

BENEFICE PROFILE

All Saints, Wickham Market

St Peter & St Paul, Pettistree with Loudham

2023



An exciting opportunity to engage in mission, in a variety of worship forms and with a call to working with our communities and young people in the parishes. We seek a dedicated person of faith - a spiritually mature, enthusiastic, and friendly minister with wisdom to come and lead God's people.

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INTRODUCTION

We are two churches in adjoining villages, both openly evangelical, both serving at the heart of the community through different expressions of worship.

WHAT WE OFFER

- A Church family committed to honouring God through worship, witness and fellowship.
- An openness to fresh insights into our Churches and parishes and to engage in new things to expand our ministry and grow as a Church to the glory of God.
- Two supportive, friendly and prayerful Church families within thriving village communities, committed to praying for our Minister.
- An appreciation that ministry belongs to the whole Church community - we do not expect our Incumbent to do everything, but rather to enable and encourage the 'body of Christ'.
- An understanding that the new Incumbent will come with his/her own strengths, gifts and needs and as such will require support, adequate time off and time for his/her wider family and interests.
- A good sized vicarage close to All Saints church.



WHAT WE HOPE FOR

We are seeking a Minister who can build on the good work of previous Incumbents and lead the Church family forward in its desire to know and serve God and our Lord Jesus Christ better, aided and empowered by the Holy Spirit. This will include building the Church to grow younger and reach those who are unrepresented at present in the congregation.

Therefore, we hope that you will bring:

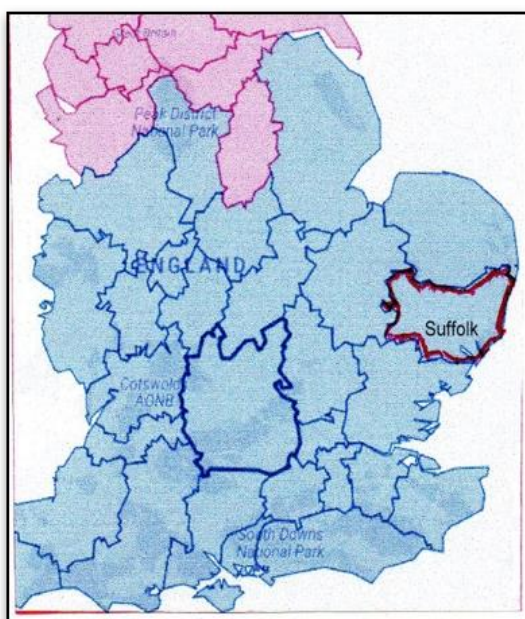
- A faith and passion in the saving grace of God through Jesus Christ.
- A belief in the power of personal and corporate prayer.
- A belief in the use of the spiritual gifts.
- A bible based ministry and teaching.
- An acceptance and support for the principles of shared ministry.
- A love and care for God's people.
- A love for the lost.
- A humble spirit to serve God, his gospel, his people, his world.
- The qualities of a gifted team player, communicator and teacher with a pastoral heart.

THE DEANERY OF LOES

Loes is a rural deanery situated in a lovely part of Suffolk; here small rivers start and head towards the nearby sea with lovely villages and gently rolling countryside. There are good schools, tearooms and pubs! What's not to like?

There are three larger population centres, Debenham, Framlingham and Wickham Market, with the rest being small villages. There is a total population of about 15,000 people across the deanery. Rural communities are varied and socially diverse and good to minister in.

As a deanery we are working together to help us Grow in God in ministry and mission.



THE BENEFICE

Overview

The Benefice sits within the county of Suffolk towards the south-east corner of the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. As will be seen from the Deanery map, the Benefice of Wickham Market with Pettistree sits on the south-eastern boundary of the Loes deanery.

The present Benefice dates from 1986.

We are very grateful for the assistance of several retired clergy who live in the Benefice, who lead a number of services in both churches. We also have a curate and a trainee lay reader. Both of these were members of our congregation. We have also in the past seen several members of our benefice go on to train as priests

The vicarage is a modern 4 bedroomed house for the use of the Incumbent and family. This is adjacent to the Wickham Market church and has a reasonably sized garden with an easily accessible study. It is next door to 'The Beehive' church hall, a couple of minutes' walk to the church and close to the centre of Wickham Market (the Market Hill).



Church Traditions

The church traditions of the two churches in the benefice are different and complementary. At present Pettistree favours a service pattern following a more formal traditionally based liturgy, including psalms and canticles as part of some services. On the other hand, Wickham Market follows a more 'free' service format. All Saints' Wickham Market does, however, follow a written liturgy for its main communion services (Common Worship 2000). Pettistree prefers its ministers to be robed whereas Wickham Market generally prefers its ministers not to be robed.

In-Benefice relationships

Both churches are community focused, active and their services are openly evangelistic. The churches continue to enjoy an established constructive and mutually beneficial relationship – with joint churchwardens' meetings.

Both churches view the variety of worship styles positively. They ensure that, within the Benefice, the community is offered a choice of worship styles and traditions.

Wickham Market is a growing, well-resourced village. We have a health centre, a dentist, a chiropodist, a pharmacy, a residential home, Co-op, hairdresser, fish and chip shop, Bengali and Chinese restaurants, two tea rooms, a charity shop, a football club, a bowls club, a vet, a beauty salon, and two independent shops selling a variety of mainly local goods. There are a couple of garages, a Post Office, a carpet shop, a solid fuel/animal food shop, and a locally famous butchers shop. There are monthly film shows in Wickham Market Village Hall.

The nearby town of Woodbridge has many independent shops, restaurants, lovely river walks, and a cinema. The seaside at Aldeburgh is within easy reach, and the famous Snape Concert Hall is close by.

The local primary school is a founder member of Avocet Academy Trust and has just received a “good” OFSTED report. The church has links with the school. The pupils visit the church for three services a year, and the vicar has visited in the past to hold assemblies regularly. We have restarted “Open the Book” assemblies. One of the lay elders is a Member of the Academy Trust. There are local secondary schools in Woodbridge and Framlingham. We also aim to restart “Messy Church”, which ended during the pandemic.

The nearby A12 gives easy access to Ipswich, and places further afield.



Our Christingle service.



A Benefice choir was established seven years ago, building on what was an informal gathering of an ad hoc choir each year to contribute to the carol services at both St. Peter & St. Paul and All Saints. The Benefice choir, under the leadership of one of the Pettistree organists, now numbers up to 20, and contributes to the major services at Easter, Christmas and Harvest and Pettistree Evensong.

Occasional joint Benefice services (at Pettistree in mid-summer and Wickham Market after Christmas) are organised to attract a Benefice-wide congregation.

Both churches have bells rung for services, and a group play handbells at the Wickham Market Carol Service

Benefice Finance

Since the two parishes were combined into one Benefice there has been an amicable agreement masterminded by the PCC Treasurers to agree the split of the diocesan share and Incumbent's expenses on the basis of average unrestricted income.

The PCCs' approach to the Benefice share is to meet this requirement as a first priority along with those running expenses that fall to the PCCs.

