

Hellesdon Parish Profile 2024



The Role

We are seeking a Vicar to lead the Parish of Hellesdon which consists of 2 churches, St Mary's and St Paul's, and a growing population on the edge of the City of Norwich.

Our Vision

Our vision is to know Christ better and make Him better known, both within our churches and the wider community of Hellesdon.

The Task

- To deepen our faith and trust in God so that we can gain confidence to share the Gospel with others.
- To lead us in sustaining and growing our church family, in outreach to:
 - young people, families and schools;
 - older members of our community.
- To support and develop lay ministry.
- To expand pastoral care within and outside the church.
- To enable us to move forward with developing the site of St Paul's church, to further mission and ministry to the community.

We are we looking for someone who:

- is a good communicator;
- is resilient, caring and sociable;
- is a preacher and teacher, able to make Christian faith and the Bible challenging, relevant and understandable to the congregation and wider community;
- will be visible in the parish by developing strong relationships with local schools, community groups, care homes and the wider community;
- will be a collaborative leader, willing and able to delegate and build teams;
- will lead us in making some crucial decisions, in a way that unites us as a community;
- is confident in using IT and social media;
- can help us to consider the options for the future use of the St Paul's site;
- is willing and able to be a training incumbent; (we have been in the past and would be excited to do so again);
- will draw on the support of colleagues in the deanery, Diocese and the Parish Support Team.

Location

We are a suburban parish with a population of about 12,000, four miles north-west of Norwich city centre. There are plans for up to a further 1,000 new homes to be built before 2035.

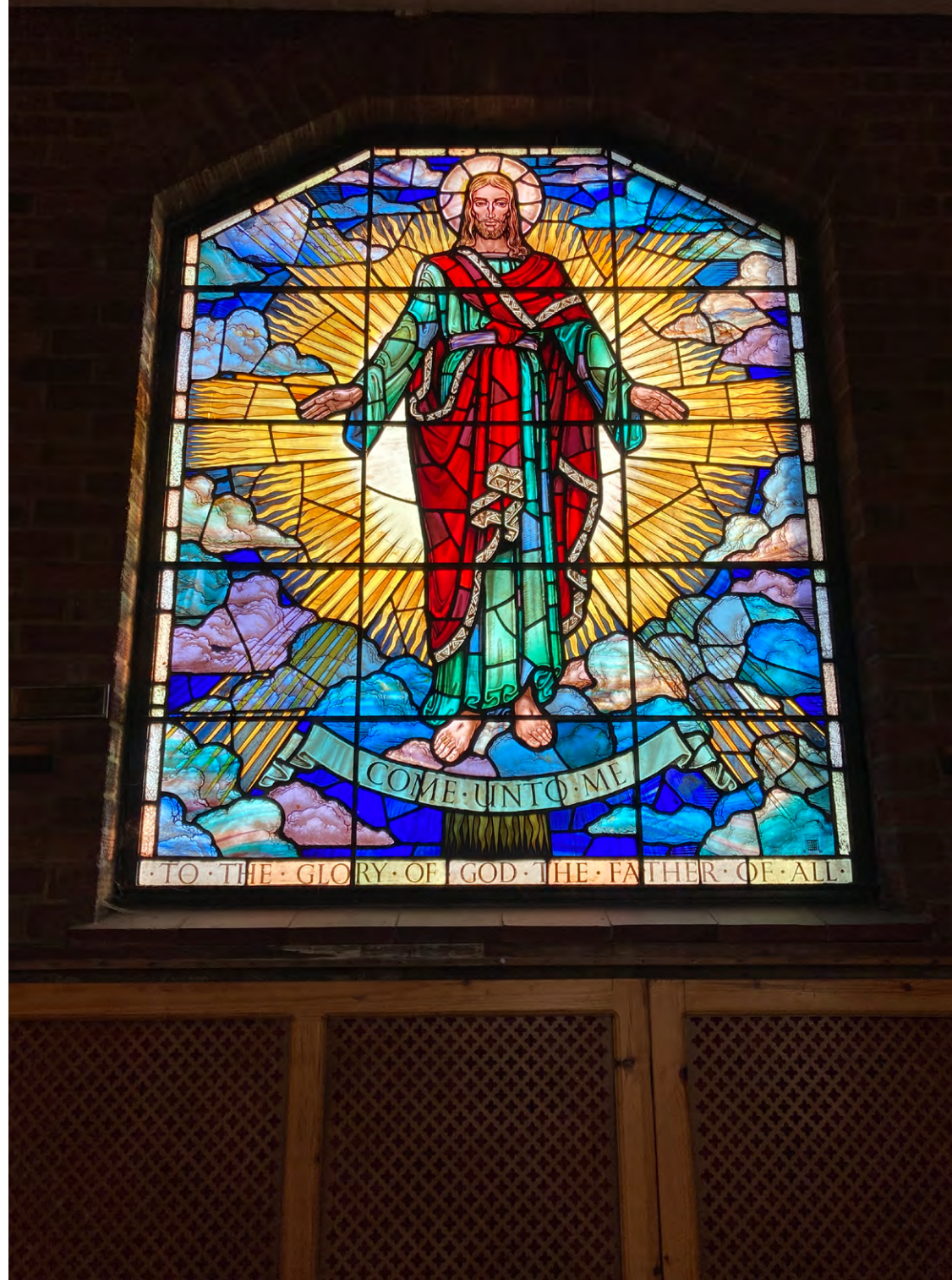
The original village, now known as Lower Hellesdon, is close to the River Wensum. Beyond this area, towards the parish boundary, is a housing estate which is considered to be an area of deprivation, and there are a few other areas of deprivation within the parish. The newer part of Hellesdon was developed post World War II and is where the majority of the population live, with lots of bungalows which were built in the 1950s and 1960s.

There are a number of smaller shops, a large supermarket and two public house/restaurants. Within the parish, the Salvation Army and Gateway Vineyard Church have worship centres. There is a large, busy Community Centre and a library.

We have a large elderly population (28% aged 65 and over) and three residential care homes. There is also a large mental health hospital within the parish.

On the edge of the parish there are two industrial developments with a mix of large and small businesses.

All of these local facilities, and many more that are easily accessible, mean that there are plenty of employment opportunities available, although many residents work in Norwich or outside the parish.



Our Churches

St Mary's is Grade II listed, built of flint with a lead roof and is mentioned in the Domesday Book.

It has a churchyard and an additional burial ground both of which are open for burials and interment of ashes. It has a traditional organ and wooden pews. In 2012 an extension was completed which added a community room, kitchen, toilets, upstairs meeting room and storage space with a ground source heat pump providing heating. In 2024, in working with the Norfolk Wildlife Trust, a number of rare plants specific to ancient burial grounds were identified in the churchyard.



Our Churches

St Paul's is a rather unique building being a post-World War II Nissen hut.

It has a large open-plan worship space/hall, a small kitchen, a toilet and upstairs storage space. It is used by the local Brownie pack and hired out to various community groups, generating a small income for the parish. It was sited in that part of Hellesdon in the early 1950s as a daughter church to St Mary's to serve the growing post-war housing development. The church building is on a large site which includes an extensive grassed area and a community hall which is now derelict.

The St Paul's building which was erected as a temporary building has already exceeded its originally anticipated lifespan.



Schools

The schools in Hellesdon are listed below and those marked* are part of the Wensum Trust:

Hellesdon High School *

Firside Junior School *

Kinsale Junior School *

Valley Primary Academy

Kinsale Infant School

Arden Grove Infant and Nursery *

Heather Avenue Infant School

The Heathers Nursery (based at Heather Avenue)

Hellesdon Preschool (based at Kinsale Avenue)

We already have strong links with some but not all of the schools – the previous Vicar led collective worship on a regular basis. Pupils from Heather Avenue visit St Paul's for craft activities at festival times, and Kinsale Infant and Valley Primary make occasional visits to St Mary's.



Sundays with us

Prior to the restrictions of Covid, a service was held in both churches every Sunday. Since worship was resumed in our church buildings, we have alternated between the two churches. This has brought the two congregations together as one which has been very positive.

Our usual pattern of worship is Common Worship Holy Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays 10am at St Mary's, 2nd and 4th Sundays 10am at St Paul's with occasional festival/seasonal variations (average attendance 35-40).

A monthly 8am service of Holy Communion (sometimes Book of Common Prayer) is held, alternating between the two churches. When an 8am service is held the 10am service will usually be Morning Worship. Occasional services of Café Church and Evening Prayer are held.

Music at St Mary's is mostly traditional hymns accompanied by an organ and choir; at St Paul's it is more modern worship songs accompanied by recorded music and a small group of singers.

There is always a time for social interaction and refreshments after services, with the exception of the monthly 8am service.

The Parish Electoral Roll currently stands at 61.



During the week

Holy Communion or Morning Worship, every Wednesday at St Mary's at 10am, with an average attendance of 15 people. Many stay for social time and refreshments afterwards.

- **A Meditation Group** meets via Zoom for Christian-led meditation and mutual support (Mondays)
- **Tea on Tuesday** meets in St Mary's Community Room. Between 14 and 31 people attend each week drawing from a wider group of around 50 who come regularly or intermittently. Most attendees are not regular congregation members. The group has naturally formed a supportive community and many attendees will attest to the importance of the group in their week (Tuesdays)
- **A House group** meets for Bible study, discussion, prayer and mutual support (Wednesdays)
- **Marlpit Community Choir** meets during term time in St Mary's Community Room, singing popular music from 1950s onwards (Wednesdays)
- **Small Steps** meets weekly in term time for pre-school children and their parents/guardians for social interaction, support and play. Mostly attended by local families. (Thursdays)
- **Knit and Natter** meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month in St Mary's Community Room after the 10am service. Some knit or crochet for themselves and some, supported by home knitters, for Norfolk Knitters and Stitchers.



- **Coffee mornings** are held monthly on the 1st Saturday at St Mary's and the 3rd Saturday at St Paul's. They are attended by both church members and local members of the community.
- **The 3 Cs** meets monthly in St Mary's Community Room for Cake, Craft and Chat where new cake recipes are tested, a variety of craft projects are worked on and lots of chat takes place.
- Collection boxes for **Norwich Foodbank** are located in both churches and donations are taken to the Trussell Trust warehouse each month.
- **Advent and Lent groups**
- **Parish lunches** are held at festival times
- **Brass Band concerts** have been held at St Paul's Church twice a year in the past two years; in the summer and at Christmas.
- **FunDay SunDay** is a family faith and craft activity session. At present it meets only at festival times of year (Christmas, Easter and Harvest) while we rethink how we run these sessions.

Giving

We have encouraged regular givers to change to using a standing order which has been successful. We have worked hard over the past few years to increase the amount of Parish Share we pay and in 2023 were able to pay the amount requested in full.



What we can offer you

Ministry team

- One Licenced Lay Minister
- Three Authorised Worship Assistants
- One Authorised Worship Assistant in training
- One Part time paid Parish Administrator
- Three additional Lay Assistants at Holy Communion, including two with permission to take home communion and visit care homes.

PCC

We have 5 elected members and 5 ex-officio members as follows:

- One Licenced Lay Minister.
- Two churchwardens.
- Two members who represent the parish at Norwich North Deanery Synod.

The Parish Administrator, who is also the PCC Secretary and Parish Safeguarding Officer, works ten hours per week from home.

Bookkeeping and financial support is being provided by the previous Treasurer until a new incumbent is appointed.

Clergy wellbeing

The PCC fully supports and has adopted the Covenant for Clergy Care & Wellbeing. We expect and will facilitate our Vicar having a regular day off each week, and two days off together each month, taking their full allocation of holidays and time for retreat. PCC will reimburse clergy expenses promptly.

Safeguarding

We are committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of everyone but especially of children, young adults and vulnerable adults. We have one fully trained Safeguarding Officer. Our Safeguarding Policy, which is based on the Church of England's, is on display at both churches. All volunteers have carried out the relevant level of training for their role.

Vicarage

The Vicarage is on Broom Avenue, Norwich, Norfolk NR6 6LG

It is a large late 80's detached chalet bungalow with a good size study, four bedrooms, bathroom and shower room and garden.



Helpful links

Diocese of Norwich

www.dioceseofnorwich.org

Church of England

www.churchofengland.org

Living and working in Norfolk – Norfolk County Council

www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/42621/Living-and-working-in-Norfolk

Thank you

Thank you for reading this benefice profile.
We look forward to hearing from you.





THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Norwich

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Registered Charity No: 249318