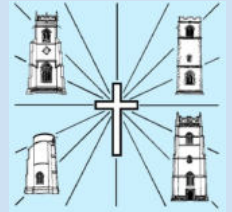


# Rougham, Beyton with Hesselton and Rushbrooke



## Benefice Profile 2023

St. Mary, Rougham



All Saints, Beyton



St Ethelbert, Hesselton



St. Nicholas, Rushbrooke



# Contents

Welcome to our Benefice	Page 3
Who are we?	Page 4
We hope for	Page 5
We offer	Page 6
Where are we?	Page 7
Our Services	Page 9
Our Churches & Villages	Page 10
St Eds & Ips Diocese	Page 17
Growing in God	Page 18
Our response (to Growing in God)	Page 18
Lavenham Deanery	Page 20
Appendices	Page 21
• Church Finances 2021 and 2022	Page 21
• Church Statistics	Page 22
• The Rectory	Page 23

# Welcome to our Benefice

Build communities and congregations will follow

We are delighted you are interested in becoming our new rector for these beautiful villages, situated in the lovely countryside just east of Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk and near to the A14 trunk road, which provides an excellent link to the rest of the country.

The number of services across the Benefice was reduced to one per Sunday, a joint Eucharist, in 2017. This has built up a high level of co-operation and cohesion between the parishes. Since the beginning of 2022 there has been a significant increase in activity across the Benefice with people volunteering to take up various positions in ministry or administration which had been unfilled. A new Reader has joined us. All this gives grounds for optimism that the new life being breathed into the Benefice will lead to larger congregations. The appointment of a new incumbent with the desire and the energy to engage with the people of the parishes and draw them towards a new or a renewed faith is key to the process.

There is growing engagement with the local communities (in particular the Rougham Primary School). We are running coffee mornings, Pantry in the Porch, art and other exhibitions in which church members collaborate with the local communities.

The establishment of a new ministry team comprising an ordinand on the Auxiliary Ordination Pathway (AOP), one Reader, four Lay Elders\* and four Churchwardens with considerable help from our Self-Supporting Minister (SSM) has also given us renewed confidence in the future. The pattern of services has begun to expand as we make more use of our resources.

We do, of course, face challenges, not least of which is the maintenance of four mediaeval churches across the three parishes, and financially we have struggled to meet our parish shares in recent times. However, we believe that with the right leadership we will be able to build a thriving Benefice, based on a 75% post.

We encourage applications from all who are appropriately qualified.

Our profile consists of

- ◇ Who we are and what we are looking for.
- ◇ What we can offer.
- ◇ The Benefice, Parishes and Services.
- ◇ The Deanery and the Diocese. The Growing in God initiative and our response.
- ◇ Appendices with some financial details, church and village statistics and details of the Rectory.

The Patronage for this appointment lies with the Bishop of Saint Edmundsbury and Ipswich.

\*Lay Elders are men and women chosen by the local Church and authorised by the Diocesan Bishop for ministry in the local Church and community. They work mainly in the areas of pastoral care and leading worship.



# Who are we?

## Important to us:



Sarah Lock being commissioned as an ordinand



The four Lay Elders (all female) after commissioning by the Archdeacon of Sudbury with the Rural Dean (back left) and the assistant Rural Dean (front right). (Spiritual Director of Cursillo\* is front centre) and a Churchwarden is back centre.

\*See page 19 for more information.

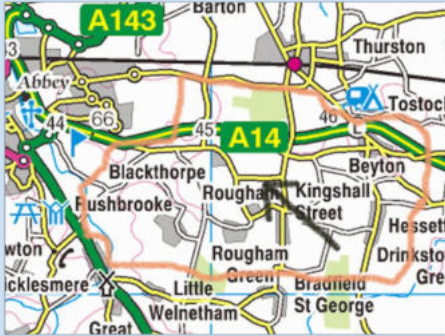
- ◆ Worshipping God: cherishing a range of worship styles including Common Worship, Taizé and modern accessible services for both adults and children and Book of Common Prayer (BCP). Developing new services to involve wider swathes of our village communities in their own churches.
- ◆ A commitment to preaching and teaching the Good News of Christ, developing a greater understanding of the Gospel, a deeper prayer life and building on the three home groups currently running in the Benefice.
- ◆ Working together: continuing the collaboration of the Benefice, allowing the particular gifts of all our communities to be respected and recognised, and individual parishes to develop their own characteristics. There is a strong fellowship between our churches in the Benefice and frequent attendance at each other's services.
- ◆ Growing our congregations: growing community by engaging a younger generation, families and children in all village/Benefice events and nurturing the strong bond we have with the local primary school.
- ◆ Reaching out: a commitment to pastoral care by increasing links with our local communities, caring for the elderly and the lonely, supporting charities with local links – Kagera (our Tanzanian link Diocese), Bury Drop In, Christian Aid, the Doxa project (working in Kenya), A2B (supporting Christian work in Albania), Tools with a Mission.
- ◆ The musical element of our services and the establishment of a small choir under the direction of our organist.
- ◆ Being an inclusive and welcoming church.
- ◆ Contributing to the Benefice magazine, produced and delivered by the community and free to all.
- ◆ Caring for our churches: looking after our faithful congregations, maintaining and improving our lovely old buildings and keeping our PCCs on a sound financial footing.

# We hope for

## someone who will:

- ◆ Enthusiastically lead us into the next phase of our Benefice life and development.
- ◆ Inspire us to deepen our faith through worship, the study of scripture, prayer and teaching, helping us to learn to share our faith more widely with our communities.
- ◆ Build on the new initiative of the Family@Church service which is attracting families who have not been regular churchgoers.
- ◆ Lead us in the exciting 'Growing in God' initiative.
- ◆ Develop a culture of evangelism
- ◆ Work in collaboration with, support and develop our recently established lay ministry team of one AOP ordinand, one Reader, four Lay Elders and four Churchwardens; encourage others to participate and explore vocation.
- ◆ Support our Benefice service rota enabling communion services on Sundays, Morning and Evening prayer across the Benefice and other services such as Taizé.
- ◆ Collaborate and communicate well, embrace living in our rural community, support our resurgent Benefice with sensitivity and a sense of humour and build on what has already been achieved.
- ◆ Support us to build relationships with children, young people and families by promoting and participating in community events.
- ◆ Develop communication and worship through new media and ideas.
- ◆ Foster good ecumenical relationships within and beyond the Benefice.

# We offer



The Rectory in Rougham

- ◆ A 0.75 stipend with working times/days for discussion.
- ◆ A warm, friendly, open and inclusive congregation.
- ◆ A supportive group of one AOP ordinand, one Reader, four Lay Elders, a retired SSM (with PTO), four Churchwardens, three PCCs and a welcoming congregation.
- ◆ Well cared-for church buildings and churchyards.
- ◆ The opportunity to lead and develop us in ministry and growth.
- ◆ Office and other expenses paid in full.
- ◆ Involvement in community life with a thriving Benefice magazine delivered to every house in the Benefice. The latest edition can be seen at:

<https://anyflip.com/xfgtl/zsqj>

- ◆ A Benefice in an attractive location with its rectory next to St Mary, Rougham, four miles from Bury St. Edmunds, which is an historic cathedral market town with access to good schools.
- ◆ A substantial five bedroom detached Rectory situated in the rural village of Rougham. This provides excellent family accommodation, ample parking and a large garden laid to lawn with a wealth of spring bulbs. (For further details see Appendix 3)

# Where are we?

Situated just east of the busy market town of Bury St Edmunds and south of the A14, Rougham Benefice comprises three adjacent individual parishes, namely Rougham, Beyton with Hessett and Rushbrooke. Travel between the parishes is easy whether by car, bicycle or on foot.

## Health care

We are well served with excellent primary healthcare facilities in Bury St. Edmunds and Woolpit. The West Suffolk Hospital, Bury St. Edmunds is well regarded and Addenbrookes in Cambridge now includes the specialist heart centre of Papworth on its site.

## Schools



Rougham Primary School

Rougham Primary School and Woodlands Preschool are next door to Rougham Church. Secondary schools include the Sybil Andrews Academy in Bury St. Edmunds and Thurston Community College, both are under three miles away. Thurston Sixth Form College now occupies the site of the former Beyton Middle School. County High and King Edward VI Upper schools also offer secondary education in town and further education is available at the West Suffolk College.

## Pubs etc.

Rougham is home to the Bennet Arms which offers food and Beyton has the White Horse which offers food and accommodation. The Five Bells in Hessett is undergoing restoration and expects to reopen in 2023. There are more pubs locally and a wide variety of restaurants in Bury St. Edmunds.

## Other

The Apex, a 600 seat concert centre in Bury St. Edmunds, plays host to a wide variety of musical events and the Cathedral does likewise especially during the Bury Festival in May. The Theatre Royal is the only theatre in the National Trust portfolio and the last working Regency Playhouse in the country. It hosts a variety of events and is perhaps best known for its annual pantomime. There is a multiplex cinema and a small private cinema with three screens.

The town boasts the Abbey Gardens, Moyses Hall museum and a leisure centre. There is an active market on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The mobile library visits all the villages on a regular basis.



## Transport

From all the parishes there is easy access to the main A14 trunk road which links the east coast ports of Felixstowe and Harwich as well as the towns of Ipswich, Stowmarket, Cambridge and through to the Midlands, linking with the M11, M1, M6, A1(M), A11, A12, A140 etc.

Thurston (less than three miles away) and Bury St Edmunds train stations are situated on the Cambridge to Ipswich line with fast connections to London Kings Cross and Liverpool Street, Norwich, Peterborough and beyond.

Rougham has a bus service which runs to and from Bury St. Edmunds three times a day. Beyton has bus services linking it to Bury St. Edmunds, Thurston and Stowmarket.

There is a bicycle route from Rougham to Bury St. Edmunds and for those who enjoy walking there is an excellent network of well-maintained and regularly walked footpaths, particularly in Rougham.



# Our Services



Beyton Church



Hessem Church



Rougham Church

Prior to 2017 services in the Benefice would take place in both Rougham and Beyton/Hessett every Sunday with an additional BCP communion on the first Sunday in Rushbrooke. Since 2017, apart from the service in Rushbrooke (the only regular service held there), just one service of Holy Communion has been held each Sunday in one of the two parishes. Usually the first Sunday would be a family service (a communion would have been offered at Rushbrooke), the second Sunday a Eucharist in Beyton and the third Sunday in Rougham and the fourth Sunday in either Beyton or Hessett. This pattern has continued post Covid.

The Festival times such as Easter and Advent/Christmas are shared across the different churches.

The service pattern has formed us into a very cohesive Benefice and people who were often reluctant to visit different parish churches are now much more willing to do so. However it has made for some loss of individual church characteristics with a reduction in the variety of service offered and of course there are still those who will only attend their 'own' church.

The three larger churches have pew bibles (NIV) and are using the extended version of Mission Praise.

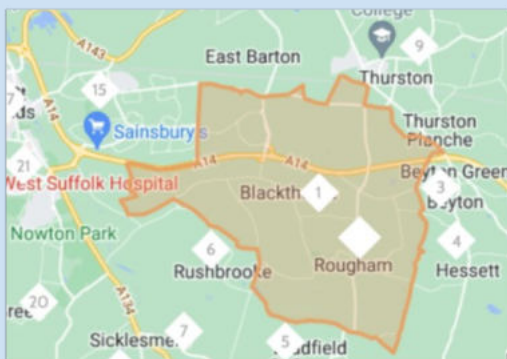
During the vacancy we have been somewhat constrained by the need to have a priest available to take the Eucharists but have tried to introduce a little more variety by having lay-led services using the resources now available. These include Morning Praise, the Family@Church service, Taizé, a Time to Remember (memorial service), a monthly Morning Prayer on the second Thursday, a Morning Prayer at Rushbrooke and an early morning (8.00 am) Holy Communion at Beyton once a month. The extra services have generally been well received. On fifth Sundays there is a full Eucharist service in Hessem.

A small group meets for Christian Meditation (Lectio Divina) once a month.

A consultation with the congregation has indicated that there is an appetite across the Benefice for a wide variety of service styles, both clergy and lay-led. These may comprise more formal and less formal Eucharists, family services, Morning Prayer/Praise, Taizé, contemporary, fresh expressions (Lightwave) and BCP services.

# Rougham

## St. Mary, the Church



Rougham parish boundaries

St Mary, Rougham is set outside the main village, next to the Rectory and the local Primary School. It is the largest of the churches in the Benefice. The church building, dedicated to St Mary, is late medieval and Grade I listed, set within a large, beautifully kept churchyard. The tower houses six bells in excellent working order and a team of ringers hold ringing practice on alternate Friday evenings. The tower is clearly visible as you travel eastwards along the A14 from Bury St Edmunds.

The church currently holds services on two Sundays a month, the first Sunday being a Common Worship Eucharist. On the third Sunday, we have started a Family@Church service of all-age worship which has been well received. This kicks off with a breakfast of bacon or sausage butties and croissants available from 9.30 am, followed by a short Service of the Word at 10.00 am. There is then a break for coffee prior to a slightly shortened Eucharist at 11.00 am to which all are welcome.

Attendance at this service has highlighted to older members of the village community that they can support the church in practical ways such as helping to tidy the gardens, which is something that the church would otherwise have had to fund but is another way of reaching out to our neighbours.

Since the beginning of the signs of economic hardship for some of the school families, the church has been offering a "Pantry in the Porch", providing free produce to any who need it. This has been well used and much appreciated by the community. We are thinking carefully as to how we might develop this work as it draws new people over the threshold.

We have a PCC which comprises a mix of ages, two newly appointed Churchwardens who are committed to the life of the church and a shared Benefice music group who help to lead our worship. We also have a team of local bell ringers who have recently recommenced ringing the bells on the third Sunday of each month in between our services. This is much appreciated by the villagers.

In recent years the church has held several baptisms, weddings and funerals as well as interments in a still active graveyard.

At the back of the church is a toilet and a rudimentary kitchen for preparing tea and coffee etc. Plans are afoot, when circumstances permit, to upgrade the kitchen to improve further our hospitality.

Further information is available at:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/2161/> or

<http://www.suffolkchurches.co.uk/rougham.htm>



# Rougham, the Village



Rushbrooke with Rougham civil boundaries



Post Office and Village Store



The village Pete on the Sports Hall grounds



Rougham Primary School

The village of Rougham has a population of approximately 1250 people in 458 homes spread across four main centres, the Mouse Lane estate of more modern homes, Kingshall Street including the shop/post office and local pub, Rougham Green which is a slightly sprawling area of individual homes with very little sign of a green, and High Rougham which has a few residences on roads leading from Rougham towards Beyton and Hessem.

There is an independently owned hotel – Ravenwood Hall – which is a popular wedding venue. Near to that is Blackthorpe Barn which dates back to 1550 and attracts people to a busy festive craft market, art exhibitions and is also used as a wedding venue. There is a garden nursery and farm shop, supplying a good range of local produce and plants. Just across the A14 is Rougham Industrial Estate and Rougham airfield which houses a wartime control tower museum and offers flying lessons. This part of the village is very close to the outskirts of Bury St Edmunds.

Rougham is blessed with a village shop and post office which is both a vital resource and a needed social service. The Sports Hall and grounds provide an excellent facility and are home to the Village Fete, quizzes and other activities.

There is a growing community spirit across the village with a WI, a village Facebook page which shares all sorts of events and a well used Sports Hall.

**Rougham Church of England Primary School** caters for five to eleven year olds and is sited next door to the church, providing shared parking facilities. The work of our previous incumbent in building links with the school has been continued and expanded in recent months with the school regularly coming into the church for assemblies and festivals.

We have an Open The Book team who present the Bible to the children on Thursday afternoons in the church building. The school comes in with Key Stage 1 one week, and Key Stage 2 the following week and the children love coming into the building and regard it very much as “their” church. This has helped with the link into the new Family@Church service. Two Teaching Assistants are church members, reinforcing the link.

The **Acorns & Woodlands Preschool** is on the same site and provides for two to four year olds during term time. It also offers daily after school care and a holiday club for two to eleven year olds.

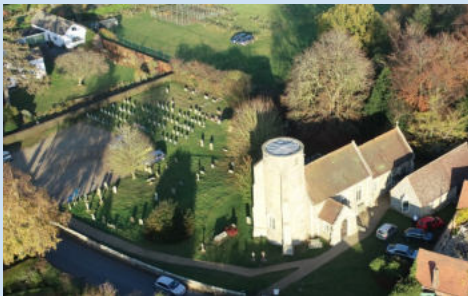
A **Coffee and Chat** session happens every Tuesday morning in the seating area at the back of the church.

For more information on the village please see:

<https://rushbrookewithrougham.suffolk.cloud/>

# Beyton

## All Saints Church



All Saints is the proud possessor of one of Suffolk's forty four existing round towers and, although the tower has been so greatly altered over the years that dating it is difficult, there is evidence to suggest that its core may be Saxon – probably over one thousand years old. The church is Grade II\* listed and apart from its tower boasts other significant architectural features.

The interior is bright, cared-for and feels lived-in. There are some exceptional 19th century carvings on the choir stalls and the Stuart Communion Table has had the Holy Eucharist (Communion) offered on it since the 17th century.

In 1973 the vestry was built beside, but linked to, the main building and once extended in the early 90s provides an excellent meeting room with attached toilet and well-equipped kitchen. The room is used for post service tea and coffee but also plays host to monthly coffee mornings as well as a Christmas market and other events. In the past the church hosted a parent and toddler group in the vestry. The vestry is available for hire and the Parish Council meets there on regular basis.

A Knit and Natter session takes place monthly in the vestry on a Monday morning.

The churchyard is still open and weddings do take place but the church is comparatively small. The older parts of the churchyard are looked after by the Beyton Environmental Group which manages the area to encourage wildlife.

At present Beyton usually hosts services twice a month on the second and fourth Sundays. The second Sunday comprises either a Eucharist service at 8.00 am followed by a 10.30 am Morning Praise service or a Eucharist service at 10.30 am. A recent introduction is Morning Prayer on Thursdays at 10.30 am followed by coffee.

Beyton with Hessett became one Parish in August 1983.

The church website is:

<http://www.allsaintsbeyton.co.uk/>

Further information about the building can be found:

<http://www.suffolkchurches.co.uk/beyton.htm>



# Beyton

## Beyton, the village



Beyton is a thriving village five miles east of Bury St Edmunds with easy access to and from the A14. There are some 275 homes housing a population of just over 700.

The village is well known for its population of geese which usually run free on the green but sadly have often had to be restricted of late because of the bird flu epidemic.

There is a busy village association (the BVA) with its own newsletter and an informative website: <https://beyton.suffolk.cloud/>.

The Beyton Environmental Group looks after three areas within the village including the old churchyard. There is a tennis club and a swimming pool restoration club. There is also a book club.

As well as access to the vestry, the village shares with Hessett the Hessett & Beyton Village hall which is on Diocesan land near the church in Hessett.

Thurston Sixth Form College now occupies the site of the old Beyton Middle School.

The village holds a Summer Fair on the village green and also has occasional quiz nights, village walks and singing on the green in the run up to Christmas.

Beyton has prepared its own Neighbourhood Plan to protect the village from being overdeveloped.

The triangular village green includes a playground and room for informal sports and games.

The Beyton village website is:

<https://beyton.suffolk.cloud/>



Some of the Beyton Geese



Summer Fair



# Hessett

## St Ethelbert



The earliest record of the Parish of Hessett is 1005 when Earl Ulfketel gave it to the Abbey of St. Edmundsbury. The church was dedicated to Ethelbert, an eighth-century saint and King of East Anglia.

The church has evolved over the centuries and is Grade I listed. The original building dates to the early 14th century and was thatched. In the 15th century major works were undertaken by village resident Simon Clerk who was a master mason at the Abbey. Work included raising the roof of the nave, the addition of two side aisles and much work on the 14th century tower. The church contains some exceptional mediaeval stained glass, a 15th century rood screen which is elegantly painted and gilt, and some important wall paintings. In the 17th century Cromwell's men were reputedly unable to gain access to an ancient chest in spite of having the necessary keys because they did not have an essential rod to insert. When the chest was later opened a pyx and a burse were discovered. These are now held in the British Museum though it is hoped that in due course they will be put on display in the St. Edmundsbury Cathedral Treasury.

The Church has an active Hessett Church Preservation Society who raise funds for the much loved local building. A few years ago they donated about £23k for essential stone repair works, which have been completed. They continue to raise funds to help with the inevitable ongoing repair and restoration costs.

There are a number of non-churchgoing volunteers who help with cleaning, churchyard and general maintenance and organising fund raising events because they value the physical presence of the church.

The lack of facilities (running water/WC/kitchen) and ministerial availability has resulted in reduced use of the church in recent years and it is currently used for the Benefice Communion on fifth Sundays and for other festival or special events. There is a desire to expand this as more ministerial time becomes available as well as a desire to improve the facilities.

More information on the building is at:

<http://www.suffolkchurches.co.uk/hessett.htm>





The Queen's Jubilee



The end of a Hesselton village walk



Hessett has a small group of people who pray and put on direct events to bless their community. This has led to 'Food for Thought' teas where we can discuss spiritual issues and share faith and has led to running a small Alpha course. The same group, which is 'Lightwave' affiliated, was actively involved in co-operating with the Parish Council to stage a major event on the green in celebration of the late Queen's 70th Jubilee.

There is much hard work going on to change village attitudes towards the church as an institution and to demonstrate the love of God by the behaviour of the local Christians.

In terms of the spiritual history of the village there was a period in 1969 when Mrs Mary Moss claimed Reverend Kenneth Matthews (Rector of Hessett Church at the time) managed to cure her condition of being unable to walk when the Reverend "put his hands on her head and told her to get up from the wheelchair", which led to large numbers of people travelling to the Church in order to receive the same miraculous treatment for their conditions.

(<https://hessett.suffolk.cloud/assets/Hessetts-Past---Documents/History-1950-to-1999/Miracle-in-Hessett-Church.pdf>)

Hessett comprises a population of about 475 people in some 200 homes with a mixture of new and old housing serving a wide social spectrum. In recent years the age profile of the village has changed with more families with young children moving in. There is a pub, which is being restored and it is hoped that it will re-open early in 2023.

The village hall (shared with Beyton) is near the church and used for coffee mornings, parish council meetings and as a polling station amongst other events.

Neighbouring villages have local shops and schools, with most younger children locally attending Rougham Primary School.

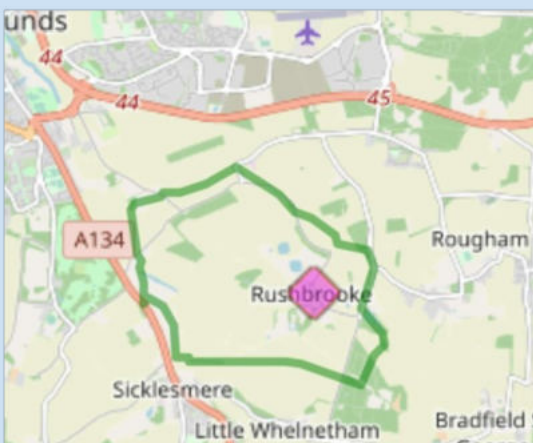
There are two Hessett charities which were established in the 17th century to provide help for the 'poor & needy' of the parish and to support the church. The incumbent is an *ex officio* trustee.

The Hessett village website is:

<https://hessett.suffolk.cloud/>

# Rushbrooke

## St Nicholas



St. Nicholas is the smallest church in the Benefice and also the closest to Bury St. Edmunds being only about three miles distant.

The access road from the town, Rushbrooke Lane, enters the village with St. Nicholas church on the left, within the village boundary, and is 6 minutes away from St. Mary, Rougham.

St. Nicholas Church is a grade 1 listed building, built mostly of red brick in 1540 with an extensively re-ordered interior of the mid 1800's by Colonel Robert Rushbrooke.

Much of the interior oak carving is the skilled work of the Colonel himself. He recreated here a college chapel quire, along the lines of Peterhouse, Cambridge. Banked dark seats face inwards, as if awaiting choral scholars. The seating would accommodate up to 70 people.

With its close proximity to Bury St. Edmunds there are frequent visitors calling by and admiring the quaintness of this charming little church.

The pretty, well maintained village of Rushbrooke comprises white painted, thatched houses and award winning modern 1960's bungalows. There are only 30 properties in the village, with many of the residents being employed by the farm. The population amounts to around 65 persons.

Whilst the village is privately owned, plans have been approved, and construction is now under way, for a large housing development of 1250 homes along Rushbrooke Lane on the outskirts of Bury St. Edmunds. This however lies just outside the parish boundary.

The church remains open to the wider community for worship, reflection and peace.

A service of Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer is usually held on the first Sunday of the month.

Our determined aim is to keep St. Nicholas Church open for worship for years to come and we would like to see a larger attendance at services perhaps facilitated by a wider variety of service styles.

More information on the church can be found at:

[www.suffolkchurches.co.uk/rushbrooke.htm](http://www.suffolkchurches.co.uk/rushbrooke.htm)



# St Edmundsbury & Ipswich Diocese



Cathedral from the Abbey Gardens



The Diocese covers the county of Suffolk, excluding the area around Lowestoft in the north-east, and includes 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 about 650,000. The county embraces historic places of interest such as Sutton Hoo and Snape Maltings with the famous annual Aldeburgh Music Festival. Snape and Aldeburgh are on the Heritage Coast, which 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 giving access to London and the Norfolk Broads.

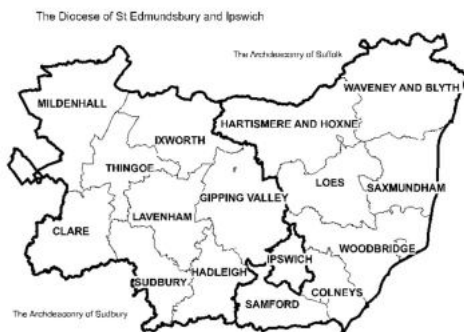
## The Church of England in Suffolk

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, Bishop of Dunwich. 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 three 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 staff based in the Diocesan office in Ipswich.

Our Diocesan vision is to be '**Growing in God**', aiming to grow 'flourishing congregations making a difference'.

Website: <https://www.cofesuffolk.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BishopsCofEsuffolk/>



# Growing in God

## The Diocesan Vision for Growth in Parishes, Benefices and Deaneries

Growing in God - The Diocesan Vision for Growth encourages individuals and church communities across the diocese to become more engaged in God's loving involvement in the world. The report on which it is based was accepted by the Diocesan Synod in June 2014, and sets out four priorities for growth:

- 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.

More information can be found on the Diocesan website:

<https://www.cofesuffolk.org/for-parishes/growing-in-god/>

## Our response

### We are responding to this call across the Benefice:

- **Depth** - one ordinand on the AOP training, four elders recently licensed.

A Reader has recently moved into the Benefice and is now licensed and serving in the Benefice.

Several of the congregation are active Cursillistas\*.

There are three home groups in the Benefice and a Christian Meditation group.

- **Number** - Increasing the age diversity and people exposure to "church". The Family@Church service has recently been introduced with breakfast followed by a short family service and then after coffee a foreshortened Eucharist.

Carol services and Easter services are well attended.

The 'Food for Thought' teas are linked to Lightwave.

We have started a monthly Morning Prayer service in Beyton followed by a time of fellowship.

A number of people have moved into the area who are keen to be involved in the work of the church which is a great encouragement to us all.

\*Cursillo is a movement of the Church under the direction of the Bishops, empowering Christians to grow through prayer, study and action and be enabled to share God's love with everyone.

<https://www.edsipskursillo.org/>



Benefice members at a Lightwave training with the Rural Archdeacon Sally Gaze



'Family@Church' service



- **Influence** - The Benefice magazine is delivered free to every household and contains advertising of special events and services. It is available digitally in colour.

Monthly coffee mornings are held in Beyton church vestry.

Links to community groups: our PCC and Churchwardens are involved in other committees, e.g. village hall and Parish Councils.

A small choir has been formed and sings regularly in church on Sundays and also more formally at major festivals.

Many events are linked to the church such as the Christmas Fair and summer fairs. The church was a motivating force behind the Jubilee celebrations in Hessett.

Social events are often inspired by fund raising, but we also provide free services such as the 'Food for Thought' teas in Hessett and 'Pantry in the Porch', a rudimentary form of food bank.

A **Coffee and Chat** session happens every Tuesday morning in the seating area at the back of Rougham church .

A Knit and Natter session takes place monthly in the vestry on a Monday morning

Where possible churches are opened every day for private prayer and for visitors.



- **Younger** - the Family@Church service has been introduced.

Rougham Primary School holds regular assemblies in the church. These are led by our AOP ordinand and a team who lead 'Open the Book'.





# Lavenham Deanery

Lavenham Deanery consists of 25 parishes grouped into seven benefices. The deanery is broadly south east of the town of Bury St Edmunds. To the north the deanery is bounded by the major A14 road, with only Elmswell parish being north of it.

The deanery is very rural. Away from the immediate environs of Bury St. Edmunds the parishes are characterised by small churches in villages where the residents generally work and shop away from their home village. The exception to this rule is the parish of Lavenham itself; a major tourist attraction where the church often holds cultural events.

The Lavenham Deanery Plan envisages our churches living as 'Christ at the heart of our communities' by

- enabling the ministry and mission of the whole people of God
- respecting and celebrating diversity within the churches of the deanery
- offering support to enable and encourage those who minister.

The Deanery Plan seeks to chart a path to a sustainable future. As such it has been revised taking into account the 'Growing in God' initiative with the four strands of Growing in Depth; Growing in Number; Growing in Influence and Growing Younger.

Pre-pandemic, the Deanery has met its financial obligation taken as a whole. The hiatus of the past couple of years has meant that it is now difficult for some parishes to pay their parish share, and for those benefices who paid 'over and above' to continue to support smaller parishes which have not been able to do so.

The Lavenham Deanery functions with all stipendiary clergy required to attend Chapter meetings and Deanery Synod meetings (3 each per year). Occasionally Greater Chapter meetings are held to include retired clergy and licensed lay readers. Pre-pandemic there was an annual Chapter quiet day, a summer social and a post-Christmas meal for Greater Chapter members and spouses. Post Covid the frequency has been disrupted but it is the aim to reinstate these events.

For further information regarding the deanery, please contact the Rural Dean, Rev. Canon Sharon Potter, Rector of Cockfield Benefice at [revsharon2@gmail.com](mailto:revsharon2@gmail.com) or 01284 828599 or 07825 086063





## Appendix 1 - Parish Finances

### 2022 Results

Parish	Parish Share 2022	Amount Paid 2022	%		Income t	Outgoings (inc.) Parish Share	Reserves 31/12/22
Rougham	£21,568	£15,118	670%	General	£28,195	£37,218	£23,623
				Restricted			£49,512
Beyton with Hessett	£41,591	£25,000	60%	General	£41,466	£37,672	£6,582
				Beyton restricted			£2,325
				Hessett restricted			£1,087
Rushbrooke	£0	£0		General	£1,191	£2,922	£1,016
				Restricted			£17,694
<b>Total</b>	<b>£63,159</b>	<b>£40,118</b>	<b>64%</b>		<b>£70,852</b>	<b>£77.812</b>	<b>£101,323</b>

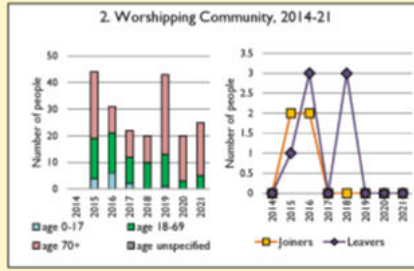
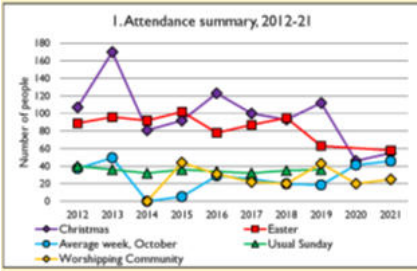
The joint PCCs decided that a one-off limited transfer from Rougham reserves would, as a token of good faith, be used to boost the parish share percentage for 2022 . The Parishes are joining the Parish Giving scheme in the expectation that it will help to increase giving. Combined with the growing congregation that we anticipate with a new appointment, we believe that the Parish Share contribution will achieve the desired levels within the next few years.

### 2021 Results

Parish	Parish Share 2021	Amount Paid 2021	%		Annual Income	Annual Outgoings (inc.) Parish Share	Reserves 31/12/21
Rougham	£20,547	£13,000	63%	General	£32,906	£33,149	£1,903
				Restricted			£79,742
Beyton with Hessett	£39,623	£22,000	56%	General	£31,185	£30,768	£2,854
				Beyton restricted			£2,259
				Hessett restricted			£6,664
Rushbrooke	£0	£0		General	£1,258	£2,875	£747
				Restricted			£20,111
<b>Total</b>	<b>£60,170</b>	<b>£35,000</b>	<b>58%</b>		<b>£65,609</b>	<b>£69,326</b>	<b>£114,523</b>

# Appendix 2 - Church Statistics

## Dashboard for the parish of Rougham: St Mary in the Deanery of LAVENHAM



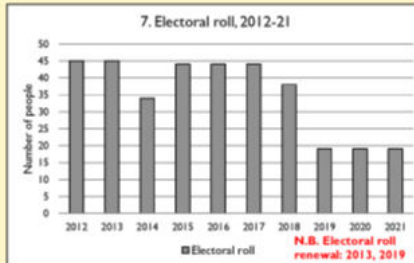
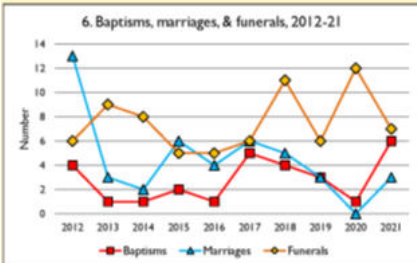
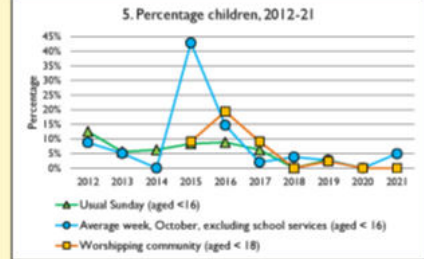
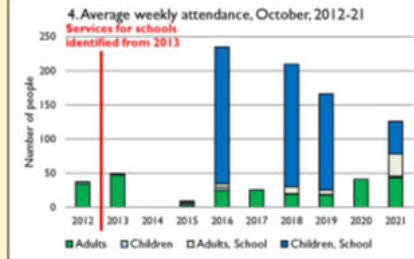
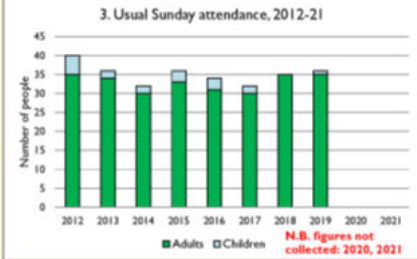
### Parish census and deprivation summary

Parish population (2018): 1178

	Parish	Diocese	National
% aged 0-17	23%	21%	21%
% aged 18-44	30%	33%	37%
% aged 45-64	29%	27%	25%
% aged 65 & over	18%	20%	16%
% Christian	63%	61%	59%
% non-Christian religion	1%	2%	9%

Parish deprivation rank (IMD, 2019): 4931  
(1=most deprived parish in the Church of England, 12,307=least deprived)

For more detailed census & deprivation info see: <http://arcg.is/1Ra54CS>  
<https://www.churchofengland.org/researchandstats>  
and <http://www2.csl.org.uk/poverty-england/poverty-map>  
Number of churches in parish (2022): 1 Parish code: 330247



This dashboard contains figures as submitted by churches currently in the parish  
**Attendance statistics:** taken from annual Statistics for Mission returns.  
**Average weekly attendance:** attendance at Sunday and midweek church services & fresh expressions in October; Figs 1 & 5 do not include attendance at services for schools.  
**Easter:** Easter Eve & Easter Day; Christmas: Christmas Eve & Christmas Day.  
**Baptisms:** all baptisms & thanksgivings.  
**Marriages:** marriages and services of prayer & dedication after civil marriages.  
**Funerals:** those held in church & at crematoria/cemeteries.  
Because of pandemic-related church closures, Easter figures were not collected in 2020.

**Census data:** taken from the 2011 national Census and the 2018 population update.  
**Deprivation statistics:** IMD taken from the English Indices of Deprivation, published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Sept 2019.  
The above statistics have been mapped onto parish boundaries so are approximations.  
For more information, see: <https://www.churchofengland.org/researchandstats>

Variations in attendance from year to year may be the result of changes in the number of churches that submitted returns, or changes in parish/benefice structure.

Number of churches included in returns: 2012 1; 2013 1; 2014 1; 2015 1; 2016 1; 2017 1; 2018 1; 2019 1; 2020 1; 2021 1.

Produced by the Research and Statistics Unit, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ. Date of production: 25/5/22.

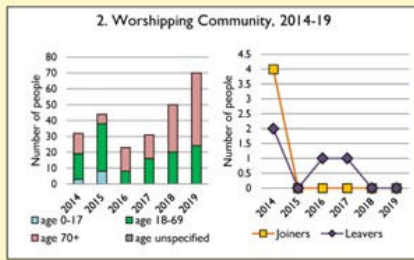
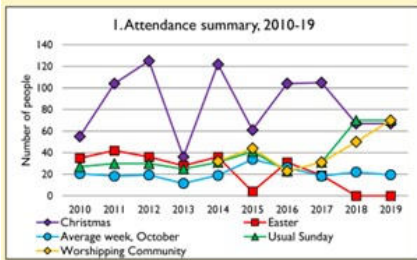
Every effort has been made to ensure that data are reliable. We would be pleased to be notified of any significant errors or omissions by email to [statistics.unit@churchofengland.org](mailto:statistics.unit@churchofengland.org)

Follow us on Twitter: @cofestats



## Dashboard for the Parish of Rougham St Mary

## Dashboard for the parish of Beyton and Hessett in the Deanery of LAVENHAM



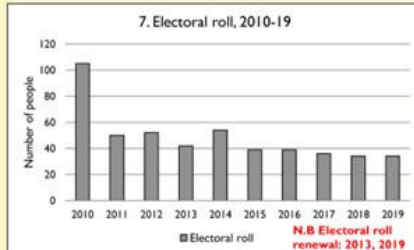
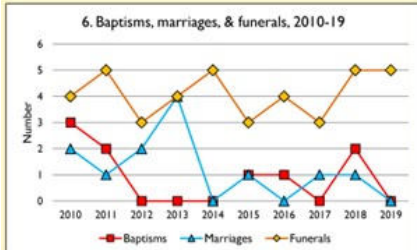
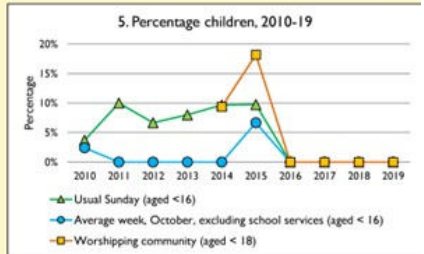
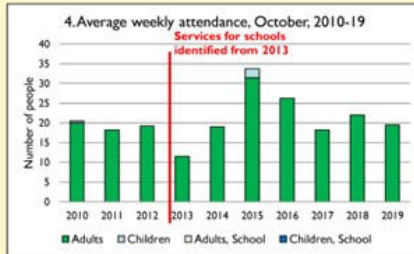
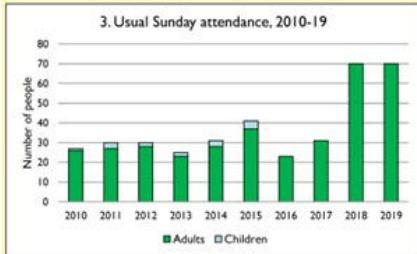
### Parish census and deprivation summary

Parish population (2018): 1250

	Parish	Diocese	National
% aged 0-17	24%	21%	21%
% aged 18-44	27%	33%	37%
% aged 45-64	31%	27%	25%
% aged 65 & over	18%	20%	16%
% Christian	69%	61%	59%
% non-Christian religion	1%	2%	9%

Parish deprivation rank (IMD, 2019): 9717  
(1=most deprived parish in the Church of England, 12,382=least deprived)

For more detailed census & deprivation info see: <http://arcg.is/1Ra54CS>  
<https://www.churchofengland.org/researchandstats>  
and <http://www2.csl.org.uk/poverty-england/poverty-map>  
Number of churches in parish (2020): 2 Parish code: 330224



This dashboard contains figures as submitted by churches currently in the parish  
**Attendance statistics:** taken from annual Statistics for Mission returns.  
**Average weekly attendance:** attendance at Sunday and midweek church services & fresh expressions in October; Figs 1 & 5 do not include attendance at services for schools.  
**Easter:** Easter Eve & Easter Day; Christmas: Christmas Eve & Christmas Day.  
**Baptisms:** all baptisms & thanksgivings.  
**Marriages:** marriages and services of prayer & dedication after civil marriages.  
**Funerals:** those held in church & at crematoria/cemeteries.  
**Worshipping community** information has been collected from 2012 onwards.

**Census data:** taken from the 2011 national Census and the 2018 population update.  
**Deprivation statistics:** IMD taken from the English Indices of Deprivation, published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Sept 2019.  
The above statistics have been mapped onto parish boundaries so are approximations.  
For more information, see: <https://www.churchofengland.org/researchandstats>

Variations in attendance from year to year may be the result of changes in the number of churches that submitted returns, or changes in parish/benefice structure.

Number of churches included in returns: 2010 1; 2011 2; 2012 1; 2013 1; 2014 1; 2015 2; 2016 1; 2017 2; 2018 2; 2019 2.

Produced by the Research and Statistics Unit, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ. Date of production: 23/9/20.

Every effort has been made to ensure that data are reliable. We would be pleased to be notified of any significant errors or omissions by email to [statistics.unit@churchofengland.org](mailto:statistics.unit@churchofengland.org)

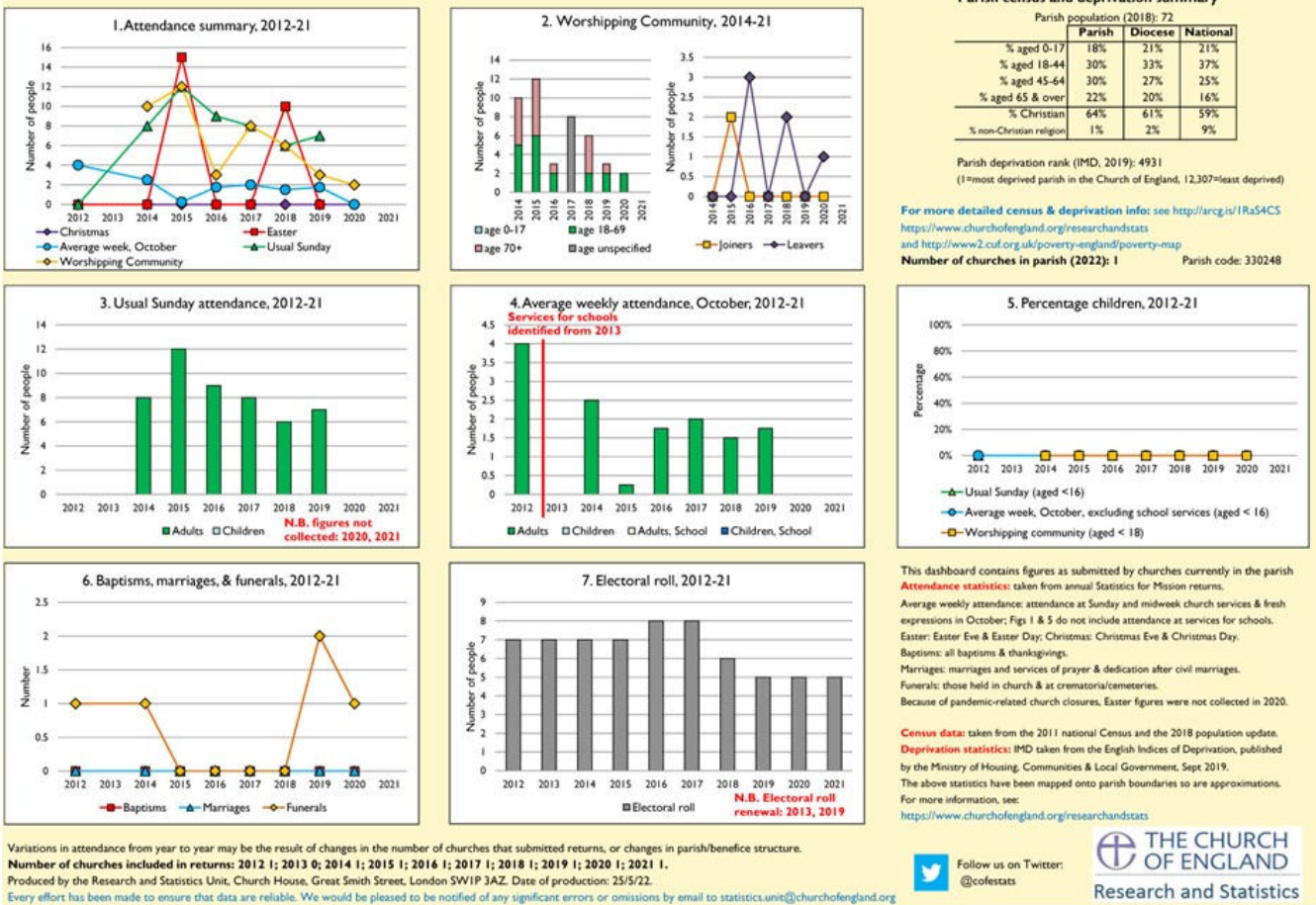
Follow us on Twitter: @cofestats



## Dashboard for the Parish of Beyton with Hessett



**Dashboard for the parish of Rushbrooke: St Nicholas in the Deanery of LAVENHAM**



**Dashboard for the Parish of Rushbrooke, St Nicholas**

**Appendix 3 - The Rectory**

**Accommodation:**

**Ground Floor** - entering through a UPVC front door into an **Entrance Hallway** - a spacious entrance with stairs off to the first floor, under stairs cupboard, large radiator and doors off to a **Cloakroom** divided into two areas, fitted with wash hand basin and low flush WC.

**Dining Room** 13' x 11'7 (3.96m x 3.53m) - fitted with a range of shelving and cupboards, window overlooking the rear garden and double panel radiator. Door giving access to large walk-in pantry and door giving access to

**Rear lobby** - with doors to the front and back, and utility cupboard with space and plumbing for washing machine and tumble dryer. A further door off the dining room leads through to the





**Kitchen** 14'6 x 5'11 (max) (4.42m x 1.80m) - fitted with a range of base and eye level kitchen units with Formica roll top worksurface over inset single bowl, single drainer, stainless steel sink. Space and wiring for electric cooker and space and plumbing for dishwasher. Space for an under counter fridge. Radiator and windows overlooking the rear garden.

Further doors off the entrance hallway lead to

**Sitting Room One** 17'10 x 12'5 (5.44m x 3.78m) - a light and spacious room with two large windows overlooking the rear garden. Central open fireplace with tiled surround, hearth and wooden mantel. Radiators and TV aerial lead.

**Sitting Room Two** 18' x 12'11 (5.49m x 3.94m) - a spacious, dual aspect room with large window and patio doors leading out to the rear garden. Central brick surround open fireplace and radiators.

**Study** 12' x 11'10 (3.66m x 3.61m) - with large window overlooking the garden and towards the churchyard. Fitted with a range of shelving. Radiator.

Stairs from the entrance hallway lead up to the first floor landing with radiator and doors leading off to

**Bedroom One** 18' x 12'11 (max) (5.49m x 3.94m) - a spacious double bedroom with large window overlooking the rear garden, fitted shelved cupboard, radiator and telephone socket. A door gives access to an en-suite shower room, fitted with low flush WC, pedestal wash basin and shower cubicle with Mira electric shower. Radiator, extractor fan and door to airing cupboard housing the hot water tank and shelving.

**Bedroom Two** 12'5 x 7'7 (3.78m x 2.31m) - a good size single bedroom with window overlooking the rear garden, single panel radiator and fitted cupboard.

**Bedroom Three** 12'5 x 9'10 (3.78m x 3m) - a double bedroom with window overlooking the rear garden, radiator and small fitted cupboard.

**Bedroom Four** 18' x 13' (5.49m x 3.96m) - a large dual aspect double bedroom with windows overlooking the rear garden and towards the churchyard, radiator and fitted cupboard.

**Bedroom Five** 12' x 11' (3.66m x 3.35m) - a further good size double bedroom with radiator and large window looking towards the churchyard.

**Bathroom** - fitted with pedestal wash basin and bath with fully tiled surround, Mira electric shower, radiator, heated towel rail, extractor fan and fitted cupboard.

Separate **Cloakroom and Washroom** - fitted with low flush WC and pedestal wash basin.

**Outside:** A sweeping driveway leads to the front of the property where there is a generous shingle parking area. There is an attached single garage with further storage rooms and side access. The main area of garden is to the side and rear of the property and is predominantly laid to grass, interspersed by mature trees and hedging.



Score	Energy rating	Current	Potential
92+	A		
81-91	B		83   B
69-80	C		
55-68	D	67   D	
39-54	E		
21-38	F		
1-20	G		