



HETHERSETT  
& THE MELTONS

Benefice Profile 2023



## WELCOME TO OUR BENEFICE PROFILE

We hope that you will get a sense of who we are and where we are now. We hope to show you the potential of this Benefice as well as what we can offer our new Rector.

This position has many opportunities for the right person and has the potential to transform the spiritual landscape in Hethersett and the Meltons.

## LOCATION

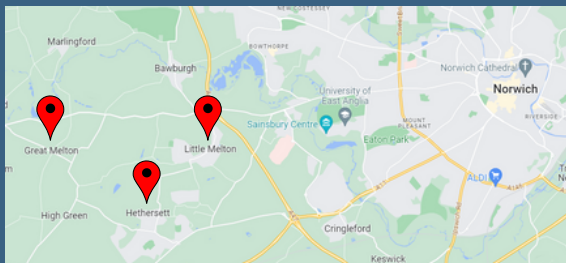


Image: Google Map Data 2023



## VISION AND MISSION

**"Making Jesus known in our local community. Being a welcoming place to find Jesus. Reaching out to you in service and friendship because our churches are your churches."**

We are a collaborative benefice who are working together to achieve our vision in 'making Jesus known' in our community. We are looking for someone to inspire, encourage and support us on this journey. Recent new housing developments in Hethersett and Little Melton have meant huge growth to the population of our Benefice. This presents great opportunities to reach new people, families and a younger demographic. We are ready to learn how to creatively connect with our community.

We hope this profile excites you and encourages you to consider guiding our journey.

We are really looking forward to welcoming you into our Benefice.



Photo: The Benefice Profile Discussion Day

# PERSON PROFILE

We listened to our community by conducting a survey and holding a discussion day. These are the attributes which occurred consistently...

**compassionate**

**enthusiastic**

**inspiring**

**creative**

**heart for community**

**approachable**

**participative leader**

We are looking for someone who can:

- Offer collaborative, sensitive leadership. A team builder who rejoices in encouraging, enabling and releasing the gifts of others and supporting them in their calling.
- Accept, love and value the existing congregation whilst supporting, nurturing and enabling the introduction of new ideas.
- Be a recognised, approachable figure-head and reach out to the corners of our community, loving people and being a bridge to Jesus.

## **What we can offer:**

A three-church benefice who want to work collaboratively to achieve the vision for mission.

We have 3 active PCCs with 2 church wardens each, who understand the need for enthusiasm and creativity to reach the community.

A Benefice Standing Committee comprising 2 elected members from each PCC who worked together to implement the Clergy Care Covenant and now want to support the well-being of the new incumbent.

Strong relationships with local schools, preschools and nurseries.

A five bedroom rectory on a private road, located opposite St Remigius and well linked to Norwich centre.

Talented members of the congregation including choir leaders, gifted organists, skilled musicians, superb cooks, fantastic flower arrangers, experienced bell ringers and many more.

**We are so excited to welcome the person who God is calling to our Benefice.**

# OUR SETTING



## The Rectory, Hethersett

The 1950's five-bedroom Rectory is immediately across the road from St Remigius Church and set in a large garden which is mostly down to grass and mature trees. It is situated on a private driveway which is off the B1172.

## Local Area

Hethersett is a large village, 6 miles south-west of Norwich. St. Remigius Church sits on the B1172 on the outskirts of the village. All Saints, Little Melton and All Saints, Great Melton are located just a couple of miles away. At the 2021 census the population of Hethersett was 7021 but significant development recently has seen this rise to approximately 10,000 residents. Development in the village saw the expansion of schools. There are now two primary schools (including nurseries) and a Secondary school rated outstanding.

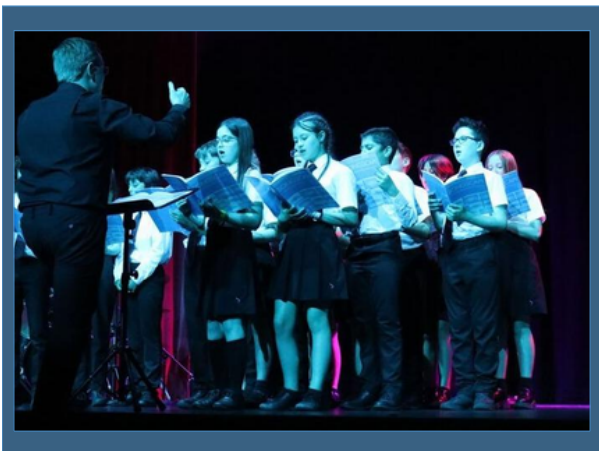


## LOCAL SCHOOLS



The three local primary schools are good and outstanding schools and all work closely together. They are Hethersett Woodside Primary (414 pupils) and Nursery, Hethersett V.C. Primary (298 pupils) with private nursery and Little Melton Primary School (120 pupils). All of these schools feed into Hethersett Academy. Little Melton also has a pre-school nursery.

Hethersett V.C. Primary is a Church of England school linked to St. Remigius. All the Hethersett schools meet for a carol service in the church annually, taking turns to organise. Little Melton Primary School and pre-school nursery have good links with Little Melton Church, taking part in art projects in the church and holding their annual carol services there.



The local secondary school is Hethersett Academy, which was recently rated outstanding. There are approximately 1,052 pupils on roll. The Academy's vision is "every student achieves their best – this, of course, includes their academic results, but we also highly prize developing each student as a capable and valuable member of the community. Through this ethos we encourage each student to be a responsible and active member of both the school community and their local neighbourhood."

## SAFEGUARDING

The Hethersett Benefice is committed to being a safer benefice, and the PCC has fully committed to both Safeguarding for Children and Vulnerable Adults, and to Safer Recruiting across our Parish.

We are striving to ensure that staff and volunteers have appropriate Safeguarding training and that all appropriate checks have been carried out. We have a Designated Safeguarding Officer and two Assistant Safeguarding Officers - one based in each parish.

# ST REMIGIUS, HETHERSETT

Our Sunday service at St Remigius Church is attended by around 40-50 parishioners. The services include a monthly Family service, Communion services and Morning Prayer. During the week we have a Wednesday Communion service. We have rotas of volunteers to welcome people and take part in the service. We serve refreshments after the service and people stay and chat.

Music is a big part of our worship. An experienced Choir Leader runs our SATB choir who lead the singing at most services including weddings and funerals. Our accomplished organist (ARCO qualified) has been with the Church for over 9 years and composes music which is often sung at Sunday Services or for special occasions. Singers from Great and Little Melton often join us for Benefice Services. Once a month a group of musicians play and lead the worship, and this is led by a gifted pianist.

We have a full group of Bell Ringers for our 8 bells who practice every Thursday and ring most Sundays. We often welcome visiting Ringing groups.

We have a skilled and very active Flower Guild providing flowers for services. They also provide flowers for weddings and funerals and have held two very successful Flower Festivals for the Queen's Jubilee and the Coronation of King Charles.



St Remigius took part in the Village Scarecrow Trail

## Our Regular Activities

- We have a very successful toddlers' group on every 1st Tuesday of the month.
- We have Messy Church four times a year when we usually have a church full of children and their parents enjoying lots of activities
- Monthly prayer meetings alternating between St Remigius and the Methodist Church
- Mothers' Union meetings on the 4th Monday of the month

## Special services

- Our Christingle, Christmas Eve Crib service attract lots of children
- Christmas Carol Service of lessons, anthems and carols
- Remembrance Sunday where we are joined by the Methodists, our local guiding and scouting community as well as members from the armed forces.
- Annual Hethersett Schools Carol Service
- Churches Together Walk of witness between the Methodist Church and St. Remigius on Good Friday.

# ALL SAINTS, LITTLE MELTON

Little Melton is a rapidly growing village with facilities including a school, pub, shop, garage and village hall with a large recreation area attached. Although the church is on the outskirts of the village, together with its churchyards, it holds an important place in the community. The church is well maintained and includes a fully equipped kitchen and toilet facilities allowing refreshments after our services and at all other events.

Our monthly family service can take on many forms. For instance, on Climate Sunday we held an open-air service in the churchyard. Our monthly traditional communion service appeals to the older generation.

Additional services are held throughout the year on Mothering Sunday, Palm Sunday, Remembrance Day and at Christmas. We have a well-established crib service on Christmas Eve afternoon which is always well supported.

We started Messy Church in the village in 2021 with five families which has increased to twelve families with a membership of 35 with usually around twenty people at each session. We follow the recommended format of welcome, celebration, activities, and finish with a 'bring and share meal'.



We are regular supporters of St Martin's Housing Trust with gifts given from our Harvest and Carol Services. We also support the Bishop's Lent Appeal and Christian Aid. There is an active Mother's Union who meet once a month in the village hall.

Our electoral roll has recently increased to 30 with 7 members on the PCC including 2 churchwardens. In addition to this we have many other villagers who come to worship and help in the day-to-day running of the church. Our fundraising group organise various events during the year. Although these are primarily to raise funds, we also see them as a chance to bring people together in a relaxed and inclusive manner and to raise the profile of the church itself. We also actively participate in the annual cycle ride organised by the Norfolk Churches Trust.

The Friends of Little Melton Church Building is a separate charity which has been in operation for over 20 years. They are an active group of regular givers and fundraisers who contribute towards the upkeep of the church building itself. Projects they have been involved with include the building of the kitchen extension, tower repairs and the restoration of the south porch. With the increase in the size of the village there is great potential for growth within our church.

# ALL SAINTS, GREAT MELTON

Great Melton is a rural settlement with a very small population of approximately 160 people. Houses are well scattered as it covers a large area of 10 km<sup>2</sup> (hence known as the greater of the Meltons!). There is an impressive recently renovated community pavilion at Melton Park which is the home of Gt Melton Cricket Club and Bowls Club. This is used by the Church for fundraising events and special services. Although Great Melton is the smallest of the villages, the Church community is very active and the PCC is supportive and enthusiastic for growth.



Great Melton Church has 33 on the electoral roll. 18-20 people use the Church weekly for services and/or private prayer. Please see the table included later on for our pattern of services. Special services include a summer Evening Songs of Praise, a Remembrance Service held at the pavilion and war memorial and a Christmas Eve Candlelit Communion service which along with our Easter, Harvest and Christingle services attract a large congregation. Garden Church is held within this parish, offering a new expression of worship to the benefice and regularly attracts 35 – 40 adults and children in the Cricket Pavilion, It is led by a lay-leader. The PCC are eager to encourage and facilitate a mixed ecology of worship styles and reaching out to all people, making Jesus known.

A choir was formed in 2009 and plays an important role in the services, as well as in the running of the church. There is definitely a social side to the choir who meet most Tuesday evenings to rehearse but end up putting the world to rights as well as sorting church related issues!

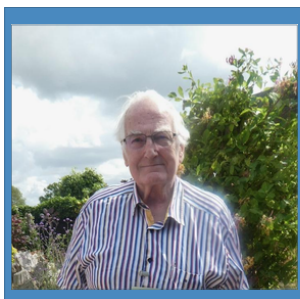
We hold regular fundraising events (fete, quiz, Edwardian Open Day) which, as well as raising much needed funds, are important in getting the whole church community together in a social setting. The Garden Network hold many events where Great Melton Garden Church joins with many other Norfolk Gardens – recent events include a Jazz Concert, Bangers and Bonfires, Pimms and Praise, Worship under the stars and lots more.



Over the past 20 years we have raised significant sums to ensure the church building is now in a good state of repair and improve the heating. We are now embarking on the journey to raise funds to provide a toilet and kitchen facility within the church to enable us to use the building for more than just traditional services.

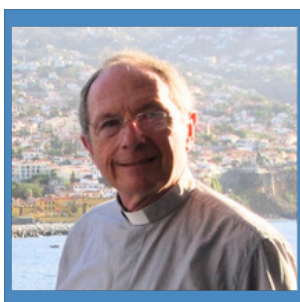
# OUR TEAM

## THE BENEFICE TEAM



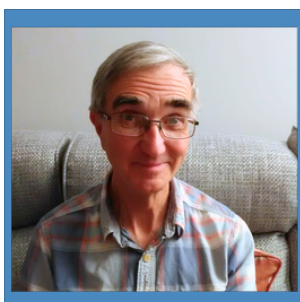
### **Revd Christopher Mallett**

Christopher Mallett, Associate Priest (NSM), was ordained in July 1983 and lives in Hethersett. Christopher is a retired Director of Nursing and worked as a part time hospital chaplain from 1987-2000. His background training was in general and psychiatric nursing. He takes services, participates in pastoral care and offers bereavement counselling.



### **The Venerable Martin Gray**

Martin Gray retired in 2009 after having served as Archdeacon of Lynn in the diocese for the previous ten years and, prior to that, as an incumbent in Lowestoft and Sheringham. He is always willing to offer help and support where he can. He worked in the chemical industry as a chemical engineer before ordination in 1980.



### **Revd Michael Kingston**

Michael worked as a chartered surveyor in London and East Anglia. He then served as a curate in Drayton and a Rector at Thorpe End and the Hempnall group. Three years ago he moved to Hethersett with his wife, Maggie to retire. They have two daughters and four grandchildren.

## **The Benefice Standing Committee**

The elected Benefice Standing Committee (BSC) was formed as part of the Clergy Care Covenant to support the previous Rector. It became the BSC to work together and support each other through the period of interregnum and beyond.



# CURRENT PATTERN OF SERVICES

	1st Sunday	2nd Sunday	3rd Sunday	4th Sunday
Hethersett	Informal Communion 11am	Parish Communion 11am	Sung Morning Prayer 11am	Family Service 11am
Little Melton	Family Service 9:30	none	Family Communion 9:30	none
Great Melton	none	Family Service 9:30	none	Communion 9:30

## Other services

- 5th Sunday is usually a United service, with churches hosting in turn.
- Wednesday Communion Service at St. Remigius.
- 2nd and 4th Tuesdays Morning Prayer at All Saints, Little Melton
- 1st Thursday of the month Communion at Hethersett Hall Care Home

# OTHER FORMS OF WORSHIP



Photo: Little Melton Messy Church



## Messy Church at Little Melton and Hethersett

Hethersett Messy Church meets 4 times each year. Since restarting after the pandemic, between 9 and 15 families have attended. Each session has craft, seasonal activities, singing, and an informal worship session, finishing with sharing a meal.

Little Melton Messy Church takes place every school holiday at Little Melton Church - see All Saints, Little Melton for more details.

# OTHER FORMS OF WORSHIP

## Hethersett Toddler Group

Sessions include play, toys, craft and singing. Numbers range between 10 and 20 children plus carers. Many of the families also attend Messy Church and we have welcomed several children who have been baptised. The children who start school are presented with a Lion Story Teller Bible.



Open air service at Park Green, Hethersett



## Hethersett and District Churches Together

Joint Acts of Worship include - Remembrance Sunday, the Methodist Church 100th Anniversary, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Good Friday walk of witness and service, an open air service held at Park Green.

Other Events - Carol singing outside Tesco to support a local charity, the pancake evening for Shrove Tuesday which introduced the Lent Courses.

## Garden Church

Garden Church is a growing network of small, organic churches in Norfolk. We meet as family to share food and faith as we journey through scripture together. It is led by 'home-grown' lay-leaders as well as members of the wider network. Rooted in the biblical vision of church in 'Acts', Garden adds to the ecology of our church and seeks to share time, talent and treasure.

Please use the QR code to hear more about the journey of Garden in Great Melton

G A R —  
— D E N



Garden Church at Great Melton Cricket Pavilion

# FACTS AND FIGURES

Parish	2022 Parish Share Requirement	Paid %
Hethersett	£41,936	100%
Little Melton	£14,548	62%
Great Melton	£4,535	100%

Parish	Hethersett	Little Melton	Great Melton
Weddings	4	2	1
Baptisms	9	1	0
Funerals/ Interments	23/2	3	2
Electoral Roll	88	28	30
Usual Sunday	50	17	12

Figures from Parish Dashboards 2022