



# THE BANSFIELD BENEFICE

Vicar : Rev. Ian M. Finn

The Vicarage, Church Road, Wickhambrook, Suffolk. CB8 8XH Tel : 01440 820288

## CHURCH NEWS



Volume 8, Issue 2



APRIL 2007

Dear friends,

It was announced at the Benefice service at Cowlinge church on Sunday 25th February that I have been appointed by the Bishop of St. Edmundsbury & Ipswich as the new Rector of the benefice of Haverhill & Withersfield. Angela and I will leave the Vicarage at Wickhambrook, where we have lived for eight years, and move to the Rectory in Haverhill at the end of May (during the 1/2 term school holiday. The service of Institution marking the start of the new post will be on Friday 29th June at 7.30pm in St. Mary's church in Haverhill.

I certainly have enjoyed the last eight years working in Bansfield Benefice. We have come a long way together as individual parishes, as a Benefice, and as individuals walking this pilgrim road towards the Kingdom of Heaven. There have been great joys celebrated - baptisms of local youngsters, confirmation candidates making a commitment to the faith, wedding couples celebrating their love, renewals of wedding vows. We have held some wonderful social events around the Benefice over the last eight years, concerts, plays, musicals, dances, food, wine, friendships formed and cemented. Buildings have been restored, items added to beautify our churches, seasons acknowledged with churches full of worshippers to celebrate these marvellous events. We have worked hard to build up the links between churches together, in the area, for we believe that the church is strongest when it is at unity working and socialising together. We believe that we must not do separately what we can possibly do

together!

Over eight years of ministry in this area I have had contact with most people in the area in one way or another. I have prayed for each and every one of you and tried my best to do all I can to minister to you in this place. It has been a privilege to baptise your children, celebrate your weddings, bury your dead, be accepted into your community as your priest and I have valued your responses of appreciation of my ministry and the friendship and support you have offered.

Of course there has been sadness too as there will be in any living, growing and caring community. People we have loved have died and their deaths have been marked with services celebrating their lives and their faith. Some have not been able to accept change and working together as a benefice, mourning times now gone when each parish could remain separate from others, unwilling to see the wider vision of Benefice, new services, change. Others have moved out of the area for practical reasons as age and family commitments call upon them.

It has been a 'golden time' in the life of the Bansfield Benefice churches. A time of growth and a time of change - for the two necessarily go together. To change is to grow, to change often is to grow much. So we also must change and grow. Priesthood is a call to obedience, a life of prayer and service to the Church. It is a life of accepting God's call and following wherever God's call leads. If it were my choice I would prefer to stay here among you enjoying the fruits of the labours of the last eight

years, a comfortable life knowing and being known. But God is calling me to change and be challenged, to minister to a new and different community of people. I have heard the call, accepted the challenge in faith (albeit with reservations!) and so we move on trusting in God's call to work in His strength.

My new Benefice has some 30,000 people and growing, many baptisms, weddings and funerals as you would expect in such a large and vibrant population. A town centre parish with a challenging town centre ministry. Along side this a lovely rural village with a small population with the church at its heart.

I shall be still seen in the area as I will be continuing as Rural dean of Clare Deanery and so over seeing the vacancy in this Benefice. I shall also be continuing with my responsibilities as a Governor in the village school at Wickhambrook until a new Governor can be appointed, and also fulfil my commitments this year to the wedding couples I have been preparing for Holy Matrimony.

Benefice services in each church will be covered as far as possible, rotas will be produced so please do make sure you look at them and plan your worship accordingly.

My final service in the Benefice will be on Sunday 27th May at 10.00am in Wickhambrook church. Can you come and join us? It would be great to see as many people as possible there who have been my parishioners and friends over the years.

Rev. Ian Finn

### CHURCH & VILLAGE EVENTS : APRIL 2007

Sunday 1st	PALM SUNDAY	10.00am Benefice Eucharist at Lidgate 6.00pm Stations of the cross (Lidgate)
HOLY WEEK SERVICES (see over & leaflet from churches)		
Saturday 7th	10.00am—noon	Traidcraft coffee morning on the Benefice Hall
Sunday 15th	10.00am	CONFIRMATION SERVICE for the Benefice at Wickhambrook church. (7 candidates for the Benefice presented to the Bishop)
Monday 16th	7.00pm	Stradishall church APCM
Wednesday 18th	7.30pm	Benefice Committee meeting in Benefice Hall
Thursday 19th	10.30am	Stansfield church APCM
	7.30pm	Ousden church APCM
Sunday 22nd	5.00pm	Denston church APCM
Monday 23rd	7.30pm	Wickhambrook church APCM
Wednesday 25th	7.30pm	Cowlinge church APCM
Sunday 29th	3.30pm	Churches Together service at Kirtling RC Church
Monday 30th	7.30pm	Lidgate church APCM



# SERVICE ROTA APRIL 2007

APRIL 2007	St. Nicholas DENSTON	All Saints STANSFIELD	St. Margaret STRADISHALL	All Saints WICKHAMBROOK	St. Margaret COWLINGE	St. Mary LIDGATE	St. Peter OUSDEN
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> PALM						10.00am Benefice HC CW IMF 6.00pm Stations	
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.00pm HC						
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>		7.00pm HC					
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>			7.00pm HC				
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>					7.00pm HC		
GOOD FRIDAY				8.00am Matins			2.00pm Liturgy
Easter Eve				8.00pm Vigil & HC			
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> EASTER DAY		9.30am HC IMF	3.00pm Easter Family service IMF	9.30am Family Paul Bevan	11.00am HC IMF	11.00am HC Rev. Marianne Atkinson	11.00am HC Rev. Bob Torrens
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>						10.00am HC	
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>					10.00am HC		
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> EASTER 2				10.00am Benefice CONFIRMATION +Bp Jeremy			
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am HC						
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>		10.00am HC					
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> EASTER 3		10.00am Benefice HC CW IMF					
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>			10.00am HC				
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>							10.00am HC
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> EASTER 4	10.30am Matins Fiona Evans		11.00am HC IMF	9.30am Matins Ann Jones	9.30am HC IMF		11.00am HC ext Philip Draycott

HC = Holy Communion CW = Common Worship service BCP = Book of Common Prayer Service IMF = the Vicar

## HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2007

**PALM SUNDAY** 10.00am Benefice service Lidgate church  
(1st April) 6.00pm Stations of the Cross, Lidgate church

**Holy Monday** 7.00pm Denston church  
**Holy Tuesday** 7.00pm Stansfield church  
**Holy Wednesday** 7.00pm Stradishall church

**MAUNDY THURSDAY** 7.00pm Lord's Supper, Cowlinge church

**GOOD FRIDAY** 8.00am Morning Prayer Wickhambrook  
10.00am Walk of witness (URC to Methodist) Wickhambrook  
2.00pm Good Friday Liturgy, Ousden church

**EASTER EVE** 8.00pm Easter Vigil  
First Mass of Easter

**EASTER DAY** 9.30am Holy Communion, Stansfield church  
9.30am Family Service, Wickhambrook ch.  
11.00am Holy Communion, Lidgate church  
11.00am Holy Communion, Ousden church  
11.00am Holy Communion, Cowlinge church  
3.00pm Easter service, Stradishall church

BOOK THESE DATES : COME TO CHURCH

**CELEBRATE THE RISEN CHRIST**

BENEFICE

## CONFIRMATION

Sunday 15th April  
10.00am

Wickhambrook Church  
Bishop Jeremy Walsh

Candidates: Sarah Dowsett  
Tasmin Smith  
Holly Chapman  
Hugh McKendrick  
Douglas McKendrick  
Kit Wilkins-Smith  
Bramwell Durrant  
*Please remember them in your prayers*

## LENT BOXES

We have some Lenten giving boxes  
for the USPG Missionary Society.

Please bring back to church at Easter.