

# The Diocese of Norwich

## Profile of the Glaven Valley Benefice 2024



### OUR VISION

To share the living hope of Jesus with the people of the Glaven Valley - whether residents or visitors - and to reach out to young and old alike in our communities, so that every life may bear fruit for Him.

To build on the strong foundations of faith, worship and outreach across the Benefice and to continue moving forward in our Church and community life.



*Across the Glaven Valley*

The Glaven Valley Benefice is a group of five parishes serving the villages of Blakeney, Cley, Wiveton, Glandford and Letheringsett in the beautiful countryside of the North Norfolk Coast, designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

We are seeking a dynamic, passionate and compassionate leader with a heart for gospel-based outreach and pastoral care to inspire and guide us into an exciting new chapter.

Through strong leadership, teaching and pastoral care, supported by regular Alpha courses, Bible study courses, home groups and new forms of worship such as Café Church, Praise & Worship and Sacred Space, we have been greatly encouraged in recent years, reaching out more broadly and more deeply in our community.

Now we are looking for somebody to lead us forward over the coming years to bring the love of Jesus to more people in the community and beyond and to provide pastoral care for all, seeking guidance from the Holy Spirit for direction.

## **THE GLAVEN VALLEY BENEFICE**

### **WE ARE PRAYING FOR A RECTOR WHO:**

- Led by the Holy Spirit will help us through prayer, preaching, teaching and example, to deepen our faith in Jesus Christ and our relationship with Him.
- As a leader, brings love, passion, approachability and a sense of joy and purpose to the role.
- Will help us to develop fresh ways of communicating the gospel in this rural Benefice to reach more people across the wider community.
- As a facilitator, will encourage us to use our gifts and talents through the work of the Holy Spirit in each of us.
- Will use Alpha and other outreach opportunities to bring the Good News of Jesus to people in a relevant way.
- Will seize the opportunity for mission amongst both our local residents and our holiday visitors.
- Respects a diversity of worship styles from the traditional to the informal.
- Is pastorally sensitive and caring, with a special concern for the sick and those in distress.
- Will build and further enhance our good links with the local CofE school and families.
- Will continue to develop the strong co-operation and partnership that exists between our five churches

### **WE OFFER:**

- Loving, prayerful and practical support from a very willing church membership.
- The ministry of committed retired clergy and Lay Ministers.
- The support of many people who lead our courses and small groups (Alpha, The Bible Course, Christianity Explored, Women's Bible Study Group, ...) and our many outreach activities.
- Space and opportunity to develop and grow in your personal faith.
- Excellent administrative support.

**This post is both challenging and exciting. Much has been achieved and provides an excellent opportunity for you to take us forward with vision.**

**Are you the person God is calling to work alongside us?**

## THE BENEFICE

### WORSHIP and OUTREACH

We benefit from a wide range of styles of worship, with an average Sunday attendance of 100 across the Benefice and additional people joining online. Our services include BCP, Sung Evensong, Common Worship and an Iona style of Communion service with prayers for healing. In addition, more informal services include Praise & Worship, Glaven Sings Gospel and Café Church. More contemplative services include Taizé, Sacred Space and Centering Prayer. We are fortunate to have three capable organists. The importance of the Benefice to the local community cannot be overstated.

### GROUPS and COURSES

In recent years we have established an increasing number of Benefice-wide small groups and courses. We have run Alpha three times in five years, bringing the gospel to people in a refreshing and unthreatening way. On each occasion, this has brought new people into the church and our home groups, while also being an excellent 'refresher' for those more established in their faith. We now have several bible-study home groups, including a newly established Women's Bible Study Group, and two which were set up for those coming out of Alpha. The home groups are using teaching material from the Bible Society (Andrew Ollerton's 'The Bible Course' and 'The Romans Course') and Christianity Explored.

### MISSION and CHARITIES

Over the last 12 years there has been a continuing involvement and support for Christians in Rwanda and Eastern Congo. Four visits were made in 2013, 2015, 2017 and 2019 by groups of about 12 people from the Glaven Valley bringing back challenging insights. This has led to regular financial support to Life in Abundance in Rwanda. We support a number of other international and local charities such as Christian Aid and Open Doors. We run a much-appreciated local Food Bank operating from Blakeney Church.

### MUSIC and the FIVE CHURCHES FESTIVAL

Music is a very important element in our churches and community. For the last two years, a highlight has been the successful 'Five Churches Festival', held over several days in July and featuring visiting professional musicians. Concerts catering for a wide range of musical tastes take place in each of the Benefice Churches, including a weekly 'Thursdays at Three' concert at Cley. These have proved to be a great source of outreach, bringing many new people into our churches. At other times concerts are organised by the individual Churches and their 'Friends' groups.

### BENEFICE SUPPORT

The Benefice sits within the Deanery of Holt and the Archdeaconry of Lynn.

The Benefice currently has two active retired assistant Clergy and two Licensed Lay Ministers, who help by taking services and with pastoral care.

The Benefice Administrator deals with much of the administrative work between the five parishes and the Diocese, and is based in the well-equipped office, which is open on weekdays and located in St Nicholas' Church, Blakeney.

A Benefice Committee meets regularly to coordinate the work of the five parishes. It is formed of three representatives from each parish with the paid Benefice Administrator, who manages a separate account for funding whole Benefice projects and events.

### **SAFEGUARDING**

We are committed to the safety and well-being of children, young people and vulnerable adults. The Benefice ensures that our Safeguarding Policy is in place and displayed publicly, that parish Safeguarding Officers are in post, that the appropriate level of training is undertaken by staff and volunteers and that the safer recruitment policy is followed.

### **FINANCE**

Our finances are healthy. The parish share for the whole Benefice is always paid in full. This is made possible by the regular giving of church members across the five churches, supplemented by a significant, regular and secure annual income from the rentals of the Blakeney Church rooms at the quay. All five parishes benefit from this. Larger capital building projects, such as the repairs to Wiveton church roof and the exciting, planned reordering of Cley church interior, are made possible by generous gifts, effective fund-raising and successful grant applications. The restoration of the organ in Blakeney church is currently being financed by a legacy. Generous individual donations have enabled Blakeney church to install an audio-visual system enabling high-quality YouTube streaming.

The Benefice pays the Clergy expenses and is sensitive for the need to cover costs relating to their ministry. The Benefice fund pays the salary of the Benefice Administrator and the cost of all cross-benefice support.

### **THE RECTORY**

The Rectory is a very attractive modern, well designed, four bedroomed, family-sized house. It is conveniently situated in Blakeney, 100 metres from the church.

The accommodation:-

Ground floor: entrance hall, large kitchen/diner, large sitting room, study, utility room and WC.







First floor: large landing with internal balcony, the four bedrooms all with ensuite lavatory, shower or bath. There is a separate family bathroom, lounge area and airing cupboard.

The heating is electric, augmented by solar panels and an air-source heat pump. There is an attached double garage, and modest sized garden. The property is accessed from a shared private drive.

#### **MEDIA - BENEFICE WEBSITE & THE GLAVEN VALLEY NEWSLETTER**

The Benefice website and the community-run Glaven Valley Newsletter, which is a free monthly magazine delivered to every house in the Benefice, enable the churches to have a strong profile in the community, by keeping everyone in touch with what is happening locally, with details of all the church services together with a letter from the clergy.

#### **NURSERY & PRIMARY EDUCATION - BLAKENEY CofE (VOLUNTARY AIDED) PRIMARY SCHOOL**

The Blakeney Church of England Primary School mainly serves the parishes of the Benefice. It is part of the 'Pilgrim Federation of Church of England Schools' in North Norfolk. We have a close working relationship with the staff, and church members are very involved with school activities such as weekly 'Open the Book' sessions, as well as supporting the school in other ways. About fifty children and parents take part in the monthly mid-week Messy Church, enjoying worship, craft activities and a meal. Some children are members of 'Angel Voices', a local community choir. The whole school, children, staff and some parents attend the monthly church community breakfast. We see further opportunities to reach out to them. School services are held in the church during the year.

#### **SECONDARY EDUCATION**

There are secondary schools at Sheringham, Wells and Fakenham. Gresham's School in Holt is a co-educational, fee-paying school for boarders and day pupils, offering generous scholarships.

#### **HEALTH SERVICES**

GP Medical services are provided at Holt Medical Centre at High Kelling near Holt. The main hospitals are situated on the outskirts of Norwich and Kings Lynn, and a smaller one in Cromer.

### THE GLAVEN DISTRICT CARING COMMITTEE

The Glaven District Caring Committee is a charity with purpose-built premises in Blakeney, providing an on-site day-care service for the elderly and frail who live in their own homes. A minibus driven by a team of volunteers transports people to and from their homes. Full time staff are helped by volunteers.

A member of the Clergy holds a monthly Communion Service in the Centre, and also one at Letheringsett Hall care home.

### THE BLAKENEY NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSING SOCIETY

This society formed in 1946, provides accommodation in 43 properties for local families at economic and affordable rents in Blakeney and surrounding villages.

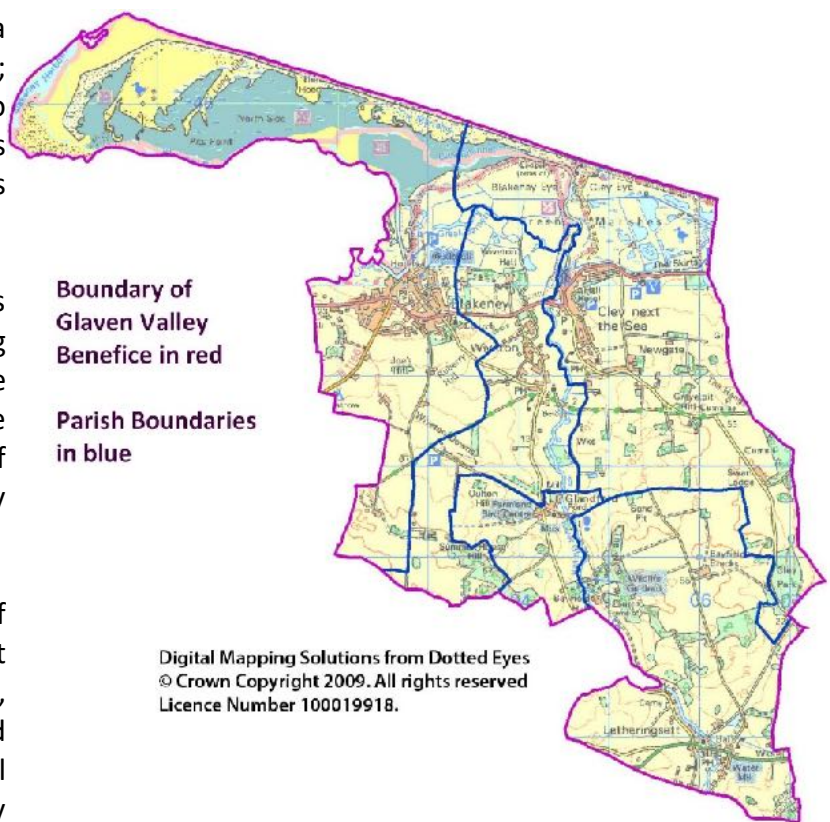
### THE LOCAL AREA

The Glaven Valley Benefice has a total resident population of 1,365; rising to an estimated 2,400 to 3,700 with the presence of visitors and holidaymakers at various times throughout the year.

The North Norfolk coastal area is steeped in the history of seafaring tradition and small but once thriving ports. The grandeur of the churches reflects the prosperity of that era and attracts many visitors.

The area includes a stretch of some thirty miles of unspoilt coastline, backed by farmland, woods and heaths. It is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and contains many beautiful villages retaining a strong sense of community and local identity.

A regular bus service connects the coastal villages and towns with some additional services to Holt and Fakenham, where there is a selection of shops. Trains run from Sheringham, another coastal shopping centre, to Norwich with connections to London. A local steam railway operates between Sheringham and Holt.



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## **OCCUPATIONS**

Local occupations include farming, fishing, building and related trades, boatbuilding and maintenance, tourist boat trips, light engineering, professional and business services, as well as property management. There is significant other employment for those involved in catering, tourist facilities and the caring professions.

As with many other rural areas of the country there has been a shift away from traditional trades and crafts towards a diverse and interesting local employment landscape, including many people working from home. Post Covid, more people are hybrid-working which has enabled various young families to move into the Benefice. This is an excellent opportunity for our church growth.

## **AMENITIES**

The five villages provide good amenities, with hotels, restaurants, pubs and a variety of shops. The attractiveness of the area has caused a relatively steep rise in house prices. This, and the decline in traditional rural employment presents a significant challenge for those wishing to live and work in the area. However, tourism now provides diverse employment opportunities.

As with much of the North Norfolk coast, the Benefice villages have a higher-than-average proportion of retired people among its resident population, many of whom have the energy and time to volunteer.

## **OTHER LOCAL FACILITIES**

The nearby Georgian market town of Holt has an excellent range of shops and businesses and hosts an annual Arts Festival covering a wide range of events. Within the Benefice, Blakeney has a small but excellent supermarket with Post Office, garage, fish shop, boatyard and gift shops. Cley has a pottery, delicatessen, smokehouse and a second-hand bookshop. There is a wide range of hotels, inns, 'B&Bs', cafés and restaurants. There are art galleries in Blakeney, Cley and Glandford, reflecting a strong community of local artists and craftsmen. The Norfolk Wildlife Trust's Cley Marshes Nature Reserve and Visitors Centre and Blakeney Point National Trust Nature Reserve command national recognition, and are magnets for birdwatchers, naturalists and artists.

Blakeney Harbour is a lively scene, with a variety of private and commercial craft including ferry boats from Morston, Blakeney and Cley, taking people to see the seals at Blakeney Point.

## ST NICHOLAS' BLAKENEY



### CHURCHWARDENS

Stephanie Green  
Rosemary Thew

### NUMBERS

Resident Population of 639, rising to an estimated 1,200 to 2,400 at various times of year.

### SERVICES

Services on every Sunday:- Communion (CW), Celtic Communion, Praise & Worship, occasional 'Glaven Sings Gospel'; with an average congregation ranging from 40 to 55.



### **WORSHIP AND CHURCH LIFE.**

Blakeney has a weekly Sunday morning Communion Service, apart from when there is monthly 'Praise & Worship', which is appreciated by those who prefer a non-communion service, whilst Glaven Sings Gospel is an informal evening service. When the month has a fifth Sunday, a whole Benefice Communion Service is held. Services are live-streamed and available on YouTube. Our music is led by our paid organist and an informal choir made up of church members. The children's community choir sings at some of the Praise & Worship services and elsewhere in the Benefice. A Concert Grand piano is regularly used in worship and for concerts.

As part of our mission and outreach, three Benefice-wide 'Alpha' courses have been held in the last five years. A number of those who have taken part have chosen to be baptised and confirmed and have become part of the church family. We have three home groups, a church bible study group and a bereavement support group.

We join with the nearby St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church in a 'Walk of Witness' through the village on Good Friday, for the Stations of the Cross and a Palm Sunday procession, and share in an ecumenical Harvest Lunch. The church is largely responsible for the British Legion Remembrance Service and the Lifeboat Service, which is held when possible in aid of the RNLI on the Blakeney Quay, and attended by the local lifeboat.

The registered charity, 'The Friends of St Nicholas' raises funds from events such as concerts, talks and quizzes to continue improving the church facilities and maintenance of the fabric.

### **BLAKENEY PARISH CHURCH**

St Nicholas' church is a magnificent 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> Century church and is well known especially for its two towers. It is open every day to welcome visitors and to provide a sanctuary for prayer and rest. It is lovingly cared for by a part-time paid Verger, Cleaner, Groundsman and dedicated volunteers.

Major repair work has recently been carried out to roof coverings and stonework. An extensive refurbishment of the fine 1,000 pipe organ, funded by a generous legacy, is being undertaken, and should be completed in 2024. The church now has a high-quality sound system and powered drop-down projection screen, which is widely used for services, lectures and other events.

The main tower houses 4G mobile phone transmitting equipment, providing coverage to the village and surrounding area, as well as income for the church. The tower is open to climb on weekdays when the office is open, giving great views over the surrounding countryside and harbour. The churchyard, which is also the village burial ground, is well-maintained and is managed for people and wildlife as part of the Norwich Diocesan Churchyard Conservation Scheme.



## COMMUNITY MEALS



We provide a monthly 'Breakfast' and 'Lunch' as well as an after-school meal for the children at 'Messy Church'. The church has a fully fitted kitchen and displays a Local Authority 5-star rating. These events form an important part of our outreach to our parishioners, parents and schoolchildren as well as our visitors, and have proved very popular.

We continue to offer a supportive food voucher scheme as well as a small, well-used food bank situated in the Church Porch. Refreshments are available for visitors on a 'help-yourself' basis whenever the church is open.



## CHURCH PROPERTY

The original Church Rooms, in a prominent position by the Quay, are successfully let to a café and bakery, as well as ice-cream and gift shop businesses. These provide a substantial income for the church.

## **BLAKENEY VILLAGE**

St Nicholas' Church dominates the village landscape. Between the village, the marshes, the harbour and the sea is the famed Blakeney Point National Nature Reserve.



Charming flint cottages line the High Street leading down to the quayside and the harbour, once a thriving port, but now a popular holiday destination. The shops, pubs, hotels, rental properties, restaurants and a garage provide an excellent service for residents and visitors. The village population is boosted considerably by holiday visitors. There is a large, seasonal, well-maintained mobile home site on the National Trust land near the Church.

The Village Hall is used for a range of social, commercial and sporting events. Alongside is the Parish Council Office and a large playing field with a football pitch, floodlit tennis courts, pétanque court and well-equipped children's play area. The Blakeney Players, a local amateur dramatic group, stage very popular productions in the Hall each year. There are thriving sailing and coastal rowing clubs and other interest groups. Annual village events include a 'Party on the Pastures', a Water Sports Regatta and Village Sports, including the 'Greasy Pole' competition over the creek, enthusiastically watched with much mirth and jollity by hundreds!

The 'Blakeney Twelve', a group of local men, raises funds to help those in need. The Royal British Legion in the High Street, with its bar and catering facilities, is open to the public. The large function room, which also houses musical events, is available for private hire.



## ST MARGARET OF ANTIOCH CLEY-NEXT-THE-SEA

### CHURCHWARDENS

Hannah Stevenson  
David Barron

### NUMBERS

Resident Population 399, rising to an estimated 650 to 750 at various times of year.

### SERVICES

Five services a month:- Communion (BCP), Café Church, Sacred Space, Taizé; with an average congregation varying from 8 to 45.



### WORSHIP and CHURCH LIFE

We are blessed to have seen exciting growth at Cley in recent years. Café Church was launched 5 years ago and has become our most popular service, comprising worship songs (from Hillsong, Spring Harvest, Vineyard, etc), an informal talk, and discussion over coffee and croissants seated around café-style tables. We see great opportunity for further growth through this service as we seek to reach out with the gospel to those who might otherwise be uncertain or wary of the Christian faith. We also hold regular BCP communion services for those preferring a more traditional approach, and some of our congregation love to attend both. In addition, we hold monthly services focused on prayer and reflection, through Taizé and 'Sacred Space'.



Alongside Café Church, the key driver of our growth has been the Benefice-wide Alpha Course, resulting in two new Cley home-groups. These are focused on bible study in an informal, relaxed setting, as we encourage those new in their faith to learn more about Jesus, using materials such as Christianity Explored and The Bible Course.

On Maundy Thursday we hold a very well attended Agape Supper and service in the church, poignantly reflecting on the Gospel message. On Easter Day we hold a popular Benefice Sunrise Service on Cley beach, to celebrate the Risen Lord. Our Christmas Eve carol service has now run for each of the past 3 years and has become a key means of outreach across the Benefice and beyond. Attendance has rapidly increased year on year, with 500 attending last year.

### **CLEY PARISH CHURCH**

St Margaret's is one of the finest churches in the county, with an 11<sup>th</sup> century bell tower onto which was grafted the nave and aisles over the 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> centuries. Its size and almost cathedral-like proportions can provide for services of several hundred.

In the last 5 years much has been done to further embed our church into the life of the community. Thanks to our excellent acoustics and our large size, we are the venue of choice for an increasing number of concerts including opera. We host weekly 'Thursday at Three' afternoon concerts (over 40 in 2023) with local musicians and increasing attendances of up to 90, with refreshments afterwards. We have numerous evening concerts with up to 250 in the audience.

Our 'Regenerate' project involves ambitious plans, supported by the Diocese, to reorder the building with a new floor in the nave, flexible seating, new lighting and sound systems and a revamped kitchen. This will enable us to expand Café Church more easily, to hold certain services 'in the round' and to provide a more flexible space for concerts and events. We have already raised over £200,000 to finance this work and are confident in our ability to raise the balance starting with an appeal in late 2024.

We also own the attractive walled field in front of the church. This is the venue for our Summer Fair (now in its 753rd year!) regularly raising over £5,000 for church funds and also used for recreation by the community and car parking for our major services and events. The church is open daily.



## **CLEY VILLAGE**

Cley, whose population can double in the summer, is on one of the most beautiful and visited parts of the Norfolk coast. The Cley Marshes are a world-renowned wildlife reserve and include an excellent Visitor Centre. The village has the famous windmill (now a small hotel), 3 pubs, an award-winning delicatessen, a smokehouse, a pottery, an art gallery and a bookshop.

There is an active community which meets regularly in the Village Hall. The community has refurbished and extended our small, picture-postcard harbour and holds well-attended village events there twice a year.



## ST MARTIN OF TOURS GLANDFORD

### CHURCHWARDENS

Roger Combe  
Elisabeth Rooke

### NUMBERS

Resident Population:- 43

### SERVICES

Two services a month:- Communion (BCP), Evensong; with an average congregation of up to 15.

### WORSHIP and CHURCH LIFE

We have one traditional Sung Eucharist and BCP Evensong a month, and members of the congregation attend other services and activities within the Benefice.

The congregation is increased by regular visitors from neighbouring parishes and tourists visiting the area. Due to 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.



### GLANDFORD 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 stained glass, candelabra and fine carved woodwork, illuminated by new lighting. The clock tower with its unique twelve bell carillon is currently being completely refurbished.

### BAYFIELD ESTATE

Bayfield Hall and surrounding estate is integral to St Martin's and village life. A ruined church, St Margaret's, sits in the Hall gardens. There are eight miles of permissive footpaths around the estate, linking with other public footpaths. Most PCC meetings are held in the Hall and other community events are held in the gardens.

### GLANDFORD 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 primarily selling optical equipment), the Glaven Bistro, a café and Birdscapes Picture Gallery. The Shell Museum is a popular tourist attraction, as is the nearby ford of the River Glaven.

## ST ANDREW'S LETHERINGSETT (WITH ST MARGARET OF ANTIOCH BAYFIELD)

### CHURCHWARDEN

John Pridham

### NUMBERS

Resident Population 176, rising to an estimated 300 at various times of year.

### SERVICES

Two services a month:- Communion (BCP), Morning Prayer; with an average congregation of 8.



### WORSHIP and CHURCH LIFE



The church is used regularly, with morning services twice a month; Holy Communion on the first Sunday and Morning Prayer on the third Sunday. Benefice services are on a fifth Sunday in the month. Church attendance is mainly drawn from the immediate locality including Holt.

The traditional Prayer Book service is used for Holy Communion and Common Worship is used for Morning Prayer.

The excellent acoustics of our small church provide a great setting for a variety of popular musical events and choral services, when our singers are joined by local choirs.

We serve a small community, and are much encouraged and supported in spiritual, financial and practical help from Blakeney PCC and the generosity of local families.

### LEATHERINGSETT PARISH CHURCH

The round tower is the only one in the Glaven valley, erected shortly after 1086. The church itself was added in 1234. Of note is the continuous line of the nave and chancel. The church fabric is in reasonable order. A lavatory with disabled access and a basic kitchen were added in 2015. The organ has been maintained and improved adding to the musical range and quality. Apart from the churchyard, which contains some rare plants, there is a separate cemetery on the Blakeney Road.

### **ST MARGARET OF ANTIOCH BAYFIELD**

In the adjacent Bayfield Hall estate, there are the ruins of the Saxon church of St Margaret. An annual open-air Benefice service is held in the summer overlooking the lake.

### **LEATHERINGSETT VILLAGE**

Letheringsett is situated either side of the main road from Fakenham to Holt. The village pub/restaurant, the working water mill producing stone ground flour with a café, and the picturesque ford and footbridge are major attractions. The Cozens-Hardy family estate around Letheringsett has been sold and the former family home, situated next to the church, is now a residential care home.

The Village Hall is used for a variety of activities, including art and dance classes, private functions, quiz evenings, the Harvest Supper and talks by guest speakers.



## ST MARY THE VIRGIN WIVETON

### CHURCH WARDENS

Stephen De Loynes  
Charles Killin

### NUMBERS

Resident Population 108, rising to an estimated 200 at various times of year.

### SERVICES

Four Services a month:-  
Family Service, Communion (BCP), Evensong, service of Meditation; with an average congregation ranging from 8 to 35.



### WORSHIP and CHURCH LIFE

We have a short monthly Family Service, attended by all ages, in which children, parents, grandparents, other parishioners, young musicians and visitors all take an active part. Our monthly programme includes BCP Communion and Sung Evensong and an ecumenical service of quiet meditation for peace, healing and reconciliation, taken by a group of lay helpers.

The Family Service on Christmas morning sees a gathering of up to 250 children and their families, with a new-born baby in the role of Jesus. A similar Family Service takes place on Easter Sunday, weather permitting, on the village green. The candlelit Carol Service with the Icení Christmas Choir held in the week before Christmas attracts up to 200 people.

### WIVETON PARISH CHURCH

The church and its fabric are carefully looked after, and several improvements have been made in past years. These include new heating and lighting, the restoration of the beautiful Holdich organ, the development of the Children's Chapel, and the Lady Chapel for reading and private prayer. The Chancel's north-east window now reveals a medieval panel depicting St Mark and his winged lion. In 2017, a kitchen, lavatory, and better facilities for flower arranging and storage were installed in the disused South Porch and the South West corner of the church.

The Friends of Wiveton Church, formed in 2010, provide invaluable assistance through concerts and other fund-raising events and gift-aided donations. In 2019 one of the ridge beams collapsed damaging the altar causing the temporary closure of the church. Following emergency repairs, the churchwardens and the Friends of Wiveton Church then embarked on a highly successful fund-raising programme. This included a significant Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant. Additional money from other grant awarding bodies and generous donations from individuals and fund-raising events, covered both the refurbishment of the chancel roof and its drainage. A requirement of the HLF included a programme of events aimed at encouraging participation of the local community and emphasising the church as a focal point of the village community. This resulted in holding a Diocesan-wide Environmental Conference in the church in 2024, and visits from a local Activity Centre.



### THE CHURCHYARD

Twelve years ago, we decided to make the churchyard into a nature conservation area. This has greatly increased the range of flowers and provided a better habitat for wildlife. We are following the 'Caring for God's Acre' scheme developed by the Diocese of Norwich with the Norfolk Wildlife Trust. Autumn sees a group of volunteers cutting and gathering the long grass, before celebrating with a 'harvest lunch'.

### WIVETON VILLAGE

Wiveton is a small village where it is possible for most people to know each other, whether young or old, working or retired.

The Parish Room is a centre of activity with art and yoga classes, film shows, parish meetings, suppers and other social events. The Wiveton Bell, which gives very good support to the church, is a popular pub and restaurant beside the village green where events take place. After the first screening of BBC Two's series 'Normal for Norfolk', the Wiveton Hall Café became an even more popular visitor venue.