



Trunch Group

North-East Norfolk



Overview

Benefice:	Trunch Group of parishes consisting the villages of Bradfield, Gimingham, Knapton, Mundesley, Paston, Swafield and Trunch
Nature of post:	A title post for a Deacon who expects to be ordained Priest
Context and location	<p>Rural and coastal multi-parish benefice</p> <p>Situated 20 miles north east of Norwich, the benefice offers the rural beauty of big skies and fabulous beaches, within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The largest community of Mundesley, where the majority of the mission is located, has a population of 3000 which swells in the summer month with holiday makers. The remaining parishes are more modest with the smallest Bradfield being approx. 80 residents.</p>
Theological emphasis:	<p>Central / Open evangelical charismatic</p> <p>Mundesley has two congregations, one is more central/catholic and the other in the charismatic evangelical tradition. All other parishes are more central in their tradition and worship. All villages welcome worshippers from a wide spectrum of theological emphases, with each parish having its own distinct personality within the group</p>
Incumbent:	<p>Rev Andrew Jones The Rectory, Knapton Road Trunch, North Walsham, Norfolk NR28 0QE 01263 722218 andrew@trunchgroup.org</p> <p>Ordained 2012 Appointed 2015</p>
Website:	<p>trunchgroup.org</p>
Facebook:	<p>facebook.com/Trunch Group of Parishes</p>

Our setting and the context

Mundesley has over 66% of the population (approx. 4500 people across the whole benefice). The community has grown steadily over the years but still has a 'village feel' despite its relative size to surrounding communities, with a mix of younger (45% 18-64 yrs) and older people (35% over 65 yrs); although it is definitely a place to retire to! There is a mixture of housing ranging from traditional flint cottages to modern executive housing as well as several caravan and chalet parks. There are a number of shops, pubs and hotels as well as good infant and junior schools (about 220 pupils) and a preschool on the same site. There are two care homes, library, social club, golf course, putting green, scouts/guides groups, doctors' surgery, hotels, cafés, Post Office, butcher, greengrocer, surf lifesaving club and Tesco Express. Residents enjoy the local park in the centre of the village along with the 2019 'Blue Flag' beach and the sea. The village website has more: www.mundesley.org



Mundesley promenade

Trunch is the second largest village of approx. 800 residents and has a traditional village centre with pub and church as their focal points. It is at the geographic centre of the benefice and where the Rector lives. It also has a village hall, an established social club, many community activities such as composting and beekeeping and a successful concert season in the church. The majority of the housing is bungalows and the demographic is tilted towards an older population as most people of working age or young family move to North Walsham due to the high cost and type of housing available in the village. More recently there are a growing number of incomers seeking to work from home. The village website is: <https://www.trunch-norfolk.co.uk/>

Gimingham is a small ribbon village with a strong community feel, and a thriving village hall. The central portion of the village is a traditional farming community and at either end there are local authority housing estates. Weekly bingo and annual pantomimes offer entertainment as there are no local amenities in the village.

Knapton is similar in size and profile to Gimingham with the church building located at the very centre of village. Until recently there was a Methodist chapel and the village hall is reasonably well used by locals. There is also a large football ground and social club for members located on the outskirts of the village.

Paston is a very spread out village on the edge of the benefice, and includes half the Bacton gas terminal. The terminal receives and stores the offshore gas for a large part of the UK and offers employment for many in the area. In the centre there is a large ex-local authority housing estate and a great deal of arable farmland. There are many historic connections to the 14th Century Paston family and an active historic society, bat barn and mill.

The remaining villages in the group; **Bradfield** and **Swafield** are much smaller and rural, both spread out and consist mostly of farmland. The communities are very strong and many residents remain in the village all their lives. Farming used to be the main employment here and across most of the rural villages but now most people of working age either travel to Norwich for work or more locally in the care, service professions or working from home.

The churches

Each village has its own medieval building, in most we regularly hold services of worship and occasional offices; each has its own personality & dedicated worshippers. Five are parish churches and two Chapels of Ease and in Mundesley we have a separate Community Rooms with garden and car park, used for church activities and community hire (pictured below). Many people in the villages feel an affiliation to a particular village church, while others circulate quite readily round some or all of the churches. People here value the continuity of worshipping across the benefice, with many of the services using the same liturgy, and the team who lead them.



Breakfast in the Community rooms after our Easter sunrise service on the Mundesley clifftop

For the last three years we've been running Alpha and beginning to see both longstanding members of the church and newcomers coming alive with their faith, and this has been very encouraging.



Mundesley aerial view

Mundesley for many years has been a traditional central/catholic worshipping community using Common Worship (order 1) but in recent years has begun to grow and nurture a second congregation that gathers in the Community rooms and worships in a charismatic evangelical café style. There are services every Sunday, both the traditional where numbers are on average 35-40 adults and the café church, as well as said Holy Communion each Tuesday. We also say BCP evening prayer every Friday.



All Saints' church Mundesley

The church building was mostly rebuilt in 1900 and includes a kitchen and toilets. Mundesley acts as the civic church also with school services for festival, Royal British Legion and SSAFA services each year. An annual flower festival and craft fair and a significant amount of outreach has begun: monthly Soup & Pud lunches, monthly afterschool teatime club, monthly Dementia friendly café, bi weekly Baby & Toddler café and a monthly outdoor kitchen alongside foodbank collections & fareshare distribution. The traditional congregation are older and less active outside the Sunday service but there is a higher level of serving by those connected to the café church in church and other parish events. The church family prides itself on the loving welcome that people receive and the way in which it is especially family-friendly in the café church. We

Profile: Trunch Group of Parishes

have a number of adults with learning difficulties from a residential home for whom church is a significant element of their life. There are a range of gifts and talents among the people and we are beginning to explore what it means to be missionary disciples of Jesus in this place. Some are involved in house groups and engage in quiet days and retreats arranged annually.



Café church Mundesley

The cafe church congregation has been building in size and engagement since it was launched in September 2018 and currently welcomes 60+ adults and 12+ children each week and this is not transfer growth but new or returning worshippers. The congregation is truly all age and there are many who are on the fringes of faith.



Café church kids club

There are some issues regarding the overlap and integration of two congregations in these early days and we are working hard to build an atmosphere of encouragement and prayer ‘for the other’ congregation and recognising that the style may be different but all are worshipping the same God.

Trunch with Swafield & Bradfield is a church at the heart of the villages, and a great space for concerts and performance events. There is a service each Sunday which alternates between Morning Prayer and Communion, the opposite pattern to Mundesley and attracts around 25 mostly older but faithful worshippers. There is also a Thursday said Communion in the church that has a distinct community to the Sunday. Significant fundraising has taken place here and this has led to the recent installation of kitchen and toilet facilities.

St Botolph’s in Trunch acts as the Mother church to the chapels of ease in Bradfield and Swafield, and all three congregations now worship each Sunday together in Trunch. The congregation engage with the local Methodist church too and a number of services and events over the year are shared.

Profile: Trunch Group of Parishes



Romeo & Juliet in Swafield

Famous for its ornate font canopy, carved angels and painted rood screen the building attracts many visitors and is well loved by the village and church community.

A series of concerts are held in the three churches and these offer entertainment to the community, much needed fundraising and a way to engage with the communities around us.



Trunch candlelit carols



Dixie Mix Jazz in Trunch

Knapton and **Gimingham** offer modern language Anglican worship earlier on a Sunday mornings. There is most overlap between these 2 congregations, numbering about 10 for each church on a Sunday. Once a month the congregations join together for Holy Communion, and both excel in pulling out all the stops for special seasonal events like Christingle (180+) and Christmas carols by candlelight.

Knapton church has recently undergone significant renovations and now has a kitchenette and toilet, whilst retaining it's traditional beauty. It has a significant hammer beam roof with over 100 carved angels which are an attraction to many including Royalty.

Paston church community is small (8) but loyal and extremely dedicated. The monthly Communion service sustains them and they are about to embark on a large reordering project as it is the only community space in the parish. The church is in a beautiful setting and is home to many of the Paston family monuments as well as a sizeable wall painting.



Paston church

On the 5th Sunday we all gather together for a benefice service in one of the 7 churches, and this is on a regular rotation.

Pattern of Services

Mundesley:

- A service each Sunday: 1st & 3rd CW Morning Prayer, 2nd & 4th CW Sung Holy Communion (9.30am)
- A Café Church service every Sunday in the Community Rooms (11:00am)
- Monthly praise & worship evening with worship band (Friday 8pm)
- 3 Service per month in the two care homes (2nd & 4th Tuesday and 3rd Wednesday)
- Weekly Tuesday CW Said Holy Communion (10am)
- Weekly BCP Said Evening Prayer (Friday 6.30pm)

Trunch with Swafield & Bradfield:

- A service each Sunday: 1st & 3rd CW Sung Holy Communion, 2nd & 4th CW Morning Prayer (10.45am)
- Weekly Thursday CW Said Holy Communion (10am)
- Swafield holds a weekly CW Said Morning Prayer service (Monday 9.15am)
- Bradfield hosts a monthly CW Said Morning Prayer service (Wednesday 9.15am)

Gimingham:

- 1st Sunday CW Sung Holy Communion and 2nd Sunday CW Morning Prayer (9.15am)
- 3rd Sunday CW Sung Holy Communion that alternates between Gimingham and Knapton (9.15am)

Knapton:

- 1st & 4th Sunday CW Morning Prayer and 2nd Sunday CW Sung Holy Communion (9.15am)
- 3rd Sunday CW Sung Holy Communion that alternates between Gimingham and Knapton (9.15am)

Paston:

- 4th Sunday CW Sung Holy Communion (9.15am)

Occasional Offices

In 2018: Baptisms – 6; Funerals – 30; Weddings – 10

The Incumbent and Ministry Team

The Training Incumbent: Rev Andrew Jones

Growing up as a nominal Christian in Mundesley, faith was not a significant part of my life and after years of uninspiring chapel attendance at school I became an adult with no faith at all. Growing up in Norfolk and marrying the girl next door we went on to have 4 wonderful children. Having always been interested in maths I worked in investment management in both Norwich and London for 20 years and came to faith again aged 30 on an Alpha course at HTB Brompton. Following conversion I moved jobs and served as a churchwarden and was part of a fresh expression for the years before selection. I trained residentially at Ridley Hall, Cambridge and having served my Curacy in Sprowston I became Rector of the benefice in 2015. It is odd to return home and quite unusual for the Church to sanction this but I continue to feel God's call to this place and the people I know and love.

Coming to faith later in life enables me to understand the barriers facing those who are not yet church and I seek ways to break those down where possible. Having experienced a variety of worship styles I am most comfortable in modern charismatic worship (New Wine/Bethel) but able to lead and minister in the variety ways and do not seek to impose my personal preferences upon other, recognising there are many ways to worship God.



Rev Andrew at the Open Door dementia friendly Café

I am excited by people being transformed by the Gospel and watching their lives change through the power of God. I'm a leader who seeks to empower others and equip them for what God has called them to do, recognising that we are all called differently and ministry requires the whole body of Christ. I am frustrated by clericalism and would love to see God's people set free to serve and worship.

I believe that church is more than just Sunday and I'm eager to see the church grow in service, discipleship and numbers.

The things that really excite me in ministry are:

- Encouraging others and facilitating teams
- Biblical preaching
- The person and work of the Holy Spirit
- Growing missionary disciples through evangelism and prayer
- Good quality worship
- The church to be an agent for change in our communities

Training Role Expectations

- Grace and love, an understanding that we are all on a journey.
- Freedom to try and fail.
- Opportunities for a curate to play to their strengths, alongside encouragement to build up necessary skills in the areas where they're weaker.
- A growing sense of team, where there is mutual support and encouragement.
- The opportunity to be part of a growing church community that is learning to be church again.
- A friendly welcome to the curate and whatever family they bring. Respecting boundaries and honouring family commitments, whilst developing genuine family friendships.
- Regular supervision meetings and an open relationship where concerns can be frankly and fully voiced.

The Curate

- A high regard for the Scriptures and an openness to the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
- A passion for making and nurturing missionary disciples
- Sympathy with the charismatic evangelical tradition and open to a diverse range of liturgical styles, and a range of expressions of worship.
- Flexibility to adapt to changing circumstances and an openness to listen to and engage with the views of others. Curiosity and open-mindedness.

- A strategic thinker who would embrace wrestling with the challenges around managing rural multi-parish ministry with an ageing population.
- A team player, with a sense of humour, who is able to take initiative.
- Someone who notices the best in others and is quick to encourage others to exercise and develop their own gifts.
- Someone who can conform enough but whose individuality stands out.

The Ministry Team

Retired priests; Canon's Carla and John alongside four Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers); Andy, Harry, Jenny and Peter & four Authorised Worship Assistants; Betty, Thomo, Anna & Eleanor lead services across the benefice. Our retired Clergy are very experienced in ministry and both have been involved in training clergy, and would provide excellent support for a curate.

We have regular meetings with Ministry team, Churchwardens and as a benefice group council, consisting of AWAs and churchwardens. This is a group for benefice-level strategic planning, prayer, mutual support, sharing experiences and processing what's happening.

There are five PCCs who meet roughly 4 times per year and in addition Mundesley Church has a Café Church leadership team. These and other benefice-wide teams would offer support and welcome input from a curate and would aid and support formation.

Our vision and priorities

So what are our current priorities?

We exist to glorify God and together seek to help people in our communities become authentic followers of Jesus.

In line with the Diocese action plan our benefice is seeking to grow in Discipleship, Service and Numbers:

Discipleship

What good things have developed since our last Growth Plan?

- Launch of weekly café church in Mundesley
- New or renewed missional opportunities: Open Door dementia friendly café, Soup 'n' Pud lunches, teatime toasties after schools club, Outdoor kitchen, Gospel choir, Baby & Toddler café,
- Two new small groups established
- Reshaping of the Ministry team (added 2 Readers, 3 AWA and 2 Clergy with PtO)

What long established good things are we doing?

- Consistent and regular worship in many of the church buildings
- Engaging with schools and community
- Lent groups
- Regular weekday morning and evening prayer across the benefice
- Ecumenical work with Christian Aid

What else is God wanting for us?

- Making disciples to become the core of our purpose as churches so engage in discipleship through Alpha and specific teaching on Sunday's
- Discern a path of discipleship across the benefice for the worshipping community, for those seeking baptism, confirmation or marriage
- Engage in deeper and consistent prayer across our benefice. E.g. 24/7 Prayer
- Recognition that the Christian life is a journey and therefore growth is expected
- Increase the participation of church members in house groups across the benefice

What can we do this year?

- Seek ways to engage and promote Alpha across the benefice
- Seek to build a pathway of discipleship that can be communicated and followed
- Seek to unify the benefice towards the mission of making and maturing disciples
- Improve church facilities and advertising through renovation, new website, benefice magazine, notice boards and improved communication

Service

What good things have developed since our last Growth Plan?

- Open Door café, as a place for the lonely, bereaved or those with dementia
- Separate Children's group in Café church
- Increased engagement with school
- Re-engagement with the community in Mundesley in terms of social action and presence
- Significant investment and re-ordering of the Mundesley Community rooms
- Foodbank vouchers & a parish fund to support the vulnerable in our community

What long established good things are we doing?

- Pastoral visiting by ministry team and members of the local churches
- Midweek Holy Communion services
- Home communion to those too ill to attend church
- Regular services in care homes: Munhaven & Clarence house

- Pastoral care delivered through house groups
- Areas of churchyard set aside for wildlife and conservation
- An excellent series of concerts in Trunch & Swafield

What else is God wanting for us?

- Wider engagement with the community through events and service
- For church communities to see that service is a necessary part of discipleship
- For 'the church' to be known as a positive catalyst in our communities
- Establish as its DNA that all activities of the church should include UP (to God), IN (to one another) and OUT (into the community) connections.

What can we do this year?

- Establishing a bereavement visiting team
- Explore running a SHAPE course
- Restoring a number of our church buildings for use
- Review the activities of each church community through the lens of UP, IN and OUT
- Re-ordering Paston, Swafield & Mundesley churches to better develop their use in the community

Numbers

What good things have developed since our last Growth Plan?

- Launch of café church in Mundesley alongside inherited traditional church
- Launching a regular Alpha course
- Renewing the Baby & Toddler café
- Renewing the marriage preparation course

What long established good things are we doing?

- Regular Sunday services across the benefice
- Our churches are open daily
- Churches welcoming to those seeking baptism and marriage
- House groups & lent groups alongside quiet days and pilgrimages

What else is God wanting for us?

- Improve our baptism, confirmation and marriage preparation through Alpha
- Looking at ways to improve our welcome to Sunday services
- To grow numerically the membership of the church, measured through electoral roll and regular Sunday worshippers
- To grow our serving and financial giving and become a resilient Christian community

What can we do this year?

- Review and update the traditional liturgies in our churches
- Unify the ministry team and PCC's around a common vision
- Raise the profile of Alpha so that it is central to our way of making disciples
- Providing good preparation and follow up for new enquirers, baptism, confirmation and marriage that is focussed upon discipleship, nurture and growth
- Outline expectation of 'membership' and seek to run a stewardship campaign
- Improve advertising and engagement through website, notice boards, posters, on-line communication



What else is going on for a curate?

- Extensive opportunities for ministry with all ages: mid-week and Sunday children's groups; innovative practical ministry to elderly; support for families.
- Variety of public worship: charismatic, traditional, ancient and modern language, café church, variety of seasonal services
- Schools-based collective worship and community outreach
- Small groups and discipleship courses of various kinds
- Pastoral care for a wide range of people

- Evangelism, outreach, home visiting – courses and one-to-one
- Prayer – regular prayers and special prayer events
- Connections with Methodist and Baptist churches and ministries.
- A manageable but instructive set of occasional offices.
- Harnessing print and electronic media and social networking to best effect for mission and ministry.
- Opportunity to be part of the re-envisioning of the benefice and part of the team to lead the next chapter of ministry in this place.

General Information

Accommodation

The Rectory in Mundesley ideally placed as accommodation for a Curate and their family, with 4 bedrooms and a separate study. It is situated on a quiet road and very near to Tesco's express. The beach is also only 500 metres away.



Schools in the area

There is a 'good' infant school and adjoining 'good' junior school in Mundesley, and high schools within easy reach in North Walsham and Cromer.

There is a sixth form college in North Walsham or travel to Norwich by bus or train (nearest station is North Walsham).

Transport links

Mundesley is well connected for buses to Cromer and North Walsham, with connections onto Norwich or the Coasthopper. Norwich is 40 minutes drive to the city centre.

Norwich was the last city in England to be connected to the dual carriageway network, with the dualling of the A11 around Thetford, which helps journey times in and out of Norfolk.

Interested?

We'd love to hear from you. Please contact the Team Rector, Revd Andrew Jones, in the first instance. For a wider conversation about curacy in the Diocese of Norwich, please contact the Bishop's Officer for Ordinands and Initial Training, Canon David Foster david.foster@dioceseofnorwich.org / 01603 882337 / 07919 017075.