

## ELECTION ADDRESS

I am Graham Miles and I live in Ipswich with my wife Liz. We have three children and four grandchildren, who all fully support me in my Church work.

I started as a choir boy, then progressed to Head Server and Deputy Church warden. I had Gods calling in the year 2000, but things were put on hold because of my parents illnesses. In 2019 I was licensed as an Evangelist to the parish team of SWITM and my parish Church is St Mary at Stoke, Ipswich.

I came from a farming background and Captain Andrew Payne realised I had a passion for farming and the rural countryside, which led to a meeting with the Rural Archdeacon Sally Gaze and I was re licensed to the Lightwave Community as Rural Chaplain for Suffolk. I am now Rural Agricultural Chaplain for Suffolk. My Aim was to build a team across Suffolk supporting our Farming and Rural Countryside communities. I now have three volunteers helping me in Mendham, Long Melford and Alderton. They are being commissioned by Bishop Mike the Bishop of Dunwich during a Lightwave launchpad weekend.

During the Covid 19 Lockdowns I have had many phone calls from Farmers across Suffolk and beyond who had been struggling with depression, anxiety, loneliness and suicide tendencies. My mobile phone has been on 24/7 and I had one call at 4am from a Farmers wife who was struggling after loosing her husband due to Covid, and then found out her cattle had tested positive for TB.

I have written an article in a national Farming magazine and have been interviewed on a prime spot on BBC Look East news regarding the plight of struggling Farmers.

I work very closely with FCN, YANA, the Suffolk Rural Police and the Princes Countryside Trust, which I am a member of.

I am also Chaplain to the Rural Suffolk Suffolk New College at Otley in Suffolk, a role I share with Andrew Jarrold from the Salvation Army. I am also being asked to attend Country Shows as Rural Chaplain.

Taking Church to our Farming Communities is so important, because Farmers and their families cannot always get to Church on a Sunday due to Farming commitments. Coming from a Farming background has helped me to understand the problems that Farmers are facing in these changing times.

Being a member of the General Synod representing Rural Agricultural Ministry would be a step forward and a voice for our Farmers and Church moving forward to the future.

God is with me every step of the way.

