

# The Waterside Benefice (Catfield, Ludham, Potter Heigham)

in the Deanery of St Benet at Waxham with Tunstead



**All Saints' Catfield**



**St Catherine's Ludham**



**St Nicholas' Potter Heigham**

**Benefice Profile 2021**

[www.watersidegroup.org.uk](http://www.watersidegroup.org.uk)

# Welcome

**In this profile, we have tried to give a flavour of who we are, where we are coming from and what we think God may hold in store for us.**

Here you will find details of some of our Benefice's hopes, resources and facilities. Also, an outline of the qualities of the person we believe we need to lead us in the life of the church and in achieving our mission.

**We are looking for someone to help us develop our vision, to unite us in our purpose and to inspire us further to play a full part in God's work.**

Like most churches, we face many different challenges but we are confident that with the right person at the helm, everything in Christ becomes possible. We and our congregations look forward to close and productive co-operation with our new Priest in Charge.

We hope you feel you are that person and make your application accordingly. We would be delighted to hear from you.



Pilgrimage to St. Benet's Abbey with Bishop Jonathan

# Our Mission

**To enable people to come to know God and his unconditional love for them. We do this through:**

- Providing a welcome to all members of the community and our many visitors.
- Prayer, visible witness and practical involvement in our individual parishes and throughout our Benefice.

## **Committed To Growth**

The Diocese of Norwich is committed to a strategy of growth. We naturally play our part in this and our growth plan is outlined under the headings of Discipleship, Service and Numbers.

The Waterside Benefice has a deep desire to show the Grace of God in its community, guided by the example of Jesus Christ. The growth strategy is accomplished through the work of the Benefice Council, and the Staff Team. Work undertaken and currently in progress includes the following:

## **Growth in Discipleship**

- Regular inclusive worship
- Lent Courses
- Parish Newsletters
- Wider involvement of people in church and social activities, leading to their help in God's work in the parishes
- Engagement with the parents of the children who attend church and church events
- Consideration of the needs of the Benefice for ministry in the coming years.

## **Growth in Service**

- Bring the church into the centre of village life
- Active co-operation with both schools and all 3 Care Homes in the Benefice
- Encouragement of young people including Messy Church, Little Dragons Parent and Toddlers, and School Assemblies
- Re-ordering of churches for wider community use
- Transport for hospital and other visits
- Regular support for local, national and international charities and other emergency appeals.

## **Growth in Numbers**

- A friendly welcome for newcomers and visitors, especially at the major festival events where congregation numbers are increased, providing opportunities for refreshments and fellowship after many services
- A warm and understanding welcome and assistance to those seeking Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage and to bereaved family members in the lead up to, and following, funerals
- Partnership with local Methodist Churches.
- Provision of free guides to churches, sensory and science trails
- Children's Corners in the churches.
- Many events staged in the churches – concerts, Flower Festivals etc
- Monthly Messy Church with local Methodists.



## The post of Priest in Charge

We welcome all applications but here are a few pointers as to the type of person we are seeking.

### We are looking for someone who:

- Appreciates traditional liturgical worship but is also open to developing new and flexible forms
- Can delegate responsibility and can sensitively draw out and encourage the gifts and ministries of others
- Can collaborate with the Ministry Team
- Relates well to people of all ages and has a sense of humour
- Is happy to work with the ecumenical aspects of the work of the Benefice
- Has good interpersonal skills and will encourage our spiritual growth
- Is cheerful, kind and a good communicator.

## What the Waterside Benefice can offer

- Very supportive lay ministry team plus a member of the retired clergy who lives in Ludham and willingly assists when asked
- Very friendly and active communities
- Opportunities to share God's love in our communities
- A spacious, modern detached family house in Ludham, close to the church
- Good local schools at nursery, infant, primary and secondary level
- A happy and rewarding life in rural East Norfolk, a tranquil and beautiful part of England in the Broads National Park
- Good road and rail communication with the rest of the country, particularly Norwich, London, The Midlands and The North
- Lots of rural leisure facilities, including a fine sandy coastline and the Norfolk Broads

## Churches Together

Two villages have a Methodist Church and for many years, the local Methodist and Anglican Churches have enjoyed increasingly close and harmonious relationships – manifest by regular services in each other's churches and combined activities and events. This has progressed in Ludham to the creation of a Churches Together Committee and with representation on each other's councils. This is a much valued and rewarding relationship.



United Good Friday Walk of Witness from Ludham Methodist Church to St Catherine's Church

## Our worship and administration

### Pattern of worship in the Benefice

The villages would anticipate 2 services of Holy Communion in each parish every month. Also, occasional Joint Benefice services around the Parishes. It is customary in some villages that any 5th Sunday worship be shared with the Methodists.

### Ministry Team

Reader/Lay Minister: Ian Watton  
(Retired – Permission to Officiate)

AWAs: Christine Wall, John Savage, Judith Gardiner, Lynda Savage, Stephen Pitkethly.

The Ministry Team members naturally have differing commitments and demands on their time but, together, have ensured continuing Sunday worship in all three churches when required. The team meets regularly to agree the rota for Sunday services and members take it in turn to write the monthly church piece for the three parish news

sheets whilst in vacancy. The team works well together, sharing and leading worship and works pastorally within the communities. The members have a good sense of humour and all are much liked and respected in the parishes.

The Ministry Team's members simply want to serve God where they are, using their gifts and skills for God. They look forward to working with the new Priest in Charge to build God's Kingdom in the three parishes, in the changing times and needs of those ministered to in Christ's name.

### Benefice Governance

The Benefice Council, consisting of Priest in Charge and all Church Wardens, has an important role in giving general direction and support to the work of the Group. The custom has been that the three Parochial Church Councils each meet four times a year.

## Schools

There are two schools within the Benefice, one is a church school, Catfield Primary. The second, Ludham Primary and Nursery, is a local authority school. Ideally the Priest in Charge would occasionally take assemblies at the schools.

Both of the village schools use their parish churches for special assemblies such as Christmas, Easter and Harvest.

The good relations established and fostered by the Priest in Charge with the schools and their Heads has strengthened the links, not just between church and school but between church, children and their parents.

## Lay Involvement In Worship And Ministry

- AWAs who lead services and provide a talk/sermon as appropriate
- Holy Communion Assistants
- Members of the congregation read lessons and lead intercessions
- Active bell ringers in the 2 parishes with peals of bells
- Regular robed choir in Ludham
- Scratch Band provides musical support when needed for services, and goes into the community
- Flower arrangers in each parish provide colour throughout the year, (penitential seasons excepted) and at the great festivals

## Finance

Despite increasing pressures, the finances of the Group are in reasonable shape. All of the parishes have paid their share in full in the past several years. Parish Accounts: Copies of these are available from the Diocese.

## Facts & Figures (2014-2019)

	Population	Weddings	Baptisms	Funerals/ Interments	Electoral Roll	Average Attendance
<b>Catfield</b>	974	3	12	24	28	15
<b>Ludham</b>	1272	10	11	49	47	24
<b>Potter Heigham</b>	900	5	4	26	10	6



## The Vicarage



The Vicarage is in the centre of Ludham, the largest parish in the Group, and is close to the Church. It is a modern detached family house, built in 1976, with full oil-fired central heating .

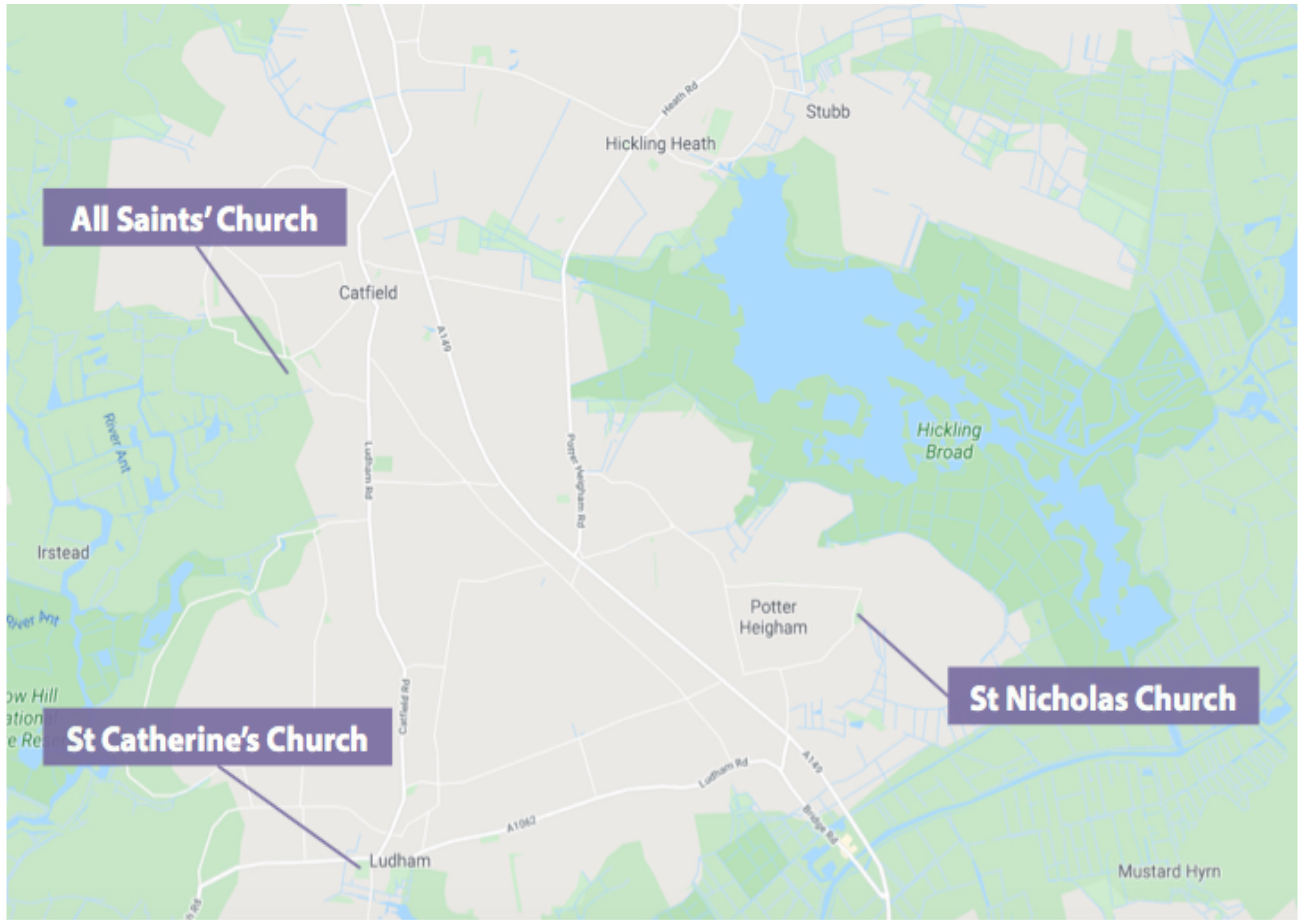
The living accommodation includes a large sitting room, dining room, wellfitted kitchen and cloakroom. A large study is also on the ground floor with access available without entering the private accommodation .

There are four good-sized bedrooms and a bathroom and box room, which can be used as a second study on the first floor.

Outside there is a double garage and large attractive gardens - mostly lawn but with some mature trees and shrubs.

The Vicarage is close to an excellent village supermarket, butcher and a good garage with fuel and repair facilities. The modern doctor's surgery and the primary school are a few minutes walk away. (The school received a "Good" OFSTED report at it's last inspection). There are regular bus services to Norwich, Great Yarmouth and the local towns .

## The Villages



All three villages are in North Norfolk District Council area and the Broads National Park. All three villages have Grade 1 Listed churches. The Bishop of Norwich is Patron all of the churches .





## Catfield



Beautiful quilts on show



Christmas at All Saints'



Christmas crafts for sale

The parish lies between Barton Broad and Hickling Broad and it contains a main village and three hamlets. The land is mainly used for arable and livestock farming plus extensive fens which are nature reserves within the Broads National Park.

There is a large industrial estate adjacent to the village which provides much-needed employment for the surrounding area.

In the centre of the village is a general store with Post Office, along with the Crown public house which serves meals. The Village Hall alongside the children's play area is the hub for village activities. These include table-tennis, boogy-bouncing, spinning (on cycles) amateur dramatics, craft group, quizzes and barn dances. The monthly parish magazine is self-financed and distributed to every house in the parish. It includes the Priest in Charge's message and details of church services.

Catfield CoE VC Primary and Nursery School is sited away from the village near the church. The school has a good reputation and is growing. The School maintains contact with the church and uses the church for special occasions several times a year.

The Priest in Charge is ex-officio a trustee of Catfield United Charities (the Poores' Trust), which gives financial assistance mainly to elderly parishioners. The Trust owns and manages two staithe, a boatyard, allotments and areas of conservation fen.

### All Saints Church

The church is built of flint with slate roofs dating mainly from the 14th and 15th centuries and it contains particularly important mediaeval wall paintings and rood screen paintings. The roofs of the nave and aisles have been recently restored. New combined heating and lighting chandeliers have been installed. The six bells are regularly rung for services and on Friday-night practices. The churchyard is well-maintained and the church is open every day.

Services are currently held most Sunday mornings, either for Morning Worship or Holy Communion. The small regular congregation is boosted on special occasions such as Remembrance, Christmas Eve and Nativity carol service (complete with donkey!) by other parishioners who feel an attachment to the church. Fund-raising activities such as Christmas bazaars and flower festivals are well supported.

### Catfield Church Wardens:

Mrs Judith Gardiner

Dr Keith Bacon

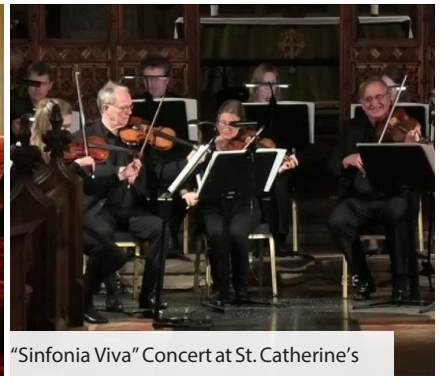
## Ludham



Easter Morning Family Communion



Lessons and Carols at St. Catherine's



"Sinfonia Viva" Concert at St. Catherine's

Ludham is a busy village with several, mainly arable farms and a number of boat yards servicing tourism. It is fairly self-contained with a primary and nursery school, a dispensing surgery with G.P.s and nursing staff, and shops. It has two public houses and three public halls.

### **St. Catherine's Church**

A large flint and stone building in the centre of the village, with a notable rood screen and tympanum. It is in good order following extensive repairs in recent years. There is a peal of five bells and active team of ringers. The church has a fine organ and a robed choir. The church is open every day and attracts between 6 and 8,000 visitors each year.

Ludham is a vibrant and thriving community with over 25 community groups meeting on a regular basis, catering for all age groups and offering a wide variety of interests and activities. The feeling of "community belonging" is engendered by the clear village centre, which contains all the amenities, essential to community living, in a confined area around the church. As well as being very picturesque, the village lives out its old-time charm amongst its inhabitants and visitors with a friendliness and "bonhomie" that has often brought casual visitors to become permanent residents. Ludham residents are proud of their village – not only because of its amenities but also because of its people. Few who come here to live ever wish to move away, so be warned!

The PCC supports a Fundraising Committee which organises a number of community events in the church. These include two major craft fairs and a number of concerts by local, national and international artists, with a variety of genre including folk, jazz and, classical music. We have been very fortunate, in recent years, to have attracted some world-class orchestras including the Academy of St Martin's in the Field, The European Youth Orchestra and Sinfonia Viva.

The "Friends of St Catherine's" operate as a separate entity to the PCC and raise funds for the upkeep and fabric of the church.

As well as providing essential finances for St Catherine's the added benefit of all these community events is to make the church more accessible to people of the village, to provide fun for participants and visitors, to involve, as helpers, residents who tend to be on the 'fringes' of church life and to engender a keen community spirit. Work to provide much needed kitchen and lavatory facilities in the church is under way. We hope to have it completed by the Spring.

### **Ludham Church Wardens:**

Lt Col Ken Grapes

Mrs Rita Gibson

## Potter Heigham



Potter Heigham has 500 households set in a non-development area in the heart of the Broads area. It is mainly a retirement/tourist village with no school; Ludham Primary School & Nursery (3 miles away) is the designated school.

The village is split by the A149: to the North are the majority of residences, the Village Hall and Methodist Chapel; St. Nicholas Church is situated in the North East corner. To the South are two pubs, Post Office Stores, some housing, and the river with its well-known medieval bridge and associated tourist & boating businesses, and riverside holiday bungalows.

The Village Hall hosts many local groups including: monthly lunches & free monthly afternoon teas, two Ladies' groups, indoor & outdoor Bowls clubs, Brownies & Rainbows, a sewing group, a slimming group, and a dog training club, amongst other groups. PCC members are involved in many of these groups. It is hoped the Priest in Charge would occasionally attend these groups to get to know villagers, and can relate to the older generation.

The 13th century flint & stone church is considered to be one of Broadland's prettiest with its wall paintings, rood screen and over 150

hand-sewn kneelers. It is in a reasonable state of repair, having had new lead Nave and North Aisle roofs laid. The thatched Chancel and South Aisle lead roof will both need renewing in the near future. It is opened every day by a rota of villagers.

There are regular services on Sundays with an average attendance of 6. Larger congregations attend special services like Easter. There is no full-time organist but the Scratch Band is invited for several services. In the past 5 years there have been 26 Funerals, 5 Weddings, and 4 Baptisms. There is an electoral roll of 10. Our parish share has been paid in full for many years.

We are helped by a lot of non-church members at fundraising events and with church cleaning, flowers etc. A locally made Nativity Set is shared round villagers' households during Advent.

## Benefice Scratch Band



Members of the Benefice Scratch Band that supports worship throughout the three parishes

The band welcomes anyone who can, or would like to try to sing, or play any kind of instrument, and has members from all around the Benefice and beyond.

Tuition and encouragement are given and the band now supports the music tradition at all three Churches, especially where there is no regular music, and especially at Benefice Communion Services, Festivals of Christmas, Easter, Harvest, and much more besides.



## **Waterside Group website and Facebook**

The Waterside Group of Churches maintains its own website **[www.waterside.org.uk](http://www.waterside.org.uk)** and Facebook page **[www.facebook.com/watersidegroup](https://www.facebook.com/watersidegroup)** both providing up to date information for the local community and the many summer visitors to the area about its churches, their ministry, service times and details, as well as news about church activities and fund raising events.

## **Zoom and Live streaming of services**

During the recent pandemic regular Benefice Sunday church services took place on Zoom, attracting a large number of people. In order to continue this outreach it is being planned to start the live stream of services once churches reopen.



## Contact

### **Mr Graham Cossey**

PA to Bishop of Thetford

PA to Archdeacon of Norfolk

Herfast House, 5 Vicar Street, Wymondham, NR18 0PL

**E-mail:** [graham.cossey@dioceseofnorwich.org](mailto:graham.cossey@dioceseofnorwich.org)

**Telephone:** 01953 528010

\*The parish of Hickling remains part of the benefice until a planned pastoral reorganisation moves it formally to the Coastal Benefice. In the meantime, it is under the care of Canon Catherine Dobson

