



TEAM RECTOR FOR THE WILFORD BENEFICE

Alderton, Bawdsey, Boyton, Bromeswell, Butley, Chillesford, Eyke, Hollesley, Iken, Orford,
Ramsholt, Rendlesham, Shottisham, Sudbourne, Sutton, Tunstall, Wantisden



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The Role of Team Rector

From the Archdeacon

The Wilford team covers a large rural part of East Suffolk and a range of communities. During the latter part of 2023 we began informal conversations as to whether the team continued or splits into three separate benefices. The consultation resulted in a mixed response. With the Rectors post becoming vacant we have paused the discussion until someone new is in place. We are keen therefore to appoint a strategic, missional leader as team rector, who will help the team carefully discern the direction of travel for the future.

The Venerable Rich Henderson, Archdeacon of Suffolk.

We are 17 diverse yet cohesive parishes in a beautiful rural and coastal location with 18 largely well-maintained and cared-for church buildings cared for by dedicated teams of Churchwardens and Parochial Church Councils. Well organised into three clusters to facilitate staffing and administration by an allocated stipendiary staff of Team Rector and two Team Vicars, ably supported by many retired clergy, a Lay Reader, five Lay Elders and an accredited Child and Family worker.

We are looking for a servant leader who is prayerful and has a passion for the gospel. Someone who is tolerant, collaborative, an encourager, and enabler of others. Communication is key in this large benefice as is an understanding of rural ministry.

We want you to feel at home in this benefice and will offer you our prayerful and practical support, participation in worship, welcome and service.

You will receive support from the ordained and lay colleagues who make up our ministry team. We will respect your need for personal time and space.

- ✓ Priests' expenses are paid in full and shared by the parishes
- ✓ Parish Share is met by the benefice overall; struggling parishes are willingly supported by those more financially able
- ✓ Lay Elders willingly take services of the Word,
- ✓ Retired Clergy provide valuable assistance throughout the benefice

We need a Team Rector to pull together the strengths and weaknesses of the team - the challenges and opportunities, as well as developing outreach strategies for supporting youth and young families, those who struggle and an increasingly ageing population; inspiring us in our Christian discipleship and fostering good communications across the 17 parishes of the Wilford Benefice

The Wilford Benefice

The Team Ministry has 17 parishes and 18 church buildings, a population of 8,500 and covers an area some 10 miles by 14 miles.

Rendlesham Cluster	Hollesley Cluster	Orford
Bromeswell	Alderton	Butley
Eyke	Bawdsey	Chillesford
Rendlesham: (2 churches)	Boyton	Iken
Tunstall	Hollesley	Orford
Wantisden	Ramsholt	Sudbourne
	Shottisham	
	Sutton*	

The designated rectory is a generous, modern four-bedroomed home on the main village street of Orford - close to the church and Primary School - with an office, parking and a garden.

Farlingaye High School is in the town of Woodbridge as is the Independent Woodbridge School.

There are two Railway Stations on the East Suffolk Ipswich to Lowestoft branch line.

The nearest station is at Melton.

Wickham Market railway station is located in Campsea Ashe, approximately 2 miles east of Wickham Market

*Hollesley Cluster has 7.5 churches. The .5 church is a church plant around a Fresh Expression on Sutton Heath in Partnership with Royal Army Chaplains Dept.

The Local Setting

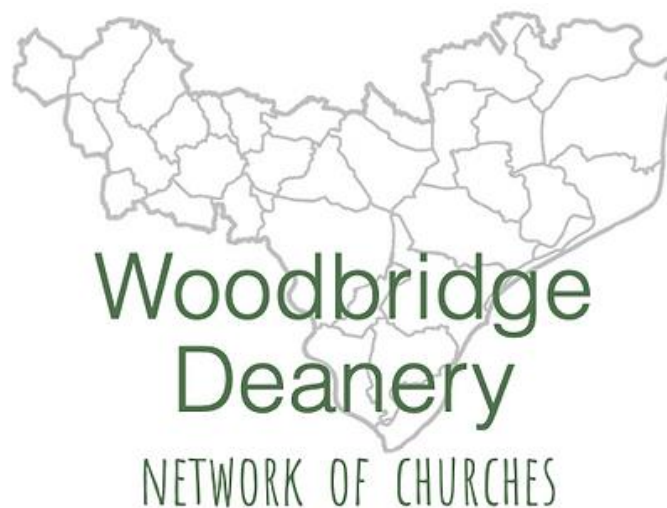
- ✓ **6 primary schools** – 3 state maintained (Rendlesham, Hollesley and Sutton Heath Sandlings) and 3 either voluntary aided or controlled by the Church of England (Bawdsey, Eyke and Orford)
- ✓ **Primary medical care** – general hospital with A&E in Ipswich, GP practices with branches serving Alderton, Orford, Wickham Market, Rendlesham and two in Woodbridge. 2 care homes for the elderly, including frail elderly, in Rendlesham and Hollesley
- ✓ **Employment** provided by light industry and large family farms
- ✓ **Housing** developments and employment opportunities have drawn young families to the area, many of whom have not been brought up in the church tradition, creating a challenge towards mission
- ✓ **Ecumenical collaboration** is growing with one Methodist church (at Orford) and four Baptist/independent churches (Tunstall, Sudbourne, Bromeswell, Boyton) and a pilgrimage link between Iken and the Russian Orthodox Church of Norfolk and Suffolk
- ✓ **A wealth of cultural attractions** such as Anglo Saxon Sutton Hoo, RSPB Minsmere, Snape and the Aldeburgh Festival
- ✓ **Well connected** via major roads (A12 and A14) and rail to Ipswich, Norwich, Cambridge, London and The Midlands

The Deanery of Woodbridge

Woodbridge Deanery is in the eastern Archdeaconry of Suffolk bounded by the North Sea in the East and the rivers Alde/Ore (North) and Deben (South). The 5 benefices include the Wilford Peninsula Team Ministry.

Please visit the comprehensive Deanery website at www.woodbridgedeanery.org

Currently we have no Rural Dean but the Clergy Chapter collaborates with the Lay Chair and standing committee over individual meetings. We invite all parishioners to join Deanery Synods to hear speakers and presentations.



East Suffolk Council is the local authority covering the area, almost all of which falls within a designated “Natural Landscapes”. The landscape is coastline, sandlings, heath and woodland with gently rolling arable farmland.

Two former US Air Force bases - for Woodbridge and Rendlesham – have left legacies which have helped shape the present team ministry. Occupied during the Cold War, then abandoned, these now host varying sizes of housing developments, business premises and growing local communities

Mission Focus

Growing in God

Our priorities for mission in the benefice are inspired by the diocesan vision of Growing in God.

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

Working with Children and Young People

Across the Benefice there are both Church and State run schools, offering a diverse religious and cultural spectrum. Messy Church is a favourite and these are held regularly throughout the Benefice. There was an active “Open the Book” team in previous years, sadly now “dormant”. We want to begin this project again, and hopefully new volunteers will be recruited soon. New outreach projects working with teenagers and young people is also being planned, especially within the Rendlesham Cluster, and this is currently being formulated and grants applied for.

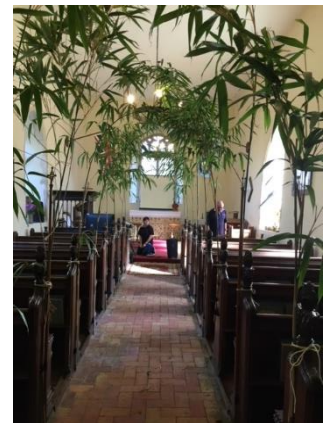


Interaction with the church schools continues with an open door policy to the clergy and with the schools actively coming into church.



Eyke CofE School celebrate Harvest (October 2024)

Rendlesham School, who have in recent years had no interaction with the church is now beginning to build links with regular visits to St Felix. Bawdsey CofE School children are regular visitors to St Mary’s for Assemblies and festivals as well as weekly Forest School activities in the churchyard. There are similarly strong



Preparing St Mary’s for a Bawdsey school Tabernacle Assembly

links between Orford CofE School and St Bartholomew’s church. As with all mission and outreach, there is always more we can do, and there is no shortage of ideas and enthusiasm.

Who We Are

“The Church, its PCC and congregation, offers a spirit of co-operation and companionship with our cluster neighbours which we hope is and will continue to be of benefit to the Benefice as a whole”

St Botolph, Iken PCC

This is a beautiful church; loved by its community and nestled between open fields and forest. Its well attended, monthly service offers music, refreshments and friendship. We're looking forward to welcoming a new rector and to moving spiritually on together.

All Saints, Sudbourne PCC

“A great commitment to God's work by the regular payment of the Parish Share as an enabler to His work.”

*St Andrew ,Alderton and
All Saints, Ramsholt PCCs*

As a congregation we try to provide a hospitable and welcoming ethos with refreshment and the chance to chat after morning services. Throughout the year the Church is used for communal events for both fundraising and social

All Saints, Hollesley PCC

“Peace of mind; a content parish with a warmly regarded team vicar; a supportive and stable PCC; a gateway from the peninsula to the A12 and beyond.”

St Edmund, Bromeswell PCC

“An opportunity to lead and inspire a team to use the cultural and spiritual heritage of Orford and the beautiful space of the church to engage the community in worship and fellowship.”

St Bartholomew, Orford PCC

“An historic and beautiful thatched church with a friendly and welcoming congregation.”

St John the Baptist, Butley PCC



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of St Edmundsbury
and Ipswich

The Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

Where are we?

The Diocese covers the county of Suffolk, excluding the area around Lowestoft in the north-east, and one parish in Essex. It is a mainly rural Diocese with a large number of small villages, plus market towns including Woodbridge, Halesworth, Sudbury and Beccles and the cathedral town of Bury St Edmunds with its historic ruins of the old Abbey. Ipswich is the county town with a population of about 137,000. Suffolk's population is c 650,000. The county embraces historic places of interest such as Sutton Hoo, culture at Snape with the famous annual Aldeburgh music festival, is on the Heritage coast and is a haven for lovers of natural history and birdlife. The busy port of Felixstowe is at the end of the A14 which runs via Cambridge to the Midlands and the A12 which gives access to London and the Norfolk Broads.

Who are we?

We are often known as 'the Church of England in Suffolk'. The diocesan bishop is the Right Reverend Martin Seeley, and the suffragan bishop is the Right Reverend Dr Mike Harrison (*due to leave at the end of September 2024 and will become the Bishop of Exeter from 2 November 2024*). Both work from the Bishop's House in Ipswich. They work together closely to help us shape our vision and strategy, and amongst a plethora of other tasks offer regular teaching mornings to nurture the faith of people in our congregations – and a regular Vlog which can be found on Facebook. There are 3 archdeaconries and over 450 churches where visitors will find a wide range of worshipping styles, from the traditional to contemporary, as well as Fresh Expressions and growing numbers of 'Lightwave' groups for those who haven't connected with traditional church previously. The Cathedral of St Edmund and St James in Bury St Edmunds is the mother church of the Diocese and is proactive in offering support to clergy and parishes including welcoming parishes on pilgrimage. We also work closely with our 88 Church of England primary schools. All this is, of course, supported by a small and committed diocesan staff based in the diocesan office in Ipswich.

What is our vision?

Our diocesan vision is to be 'Growing in God', aiming to grow 'flourishing congregations making a difference'. This vision was accepted by Diocesan Synod in 2014 and since then we have been focussing on four key priorities:

- Growing in Depth: responding to the call of Christ in every part of our lives
- Growing in Number: drawing the contacts we have into the life of God's kingdom
- Growing in Influence: reaching beyond ourselves in our impact on the wider world
- Growing Younger; building churches whose age-range reflects our communities

Growing in God

Parishes are encouraged to use a simple Mission Action Planning tool to help us all to focus on these priorities and how they might be worked out in each different context. We are trusting God that this vision, underpinned by a commitment to Christian stewardship, will bear fruit as we look to the future.

As part of this vision, we have recently received Strategic Development Funding for two major projects: Inspiring Ipswich, overseen by the Archdeacon of Ipswich which aims to grow the church in Ipswich through church planting and reaching out to those who live in the town, and 'Growing God in the Countryside', overseen by the Archdeacon for Rural Mission. This focusses on nurturing and discipling new Christians through small Lightwave groups and hubs such as the one being established at Bungay. (The Growing in God in the Countryside project plan is available among the documents at www.lightwave.org/vacancies)

We have also been part of a pilot scheme exploring how we can use our church buildings more creatively both for those who worship regularly and for the benefit of our communities and many churches have benefitted from this.

We are broadening our vision through a growing partnership with the Diocese of Kagera in Tanzania, with fruitful visits and links being established.

How can we fulfil our “Growing in God” vision?

We value our huge range of different ministries: we have over 100 stipendiary clergy, plus many SSM and PTO clergy as well as lay and ordained chaplains who can be found in such diverse places as schools, prisons, hospitals, hospices, the army, RAF and the police. Some clergy are ordained to serve in their local benefice through our pioneering 'auxiliary ordination pathway' which enables people's vocations to ordained ministry to be discerned within the Diocese.

All clergy work alongside lay ministers – Readers, elders, and the growing number people exercising recently introduced licensed ministries: pioneer ministers, evangelists, youth ministers and children's and family workers. Our ministry deployment principles encourage teams or clusters of lay and ordained ministers to work together so that clergy feel less isolated and ministry resources the mission of the church more effectively. We are just beginning to develop the principle of 'local ministers' in our benefices, releasing people's gifts to serve in their locality.

We are excited about these new developments which are playing an important part in our diocesan vision of Growing in God.

So, in summary:

As our Growing in God vision states, we aspire to be people who know that 'God is with us, gathering us as Christ-centred communities, calling us to make Christian disciples, sending us in loving service, empowering us by the Holy Spirit'.

The diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich strongly encourages all incumbents to promote the growth of small missional groups and fresh expressions of Church in their benefices. “Lightwave” has been created with a diocese-wide Bishops Mission Order in order to support clergy and lay people to work together in mission-shaped communities, reaching out in innovative ways.

The Lightwave Community meets in small groups in homes, pubs, offices, schools and other places and complements other ways of being church. The name of the community comes from the idea of lightwaves being the way in which light spreads into dark places. Lightwave is committed to shining the light of Jesus in Suffolk through acts of kindness and practical service as well as worship and witness.

Each lightwave group aims to do one activity together to bless their local community and to share faith in their locality or network. Each group receives support and training in their outreach through a growing network of coaches. Each is mainly concerned to bless people who are exploring faith for the first time, while simultaneously cooperating closely with local parish churches and others. The Lightwave Community is being developed through a Project called “Growing in God in the Countryside” funded by the Strategic Development Unit of the Church Commissioners until 2025. While both urban and rural Christians are part of this community, there is a particular focus on helping 1500 new disciples come to faith in rural areas in the period of the funding. Many Lightwave groups are planting fresh expressions of Church. The understanding is that such fresh expressions of Church will be new or different ways of being established primarily for the benefit of people who are not yet members of any church.

The Lightwave Community is developing three Rural Hub Churches, in different parts of rural Suffolk These create and support the development of the small missional groups in the whole surrounding area and to intentionally provide sufficient critical mass for particular ministries which are currently under-represented in rural churches, for example with young adults and those in lower income brackets.

The Lightwave chaplaincy team support those involved in farming and rural business. Every part of the Lightwave Community has a vision for the great wave of God’s love, bringing light to our county.

The Place by the Water is a Christian house

based in the beautiful Suffolk countryside, on the Wilford Peninsula, in the village of Shottisham. Run by the Rev Kathy Wilson, it offers space for mission, teaching and retreat, plus a place of worship.



The house offers a space to take time to be with God: whether it be to refocus in the stillness of a retreat, to come before our Lord in prayer, to go deeper into His word in study, attend one of the many craft workshops or pop up cafes or spend time in fellowship or fun days where refreshments and food can be provided. This is a full-time ministry that works alongside the parishes in the Benefice. It is funded through grants and donations and is part of the Lightwave CIO. We offer meeting space to local churches and Christian organisations, and the wider diocese.



The Church of Saint Andrew, Alderton

Centre of Traditional Worship and Praise

The village of Alderton has a shop, a 16th Century former coaching inn, a GP surgery and a village hall. Housing is a mixture of old and new and the population is around 400. *Just 42* provide a weekly-in-term-time youth club and there is much potential for further children's ministry and work with young families here. The villager's workers are employed chiefly on the land and by BT at Martlesham. A Communal Christmas meal is prepared and served annually for the elderly of the village.



Lent Lunch in Church

The church is grade II listed, dating from the 14th and 15th Centuries. The chancel was rebuilt in 1862 and Nave restored and re-roofed in 1864 by A W Blomfield. The tower is a beautiful ruin having collapsed in 1821 following years of neglect. Interior is airy and flexible with modern comfortable furniture and attractive soft furnishings. The spacious open churchyard is managed for wildlife.



Flowers for Mums on Mothering Sunday

Pattern of Services

- 1st Sunday of month 8.00am 3rd Sunday 9am
BCP Holy Communion
- Alternating Remembrance services with Ramsholt

Fresh Expressions

Good Friday walk of witness

In 2023 there was 1 wedding

- ✓ Committed PCC
- ✓ Electoral roll 20
- ✓ Worshipping Community 12
- ✓ Priest's expenses paid in full and shared by the 7 PCCs
- ✓ 2023 Parish Share paid in full by generous giving, will also be met in 2024
- ✓ We are part of **Hollesley** Cluster

Contributed by members of the PCC

The Church of Saint Mary the Virgin Bawdsey

Active and Caring Faith in Practice

Bawdsey, with a population of 276, is the village at the South East corner of the Benefice bounded by the River Deben to the South and the North Sea to the East. It has a Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school, where the Incumbent is an ex-officio Foundation Governor and a charming Village Hall. Right at the SE tip is Bawdsey Manor, world famous as the RAF site where Radar was developed, now a PGL Centre, running adventure holidays for children. There is also a café here, a fine beach, a yacht club and a foot ferry to Felixstowe.

The church is medieval, “..of great character and charm, which demonstrates its chronology in a most graphic and impressive way” *Malcolm Starr, EH Architect*. The oldest parts of the Nave, the pillars and arches, date from 1210 and the



Thanksgiving for restoration of the Tower

impressive 60ft Tower from 1320. It has an historic Joseph Hart organ and the Quilters (who built Bawdsey Manor) have a family crypt in the hurchyard.



The Boathouse Café at the Quay

Pattern of Services

- 2nd Sunday 11.00am Holy Communion
- 4th Sunday 11.00am Morning Praise
- Boyton 11:00am 5th Sunday cluster HC
- Bawdsey School Services in Term time

Fresh Expressions

- Forest School in term time
- Monthly Coffee and Chat

- ✓ We have a diverse and committed PCC, well represented across age ranges and genders
- ✓ Electoral roll 26 ~ Worshipping Community 8 and an actively engaged community from Bawdsey village and beyond
- ✓ Numerous community activities including a highly-respected and very well attended annual Flower Festival
- ✓ Priest's expenses paid in full and shared by the 7 PCCs
- ✓ 2023 Parish Share paid in full by avid fundraising, will also be met in 2024
- ✓ We are part of the **Hollesley** Cluster

In 2023 there were 2 funerals and in 2024 so far 1 funeral
Sadly, no weddings or baptisms

Contributed by members of the PCC

St Andrew's Church Boyton with Capel St Andrew

The Village of Boyton and the hamlet of Capel St Andrew are surrounded by agricultural land and is about a mile from the Suffolk Heritage Coast and RSPB marsh land.



The Church of St Andrew's is set back from the road close to the Mary Warner Alms houses which are cared for by Orwell Housing. The Church was restored in Victorian times but retains some of its original features: a Norman doorway , (possibly inserted sometime after the Norman period) and a septarian stairs to the tower.



In 2021 the Church became a Festival Church

The Church Hall has been leased to Community Action Boyton on a 7 year lease. The custodial Trustee of the hall is the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. The PCC has retained the right to use the hall for a certain number of hours per year.

Pattern of Services

On a Fifth Sunday in a month there is a service of Holy Communion

Occasional Services are held through the year
An Annual Act of Remembrance in November
Services at Harvest and Christmas

The church is supported at these services by the surrounding parishes

- ✓ There are 16 people on the electoral roll.
- ✓ There is a PCC of 5 including the Vicar and there is a coopted Treasurer.
- ✓ We are part of the **Hollesley** Cluster

Contributed by members of the PCC

Saint Edmund's, Bromeswell “*a quiet community, cherishing both rural heath and arable farmland*”

Close to Woodbridge yet spread out with commanding views over the River Deben estuary, and access to sailing, fishing and golf. The population is around 320, older than the national and diocesan averages with fewer younger people. Housing is mostly detached and owner-occupied, beyond the means of younger families and most first-time buyers. Scattered local businesses include a retail nursery, pig farm, timber merchant, cricket bat willow processor, and the award-winning ‘Unruly Pig’ pub and restaurant on the main road. The village hall is well used for activities including keep fit, yoga, table tennis, kickboxing, badminton, body conditioning, scrabble, bowling and boules.



The Grade I listed church is the original Anglo-Saxon church that was developed by the Normans and is dedicated to St Edmund, who was crowned king of East Anglia in 836. The nave is 9 & 10th century, the tower added in the 14th Century tower is visible from a distance, pews were installed in the 15th century and the chancel added in the 19th century, with its vestry in 1985 thanks to a legacy and providing a small meeting room, toilet and kitchenette. The building is structurally sound, with efficient heating and lighting.

Pattern of Services

1st Sundays 11.00am Morning Praise
3rd Sundays 9.30am Holy Communion
4th Sundays 9.30 am Holy Communion
Rotating Cluster services on 5th Sundays

**In 2023 there were 1 baptisms,
2 weddings and 4 burials.**

- ✓ Committed PCC
- ✓ Electoral roll 17, Worshipping Community averaging 7
- ✓ The church is generously supported with fundraising and at special services by the “Friends of Bromeswell Committee”

- ✓ We are part of the **Rendlesham** Cluster

Contributed in 2024 by members of the PCC

St John the Baptist Church, Butley

Where is Butley?

Butley has approximately 400 inhabitants and is situated between Woodbridge and Orford, very near to Rendlesham Forest. Butley consists of a village and two hamlets of Low and High Corner. The church sits between the village and the hamlets. The medieval gatehouse of Butley Priory is close by.



What is Butley church like?

Butley Church is a grade II Listed church which has been there since the Norman times. It has had some refurbishments in the last seven years with the replacement of the unique thatched ridged roof and other internal and external repairs and redecoration. It receives regular visitors throughout the year and all comment on how grateful they are that the church is always open.

What are our services and congregations?

Currently we have a Holy Communion service on the first Sunday of the month at 11am. Our usual congregation numbers are approximately 10-15.



What can Butley church offer to a new incumbent?

Special services during the year include our Harvest Festival followed by a 'bring and share' lunch at the Old School House and a Candlelit Carol Service. For these services and at Easter and Christmas our congregational numbers can rise up to 40 or more.

During 2022-2024 we had five weddings, two funerals and four burials of ashes.

- ✓ A worshipping community small in number but friendly and always welcome to new ideas that a new vicar may bring.
- ✓ A small but committed PCC
- ✓ A resident organist
- ✓ A rural community where the church building is viewed as important by all, whether churchgoers or not.
- ✓ We are part of the **Orford** cluster

St Peter's Church, Parish of Chillesford



General Information

The Wilford Benefice sits on the beautiful Suffolk Coast between the River Alde/Ore to the north and River Deben to the south. We are part of the Woodbridge Deanery

Chillesford lies on the B1084 surrounded by farmland, Chillesford Woods and the Butley River. There are around 65 dwellings with new homes continuing to be developed at Chillesford Lodge on the edge of the village. Residents number around 170, mainly permanent, with some young families, economically active residents, as well as retirees. The farmland, of three estates, is mainly arable with some sheep and also pigs and cattle. There is livery stabling, an engineering works, and a further small amount of light industry. The village shop was closed some years ago. *The Froize* is a popular and locally renowned pub/restaurant, often kindly providing community space for meetings and wedding and funeral receptions. There is a field next to the church which provides a Caravan Club certified location for caravanners, which is extremely well supported and provides valuable income for a small rural church.

A church was recorded on the hill, overlooking the entrance to the village, in the 11th century. The existing St Peter's would have been constructed in the 14th century with a tower made from local, honey-coloured coralline crag. The Victorians added their mark. The modern east window designed by Surinder Warboys, is much admired, drawing visitors, and is complemented by an altar frontal designed by Elizabeth Clover and embroidered by Margaret Cuddiford.

The PCC is small but active, though with just one Churchwarden.

Pattern of Services

All services follow the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) in accordance with the wishes of a loyal congregation of around twelve.

There are three services per month: Evensong (second Sunday), Compline (third), Holy Communion (fourth). Hymns are from the New English Hymnal (NEH).

St Peter's candlelit carol service is ever popular and attracts a full church. Communion is celebrated on Christmas Eve at 'Midnight at Bethlehem'. Blessing of the Animals is held each year in summer.

- ✓ We are part of the **Orford** Cluster

Occasional offices

These are few, four weddings and one baptism in the last five years with one to two funerals each year.

Contributed by members of the PCC

The Church of All Saints, Eyke

A compact rural, predominantly farming community with a working farm in its midst. Eyke Primary School (part of the Church-controlled St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocesan Multi Academy Trust) is in the middle of the village with around 110 pupils, most though, coming from outside the village. The school attends all major festivals in church with assemblies taking place in school. From September 2024 there will be monthly assemblies in church. The village hall, currently undergoing refurbishment, hosts weekly craft groups, the Over50s Sunshine Club, and various exercise classes. There are regular fundraising activities throughout the year, including Spring and Harvest Suppers run by the church.

The church is in the centre of the village, a modestly sized medieval building, cruciform in shape with Norman arches. Between 60 and 80 are seated comfortably. The chancel has strong supportive arches on each side to support the bell tower, which allegedly came down in the 16th or 17th century, but there is no record at all! Featured in the 2014 Diocesan publication to celebrate "100 Years, 100 Treasures" the church is admired for its stained glass including of St Bridget feeding the beggars, bench ends of pet dog, squirrel and penguin, and history notes that a family dynasty of vicars was responsible for the Anglican revival in this parish.



Pattern of Services

1st Sundays 9.30am CW Holy Communion

3rd Sundays 9.30am Morning Prayer

Rotating Cluster Services on 5th Sundays

In 2023 there were 0 weddings and 4 funerals all in church

- ✓ Our Electoral roll numbers 17
- ✓ The Average Worshipping Community is 13
- ✓ We are part of the **Rendlesham** Cluster

Contributed by members of the PCC

All Saints, Hollesley

Hollesley is a large village in which there has been much new housing over the last 15 years. There is a County Primary School, a pub - the Shepherd and Dog, a shop run by Morrisons and a large Village Hall and Recreation ground. All Saints is fortunate to have strong links with many of the activities which take place in the village although not directly organised by the Church. We endeavour to have links with the Primary school which is adjacent to the Church, and the school holds occasional services in the Church. There are links with the Residential Care home where there are monthly short acts of worship.

As a congregation we try to provide a hospitable and welcoming ethos providing refreshment after morning services when people have the opportunity to talk together. Throughout the year the Church is used for communal events for both fundraising and social.

The Church, an impressive 2* listed building, is on the site where it is thought there has been a church for 1,000. The earliest parts of the present church are 13th and 15th century walls restored in Victorian times. The church has a fine Tower in which there is a ring of 8 bells, thought to be one of the finest peals in Suffolk. The Churchyard is open and beautifully maintained. Awarded a SILVER Eco Church award in 2018. On the tower-roof aerials send a broadband service to outlying communities. The Team Vicar who has responsibility for the 7 parishes in the South of the Wilford Benefice lives in Hollesley.



Pattern of Services

*1st Sunday - 10.45am Café Sundaes - Lay Elder led
- 6pm Sung Evensong - Lay Elder led*

2nd Sunday - 9.30am Sung Holy Communion CW

3rd Sunday - 11am Morning Praise - Lay Elder led

4th Sunday - 9.30am Sung Holy Communion CW

Weekly Thursday - 12noon Said Communion

Services on Festival Days.

Fresh Expressions

Wednesday 2pm-3pm 'Pilgrims' - a weekly discussion group around a chosen topic with refreshments

Monthly Café Sundaes - discussion, worship and refreshments

Monthly Messy Church for families and Carers - Worship, activities, teaching and a communal meal.

All Saints' Hollesley has:

- ✓ A Committed PCC
- ✓ Links with the school
- ✓ Good music tradition, organists, and concerts,
- ✓ Free Wi-Fi in the church
- ✓ Electoral roll 52 with a regular Worshipping Community of over 60 during the month
- ✓ We have a variety of services, sacramental services and services of the word.
- ✓ Priest's expenses paid in full by the 7 PCCs
- ✓ 2023 Parish Share paid in full

4 baptisms
2 Weddings

We are part of the **Hollesley** Cluster

Contributed by members of the PCC

St Botolph, Iken



Iken is a small village of 64 households including 10 weekending families. It is an agricultural community with an increasing amount of tourist activity. The village is spread out over a large area of cottage, farms and farmhouses. The only clue to your arrival in this tiny hamlet is a sign at the crossroads saying 'Iken Church Welcomes Pilgrims'. It is an ancient site, the place of St Botolph's original monastic community founded in 654AD. An archaeological team found the foundation of the original wooden church. St Botolph is also venerated by the Russian Orthodox Church and in an ecumenical spirit we welcome worshippers who make an annual pilgrimage. The pilgrimage church receives a constant stream of visitors over the summer months.



The current thatched church is very simple, but houses the shaft of an 8th/9th century stone cross. The building sits on a raised knoll jutting out into the estuary – thought to have once been an island with tidal causeway – and has an extraordinary atmosphere of peace and holiness.

Pattern of Services

One service per month on the 2nd Sunday

- ✓ We are trying to build on the success of occasional Taize services.
- ✓ Active and Supportive PCC
- ✓ Electoral roll 24 – Worshipping Community 14
- ✓ We are part of the **Orford** Cluster

In 2023, unusually, there were no weddings or baptisms

Contributed by members of the PCC

The Church of St Bartholomew Orford: *'Spiritual Heart of the Community'*

Orford is a village on the River Ore which has historical town status. The town's development started in 1125 when Henry II built a castle, the keep of which stands guard over the river. Today the parish of Orford and adjoining Gedgrave has an electoral roll of 521.



The local economy increasingly depends on tourism, fishing and agriculture having dwindled. In our small community where rural poverty coexists with relative affluence tourism helps sustain shops, cafes, pubs, and a thriving sailing club. Orford Church of England Primary School has strong links with St Bartholomew's fostered by monthly assemblies, services in church and outreach events and provides valuable contact with young families. Orford has a Good Neighbour Scheme who provide a community larder and, joins with the Church to run a weekly winter lunch, helping combat loneliness and isolation.



St Bartholomew's Church is in the centre of the village and was first built around 1200 and over the years has been rebuilt. The church is Grade I listed. Unencumbered by pews, filled with light and spacious, with wonderful acoustics it provides a large flexible space which is well used for art and community events including the Aldeburgh festival. A strong music tradition is kept alive by the church choir who sing regularly.

We have an active Friends Group, who fundraise and ensure we have the wider support of the community beyond the regular congregation. The diverse use of the church contributes to the costs of running the church and care of the building so that it can continue to be a home and inspiration to a congregation which has worshipped there for over a thousand years.

Electoral Roll : 55

Worshipping Community : 30

Pattern of Services

1st Sundays 9.30am Holy Communion

2nd Sundays 10.00am Family Service

3rd Sundays 11.00am BCP Holy Communion

4th Sundays No service, join with other churches in cluster

5th Sundays Rotating Holy Communion services in cluster

The Rectory is a generous, modern four-bedroomed home on the main village street, close to the church with an office, parking and a garden.

✓ We are part of the **Orford** Cluster

Contributed by members of the PCC

All Saints, Ramsholt

Tradition and Heritage



Popular Wedding Venue

The village of Ramsholt boasts a population of just 32 and includes the Ramsholt Arms, a popular riverside pub and dining room, situated on the bank of the river Deben. The pub is recommended in the Michelin guide and in July 2015 was voted one of the top 20 places to dine alfresco in the UK by the Sunday Times. On the quayside an old boat has been converted into an office for the Harbourmaster and it rests permanently at the high water mark. Many boats are moored in the river and the foreshore is littered with tenders.

The Church, high upon the hill overlooking the river, is Grade II* listed and one of only 38 round tower churches in Suffolk. It sits in a tranquil location surrounded by farmland and has a beautifully tended churchyard managed for wildlife. This traditional church with Victorian box pews has been a place of worship for at least 900 years, has a peaceful air and serves many visitors and a widespread caring community through its continued use of the Book of Common Prayer and King James Bible.



Celebrating the Church and its History

Pattern of Services

- *2nd Sunday 11.00am Matins BCP*
- *4th Sunday 11.00am Holy Communion BCP*
- *Candlelit carols in Advent*
- *Alternating Remembrance services with Alderton*

In 2023 there were 4 weddings
2 Baptisms and 3 funerals

- ✓ Committed PCC
- ✓ Electoral roll 20, Worshipping Community 14
- ✓ Priest's expenses paid in full and shared by the 7 PCCs
- ✓ 2023 Parish Share paid in full at the beginning of each year and supporting others in the cluster
- ✓ We are part of the **Hollesley** Cluster

Contributed by members of the PCC

Saint Gregory the Great, Rendlesham

The parish of Rendlesham is part rural, and part urban, suburban or commuter belt, as its residents variously describe it. Some two and a half miles from Eyke, the road reaches a hamlet, with a string of some 10 to 15 houses, Friday Street, to the south/east, and to the north/west old agricultural cottages, a former schoolhouse, and a grade II listed manor house sit in farmland around the largest church for miles around, the ancient church of St Gregory the Great. There is a medical centre, pharmacy, dentist and children's day nursery. The latest population estimate (mid 2016) for the ward of Rendlesham is 3160. The profile is predominantly one of young families in housing of predominantly owner occupation in purpose-designed homes, with high car ownership.



The visitors book fills with new names from far and wide

St Gregory's is believed to have been built on the site of an Anglo-Saxon pagan temple. The acoustic in the church is excellent and it is in demand now once or twice a year for concerts. Its scale and stillness make it the perfect setting for monthly Taizé worship. The chancel has important 19th century stone memorials and the churchyard and burial ground are well kept.



Pattern of Services

- *2nd Sundays 9.30am Holy Communion*
- *4th Sundays 6.30pm Taize Services*
- *Rotating Cluster services on 5th Sundays*

In 2023 there were 2 weddings and 4 Interment of Ashes

✓ Electoral roll 56 in common with St Felix, and an average worshipping community 6-10, though this is much higher at major festivals

✓ We are part of the **Rendlesham** Cluster

Contributed by members of the PCC

Saint Felix of Dunwich, Rendlesham

The centre of Rendlesham is a development of the Bentwaters American Airforce base, established in the 1940s as protection during the Cold War, and abandoned in 1993. Industrial units to the south/east have renewed life including film production and museum. Timber-framed American residences on the north/west side, for families and single units, have been retained. Extensive development has taken place in blocks including family accommodation of varying sizes up to detached 6 bedroom. A 'garden village' of detached houses surrounds the Maharishi Peace Palace, a retreat centre for transcendental meditation, with which good relations have been established. A small amount of affordable housing is managed by a local housing association. Rendlesham Care Home has places for 60 elderly people including those with dementia care needs.



A protestant (Lutheran) chapel was provided in utilitarian style for the American air force. The building was abandoned when the base was closed in 1993. In 2000 it was bought by the Church of England, reconsecrated and dedicated to St Felix of Dunwich.



The church sits in its own garden and there is no burial ground.

Pattern of Services

- *1st Sundays 11.00am Holy Communion*
- *2nd Sundays 11.00am Holy Communion*
- *4th Sundays 11.00am Holy Communion*
- *Rotating Cluster services on 5th Sundays*

In 2023 There were 3 Baptisms and 4 Funerals

✓ We are part of the **Rendlesham** Cluster

Contributed by members of the PCC

The Church of St Margaret, Shottisham

Shottisham is one of the smaller villages within the Benefice, sitting at the heart of the Deben peninsula. The church along with the WI and pub is one of the pillars of our community, and a substantial proportion of our work and activity is focussed on engaging and involving the village, often with these other organisations. In part this is achieved through the numerous events organised by the church, which seek to engage and involve the diverse groups within the village and beyond. Our aim is to give at least 10% of our annual income to charities.



Harvest in the Allotment

The church sits at the heart of the village and is grade II listed. It is over 700 years old, but most of the building dates from the 14th & 15th centuries, with significant Victorian restoration. The tower was substantially restored in 2015/16, with wide support from the village. The church and churchyard are open, with broadband services to this rural community available from the tower. Its electricity supply was recently upgraded to 3 phase and there are plans to have water connected.



Rock Concert in Church

Pattern of Services

- 1st Sunday 9.30am Family Communion
- 2nd Sunday 11.00am Morning Praise
- 3rd Sunday 6.00pm Evensong
- Collaborative festival service between Shottisham and Sutton
- Rotating Cluster services on 5th Sunday

Fresh Expressions

- Annual Pet Service
- Strong and diverse music traditions, concerts

- ✓ Committed PCC
- ✓ Trained and DBS checked Pastoral Visiting Team
- ✓ Electoral roll 16, Worshipping Community 6-10
- ✓ Priest's expenses paid in full and shared by the 7 PCCs
- ✓ 2023 Parish Share paid in full and will also be met in 2024
- ✓ Shottisham has a modern, purpose-built Rectory which is currently rented out.

- ✓ We are part of the **Hollesley** Cluster

In 2023 there were 4 funerals all in church
In 2024 there have been 2 funerals and in September there will be 1 baptism

Contributed by members of Shottisham PCC

All Saints, Sudbourne

“Peace, Tranquillity and Nurture for 1,000 years”

The village of Sudbourne stretches from Sudbourne beach on Orford Ness across the Alde and Ore estuary and freshwater marshes to farmland, Captain’s Wood and Tunstall Forest. It has a population of around 300 and a Village Hall which is used for numerous functions. The Manor of Sudbourne dates from Saxon times and has a rich history.



The church sits just outside the village and was built in stone in the 12th Century. It was restored and refurbished in 1878-9 by Sir Richard Wallace of Sudbourne Hall who also donated the 1 manual organ. All Saints is the mother church to St Bartholomew’s in Orford. The church is well cared for and has an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity. The churchyard is maintained with areas left for wild flowers, enabling bees and insects to thrive.



In 2022, the PCC created a Friends of All Saints Sudbourne network of people who care for and about the church. It was created in order to connect with the community and to outreach to people who may not necessarily be part of the worshipping community. Many of our friends help with flower arranging, cleaning, mowing, reading lessons, technology and contribute to the Parish Giving Scheme.

As a rural parish, All Saints works hard to connect with other parishes within the Orford Cluster – in particular with St Bartholomew’s Orford and St Botolph’s Iken. The churchwarden of Sudbourne also sits on the PCC of Iken in order to help promote this relationship and link between the parishes.

Pattern of Services

All Saints has one regular service a month which falls on the 4th Sunday. This service attracts an average congregation of 35 and refreshments are offered following the service which many people stay for. There is a regular organist and a “turn up” choir known as the “Sudbourne Turnips”.



Festival services attract around 60 people. All Saints PCC is looking forward to welcoming a new priest, to moving spiritually on together and continuing to be active and there for its community.

- ✓ We are part of the **Orford** Cluster

So far during 2024 there have been
3 funerals
1 internment of ashes
3 baptisms, and
1 wedding

Contributed by members of the PCC

All Saints, Sutton and Sutton Heath

Two Worship Centres in one Parish

The Parish of Sutton extends over a large area incorporating the village and the former RAF Woodbridge base, now the home of a regiment of Royal Engineers where there are over 400 houses, half of them private and the rest military. A Prayer Room is provided by the MoD and is used with close cooperation between the Army Padre and the Church. Sutton Heath is also the location of Sandlings Primary School and the village boasts a well-equipped Village Hall



Wedding Dress Exhibition

and large Recreation Ground with play area.



Pensioners' Christmas Lunch in the Village Hall

The medieval church is in good repair and has kitchen and toilet facilities, a recently installed renovated 1842 single manual organ, and a piano. In 2000 a new bell tower was built beside the Church to replace the one which fell down several centuries ago

Pattern of Services

- 1st Sundays 9.30am Family Service at Sutton Heath
- 3rd Sundays 11.00am Communion at Sutton
- 4th Sundays 11.00am Café Church
- Collaborative festival services with Shottisham
- 5th Sunday Holy Communion at Boyton

Fresh Expressions

- Monthly knit and natter
- Monthly coffee and chat
- Monthly Friendship Lunch
- Bi-monthly Girls Night Out
- Spring and Christmas Markets
- Flower Festival

- ✓ Committed PCC
- ✓ Priest's expenses paid in full
- ✓ Electoral roll 22
- ✓ Worshipping Community 31
- ✓ 2023 Parish Share paid in full

- ✓ We are part of the **Hollesley** Cluster

**In 2023 there were
2 interments of Ashes
1 Baptism
1 Wedding**

Contributed by members of the PCC

Saint Michael and All Angels, Tunstall

A Stunning Church with Glorious Acoustics

Awaiting New Ideas and Energy

The west side of the parish consists mainly of large scale modern arable farming and to the east Tunstall forest. On the edge of the forest lies Tunstall Common, an area of Special Scientific Interest, typical of the Sandlings heathland countryside. Over the last two years some 50 new houses have been built bringing the total to approximately 300. There are two other small concentrations of houses; about 25 on the edge of Tunstall Common, where there is an active Baptist Chapel, and some 10 houses near the Maltings. There is a large Community Hall and a playing field. Nearby is a flourishing Bowls Club

The church dates mainly from the 15th century and is a light spacious building with good acoustics; the box pews are probably 18th century and can comfortably seat 100. There is a fine ring of 6 bells in a grand tower which was struck by lightning in the 18th century. The most recent rebuilding of the top was in the 1970s.



Pattern of Services

- 4th Sundays 11.00am Holy Communion
- Rotating Cluster services on 5th Sundays

In 2023 there were 2 funerals and 1 wedding.

- ✓ Active PCC
- ✓ Electoral Roll 12, Worshipping Community 13
- ✓ We are part of the **Rendlesham** Cluster

Contributed by members of the PCC

Saint John the Baptist, Wantisden

‘No discernible village now remains’

The Domesday Book has a mention for Wantisden, but since then plague, the Second World War and the construction of the Bentwaters Cold War air base have taken their toll. A river ‘Bent Water’ was redirected, cottages demolished and families moved. The 2011 census records 14 houses and a population of 30, which includes a large established and prosperous farm and its buildings. The population increases from sowing to harvesting with the employment and accommodation of casual farm workers, many of whom come from Eastern Europe.

The church is Grade I listed, built of flint and stone in the 12th century. Human heads are carved on the south door, the font has scalloped decoration, and there are paint traces of frescoes on the north wall. A bell tower was added in the 15th century. It is one of only two churches in the country built using coralline crag, the other less than a mile away in Chillesford. The atmosphere is deeply prayerful and connects today’s congregations to earlier generations who have worshipped here over the centuries. It is cherished as a gem. The churchyard is extensive. Many 18th century gravestones can still be identified



Electoral Roll 7

There are no regular weekly services here, but we aim to hold 6 per year of which at least one is Holy Communion.

- ✓ We are part of the **Rendlesham** Cluster

Contributed by members of the PCC