The churchyard is closed. Regular meetings take place with the Parish Council to maintain and protect it. The Parish Council also manages the cemetery

which is approximately 200 meters up the road from the church.

Ecumenical Relationships

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 through 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

- 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 Spring Craft Fair
- Annual Flower Festival
- Annual Christmas Fair
- Carol singing in the Crown pub



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.

There is a constant flow of information from the church to the community through the monthly village News Letter (Telstar), as well as other publications and posters. The Church Pew News is available in church each week and is also sent to members who are unable to attend.

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



The Village - 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 weekly post-van visit in the village hall carpark.
- 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. 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 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. We are part of a farming community.

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. It is produced, edited and distributed by volunteers from the village.

The PCC's Assessment of Parish Strengths

- We aim 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, prepare for the future
- We are one of the main organisers of social activities in the village through monthly coffee mornings, an annual Flower Festival, Spring Craft Fayre and Christmas Fayre.
- There are good Links between the Parish Council and church
- Active mission and outreach to the sheltered housing developments in the village, with a monthly service led by the ministry team.
- There is considerable 'quiet' support in the village for the ministry of the church
- 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; 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
- Working with the Parish Council to provide an annual Civic Service both within the church and the community.



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. It 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 several outlying hamlets. 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.



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 and large District General Hospitals in Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich. Local community policing covers the area. Fire services are located at Stowmarket and Elmswell, a village about 1 mile west of Wetherden.

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.

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. On the history of Haughley, its motte and bailey castle, the events of the Great Revolt in 1173 and the siege of the castle and Battle of Fornham, see the recent publication: Dr. M. J. Walker, 'A Hard and Grievous Battle: the Siege of Haughley Castle and the Battle of Fornham in 1173', for sale at various outlets in Bury St Edmunds and locally, including Haughley Post Office

Appendix 2: Benefice Statistics

Ward numbers are from the 2021 Census website

		Haughley	Wetherden	Stowupland
<u>The Community</u>				
Population (2021 Census)		1,646	553	2,019
Age profile				
	0-9years	151	37	197
	10-19 years	148	66	201
	20-29 years	143	36	199
	30-39 years	184	43	238
	40-49 years	173	73	211
	50-59years	236	88	273
	60-69 years	233	93	247
	70-79 years	234	78	270
	80+ years	127	36	167
<u>The Church</u>				
Church Electoral Roll		41	33	46

Appendix 3: Current Service Pattern across the Benefice

<i>Sunday in month</i>	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	2 nd Tuesday
HAUGHLEY					
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	35	35	15	10	35
WETHERDEN					
Time	11.00 am	11.00 am	11.00 am	11.00 am	
Form of Service	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	All-age family Worship	CW Parish Communion	
Average Attendance	20	22	28	19	
STOWUPLAND					
Time	9.30 am	9.30 am	9.30 am	6.30pm	
Form of Service	CW Parish Communion	Worship for All	Morning Prayer	Evensong or CW Communion	
Average Attendance	18	20	20	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. Services denoted in red, such as **CW Parish Communion**, are those the Rector is expected to attend, the other services being led by the Assistant Curate and the Lay Elder, those in maroon, such as **Joint service with URC**, are those the Rector might alternate between.

Please note that the average attendance numbers are based on the annual Ministry Return for the month of October. Numbers attending each week do vary, there is significant attendance at special events such as the Carol Services and Remembrance Services.

Occasional Services (2024)

	Haughley	Stowupland	Wetherden
Baptisms	5	10	1
Weddings	3	2	0
Funerals	5 + 4	12 + 2	3 + 3

Appendix 4: Local Trusts and Charities, incumbent role

PARISH	CHARITY	PURPOSE	EXPECTATIONS OF THE INCUMBENT
Haughley	Haughley Joint Charities	Support of those most in need in the parish	Trustees are the Rector and members of the PCC
Wetherden	Wetherden School Trust	Educational and other charitable purposes for the benefit of the parishioners of Wetherden.	Trustees are the Rector (not expected to be Chair) and Churchwardens meeting 3 times a year.
Wetherden	The Crawford Educational Trust (Wetherden)	Grants to support individual members of the parish, to assist continued education	The Rector is a Trustee (not expected to be Chair) meeting 2 / 3 times a year
Wetherden	Crawford Widows' Trust	Support to those in need in the parish	The Rector is a Trustee (not expected to be Chair) meeting 1 / 2 times a year
Stowupland	Stowupland Town Lands and Calthorpe Trust	Financial support to those in need in the Parish	The Rector is a Trustee (not Chair). The Rector and/or a churchwarden attend the annual meeting of the Trust

Appendix 5: 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.

There are nine stipendiary clergy posts in the Deanery, one House for Duty post and two self-supporting ministers. The Rural Dean is Revd Daniel Harrison.

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 6: 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. Bishop Martin is due to retire at the end of February 2025; the leadership of the diocese will then be with The Right Revd. Graeme Knowles who will become the Acting Diocesan Bishop from 1st March 2025 until a new appointment is made. 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: 7th February 2025