

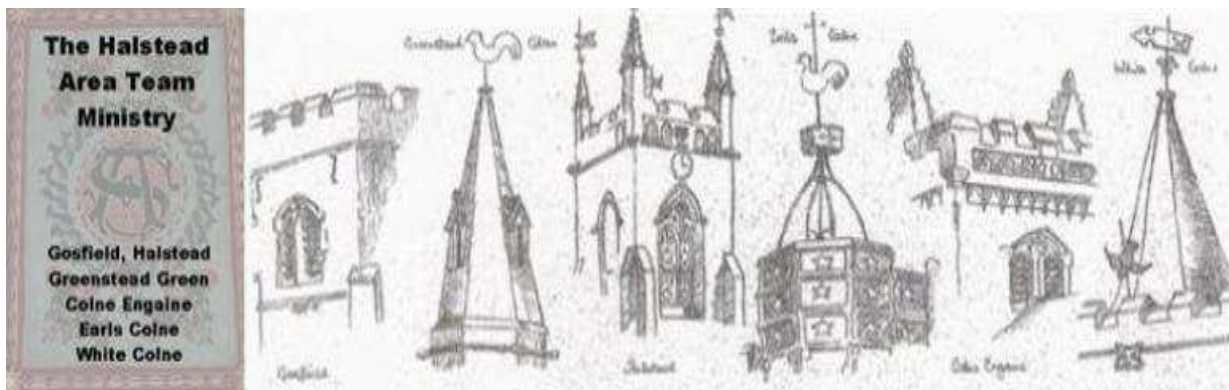


The Church of England
in Essex and East London
Diocese of Chelmsford

EPISCOPAL AREA OF COLCHESTER

DEANERY OF HINCKFORD

Section 1 of 2

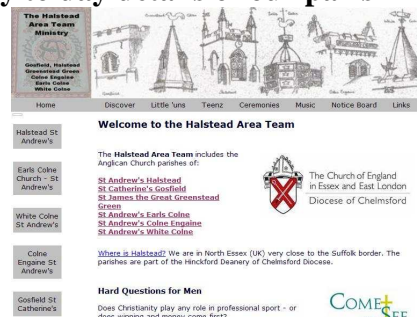


You are invited to apply for the half-time post of
Team Vicar
in the **Halstead Area Team Ministry**,
with particular responsibility for the parishes of
Gosfield and Greenstead Green.

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Please visit our team website to view more
day to day details of our parish lives.



www.halsteadchurches.co.uk

1. General Information

Diocese/area: Chelmsford Diocese/Episcopal Area of Colchester

Team Rector: The Revd. Canon John Blore,

The Vicarage, Parsonage Street, Halstead, Essex CO9 2LD

(Generally known in the parish as John and, in the church schools as Father John)

Telephone no. 01787 472171

e-mail address john@johnblore.freeserve.co.uk

Date of ordination: 29th June 1975

Length of time in present parish:

Licensed as Priest-in-Charge of Halstead and Greenstead Green November 2000

Appointed Team Rector of the newly formed Team Ministry (March 1st 2004)

Team Clergy:

Halstead: The Revd. Sally Lodge (Stipendiary Curate)

The Revd. Mike Bursell (Self Supporting Curate)

St. Catherine's Gosfield and St. James', Greenstead Green

Vacant (Team Vicar: half-time post)

St. Andrew's, Earls Colne,

St. Andrew's, White Colne and St. Andrew's, Colne Engaine

The Revd. Vivien Brooks (Team Vicar)

The Revd. Canon Clifford Norris (Retired Priest)

Lay involvement:

The Team has three Readers who may officiate across the Team

Philip Quinn based in Gosfield

Hugh Mothersole based in the Colnes

Terry Streamer is a PTO Reader and officiates across the Team.

There are rotas of Eucharistic ministers, intercession leaders and lesson readers.

Lay people lead morning and evening prayers in some parishes.

At St. Andrew's, Halstead, a small team of Eucharistic Visitors participate with the clergy in some 20 home communion visits each month. Also in Halstead, a team of Pastoral Visitors assists in keeping in touch with the congregation and fringe, and there are also teams of baptism and bereavement visitors.

In the Colnes a small team of Eucharistic Ministers assists the clergy with visits to the 3 care homes and takes communion to individual people as required.



The Gosfield Vicarage.

The vicarage is a modern building with four bedrooms, constructed in the early 1970s. The bedrooms are large and two of them have vanity units. The downstairs rooms comprise a kitchen, large study, dining room, sitting room and toilet. About 10 years ago, new double-glazing and doors were installed. It is close to the church and has fairly large gardens, both to the front and rear, which are mostly laid down to grass. The church possesses a ride-on mower which is kept in the vicarage garage and which can be used by the incumbent to keep the grass cut. There is also a Hayter mower for less accessible parts.



The plans for the team ministry envisage that the team vicar serving Gosfield, Greenstead Green and the Team will be resident at Gosfield. At the present we do not know whether the vicarage will be let while we await the appointment of a new member of the Team. In the past, the PCC has contributed towards the cost of internal redecoration of the vicarage. It is recognised that the sitting room and stair carpets will need to be replaced.



2. Person Profile for Team Vicar



A prayerful, pastoral priest who

- † has a heart for people and is happy to be a visible presence in these rural/market town communities.
- † will have responsibility for the villages of Gosfield and Greenstead Green and is happy to be an active participant in the Ministry Team, with a commitment to giving support to and being supported by the other team members; is committed to the concept of Team Ministry and who is prepared to continue the journey of exploration as to what it means to be a team; is happy to adapt to work with colleagues of different personalities and with different gifts, and who has new gifts and fresh ideas to bring to the team.
- † is comfortable with both traditional and less traditional patterns of worship with an openness to different forms of services, a willingness to explore new kinds of worship and who is sympathetic to developing a healing ministry within the team.
- † is able to work with a wide age range, being at home both working with the elderly and infirm, and with children (ministry to the three schools in the parish of Gosfield being especially important); is familiar with and happy to use or learn to use new technology in addition to more traditional methods of communication.
- † is committed to encouraging, supporting, discerning and growing lay ministry.
- † is ecumenically minded.
- † has the ability to address the particular issue of time management associated with this half-time post.
- † has a good sense of humour and a proven ability to work with others.



3. Parish Profiles

Gosfield lies 5 miles north of Braintree and 2 miles to the west of Halstead. Because of its proximity to Halstead, many of the residents shop there and have close connections with the town. There are approximately 1,300 inhabitants in the village, most of whom work in the surrounding towns although a small number commute to London via Braintree station. The village has a high proportion of elderly people mainly because there was a large expansion of housing in the 1960s, and couples who bought houses then have tended to stay.

There are two public houses, both of which survive as restaurants rather than as old-fashioned pubs. A social club (formerly a men's club) exists in the Coffee and Reading Room. There is also a part time Post Office, a shop which sells papers and confectionery and a hairdresser.

There are many village organisations ranging from sports clubs to a horticultural society and Gosfield is twinned with Chouzé Sur Loire, a village on the Loire in France. Annual visits are arranged between the two villages. A village magazine is published every two months and delivered free to almost every house. One section of this is devoted to church news to which the incumbent has in the past contributed. A village fete takes place in July on the beautifully situated playing field

There are three schools in the village. One is a state primary school which has a very good reputation and is attended by children from within and outside the village. There are approximately 135 on the roll. Then there are two private schools, again with good reputations. In the past, the local incumbent has visited all three schools. Children participate in village activities-dancing at the annual village fete, entertaining the senior circle and horticultural society and competing in the children's section of the three annual shows.



Greenstead Green is two miles from Halstead and with the small hamlet of Burtons Green numbers approx. 350 people plus 70 children under 17. It has its own Parish Council. Most homes are owner-occupied with a few rented from Braintree District Council and private landlords. 25% of the residents are retired.

At one time most people were employed in and around the village in agriculture, milling, the sawmill and the iron foundry. Now just a few people work on the surrounding farms. There is a small family run nursery, but everyone else has to travel out of the village for employment.

The existing Post Office closed several years ago but in 2007 the local farmer opened a farm shop which includes a Post Office, café and supplies of animal and bird feed. This has created employment and has given a centre of interest for the village.



A mobile shop calls twice a week and the village has a mobile library once a fortnight.

The two public houses are now closed.

There is a well-equipped playing field used by the children.

Residents are registered with doctors at Halstead or Earls Colne.

There is a bus to Halstead, Sudbury and Braintree once a week.

There is a well-equipped, well cared for, village hall which the church uses for social functions.

A few leisure activities take place in the village such as Women's Institute, bell-ringing, line dancing and wood carving. The village has an annual summer show, and a summer fete, the latter being the main fund-raising event for the church.

There are no organised activities for young people in the village.

The village operates a neighbourhood watch scheme.

About 37 people subscribe to the Church magazine which contains items of news about St. James' as well as St. Andrew's. Initiated by the PCC in 1989, the village has a magazine which is distributed to every household, free of charge, three times a year and contains items of interest to the villagers.

This is quite an independent parish with a strong community spirit in the village centred mainly on the church with a nucleus of people who work well together, and there is always very good support from the parish for any fund-raising events and special services.

Gradually the Lay Ministry has evolved and needs to be encouraged and nurtured.

Several fund-raising events are organised as well as family craft and coffee mornings before the major yearly festivals. A long-term project to make new kneelers for the church is being carried out by several ladies, some of them non-church members.

Any newcomer to the village is given a copy of the Parish magazine and if there is bereavement a card is sent with a contact telephone number if help is needed.

We have gained from being part of the Halstead Area Team, and are not averse to changes, but prefer they were made slowly. We would appreciate someone who has an affinity with parents and young families, as this is where we feel the church needs to grow.

Some families have been here for generations, most people are known to everyone and, in times of trouble, help is always on hand.

4. The Churches

St. Catherine's, Gosfield

Approximately 60 people attend one of the three services at (8.00am, 10.30am & 6.30pm) Once a month the 10.30am service is non-Eucharistic.

The church lies at the edge of the village and is connected by a footpath across a field to Gosfield Hall, which is an interesting amalgam of styles from Tudor to late 18th century. In the past, the owners of the Hall have been Patrons and generous donors to the Church. The Hall today is a wedding venue, and the church benefits by offering church weddings for those who wish it. The previous vicar built up a close relationship with the company running Gosfield Hall.

The Church itself dates mainly from the 14th Century with a later side chapel being built in Tudor times, and an 18th century 'room' or family pew built by the Nugent family, the then owners of Gosfield Hall. The Church can seat up to 200 people if necessary.

The building is in a good state of repair, and has been maintained according to the requirements of the quinquennial inspections. Recently, major repairs have been carried out on the chancel windows, and the churchyard wall has been repaired and re-pointed.

The lynch gate roof is to be repaired shortly. We have commissioned a feasibility study into providing kitchen facilities within the church to provide for fellowship after services.

Worship

There are 60 names on the electoral roll. Because the Parish has been fortunate to have a priest who was able to give 50% of his time to the Parish, we were able to offer two services on a Sunday.

8 am. Holy Communion according to the Book of Common Prayer. (Average attendance 10)

10.30am Holy Communion based on Common Worship (Average attendance 30)

As in many churches, we were forced to abandon a Sunday Evening Service as the numbers had fallen so low. There is usually an evening service available somewhere within the Team on most Sundays although it is not usually a traditional service.

On the 3rd Sunday of the Month, there is a non-Eucharistic Family Service 10.30am instead of Holy Communion. This was introduced to encourage the attendance of families with children, many of whom



would not be Confirmed. We have a Lay Reader based in the Parish, Philip Quinn who takes non-Eucharistic services and Eucharists using the reserved sacraments.

A Communion Service is also held every Tuesday at 10 am.

It is recognised that there might have to be changes in the future to the pattern of the services.

Finances

Our Deanery share amounts to £18,300. We have been able to meet our obligations for the past 5 years. However, the margin is getting tighter and a stewardship drive is planned for the autumn of 2010. The number of weddings in the church (15-20 each year) helps to reduce the amount payable to the Diocese.

The Friends of St Catherine's.

Without a doubt our church would be in a much worse situation if it were not for this organization. The Friends were formed nearly 20 years ago as a separate registered charity with the sole object of supporting the maintenance of the fabric of St Catherine's Church. Endowments and gifts have been made to the Friends but casual fundraising is minimal so as not to compete with the PCC.

The aim was to encourage those people in the village who valued the church building but who were not necessarily church-goers themselves, to contribute to the building, leaving the regular congregation to cover the cost of worship and the family purse. Members pay a small annual subscription. The Friends have an annual income of about £4500.00.

Choir

There is a small choir consisting of 9 very faithful people who turn up regularly for the 10.30am service, and attend choir practices on Thursday evenings. The Organ is a small single manual Hill organ. There is a regular organist who is also the choirmaster. For weddings, the choir joins forces with choristers from Halstead and Earls Colne in a Team Choir. The Team Choir also sings at weddings in the six parishes in the Halstead Team and also at joint Team Services.

Mothers' Union

St Catherine's has a small but committed branch of Mothers' Union Members who meet monthly and are fully involved in both Church and Village life.

The branch is responsible for a Prayer Group, which welcomes all members of the congregation to share in the monthly prayer meetings and fellowship. The members also run an Edward Bear Club, which is a monthly meeting for mothers/grandmothers/carers of little ones up to the age of 5 years. The hour-long meetings include a Bible story, songs, craft, fellowship and refreshments.

Other activities include a Travelling Stable, which visits the homes of young people during Advent, birthday cards for all baptised children and children attending Edward Bear Club up to the age of 5 years, a small knitted Teddy for every child baptised at St Catherine's, toys for the Children's Toy Cupboard in Church, and run a workshop for children to make posies for Mothering Sunday.

Members have also knitted tiny baby clothes for premature babies born at Colchester General Hospital and our latest joint project is to organise a Contact Centre, hopefully based in Halstead where children are able to see the parent who does not have custody of the child.

Junior Church and Young People's Worship

As in many parishes, it is difficult to persuade children to come to church. We have a system where any children who come to church can withdraw to the Nugent Room. In the past they have been supervised by the wife of the incumbent but it remains to be seen what happens in the future

During the year several services are held specifically for families. These include Christingle, Christmas Eve 'Lighting the Tree', Mothering Sunday and Harvest Festival. An Easter workshop for families and children takes place each year, and these were greatly enjoyed by children and parents.

Bellringers

The local branch was formed in 1963 when the bells were augmented from 3 to 6. The guiding light was the late Hilda Snowden, who was a ringer of renown in her own right. The local guild has been active over the years within the Northern District of the Essex Association of Change Ringers, as well as at Association level.

The local guild has rung two peals by Sunday Service Bands, one in 1979 to celebrate the centenary of the Essex Association and one in 1991 for the retirement of Canon Roy Thomas. The local band rings for the main Sunday Service throughout the year and practices every Tuesday Evening. Apart from the Peal of 6 Bells there is a Tolling Bell, dedicated to the late Hilda Snowden.

Flowers and Church Cleaning

About 34 efficient and dedicated people care and maintain the church. It is always clean and tidy showing that we cherish our church. Visitors make complimentary remarks in the Visitors Book. New comfortable pew cushions were installed in 2002. This was made possible by a bequest and sponsorship.

The PCC

The PCC meets about ten times a year, and the Standing Committee, consisting of Incumbent, Churchwardens, Treasurer, Patron and Secretary, should meet in between meetings, but in practice there is little time for this to happen, especially as the previous incumbent also had responsibility for the Parish of Greenstead Green. During the year there are several fund raising events organised by the PCC. These have included a Teddy Bear Drop from the tower, a Garden Party, a BBQ, Harvest Supper and Quiz and a Christmas Coffee Morning. The PCC also runs a 50/50 Club, comprising some 150 members with a monthly draw. The Church has also been involved in village events such as Scarecrow trails and a Goose trail.

The Churchyard at present is maintained by a mixture of private contractor and a few volunteers. Working parties in the Spring and Autumn help to maintain the churchyard to a high standard. There is possibly room for twenty more burials before the churchyard has to be closed.

St. James', Greenstead Green

St. James' Church was built 160 years ago together with the school, school house and vicarage with money donated by a local benefactress Mrs. Mary Gee. The vicarage was sold following the retirement of the vicar in 1974 and St. James' was joined with St. Andrew's in Halstead.



In 2004 it became part of the Halstead Area Team Ministry. St. James' still retains its own Parochial Church Council.

With the closure of the school in 1963 children have to travel to Halstead, Stisted, Coggeshall and Colchester to school, including the church school at Halstead.

The church had a large choir and Sunday school drawn from the school but now there is neither of these.

The church has 6 bells and a regular bell-ringing team drawn locally and from the surrounding villages.

The Church Family And Its Worship

There are 56 on the Electoral Roll of whom 25 are regular communicants.

Sunday Services

9.00.a.m.	First Sunday	Family Service with no Eucharist
“	Second Sunday	Said Service with Eucharist BCP
“	Third & Fourth Sundays	Common Worship Eucharist

We consider St. James' to be neither High nor Low Church but somewhere in the middle.

The six parishes of the Team Ministry hold, on a rotary basis, a joint service on the fifth Sunday in the month.

There is a Songs of Praise at Easter and Harvest, a Rogation service, a Christingle and Crib service every year.

Orders of service in the form of printed booklets are used and these have been paid for by parishioners.

Services over the last three years	2007	2008	2009
Baptism	1	5	--
Weddings	4	1	8
Funerals	5	4	2

Members of the congregation read the lessons, regularly lead intercessions and five members of the PCC have been authorised by the Bishop as Eucharistic Ministers. There is also a regular organist.

St. James' is part of the Halstead Prayer Group.

There is a cleaning and flower arranging rota for the church and the churchyard, which is open, is very well maintained by volunteers from the congregation and non- church members.

Twice a year fund-raising concerts are held in the church.

St. James' supports the OCMS through missionary boxes and has Lent boxes, donations from which support orphanages in Romania.

There are 9 members of the PCC which meets 6 times a year, chaired by the incumbent or vice-chairman (churchwarden).

There have been several large fund-raising projects during the last few years to repair the Tower in 1987 and the re-tiling of the roof in 1992. There is always very good support from the parish when money is needed.

The stone work of the Tower was repaired eight years ago with a grant from English Heritage paying over half of the cost.

A refurbished organ was installed in 2004 which was paid for by donations and church funds.

A faculty has been granted for the installation of a toilet and kitchen facilities and work on this project will begin in 2010.

So far St. James' has always managed to pay its Family Purse.

5. Vision and Priorities

Gosfield:

We are looking for someone to lead us as we develop our worship, thus welcoming more worshippers and providing for their needs. We believe that the Church in Gosfield is well managed, but we are losing members of our congregation, as the more elderly pass away. There is a willingness to help, but we do need a shepherd who can lead us in what is essentially a missionary campaign. The PCC is committed to working together with the team and in particular Greenstead Green PCC to strengthen and widen our worship to be more inclusive.

Greenstead Green:

We would like the church to continue to remain open and its work expanded for the benefit of the whole community especially children. Beginning in 2005 Easter and Harvest craft workshops have been held and it is hoped that these will be continued. Children have also been encouraged to help make the posies for Mothering Sunday.

During the last few years there has been more involvement of lay people in ministry and it is hoped that this will be encouraged and developed.

