

An aerial photograph of a rural landscape. In the center, two stone churches are visible. The church on the left is larger, with a prominent square tower and a long nave. The church on the right is smaller and more rectangular. Both churches are surrounded by a green lawn with numerous gravestones. In the background, there are residential houses with red roofs, trees, and a wide expanse of green fields under a clear blue sky.

**BLOFIELD AND BROADSIDE
JOINT BENEFICE**

PARISH PROFILE 2024

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH PROFILE

Are you the ones called to lead us into our exciting new future?

We are a group of 8 Churches (6 active with 2 Festival Churches) covering what are currently two separate Benefices now being combined into one, set within the beautiful Norfolk countryside and the Broads National Park. The two Benefices involved are:

Blofield Benefice:

Blofield, Hemblington and North Burlingham

Broadside Benefice:

South Walsham, Upton, Ranworth (incorporating Panxworth), Fishley and Woodbastwick

The churches are administered through 5 PCCs:

Blofield, Hemblington, South Walsham/Upton/Fishley, Ranworth and Woodbastwick.

(Note: There has been a relationship between both Benefices for the last 4 years since the previous incumbent of the Broadside Benefice left and our previous incumbent was temporarily Priest in Charge pending consideration of the reorganisation)

Each of our church communities within this new Benefice have prayed individually and together, joined with each other to share and discuss ideas, and talked and listened to each other to understand our individual and collective needs in the preparation of this document.

It sets out our collective vision and our understanding of God's Mission for us.

It also tells you a bit about our individual churches, schools and communities with links to church websites, where they exist, for further information, along with some of our activities.

It also provides information on our Ministry teams, PCCs and Finances.

Finally, it sets out the qualities, skills and experience we would value in our new Ministers, to lead and share in the Ministry of our new Benefice.



OUR VISION



Blofield Mother and Toddler Group

To be God's light in the community, welcoming, working together and caring for everyone we meet by making the Gospel of Christ known and relevant to all in their everyday lives.

To be an active and collaborative Church family where everyone has the opportunity to use their gifts and talents to the Glory of God, to understand, develop and support our community networks and individuals and to encourage the protection and stewardship of our environment.

And we want to do all this with a sense of fun and joy!



Monday Munch at South Walsham



Ranworth Visitors Centre



G and C Choir Blofield



Christmas Tree Festival South Walsham

WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

We are seeking two clergy – one full time and one part time (House for Duty) to work collaboratively together and with our existing Ministry Team within the Benefice.

We want to encourage spiritual growth and confidence to build more day-to-day discipleship, searching out opportunities for living out God's love both inside and outside the church buildings. Our aim is to support the Bishop, Diocese, Deanery and our communities with dedication, understanding, collaboration and commitment.

Are you the ones to help us achieve our aims?

We are looking for clergy with these qualities:

Essential

- A skilled communicator who can convey the message of the Gospel in a way relevant to all, creating a deeper understanding of the Word of God.
- Someone who can offer gentle introductions to the faith to our existing non-church social groups and individuals, and can engage with members of the community wherever they are on their spiritual journey.
- Someone with the ability to listen, nurture, encourage and innovate with enthusiasm, sensitivity and patience.
- A sense of empathy with, and an understanding of, the importance of pastoral care in the rural community
- A collaborative and flexible leader who will embrace the nuances and traditions of our churches, with an ability to enable and delegate where necessary.
- Someone who, at a personal level, has an enthusiastic, prayerful and living faith that encourages a deep love of God and people. One who is able to inspire faith with compassion and imagination.

We would be delighted if any of these also applied!

- Experience in, and an understanding of, the unique characteristics of rural parishes.
- Skills and interest in working with younger generations (particularly schools) and community groups.
- An interest in ways to further develop our music ministry



WHAT CAN WE OFFER?

Accommodation

There are two options for accommodation which can be made available for both the full time and part time posts being offered:

Blofield Rectory: This is a relatively modern house (built 1987) located in a quiet cul-de-sac near the centre of Blofield village. It consists of four bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, study, kitchen and utility room and a downstairs WC. The garden has been well maintained. The Rectory is a two minute walk from Blofield Church through a gate in the back garden. The local shops, Blofield Primary School and a nursery are all within easy walking distance.



Blofield Rectory



South Walsham Rectory

South Walsham Rectory: The Rectory was built in 1983 specifically for the use of an Incumbent. As a result, there is a large study and toilet separate from the family accommodation. There are five bedrooms in total – four upstairs and one on the ground floor where there's a lounge, a dining room, a conservatory, kitchen and utility room. The house is adjacent to the church, standing back from the road with secluded gardens, garage and a tank for central heating oil.

Our Ministry Team

Our Ministry team currently comprises 4 active clergy with PtO along with 1 Licenced Lay Minister (Reader.) Alongside the team we have 7 Authorised Worship Assistants (with an eighth pending!) across the new Benefice.

Clergy Wellbeing and Safeguarding

The Churches in the new Benefice support clergy Well-Being and adhere to the Diocesan guidelines to promote the welfare of our clergy and their households so that the whole Church may flourish in the service of the mission of God.

We are also committed to Safeguarding and are committed to ensuring the safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding and Safer Recruitment Policies are in place and displayed within the Churches, and we have Safeguarding Officers in post.

Support for Services

Our PCCs and church teams keep our churches maintained, cleaned, relevant and functioning. They have a wealth of experience and local knowledge. They are the foundation on which we build and grow.



Young Musicians at South Walsham

Throughout the churches in the combined Benefice, members of the congregation are involved in reading lessons and leading intercessions.

Rotas are prepared monthly or quarterly for Readers, Intercessors, Sides people, Welcomers, Holy Communion assistants, coffee duty, locking and unlocking churches, flowers and cleaning.



American visitors at Hemblington All Saints



Friends AGM at Hemblington

Older persons pastoral care (currently covering the Blofield Benefice)



Hemblington Churchyard Birdwatch

Day to day care of our older church and community residents is offered by many across the Blofield and Hemblington churches. This frequently concerns everyday needs, for example car transport, shopping and just sitting with the lonely and housebound. We are also attentive to the spiritual needs of the older folks in the church and community, especially the bereaved. To this end we have an Anna Chaplain who is available for visiting and taking communion to those church members who are unable to attend church.



Pet Service at South Walsham

The Anna Chaplain and team also take services in our local residential homes and some visit on a one-to-one basis. Spiritual care and bereavement ministry is also offered to the wider community through liaison with the Broadland and Waveney Wellbeing Initiative and managed through the local NHS surgery.

In South Walsham and Upton members of the congregation have specific people 'to keep an eye on' those who need support in some form or other. In Upton there are regular visits to the Broadland Park residential home (suspended during Interregnum.)



Harvest Festival at Ranworth

LOCATION & DEMOGRAPHICS

The Blofield and Broadside Benefices are located approximately 6 miles to the east of Norwich in an area of the country renowned for its peace and tranquillity, part of which is within the Broads National Park. The area is excellent for outdoor activities such as sailing, cycling, walking, painting and studying nature.



Our Benefices and Churches serve a number of villages and settlements, the largest of which is Blofield.

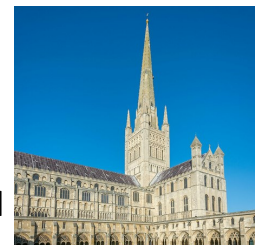


Blofield itself is a thriving and expanding village. It has a post office and general store, a newsagent, florist, hairdressers and several businesses, and a library. There is a pub and restaurant, farm shop with coffee shop. A new school is under construction and an extension to the doctors' surgery has been completed. There are three meeting venues - village hall, scout hut and former court house. There are many clubs and societies including tennis and football clubs

Regardless of its rural nature, Blofield has excellent transport links, with the A47 trunk road running through it, a good rail service from nearby Brundall (1 ½ miles south of Blofield) and a regular bus service, making it easy to get to Norwich (6 miles), Great Yarmouth (13 miles) and the North Norfolk Coast (Cromer 30 miles.). South Walsham is 3 and a half miles north of Blofield and has a daily bus service to Norwich (1/day) Wroxham and Acle (2/day)



Norwich is a cultural centre and offers a wealth of activities from theatres, cinemas, restaurants, museums, sport of all types as well as major shops and the oldest outdoor market in England.



Norwich is also home to two Cathedrals and a Castle. The University of East Anglia, a major Hospital Trust and a research park are both based on the outskirts.

The Joint Benefices have a combined population of 6,795 (2021 Census) served by 8 Churches (of which 2 are Festival Churches.).

SCHOOLS

We have three Primary schools located within the joint Benefice area:

Blofield School: A new school is currently being built to replace the current partly Victorian building which has been designated for Community use after closure. We have an excellent relationship with the village school and enjoy their visits to church for their Easter and Christmas end of term concerts, local history and religious education lessons. We take a 'mini toddler group' to the school fete and village events and many of the children are known to us through these events.



There is a popular pre-school and a Day Nursery in the village.

Blofield and Brundall Sea Scouts take part in our Remembrance Day Service <https://1stblofieldandbrundall.org.uk/>

Hemblington School: Part of the Broad Horizons Educational Trust, comprising 18 schools across Norfolk. Hemblington Church has established close links with the school over many years and facilitates regular visits by pupils as part of the RE Curriculum together with an organised annual visit by the whole school to undertake nature activities as part of the 'Big Green Week'. We also fund Bibles each year for every school leaver. Our PCC lead for Children regularly attends Assemblies to talk to the children about the Church and our faith.



Fairhaven (South Walsham): A Church of England Voluntary Aided School. In South Walsham we have Fairhaven Pre-School and Fairhaven Primary School. We have particularly strong links with the primary school but not with the Pre-school so it would be good to get that onto an established footing. The primary school holds its Harvest Festival and Nativity services in St Mary's to which all are welcome. In 2024 the School has also held the end-of-term assemblies in St Mary's. There are 100 pupils ranging in age from 4-11 years. Revd Pat Atkinson has taken assemblies at the school and is establishing a link with her project in India. A member of the PCC is a volunteer at the School as well as being a School Governor. See also separate report from Mrs Stephanie Lake, the Headteacher in Appendix 2. Bibles are presented to all leavers and 'Stories Jesus Told' given to all new entrants.



OUR CHURCHES

Below are some key features of the churches and parishes which make up this exciting new Benefice. We are all VERY proud of our churches and have so much more to say, so we have put much more detail in a separate Appendix 2 which you are free to read separately at your leisure!

Key Facts & Figures on all our Churches are shown in Appendix 1.

1: BLOFIELD CHURCH

CHURCHWARDENS: 2

St Andrew and St Peter NR13 4NA www.blofieldchurch.org.uk

- We are an active, prayerful and loving church family with a real sense of community, offering hospitality and acceptance, inclusive of those in need of spiritual nourishment and especially those from the local community who need practical help.
- St Andrew & St Peter Church is a large, beautiful and well-maintained building in an expanding village, offering a profound feeling of peace and the presence of the Holy Spirit. The church is open daily and has a modern heating system, toilet, well-equipped kitchen and a versatile communal area. There are eight bells rung on Sundays and special occasions.
- Our church offers an established, and very busy, baby and toddler group, attracting between 15-25 families weekly from the surrounding area. There is a regular lunch group for friendship and company, as well as a weekly coffee morning which is open to anyone in the community, including walking parties and the vulnerable. These groups are run by enthusiastic members of the congregation.
- Our church is well known in Blofield and the surrounds through the many social and charity events that are held, including concerts, Foodbank collections, involvement in village events, and secure links to the local school.
- Charitable fundraising appeals are well supported by the community, both locally as well as charities in India and Zimbabwe and for international disaster emergencies.
- We strive to be a community of Christians which is seeking to share the love of God with all those who visit us; to provide comfort, support and a place of welcome to all in our community, and to encourage those in our congregation to grow, deepen and strengthen their own faith and become as involved in church life and service as they feel called to be.



2: HEMBLINGTON CHURCH CHURCHWARDENS: 2
All Saints NR13 4EF www.hemblingtonchurch.org.uk

- Its location on the outskirts of the small village mean we positively reach out to a range of different networks to draw people in and make us part of the local community so locals and others beyond can know about us. Where possible we support the village events with some kind of presence.
- To this end, we are a welcoming church community, open 365 days of the year and often assisted by tea and homemade cakes!
- This small and simple church has its own peaceful atmosphere and charm with a life of its own. We have a wide variety of stakeholders; those who regularly visit the church during the week (e.g. walkers, cyclists, general visitors); the local school; tours/visits by external organisations and individuals who enjoy architecture and nature; as well as our congregation!
- The Friends of Hemblington Church work tirelessly to provide a wide range of events: about the church building and its rich history (eg round tower, wall painting & font), the maintenance of the ancient churchyard as well as more general fundraising events.
- We are particularly proud of our churchyard conservation work which has resulted in us achieving the A-Rocha Eco-Church bronze and silver awards .



3: SOUTH WALSHAM CHURCHWARDENS: 1
St Mary's Church NR13 6DQ www.achurchnearyou.com



- Adjacent to the purpose-built Rectory is St Mary's church sharing the same churchyard with the St Lawrence's Arts Centre.
- There is a thriving bell ringing team and a newly-formed choir.
- A monthly Monday Munch provides a free light lunch (donations welcome) to enable friendly community engagement for people in surrounding villages.
- Very close links with Fairhaven Primary School – see separate report.
- Annual visit from the Bitternes – a group of young Christians from all over the country.
- A Lay Reader and four experienced AWAs, together with a dedicated worshipping congregation, support special services and fund raising events.

4: UPTON

CHURCHWARDENS: 1

St Margaret's Church NR13 6AR www.achurchnearyou.com

- Upton has a residential home called Broadland Park where a service is held once a month
- St Margaret's church is a listed Grade I building within a closed churchyard.
- The church houses a recently fully restored 19th century Holdich organ.
- Two organ scholarships awarded under the terms of an HLF grant.
- Active Friends of St Margaret's church successfully raising funds for fabric repairs.
- Dedicated worshipping congregation supporting a variety of special services.



5: FISHLEY

CHURCHWARDENS: 1

St Mary's Church NR13 6DA www.achurchnearyou.com

- Iconic round-towered church as mentioned in the Domesday Book, housing a hand-pumped organ dating from 1781.
- Featured in popular walking guide book in England and Germany.
- Benefits from a virtual reality facility which shows the church to be a perfect venue for intimate weddings (average 7 per annum).
- Ecumenical Easter sunrise service and Christmas service of Carols, Candles and Cake together with two services per month.
- Outreach to visitors every Friday, many of whom are interested in the historical and cultural attributes.
- A little gem hidden in the Norfolk countryside that overlooks the Acle marshes with glorious views across the River Bure and beyond.

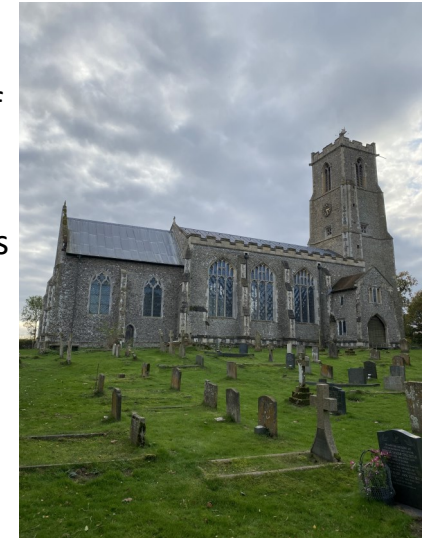


6: RANWORTH (with Panxworth)

CHURCHWARDENS: 1

St Helen's NR13 6HS www.ranworthchurch.com

- Our congregation is happy and well established, though as becomes apparent, when examining the last 18 years, one that is not resistant to change.
- Fellowship is very important and is a major factor in the running of St Helen's. We have the advantage of after service refreshments in the Church Visitor Centre, which at other times is a commercially run operation and major fund raiser.
- Our interregnum commenced in early 2020 and in the ensuing years we have developed structures, roles and responsibilities sufficient to maintain a viable church offering at least one eucharist per month, a Norman and Beard organ accompaniment and service ringing on six bells for each service.
- The church and tea room complex is a great favourite with visitors, recently calculated to be around 15000 per year, enjoying their holidays on the Broads. Outreach to these visitors is the major part of our activities.
- There has been a church in Ranworth since 1044 and we are privileged to be custodians of nationally important mediaeval art treasures, portrayed in detail on our website.



7: WOODBASTWICK

Saints Fabian & Sebastian NR13 6HJ www.norfolkchurches.co.uk;

www.exploringnorfolkschurches.org; www.gilbertscott.org

- Woodbastwick is the smallest of the Blofield & Broadside Benefice Churches, and in 2024 was declared a Festival Church by the Diocese providing reduced services.
- Sits within the Woodbastwick Estate, in a village of outstanding natural beauty.
- The Church is open to visitors every day and is about to install an automatic door locking system to make this duty more efficient.
- Woodbastwick has some 700 visiting scouts every year as there is a dedicated private broad for their exclusive use. The famous Woodfordes Brewery (and associated Fur and Feather pub) is also located within the village!



8. NORTH BURLINGHAM

St Andrews NR13 4TA www.northburlinghamchurch.org.uk

- It is a beautiful angel church.
- It is a stopping point on much-used walks through the local woods that pass the church.
- A vibrant village community: the annual Open Gardens event each June attracts 100's of visitors to the village.
- Professional re-development plans were assembled pre Covid but not progressed as the HLF criteria was modified after submission. It has a legacy that could be used to take it forward.
- The Church benefits from a bequest for the upkeep of the fabric.



APPENDIX 1 – FACTS AND FIGURES

	Population (2021 census)	No. on Eletoral Roll	No. on PCC	Parish Share paid (2023)	Average Sunday Attendance
Blofield	2672	98	11	100%	52
Hemblington/ Blofield Heath	1761	38	9	100%	17
South Walsham	845	34	10	81.72%	20
Upton	812	23	N/A**	N/A**	15
Fishley	N/A *	2	N/A **	N/A**	9-15
Ranworth/ Panxworth	379	26	6	100%	16
Woodbastwick	c100	8	3	0%	N/A****
North Burlingham	326	N/A	No current PCC	N/A	No current services

* Upton/Fishley combined figure

** South Walsham/Upton/Fishley combined PCC

*** Within figure for Ranworth/Panxworth

**** Festival Church

Service Patterns

Blofield:

Sunday 11.00: Morning Service (alternating between Holy Communion/Morning Worship)

Monday 9.00: Morning Prayer

Wednesday 9.30: Morning Service (alternating between Holy Communion/Morning Worship)

Hemblington:

Sunday 9.30: Morning Service (alternating between Holy Communion/Morning Worship)

Thursday 9.00: Benefice Morning Prayer

South Walsham/Upton/Fishley:

	South Walsham	Upton	Fishley
1st Sunday	11am HC	9.30am HC	3pm Evensong
2nd Sunday	11am MW	9.30am FS	-
3rd Sunday	11am HC	-	9.30am HC
4th Sunday	11am FS	9.30am MW	-

FS= Family Service

Ranworth with Panxworth

Weekly Sunday service 9.30am with HC once a month.

Woodbastwick

Festival Church currently used for special services only.

North Burlingham

No services currently held

Benefice Services

A Joint Benefice service is held whenever there is a fifth Sunday in the month

A remote Joint Benefice Morning Prayer service is held via Zoom 9.30am every Tuesday (suspended during Interregnum)