



St Peter & St Paul



Burgh Castle

The Benefice of Betton and Burgh Castle





# Thank You

for taking the time to consider becoming our rector.

Here at Belton and Burgh Castle, we have been praying for you for some time and we'd love for you to come and visit us!

Please take some time to consider all that our benefice has to offer you. We are both open and friendly churches, whilst our styles of worship are different but complementary.

We aim to work together to be stronger in our faith and share this in service of our community. A new home for our new rector is currently being sourced by the diocese.

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# About our area

Belton and Burgh Castle are two villages located in the beautiful setting of the Norfolk broads - a unique landscape of rivers, lakes and wetlands. We are situated in a popular holiday destination, part of the Borough of Great Yarmouth, offering one of trip advisor's best beaches in Gorleston. We also have a wide range of amenities in the local area, including a village primary school, secondary schools within easy reach and a local hospital only a few miles away. We have excellent transport links to Norwich, our cathedral city and the surrounding areas. There are also a wide variety of shopping options locally. There is a Tesco Express, a pharmacy, a cafe, two pubs, takeaway restaurants and hairdressers in the village. We have both a thriving a community centre and a sports hall and field. The area attracts visitors due to the broads, wildlife, the beach, the historic churches and the Roman ruins.



# Vision and Hopes



Worship

Growth

Sustainability

Flourishing Ministry

We want to offer worship that is wholehearted and accessible, rooted in scripture and prayer, and reflecting the diverse traditions of our two churches.

We hope to nurture faith in all generations, supporting children, young people, families, and older members to grow as disciples of Jesus.

We hope to build a sustainable future for our buildings, finances, and ministries so that our churches can continue to serve the community for generations to come.

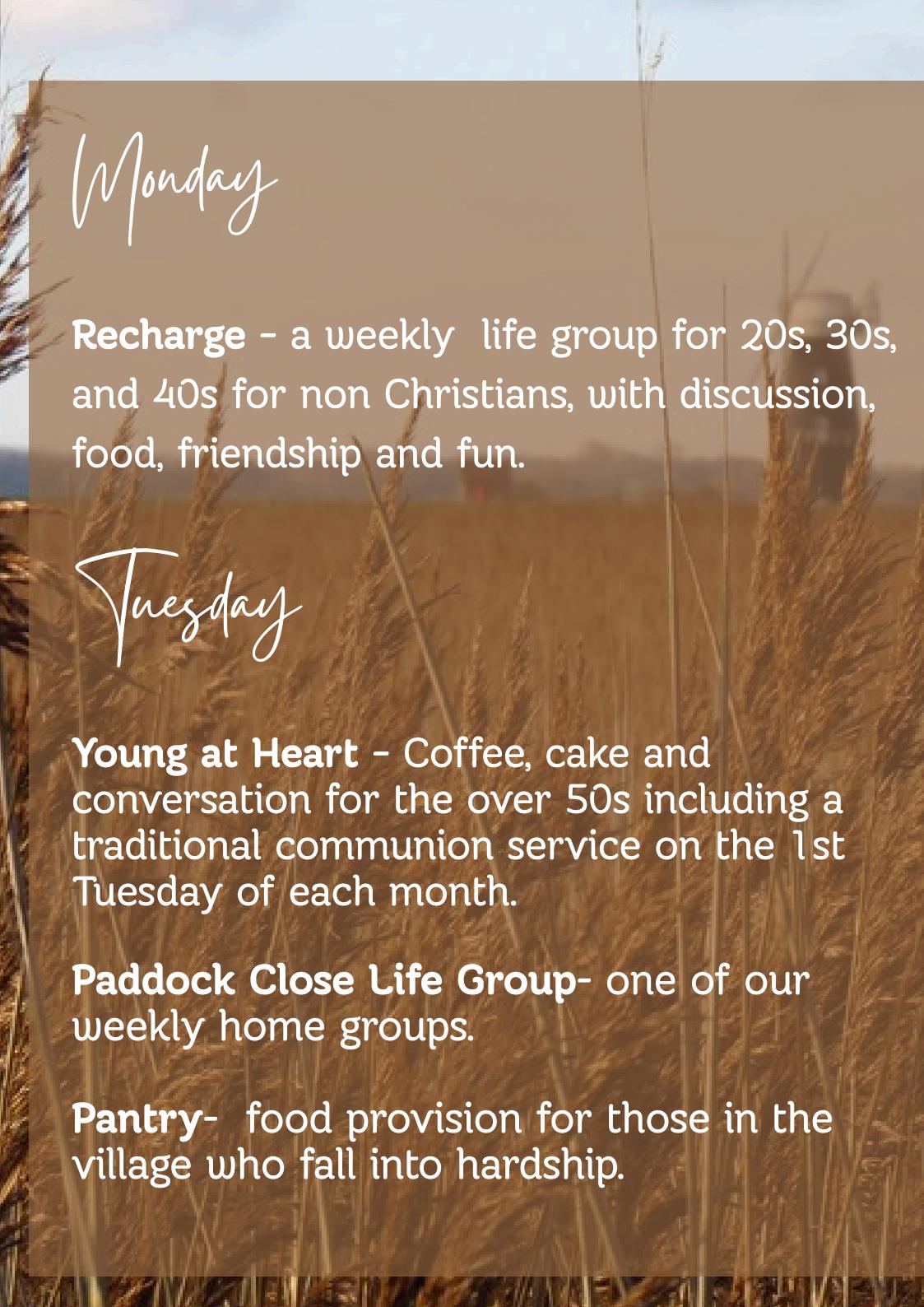
We are committed to supporting and encouraging our rector, recognising that healthy leadership is vital for the life and mission of our churches.

# A week in The life...

All Saints Belton



We are part of the New Wine Network, we have an evangelical congregation with a lively and contemporary worship style led by a worship band. We are keen to continue developing prayer ministry and Fresh Expressions of church as part of our mission and outreach. Below you'll discover a taster of the activities that happen each week in Belton.



*Monday*

**Recharge** - a weekly life group for 20s, 30s, and 40s for non Christians, with discussion, food, friendship and fun.

*Tuesday*

**Young at Heart** - Coffee, cake and conversation for the over 50s including a traditional communion service on the 1st Tuesday of each month.

**Paddock Close Life Group**- one of our weekly home groups.

**Pantry**- food provision for those in the village who fall into hardship.



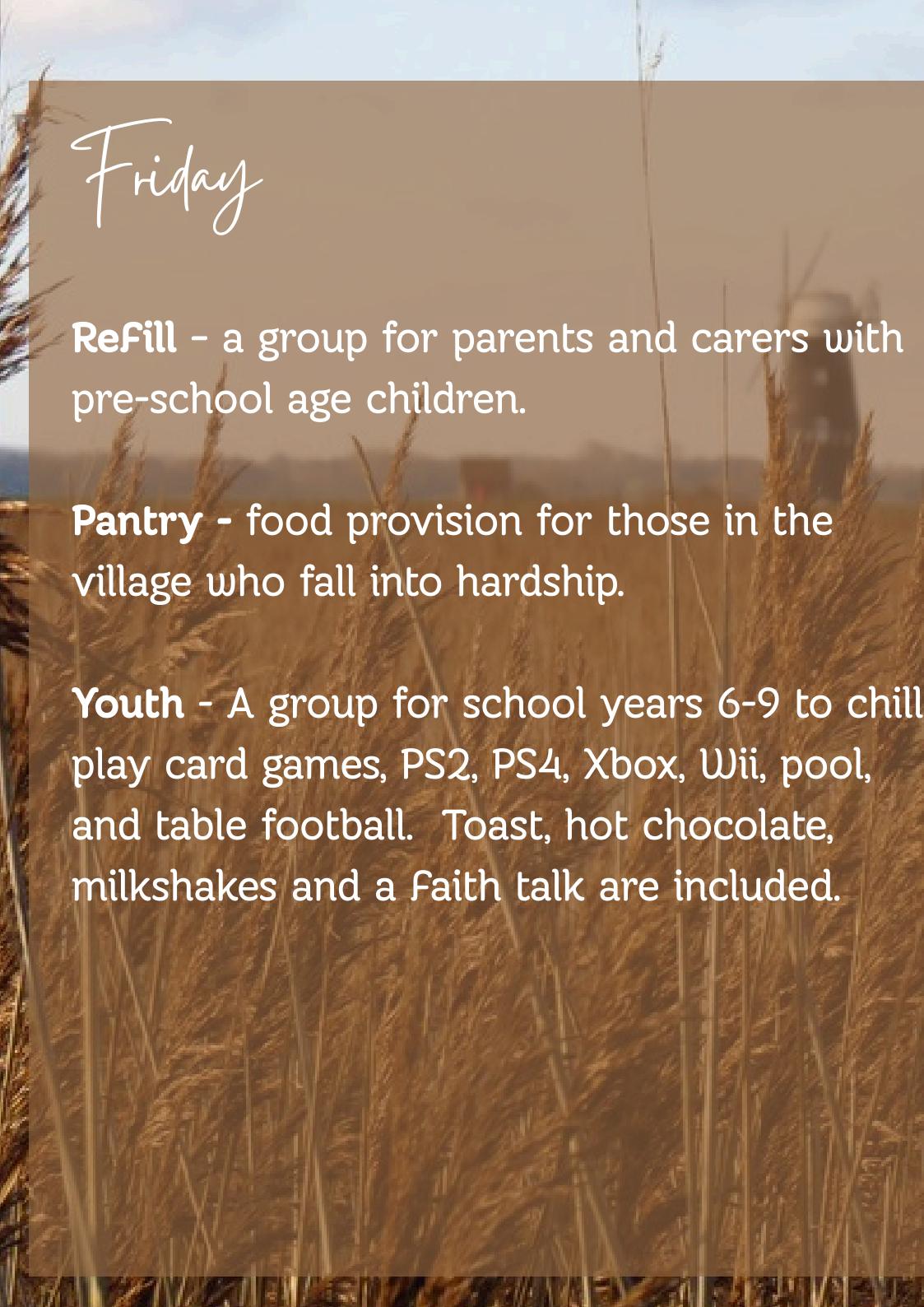
*Wednesday*

**Prayer, Ministry Team and PCC** meetings in rotation.

*Thursday*

**Sandy Lane afternoon Life Group**- one of our weekly home groups.

**Collective worship** at Moorlands Primary Academy.



*Friday*

**ReFill** - a group for parents and carers with pre-school age children.

**Pantry** - food provision for those in the village who fall into hardship.

**Youth** - A group for school years 6-9 to chill, play card games, PS2, PS4, Xbox, Wii, pool, and table football. Toast, hot chocolate, milkshakes and a faith talk are included.



*Saturday*

**Men's walking group**- organised each month by the church for any men to join in: various walks in Norfolk/Suffolk countryside including a pub stop.

*Other Things we do*

Prayer chain

Daily verse on Facebook messenger

Passover meal

Remembrance service for those who are bereaved

Christmas fair

Light Party

School workshops for Easter and Christmas.

Family film afternoons



Messy Muddy Church





Outside service



Family Film Night



Youth Work training



Cafe Church



Messy Muddy Church



Youth Group



Youth Film Night



Cafe Church



Youth Group



Cafe Church



New Wine 2024

# History

## All Saints

A place of worship has been documented here since before 1135. Though medieval elements survive – such as the 13th-century Purbeck marble font and traces of 14th-century wall murals – the building's overall look is defined by substantial Victorian restoration. The round tower was rebuilt in 1849 after its collapse, followed by work on the chancel (1866) and nave (1881) to complete its current design.

In 1994, an annex extension was built, adding a small kitchen, toilet, and lounge for activities like the Pantry and youth and children's work. Recent updates have focused on versatility: pews have been replaced by comfortable seating and central heating has been installed, making the church a more flexible and welcoming venue for all activities.

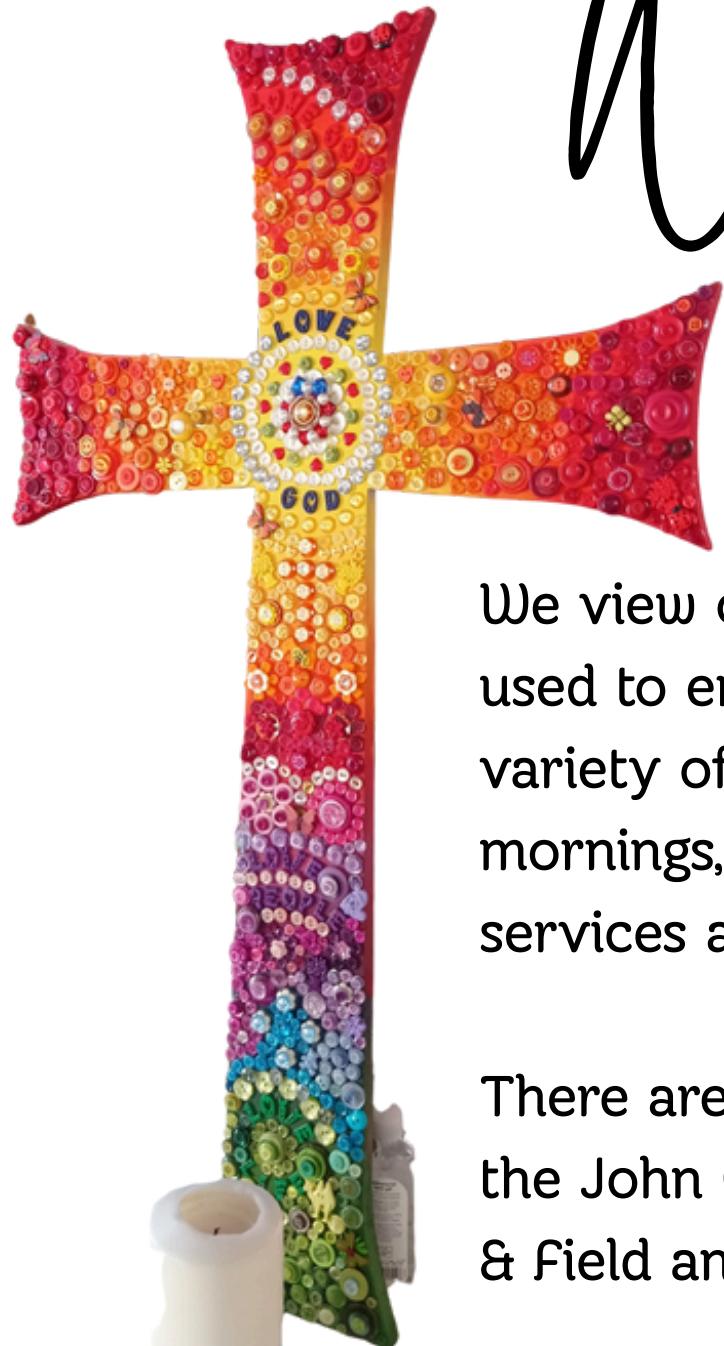
# Finances

## All Saints

Finances here are approached with prayer and trust in God's provision. We cover our basic costs – utilities, licences, and ministry expenses – and though we have not always been able to meet our full parish share contribution, we remain committed to growing in generosity as we grow in faith.

In 2024, our income was £58,571 and expenses £54,027. The 2025 parish share is £46,199, with Belton contributing £36,503. We hold reserved funds for vital areas such as building repairs, youth work, the pantry, and community events. We have no paid staff; every ministry is led by volunteers, with a monthly visit from external cleaners. Our latest quinquennial inspection took place in 2023.

# Wider Community

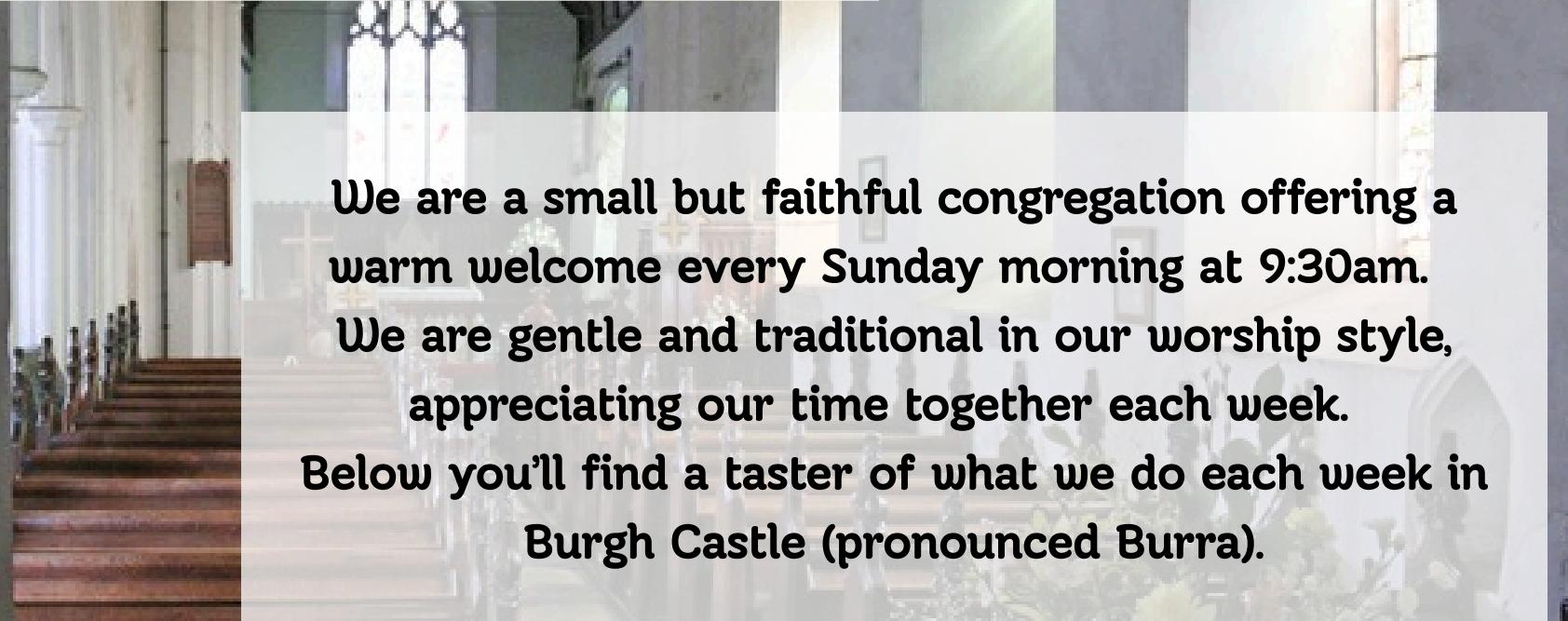


We view our church building as an adaptable space that is used to engage with our wider community, having hosted a variety of events including concerts, charity coffee mornings, family film afternoons, community remembrance services and more.

There are also many activities and groups that take place in the John Green Institute (Village Hall), New Road Sports Hall & Field and at Moorlands Primary Academy.

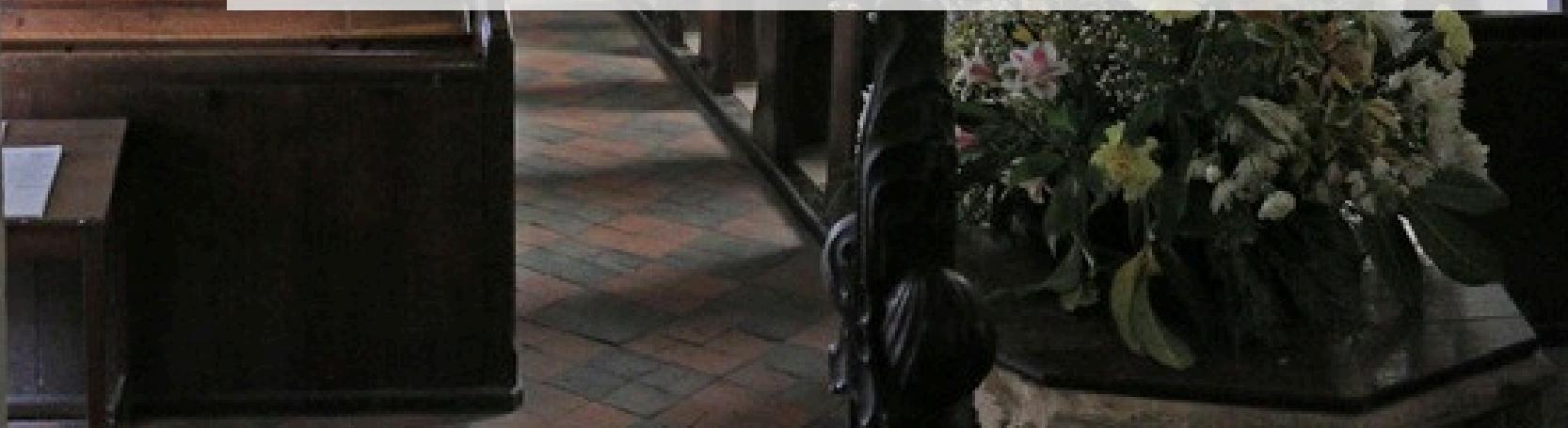
# A week in the life...

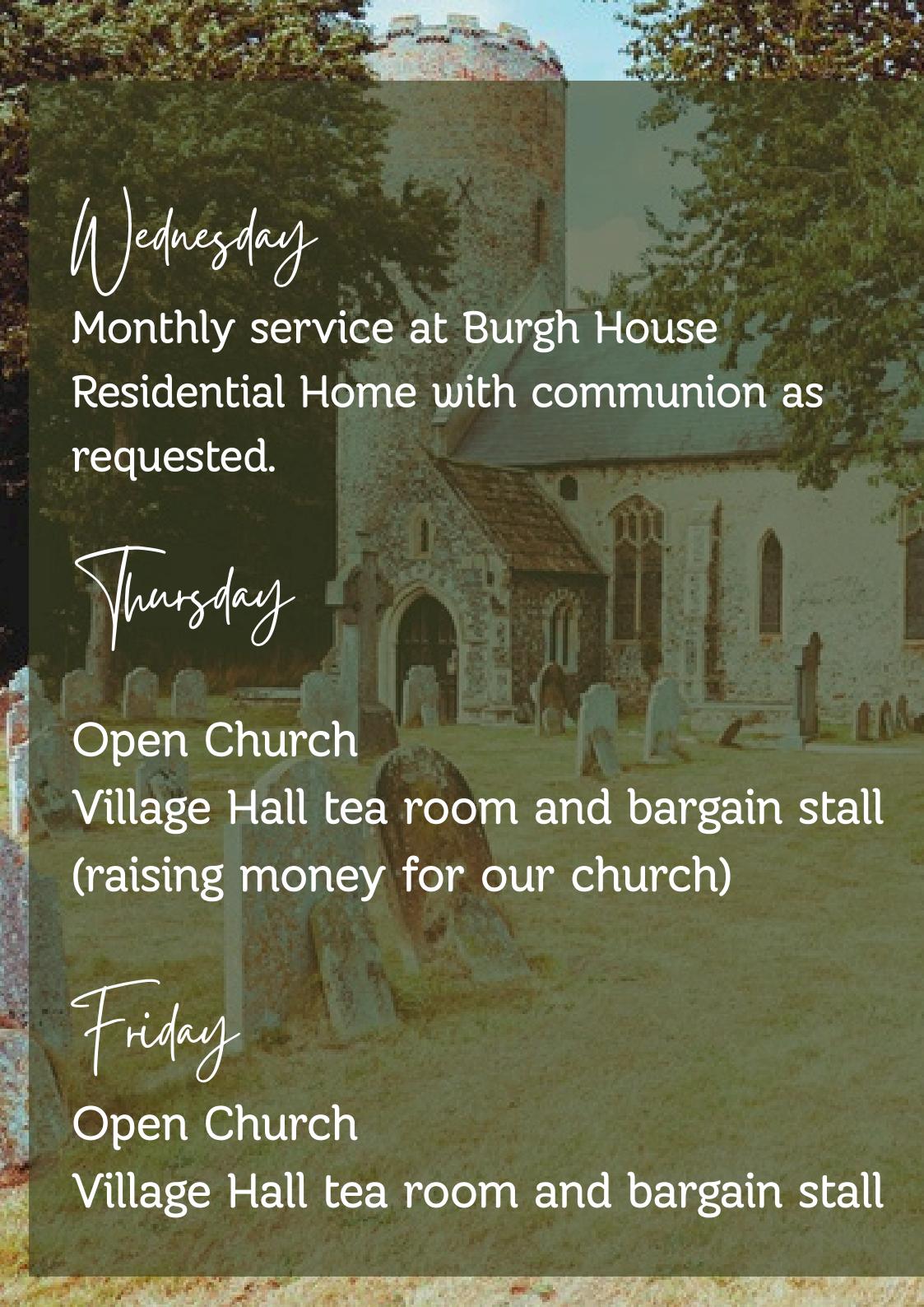
St Peter and St Paul



We are a small but faithful congregation offering a warm welcome every Sunday morning at 9:30am. We are gentle and traditional in our worship style, appreciating our time together each week.

Below you'll find a taster of what we do each week in Burgh Castle (pronounced Burra).





*Wednesday*

Monthly service at Burgh House Residential Home with communion as requested.

*Thursday*

Open Church  
Village Hall tea room and bargain stall (raising money for our church)

*Friday*

Open Church  
Village Hall tea room and bargain stall

*Saturday*  
Bible study (fortnightly) led by  
Revd Chris Stratton (PTO)

*Other events during the year:*

Open Churches week  
Songs of praise  
Sunrise service for Easter morning at the Roman fort  
Remembrance, Harvest, St Fursey, Remembrance service for those who are bereaved  
Carol services, Carols at the Queens Head, Midnight Mass



Morning service



# History

## St Peter & St Paul

The church of St Peter & St Paul, Burgh Castle has a rich and ancient history, deeply tied to the Roman fort it stands beside. Originally, a Roman shore fort known as Gariannonum was established here in the 3rd century AD to defend the coast from Saxon raiders. This site would later become home to one of the earliest known monasteries in England, founded around 633 AD by St. Fursey, an Irish missionary.

St. Fursey's monastery was located within the Roman fort walls, and while its exact location and remains are a subject of historical debate, it's clear the site has been a place of worship for well over a millennium. The current Norman-style church, which dates back to the 11th century, was built after the Norman conquest.

The stones from the fallen fourth wall of the fort have been used in many local buildings; many can be seen in the church itself. Each year, a service is held to commemorate St Fursey, with a walk from the church to the site of the monastery within the Roman walls.

# Finances

## St Peter & St Paul

Income for 2024 was £24,837.17. Fundraising pays a large part in this total. Expenditure was £15,627.40. The Burgh Castle allocation of the Parish Share for 2024 (£9,398) was paid in full.

Funds raised from our restoration appeal events have enabled us to complete repairs to the North Aisle, with grants from English Heritage and we are in the process of beginning the work to bring about repairs on the south side of the church.

Funds of £42,288.89 are held in our Restoration Account for major repairs as we wish to commence with a program of necessary work as indicated by our recent Structural Survey. Architects have been instructed to begin the process of obtaining quotations which will aid grants applications.

# Wider Community



Members work with the local community to provide a drop-in space twice weekly for anyone who wishes to visit the church. The church is always open on these days and is often visited.

Staff and pupil's from Castle Farm Countryside Classroom (Edu. AP based in Burgh Castle) support the Harvest Festival by bringing gifts for the Pantry and participate at Christmas by decorating the tree in the church. There is an opportunity for mission here both with the young people and visitors to the village hall.

We have participated in the Norfolk Churches Trust Cycle Ride for many years, the whole village being very supportive of this event.

# Leadership & Governance

Both churches have two churchwardens. Belton has a full complement of 16 PCC members and 48 on the electoral roll. Burgh Castle has a full complement of 7 PCC members and 14 on the electoral roll.

Belton also has a ministry team who support in all areas of church ministry.

We currently have an LLM, one LLM in training and two vicars with permission to officiate who are a great support to the ministry across the benefice.

Both PCCs follow the Diocese of Norwich safeguarding policy in full, with no local addenda.

## Theological Convictions

- Open Communion:  
We invite everyone to participate in communion.
- Leadership:  
We recognise and empower women in all leadership roles.
- Marriage and Divorce:  
We accept and celebrate the marriage of individuals who have been divorced.

# What we are looking for in a rector?

- Inspires others through a vibrant, growing faith
- Warm, friendly, adaptable, and full of life
- Passionate evangelist with a vision for church growth
- God-centred, Spirit-led leader
- Clear and compelling communicator
- Deeply committed to community
- Compassionate shepherd in times of need
- Dynamic worship leader (traditional & contemporary)

## Priorities

- Growing vibrant, thriving congregations
- Strengthening community connections
- Deepening discipleship and prayer life
- Nurturing and supporting all ages

# Words from the congregation...

**“We are a church community that aims to be faithful, helpful, friendly, supportive and inclusive.”**

**“I love Café Church because it feels relaxed, and I can bring my friends without worrying they’ll feel out of place.”**

**“We enjoy worship music and are open to new ideas.”**

**“We are a church with a big heart.” “We enjoy fun!”**

**“We care deeply for our community.” “We try to be more like Christ.”**

# Views from our young people

What we want in a rector...

**“Exciting!”**

**“Loves children.”**

**“Someone who can make church fun.”**

**“Someone who is fun!”**

**“To be silly and cheeky.”**

**“Kind, Gentle, Fun.”**



allsaintsbelton



beltonchurchyouthandkids



YouTube @allsaintschurchbelton



allsaintsbelton.church/  
achurchnearyou.com/church/7404/

All background photos have been captured by members of  
our congregation, showcasing the beauty of our local area