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SEVEN

CHURCHES
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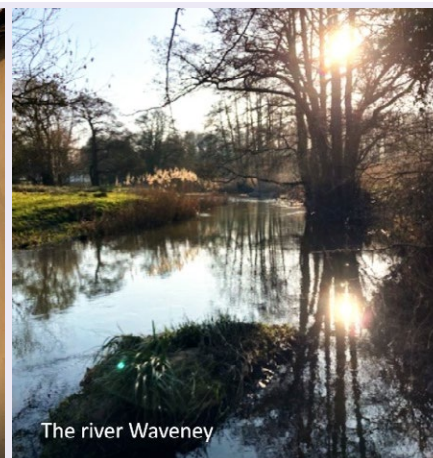
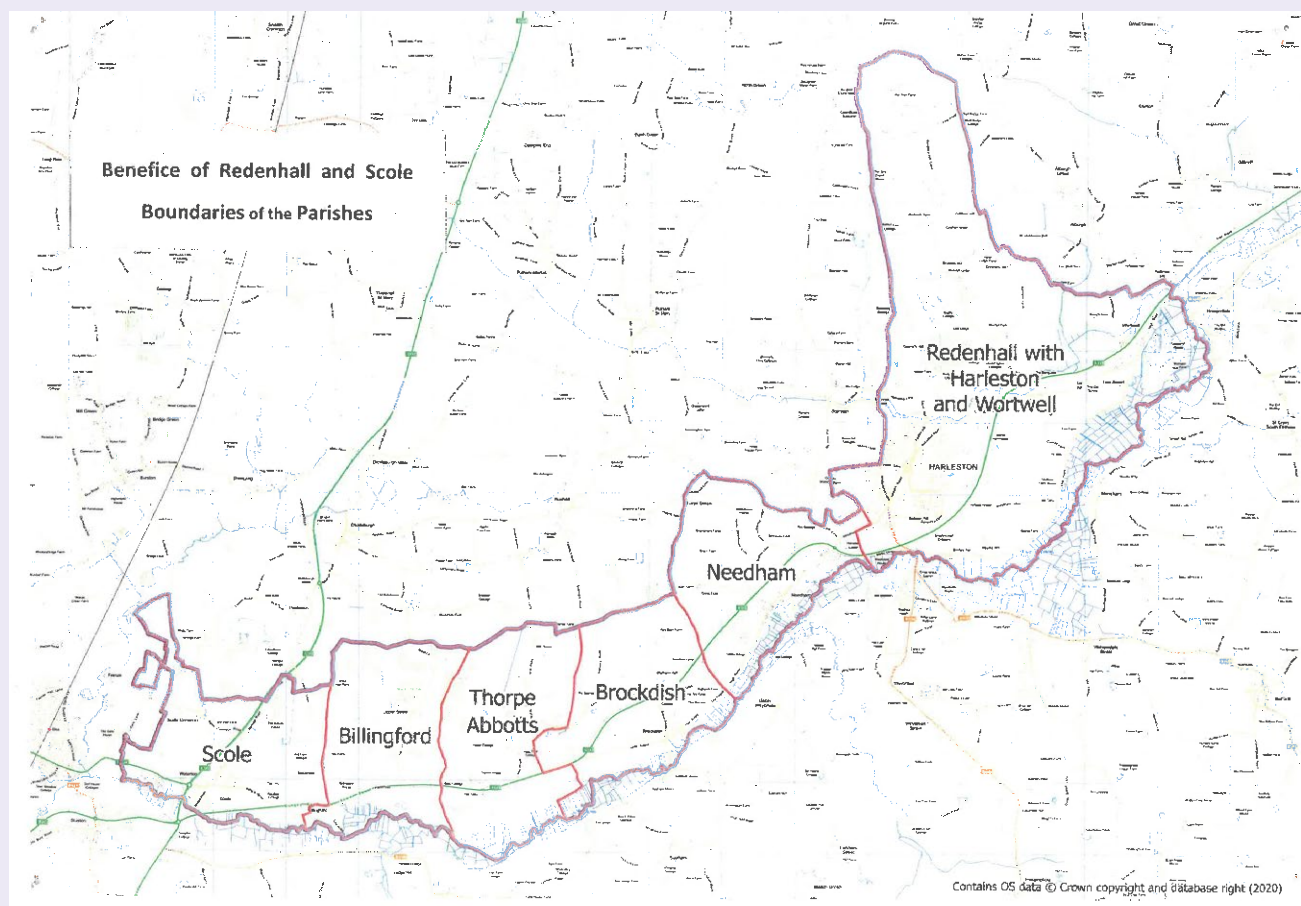
**Benefice of
Redenhall with
Scole**

Our Benefice

The Benefice is a mixture of rural churches: St Mary's Redenhall, St Peter's Needham, St Peter & St Paul's Brockdish, All Saints' Thorpe Abbots, St Leonard's Billingford, St Andrew's Scole, and St John the Baptist Harleston.

Harleston is the area's market town and is growing in size and importance, offering the incumbent a fertile mission field.

The Ministry Team includes active priests and a reader with PTO, a lay reader, an ordinand, and authorised worship assistants, who are used to working together under the leadership of the Rector to assist in all aspects of ministry as appropriate.



Walk of Witness: Good Friday 2025
Members of St John's and the London Road Church walk together through Harleston

Our Vision

To enable people across our Benefice to come to know God and His unconditional love as revealed through His Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ:

- by ensuring a warm welcome to parishioners, communities, visitors, and people of all ages and backgrounds, through our prayers and actions for them and with them;
- by being a visible witness in our local parishes, practically involved in community events and projects, thereby embracing the Diocesan Vision to be: Prayerful, Pastoral and Prophetic, leading to growth in discipleship, service and numbers.

What is the Task?

- To preach the Gospel message to this part of the Waveney Valley, and through the witness of their own faith in Christ, to work with the Ministry Team to proclaim the good news of our salvation through Christ to the whole community.
- To build up and encourage our churches to be the focal points of our communities, as a witness to the love of God for all people.
- To continue and to lead our work with the wider community in areas such as the Foodbank, the Dementia Café, the Anna Chaplaincy and other local initiatives designed to witness the Spirit's presence in our Benefice.
- To grow our congregations through outreach activities, including greater use of social media.
- To develop our work within our schools in Harleston, so that we are more visible and actively encourage their students' involvement with and understanding of the message of Christ in the world.
- To work with the churches of the deanery and the local ecumenical partners.



View across the Waveney Valley looking down towards Needham



Sandcroft Academy Primary Phase:
Easter Service at St John's

Who are we looking for?

A Spirit filled priest who:

- will give us lively preaching and teaching, relevant to daily life;
- is comfortable with Common Worship, the Book of Common Prayer and informal worship services;
- will continue to encourage and develop pastoral care across the team;
- will understand the challenges of both the market towns and rural village settings;
- is committed to encouraging links with schools, families and young people as well as the wider community;
- will help us as we grow Christ's presence in the Benefice;
- will bring fresh eyes to discern how we can, and should, do some things better;
- has a collaborative leadership style, will continue to encourage and grow the Ministry Team, and rejoices in the company of Christ's people.

How we will support you

- The Benefice provides a wide support network for our incumbent, and we are committed to ensuring that you have time for your own personal growth.
- Each of the churches has active and experienced churchwardens, who work well with the incumbent and the Ministry Team.
- There is an active Ministry Team which covers each church and provides assistance to each other and the incumbent.
- An experienced Benefice Administrator deals with routine administration, coordinates marriage, baptism and funeral arrangements as well as assisting the incumbent as necessary. Our Benefice Administrator is based at St John's Church in Harleston.
- Each of the Churches has an active PCC with a certified safeguarding officer.
- The diocese provides a Rectory which will be located in Harleston.



St John the Baptist, Harleston

St John's Church stands in the heart of the thriving market town of Harleston. Built to replace the former Chapel of Ease, it is now a central meeting place both for the local community and for its faithful congregation.

Seeking to welcome and show God's love to all, St John's follows a broadly Anglican tradition offering a wide variety of worship and service. We begin the first Sunday of every month, with an Informal Service, complete with Worship Band, complementing this with a Book of Common Prayer service in the evening. We have Common Worship Morning Prayer and Holy Communion on the other Sundays. Once a month we also hold a joyful Praise Hour, which includes singing, thoughts, prayers and bible readings. Home groups meet regularly and the church is always open for a quiet sit down or private prayer.

St John's works together with the Harleston Catholic and joint URC and Methodist churches. Our priest also serves the local Church of England Sancroft Academy Primary and Secondary School, supporting assemblies, welcoming school children to St John's for services and inspiring school activities within the town.

A great strength of St John's Church, is our commitment to the wider community both through regular activities and by hosting one-off events.

- Each month begins with a lively and well attended Coffee Morning, which fosters fellowship in the community and raises several thousand pounds a year.
- We are a centre for the Waveney Foodbank, opening our doors every Tuesday.
- We run a monthly Forget Me Not Cafe for those living with dementia and their carers.
- We host a monthly 'Who Let The Dads Out' for divorced/separated fathers and their children.
- We hold a monthly 'Chatty Church' for children and their carers to meet, play and eat together

The church of St John's is late Victorian with a fine set of stained glass windows. It has excellent facilities including flexible seating, a modern sound system, a large kitchen and a purpose built toilet. An eco-friendly heating system has recently been installed and we actively support the local Nature Recovery project.



The Worship Band: St John's Harleston



Benefice Service at St John's



Chatty Church: Getting ready for Mother's Day at St John's

St Mary's, Redenhall

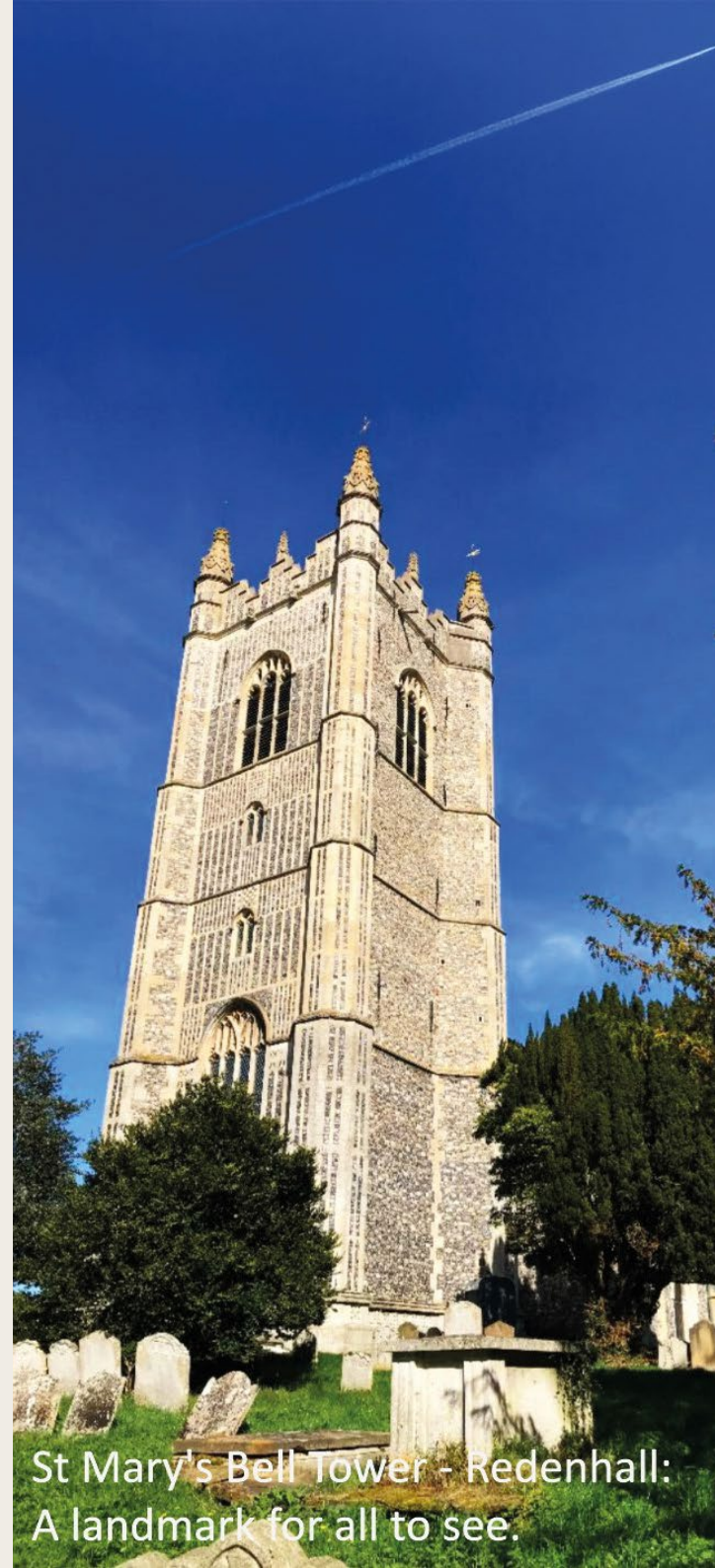
St Mary's is the mother church of Redenhall with Harleston and also serves the neighbouring village of Wortwell. It has been the parish church for 700 years, and its Bell Tower is a prominent landmark to travellers along the A143.

Redenhall is a little village, smaller than Wortwell, but the church congregation, though small, is loyal, devoted and generous, and is deeply rooted in the wider community of the parish, and has wider global connections through the legacy of the local Fuller family, two of whom, (brothers Edward and Samuel), were among the Pilgrim Fathers, who sailed on the Mayflower and first settled in Massachusetts in the reign of Charles I.

Every Christmas Eve, the church is filled for the annual Carols by Candlelight service, which attracts many seasonal visitors as well as local people from Harleston and the surrounding countryside, while many Harleston families make regular visits to the churchyard to lay flowers and offer silent prayers at the graves of their loved ones and ancestors. When the wind is from the east, the Redenhall peal of bells can easily be heard in Harleston, some two miles away. Nearby, Wortwell has a large community centre, which they are happy for us to use. It has a chapel with which we had an ongoing relationship; one we are keen to refresh.



Model of the Mayflower
at St Mary's Redenhall



St Mary's Bell Tower - Redenhall:
A landmark for all to see.

St Andrew's, Scole

Scole Parish is the furthest point west of the Benefice. The Church is at the centre of the village and is open every day for visitors and parishioners to enjoy prayer and a quiet space.

We have services each week and these are varied, with Holy Communion, Morning Prayer, and Informal Services, one of which takes place in the afternoon and includes a small band with tea and refreshments afterwards.

The pews have been removed from the nave of the church, which enables events to take place; such as coffee mornings each month, quizzes, concerts, and PCC and house group meetings. A number of parishioners meet each Thursday in the church, for games, coffee and general social chat. Our church also supports other events in the Benefice and the parishes have come together for Benefice Services. We also support charities and missions, to which we apportion some of our income. The wider community comprises a number of organisations, which come together for many events, such as Fetes and Festivals.

We are known as a welcoming and inclusive church, and we try to extend the Kingdom in any way that we can; we look forward to welcoming a new minister, who will lead us forward to fulfil God's purpose in our Benefice.



St Andrew's Scole: Coffee Morning

St Leonard's, Billingham

We are the smallest parish in the Benefice, split in two parts - Lower Street and Upper Street – approximately one mile apart. There are just under 100 residents ranging from pensioners through to families with young children.

Our tiny church of St Leonard is situated between the two and stands at the top of the hill overlooking Lower Street and the picturesque Waveney Valley; a quiet place for prayer and reflection both inside our church and outside in the churchyard, away from the busy A143. Our mediaeval church is Grade I listed and is in Pevsner's Guide.

Despite our small size, we have a big heart and hold fundraising events both for our church and others. In the last four years £65,000 has been raised, through fundraising and grants, for repairs to the roof and walls. We have picnics in the churchyard, concerts, and MacMillan coffee mornings where people from across the Benefice and beyond come and support us. In the past we have also held very successful Flower Festivals. We support events held across the Benefice, and we participate in the Norfolk Churches Trust Annual Sponsored Ride and Stride fundraiser. In addition, a portion of our income is given each year to support charities and missions both at home and overseas.

We have two services per month at 9.30am – Holy Communion and Morning Prayer – when the congregation numbers 10 to 14. In addition we have a monthly, midweek Compline service which alternates with our neighbour, All Saints, Thorpe Abbots.



St Leonard's Billingham:
Evening sunshine - 2025

St Peter's, Needham

St Peter's Needham is a 'round tower' church just outside Harleston.

It works very closely with the village hall, which is next door to the church. We have a small congregation with regular services led by members of the Ministry Team.



St Peter's Needham: Round Tower in spring.

All Saints', Thorpe Abbots

This small Church sits outside the hamlet of Thorpe Abbots beside the A143.

With a small but active congregation, we hold one service a month alternating between Morning Prayer and Holy Communion with a bi-monthly Compline Service with St Leonards, Billingford. There were two Baptisms in 2024. Easter, Harvest and Christmas are celebrated, and we engage with the village collecting donations for the Foodbank and Emmaus at our Harvest and Christmas celebrations. Our Lay Chair leads a Bible Study group.

The Churchyard is open and managed as a wildlife sanctuary. We participate in the Churches Count on Nature and the Churches Cycle Ride. The Church is floodlit on special occasions and available to those who wish to celebrate or remember. During Remembrance Week a poppy is projected onto the Tower. From Easter to the end of summer the Church is open at weekends and bank holidays and we have hosted interest groups from the local U3A and the Round Tower Society. The Church works closely with the Village Hall Committee to support village life and has a good connection with the 100th Bomb Group Museum.



All Saints', Thorpe Abbots:
Remembrance Week

St Peter and St Paul's, Brockdish

St Peter and St Paul's Church building is open every day and is a haven for prayer, rest and reflection for the local community and for intrepid walkers on the Angles Way.

Services are held every Sunday, followed by a time for coffee and fellowship at the back of the church. The congregation is small, friendly, welcoming and active within the community. We are committed to being a positive Christian presence within the village using opportunities such as outdoor services during the summer months, a pet service, carol singing around the village, as well as events in the Village Hall to reach people of all ages. We look forward to working together with a new priest.

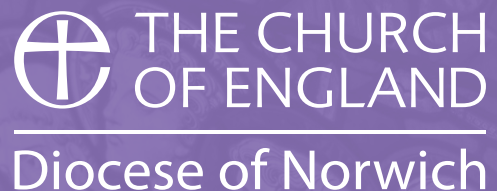


St Peter & St Paul Brockdish:
Pet Service



Beautiful skies; overlooking the Waveney Valley towards Brockdish

Thank you for reading our profile.
We hold this appointment in our prayers
and look forward to hearing from you.



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