

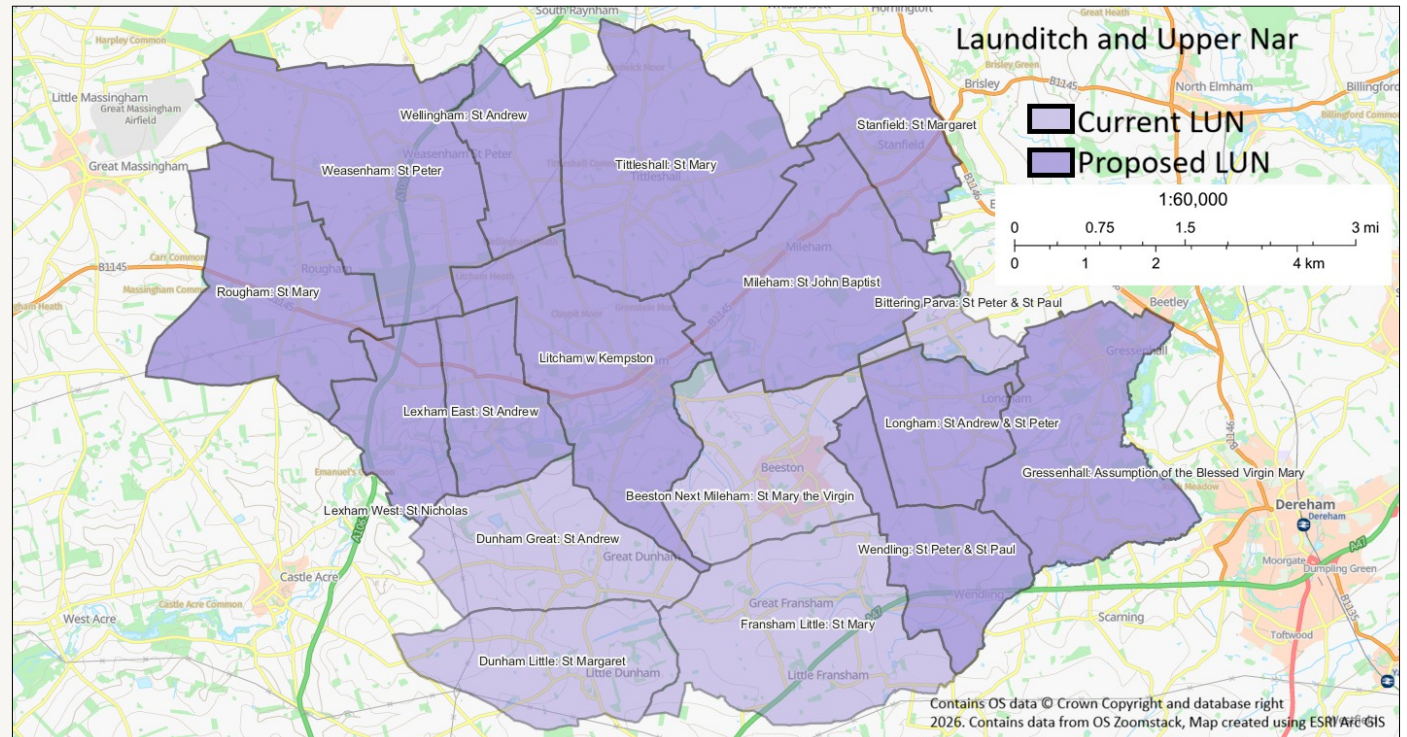
Priest-in-Charge, Launditch and the Upper Nar Parish Profile 2026



Thank you for taking the time to find out about our parishes. We hope this profile gives a taste of the joy of life in our rural communities.

We pray for you as you discern whether God is calling you to be our new Priest-in-Charge and look forward to hearing from you.

The Launditch and Upper Nar benefice is seeking a priest to minister across our villages. The largest centres of population are in Gressenhall, Litcham and Mileham. There are six active church communities who are embedded into the life of their villages. Five of our smallest villages have churches which are currently fallow and bring opportunity for fresh thinking and re-creation, supported and enabled by the Diocesan Mission strategy. One church building in the benefice is in the care of the Diocesan Churches Trust. The Diocesan church buildings team are also keen to offer support.



Role description

We are prayerfully seeking a priest who will

- encourage growth and share faith in Christ, accompanying others on their faith journey
- support the desire for traditional worship in addition to pioneering new missional initiatives, valuing both old and new
- seek to encourage younger and more diverse worshippers, setting up a new worshipping community in the first 3 years
- work in partnership with the existing ministry team and churchwardens
- develop a sustainable and effective pattern of ministry
- strengthen links with the schools in Litcham, rejoicing in the opportunities this presents
- be open to exploring new possibilities for the fallow churches through community engagement, including the use of social media
- pro-actively seek opportunities to build relationship across these communities
- be committed to pastoral care of all in our communities
- be keen to work with other village organisations for the benefit of our community encouraging fellowship for everyone



Person Characteristics

- Warm and friendly, approachable, and caring with a good sense of humour
- A shepherd of our people, with a genuine desire to listen to and care for all, whether church-goers or not; a love for rural communities and the countryside
- Values, nurtures and encourages people's strengths and gifts
- Able to relate well to young and old, with a deep care for all- equally at ease at village events or the pub
- Emotionally resilient.



Facts and Figures

Parish	Population	ER	Current Service Pattern	Baptisms	Weddings	Funerals in church	Funerals at Crematorium
Lexham East	93	5	Once a month	0	0	0	0
Gressenhall	1036	46	2 per month	2	1	3	1
Litcham w Kempston	609	16	3 per month	1	1	5	0
Longham	236	0	None	0	0	0	0
Mileham	691	9	3 per month, mostly lay-lead	0	0	4	0
Rougham	145	4	3 per year	0	0	0	0
Stanfield	186	5	Once a month	0	0	2	0
Tittleshall	363	20	Once a month	1	0	2	2
Weasenham	316	0	None	0	0	0	0
Wellingham	26	4	Irregular	0	1	0	0
Wendling	331	0	None	0	0	0	0
Lexham West	56	3	3 per year	0	0	0	0
Total	4088	112		4	3	16	3

Statistic per year: 2025 2024 Total Population: 4,088 Litcham School: 744

What we offer

- a committed and experienced ordained ministry team who are keen to support
- small committed PCCs who care deeply about their community
- a comfortable and well-appointed four bedroom Rectory in Litcham with a spacious and light dual aspect study, generous parking and double garage
- a shared commitment to clergy well-being, respect for day off, study, retreat and annual leave
- a commitment to meet clergy expenses in full

Safeguarding

The benefice is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults. All post holders and volunteers are expected to share this commitment. All appointments are subject to acceptable pre-appointment checks, including a satisfactory DBS check.

The care and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in church activities is the responsibility of the whole church. Everyone who participates in the life of the church has a role to play in promoting a Safer Church for all.

The Ministry team

The Launditch and Upper Nar Benefice benefits from a strong, friendly ministry team which meets regularly to pray together and to encourage and support each other. The four clergy in the team live in four of the parishes in the Benefice; Tittleshall, Mileham, Litcham and Gressenhall and the team consists of one SSM and three with PTO.

As a ministry team we have worked well and efficiently during the vacancy and are enthusiastic about working with a full-time incumbent who will share our love and commitment for these parishes as we look forward to a new season of growth and renewal.

The Rectory, Litcham

The Rectory is a detached 1990 brick built house with a tarmac driveway providing ample parking and a detached double garage.

The property has oil fired central heating and is approximately 175 square meters comprising of 4 bedrooms, separate shower room, family bathroom and downstairs w.c. the kitchen and utility room were installed in 2022, a separate lounge with open fireplace, dining room and downstairs study.



Litcham School

www.litchamschool.org.uk

Litcham school is based on 2 sites within the village – primary and secondary. The school is part of the Synergy Multi Academy trust, which includes schools at Reepham, Stalham and Sheringham. The school serves the children of Litcham and surrounding villages and has a roll of 744.

In the past the school and church have worked in partnership on art projects and Soul Space. Clergy have been invited to lead assemblies and the school visit the church.

We are delighted to welcome the school as part of the yearly Act of Remembrance in the churchyard. This is usually attended by 15-20 children who come in Air training corp uniform.



Sundays with us

Benefice services rotate around all active churches on 1st and 5th Sundays.

Church Services in May 2026

In the Benefice of Launditch and Upper Nar

Friday 1st May

8:00pm Online Compline with John Blore

Saturday 2nd May

6:00pm Litcham ~ Hymns and Pimms led by Stephen Lynn

1st Sunday 3rd May ~ The Fifth Sunday of Easter (White)

10:00am Benefice Communion at Litcham with Sally Theakston

Flower Festival Weekend

*See Litcham section for details of Flower Festival and Hymns & Pimms events

6.30 Mileham Evensong Churchwardens

Friday 8th May

8.00pm Online Compline with Hilary De Lyon

2nd Sunday 10th May – The Sixth Sunday of Easter (White)

10.15 Litcham Holy Communion BCP Hilary De Lyon

11.00 Mileham Holy Communion CW/BCP John Blore

11.15 Gressenhall Morning Worship Julia Houston

Friday 15th May

8.00pm Online Compline with Kevin Blogg

3rd Sunday 17th May – The Seventh Sunday of Easter (White)

The Sunday after Ascension Day

9.00 East Lexham Holy Communion BCP Kevin Blogg

10.15 Litcham Matins Churchwardens

10.00 Great Dunham Morning Worship Churchwardens

11.00 Mileham Morning Prayer Churchwardens

Friday 22nd May

8.00pm Online Compline with John

4th Sunday 24th May – The Day of Pentecost (Red)

10.30 Tittleshall Holy Communion Iona Hilary De Lyon

11.00 Mileham Morning Prayer Churchwardens

11.15 Gressenhall Holy Communion Iona Julia Houston

4.00 Litcham Evening Prayer Churchwardens

Friday 29th May

8.00pm Online Compline with John

5th Sunday 31st May – Trinity Sunday (White)

10.00am Benefice Communion at Stanfield with John Blore

6.30 Mileham Evensong Churchwardens

Friday 5th June

8.00pm Online Compline with Kevin Blogg

1st Sunday 7th June – The First Sunday after Trinity (Green)

10.00am Benefice Communion at East Lexham with Sally Theakston

6.30 Mileham Evensong

A full list of the services for the Launditch and Upper Nar group of parishes is available from the Litcham website: litcham.wordpress.com/Worship/Services.

There is a small team of organists who provide music for worship in the benefice churches, depending on their availability.

Our Parishes

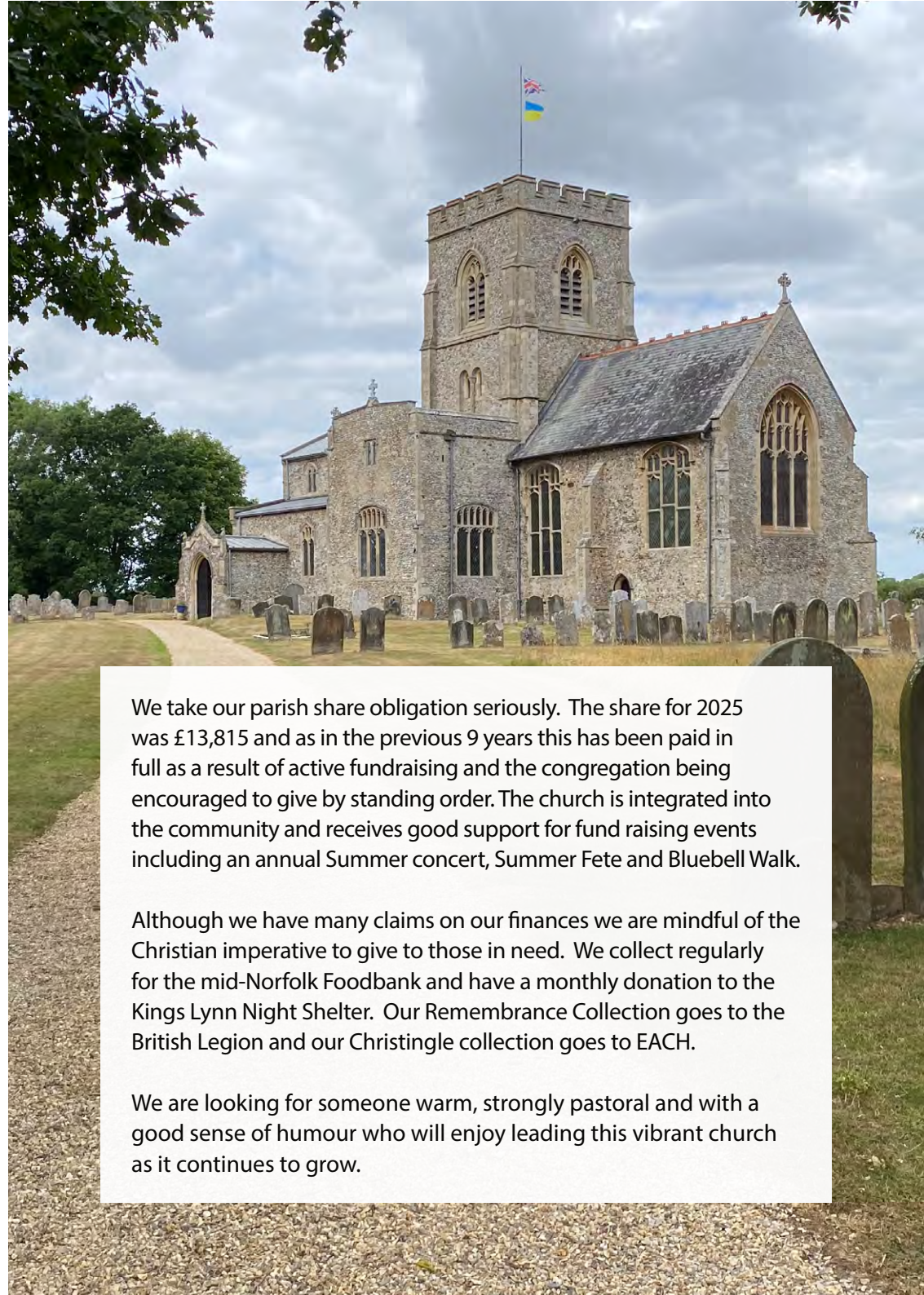
Gressenhall – St Mary's Church

Gressenhall is a village of approximately 1100 people with a strong community spirit. There are good facilities including a shop, a community owned pub, a Social Club and a Reading Room. The village enjoys a range of activities, clubs and events throughout the year and has a very popular village choir.

St Mary's sits in a well-kept churchyard surrounded by beautiful countryside. The church benefits from 10 bells with an active team of bell ringers and has a fine organ. The fabric is in good order and recent improvements include the installation of a toilet and servery enabling the church to cater for a wide range of events.

A fully staffed PCC and a dedicated and active team ensures the smooth running of the church and creates a welcoming atmosphere for all who attend services and visit. The churchyard is well maintained by volunteers and there are strong teams of cleaners and flower arrangers.

We currently have a service of Morning Worship on the 2nd Sunday and Holy Communion on the 4th and occasional Benefice services. St Mary's is experiencing a time of steady and consistent growth: it is not unusual to have over 40 attending our services and the numbers attending all the festivals are growing: 286 attended our Christingle service in 2025



We take our parish share obligation seriously. The share for 2025 was £13,815 and as in the previous 9 years this has been paid in full as a result of active fundraising and the congregation being encouraged to give by standing order. The church is integrated into the community and receives good support for fund raising events including an annual Summer concert, Summer Fete and Bluebell Walk.

Although we have many claims on our finances we are mindful of the Christian imperative to give to those in need. We collect regularly for the mid-Norfolk Foodbank and have a monthly donation to the Kings Lynn Night Shelter. Our Remembrance Collection goes to the British Legion and our Christingle collection goes to EACH.

We are looking for someone warm, strongly pastoral and with a good sense of humour who will enjoy leading this vibrant church as it continues to grow.

Litcham

Our Church sits at the centre of the village and is much loved by our community.

Litcham high school is within a few yards, and this brings great opportunity for working together. The primary school regularly come to the church both for services at Christmas, Easter and Harvest and other projects.

Our worship is traditional in style. We value liturgy from the Book of Common Prayer. We recognise that we need to offer more contemporary worship which will attract and engage with new people and welcome discussion about how this might be achieved.

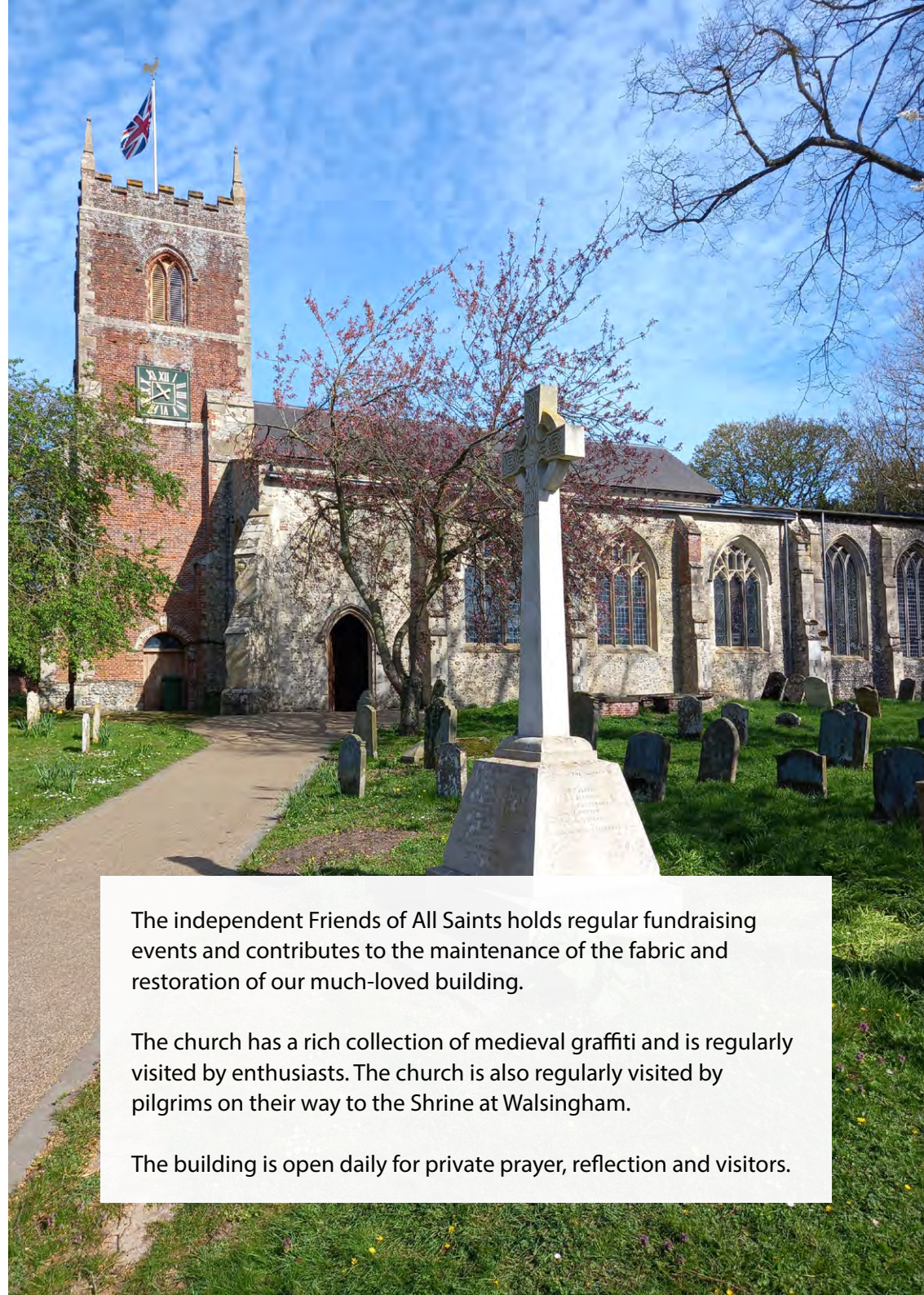
We are blessed with a regular organist and a team of ringers for our 6 bells, which have recently been restored and rehung. The clock has also been recently restored.

Our church building provides a beautiful setting for concerts, seating 150, and we have recently held a concert by the Chamber Orchestra of the American School in London. Other concerts and talks are planned.

Litcham is a thriving and flourishing village with a shop/post office, pub, deli, fish and chip shop and health centre. The common is a beautiful place to walk and is grazed by ponies and cattle.

Litcham has a well-attended Methodist Church and joint events are regularly held, including worship on Palm Sunday and Good Friday.

The village hall is immediately adjacent to the churchyard and is used by a number of village organisations. In the absence of facilities in the church, access is available for kitchen and toilets.



The independent Friends of All Saints holds regular fundraising events and contributes to the maintenance of the fabric and restoration of our much-loved building.

The church has a rich collection of medieval graffiti and is regularly visited by enthusiasts. The church is also regularly visited by pilgrims on their way to the Shrine at Walsingham.

The building is open daily for private prayer, reflection and visitors.

St Andrew's East Lexham

The Grade I Listed church, unusually situated in the middle of a farmyard, is best known for its round tower, built around 900 AD (said to be the oldest in England) and the series of oil paintings by Richard Foster RP.

The tower has recently been restored with the help of the Heritage Lottery Fund and the church itself is in good order and attracts many tourists (particularly Walsingham pilgrims and those using the Nar Valley Way long distance footpath which passes through the village. East Lexham is a very small rural village with a population of 93. The houses all belong to the Lexham Estate and there are no public services, school, shop or pub. The church is open 9am-5pm.

We hope our new priest will work with us to increase the very small congregation. Currently, three attend regularly, supplemented by a few from other villages in the benefice. We are not asking for more services.

Christenings, weddings and funerals provide opportunities to build on-going relationships.

We would like our new incumbent to get to know the community by supporting village events. The Open Gardens at Lexham Hall, held several times a year, attract large numbers of visitors from a wide area.



Services

Third Sunday of the month,
9am Holy Communion (Prayer Book version)

Church Wardens: Neil Foster, Ann Fenwick

Treasurer: Neil Foster

Secretary: Ann Fenwick

neilfoster@lexhamestate.co.uk

annefenwick18@gmail.com

St Mary The Virgin – Tittleshall cum Godwick

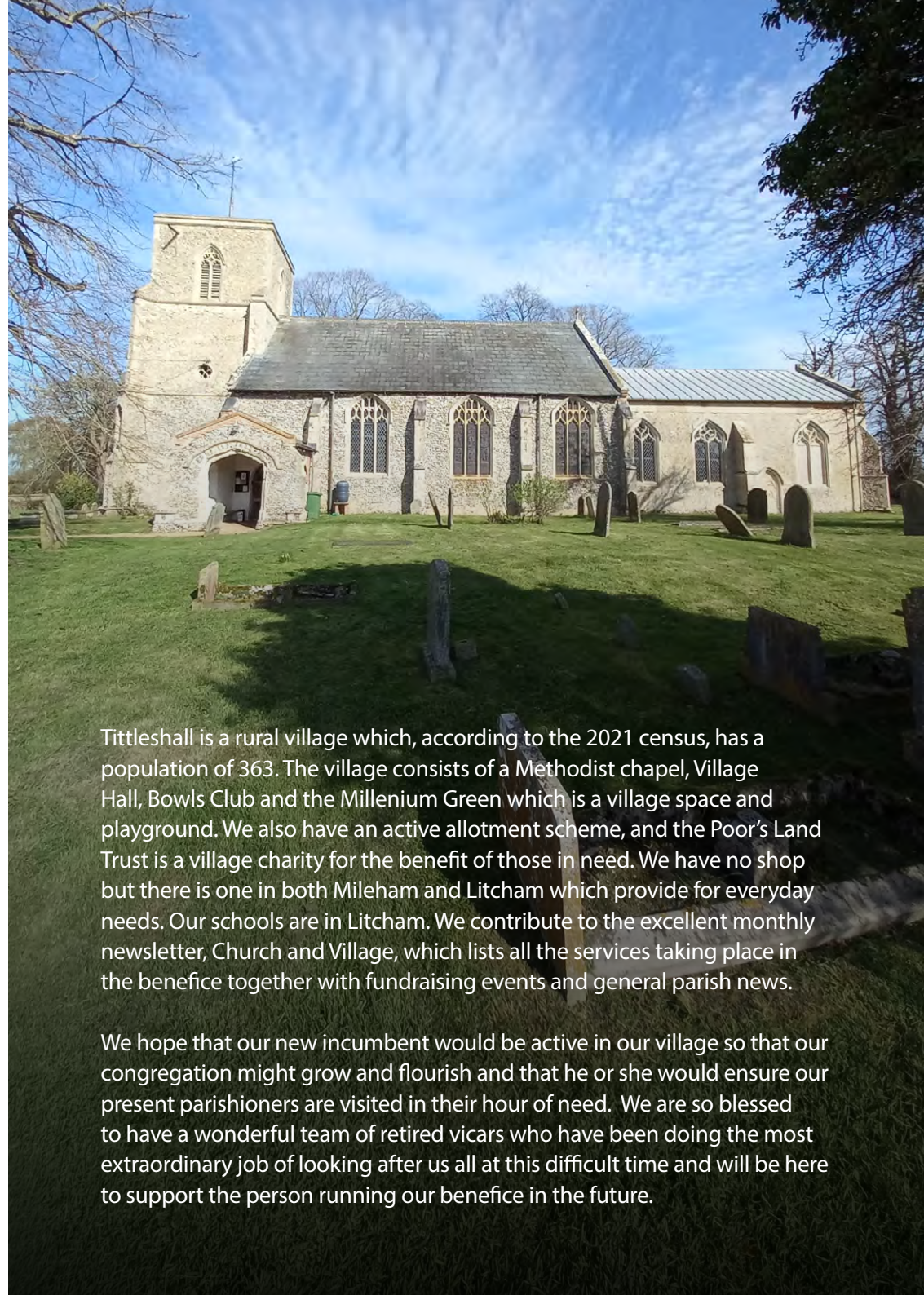
St Mary's has an active PCC and Churchwarden. Each member has their chosen job which covers organising services, looking after and running the building and fundraising. We work well together and it is an excellent team of people, who love their church. The Church Electoral roll numbers 16.

We hold one Communion Service a month {Iona} together with an annual Group Service, Harvest Festival, Remembrance and Christingle. Our core congregation is 6 with others joining us on an occasional basis. Last year we also had a baptism and three funerals.

Our church, which is open every day, is Grade I listed, has a magnificent Binns organ and some very important monuments spanning three centuries, due to the founder of the Coke family originating from Tittleshall. They attract visitors as does our book shop, which with our regular buyers and two annual book fairs, raises around £1,000 per annum. This runs concurrently with our other fundraising activities, which includes lectures, garden openings, craft fairs, car boot and other activities.

At present we pay 50% of our Parish Share, as, due to ill health, we have not had an active priest in charge in the village for nearly three years, but we hope to pay in full when a new incumbent is installed.

The building is in good condition and regular maintenance work has been carried out, as required.



Tittleshall is a rural village which, according to the 2021 census, has a population of 363. The village consists of a Methodist chapel, Village Hall, Bowls Club and the Millenium Green which is a village space and playground. We also have an active allotment scheme, and the Poor's Land Trust is a village charity for the benefit of those in need. We have no shop but there is one in both Mileham and Litcham which provide for everyday needs. Our schools are in Litcham. We contribute to the excellent monthly newsletter, Church and Village, which lists all the services taking place in the benefice together with fundraising events and general parish news.

We hope that our new incumbent would be active in our village so that our congregation might grow and flourish and that he or she would ensure our present parishioners are visited in their hour of need. We are so blessed to have a wonderful team of retired vicars who have been doing the most extraordinary job of looking after us all at this difficult time and will be here to support the person running our benefice in the future.

Mileham

Mileham village is laid out in a linear pattern along the B1145, the secondary route from King's Lynn to Norwich. St John's church is set back from the road within the village, which has a shop/post office, village hall and nursery.

The village is well known for the ruins of Mileham castle, which was one of the largest motte and bailey castles in Norfolk and attracts visitors and historians.

Services are held on 3 Sundays of the month, using traditional liturgy.



Stanfield

The Parish of Stanfield is home to 186 residents (2021 figures) and is predominately a rural, quiet, farming community with a welcoming, friendly, inclusive environment where neighbours look out for each other.

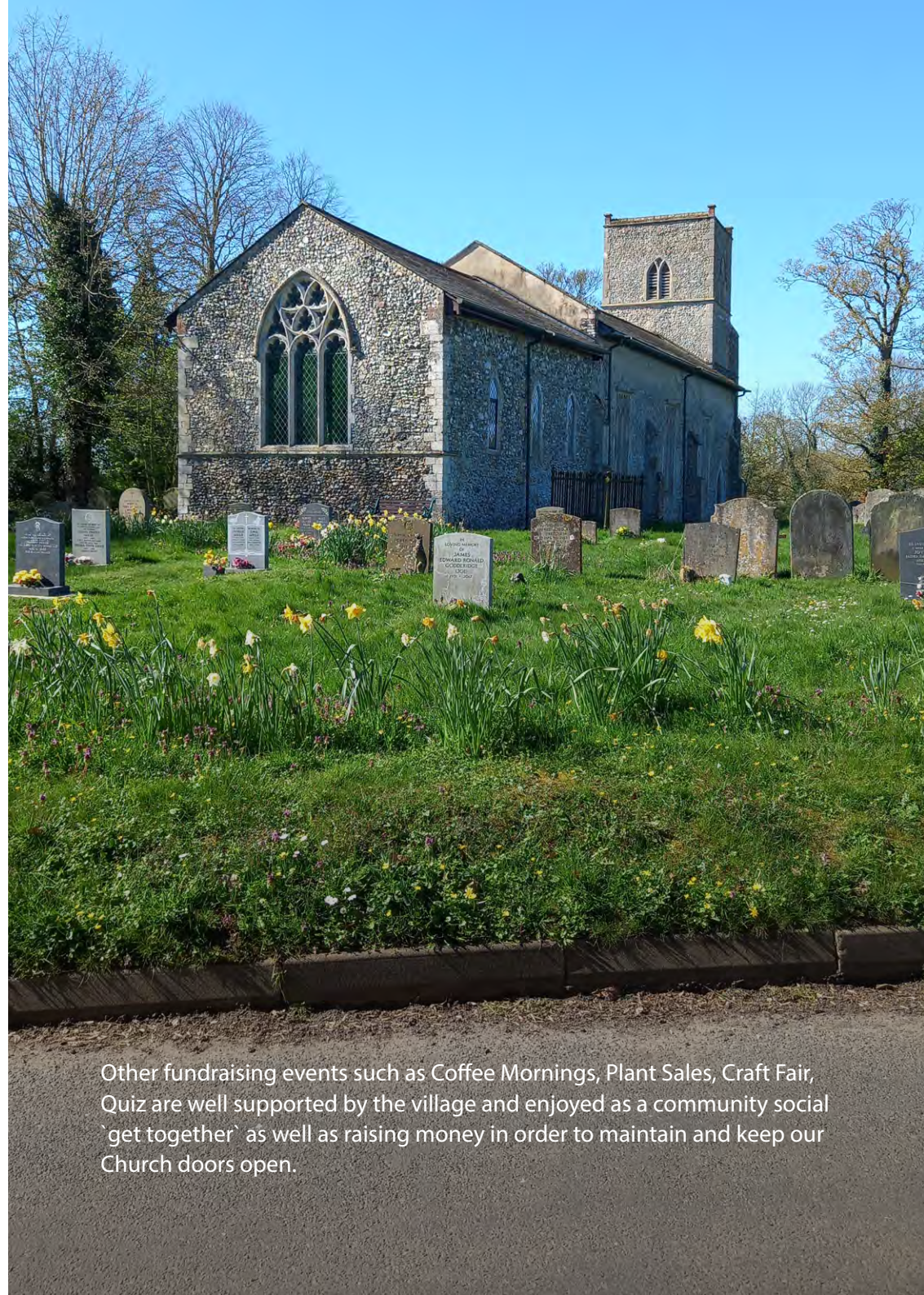
Whilst the village is lucky enough to have The Old Dairy, a popular local café, situated on its doorstep, there is no shop, PO, school, village hall or indeed no bus route. Therefore the Church itself is the only community building and, as such, is used for village meetings such as Parish Council. It also houses a `Bring & Borrow` Library.

The Church is also a focal point where the village gathers in times of both national remembrance and celebration such as VE and VJ commemoration, the Queen`s death and the Coronation celebration.

In recent years, there has also been some interest in the restoration of the bells which have been rendered operational by a retired volunteer in the village.

The church building itself is extremely important to the village and whilst our monthly Iona Service only averages six, the Harvest and Carol Services are packed to rafters.

Once a year, the village of Stanfield plays host to the largest Horticultural Day in the country. Organised by a local Starting Handle Club, the event has grown year on year and the Church PCC takes an active role by providing cakes baked by our local ladies plus a Tombola stall.



Other fundraising events such as Coffee Mornings, Plant Sales, Craft Fair, Quiz are well supported by the village and enjoyed as a community social `get together` as well as raising money in order to maintain and keep our Church doors open.

West Lexham

The Parish of West Lexham is the one of smaller parishes in the group of churches, consisting of some 24 houses and cottages. The church sits in an elevated position in the centre of the Northern half of the village and close to the Manor house and what used to be the main farm buildings at West Lexham.

The church is very old, having a round tower, one of only 180 left in the whole country. We rival East Lexham as to which is the older church, and of course St Nicholas at West Lexham is the oldest.

St Nicholas has recently 2016/7 been the recipient of an Heritage Lottery Grant of £250,000, which allowed some major repair work to be carried out to the round tower, windows and the general structure, such that it is in good condition going forward.

However, we struggle to produce a congregation on ordinary Sundays and so we are in the process of down grading our services to become a celebration church with very few services.

The congregation is mainly old retired country folk who are keen to support the church at West Lexham and so we are all keen to welcome our new team vicar when he or she is appointed.



Rougham – St Mary

Churchwardens

Dr. Thomas North: 01328 838 200

Mr Edward Barlow: 07971 505 569

Numbers

Population: 145

Church Electoral Roll: 4

Usual Sunday attendance: N/A

Music

There is a small functioning organ.

Church Building

The Church dates in part from the 13th century and the oldest window in the western aspect of the tower has Y-tracery indicating it was built very early in the 14th century. The church is simply decorated but very beautiful and the building is generally in fairly good repair.

Church Events

There is a very well attended Christingle service in the run up to Christmas each year. Although there are no longer regular Sunday services the parish hosts a benefice service annually.

Finance

Sadly the congregation in the village dwindled to the point where it no longer made sense to have a regular Sunday service, given the demands on the clergy elsewhere in the benefice. Consequently the PCC's income has also diminished. In 2025 the parish managed to pay £400 against a parish share ask of £1,408.64



Charities and Trusts

There are no Charities or Trusts which benefit the Church.

The Parish

Rougham is a friendly village with a good proportion of young families. Most of the children attend one of the local Primary Schools and then go on to Litcham High School. There is a community hub – Rougham Central – in the old village shop, and a playground in the trees of the park. The old people are supported by good neighbours, and there is a strong sense of community. There are now only a couple of active churchgoers in the village but a number of people who willingly help with the upkeep and running of the church.

Organisations

There is an active (and successful) Bowls Club and a Keep-fit group. The Church is also sometimes used for concerts. There are occasional village parties, and in the summer there is a Street fair.

Newsletter

There is a monthly village newsletter.

Wendling, Longham and Weasenham

The churches at Wendling, Longham and St Peter's, Weasenham are currently not used for worship and are cared for with support from the Diocesan church buildings team and Rural Dean as they are able. Funds are held by a PCC Treasurer.

All Saints church in Weasenham is cared for by the Norwich Diocesan Churches Trust.



Thank you

Thank you for reading our profile.
We hope this gives you a taste
of our rural parishes. We look
forward to hearing from you.

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/jobs-training-and-volunteering/
living- and-working-in-norfolk](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/jobs-training-and-volunteering/living-and-working-in-norfolk)







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