

# South Hartismere Benefice: Thorndon & Wetheringsett CofE Primary Schools

## Key personnel:

Rev'd Canon Julia Lall, Rector  
Emma Morris 'Lightwave' 'Rural Outreach Pioneer' for Schools and Families

## Rationale and Priorities:

Connecting people of all ages to a sense of community and a safe space to explore the Christian faith

Contact Rev'd Julia Lall at rev.julialall@gmail.com if you would like to know more about our work

## 'Rural Outreach Pioneer'

The focus of our outreach work is threefold - shared between the three priority areas of schools, community and home. The appointment of a 'Rural Outreach Pioneer,' is an indicator of our commitment to these priorities. Her work is evolving in response to need.

### Work with the community

*Q: How, as a church, can we promote better awareness and understanding within the community of the work that we do and the relevance that the church can have in people's lives?*

A: Developing the work of the churches in the Benefice in diverse ways that demonstrate the impact that churches can have in their local communities:  
Praying for our schools regularly.

**CONNECT** - A Fresh Expression developed to encourage a wider appeal, not only children. Provision of activities appealing to the interests of men and boys. (Next steps 'The Shed' /Men's Shed Association) The church community is encouraged to understand and connect with the outreach work of the church with the message: 'We are there for people and we are relevant in their lives.'

**Thorndon Church** - ECO church Bronze Award.

**Wetheringsett church** to begin 2022  
The roles of people in both churches are being developed, working as teams to address priorities 'Bespoke Baptism' services, tailored to the needs of families, and enables follow-up to invite families to future events.

### Work with schools

*Q: How, as a church, can we promote a better understanding of the work of the church and the relationship between church and school amongst children of primary school age?*

A: Pupil perception discussions raise priorities eg 'What is a church school?' etc. This provides direction

#### Eco Church /Forest School

Plastic awareness, recycled tree for Christmas Tree Festival  
Outdoor church and crafts using recycled materials

#### Values

**Wetheringsett CofE Primary.** School-wide consultation on choosing our 6 values: 'Growing Skills for Life'- Friendship, Generosity, Compassion, Courage, Thankfulness and Perseverance.

**Thorndon CEVC Primary.** Rainbow Values: 'Believe and Achieve' Responsibility, Perseverance, Co-operation, Friendship, Kindness, Honesty, Respect, The Christian values are linked to pupils' behaviour and reinforced via the school rules, in Collective Worship and displays.  
'Angel Trail' and 'Nativity Trail' across the Benefice.  
Incumbent teaches about baptism by baptising a doll.

### Work with young people

*Q: How, as a church, do we better connect with families and people of all ages who do not currently engage with church*

A: Creative community events around Epiphany, Shrove Tuesday, Valentine's Day, Mothering Sunday, Easter, Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas, Easter etc - providing a 'hook' for community events monthly.  
Online presence via Benefice Facebook page engages families and wider community who don't attend church.  
Messenger and Facebook used to comment on life events -(celebrations and difficulties), opportunities to pray around community and current issues and celebrate achievements

Community lunches /Open the Book / Inspired Classrooms /Prayer and Reflection areas signposting the school community to 'Fresh Expressions' in church /Ethos Committee /Collective Worship.

**'Lightwave'** Work led by 'Outreach Pioneer' in the schools. She has built a relationship of trust amongst the pupils and knows which approaches to use to ensure that concepts are learned quickly.