

The Diocese of Norwich



Profile of the Parishes of
Blakeney, Cley, Glandford, Letheringsett and Wiveton.
Working together as the Glaven Valley Benefice.

July 2013

The Glaven Valley Benefice

OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

We hope to build on the strong foundations of faith, worship and outreach which have been laid in the Glaven Valley, and to continue moving forward in our Church and community life. Our vision is of an ecumenical ministry that cherishes and welcomes people of all ages and backgrounds, whether they live here or come on holiday.

THE PERSON WE ARE LOOKING FOR

We are looking for a minister:

- with a clear and deeply rooted faith willing to be led by the Holy Spirit through prayer, teaching and preaching to enrich the spiritual life of the churches in the Benefice
- who has warmth and is a good communicator, relating easily to people of all ages and backgrounds
- who is pastorally sensitive, and caring for all in the community; who believes in the value of visiting people, churchgoers or not
- who will enjoy and wish to be involved in village life and who is able to understand the problems of a rural community
- with the energy, vision and leadership qualities needed to develop fresh ways of communicating the gospel and to encourage more families, children and young people into the church
- who is ecumenically minded and sympathetic to a variety of worship styles, including quiet meditation
- who is a good facilitator who will encourage and empower honorary assistant clergy, lay readers and the laity in the use of their gifts and talents, encouraging prayer, Bible reading, and study groups
- ready to develop further the co-operation between the five churches, building on their strengths and exploring ways of bringing them to work more closely as one especially through Benefice Services and events
- willing to participate regularly in the church school

It would be wonderful if you had all these attributes but we acknowledge that we may need to be realistic in our expectations!

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

- Loving, prayerful and practical support from a very willing church membership
- The ministry of a number of committed retired but active clergy and lay readers who take services on a regular basis, as well as the support of the Deanery Youth Missioner
- The support of many people who work in small groups and a host of activities throughout the year
- Space and opportunity to cultivate your personal faith as well as that of the church and wider community
- Part-time administrative support
- Provision of five excellent organists who share the services across the Benefice
- We recognize the challenge of ministering to the needs of five rural parishes and will offer all possible support in seeking a good work/life balance; we understand that you cannot be everywhere at once!

This post is both challenging and exciting, providing an excellent opportunity to build on the progress we feel we are making. We look forward to meeting you.

www.glavenvalleychurches.org.uk

THE BENEFICE

The Glaven Valley Benefice contains the five Parishes of Blakeney, Cley, Glandford, Letheringsett and Wiveton. The Parishes come within the Deanery of Holt and the Archdeaconry of Lynn.

A Benefice Committee acts as the co-ordinating body for the parishes, with a Benefice Administrator and a separate Benefice Account for funding projects and events that embrace the five Parishes. There is a part time paid Benefice Secretary who deals with much of the administrative work between the Parishes and the Diocese. The Benefice office is presently located in a temporary office. The Benefice Committee, which meets under the chairmanship of the Rector, is formed of three representatives from each parish.

The Benefice currently has licensed Lay Readers and there are honorary assistant Clergy who help by taking Services and also give help with pastoral care. The Benefice also shares the services of a Deanery Youth Missioner, and we contribute to his expenses.

The Benefice is keen to foster ecumenical events and Services with a 'Churches Together' group. There are close working relationships with the Methodist and Catholic Church.

The Benefice has an informal choir and we are fortunate that we have four very capable organists who share the duties where necessary. Music is a very important element in our community. Concerts catering for a wide variety of tastes take place regularly, bringing many more people into our churches.

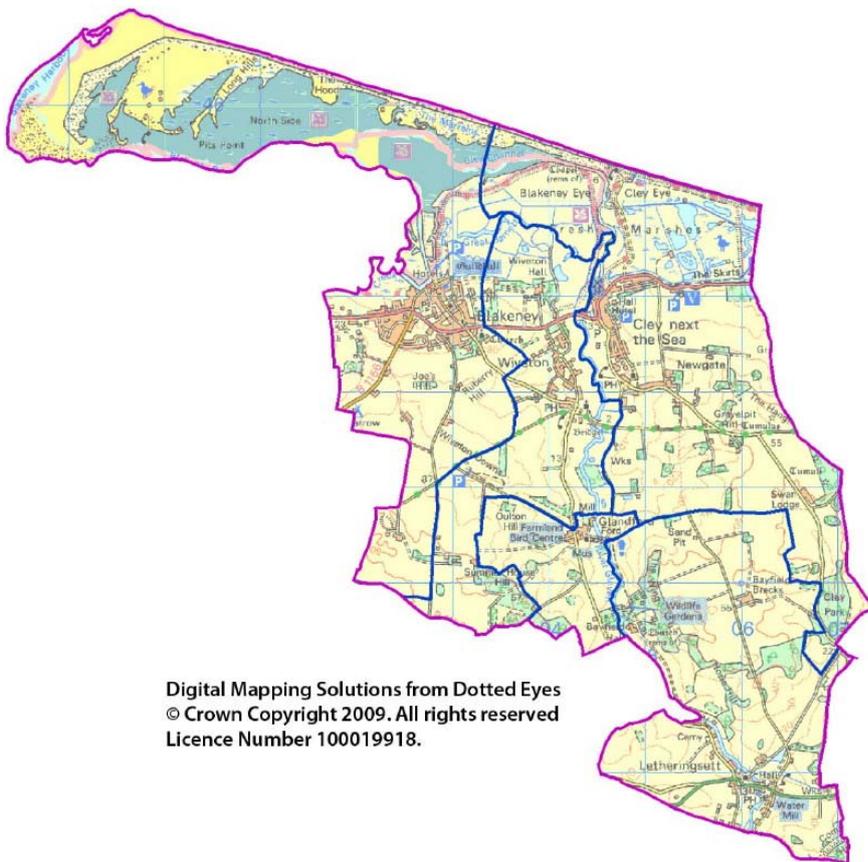
A WIDENING PATTERN OF WORSHIP

Whilst each parish has its own preferences and traditions with regard to liturgy and music, we have in recent years introduced a wider range of alternative styles of Service. This includes Iona and Taizé Services, informal Children's Services (including an all-family communion), Café Church, Messy Church and Services of quiet meditation. A greater variety of Services, in which lay people and clergy work together, is making our churches more "accessible" to parents and their children, and to those who would not normally come to church.

Readings normally follow the Common Worship Lectionary (NRSV) and Hymns Old and New are generally used. Once a month a Benefice Eucharist, combining members of all five parishes, is held in one of the churches.

An ecumenical "Centering Prayer" group is held weekly.

All five Parishes have decided not to debate Resolution B.



OVERSEAS MISSION

In the last three years there has been an increasing involvement with, and support for Christian groups in Rwanda and Eastern Congo. In January 2013, ten people from the Glaven Valley spent two weeks in Rwanda, bringing back insights and memories which will remain with them for the rest of their lives. They engaged actively with local people and projects within the Anglican Communion. They took with them many things including enough water filters to provide safe drinking water for over 5000 people, paid for by members of the Benefice. There are plans for another group to go out in January 2015.

The Benefice also supports 'Aid Africa', a local Christian charity working in Malawi by organising a series of 'Lent Lunches', as well as donating to other organisations such as Christian Aid.

FINANCE

The Benefice ensures on behalf of the five Parishes that the Parish share is paid in full. The Benefice also pays the Clergy expenses and the cost of the Benefice Secretary. Deficits in the annual accounts of some parishes are a problem, but in spite of financial difficulties we are determined to maintain our levels of charitable giving.

Copies of the PCC accounts are available on request from the appropriate Churchwardens.

THE RECTORY

The Rectory is on the south side of Blakeney, was built in 1928 and is 250 metres from the Church. It is set back from the road with its own drive and surrounded by a well maintained garden. The rear of the house faces south, looking over the surrounding countryside. The accommodation includes: on the ground floor, kitchen, utility room, pantry, two large reception rooms, study, entrance hall and toilet; on the first floor, six bedrooms, bathroom, toilet and shower. The heating is oil-fired with the addition of open fires in many of the rooms. There are various outbuildings and a garage.



STIPEND

£23,530.00 from April 2013

SCHOOLS

The Blakeney Primary School is part of an exciting new development. April 2013 saw the creation of the Pilgrim Federation of Church of England Schools in North Norfolk, which includes schools at Kelling, Hindringham and Walsingham. One of the honorary assistant clergy of the Benefice is on the governing body of the federation. Blakeney School itself is situated next to the Church and has close links with it. Morning assembly is often taken by a member of the clergy. A good number of children and parents from the school take part in Messy Church on a monthly basis. This is well supported by the Rector and Deanery Youth Worker.



There are County Secondary Schools at Wells and Fakenham. Gresham's School in Holt is a co-educational, fee-paying school for boarders and day pupils with a Pre-Prep, Prep, and a Senior School. The school has a fine musical tradition and its Chapel Choir and orchestra often perform in the Glaven Valley Churches.

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HEALTH SERVICES

The local medical practice has a Surgery in Blakeney and a Medical Centre at High Kelling near Holt.

THE GLAVEN VALLEY NEWSLETTER

The Glaven Valley Newsletter is a free monthly magazine which is invaluable in keeping everyone in touch with what is happening in the area - and about to happen. It is delivered to every house within the Benefice. It is ecumenical and includes details of all the Church Services (Church of England, Methodist and Catholic) together with a clergy letter from one of the Churches. It is printed, assembled and distributed by volunteers and is self-financed by the income from advertising and voluntary contributions.

THE GLAVEN DISTRICT CARING COMMITTEE

The Glaven District Caring Committee is a charity with a purpose-built Centre in Blakeney. Glaven Caring was developed by the local medical practice to provide a caring service for the elderly and frail living in their own homes. Its facilities include bathing, hair dressing, chiropody etc. together with the provision of lunches. A minibus transports people to and from their homes, and a team of volunteers assist the full time staff by driving the minibus and helping in various ways at the Centre. A member of the Clergy holds a Communion Service in the Centre once a month.



THE BLAKENEY NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSING SOCIETY

The Blakeney Neighbourhood Housing Society is a charity which was formed in 1946 to provide accommodation for local families at economic and affordable rents. It went into partnership with Broadland Housing Association in 1990 and now administers 44 properties in Blakeney, Cley and Wiveton.

OCCUPATIONS IN THE GLAVEN VALLEY

Occupations include farming, fishing, building and related trades, teaching, shop-keeping, reed cutting, light engineering, market gardening, professional and business services as well as catering for the many visitors and second home owners. There is a wide range of hotels, inns, 'B and Bs' and restaurants. Holt, an attractive Georgian town five miles inland, is the main shopping centre for those living in the Glaven Valley, but there are good shops in Blakeney and Cley, including a small supermarket (with a Post Office), two delicatessens, two fish shops, a boatyard and chandlery, art galleries, a pottery, an excellent second-hand bookshop, a nationally recognised wild life centre and a small brewery.

A sample showing a typical monthly Service pattern in the Benefice

CHURCH OF ENGLAND SERVICES AUGUST 2012

Sunday 5th August	8.00	Holy Communion	(BCP)	Blakeney
(9th Sunday after Trinity)	9.30	Sung Eucharist	(BCP)	Glandford
	9.30	Iona Communion		Cley
	9.30	Mattins	(BCP)	Letheringsett
	11.00	Family Service		Blakeney
	18.30	Choral Evensong	(BCP)	Wiveton
<i>Wednesday 8th</i>	<i>10.00</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>	<i>(BCP)</i>	<i>Blakeney</i>
<i>Thursday 9th</i>	<i>9.30</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>	<i>(CW)</i>	<i>Cley</i>
Sunday 12th (10th Sunday after Trinity)	09.30	Singing Practise		Wiveton
	10.00	Benefice Service		Wiveton
	12.30	Baptism		Cley
	18.00	Service of Meditation for Peace		Wiveton
<i>Wednesday 15th</i>	<i>10.00</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>	<i>(BCP)</i>	<i>Blakeney</i>
<i>Thursday 16th</i>	<i>9.30</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>	<i>(CW)</i>	<i>Cley</i>
Sunday 19th (11th Sunday after Trinity)	8.00	Holy Communion	(BCP)	Cley
	9.30	Mattins	(BCP)	Letheringsett
	9.30	Sung Eucharist	(CW)	Blakeney
	11.00	Sung Eucharist	(BCP)	Wiveton
	11.00	Children and Families		Cley
	18.30	Lifeboat Service		The Carnser, Blakeney
<i>Wednesday 22nd</i>	<i>10.00</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>	<i>(BCP)</i>	<i>Blakeney</i>
<i>Thursday 23rd</i>	<i>9.30</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>	<i>(CW)</i>	<i>Cley</i>
Sunday 26th (12th Sunday after Trinity)	8.00	Holy Communion	(BCP)	Wiveton
	9.30	Sung Eucharist	(CW)	Cley
	9.30	Holy Communion	(BCP)	Letheringsett
	11.00	Family Communion		Wiveton
	11.00	Sung Eucharist with prayers for healing		Blakeney
<i>Wednesday 29th</i>	<i>10.00</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>	<i>(BCP)</i>	<i>Blakeney</i>
<i>Thursday 30th</i>	<i>9.30</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>	<i>(CW)</i>	<i>Cley</i>
Sunday 2nd Sep (13th Sunday after Trinity)	8.00	Holy Communion	(BCP)	Blakeney
	9.30	Sung Eucharist	(BCP)	Glandford
	9.30	Iona Communion		Cley
	9.30	Mattins	(BCP)	Letheringsett
	11.00	Family Service		Blakeney
	18.30	Choral Evensong	(BCP)	Wiveton
<i>Wednesday 5th</i>	<i>10.00</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>	<i>(BCP)</i>	<i>Blakeney</i>
<i>Thursday 6th</i>	<i>9.30</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>	<i>(CW)</i>	<i>Cley</i>

St Nicholas Blakeney

CHURCHWARDENS

Peter Farmer Tel 01263 740406
Judy Pegden Tel 01263 741497

NUMBERS

Population:- Approximately 750
Church electoral Roll:- 65
Usual Sunday attendance:- 47 (average at the main morning Service)

OCCASIONAL OFFICES

2012:- Baptisms 4 Weddings 5 Funerals 7



THE PARISH CHURCH

The magnificent 13th Century church is featured in Simon Jenkins' book 'England's 1000 Best Churches' and, in 2004, it was voted in the Daily Telegraph, as one of England's 100 favourite Churches. It is noted for welcoming visitors and providing a sanctuary for prayer and rest. It is lovingly cared for by a dedicated group of parishioners. There is a fine organ which has just celebrated its centenary with a splendid concert given by the Norwich Cathedral Organist and the girls and men of the Cathedral Choir.

The 'Friends of St Nicholas' is a registered charity that raises funds to continue improving the church facilities and help with the maintenance of the fabric. There is a programme of repair work to be carried out over the next eight years culminating in the renewal of the roof coverings for which £200,000 needs to be raised.

As part of our mission, the church is open every day. It has good modern facilities and refreshments are available on a 'help-yourself' basis. There are frequent musical concerts and other social events. The churchyard has a well-maintained burial ground. On certain days the tower is open to climb, and gives great views of the surrounding countryside and harbour.

CHURCH SERVICES

We generally use Common Worship at our main Sunday Service (with a monthly BCP at 8.00am) but often use alternative styles. There is the opportunity to receive the laying on of hands for healing at a monthly morning Eucharist.



'Messy Church' takes place once a month during term time and 20 – 30 children together with parents enjoy worship, craft activities and a meal all provided by a team of volunteers. The church is largely responsible for the British Legion Remembrance Service and the ecumenical Lifeboat Service.

There are weekly Bible Study Groups and a 'Centering Prayer' group. Two house groups meet on alternate fortnights: one is a 'Christian Discussion Group' and the other, called the 'Emmaus Group', is currently following the J John 'Just 10' course.

CHURCH SERVICES (Contd)

There are also other study groups, often led by the Clergy. The PCC is planning more opportunities for pastoral visits and mission.

Our music is supported by a developing choir led by a skilled and enthusiastic organist.

We have strong links with both the Methodist and Roman Catholic Churches in the village. A PCC member is responsible for fostering these ecumenical links. Many joint activities take place including a 'March of Witness' through the village on Good Friday and a Palm Sunday procession.

Marriage in church after divorce has been at the Rector's discretion.

THE CHURCH HALL

The Church Hall is in a prominent location by the Quay and situated in a busy area for tourists. Part of the building is let for much of the time for sales, exhibitions and charitable fund-raising events. A part is let to the Sailing Club. This letting provides a substantial income for the church.

THE VILLAGE

St Nicholas' Church dominates the village, whose flint cottages line the High Street leading down to the quayside and the harbour. The village has a high proportion of retired and elderly people among its resident population. There are relatively few young people partly because of the lack of affordable housing and also limited employment opportunities. About 40% of the existing houses are holiday homes. There is a new housing development of 24 dwellings currently under construction. The Primary School is situated adjacent to the church. There is a strong sense of social responsibility and caring for others in the village and the surrounding area. This includes the 'Blakeney Twelve', a group of local businessmen who raise funds to help those in need. Many volunteers help at the Glaven Caring Centre, which provides lunches and personal facilities for the elderly and frail.

The Royal British Legion has club facilities in the High Street and an excellent function room which is available for hire. Alongside there is a bowling green. The Village Hall is used for social events and sports. There is a large playing field alongside, with football pitches and tennis courts. The Blakeney Players, a local amateur dramatic group, stage two very popular productions in the Hall each year. Local clubs and organisations include Cub-Scouts, Brownies, Scouts and Guides. The Blakeney Area Historical Society has its archive at the Village Hall. The Blakeney Sailing Club has regular races in the harbour and there is a newly emerging Rowing Club. Other local events include an annual Regatta and Village Sports.



St Margaret of Antioch, Cley-next-the-Sea

CHURCHWARDEN

Joe Penfold Tel 01263 740044

NUMBERS

Population:- 437

Church electoral Roll:- 34

Usual Sunday attendance:- 15 (average at the main morning Service)

OCCASIONAL OFFICES

2012:- Baptisms 3 Weddings 4 Funerals 6

THE VILLAGE

Cley, whose population can double in the months of July and August, is the home of one of Britain's leading wildlife reserves, stretching from Blakeney to Salthouse. The new Visitors' Centre looks out over the reserve to the sea and is visited by thousands throughout the year. Its long window gives an unrivalled view over the marshes. Visitors can enjoy a meal or snack and looking around the sales area and bookshop. Some of the main features of the village include our beautiful St Margaret's Church, the iconic windmill, a smokehouse, an art gallery, a pottery, an award winning delicatessen and a bookshop.

The Village Hall is used frequently by a variety of organisations including the Norfolk Wildlife Trust, NADFAS, the Women's Institute, Cley Carpet Bowls, the Cley Amateur Dramatic Society and more recently for the North Norfolk Exhibition Project workshops. It is also the setting for the Harvest Supper, church sales, private parties and entertainments. A children's playground is situated behind the Hall.

THE PARISH CHURCH

The present Church, featured in Pevsner and in Simon Jenkins' 1000 Best Churches, dates from the early part of the 14th Century. It stands on the site of an earlier building, looking across the valley to Wiveton Church. In the Middle Ages the valley between the two was navigable water, used by coastal and foreign craft bringing considerable wealth to the area. The south porch of the Church with its carved stone heraldry provides a beautiful entrance. Once inside, one is aware of the almost cathedral-like proportions of the high nave, the vast west window and the cinquefoil windows of the clerestory which flood the interior with light. There has been a continuous restoration programme over the last thirty years.

In 2012 we were approached by the North Norfolk Exhibition Project to hold an arts and craft exhibition in the church during July and August. This venture has proved very successful with 6,000 people visiting the exhibition. The NEP will be exhibiting again in July/August 2013

CHURCH LIFE

The monthly "Children and Families" Service, started in 2002, continues to bring a good response from the community and gives us much joy. The attendance figures for this lay-led Service range between 6 and 40, depending on the time of the year.

Our churchyard is kept in excellent condition by a team of volunteers; the weekly flower arranging is undertaken by a voluntary rota. The church is kept open every day of the week.



CHURCH LIFE (Contd)

Our main fund raising event is St Margaret's Fair in July as part of our Patronal Festival weekend. This event is supported by broad village participation and is well attended.

'Friends of Cley Church' is a separate registered charity with the aim of raising funds for proposed amenities in the Church.



St Martin of Tours, Glandford

CHURCHWARDENS

Robin Combe Tel 01263 712058
Averil Monteath Tel 01263 740179

NUMBERS

Population:- 20 Houses
Church electoral Roll:- 19
Usual Sunday attendance:- 15 (at two Services a month)

OCCASIONAL OFFICES

2012:- Baptisms 1 Weddings 0 Funerals 0

THE VILLAGE

Glandford is a working village and most of the houses are owned by a Housing Association and leased to local people, some with children of school age or younger. Only two houses are available for holiday letting. The main occupations are farming, tourism and some light industry in the old farm buildings including Cley Spy a renowned shop selling optical equipment and other items for birdwatchers, a busy boatyard, The Art Café and Birdscape Picture Gallery. There is a Shell Museum built by Sir Alfred Jodrell to house his collection of shells at the time that he rebuilt the village. The Museum is closely connected with the Church as the Curator, who lives in Church House adjacent, is also Sacristan/Verger. The Museum is a popular tourist attraction, as is the nearby ford of the River Glaven.



THE PARISH CHURCH

The Church, which sits on a bluff overlooking the river, was in ruins by the year 1730. There was some limited restoration work in 1875, but it was not until the end of the nineteenth century that Sir Alfred Jodrell,



who had inherited Bayfield Hall, decided to rebuild the church in its entirety as a memorial to his mother. The interior of the church is beautifully adorned with wonderful carved woodwork, stained glass and candelabra. The clock tower has a carillon of twelve bells.

CHURCH LIFE

With one traditional Sung Eucharist and one BCP Evensong a month, Church life is limited, but members of the congregation attend other Services and activities within the Benefice. Equally the congregation is normally swollen at Services by regular visitors from neighbouring parishes as well as tourists visiting the

area. Because of the location of the church and the beauty of the interior it lends itself to being a place of meditation. A Service of Compline is held here on the first three days of Holy Week. These are well attended, as is the intimate candlelight Carol Service at Christmas.

St Andrews, Letheringsett

CHURCHWARDENS

Jayne Jones Tel 01263 712722
Ann Thomson Tel 01263 712821

NUMBERS

Population: 200 (approx)
Church electoral Roll: 18

Average attendance

Matins & Holy Communion: 12
Benefice Family Communion: 65
Café Church (held in Village Hall): 27

OCCASIONAL OFFICES

2012:- Baptisms 1 Weddings 1 Funerals 1

THE VILLAGE

Letheringsett, which is situated on the main road from Fakenham to Holt, has a pub which, having recently been refurbished, attracts a large number of visitors as well as being the village pub. Another attraction for visitors and residents alike is the fabulous working water-driven flour mill. The ford across the River Glaven is a very picturesque spot and Letheringsett also has Letheringsett Hall. Formerly the family home to the Letheringsett Cozens-Hardy family, this is now a residential home.

The village hall, built in 1910 as a gift to the villagers from the Cozens-Hardy family, is used for a wide variety of activities including classes for art, dance and pilates as well as for private functions. It is also the venue for our very popular Quiz Evenings and Harvest Suppers and musical concerts including the village's Edwardian Evening and Childrens' Concert. In addition to these uses, we have been pleased to welcome a number of guest speakers including Gillian Shepherd, John MacGregor and Carol Bundock. It is also used for Parish Council and PCC meetings. It has a capacity of 100, has central heating and has been modified for disabled access.

THE PARISH CHURCH

The striking round tower – the only one in the valley – was erected shortly after 1086. New baffles were recently installed in the round tower. The rest of the church was not added to the tower until 1234. Of note is the continuous line of the nave and chancel, for there is no screen or rood to separate the parts. The church fabric is in good order and we are in the process of installing kitchen and toilet facilities with disabled access. The church is regularly used for concerts. In addition, the Benefice Services and Christmas Carol Service see the church brimming, and so such facilities will be a great benefit.



In the mid 1950s the side aisle chapels were restored and stained glass windows were inserted. A sound system with a hearing loop was installed in 2004. A series of improvements and additions to the organ have been completed, greatly adding to its musical range.

The 200 year-old barrel organ has been fully repaired and restored. A few years ago, the barrel organ rang out in full voice when we invited members of the British Organ Grinders Association to come and give a concert in the church.

CHURCH LIFE

The Church draws its worshippers from both the immediate locality and surrounding areas, including Holt. There is a regular ministry, with a monthly Communion, for the residents of the elderly care home at Letheringsett Hall. Over recent years, life at St Andrew's has seen changes. We maintain our traditional services of Matins and Holy Communion. In addition, we now have a meditative time of reflection on Good Friday. This service has come to have a special place in our church life. Another way life has changed here in Letheringsett is with Café Church. At the other end of the spectrum in terms of type of worship, this is an informal service held in the village hall. Informal, but most definitely worship. We take different themes each time and these form the basis of discussion, praise and prayerful reflection. As with all good cafés, bacon butties and freshly ground coffee are on the menu! Other special services now include our Christmas Carol Service and the Benefice wide services. In 2006, we invited children in and around the village to be part of a Candlelit Christmas Carol Service, telling the story of the Nativity. This group of children have become known as our *Shining Stars*. The 2006 service was an absolute joy and has been repeated every year since. In addition, our *Shining Stars* are very much a part of the Benefice wide services. It is a joy to see the church used in this way and reaching more people. Each year, we also hold a Fun & Gift Day. This is an opportunity for us to spend social time together and raise money for the church with the sale of gifts, cakes and flowers. We have taken to giving these events a theme, inviting people to come along in appropriate dress. People have entered into the spirit of these events and had great fun doing so. Themes have included "Dad's Army", "Are you being served?" and "'Allo! 'Allo!" In 2013, the church will be open again for this event and this year we will be holding it on the same day as the very successful annual Fête at Letheringsett Hall. This is a very healthy development. The Hall and church come together for community events, working together for the common good.

So, although we are one of the smaller churches and communities within the Benefice, and our regular service attendance is small, we are very much part of this wonderful family that is the Glaven Valley Benefice. It is our dearly held wish to continue on our current path, reaching out to each other within ~ and out to others beyond ~ the beautiful building that is St Andrew's Church, Letheringsett.

ST MARGARET OF ANTIOCH, BAYFIELD

The Saxon church of St Margaret, now a ruin, is situated in the grounds of Bayfield Hall. This is the responsibility of Letheringsett PCC and once a year, in the summer, the Benefice holds an open-air Service followed by a picnic in the delightful grounds of the Hall.

St Mary the Virgin, Wiveton

CHURCHWARDENS

Margaret Bennett Tel 01263 741384

Jim Woodhouse Tel 01263 740935

NUMBERS

Population:- 160

Church electoral Roll:- 18

Usual Sunday attendance:- 25 (average at the main morning Service)

OCCASIONAL OFFICES

2012:- Baptisms 1 Weddings 3 Funerals 3

THE VILLAGE

Wiveton is a small parish where it is possible for most people to know each other. There are several young families in the village as well as retired people from a wide range of professions. The Parish Hall, which has been modernised and redecorated, is a centre of activity for art classes, parish meetings and suppers and other social events. The Wiveton Bell, a popular pub and restaurant, stands close to the village green. About fifteen of the houses are second homes.



THE PARISH CHURCH



The Parish Church stands on the village green in the centre of the village. Apart from the tower and chancel (c1300) it was rebuilt in the fifteenth century. It has a peal of six beautifully toned bells.

The church and its fabric are well looked after and several improvements have been introduced in the past fifteen years. These include new heating and lighting, restoration of the beautiful Holdich organ, development of the Children's Chapel and the Chapel for reading and private prayer, refurbishment of the chancel and opening up of the north-east chancel window. The work identified in the 2010 Quinquennial Report is due to be completed by this autumn. We have a yearly programme for the restoration of the church's windows.

The Friends of Wiveton Church, formed in 2009, give valuable help with fund raising and arranging concerts and lectures. The growth of such events has highlighted the need for modern catering, toilet and flower arranging facilities, which we plan to install.

CHURCH LIFE

We have a special monthly Family Communion Service, in which children and parents play an active part. This complements the services for children held on other Sundays in Cley and Blakeney. The Family Services at Christmas and Easter see gatherings of up to 250 children, parents and grandparents, with children (including a new-born baby) acting all the roles. A Service of quiet meditation now forms part of our monthly programme.

A choir of local people leads the singing in Evensong on the first Sunday of each month. Many parishioners are involved in helping with the Services and with events such as concerts, flower festivals and fund raising activities, including the twice-yearly "Stalls on the Green"





The North Norfolk Area

The North Norfolk area comprises some thirty miles of unspoilt rural coastline, backed by farmland, woods and heaths. It is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and contains many beautiful villages with their medieval churches, retaining a strong sense of community and local identity whilst welcoming a large influx of visitors and holiday makers in the summer months. The villages provide amenities for visitors, with hotels, restaurants, pubs and shops. The attractions of the area have caused a steep rise in housing prices, which is a significant problem for local people seeking to stay in the area.

A regular bus service runs along the coast with some additional services to Holt and Fakenham, where there is a large selection of shops. Fakenham also has a weekly market. Trains run from Sheringham, another shopping centre, to Norwich with connections to London. A local steam railway operates between Sheringham and Holt

There are several art galleries in the area, reflecting a strong community of local artists and craftsmen. Music thrives, with many professional and amateur concerts in our churches. The Auden Theatre at Gresham's School in Holt features a programme of plays and concerts by students, professional groups and individuals, some of national renown.

Blakeney Harbour is a lively scene of sailing boats and ferries taking groups out to see the seal colony at Blakeney Point. The whole of the Point area and Blakeney Marsh form a National Nature Reserve. Together with the Norfolk Wildlife Trust reserve at Cley and the Stiffkey and Salthouse marshes, this part of the coast is a haven for birdwatchers, naturalists and artists.

