

Mattishall & Tudd Valley

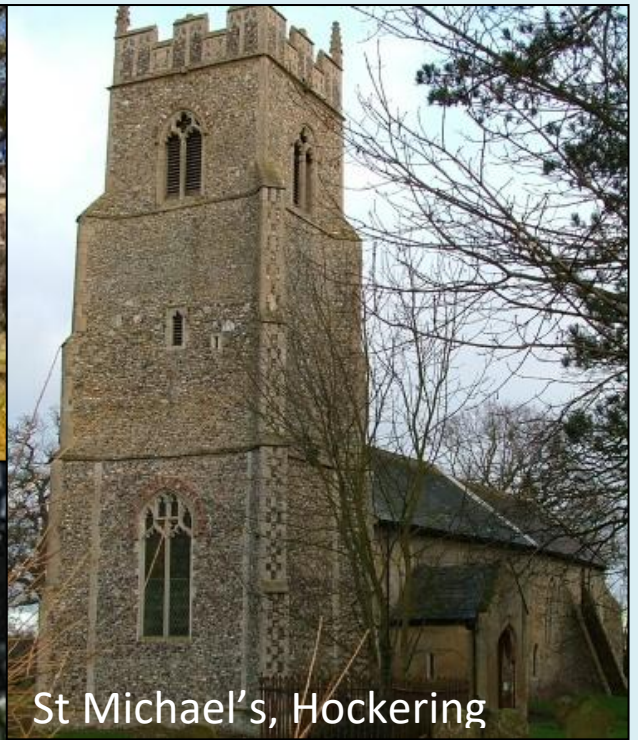
Benefice Profile

October 2025





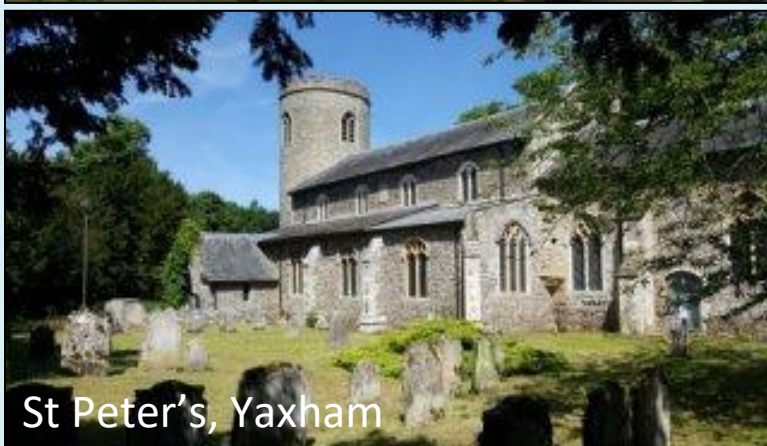
All Saints', Mattishall



St Michael's, Hockering



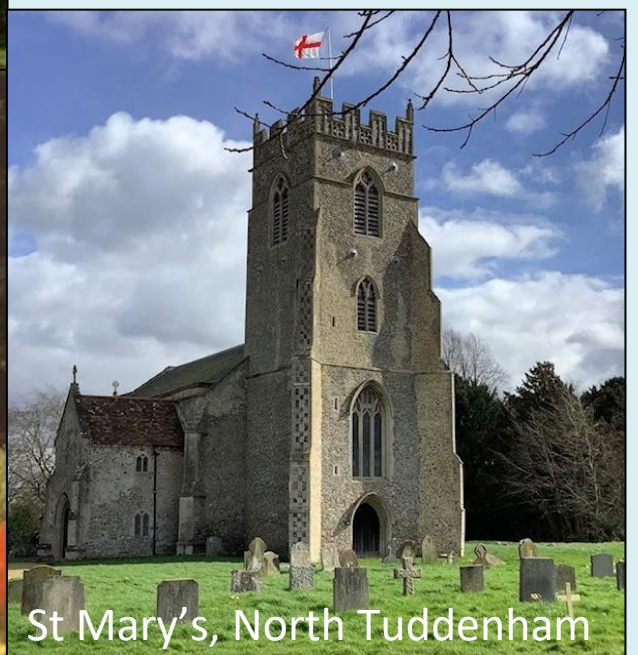
All Saints', Welborne



St Peter's, Yaxham



All Saints', East Tuddenham



St Mary's, North Tuddenham

Mattishall and Tudd Valley Benefice Parishes

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Hockering Shool Children's Ideal New Rector



Website - <https://matvchurch.uk>

Facebook page - www.facebook.com/groups/matvchurch

Benefice Vision

We want to make Jesus known to all. We will work collaboratively in our commitment to church growth, encouraging and deepening vocations and links with our communities.

The Task

- Reach out into our communities to spread the gospel with passion and sensitivity, pioneering new initiatives with others in our villages, particularly to under-represented groups in the community, e.g. men, children and young people.
- Encourage individual gifts, growing and nurturing through sound teaching and discipleship, fostering wisdom and maturity of Christian faith in our congregations.
- Provide strong leadership into the future with vision and enthusiasm, whilst valuing, empowering, encouraging and developing with a collaborative leadership style, all-member ministry.
- Enable the different congregations to build on their individual strengths.
- Understand rural life and the need for pastoral care.

The Person We Are Looking For

- An approachable evangelical leader, who longs to reach those outside the church. They will be adaptable, energetic, have a sense of humour and will value diverse worship styles. Committed to their personal faith journey, they are prayerful, discerning and action-oriented.
- An effective communicator, they engage with congregations and the wider community. They also have the means to travel across a rural benefice.

Benefice Structure

The benefice is made up of 6 parishes, each with its own parish church with Mattishall having an additional church building, which is not used though it has an open churchyard. The structure of the benefice has been in place since 2008 and the congregations genuinely get on well together. We try to work to the strengths of the individual congregations as well as working together across congregations where this is helpful, e.g. with Oasis and Who Let the Dads Out (see the Mattishall section for details). Decisions, such as the apportioning of parish contributions towards the benefice share and other benefice costs are taken by joint meetings of the churchwardens, benefice administrator, ministry team and treasurers. This benefice profile has been drawn up by various meetings of the ministry team and churchwardens, with the final version agreed by a group of representatives from each of the churches before approval by the various PCCs.

What We Can Offer You

Clergy well-being is a priority. We understand the need for balance in the life of our parish priest, the resources you need to deliver your ministry and the need for regular time off to enjoy home life.

Benefice Office

The benefice office and church rooms are situated opposite All Saints', Mattishall. The benefice administrator, Mandy Burnett, works three days a week (Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays). This post is paid for by the parishes as are the office running costs. Mandy provides admin support to the ministry team and PCCs, e.g. on life events, benefice finances and communication to the wider church community.



Vicarage

The vicarage is an attractive detached house with a good-sized lounge, separate dining room, study, newly fitted kitchen and utility, downstairs cloakroom, four bedrooms, double garage, ample parking to the front and large, secluded rear garden and views over open fields to the front. There is easy access to Norwich, about 20-25 minutes by car, or via the hourly bus service.



Ministry Team

This comprises of three active Licensed Lay Ministers; Jackie Crisp, Mel Stevenson, and Alan Cossey who are committed to the benefice and have enjoyed the privilege of ministering here for many years. They have been given the opportunity to exercise their different callings whilst taking regular services throughout the benefice. The churches are committed to supporting, equipping and releasing all within the church community to follow their calling. They really value working collaboratively and offering mutual support and they are committed to the well-being of our clergy, ministers and staff. They meet face to face monthly and also frequently informally. They also value meeting for prayer together.



Anne Molyneux (left) is an AWA (Authorised Worship Assistant) colleague and Marney Kuyateh (right) is our APA (Authorised Pastoral Assistant). We understand the importance of pastoral care and seek to provide it as churches and alongside village initiatives.



Safeguarding

We are committed to safeguarding. All the ministry team have completed their full training and are encouraging and ensuring others do the same. We have a safeguarding officer, Leroy Burrell, who serves the whole benefice.

Churchwardens

There are 10 enthusiastic, helpful and supportive churchwardens in the benefice. There is at least one churchwarden in every parish.

Prayer

Prayer is essential to all we do. There are two weekly prayer meetings at All Saints, Mattishall (ASM). We also have a benefice prayer chain, with about 40 people on it committed to praying when a request is passed through (and rejoicing when a prayer is answered).

Deanery Synod

The benefice is part of the Dereham in Mitford Deanery. There are currently 2 lay deanery representatives from our benefice.

Finances

As far as possible, we work as a benefice to try to ensure the benefice pays its allocated share. Overall, the benefice paid 91% of its benefice share in 2024. Each parish has its own accounts and treasurer, with the ASM treasurer also handling financial matters which relate to the benefice as a whole. We have a substantial benefice mission account to fund appropriate activities. Mattishall's accounts can be downloaded from the Charity Commission website at <https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/en/charity-search/-/charity-details/5008363/accounts-and-annual-returns>. and the other parishes obtained by emailing contact@matvchurch.uk.

Living in Love and Faith

We are looking for someone who lovingly upholds the doctrine of marriage, which we understand as being between one man and one woman and the only place for the delight and tenderness of sexual union. This was agreed by a meeting of the ministry team, churchwardens, AWA and benefice administrator.

Typical Services Rota

The current service pattern *during the Vacancy* is for one benefice communion service to take place each month, on rotation in the churches. All congregations currently run a DIY (congregation-led) service once a month. Current Benefice Holy Communion services are presided over by external priests who have come to help us on those dates.

		9:00am			10:00am Benefice Holy Communion		10:30am				4.00pm
	Sunday	Hockering	Mattishall	Welborne	Who	Where	East Tudd	Mattishall	North Tudd	Yaxham	Mattishall
Sun 5 Oct	Trinity 16		DIY	Alan - MW				Mel - Harvest	DIY - Harvest	Alan - MW	
Sun 12 Oct	Trinity 17	Jackie - Harvest	Ken Thom (MAF) Alan - MW	DIY			Jackie - Harvest	Ken Thom (MAF) - Alan MW			Oasis (Mel)
Sun 19 Oct	Trinity 18	DIY	Alan - MW	Anne - MW				Alan - MW	Anne - MW	DIY - Harvest	
Sun 26 Oct	Trinity 19 / Last after Trinity				Mel / Catherine Dobson	Mattishall					
Sun 2 Nov	All Saints		DIY	Alan - MW				DIY	Alan - MW		
Sun 9 Nov	3 before Advent	Mel - Rem	10.40 Alan - Rem	Anne - Rem			Rem - Alan on 11/11	10.40 Alan - Rem	Jackie Cook - Rem	10.45 - Jackie - Rem	Oasis
Sun 16 Nov	2 before Advent	DIY	Jackie - MW	DIY				Jackie - MW			
Sun 23 Nov	1 before Advent				Jackie / Sally Theakston	Yaxham					Memorial Service - Mel (& Alan)
Sun 30 Nov	Advent		Mel - MW	Anne - MW			Posada Blessing? Anne - MW	Mel - MW		DIY	

Overview of the Area

Situated in the heart of Norfolk, Mattishall and Tudd Valley is a group of parishes all within a five-mile radius of the vicarage located in Mattishall.

The benefice lies on both sides of the A47 in central Norfolk making access to most parts of our beautiful county straightforward. The A47 is currently being upgraded and once the upgrade is complete, this will provide better connection between the villages and access to Norwich.

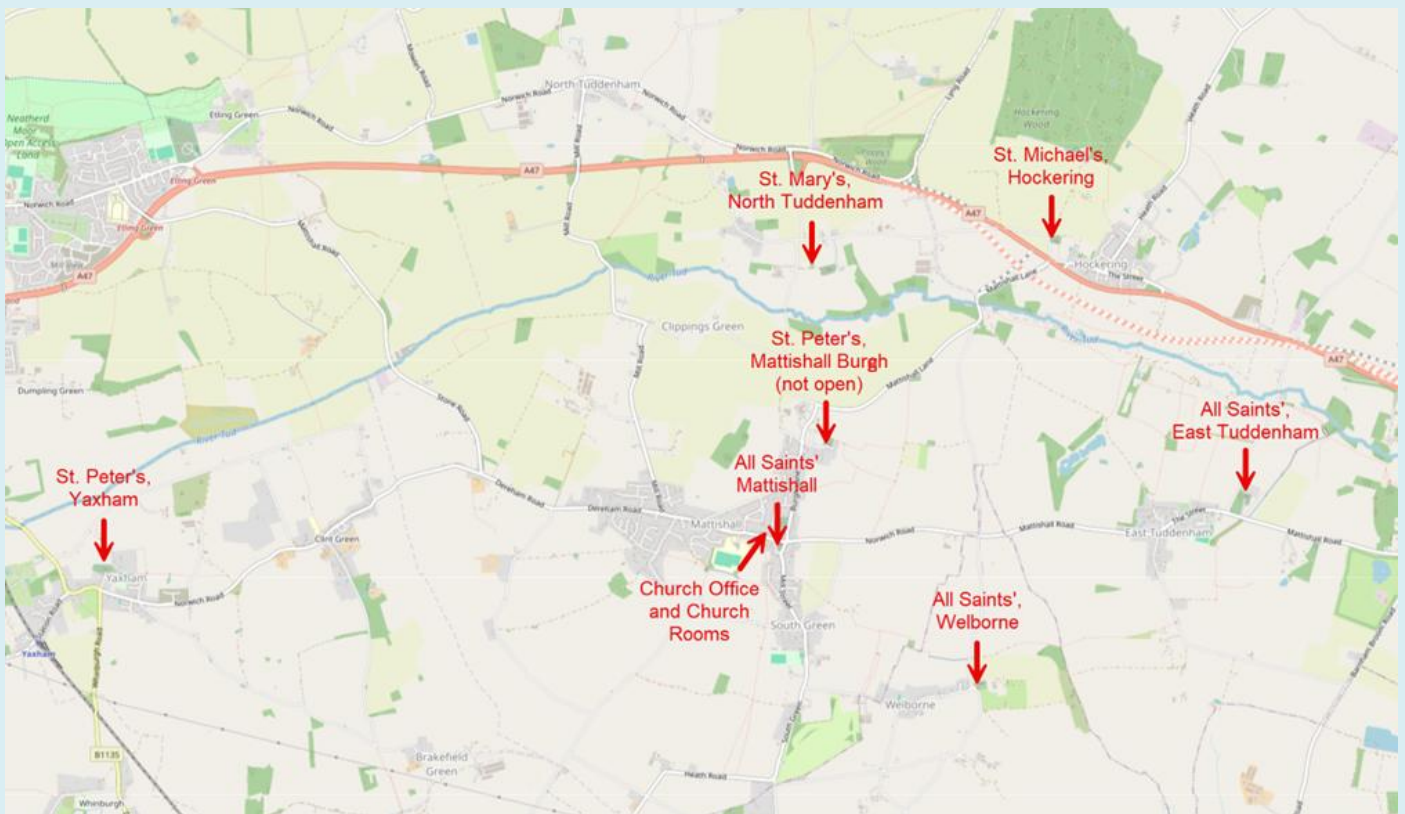
The River Tud flows from near Dereham to join the River Wensum northwest of Norwich and runs through the northern part of the benefice. There are many, varied walking routes around the benefice.

Children are well served with nursery and primary schools. There are two good church schools (in Hockering and Yaxham) and the larger Mattishall Primary. Secondary age children go to High Schools in Dereham, Costessey or Wymondham. Further and Higher Education is provided by Dereham Sixth Form College, Norwich City College, Easton College and the University of East Anglia and Norwich University of the Arts.

Norfolk has nature in abundance with specialist sites, including the Norfolk Broads and many beautiful beaches as well as sporting activities, theatres, music festivals, restaurants, historic properties, museums and more medieval churches per acre than anywhere else in Europe. Norfolk is a superb place to live.

There are 3 crematoria which tend to be used, Breckland, near Hingham (drive time - 20 minutes), St Faiths, Norwich (drive time - 30 minutes) and Earlham, Norwich (drive time - 25 minutes).

Benefice Map



Parish Details

All Saints', Mattishall & St Peter's, Mattishall Burgh

All Saints' Mattishall, (ASM) is a welcoming church and we long to see more people come to know and follow Jesus Christ.

We have two Sunday congregations who get on well and work together. At 9.00 we offer a more traditional service using Common Worship liturgy and hymns accompanied by the organ (average congregation 12 adults). Once a month a "Sunday Special" (DIY) service is run by both the 9.00 and 10.30 congregations. Services at 10.30 are more informal in style (average congregation 25-30 adults and 2 under 16's). The music is provided by a gifted group of musicians and singers or via the audio-visual system. There is a strong desire for challenging, Bible-based teaching and prayer. The 10.30 service has a charismatic heritage where exercising gifts of the Spirit with integrity is encouraged and there are opportunities for prayer ministry. It is hoped that ministry in the Holy Spirit will continue to be encouraged and developed. We have been members of the Evangelical Alliance for many years.

We have a flexible space in which to run church services and events. We have a toilet and servery as well as chairs rather than pews. We plan to add another toilet, to improve the servery area and to provide more storage. We are also blessed to have active church family members who are committed and willing to help with events and to draw people to Christ.



We are committed to paying our parish share in full and our guiding principle is that we do not fundraise outside of the church family for Kingdom work though we have received outside grants for repairs to the building. Regular giving using tithing principles is encouraged through teaching.

Holy Communion is celebrated occasionally at the Bob Carter Court sheltered housing.

The church's building is in the centre of the large, growing village with a population of 2744 (Census 2021). Its shops and facilities serve much of the local area. There is Mattishall and Lenwade Surgeries with a Pharmacy, a Post Office, a newsagent, a grocery shop, a pub, a fish 'n' chip shop and several hairdressers. There is also a farm shop. An hourly bus service into Norwich and Dereham operates into the evenings and runs every day.

There is a large Primary School and three private day nurseries as well as Guide and Scout Association groups in the village. The Primary School has pre and after school clubs. The village also has a sports and social club, a local training centre which has a café and gym, and a golf club. In addition to the open churchyard at St Peter's there is a public cemetery next to public allotments. There are many trades people, including a car mechanic. There are Methodist and Evangelical churches which, together with All Saints, form a Churches Together group, which organises a Good Friday March of Witness and an annual Village Green Service.

Who Let the Dads Out?



Meets on the first Saturday of the month in ASM and is for Dads and male carers with their children of school year 2 and younger. Run by a team from Mattishall and Yaxham, it draws in families from around the benefice and beyond with an average of 11 Dads and 17 children per session. It provides an opportunity for fun through play, games and crafts and to connect as well as enjoy a bacon roll! Connections to the Christian faith and church seasons are made.

Oasis

Runs on a Sunday afternoon 4-5.30pm in ASM, once a month. It is informal and aimed at families with children up to about School Year 6, drawing in families from the benefice and from outside. It is run by a lay team from ASM and Yaxham and comprises crafts, a dramatised Bible story and action songs, followed by afternoon tea. It has been well received and has built on the other family outreach activities we offer. Oasis has an average attendance 12 adults, 15 children plus the team.



Little Angels



This session activity meets weekly in ASM during term time and is a lay-run parent and children's group for pre-school children. A craft and Bible story are provided alongside many play activities and toys. We recently ran a Hope Explored course during the sessions. It draws in families from around the benefice and from outside. Weekly we have around 25 families.

Other Family Activities

We have an annual Bright Party in ASM on 31st October each year. This is a Christian alternative to Halloween and attracts 90-140 adults and children. The Easter Treasure Trail finishes in All Saints' church with crafts relating to the Easter Story. The Christmas Activities afternoon, where we partner with the Parish Council, also comprises crafts and refreshments. Both are also well attended.



Drop In

Meets weekly on Thursdays in ASM. It is a social coffee morning and generally attracts 25-30 members of the community, providing an opportunity for relaxed fellowship and informal pastoral support. It is particularly valued by those who are more socially isolated in the community. We occasionally have external speakers and entertainment.

Singing for Wellbeing

Meets twice a month in ASM. It is an informal community choir. Its aim is for everyone to leave with a smile on their face.

Book Club

Meets monthly in ASM as a social event.

External Speakers

We occasionally have external speakers at events we run, which are advertised widely, e.g. Rev. Dr. Sue Woan, with "From-scroll to best-selling paperback-the adventures behind how we got our Bible".

Quiet Mornings

These are an opportunity for reflective and interactive prayer, are a newer initiative led by our AWA and are open to everyone. We hope these will become a termly feature.

Men's Breakfast & Ladies' Coffee Morning

We have monthly Men's Breakfasts and Ladies' Coffee mornings which are social events held locally. These include members of the wider community.

Prayer

We are committed to prayer as a church and have two weekly prayer meetings.



Home Groups and Men's Group

There are 4 weekly home groups based in Mattishall, open to all and also a Men's Group, which meets once a fortnight for bible study on Microsoft Teams as participants are not all from the benefice. We occasionally run the Bible Course from Bible Society in small groups, with the latest starting in October 2025.

Mission Partners

We support North Breckland Youth for Christ, the Mid-Norfolk Foodbank, Missionary Aviation fellowship and Open Doors through tithing 10% of the income of the PCC. We sometimes have speakers come from these organisations to speak at our services. We also make weekly donations of food to the foodbank and at harvest time.

Other Buildings

Mattishall has two other church buildings which it maintains besides the large mediaeval church of All Saints. We look after the small St Peter's Church, Mattishall Burgh, which is located within the parish. It is no longer used as a church building, but has an open churchyard. We also look after, pay for and receive a small amount of rent from the church rooms, which are used for free by some outside organisations, e.g. the Guides, and are also hired out for events. It is on the same property as the church office.



St Peter's, Yaxham

The medieval/Saxon church of St Peter's lies at the heart of the rural village of Yaxham. Our church is inviting and welcoming with an average congregation of 10. We are blessed to have several generations within our congregation cohesively worshipping together. Like many churches in this area, we would like to increase our numbers of regular worshippers. We are from all walks of life and everyone is accepted and listened to.



small



We are blessed to have a church that draws visitors from afar. Our church is open all day every day. We regularly have children popping in to play and draw. The 12th Century circular tower houses a Peal of 6 bells which are regularly rung by a local band of ringers and we attract visiting bands of ringers from far and wide. The fine organ is used regularly at services and occasionally a visitor requests to play the organ.

We have a friendly active PCC, including 2 churchwardens, Clarke, and Sarah; LLM, Jackie; fabric officer, Colin; we are chaired by our parish safeguarding officer, Leroy who is also chair of governors at our school giving us close ties with them. Our treasurer is independent. Following our last quinquennial inspection, we have started a major project of restoration to the roof. This is Project Revive stage 1.

We are also looking to the future with a second stage to include the installation of a toilet and servery to future-proof the building and enable outreach. We are already blessed with having good heating providing a warm church.

installation of
more

For the last four years there has been a Christmas play with characters drawn from the church, the chapel and the village, with whom we work closely. This is great fun and much enjoyed as it brings the good news of the birth of Jesus afresh to the warmth of our community.



Yaxham CE Primary Academy

Yaxham school tells us, "We really value our connection with the benefice team who support us to live our Christian vision. Children have developed strong relationships as recognised in our recent SIAMS. Staff, children and families benefit greatly from support, especially during difficult times. The children have reflected on their relationships and have thought about the qualities needed in a rector. They recognise the compassion shown as well as the role played in leading worship. They look forward to welcoming a new vicar to Yaxham."

The local clergy have an established relationship with the school. They are known by the pupils because of their weekly involvement in leading worship. Additionally, pupils visit the local church for celebration festivals such as Harvest in the school year. They warmly refer to it as 'our church'. This partnership contributes to spiritual flourishing as it is a place of worship that pupils are familiar with and comfortable in.



St Michael's, Hockering

With a regular congregation of around 6, St Michael's holds services at 9am, uses Common Worship and a mix of modern and traditional hymns.

Since raising a lot of funds towards a substantive building programme that was completed in 2012, members of the congregation have continued to be active and successful in raising funds for the church. The main event is a coffee morning which runs 10 months of the year and which provides a regular link and support from the village community. There is still some building work required.

We are very grateful to the Hockering Town Lands and Poor Lands Charity for their continued financial support.

The village, with its 860 residents and more new housing in the pipeline, has a well-used village hall, public house, garage and general provisions shop and a playing field with active football teams. The former rectory is retained by the Diocese.



Hockering CE Primary Academy

The last Ofsted report declared it to be a 'Good School'. The church has good links with the school, with some of the benefice staff assisting with Collective Worship on a fairly regular basis and it is hoped this will continue. The school also has services in St. Michael's on a termly basis.



Recently the school took part in the Eco-Angel Pilgrim Trail involving 12 churches in the Diocese, making their own 'Eco Angel'.

St Mary's, North Tuddenham

The village is large in area, but is scattered and fragmented, bisected by the A47 and has a population of approximately 350. It has a thriving pub (The Lodge), a garage, farm shop and a village hall.

The church of St. Mary's is to the east of the village standing isolated overlooking the River Tud valley and dates to circa 1360. The average congregation is 6-8 throughout the year, but this number swells to 20 -30 at our festivals. St Mary's is a large church with a small, but friendly congregation which always welcomes visitors and people to its services and musical events with a smile.



St Mary's underwent significant and expensive repair work to its tumbling tower over the last few years, but is now structurally sound and architecturally beautiful.

Blessed by the wonderful acoustics in the nave, the PCC decided to build on St Mary's growing reputation as a music venue by organising a range of concerts of an eclectic nature during the summer months. These have proved very popular.

All Saints', Welborne

Welborne is a flourishing small rural hamlet of about 58 houses situated between Barnham Broom and Mattishall. The Saxon church and nearby Victorian village hall – originally the school – adjoin the Old Rectory, which is now a highly respected residential care home known as Nightingale, with whom a well-attended monthly service is held. The church family normally comprises a congregation of 14-16 of whom 4 are Welborne residents. Services are held weekly except when there is a monthly benefice service.



There is a strong element of self-help within the congregation who cover cleaning, service preparation, organist, post-service coffee and the daily locking and unlocking of the church during the six summer months. The two churchwardens lead the monthly DIY Services. Many of the day-to-day repairs are performed by three church members resulting in most of the quinquennial list being completed at very low cost. The organ was completely renovated in 2020 following a most generous gift by a member of the congregation. The church fabric is in very good condition following receipt of a grant of £250,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund, which covered major structural work to the tower and the addition of a new kitchenette and cloak room facilities. Local people and visitors much enjoy walking the new "Path of Reflection", which offers peace and time for contemplation.

We have two churchwardens, one of whom also acts as treasurer and the other also as PCC secretary. The finances are well managed with generous giving from the church family. This has enabled the parish share to be met in full for many years and the current year will again be paid in full.

An active village hall committee raises funds for community events including a biennial beer festival, quiz nights and winter film shows, and a well-supported Christmas fayre run jointly with the church, all events designed to keep the community together, particularly in the dark months. An annual Christmas carol service run jointly with the Salvation Army is also very popular resulting in a full church.

The village demography is biased towards the retired although the working residents are employed in farming and agronomy services, financial and legal consultancy, construction, care home ownership and management and the University of East Anglia.



All Saints', East Tuddenham

The parish is very rural with a population of approximately 520. There is an excellent, modern village hall. There is a good hourly bus service to Dereham and Norwich.

The church, which is near the edge of the village is medieval and very beautiful, parts of it dating back to the late 12th century and is in a fairly good state of repair. There is no water laid on and the heating is by electric wall heaters. There is no amplification system installed, but we do have an amp and microphone.

We have 3 on our electoral roll for 2025 and our average Sunday attendance is 2.

The village produces a monthly newsletter, the Parish Pump, delivered to East Tuddenham and nearby Honingham.

DNEAT (Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust) have offices in the village.

We would like to build on the growing relationship with the parish council and key individuals in the village who wish to foster better community relationships. This grew out of a door-to-door survey of the villagers to ask what they wished to see from their church. They wish to have 4 annual services, celebrating Christmas, Easter, the summer fete and harvest. The Christmas Carol Service is a great event with around 75 people attending. We take part in a tractor-related event twice a year.



Ailwyn Hall Care Home is provided with some services by the ministry team as and when requested. There are also two therapeutic homes with schooling for children and teenagers which are managed by Childhood First and Norfolk County Council. East Tuddenham charities run two blocks of alms-houses.

Odd Bits

We have a 'cake on a plate' ministry, whereby people moving into the benefice are given a cake on a plate which is annotated 'Made with love from your local church' and 'John 3:16' under the cake. Anyone can deliver a cake on a plate for any other reason they feel led to do. This initiative is taken up by the various villages as they feel able.



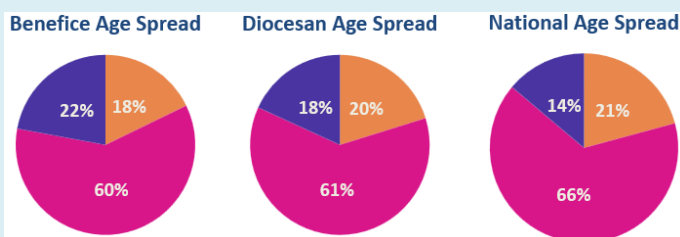
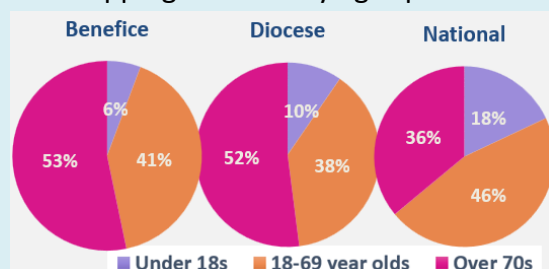
Each Christmas, we produce a free booklet which is delivered to about 2,500 homes to tell people the Good News of Jesus Christ. It includes a message from the rector or ministry team member, articles, testimonies and news from around the benefice.

Benefice, Diocese & National Statistics

Worshipping Community Age Spread & % attendance per capita:

Worshipping Community			Last Reported	Total	Age 0-10	Age 11-17	Age 18-69	Age 70+	Per capita Under 20s	Per capita Age 20-69	Per capita Age 70+	Total per capita	Usual Sunday
260287	Hockering	2023		7	0	0	0	7	0.0%	0.0%	6.1%	0.8%	7
260289	East Tuddenham	2023		3	0	0	1	2	0.0%	0.3%	1.5%	0.6%	3
260292	Mattishall with Mattishall Burgh	2023		77	3	2	36	36	1.1%	2.2%	5.5%	2.8%	46
260299	North Tuddenham	2023		8	0	0	6	2	0.0%	2.7%	3.2%	2.3%	8
260300	Welborne	2023		16	0	0	2	14	0.0%	1.6%	27.5%	7.2%	17
260304	Yaxham	2023		11	1	1	5	4	1.3%	1.0%	1.9%	1.3%	11
National Figure for 2022, of worshipping community as a % of the local populations were:				122	4	3	50	65	0.7%	1.5%	5.3%	2.2%	92
1.5% of Under 18s				Benefice				6%	41%	53%			
1.8% of Adults				Diocese				10%	38%	52%			
1.7% of the population				National				18%	46%	36%			

Worshipping community age spread:



Population Spread – proportional to worshipping community numbers:

2021 Census:	Population	Aged 0-4	Aged 5-19	Aged 20-69	Aged 70 and over	Aged 0-4	Aged 5-19	Aged 20-69	Aged 70 and over
Hockering	857	42	142	558	115	5%	17%	65%	13%
East Tuddenham	519	21	60	307	131	4%	12%	59%	25%
Mattishall with Mattishall Burgh	2,744	93	374	1,623	654	3%	14%	59%	24%
North Tuddenham	345	12	45	225	63	3%	13%	65%	18%
Welborne	221	12	33	125	51	5%	15%	57%	23%
Yaxham	865	29	126	497	213	3%	15%	57%	25%
	5,551	209	780	3,335	1,227	4%	14%	60%	22%
Benefice Age Spread		18%		60%		22%			
Diocesan Age Spread		20%		61%		18%			
National Age Spread		21%		66%		14%			