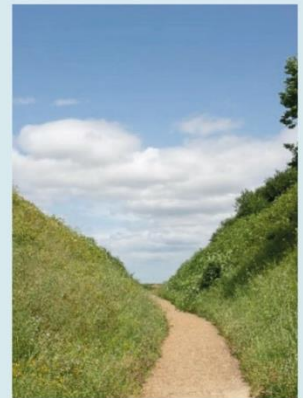
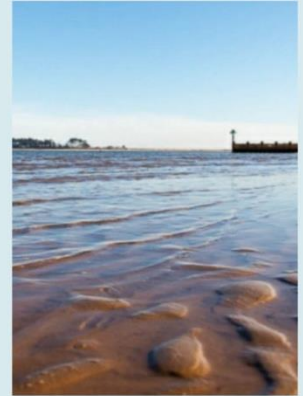




Fakenham Parish Church



Christ Church Fulmodeston



# Parish Profile 2021

## Fakenham Parish Church & Christ Church Fulmodeston

[www.fakenhamparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.fakenhamparishchurch.org.uk)

# Introduction

## THE RT REV DR JANE STEEN, BISHOP OF LYNN



Greetings as you read and pray about the parish profile for Fakenham and Fulmodeston. Fakenham is one of the significant market towns in the Lynn archdeaconry; Fulmodeston is a lovely Norfolk village with the church at its heart. Both congregations have good lay leadership and an enthusiasm to work with a new incumbent in ministry and mission. If the Lord calls you to be that priest, you will find a warm welcome, and a diocesan vision to inspire and encourage. You will be in the prayers of many who do not yet know you as you seek to discern whether it is right for you to join the Diocese of Norwich as we seek to be Transformed by Christ: prayerful, pastoral and prophetic.

## THE VEN IAN BENTLEY, ARCHDEACON OF LYNN



Thank you for your interest in the great opportunity of joining us in mission and ministry in Fakenham and Fulmodeston. Both town and village are already mission-minded and outward looking, but with a significant expansion of new housing now being built in Fakenham there is so much potential for reaching new people with the gospel. The parishes have enjoyed a great period of consolidation and growth under the very successful ministry of the previous incumbent. We very much hope that, with the right appointment, Fakenham and Fulmodeston will in time become a training parish. Please consider this profile carefully. You could be that person.

# We are:

---

*Fakenham's parish church, in the heart of the town, and with the town in our heart.*

*Fulmodeston's church at the crossroads in the village, with the village in our heart.*

*An exceptional combination with each church dedicated and committed to bringing God's love to our communities.*

---

# And you?

We believe we need a very special person to be our new priest. Of course, we do! We are ambitious for our churches and our communities. But we don't expect you to be perfect! We're certainly not!

We'd like to think that some essential qualities are a given - that you have a strong personal faith that shines through your preaching and teaching of the gospel of Christ.

We need you to embrace difference, and inclusivity, and in turn, we will value you as an individual, as we are all individuals. You should not feel you have to be a 'one size fits all' priest.

You should bring your knowledge, skills, and experience to our greatest challenge – that of relating to young people and young families and enabling this age group to discover God's love. This is so important for building and strengthening our church community.

Our congregation and residents want someone who is friendly and approachable, and a good listener - essential if you are to build positive relationships with both church people and the wider community.

And while we are looking for someone who will lead, we too have gifts and talents to offer. We'd like someone who can help us all work together as a team.

# Fakenham Parish Church

## Our Church

### ABOUT US

St Peter and St Paul, Fakenham is generally known in the town and amongst the congregation as Fakenham Parish Church and is recognized as a friendly and accessible focal point in the town. It is a large church and whilst it can be busy, it also has space to be calm. It is used as a place for worship, peaceful reflection, and community activities.

We have a modern and accessible website, at [www.fakenhamparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.fakenhamparishchurch.org.uk), and an active Facebook page, at <https://www.facebook.com/fakenhamparishchurch>.

### COMMUNITY SURVEY

To inform the writing of this document, we carried out an informal survey amongst our congregation and the wider public. The survey elicited 84 individual written responses (about a quarter of which we believe to be from the wider community) with nearly 800 individual points raised. The following questions were asked:

1. What do you value and appreciate about Fakenham Parish Church?
2. What are the biggest challenges we face at Fakenham Parish Church and what might be missing?
3. What are the areas in which you hope to see Fakenham Parish Church develop and thrive in the next 5/10 years?
4. What further comments would you like to add?

Key results showed that, in the eyes of respondents, the church:

1. Is highly valued for its friendliness and welcome, as a focal point and a spiritual home. Festival services and events were appreciated, and it was also noted as a place of peace, calm and refuge.
2. Faces a significant challenge in reaching out to young people and young families, as well as to the town's growing incoming population.
3. Needs to develop better interaction and relationships into and within the community, more family friendly, informal, and fun midweek services and become more open and inclusive.
4. In further comments, needs to reinstate its regular communication with the town and community (particularly through its parish magazine which had to close during the coronavirus epidemic).

A summary of some of the responses is given as Appendix 3.



## PEOPLE



*Our church family at Harvest on Sunday 12 September 2021*

We have a wealth of wonderful people: a talented, committed, friendly and engaging community. We also recognise, however, that much of our congregation is retired, and of those, an increasing number retired many years ago.

With an electoral roll of around 100, at the end of 2019 we were seeing an attendance of just over 100 between all the main Sunday services, including Sunday baptisms.

Thursday market day communion, again 2019 figures, saw an average attendance of around 20, and the festival services at Easter, Harvest and Christmas saw more than 800 attendances between them.

---

*We currently have no regularly attending young people or young families at our Sunday services, and only very limited numbers of people attending under the age of 50 (virtually none under 40). This is an area of significant concern to us.*

---

## OUR VISION – “A SAFE PLACE FULL OF LIGHT, COLOUR AND BLESSING”

In 2018, the church created a Mission Action Plan after much thought and prayer. The key outcomes from this plan were our Mission, Objective and Vision:

### Mission:

To demonstrate the love of God to the people of Fakenham.

### Objective:

To build our spirituality and capacity so that, as a growing church, we can play an active part in the life of our changing town.

### Vision:

By the end of 2022 we envisage a church which is fittingly resourced with people, finance, and facilities to meet the spiritual needs of the parish. It will be a safe place full of light, colour, and blessing, fully engaged with our local community and reflecting God's love for all.

Inevitably, the implementation of our MAP has been severely interrupted by the coronavirus epidemic.

---

*We recognise that our MAP strategy and direction needs to be revisited and re-energised particularly considering the Diocese of Norwich's newly developed vision and priorities:*

*"We see the ministry of the whole of the Diocese of Norwich as being about how we live our life together for the flourishing of every person in every place. Transformed by Christ: prayerful, pastoral, and prophetic" - <https://www.dioceseofnorwich.org/about/vision-priorities/>*

---

## WORSHIP AND ACTIVITIES FOR ADULTS AND FAMILIES



*A well-attended pre-coronavirus service.*

Parish Communion.

The church has a number of retired clergy who attend, but none of whom are able to assist with services other than very occasionally.

We are beginning to put in place again all the services and community offerings that were taking place before the coronavirus pandemic:

The church has three Licensed Lay Ministers. Elaine Burbidge and Linda Frost are retired and have permission to officiate and both minister in Fakenham; Elaine is very active, with Linda less so. Amanda Sands ministers actively at Fulmodeston.

We have a paid organist and choirmaster and a four-part choir of around a dozen people. There is a small team of servers and a team of welcomers, as well as a group serving tea and coffee after

- Weekly Sunday Parish Communion (Common Worship or bespoke liturgy)
- Weekly Thursday (Market Day) Communion
- Weekly prayer groups (very small)
- Weekly home group (one full group)
- Weekly Stepping Stones baby and toddler service
- Monthly Parish Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- Monthly non-eucharistic 'Second Sunday Special'
- Monthly Choral Evensong
- Regular Mothers' Union branch meetings
- Regular Church Women's Guild meetings

We have also previously offered monthly healing services.

A small pastoral care team was trained in 2018/19 under Rev. Joy Elkins, and we now want to reinstate their activities so that pastoral care is not overlooked during the Vacancy.

During the coronavirus lockdowns, a very well received daily (and then weekly) podcast was broadcast by the previous Rector and his wife and we believe this could be resurrected.

If recommenced, this could form the basis of a new 'hybrid' church congregation that we could begin to nurture and develop.

The church is equipped to livestream services, although we have not yet done so.

---

*Whilst we have made one or two attempts, no Fresh Expressions of worship have gained any ground within the church. We would welcome fresh thinking here that adds to what we do in a way that reaches out to people in their very busy modern lives and where Sundays are no longer seen by many as special.*

*At the same time, we see the building up of the existing body of the church as vital through, greater variety in worship and additional prayer and study groups, amongst other things.*

---

## WORSHIP AND ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



*Stepping Stones*

We have in the past offered several activities for young people, but the one that has gained most traction and continues to do so is our group for very young children and their parents. Stepping Stones, sees strong attendance and is much appreciated.

A small team also actively runs 'Open the Book' sessions at assemblies in the Junior School and these are very well received.

Relations with the Infant and Junior schools are generally very good, but we have made little headway with Fakenham Academy (age twelve to eighteen).

We have previously run Messy Church, a 'Bridges' service to bridge the gap between our children's groups and church, and an after school/youth club, but these have relied on a very small group of leaders/helpers and to date have not really achieved any scale.

---

*Reaching out to young people and to young and growing families is a key area where we recognise that we urgently need help.*

---

## HOSPITALITY AND OUTREACH

We offer hospitality and outreach to the community through a range of regular activities, including:

- Weekly Thursday Café/Stalls/Chat (following Market Day Communion)
- Several book and jigsaw fairs every year
- Occasional music concerts (mostly classical/choral)
- Annual Easter Family Workshops
- Annual Christmas Tree Festival (a fixture in the town's calendar and a major fundraiser!)



*Thursday Café*

---

*We are aware that the scope of what we do in terms of outreach and particularly appealing to a younger demographic requires fresh thinking.*

---



## LIFE EVENTS

The church is used regularly, but not nearly as frequently as we would wish, for baptisms, weddings, and funerals.

In the full calendar year of 2019, for instance, we had 10 baptisms, 3 weddings and 26 funerals.

---

*We recognise that much more needs to be done to promote life events as part of our outreach, particularly as we have an increasing number of secular celebrants in the area.*

---



*Fakenham Parish Church and town centre from the air*

## BUILDING

Fakenham Parish Church dates to the 14<sup>th</sup> century, although much of the church underwent major restoration in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, including the replacement of the nave and chancel roofs, and the installation of pine pews.

Work during the 20<sup>th</sup> century included the re-slatting of the roofs, replacement windows, the creation of a nave altar area, and in the last 20 years the creation of the Trinity Room, and the installation of toilets (including disabled) and modern kitchen facilities.

Old pews were removed from the north and south aisles about 15 years ago, but pews remain in the nave.

In 2019, the church was rewired, and a new lighting system was installed, and we are presently looking to commence a project to upgrade to modern standards the accessibility of the church to everyone, and the welcome of the porch and entrance area.

The former churchyard to the north of the church is a beautifully calm and pleasant green public area – a real local amenity.

The church is in good repair and benefits from a professional sound system, CCTV inside and outside, and a recently installed superfast broadband connection.

## ADMINISTRATION

The church has an active and engaged PCC of 12 members including Licensed Lay Minister Elaine Burbidge, our two churchwardens, Keith Osborn, and Roger Burbidge, and three Diocesan Synod representatives. The PCC meets regularly every six weeks.

During the Vacancy the Staff team comprises Elaine and Roger Burbidge, Keith Osborn, PCC members Richard Lynam and Moira Morley, and Tony Atkin (our paid - self-employed - Administrative Assistant who helps on an ad-hoc basis with several administrative tasks).

Reporting to the PCC, we have our Parish Safeguarding Officer and several smaller teams:

- Parish Safeguarding Officer – Anne Peppitt
- Finance team - 4 people led by Keith Osborn
- Fabric team - 6 people led by John Mullins
- Worship and Education team - 6 people led by Elaine Burbidge
- Fundraising and Social team – 6 people led by Roger Burbidge

An office, used by the Rector and the Administrative Assistant, has previously existed within the Rectory. We are not assuming that this will continue to be the case and will work with the Rector to see where such a facility can best be located in the future.

## FINANCE

The church remains financially sound. We have however seen a significant impact from the coronavirus epidemic and this year we are controlling our expenses very strictly.

In 2019, excluding extraordinary items, the church had receipts of just under £120,000 and expenses of around £110,000. In 2020, because of the coronavirus epidemic, these figures had fallen to receipts of £72,000 and expenses of £94,000. The Thursday café, our book and jigsaw fairs and our Christmas Tree Festival are our major fundraising activities.

The first half of 2021 proved as difficult as 2020, but we are beginning to see the benefits of restarting our Thursday café and book and jigsaw fairs from July. We also hope to run our Christmas Tree Festival again this year.

Congregational giving is and has remained strong through the coronavirus. We also have a contactless card donation point in church, and an online donations page on our website.



For the last 20 years, the church has paid its Parish Share in full, but in 2020, we paid only 75%. This year we are presently budgeting to pay 50% but hope to pay 65% at the end of the year.

## AREA

Fakenham has been a market town since 1250 and is situated on the River Wensum, about 25 miles east of King's Lynn and 25 miles north west of Norwich.

It is around 15 miles from the Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) - <http://www.norfolkcoastaonb.org.uk> - which includes 6 Blue Flag beaches, and some 20 or so miles from the Deep History Coast - <https://www.visitnorthnorfolk.com/Deep-History-Coast>.



*River Wensum in Fakenham*

It is a truly stunning landscape with nature reserves, birdwatching, sailing, beautiful countryside, culture, and history on the doorstep.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

Fakenham comprises two District Council electoral wards, Lancaster North and Lancaster South (the historic name of the town was Fakenham Lancaster). According to the 2019 census, Fakenham had a total population estimate of just under 8,000. A comprehensive range of reports on such matters as population, employment, deprivation, housing, children and crime can be found at: <https://www.norfolkinsight.org.uk> (search using 'Lancaster North' and 'Lancaster South' in the search box).

Just to give a flavour - Fakenham compares well with the rest of Norfolk in relation to levels of employment, with the largest single sector being skilled trades people and lower than average levels of unemployment. It has slightly higher levels of retired people among its residents than in the rest of Norfolk, and only slightly lower levels of young people. There is little racial diversity in Norfolk as a whole and this is reflected in the population in the Fakenham area too. Over 66% of the population identify as Christian. This is however not reflected in any of the local churches' attendance figures!

## NEW HOUSING

In December 2020, North Norfolk District Council gave the green light for plans to build 950 new homes, a 100-bedroom hotel, a pub, shops, and school on a swathe of land to the town's north. The proposal will significantly increase the population of the town and gives an exciting fresh opportunity for us to show the church's relevance in hospitality, pastoral care and outreach to its community.

A recent article in the Eastern Daily Press about the decision can be read here:  
<https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/plans-for-950-homes-fakenham-approved-6660008>.

## FACILITIES & SOCIAL PROVISION

The town centre is well provided with services with a range of main high street banks having branches, several solicitor's offices, pharmacies, hairdressers and barbers, a cinema, a bowling alley, charity shops, a butcher, a grocer, bakeries, a couple of pubs, a few restaurants and takeaways and supermarkets.

There is a medium size independent department store offering quality household items. There are many sports teams in the town and two gyms/sports centres.



*The town centre on market day from Fakenham Parish Church tower*



Fakenham is fortunate to have several significant employers located in the town. These comprise businesses in, amongst others, the sectors of food production, hospitality, agriculture and allied trades, and light engineering. There are a number of small but vibrant industrial estates providing space to many significant and innovative businesses.

Fakenham has three schools: Fakenham Infant & Nursery School, Fakenham Junior School and Fakenham Academy, and all are rated GOOD by OFSTED, and a new ASD (Autistic Spectrum Disorder) school is due to open in the town in 2022. A popular weekly market on Thursday attracts residents and many visitors from neighbouring towns and villages. There is a warm and welcoming atmosphere about the town and a strong community spirit.

There are several care homes operating in Fakenham offering a range of care services from residential care to nursing and dementia care. Some homes also offer care for people with mental health needs, neurological conditions, and rehabilitation.

There are several social groups which help keep the community well connected including Active Fakenham, a small voluntary group which works with local clubs, organisations, and businesses to promote activities that enrich the health and wellbeing of Fakenham's residents and visitors. There is also a well-regarded and active local amateur dramatic society, FADLOS (and FADLOS Kidz) and, amongst a number of musical offerings in the area, the North Norfolk Music Festival which takes place nearby each August attracting international performers of Chamber Music.

Several registered charities exist to meet a variety of needs. First Focus, for instance, runs a community café with the aim to help people in Fakenham access information and support on issues such as health, disability, and social matters. EP Youth Ltd works with young people and their families in North Norfolk offering ongoing projects supporting young carers through special events. A group of local charities called Fakenham Charities also exists to give confidential financial aid to anyone in Fakenham who is in need, distress, or hardship. The Rector has in the past usually been a Trustee of Fakenham Charities.

The town is covered by several local press organisations, including the regional Eastern Daily Press (and its weekly sister paper the Fakenham & Wells Times), the Fakenham Sun and the Lynn News. We have good relations with all these publications as well as, on a less frequent basis, BBC Radio Norfolk and BBC Look East.

## CHURCHES

Other Christian denominations represented in Fakenham are Fakenham Baptist Church, St Anthony's Catholic Church, and Fakenham Salvation Army. A new church, Faith Church, has also come into the town in the last two to three years. Relations with other churches are good but changes within the Methodist Circuit and the Baptist Church, have meant that Fakenham Churches Together, whilst still in existence, does not function actively at the present time.

Fakenham is 5 miles from Walsingham, a centre of regular pilgrimage for many Christian traditions and denominations. The Parish Church is also being considered as a stage on the new London-Walsingham pilgrimage route being set up by the Confraternity of St James.

# Christ Church Fulmodeston

## Reaching to the Future at the Heart of the Community



***At the heart of Fulmodeston is Christ Church, literally at the crossroads.***

A forward-thinking Rector decided to abandon the two churches serving Fulmodeston and the hamlet of Croxton. In their place he and his congregation constructed a new church in 1881 at the middle of the new centre of the village. Today, ***the responsibility is ours to maintain this building in this century and beyond and to share the joy of our faith with our neighbours and to serve in as many ways as possible the wider community to the best of our ability. This is our challenge...***

The Civil Parish of Fulmodeston, Barney and Croxton contains two parish churches, of which Christ Church Fulmodeston is one, and a Methodist Chapel. Good relations exist between all three. Since 2013 for reasons of reorganization, the churches are in separate benefices. Our Methodist friends give Christ Church a voice in the monthly village newsletter which is now edited by a member of Christ Church.

Christ Church Fulmodeston  
An Ecumenical

Songs of Praise



for

PENTECOST

Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 6.00pm

Sing your favourite hymns.  
Phone Stephen on 01328876364 to make a request  
SATNAV: NR21 0LZ  
Find us south of the A148 Little Snoring junction

In a fairly static community with little second home ownership, the current PCC is committed to putting the church at the centre of village life, not only geographically, but by reaching out in as many thoughtful and collaborative ways as possible. This resolve has been tested during the pandemic. In partnership with the parish council, the church has offered collection of prescriptions and shopping to those who could not venture out. The church porch is also a reception centre for the Mid Norfolk Food Bank. Open air services were well attended with a record attendance at the Carol Service.

**Where we are and where we want to go:**

- to continue to provide cohesion and a focal point to the local working rural community and to use the church building for as many services and special events as possible, including concerts, art fairs, book sales, lectures, etc. as part of the church's outreach both to the locality and beyond;
- to provide all the above free at the point of entry so that anyone may be included and contribute to the work of the church both in religious and secular activity;
- to help all feel needed and valued and to provide in a considerate and compassionate way for Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals.
- Average weekly attendance is 16 which represents 8% of the village population of 218; there are a number of regular attendees from outside the village. Our three main services of Harvest, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas draw in up to 60 from the local area.



The community of Fulmodeston has enjoyed strong pastoral and spiritual care and hopes for this to be sustained through example and caring leadership with a light touch. We are a thoughtful and committed congregation at Christ Church and look for a priest who will minister to us in the traditional mould, with an appreciation for the value and dignity of the traditional liturgy at the same time as embracing other styles of worship and inviting all to feel nourished by them. He or she would hopefully do that with leadership and energy to reveal the further mysteries of scripture and religious thinking.



**Amanda Sands**

**Our Lay Reader** Amanda was brought up in Fakenham where she attended the High School before leaving Norfolk to train as a nurse. Amanda is married to Fred and has a daughter and twin sons and now works full time in the family farming and haulage business. As part of her work in the church she is chaplain to the ATC. Amanda became a reader in 2009 and is looking forward to being able to utilise the many skills obtained through her professional and personal life and through the training in serving the Church.

A few words from Amanda - *'Christ Church Fulmodeston is where I feel my spiritual home is. I have been ministering to the community here for around eight years. There is a strong feeling of love and support from not only the church family but also the wider community.'*

*There is an incredible, albeit small, team who work well and compliment each other: this really assists in the ministry within the community.'*



## Christ Church, Fulmodeston is Committed to Growth

**How are we going to get there?** The church has been traditionally supported by the villagers where there may be emotional attachments to the building through family history via the significant moments of life and the rhythm of the liturgical year. They appreciate its existence and its presence in their midst. Provision needs to be made through the worship team and PCC to care for those who are alone, distressed or bereaved, as well as to share in the joys of the life of all the community, young and old. Teaching is important as is a desire to lead others with a gentle authority and encouragement in a collaborative, collegiate and congenial style. An awareness of the traditions of older people who have served their church faithfully for a number of years as well as looking ahead to the future generations is a desired quality. An ability to reach out to younger families and children who have no experience of the Christian message is vital.



Christ Church Fulmodeston

A Service of  
Holy Communion  
for  
Palm Sunday  
April 14<sup>th</sup> at 11.00am



**Christ Church, Fulmodeston has always had a tradition of using the Book of Common Prayer in its worship.** More recently, whilst retaining the core Book of Common Prayer worship, a number of services has been devised to offer worship of differing complexions. These include Carol Services at Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, Common Worship Good Friday Liturgy, Family Crib Service, Mothering Sunday and Harvest, Ecumenical services with our Methodist friends for a number of different occasions, including Palm Sunday 'Songs of Praise' with procession, Remembrance, and Holocaust Memorial Day where those of different faith are invited. All who are priests, deacons or readers are welcome to lead our worship and celebrate the love of God. In 2020, there were twenty-five services: this speaks volumes for the spiritual health of the community in a time of physical health challenges.

**The Fabric of the Building.** In recent years: a reconditioned pipe organ has been installed; the electricity circuits and lighting have been renewed; in 2014 the roof and rainwater goods were replaced, the drainage system overhauled and the church path sloped for wheelchair access. £220,000 was raised for the roof works (a remarkable achievement in a village with a population of approximately 200). **The 2021 Quinquennial Report states that 'The church and churchyard are beautifully kept, and in recent years significant repairs have been carried out to maintain the church in good order.'**





**The PCC.** Currently, there is one serving warden, a treasurer, secretary, fabric officer, health and safety officer, vulnerable adults and children's officer and a deanery synod member. As of August 2021, there are 15 on the electoral roll and 7 serving members of the PCC, who are also members of other local community groups, including the parish council, village hall committee, gardening club, keep fit group, history group and book club. Through these bodies the church has its finger on the pulse of Fulmodeston life. Until 2020, the PCC has ensured that the Parish Quota has always been paid in full. It plans to pay the Share in full in 2021.

**Please find below links to:**

[Christ Church service rosters and 2019 church report](#)

[Fulmodeston, Barney & Croxton Parish Council Website](#)

[Fulmodeston, Barney & Croxton Parish Profile - 2019](#)

**CHRIST CHURCH FULMODESTON**  
**SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS FOR 2020 AND 2019**

Receipts	2020	2019	Payments	2020	2019
Collection	1870	2710	Parish share	2100	7015
Tax repaid	1015	1200	Electricity	560	720
Fees etc	2710	905	Insurance	1040	1015
Donations	790	720	Donations/Fees	405	140
Fundraising	-	3315	Fundraising exes	-	515
Misc	-	285	Misc	-	280
<b>Total</b>	<b>6385</b>	<b>9135</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>4105</b>	<b>9685</b>

**SUMMARY**

2019 shows a working loss of £550.

2020 shows a working gain of £2,350 only because the Parish Share was underpaid by £5,000

In recent years we have had a Budget of about £11,000 to meet our expenses, the major part being the Parish Share. To meet that expense we have had to raise nearly £5,000 in fundraising activities. These have included events at the church such as musical concerts and various sales all of which are part of our aim for community activities involving Fulmodeston and the surrounding villages. In 2020 we could not hold those activities but did manage to pay almost a third of the Parish Share. In 2021 we are planning to meet the Parish Share in full. Paying the quota in full in future years will be challenging and a financial plan needs to be in place for all aspects of church expenditure to be met.

## Life at the Crossroads

Dear Stephen,

Thank you so much for these (images), really appreciate them as it was the bit that those of us in the church missed.

It was such a wonderful day - beaming bride and groom, fantastic weather and so lovely to finally see family and friends after so long. For many it was the first time since the original lockdown. It was also wonderful to have the reception at home despite the hard work to get the garden ship shape and the yard tidy! A proper country wedding!

Thank you for preparing the church and also no doubt clearing up afterwards and making everything Covid safe. So many guests commented on Christ Church being obviously such an integral part of the village and so beautifully cared for.

With many thanks for everything.

Mary Runciman July 2021



### CHRIST CHURCH FULMODESTON

A Service to Honour the Memory  
of those who died in the air crash of  
3<sup>rd</sup> March, 1945 over Fulmodeston

Sunday March 8<sup>th</sup> at 11.00am

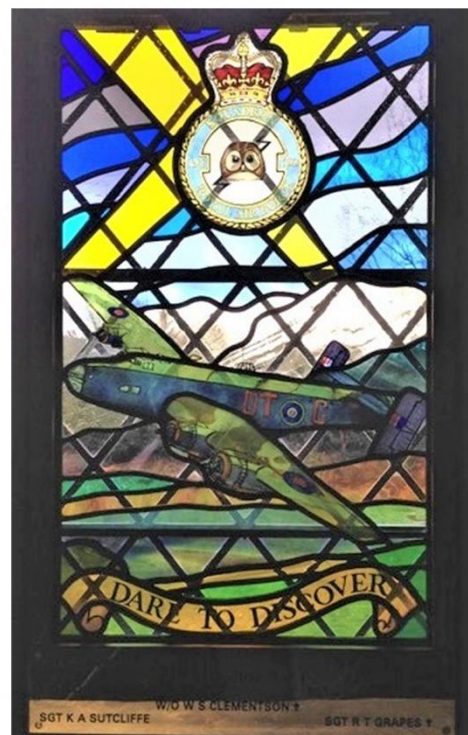


Dedication of Stained Glass Memorial  
on the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Followed by refreshments in the church  
Fulmodeston & Barney History Group

March 2020





THE CONGREGATION OF  
CHRIST CHURCH FULMODESTON  
INVITES YOU TO

*Coffee at the Crossroads*  
2021

Saturday, 7th August, 10.00am to 1.00pm



HOME MADE BREAD, CAKES AND PRESERVES  
FREE REFRESHMENTS  
BRING & BUY, BOOKS, CARDS, ART, PLANTS, STAINED GLASS,  
LAVENDER PRODUCTS,  
PROJECT LINUS QUILTS, KNITTING & TOYS  
TOMBOLA, BRIC-A-BRAC, BEAUTY PRODUCTS  
DONATIONS FOR THE MID-NORFOLK FOOD BANK GRATEFULLY RECEIVED  
Call Stephen on 0767688511 to reserve a table Sat Nov NR21 0EZ.

CHRIST CHURCH - SERVING THE COMMUNITY



FULMODESTON REMEMBRANCE 2020



**Sunday November 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**10:50am**

**Christ Church, Fulmodeston**

Methodist Chapel & Christ Church, Fulmodeston

THE SERVICE WILL LAST FOR TWENTY MINUTES  
IT WILL BE HELD OUTSIDE IN THE CHURCHYARD







# The Purcell School

for young musicians

Purcell School Concerts 2007 - 2019

Christ Church Fulmodeston

The Purcell School  
Impulse Outreach Team

In Concert

Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>

6.00pm



Free admission, retiring collection, no tickets required

Satnav: NR21 0LZ

Find us south of the A148 Little Snoring Junction



*These photographs included by kind permission of the Purcell School*



'As a resident of Croxton, a tiny hamlet which adjoins the village of Fulmodeston, I would like to mention how deeply we value and appreciate the wonderful community work and vision of Christ Church, Fulmodeston. I have lived in the community for more than 14 years with my husband Martin, and although we are not churchgoers, the warmth and generosity of those who are running and managing the church has tempted us to visit and participate in many different activities and events over the years. Through our musical programmes we also try to do whatever we can to support their work, because it is extremely difficult, even for such a proactive and deserving church community as this, to raise the annual funding needed to maintain their high level of engagement in and support for the whole community.



I would like to mention in particular the educational work of Christ Church. They warmly welcome schools, musical organisations from all over the UK and others into their midst, and offer them valuable performing opportunities and excellent facilities before and after events. From my own personal experience of running musical activities, I know that Christ Church attracts a substantial audience too! The church is nearly always full to capacity for musical performances, including people of many different ages and social backgrounds. Concerts are normally offered free of charge with a retiring collection, which enables people to pay whatever they can afford and helps to augment the church funds.

Between 2007 and 2019 I have been bringing talented 15/16-year-old musicians from The Purcell School for Young Musicians to North Norfolk in June. They spend 4 days running projects in primary schools during the day and pupil-led Community Concerts during the evenings. One of the highlights is our annual concert in Christ Church, Fulmodeston. This is always extremely well received and the young musicians receive unconditional support and appreciation from the Fulmodeston audience, which means a great deal to them. Many of the young people return to Norfolk years later as young professionals to give recitals and concerts in local events. They all remember Christ Church, Fulmodeston with great affection and that it was one of their most memorable Norfolk concert experiences.'

Alison Cox OBE  
 Founder and Chair of Trustees  
 The Commonwealth Resounds  
[www.commonwealthresounds.com](http://www.commonwealthresounds.com)

Head of Composition  
 Online Composition Academy Director  
 The Purcell School for Young Musicians  
[www.purcell-school.org](http://www.purcell-school.org)




Christ Church, Fulmodeston

## Advent Market

Saturday December 12th  
11.00am until 1.00pm

Art, Crafts, Cakes, Quilting, Books, Calendars  
Lavender Products and Charity Stalls  
Seasonal Music for Harp and Voice  
200 Piece Crib Collected from  
Around the World



Free Entry and Refreshments  
Retiring collection for the church

Find us south of the A148 at the Little Snoring junction  
For more information ring 01328 878364

December 2019



October 2019

CHRIST CHURCH FULMODESTON  
PRESENTS  
A HARVEST SUPPER  
WITH  
FAKENHAM UKES



OLD SCHOOL HALL, FULMODESTON  
Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>  
From 7.00pm

Bring & Share Supper with Bar. Free entry, retiring collection  
Raffle

GRAND DRAW RESULTS – FIRST PRIZE £150  
SATNAV: NR21 0NX  
More info from Stephen on 07767688514

# What do we offer?

We offer a fantastic opportunity to bring your experience and passion for mission to develop the vital work of our growing parishes and to minister to young people and young families, particularly in the expanding market town of Fakenham. Between us we already present a variety of worship, and we now want to develop a genuinely engaging 21<sup>st</sup> century model of ministry, embracing Fresh Expressions but also respecting and affirming church traditions.

Waiting for you is a spacious and convenient four bedroomed Rectory (see Appendix 2). Your expenses will be met in full, and we are fully committed to supporting your continual ministerial training. We also assure you of our commitment to your mental and physical welfare, and that of your loved ones.

Both Fakenham and Fulmodeston have collaborative and hardworking staff teams and PCCs, together with strong administrative support, ensuring that routine organisational tasks need not fall on the incumbent.

# Who we're seeking...

## As Rector, Fakenham Parish Church

The role of Rector in Fakenham is a key role in the Diocese in one of Norfolk's fastest growing market towns. We hope that Fakenham's parish profile has made a clear statement of the type of gifts and experience that would be helpful in fulfilling this role. In particular we would draw your attention to the commentary (in gold) within the profile which indicates our thinking about the future of our church within our community.

Our desire is to grow in the understanding and sense of our mission. We seek a new Rector who can walk with us in God's mission in our parish and encourage us to take part in living out and sharing the good news of Christ in a genuinely attractive and tangible way.

To help you to recognise and reflect further on our needs, we offer a few questions for you to consider:

- Does your strong personal faith shine through in an encouraging and inspirational way?
- Are you friendly, caring, sociable, inclusive, and able to relate to all the residents of the parishes and not only church members?
- Are you passionate about sharing God's love with young people and young families?
- Do you enjoy preaching and teaching the gospel of Christ in a modern, engaging, intelligent, and inclusive way, recognising the relevance to life today and the differing life experiences of your congregation?



- Are you a collaborative leader, able to foster and develop the talents and skills of others while also showing direction when needed?
- Do you enjoy working with a team? Can you recognise our skills and abilities as a whole community and develop and embrace them?

## As Priest in Charge, Christ Church, Fulmodeston

The community of Fulmodeston has enjoyed strong pastoral and spiritual care and hopes for this to be sustained through example and caring leadership with a light touch. We are a thoughtful and committed congregation and look for a priest who will minister to us in the traditional mould, with an appreciation for the value and dignity of the traditional liturgy at the same time as embracing other styles of worship and inviting all to feel nourished by them. He or she would hopefully do that with leadership and energy to reveal the further mysteries of scripture and religious thinking.

- Christ Church is a very collegiate and welcoming congregation and we hope for someone who will respect and contribute to this: we will give our new Priest-in-Charge our full support in return for his/hers.
- We hope for a priest who will respect our traditions of BCP worship sympathetically and genuinely, not just paying lip-service, but will recognise that we are also open to services of a range of complexions. The most important thing to us is that whatever is done is done with dignity and integrity and that the existing congregation continues to feel at home at Christ Church.
- On the pastoral side, we need someone who understands the workings of rural community life and will engage actively with the non-church community, thereby positively supporting the life of this small village in a way that is accessible, approachable and accountable. The right person will thus, by example, encourage people in the village and wider area to feel even closer to what is, after all, their church.
- We are committed to fund-raising in order to look after this beautiful building which is at the heart of the village and in order to pay our share of the costs of ministry. We hope that our new Priest-in-Charge will give full and active support to the range of fund-raising events which we mount.
- We enjoy sermons which make us think. Our new Priest-in-Charge needs to be able to project into a generous but tricky acoustic in order to be heard: microphones and loud-speakers are neither one hundred percent reliable nor fool-proof but the human voice should be!

## And finally...

We hope you have enjoyed reading this profile and that it has inspired you to consider applying for this role.



We are very much looking forward to our new priest, and we are doing our best to maintain the life of our churches while we wait for God to call the right person to serve the people of Fakenham and Fulmodeston.

We promise that we will welcome our new incumbent, love them and give them all the support we can.

Many of us, especially after all the stresses and strains of a pandemic, are feeling a bit tired and maybe feeling our age: our normal levels of enthusiasm may have waned a little.

But...

- we would love to see more people involved in the life of our churches.
- we would love to welcome younger people and families to our services and activities.
- we would love to go out into our community in a far deeper way showing God's life, love, and compassion to all.

We are looking for new ideas and fresh thinking. We will try not to 'stick in the mud' but will encourage the gifts our new Rector brings us and the ideas they offer.

We will be kind and forgiving and trust the person God leads to us will be the same when we falter.

And when our incumbent finally leaves us for new pastures, we hope they will remember us with affection because of the friendships they have made, because of the love of their congregation and because of our achievements together in Christ's service, here in these communities.

Could you be our new incumbent?

God bless and guide you in your deliberations and decisions.

### *Note*

All photographs used in the profile are provided by Fakenham Parish Church and Christchurch, Fulmodeston respectively, except:

- the photograph of Fakenham and the town centre from the air which is used by the kind permission of Mike Page ([www.mike-page.co.uk](http://www.mike-page.co.uk)).
- the photographs of the Purcell School which are used by their kind permission.

All photographs featuring people are used with permission.

# Appendix 1 – Who we are

## Fakenham

### OUR PCC TEAM



Our PCC team (from back row, left to right) is: Richard Lynam, Roger Burbidge, John Mullins, Alison Harding, Andrew Tan, Keith Osborn, Judith Smyth, Elaine Burbidge, Audrey Sharp, Moira Morley and Ann Rae-Sims. Not present in this photograph is Liam Warnes.

Our Staff team is: Elaine Burbidge, Keith Osborn, Moira Morley, Richard Lynam and Roger Burbidge.

Brief introductions to the following individuals can be found on our website at:  
<https://www.fakenhamparishchurch.org.uk/contact/>:

- Elaine Burbidge and Linda Frost, our LLM's
- Keith Osborn and Roger Burbidge, our Churchwardens (Keith is also our Finance Lead)
- Anne Peppitt, our Parish Safeguarding Officer
- John Mullins, our Fabric Officer
- Jonathan Dodd, our Organist and Choirmaster

## Appendix 2 – The Rectory



The Rectory is in Gladstone Road, Fakenham. It is a 5-minute walk to the church, town centre amenities (including the weekly market), the library and the Junior School. The Infant School and the Academy are a 10- and 15-minute walk respectively. Two supermarkets are within 10 minutes' walk.

Gladstone Road is a cul-de-sac with no through traffic, and the house itself is spacious, with four bedrooms, separate study/office space, a large lounge, and a family sized dining room. There is off street parking, a garage, and a well-maintained, private, and manageable back garden.

During the Vacancy, the Rectory is being upgraded by the Diocese to a modern level of energy efficiency.



# Appendix 3 – Survey Responses

Our August 2021 survey in Fakenham drew a strong response both from within the church and in the wider community. We have noted below some of the main responses to our questions to allow you to understand the views and feelings within the community. A fuller report of these responses will be available to the new Rector on appointment.

## **What do you value and appreciate about Fakenham Parish Church?**

Friendship/Friendliness/Fellowship/Welcoming/Helping 46%  
Focal Point/Spiritual Home 40.5%  
Calm/Peace/Serene/Quiet/Thoughtful/Beautiful/Space/Refuge 19.7%  
Quality of Teaching/Preaching/Worship/Prayer/Spirit/Eucharist/Gospel 18.2%  
Central Location/Access 18.2%  
Regular/Attractive Services/Liturgy/Style of Services/MOR Church 16.7%  
Calm/Peace/Serene/Quiet/Thoughtful/Beautiful/Space/Refuge 14.8%  
Open for All/Prayer for All/Inclusive/Safe 12.3%

## **What are the biggest challenges we face at Fakenham Parish Church and what might be missing?**

Making Faith accessible to the young/Children/Youth 23.7%  
Outreach to the incoming and growing population 16.1%  
Less reliance on older members of FPC 12.7%  
Ageing FPC congregation 11%

## **What are the areas in which you hope to see Fakenham Parish Church develop and thrive in the next 5/10 years?**

Better interaction within the growing community/Outreach/Mission 40.2%  
Better Links/Town/Council/Community Spirit/School/Workplace 22%  
Become more Family Friendly/Young/Informal/Fun/Midweek Services 20%  
Become more open/Inclusive 11.4%  
More Fellowship/Gospel/Spirituality/Drawing to Christ 10.1%

## **What gifts, characteristics, skills and ambitions will our new rector need if they are to lead us and help us achieve our goals?**

Friendly/Approachable/Welcoming/Inclusive 39%  
Listening/Understanding/Patient 38.5%  
Town Orientated/Community Minded/Community Needs 37.6%  
Encouraging/Youth Ministry/Children to Eucharist/MU/CWG 22.8%  
Communicator 19.9%  
Regaining Weddings/Marriage Preparation/Baptisms/Funerals/Pastoral 19.4%  
Leader 15.2%  
Compassionate/Considerate/Kind/Sharing 14%  
Sense of Humour 11.4%  
Honest/Sincere/Truthful/Openness/Wise/Charitable 10.1%  
People Person 10.1%