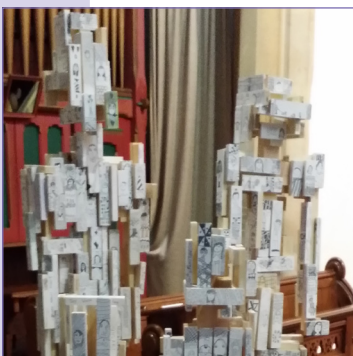




# Redenhall & Scole

*Missional benefice  
in the beautiful Waveney Valley*



# Overview

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**Full benefice name:** Redenhall with Scole

**Deanery:** Redenhall

**Location:** South Norfolk

**Type of area:** The benefice of 6 parishes includes a rapidly expanding market town and 7 villages which border Suffolk along the picturesque Waveney Valley. The population is approximately 8,000, with 60% living in Harleston.

**Who the role is for:** A title post for a deacon (male or female) training to be ordained priest.

**Incumbent:** The Revd. Canon Nigel Tuffnell.

**Telephone:** 01379 308905

**Email:** [rector@7churches.org.uk](mailto:rector@7churches.org.uk)

**Website:** <http://www.7churches.org.uk> – This is the best place to find up-to-date information about the Benefice. At the time of writing we are undertaking a major review of the website, to refresh all that we offer there.

**Blog:** <http://nigeltuffnell.wordpress.com/> - This is also used to host our online worship.

**Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/redenhall.scole>

**TWITTER:** <https://twitter.com/RedScole>

## Our setting and the context

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The benefice consists of a country market town (Harleston) and seven villages which spread along the Waveney Valley. These communities mostly look to Harleston as their market town; however, Scole and Billingford are much closer to Diss and therefore look in that direction.

The benefice is recently formed from the Scole and the Redenhall benefices. There are 6 ecclesiastical parishes in the benefice, each distinct but with good relationships with the others. Geographically, from East to West the parishes are listed below:

- **Redenhall with Harleston and Wortwell** (population fast approaching 5,000):  
**Harleston** is a rapidly expanding and vibrant market town which is very much the main settlement in the parish. Harleston has many independent shops, pubs, galleries and cafés as well as smaller supermarkets, a large VA primary school and a VA high school, in the process of becoming an all through church academy. The church is very much a centre for the town, hosting (or helping to host) a range of community events throughout the year. Any new curate would be living in Harleston where I am sure they, and any family that they may have, would be made very welcome. The church now has flexible seating allowing greater community use.

**Redenhall** is a small settlement which was the medieval focal point of the parish and home to the original mediaeval parish church.

**Wortwell** is a dispersed village of 580 people on the edge of the parish, with an identity distinct from Harleston and Redenhall.

- **Needham** (population 310): is a village with a strong sense of its identity and cohesion despite being spread out along the old A143 road. The church, village hall and pub are important centres for the village and are all well supported although the church congregation is small.
- **Brockdish** (population 580): is a socially diverse village with its own small primary school (VC) (under threat), village hall and excellent pub/restaurant. The church is on the edge of the village but is held in warm regard by the villagers.
- **Thorpe Abbotts** (population 130): is a small, affluent village with a well-used village hall but no other amenities. The church is on the A143 and some way off from the village. Due to the remoteness of the church the village hall is often used for church outreach, e.g. messy church.
- **Billingford** (population 100): is a small village divided in two by the A143 but with an incredibly strong sense of community. The church is separate from both halves of the village but people will come to worship and social events held in church. There is also a pub and a windmill in the parish.
- **Scole** (population 1250): is the second largest centre of population in the benefice, with a primary school (VC), two pubs, a village store, sports club and ground, several small businesses, as well as the church. Scole also has a Care Home and various community clubs, including bowling, football, dominoes, bowls, friendship club, WI, Gardening club and coffee clubs. The church is reordered with flexible seating, separate rooms, kitchen and toilet.

## Covid-19

Like everyone the onset of Covid-19 has drastically changed the way that we live out our faith in this benefice. Many churches are now open again for worship, but still limited by the precautions needed to keep us all safe.

Throughout lockdown we published services online via my blog:  
<https://nigeltuffnell.wordpress.com/>

Surprisingly we have found that the more traditional services of Holy Communion and Compline have been most appreciated by those from our congregations and beyond, even with many who would more normally prefer more our more informal worship. All of our ministry team are involved with the online services giving those who join us different voices and fresh perspectives. The puppets haven't been joining in too!



## The churches

There are 7 churches in the benefice (Electoral Roll/Average Sunday Attendance):

1. St. Mary's, Redenhall: Prayer Book Anglican (70/6)
2. St. John's, Harleston: Mostly Evangelical with a Charismatic heritage (70/40)
3. St. Peter's, Needham: Middle Anglican (8/Festival Church)
4. St. Peter & St. Paul, Brockdish: Evangelical (19/15)
5. All Saints', Thorpe Abbots: Middle Anglican (17/7)
6. St. Leonard's, Billingford: Evangelical (9/7)
7. St. Andrew's, Scole: Evangelical (57/30)

All appreciate spiritual input from any tradition and have welcomed our current high-church curate with great warmth.

### Normal Pattern of Services

Benefice Service Pattern from January 2020							
	St Leonard's Billingford	St Peter and St Paul Brockdish	St John's Harleston	St Peter's Needham (Approx. 4 per year)	St Mary's Redenhall <sup>4</sup>	St Andrew's Scole	All Saints' Thorpe Abbots
Week 1	9.30am HC <sup>1</sup>	9.30am MP	11am Informal Worship		9.30am HC	11.00am HC	No Service
Week 2	No Service	9.30am MP	11am HC		Joining with Wortwell Chapel	11.00am MP with Children's Church	9.30am Alternate MP or HC
Week 3	9.30am MP <sup>1</sup>	9.30am HC	11am Morning Worship		6pm EP	11.00am Informal Worship	No Service
Week 4	No Service	9.30am Informal Worship (Taken by AWA or Warden)	11am HC		11am MP	11.00am HC with Children's Church  4.30pm Celebration Service	No Service
Week 5	Services in Harleston and Scole, and one other church						

<sup>1</sup> Can swap if only one priest available.

<sup>2</sup> Summer service times 6pm. Winter service times 4pm. Times change with the clocks.

<sup>3</sup> Summer service times 6pm. Winter 11am MP taken by AWA or Warden. Times change with the clocks.

<sup>4</sup> Services alternate between Common Worship and Book of Common Prayer.

There is also a weekly Thursday morning Communion service at Harleston.

## **Occasional Offices**

Baptisms – 5; Weddings – 5; Funerals - 50

## **The incumbent and ministry team**

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We meet as a full team once a month to pray, plan and support one another, and to build up our common friendship. Several of us also meet up weekly for prayer which is a chance to catch up and respond to events.

**The Revd. Nigel Tuffnell  
(Rector)**



**The Revd. Sue Auckland  
(Associate Priest)**



**The Revd. Lynda Domoney  
(Retired Priest)**



**The Revd. Philip Wood  
(Retired Priest)**



**Lynda Mansfield  
(Reader)**



**Jamie Worthington  
(Reader)**



**John Taylor  
(Reader)**



**Lindy Ellis (AWA)**

**Ann Cork (AWA)**



**New Curate  
*Could this be you?***



## **The role of the Training Incumbent**

Nigel is committed to providing:

- a place within a challenging but supportive team as the basis for benefice ministry.
- opportunities to work independently, e.g. having pastoral responsibility for a parish in the final year and/or develop an area of ministry such as youth work
- a thorough grounding in traditional ministry plus encouragement to be flexible and experiment with new ideas.
- schools ministry that is effective and rewarding.
- infectious enthusiasm for mission.

Before Covid-19 I was excited by the growth, in faith, and reaching out that I see here. We don't focus on numbers but they seem to be growing. Before the current crisis there was a real sense of the Spirit at work in our life as a Christian community, including our worship and service. I have no idea what will restart straight away, what will take time, what will be back at square one, nor what will be completely new and unexpected. That said, I am excited to discover the new post-Covid-19 future that awaits us.

I have been particularly thrilled by the growth of our youth group, and the growing ministry with young families. These can often be the most fragile of ministries, but I cannot see why we should not flourish when we can meet in person once again.

There is a real buzz working at the heart of community life in town and village. I am 'there' for the highs and lows in people's private, business and community life. This is a huge privilege, particularly as some local businesses are thriving, others are close to disaster, and new businesses start up all full of enthusiasm.

I love working in our schools. I find that I smile as I walk through the gates. I am energised by the children and young people in our primary schools and our high school. The schools are in many ways on the front line of the country's response to Covid-19 and it is so frustrating not to be able to be as involved right now. That will change though.

## **The role of the Curate**

Is to learn and grow, spiritually and personally. This is your opportunity to take all that you can of the ministerial experience provided by the incumbent, the ministry team and the people of this benefice.

We are all keen for a new curate to bring all that they are and have learned to enrich the life and ministry of the seven churches. This is our experience of past curates. Yes, you will be here to learn but also we expect to learn from you. You may have skills that we currently lack or else you may have a new angle on the old. You would be expected to be involved in all areas of ministry at some stage. However, there would also be an expectation that you would be given increasing autonomy over time.

In particular, do you have a 'legacy ministry' - something that will leave this benefice enhanced by your ministry? During your first year you would be encouraged to consider with the ministry team how you could employ your gifts to add something special you to this benefice. This could be in any area of ministry but must be sustainable after you leave.

The curate would need to be willing to minister across the benefice in a wide range of different services and situations, i.e. it would not be possible to opt out of Prayer Book services or Messy Church.

There are administrative and legal duties that must be undertaken as part of parish ministry, e.g. parish strength returns and PCC.

Incumbents are taking on larger benefices and becoming more remote from the people they serve. This does not however mean that personal pastoral ministry is less important, rather the opposite.

## Our vision and priorities

Following consultation and prayer we are clear that our Vision can be summarised by this statement:



***Learning to put Jesus First + Sharing Love & Good News***

Our life together is based upon Discipleship and Mission:

**1. Discipleship:** Across the benefice we are seeking to deepen our faith, individually and together. We are here to serve Christ, guided by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, the only way we can grow in faith, and in numbers, is by being transformed ourselves into the people our Father intends us to be. In this way we can be true to our own calling and be attractive to others.

**2 Mission:** First and foremost we aim to show Christ's love through our transformed lives.

Building on the foundation of Christ we are reaching out in ways new and old. For example:

- We have personally visited every business in Harleston. We pray for them and publicise their services.
- We have a particular focus on reaching out to children and young families. This has led to a number of initiatives, such as a Youth Group, Saturday Chatty Church, and Mother and Toddler Group.
- We host Foodbank distribution centres, and hope to establish a Community Fridge scheme once lockdown is over.
- We run a midweek group for those of all ages who are lonely.
- We plan to develop our exploration of God in Creation and Puppet Ministry, both to deepen discipleship and to reach out beyond our current congregations.
- Following the success of our online virtual services, we plan to continue these in some form after Covid 19 restrictions are lifted. This will help to expand our outreach while offering an opportunity for those who cannot always attend church due to sickness or disability to retain a connection with our Sunday worship.
- Our website was designed with outreach in mind. It still serves this purpose but is in need of updating. This work is ongoing at the time of writing.

Upon this foundation of Discipleship and Mission at our last Vision Day we as a benefice identified twelve strengths and priorities for the future. These are to:

1. Be even more welcoming.
2. Have the Good News at the heart of what we do.
3. Embrace the Spirit's gifts more, including healing.
4. Be ready to embrace change while also valuing and making space for tradition, including valuing what is important to others even if it is not for us.
5. Have more Benefice worship/events to bring us together, including forming a benefice wide choir, have benefice outings and quiet days/prayer events (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday services were not working so we are being more creative).
6. Value the individuality of each parish in terms of worship and the community it serves within.
7. Care for one another across the benefice.
8. Look after our ministers.
9. Encourage more lay involvement.
10. Be ever more central to our communities.
11. Develop further our wonderful relationships with our schools.
12. Be willing to challenge and lead people on in their faith.

# General information for a curate living in Harleston

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Harleston is an attractive and friendly small rural market town. There are small supermarkets, independent shops and a good market every Wednesday. There is also a doctor's surgery, a bank, post office, and chemist's shop (Boots). There is a good gym and recreation area in Harleston managed by the Town Council and numerous sports clubs. Harleston is a vibrant town with lots going on, to find out more please visit the Harleston Information Plus website (<http://www.harleston-norfolk.org.uk/harleston-overview>). There are larger Tesco and Morrisons supermarkets at Beccles and Diss. Norwich and Ipswich are both about 30 minutes' drive away.

There are good road links (for Norfolk), with easy access to the A143. There is a reasonable bus service from Harleston, including a National Express stop, and Diss train station is on the mainline from Norwich to London Liverpool Street.

## Schools in the area

Harleston C.E. Primary Academy (<http://www.harleston.norfolk.sch.uk/>) is an excellent CofE school with a strong Christian ethos. It was rated Good at its recent Ofsted inspection. There are a number of good alternative primary schools in the area.

Archbishop Sancroft High School (ASHS) (<http://ashs.org.uk/>) is also an CoE excellent school. The strong Christian ethos was praised by the recent Ofsted inspection which rated ASHS to be at least Good in all areas. There are also good secondary schools not too far away at Diss and Bungay.

## Accommodation

We have three year old house in Harleston ready for our curate. Which meets (and exceeds) the Diocese of Norwich's specifications for curates' houses.