

CLERICAL VACANCY



UPPER ALDE BENEFICE



CLICK ON THE PARISH NAMES & BLUE TEXT FOR MORE INFO.

WANTED**ORDAINED PERSON**

Are you looking for the ideal job, with a great support team in one of the most beautiful parts of the country? If so, we want you!

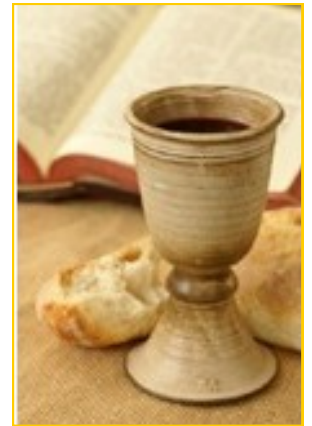
The Upper Alde Valley provides the backdrop for a Benefice of six village churches. Here we embrace and value diversity. We offer a wide range of worship across each parish, from the Book of Common prayer, Common worship, informal worship to even Carol singing in two of the crowded local pubs. We see this as evidence of robust health, not division. All the villages have a strong community spirit, with an impressive tradition of volunteering. Each church has its core congregation, which swells for the celebratory services at Easter, Harvest and Christmas. The PCC's for each church are active and supportive and work well to assist the incumbent. We are looking forward to working with our new Rector to grow our churches and to be a strong part of our local communities, reaching out locally, nationally and internationally. We look forward to new ideas to strengthen our relationships with each other and our local communities.

Person Specification

- Ordained priest within the Church of England. (Either gender)
- Half time

EXPERIENCE

- Experience of different worship traditions and churchmanship
- Leading a range of liturgies – Common Worship, BCP and informal
- Engagement with and pastoral support for people of all ages
- Experience of leading All Age Worship.

**KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES**

- Encourage and support people to grow in faith and discipleship.
- Ability to build on links with individuals and community organisations whose involvement with the Church is limited
- Committed to outreach and growth
- Leadership skills including the ability to motivate, inspire and effectively coordinate colleagues and volunteers
- Ability to set a clear vision and inspire others to share in it
- Understanding the value of and need for delegation
- Thoughtful and articulate preacher with good eye contact
- Sensitive to the different demands and expectations of a group of rural churches
- Someone with a pastoral heart who is approachable and committed to delivering pastoral care to people of all ages
- A gift for the development of ministry to children and young people
- Willingness to appreciate the value of our buildings in both care and use.
- Ability to develop stewardship, fundraising and good use of all resources
- Understanding of the demands of various lifestyles including farmers, young families and the retired.

GENERAL ATTRIBUTES

- Deeply rooted in faith and prayerful.
- Energised by faith and ambitious for church growth

- Able to communicate well with those inside and outside of church.
- Ready to take on real responsibility and benefit from the opportunity to grow skills and widen their experience.
- Empathetic and caring – a good listener
- Engaging – approachable, sociable and welcoming
- Warm hearted and open-minded

Growing in God

*Please click on the links (texts in blue) to see more of this lovely area of Suffolk
and
these very friendly six parishes that make up the
UPPER ALDE BENEFICE*

Your Next Rectory ?



The Rectory is set in Badingham, in an elevated, extensive, grassed garden with fruit trees and hedged boundary. The ground floor has a hallway leading to an office/bedroom with en suite bathroom, cloakroom, dining and sitting rooms, kitchen, utility and conservatory. The first floor has a master en suite bedroom, two other bedrooms, a family bathroom and a box room. Detached office. [IP13 8LN](#) click

You will find a welcoming and caring community, keen to find ways of supporting a new Incumbent. Within the Parishes are many who are pleased to use their various skills and talents in support of the work of the Church. We are also asking ourselves about other ways of taking some of the load from the Incumbent, such as chairing PCC meetings.

“Escape to the Country”

About the Area



Access.

Adjacent to A12 – to London and Northwards. Not far from A14 – major East/West trunk road.

Close to railway station at Saxmundham – main line to London (about 2 hours).

Schools.



Primary school within Benefice:

[Dennington Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School](#)

Each class is made up of mixed year groups and offer a welcoming and friendly environment. Its small numbers mean that each child is able to shine and friendships are often formed across different year groups and classes. Staff offer a tailored approach to

teaching that fits each child's individual needs. The children work closely and effectively together, and love coming to school each day.

Range of other primary schools in Saxmundham, Framlingham and Woodbridge.

Well regarded secondary school in Framlingham [[Thomas Mills High School](#)].

Private Schools in [Framlingham](#) and [Woodbridge](#)

Medical Practices in [Framlingham](#) and [Saxmundham](#). Dental practice in Framlingham.

Shopping. Badingham, Dennington and Rendham have small shops. Saxmundham and Framlingham both have supermarkets and a range of shops. Woodbridge is larger. Large towns – Ipswich and Norwich – within an hour.

The Coast is about 15 miles distant. Seaside towns and unspoilt coastline. Large nature reserves and heath land areas.

Aldeburgh Festival and much other music.



[Why the Ferret ?](#) & Click the trailer

Upper Alde Parish Dashboards
Badingham
Bruisyard
Cransford
Dennington
Rendham
Sweffling

St John the Baptist's Church Badingham



The Parish Church stands upon an old pagan holy site, the knoll of Burstonhaugh between the marshes of the valley and the wet oak-woods that, fifteen hundred years ago clothed the higher tableland. When the first missionaries came to Badingham they rededicated the old pagan site. The great festival at Burstonhaugh had been mid-summer night, with its blazing bale-fires and specially brewed ale with the people running through the smoke with great excitement! - so the new church was dedicated to St. John the Baptist, whose feast is on mid-summer day. Hence



celebrations continued for the people of Badingham with 'Church Ale' being brewed specially for the occasion. In 1521 Christopher Parrott, a parishioner of Badingham died. In his will he left two bushels of malt for the making of the 'Church Ale'!

Examples of people's need to beautify God's House in recent years are: gifts of three pictures by an artist family: an oil painting by the mother Doris Zinkeisen of the Madonna and two water colours by the twin daughters Janet and Anne Grahame Johnstone of a dove representing the Holy Spirit and a scene depicting Jesus inviting children to himself; a fine wooden chair to celebrate the second millennium by Albert Lain, a local craftsman; an extendable lectern made by Tony Hickman, a past member of the PCC. The Church has a two-octave set of hand-bells.

Church Building and Churchyard.

We have recently had a Quinquennial Report. The church has a lead roof! so has an electronic security system installed.

Recent work has included the upgrading of a chemical toilet in the old stables to a fully equipped disabled WC and mother and baby toilet.

Bells are serviced and maintained by ringers.

We have volunteers for cleaning, flowers, grass cutting and church and churchyard maintenance, routine and general maintenance.

A wheelchair is available in the church.

Children's Corner.

In 2019, because of a problem with the Hammer Beam and Corbel in the south-east corner of the nave we commissioned a survey of the whole roof. Sadly 500 years of wear and tare have taken their toll and extensive repairs are needed to the medieval roof which is currently supported by scaffolding and the nave must remain locked. We can only use the Chancel. We are awaiting the outcome of an application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a grant. Weddings and funeral services are held at other churches in the Benefice, but internments in the churchyard have continued.

Badingham Community Gardens



The Community Garden opened in 2012 after a year of planning and building. These gardens are a true community project with many villagers coming together to create them. The aim was to have a place to visit within the churchyard where villagers can come and enjoy the peace and participate in gardening their own plot. We have a number of these individual plots kept and tended by families and individuals.

The gardens have all ages coming to tend them, from busy families enjoying a space to grow fresh vegetables to retired villagers taking up a plot for a hobby. The gardens have become a very popular part of our village.

Services

Prior to vacancy:

First Sunday 11am CW HC.

Third Sunday 11am CW HC.

Elders have taken the Crib Service, Harvest Festival and Remembrance Day services when necessary. One Elder is commissioned to take Communion by Extension.

We use Common Worship and Book of Common Prayer. People are





willing to read.

Bell Ringers ring for services and special events when possible.

Ministry

The Elders lead Holy Communion by Extension services when a Priest is not available. Consecrated Communion is reserved in the Tabernacle.

Elders will also take Holy Communion to the house bound.

One of our Elders leads 'Open the Book' assemblies every other week at Dennington Primary School, alternating with a parishioner from Dennington. Our Priest in Charge took school assemblies in Dennington Church twice a term.

Interaction with Village

Community Groups are Badingham Community Council, Parish Council, Village Hall, Cafe, White Horse, Bowls Club, 'Neighbours' Social Media.

Bell Ringers.

We support village cafe with volunteers to work in cafe and by baking, also the cafe uses the toilet and car park during its opening hours and for its other activities.

Community Gardens in the churchyard - enjoyed by many in the village.

Churchyard has on occasions been used for village fete and other village celebrations. An Oak tree, to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and a Black Poplar, to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles 3rd, were planted in the churchyard for the village by The Parish Council.

Church members show visitors round the church both on an 'ad hoc' basis and by arrangement, directing them to the Community Garden as well.

Church members are also on the volunteer rota with the café.

Also

The PCC organises fund-raising and social events for the church, such as Harvest lunch and Coffee and Bacon roll Mornings. We support the Village fete and Winter Market with raffle and gift stalls which in turn raise money for the church.

We support The Children's Society with Crib Service collections.

Our Harvest Gifts of food are sent to the Eye Food Bank and we continue to collect packet and tinned foods for them until Christmas and through the cold winter months.

Our second hand book sale that used to be in the back of the nave has been established as a small book shop in the church porch.



Controls

Notices required by Diocese are displayed in the porch:

H&S, Emergency Procedures, Safeguarding, etc.

Links to other parishes in Benefice, Deanery, Diocese etc

Church Newsletter - '*Upper Alde Link*', delivered free to every home in Badingham and to the other five parishes that make up the "Benefice of the Upper Alde"

The PCC would be delighted to receive a new Rector and make her or him feel welcome within the fellowship of Saint John the Baptist Church. We are open to hearing your views and ideas for the future growth of our community.



7
ST PETER'S CHURCH
CRANSFORD



The building: St Peter's is a simple flint structure built in about 1250, with a single cell nave and chancel. The C15 tower at the west end has flush work panelling at the base. The interior is a Victorian restoration with a fine window at the east end of Christ the King by Lavers 1874. There are memorials on the wall to The Fallen and to the squires of Cransford Hall and the Rectors. There is a good chest dated 1739, and a colourful array of kneelers recently made by ladies of the parish, depicting local scenes, national events and commemorating loved ones.



The church is situated at one end of the linear village of Cransford, set back from the road, in a churchyard lined with oaks. It is surrounded by agricultural land , with Church Farm lying behind it, and cottages to one side. The churchyard which is in regular use for burials, is well kept with an area set aside for wild flowers, in particular Pyramidal orchids in early summer.



The community: Cransford is a community of 130 on the county electoral roll, the smallest in the Benefice. Employment is local, many in agriculture, with no holiday or weekend cottages. There are few big houses , mostly cottages and three working farms, with some 20 let Heritage Housing units: 80 dwellings in all. There are poultry broiler sheds and a haulage yard, and a small industrial estate at one end. Apart from St Peter's, there is a modern non conformist chapel and a village hall. There is no longer a shop or school.

St Peters Cransford April 2020

The church's contribution: St Peter's is an active church with regular services, every other Sunday, alternating with Bruisyard about a mile away. The average attendance on Sunday is 14, which is the number on the PCC electoral roll. Some regulars come from other parishes. On special days many more attend, for example the Carol Service averages 80. There are funerals from time to time, also the occasional marriage or baptism. We try to collaborate with our friends at the Christian Fellowship Church nearby, combining in alternate years for Carol Services, and a Procession carrying the cross between the two churches on Good Friday. Apart from those attending services, there are many visitors to the church throughout the year, and it is never closed night or day. With few other facilities in the parish, the church is an active organisation providing well supported events such as coffee mornings, plant sales and talks every year. The church is a prominent landmark in the parish and a source of spiritual strength to all whether church goes or not, and much loved by all. This is evidenced by the fact that for the Roof Appeal this year 2017, when £ 50, 000 was needed and raised in 12 months, nearly £ 7000 was raised by an appeal to residents in the parish, much of it from people who do not come to services,



Churchmanship: At St Peter's we use ASB traditional service for our monthly Communion, and Prayer Book for our Matins. Our hymnal is Common Praise. Sadly we have no regular children who attend, and our congregation is mature rather than young. The combined Carol Service is the exception to this with 80 attending, but we have been unable to attract young families, even where parents or grandparents do attend. Sadly this is a familiar pattern. The PCC meets quarterly and numbers eight, including churchwardens and two Elders. We are generally traditional in outlook. We have a rota of ladies who clean the church, and another who do the flowers. Every summer there is a churchyard cutting party which tidies up the churchyard and trims the trees and hedges. Most of the maintenance and minor work such as decorating is done by volunteers organised by the PCC.



Finance:

We are a small and poor parish but have always paid our Parish Share except when we sustained a disaster 1997 great gale when the roof was blown off, and we undertook major fundraising efforts raising over £55,000. Currently we are financially stable having paid 2023 Parish Share of £2111. This is a modest one as we currently have a House for Duty priest which will of course no longer be the case. 2024 will not be so easy.

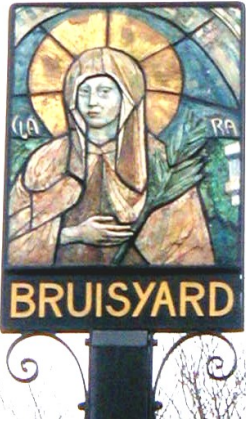
Our current status

	Income	Expenditure
2022	£6,812	£ 2,957
2023	£2,638	£11,563

Total funds as at 31/12/23 £ 7013. Audited accounts at the AGM in April and can be inspected

The reason for the high figure for expenditure last year was because we decided to have our organ repaired and refurbished for £ 7,941 because with special fund raising efforts we had just enough in our savings. A difficult decision for the PCC who concluded singing hymns was more warming than the pew heaters. which are inadequate.

We are a small but dedicated congregation, and we love our old church.



Bruisyard Village Profile St Peter's Church

There attractive village of Bruisyard lies on either side of the River Alde, which flows as a stream amongst the willows throughout the often flooded meadows at the centre of the village. The community of around a hundred and sixty people live in the surrounding cottages and houses along leafy lanes or overlooking agricultural land. The pub and village shop are now houses but a superb village hall was built in 2010 which is always a hub of activity with regular classes and fund raising events; coffee mornings and suppers etc.



The church of St Peters lies to the west of the village on a hill which is the churchyard. It has a Round tower, Saxon in parts, and a Norman nave. The churchyard is a nature reserve and has been kept under control by the treasurer and a church warden. The church was connected with an abbey which was founded in the fourteenth century by Edward III,s son the Duke of Clarence and was situated on the site of Bruisyard Hall. Its founding

abbess was his mother in law, Maud of Lancaster. After the dissolution of the monasteries the site was bought by Sir Michael Hare, an ardent catholic, who seems to have used some of the material from the dissolved abbey to build a chapel on the south side of the church, which is now used as a vestry and meeting room. The remains of a brass depicting him and his two wives can still be seen on the floor there. There is a Psalter in the British Library which belonged to Anne Felbrigg of Felbrigg Hall in Norfolk, who had been a nun



here. The stone font in the church nave dates from the fifteenth century and a rare sixteen century wall painting depicting the life of St. Christopher has recently been uncovered, and the nave of the church has been redecorated and repainted with improved lighting and heating.

A lavatory and store room were built to the north of the church prior to this. Two services a month are held here, Matins, using the Book of Common prayer, and Holy Communion. There is an average congregation of 9 and there are 26 people on the electoral roll. But more attend the church festivals, weddings and funerals and our Christmas Eve crib service attracts over 100 worshippers. The collection from this is sent to We See Hope, a charity engaged in education in Africa. There is a PCC of four, and two elders, one of whom takes matins every month and communion by extension when needed, by the benefice or those too ill to attend. There is a team of flower arrangers who decorate the church and clean it.

An annual Christmas Fair is held there where mulled wine and mince pies are served and carols played on the fine Rolands organ by our organist Charles Seely. There are various stalls and it is always well attended. Church festivals are celebrated in the village hall with pie suppers and puddings made by some of the villagers. Our total income last year was £10,648, and our total expenditure was £8,642. We have paid our parish share in full.





Dennington.

The Parish

Dennington is a rural parish in North east Suffolk. In 2021 its census was 557. https://www.citypopulation.de/en/uk/eastofengland/admin/east_suffolk/E04009398__dennington/

The village is classified in planning terms as a local service centre. It has a café called “The Neathouse” run by Vashti Mouncer who lives in the village and this is an invaluable social hub in the village green opposite the Church. It also has a toilet which is available for use by Church goers. ..

The Pub is a popular eating place with an established owner occupier landlord who supports the village. The village has a conservation area at its centre including St Mary’s Church, the village pub – The Queen- www.thedenningtonqueen.co.uk , the Square and a small green with The Neathouse. The bulk of the village is centred around the crossroads of the A1120 and the B1116 but there are small groups of houses at the three Greens

– Capons, Owls and Maypole (although the greens themselves have gone). Housing is of all sizes and includes a number of Housing Association run homes. <http://dennington.suffolk.cloud/>

The School is a C of E Voluntary Controlled Primary School with currently 58 pupils and capacity for 75. <https://www.denningtonprimaryschool.org.uk> It is a member of a Multi Academy Trust – All Saints Schools Trust <https://www.asst.org.uk>

Dennington has recently become home to The Little Oaks Playschool providing preschool care in a new purpose built building opposite the Village Hall <https://badinghamplayschool.weebly.com>

There is a Village Hall built in the early 1980s and which has been recently extensively refurbished. <https://denningtonvillagehall.com> The Village Hall was built on land owned by the Church and is adjacent to the Church. Beside the Village Hall is a sports field with tennis court, children’s play area, bowls green and football pitch. Across the road is an energetic Allotment Association.

The Parish benefits from an historic village charity- The Dennington Consolidated Charity which has an annual income for distribution of some £11,000. There are a number of village committees – Sports Club, Village Hall, Parish Council along with a vibrant Women’s Institute. There are opportunities for getting together on a number of occasions during the week including a coffee morning in the Village Hall and a cribbage team!

There are three active farms in the parish. There is a successful landscaping business and a Mill repair company. While land based employment is the main employer in a range of forms, there are also school teachers, shopkeepers, electricians, plumbers all making a mixture of professional, manual and retired people. The Parish of Dennington is adjacent to the market town of Framlingham with its full range of shops, post office , Framlingham College, Thomas Mills High School, Framlingham Castle and vibrant sports club, various eating places and businesses.

The Church

The PCC feel that there is scope for increasing the sense of Christian community in the village – we need someone to inject enthusiasm, fill us with the Holy Spirit (sprinkle some magic dust over us!), to help harness and direct the willing talent in the community to connect more people to each other, the Church and God. The Community needs an enabler and enthuser to get other people filling roles that might previously have been thought only for the Rector.

The PCC has a very useful mix of business and administrative skills– business management, covering agriculture, hospitality, finance, architecture, design, fundraising and fund



granting. Additionally, we have experienced legal, accountancy, healthcare, photography and educational skills.

The Church has regular services of a mainly traditional nature but is not averse to change for a good reason. Currently the pattern is 8.00am BCP Holy Communion on the 1st Sunday; 2nd Sunday an Elder led service of either family or Morning

Prayer lasting 30 minutes and followed by tea/coffee; 3rd Sunday Currently none ; 4th Sunday CW Sung Holy Communion . 5th Sunday benefice service. The School has regular services in the Church and assemble in the Church for such occasions as the Leavers' Service.

The Churchwardens and Elder are happy taking services, helping with communion and actively helping with ministry. There is strong support for the Church from a number of families in the parish. Regular Sunday attendance has drifted off recently but on special occasions 50-75 people will attend and there is a hardcore of support: usually 6-9 at 8.00 am services and 14-20 at 11.00am.

There is a strong bell ringing team from the benefice and Dennington has recently had bells re-hung in a new frame.

We have an enthusiastic organist in Brook Hoadley.

Restoration of the Church roof will be required but the Restoration fund has a good base and there is enthusiasm in the congregation to get this completed.

There are some £162,000 in restricted funds largely for the maintenance of the churchyard and interior decoration. We have always paid our share of Quota and expect to be able to manage a little more.

Although attendance at regular services is not high, many worship in different ways and appreciate the



Church building – the cleaning team on the first Saturday of every month, the Bell ringers, the flower rota, people caring for the Churchyard and opening and closing the Church doors. These are a few of the many tasks undertaken by members of the community. The Parish Council contributes to the electricity bill to pay for the tower to be lit at night. The clock – a remembrance gift from the community after the Second World War is wound weekly.

Church fund raising events such as a summer lunch, harvest lunch and supper parties are well supported as is the bike ride.

Description of our place of worship;

St Mary's Church Dennington is recognised as one of the finest of Suffolk's mediaeval churches. Much of the existing church structure comes from the 1300s and 1400s. From the 1500s came its famed carved benches, still mostly upon their original wooden kerbs and in their original positions, with the exquisitely carved bench-ends including the unique Sciapod. The single frame nave roof, with a span of 25 feet, dates from the early 1400s, the carved parclose screens from c.1450. The three-decker pulpit is from the 1620s. St Mary's has the only surviving example in England of a mediaeval pyx canopy complete and in use for its original purpose. In recent times, the Lady Chapel and the magnificent Bardolph Chapel were restored in the 1960s, the Father Willis organ was installed in 1967. <http://www.suffolkchurches.co.uk/Dennington.htm>

Public access:

The church is open to visitors in daylight hours every day of the year. There are organised visits, including those interested in church history and buildings, bell ringers, (the bells are regularly rung for services, and visiting ringers are welcome to come to ring a full peal). Visitors and worshippers include all age groups: we have tours organised by the University of the Third Age, and the village CofE Primary School uses the church for its end of term and Christmas Services as well as regular church assemblies. Photography groups are particularly enthusiastic visitors. The Visitors' Book is a record of the extent to which people love, enjoy and are moved by visiting the church, including many remembering recent family and also ancestors who have lived in the village and are buried here.



ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH RENDHAM PROFILE

The village of Rendham lies in the Alde Valley on the B1119 which connects Framlingham, Saxmundham and Leiston. St Michael's Church stands at the centre of the village. The Village Hall, built by public subscription which was formerly the school adjoins the churchyard and is used for many social activities. The Community Cafe is held once a month. Other activities are art classes, pilates, and a quiz night. The hall is also used for receptions after weddings, christenings and funerals. An annual MacMillan coffee morning raises money for the charity, and a Christmas Market has also been very successful in fundraising for the Church. The 2023



event raised a large sum for the British Red Cross. The Rendham Mummers perform plays with a local slant at the fete and at the Summer and Winter Solstice and the collection is donated to a different charity each time. Rendham carol singers bring festive cheer to the streets of the village. The White Horse pub is opposite, and Juniper Barn, which is both cafe and shop, is accessed from the church car park. The village is a strong community and proof of this is the success of the annual fete in the first week of July where the stalls and events are manned or organized by a great many local helpers, the proceeds being divided to the Church, Village Hall and Playing Field.

St Michael's stands in a spacious churchyard which contains memorials to Rendham parishioners over hundreds of years. It is often visited by family members whose ancestors are buried here. The regular grass cutting is carried out by a team of volunteers.

The Church is a 13th C flint rubble building with a 14th/15th C tower. The Vestry was added in the 19th C. There is now a fine ring of eight bells: in response to an appeal one of the original six bells was replaced, and two were added. The work was completed in 2003. A hearing loop system was installed by a generous donor and is greatly appreciated. Much restoration work has been carried out thanks to funds raised by the Friends of St Michael, who have organised concerts and other activities with great





success. The church path has been completely re-laid thanks to generous grants from mainly Suffolk charities.

The Church contains a fine Jacobean pulpit of 1632, a glorious four light East Window of 1907, and a two-manual Alfred Monk pipe organ. At the West End a history corner contains artefacts, old photographs and a reproduction of the famous Roman bronze head of Claudius discovered in the River Alde at Rendham in 1907.

We have two Sunday services a month, Matins and Holy Communion, both at 9.30 am. We use BCP and A&M revised. On Remembrance Sunday the collection is for the Royal British Legion. The attendance on

ordinary Sundays is only about 10; however, at Christmas, Easter and Harvest Festival it will be 30 to 40. An excellent guide to the Church by Carol Twinch is now in its third edition. A full Arts Society (formerly NADFAS) Record of the church interior and furnishings was completed in 2000. We have an enthusiastic band of bell ringers, volunteers who arrange flowers and volunteers who keep the church clean. The Flower Team also decorate the church for weddings, christenings and funerals if required. In addition, at Easter the Church is filled with arrangements of lilies, each being in memory of a loved one who has died and whose name is read aloud at the service. Other volunteers are members of the Benefice Choir which rehearses in St Michael's, and sings here and in other churches within the group.

The Electoral Roll for the village is 197, but the church electoral roll at present, is only 22. The population is middle aged to elderly. Our PCC of 7 members, including one elder, holds approximately four meetings a year. The two churchwardens prepare the church for each service.

Our financial situation is as follows:

Year	Income	Expenditure	e	Parish Share
2022	£10,377	£8,114		£2,795
2023	£9,278	£9,349		£2,891

The Rendham Parish Council contributes donations to many charities, and organises an updated website: rendham.onesuffolk.net/ as well as its own website and we have a magazine "The Street" which is issued every two months thanks to our two expert editors. A very valuable website for the Neighbourhood Watch / Village Happenings keeps us in touch

The other organisations are the Rendham Parochial Church Council, as already mentioned, the Rendham Village Hall Management Committee and the Alde Community Council committee which recruits and funds First Responders.



Wedding tractor taking bride and groom away after a marriage service

There is a large gated Playing Field with play equipment for children and space to play games like rounders. It is also used for car parking for weddings or funerals if needed. This is managed by a committee PARK. Rendham's activities have in the past been mainly agricultural. Rendham Hall Dairy has become famous for its Marybelle ice cream. There is no large scale industry based here, though the now world famous reproduction Mendlesham chairs were made in the village by Albert Lain, master craftsman and founder of Finewood and one was presented to the church to mark the Millennium. We are grateful to Tony Lawrence for permission to reproduce her fine painting of St Michael's Church



Sweffling Village Profile



Sweffling is a small village with approximately 180 people on the village electoral role. The population has a wide age range from young families through to retired people. The majority live full-time in the village, although we have a small number of week-enders, a few holiday cottages and two small chalet/camp sites. There is a village pub, which opens at weekends, Friday-Monday, and on the first Thursday in each month the pub hosts a village supper. Although we have no village shop, there is a small shop, deli and café in the next village, which is within walking distance. Saxmundham (3 miles) and Framlingham (4.5 miles) are well served with supermarkets, local butchers, bakers, restaurants, schools and doctors' surgeries. Sweffling has a bowls club, tennis club and two village playing fields, one with a pavilion and tennis court, the other with play equipment for children, picnic tables, a fitness trail for adults and football goals. The Grade 2* listed church, dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin, is the focal point of the village, standing on the highest ground and can be seen clearly as one approaches the village from the west. The majority of the church dates back to mediaeval times but the south door into the

porch and the north door leading to the vestry are Norman. The church building is well-maintained, thanks to a programme of regular maintenance. It has an excellent heating system and a modern flush toilet. The vestry has been refurbished and provides a suitable area for service preparation, and is a warm, light area for the Sunday School. It also has facilities to be able to serve refreshments after services, which we do on a regular basis, and also after concerts etc.

Currently, we have two regular services per month at 9.30 a.m. on the first and third Sundays, plus Festival and Benefice services when appropriate. Our congregation averages 15 – 20 but this swells considerably for special services. We have two Churchwardens, a Treasurer, a PCC Secretary and 6 other members of the PCC. Generally we are traditional in churchmanship, on the first Sunday we have BCP Holy Communion, whilst on the third Sunday we follow BCP Morning Prayer. However, we enjoy having family services from time to time, when the children/teenagers take part by reading, singing and leading prayers. We use



both "Ancient and Modern" and "Songs of Fellowship" to sing traditional and more modern hymns and intermingle Taize chants and prayers in our worship. Sweffling is blessed with a pool of excellent readers and the lessons are shared amongst them on a regular basis. We have two Elders, one of whom is licenced to lead communion by extension, we also have a Communion Minister, who will take Home Communion to anyone who requests it. Sunday School is held in conjunction with each service, although at times we struggle to bring in children on a regular basis, due to competition from outside activities, such as sport, taking place on Sunday mornings. There is an excellent ring of six bells and a small number of experienced ringers who ring for services. We have a team of volunteers who regularly clean the church and arrange flowers for services, weddings and other special occasions.



Our PCC is very pro-active, participating in Church and Village activities. The Church produces and sponsors the Church and Village magazine, “The Bridge”, which is delivered bimonthly free of charge to all houses in the village and contains both church and village news and events. It is a source of information for the whole community, in conjunction with the village website. We are able to cover all our financial commitments, including the current Parish Share which is paid in full in early January. Fund-raising is an important aspect, and we hold a Christmas Brunch and Market, a Christmas Brass Band concert and other occasional concerts; the Village fete is held under the auspices

of the church. Each Easter we have a memorial lily festival and build an Easter Garden in Church.

However, we do not restrict fund-raising to the Village Church and have a strong outreach programme. The proceeds from our annual Lent Soup Lunch have supported three Medical Centres in the Gambia, particularly in the fight against malaria by providing money to purchase mosquito nets and anti-malarial drugs. For Harvest, instead fresh produce we ask the village for donations of tinned, dried and packaged foods, which are sent to a local food bank The Harvest Lunch proceeds go to TEAR Fund to support their work of famine relief and we hold pancake mornings to support the British Heart Foundation.

Sweffling is a very caring village, we look out for each other, and if anyone is in need of help or assistance people rally around immediately to offer support. We have a small village charity, which also can help in time of need. The village itself is very charity-minded and regularly supports East Anglian Air Ambulance, McMillan Nurses, the homeless and others. If an international disaster strikes, a coffee morning or similar activity will be held to help raise financial support. Last year such events raised in the region of £10,000 for



various charities.

Visitors to Sweffling Church, either for a service or to look around the church regularly comment what a friendly, welcoming atmosphere there is. It is obvious that the Church has been looked after and loved over the centuries and it still is today.



The Benefice Elders.

The Elders willingly undertake ministry work according to their ability: home communion and other pastoral needs, services, including by three ‘approved by the Bishop’ communion by extension, working with the school etc.

The Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

The Diocese

Where are we?

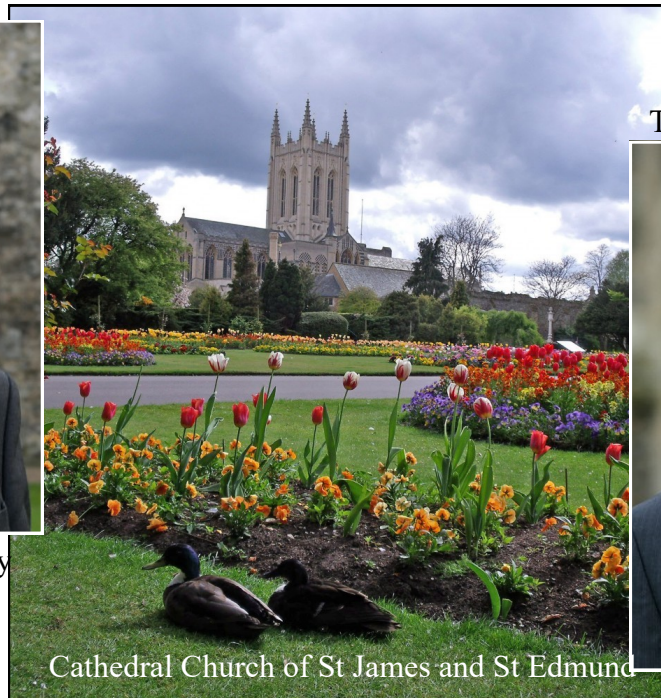
The Diocese covers the county of Suffolk, excluding the area around Lowestoft in the north-east, and one parish in Essex. It is a mainly rural Diocese with a large number of small villages, plus market towns including Woodbridge, Halesworth, Sudbury and Beccles and the cathedral town of Bury St Edmunds 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. 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 Express-



The Rt Revd Martin Seeley



Cathedral Church of St James and St Edmund

The Rt Revd Dr Mike Harrison



sions 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

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 focuses 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.light-wave.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’.



Bishop Aaron
Bishop of Kagera, writes

“Working with our sister diocese in Suffolk has given Kagera people the opportunity to discover that God’s love is so great that it is beyond our imagination. It is only through this love that we may become the same before the Lord.”

DEANERY OF LOES

Loes is a rural deanery situated in a beautiful part of the Suffolk countryside. Here, small rivers start and head towards the nearby sea, with lovely villages and gently rolling countryside.

There are good schools, teashops, and pubs! What's not to like? There are three larger population centres, Debenham, Framlingham and Wickham Market, with the rest being small villages. There is a total population of about 15,000 people across the deanery.

Our rural communities are varied and socially diverse. As a deanery our clergy have a strong and supportive chapter and, after a number of new appointments, now have a new senior leadership team in place to help us focus on how we can collaborate and support each other across the 32 churches that make up the Loes deanery.

We recognise the challenges that we face as rural communities with smaller communities and a smaller pool of resources, but we remain confident that ministering collaboratively across parish boundaries we can maintain a life-giving and fruitful ministry across the deanery as we follow Jesus and build the Kingdom of God. We are looking forward to welcoming a new colleague to work with us in Upper Alde Benefice as we seek to further our engagement with the developing Diocesan strategy of Growing in God.

An important part of growth and clergy support is developing more collaborative patterns of ministry across the deanery and we hope the new appointment in the Upper Alde will see greater opportunities for work and support with the Rector of Framlingham and Saxtead and the ministry team based there.

Chris Davey, Priest in Charge of Framlingham and Rural Dean,
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 Framlingham
 Woodbridge
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[Framlingham Castle](#)

Typical monthly services during vacancy

Sunday	1st	8.00am	Holy Communion	Dennington
		9.30am	Holy Communion by Ext	Sweffling
		9.30am	Matins	Bruisyard
		11.00am	Holy Communion by Ext	Badingham
Sunday	2nd	9.30am	Holy Communion by Ext	Cransford
		9.30am	Matins	Rendham
		11.00am	Family Service	Dennington
Sunday	3rd	9.30am	Holy Communion by Ext	Bruisyard
		9.30am	Matins	Sweffling
		11.00am	Holy Communion by Ext	Badingham
Sunday	4th	9.30am	Holy Communion by Ext	Rendham
		9.30am	Matins	Cransford
		11.00am	Holy Communion	Dennington
Sunday	5th	11.00am	Holy Communion by Ext	Rotation

Typical monthly services prior to vacancy

Sunday	1st	8.00am	Holy Communion	Dennington
		9.30am	Holy Communion	Sweffling
		9.30am	Matins	Bruisyard
		11.00am	Holy Communion	Badingham
Sunday	2nd	9.30am	Holy Communion	Cransford
		9.30am	Matins	Rendham
		11.00am	Family Service	Dennington
Sunday	3rd	9.30am	Holy Communion	Bruisyard
		9.30am	Matins	Sweffling
		11.00am	Holy Communion	Badingham
Sunday	4th	9.30am	Holy Communion	Rendham
		9.30am	Matins	Cransford
		11.00am	Holy Communion	Dennington
Sunday	5th	11.00am	Holy Communion	Rotation

Parochial Church Council Meetings. All six Churches are happy to have the vice chair to lead their meetings and perhaps have a joint meeting once per annum with the incumbent as chair.

Thank you for reading our profile and your interest. To find out more about the vacancy contact our Archdeacon the Venerable Rich Henderson, 07710 479497 or archdeacon.rich@cofesuffolk.org