

THE WILFORD PENINSULA TEAM MINISTRY – PROFILE FOR NEW TEAM VICAR FOR THE HOLLESLEY CLUSTER OF PARISHES

An exciting opportunity exists to exercise ministry alongside warm and responsive people, supported by a friendly Team, and in an area of outstanding natural beauty. The Team Ministry was established in the year 2000 and is a benefice of seventeen parishes with eighteen churches. It is a large but well-defined geographical area bounded by the Deben, Alde and Ore rivers and the North Sea. The three and a half stipendiary priests each have pastoral responsibility for clusters within the Team, which are as follows:

- Orford, Sudbourne, Chillesford, Butley and Iken. (The Revd David Murdoch, Team Rector)
- Rendlesham, Eyke, Tunstall and Wantisden. (The Revd Colin Macdonald, Team Vicar)
- Hollesley, Boyton, Ramsholt, Alderton and Bawdsey. **Vacancy.**
- Bromeswell, Shottisham and Sutton. (Half-time post) **Vacancy.**

The whole Team area is up to fifteen miles long and ten miles wide. There is a weekly clergy team Eucharist and meeting for business and mutual support: and a monthly Greater Team Meeting, consisting of the four stipendiary clergy, OLM, retired clergy, readers, lay pastor and elders. This group is currently studying together the workbook for rural churches 'Seeds in Holy Ground'. (Published by the Rural Affairs Committee of General Synod and the Mission and Public Affairs Council of the Archbishops' Council.) The Bishop of Exeter's introduction to this document speaks of the importance of *locality* and *community*: of the network of local churches as expressive of

“God who, in Christ, commits himself to specific local communities and contexts, and who, through Christ, draws people into a new community or fellowship with him.”

The hope is that our discussions will stimulate the consideration of different options for mission, which will be taken back into people's specific local contexts. Crucial to this exercise is the recognition that:

“This workbook is not about encouraging rural churches to try to do even more, to spread the available personnel even more thinly. Although there are many examples of innovative ideas, good examples and new forms of ministry, the aim is to do only a few things, or perhaps only one thing, but to do what is done really well.”

Diocesan and Team Aims

The Diocese of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich seeks to live by the Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion.

The Team contains and values a wide range of traditions and theological perspectives, and it is important that the person appointed be willing to respect and learn from others as well as making their own contribution.

Some key Team objectives, formulated in response to a recent Diocesan initiative, were:

- Building up work with children, young families and schools;
- Seeing the Church as the 'Body of Christ' in which every member has a role, making the fullest use of our trained and enthusiastic lay ministers and discerning new vocations.
- Imaginative use of our medieval church buildings, making them welcoming and informative to visitors, and finding ways for the communities to make greater use of them.
- Developing ways of welcoming and reaching out to tourists, holidaymakers and second home-owners.

- Facing financial challenges and possibly greater administrative co-operation. (There is a part-time Benefice Secretary.)

DESCRIPTION OF PARISHES IN THE HOLLESLEY CLUSTER

ALDERTON: A quiet village of about 400 people with quite a high number of retired folk. Some community activities, but sometimes hard to keep them going. Decline in facilities, as in many rural areas, e.g. eleven shops fifty years ago-one now. Decline too in numbers working in agriculture: most now commute to BT, Martlesham, Ipswich or work at the prison at Hollesley Bay. Like many villages, people will give generously towards the church building especially, even if they do not attend regularly.

BAWDSEY: One of a number of parishes which referred to the involvement of key church people in wider village activities, and the potential this gives for mission. The Church School here also provides a very important opportunity. There is a wonderful spirit of co-operation and caring neighbourliness in this tight knit community despite the high proportion of holiday homes and its position 'at the end of the road'.

BOYTON: One of many parishes seeking to attract and involve more young families in the life of the church, in this case using the work of the Mothers' Union which could spread elsewhere in the group and Team. Village has a number of small businesses and there is a strong link with the 'Mary Warner' almshouses. The church hall is to be leased to the parish council. Financial support from 'weekenders' is appreciated.

HOLLESLEY: The largest village and a working community with various places of employment, notably Hollesley Bay Prison, shop, pub, primary school and social clubs. The congregation has tried to encourage newcomers and younger members with limited success, apart from special services and social events. Services held at retirement home and there is a prayer group and a welcome club, involvement in the state primary school and at the re-occupied army camp at Sutton Heath. The village has benefited from the OLM (The Revd Judith Andrews) living there although she helps throughout this group and more rarely elsewhere in the Team.

RAMSHOLT: Very small parish but solvent and well supported including by visitors. (Population: 26, Electoral Role: 33!) Church and pub in a beautiful position by the River Deben, but the church building has no water or electricity. Few if any resident churchgoers but supportive eclectic congregation and large number of visitors.

Most villages have a varied pattern of worship, (see Appendix) and some have held 'Alpha' and 'Emmaus' courses: Ramsholt has only BCP services.

When there is a fifth Sunday, all parishes in the group worship together.

On the Feast of 'Christ the King' and some other occasions, e.g. Ascension Day, the whole Team worships together.

PERSONAL QUALITIES SOUGHT

- 1) Above all, a **lover of God and of people**.
- 2) A prayerful and spiritual **leader** with good preaching and teaching skills.
- 3) Able to give strong and inspiring guidance whilst also enabling and delegating to others.
- 4) A **pastoral**, human and caring person who will relate well to others, be a visible presence in the communities, a visitor and listener.
- 5) A promoter of the Church's **mission**, especially to the young, families and schools, encouraging the existing MU involvement in Baptism follow-up.
- 6) Understanding of or willingness to learn about the **rural** context.
- 7) Willing to **collaborate** both within the cluster and across the Team.
- 8) Flexible and adaptable enough for a diverse and widespread ministry, including openness to different approaches and churchmanship; patient with a good sense of humour.
- 9) Driver essential, basic computer skills desirable.

Job priorities

- 1) To discern, develop and share a mission strategy for this cluster of churches within the Team, giving a strong lead yet encouraging the involvement of others.
- 2) To lead and develop varied and flexible patterns of worship and music ranging from BCP to informal.
- 3) To enable the sharing of the Good News with all, especially seekers and young families, building on links with the church and state schools.
- 4) To relate to whole communities by being present at public events and by pastoral visiting.

Housing

A new house is being sought in Hollesley.

For further details, informal discussion, visits and applications, please contact

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Appendices

- 1) Monthly pattern of Sunday services
- 2) Map of Deanery showing Team and Cluster
- 3) Church of England Application Form

Closing Date: 30th April 2008 – Interviews: 28th May 2008