



Parish Profile for St. Mary the Virgin Church, Hemsby.

St. Mary is under the episcopal care of The Bishop designate of Richborough.

Part A gives the history of the church and specific elements of historical knowledge.

Part B gives an overview of the local community

Part C is a resume of what the church offers now including activities and organisations.

Part D shows our vision for the future and our needs.



PART A

ST. MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH, HEMSBY

The village name, Hemsby, shows our Viking roots. There was a church in Hemsby when the “Domesday Book” was compiled and the present building dates from the early 14th century. The building is largely mediaeval in the decorated and perpendicular styles of architecture, the bosses on the roof and the font decorated with lions and symbols of the Evangelists are mediaeval. The 14th century square embattled tower contains a clock erected in 1870 and is decorated with flush work at the base and on the battlements. The two-storied south porch has a vaulted ceiling with carved stone bosses (depicting God the Father and the key scenes from the New Testament), which is incredibly rare for a village church.



**The Parvise or
Priest's Room
found in the upper
storey.**

The upper storey contains a “Parvise” or Priest’s Room which would have been used by the monks from St. Benet’s Abbey when visiting this church to take services. The room has been set apart as a small chapel for private prayer and is open to the public.

Inside the main body of the church, the interior is mostly 19th century. The lovely east window designed for the Parish by Caroline Swash dates from 1985, and perhaps the most unusual detail is found in the piscina – the drain is set within a lion’s mask. The church has Grade II listing and has numerous specific and rare features, as listed above that should be preserved, celebrated, and maintained for future generations to witness and enjoy. The fact that the church building has survived for so many years demonstrates that many generations of the local population have cared and maintained the building. The recent church quinquennial report highlighted the problem with the tower roof and classified it as A B for attention.

Due to extremely pro-active fund raising, over 8 years, by our treasurer and members and friends of the parish the restoration work began in September 2023 and was completed on time in November 2023!

THE BARN ROOM opposite the church serves as a Church Hall. It includes: a disabled access toilet, an office with a large printer, and a kitchen as well as a hall which accommodates the groups that hire the hall.

The PCC manage & maintain the Barn Room for groups, individuals & organisations to hire, as well as care for and maintain the church building and support the incumbent.

We also host a Community Fridge run by Great Yarmouth Borough Council in the Barn Room, which will help those struggling with the increase in the cost of living and feeding children in school holidays. It will also help to eliminate food waste in the village.

PART B

OUR POPULATION

Hemsby is a coastal holiday destination for thousands of people every year in normal circumstances. The village population in 2011 was 3,275. The village has the sea on the east boundary and a rural setting to the south, west and north. The village has a primary school, a medical centre including a dentist, a Post Office, a selection of shops, pubs and enjoys a regular bus service to Great Yarmouth, the nearest town. East Flegg ward, which Hemsby falls within, is amongst the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods in the country.



The view of Hemsby from the air looking over the thatched Barn Room, our church hall, opposite the church.

PART C

OUR CHURCH ACTIVELY LINKS WITH THE COMMUNITY BY OFFERING:

A VERY KEEN PCC comprises the churchwarden, and 10 further members. The PCC has become much more active in 2023, and is determined to move forward and actively create better links with the wider community and local businesses.

The PCC understands that it needs to support the people who help in the church and beyond, and acknowledges that this will be something the new priest could help us with. By July 2023 all PCC members will have completed their DBS certificates and will be pushing ahead with their Safeguarding units.

The Churchwarden is the Parish Safeguarding Officer and the church is compliant with detailing safeguarding information on the church notice board.

The church has a PA and loop system.

CHURCH SERVICES ARE ANGLO CATHOLIC

Regular Sunday Eucharist at 11.00 led alternately by 2 retired priests

Fr. Patrick Kerley & Fr. Anthony Long

Regular 'Said Eucharist' every Wednesday at 10.00 led by one of 3 retired clergy on a rota system. Fr. Patrick Kerley, Fr. Anthony Long and Rev'd David Mills.

We have an array of robes and vestments for services.



Bishop Norman visited us on 21st
August , 2022.

Our photo shows 2nd left
Gordon Bame, our PCC Synod
representative and crucifer;

And on the right - Peter Glover –
our church server, sadly
deceased 05/2023

HEALING SERVICE: In 2022 with the blessing of Bishop Norman the PCC instigated a monthly Healing Service as part of our normal services. This is held on the 4th Sunday of every month and is becoming increasingly popular. Fr. Patrick has had experience of leading a Healing service in his previous parishes and has been asked for a healing privately by different members of the congregation. The request to formalise this in a set service was brought up at a PCC meeting and the PCC voted unanimously for this to become a set service each month.

OUR WEEKLY SERVICES are enhanced by three house organists. We play for funerals, weddings and baptisms as required.

We also have a dedicated verger for funerals which are led by one of our retired clergy. We have a team of Crucifers, Acolytes and Lectors for Sunday and special services.

PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION

Donkeys from the beach leading a procession around the village.

Baskets of Palms allowed anyone waiting and watching to be handed a Palm - housebound parishioners waited by their doors for us to reach them!



SPECIAL SERVICES

we try to make the church emulate the feeling of services where we can. The church is decorated according to the service where possible.



PALM SUNDAY 2023

Fir trees & Rosemary on the nave floor to be trodden on as the altar party processed all helped with the atmosphere of Palm Sunday!



An Easter Garden created at Easter 2024 that grew over the Easter period!

OUTREACH IS VERY IMPORTANT TO US and we link with the community in a variety of ways.

COFFEE MORNINGS:

These are held monthly depending on the time of year and are very well supported. These have provided essential funding for the Tower Restoration Fund.



**Coronation
Coffee
Morning**



**Plant Coffee
Morning**



WE WELCOME CHILDREN to our services and involve them as much as possible



such as

Mothering Sunday

2024 And

Palm Sunday



FREE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER: Our Parish magazine closed in September 2023 to be replaced with a free Quarterly Newsletter as from October 2023. This is sent around to all the shops in the village to be given away as necessary. The Newsletter contains all details of services and forthcoming events.

REGULAR LINKS WITH THE COMMUNITY:

- Parish Council website: <http://www.hemsbyparishcouncil.org.uk>
- Hemsby Friendship club
- Hemsby Events Committee



**The Duke of Edinburgh Seat
created by the 'Hemsby in
Bloom' group as a dedicated
area to honour him after his
death.**

- **HEMSBY SCHOOL AND NURSERY** – has a capacity for 210 children aged 2 – 11 years. These photos show them filling the hanging baskets to hang outside our Church Hall! They are obviously enjoying themselves!

**Year 4 children
June 2023!**



The school uses the church regularly at Special times of the year:



Christingle, Remembrance Day,
Candlemas, Nativity services,
Concerts,

MUSIC GROUPS :

Musical evenings are held in the church to help with fundraising. The music groups also enhance our church services at certain times such as Palm Sunday, All Souls, Remembrance Day etc

'THE A STRINGS' are a local young persons' music group. They play a selection of stringed instruments and are supported by the Ad Hoc choir , a small adult choir group. They have taken part in concerts and services in church. The church enjoys excellent acoustics which benefits performers as well as the audience.



In July 2023 we enjoyed a musical Fish & Chip supper in the Barn Room!!



Fish and Chips delivered from local shop, relaxing to the music of the A strings, followed by ice cream – it was a very hot evening – and to finish a 'sing song' across the years!

ST, MARY'S SINGERS:

They are a larger group of singers and meet weekly in church or the Barn Room for rehearsals and sing at church festival services, as well as other events in the borough. Their concerts in church are very well supported and the singers themselves enjoy a feeling of wellbeing and health benefits that singing brings to them both physically and mentally, as well as a sense of achievement when they perform.

MARTHAM FOOD BANK use the church as a collection point for the local community. The church is a safe meeting place holding regular & festival services which help to combat isolation & loneliness as well as the mental health issues associated with isolation and loneliness.

THE CHURCH IS OPEN DAILY for private prayer and for visitors.

EVENTS & CONCERTS for all ages to enjoy in safety.

It is a place of great joy at baptisms & weddings.

A place of comfort & solace to the bereaved.

A place of friendship and fellowship at our services.

WE ACTIVELY FUND RAISE. Funds are currently going towards the drainage of the church which is very damp at the base and consequently making the interior walls damp.

THE MONTHLY 100 CLUB is run by a member of the PCC and actively encourages links between the local community and the church. The 100 club donated 2 new hoovers in July 2023, both paid via 'easyfunding' which donated a small percentage of costs to the church!

Monthly winners are posted in the magazine.

VOLUNTEERS

'Volunteers are unpaid not because they are worthless but because they are priceless'.

The PCC fully understand this quote.

We are very lucky that there is a team of local volunteers. Not all volunteers attend church but obviously understand the importance of the church in the community!

The Barn Room is looked after by two volunteers, one who **cleans, and the other takes bookings** and ensures everything is as it should be.

Regular bookings are held in the Barn Room free of charge for those organisations that help parishioners look after themselves e.g.: AA meet weekly.

Recent links with **The ministry of Justice** have ensured that our churchyard is kept in good order as have the hedges, trees and paths. January 2024 saw the re-decoration of the Barn Room. The link is weekly and has made a great difference to the 'feel' of the church and Church hall - it feels loved!

PART D

OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

WHAT DO WE NEED TO MAKE OUR CHURCH HEALTHIER AND MORE FAITHFUL?

We wish our beautiful village church to grow and become a 'welcoming and safe' centre for the parish. A place where people of all ages can develop and fulfil their needs and 'possibly' dreams!

We wish you, although part time, to be friendly, a 'people person'.

Someone with a sense of humour and who is approachable.

Someone with a lively personality and a good sense of **positive** humour.

Someone who will help us make **open and transparent decisions** so that **everyone knows what is happening** and in which direction our beautiful church is going.!

Someone experienced in bringing expertise together!

SPIRITUALITY:

We need, or rather, we would like you to have a:

- Strong belief in Apostolic succession
- Good knowledge of the Bible
- Strong Prayer Life
- Understanding of how the Gospel applies God's Word to today's issues
- Pastoral Heart – who loves and deeply cares for people and is willing to visit people, church goes or not in home or in hospital.
- Spiritually alive – Christ-like, with a strong faith, genuine, sincere, experienced in sharing the Gospel.
- An ability to think for himself with an independent mind and viewpoint which he will share.

PEOPLE SKILLS:

WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO BRING WITH YOU POSITIVE EXPERIENCES IN OTHER CHURCHES SO THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO::

- Establish and maintain a positive relationship with our retired clergy team that have kept services running during the interregnum
- Keep and maintain our existing service times and structure **or at least** on a parity with any linked church –
- Have good organisational and team working skills.
- To continue to build on existing relationships with Hemsby School, Someone who is experienced with youth work
- Build on relationships with the village community
- Be someone who can provide effective leadership and guidance
- Be a good communicator with all ages
- Possess IT and social media skills

- Be willing and able to encourage and inspire others
- Have a good understanding of church finances so that our Finance Officer can be supported.
- Ability to chair meetings so all can participate, decisions are reached and acted upon
- Take part in church events and fundraising.

WE NEED YOU!

THE PCC WANT OUR CHURCH TO GROW WITH YOU!

'Ability to walk on water would be much appreciated but not essential!'