Oulton Broad Team Ministry



[Confirmations 2026]

St Luke's
St Mark's
St Michael's
Oulton Broad
Team Ministry

1 Team → 2 Parishes → 3 Churches

Team Vicar Profile 2026

St. Michael's and St. Mark's with St. Luke's



Our Vision is to be:

A growing, Christ-centred community, led by the Holy Spirit, worshipping God and making disciples.

Welcome to the Oulton Broad Team Ministry...

...and to the Churches of St. Michael's, Oulton, St. Mark's and St. Luke's, Oulton Broad. We are a benefice incorporating the Parishes of Oulton and Oulton Broad to the west of the town of Lowestoft in Suffolk.

Having previously been two individual parishes we became a Team Ministry when our Rector, Rev'd Canon Helen Jary, joined us in November of 2019. We have seen slow but steady growth after the Covid period and enjoy a wide reach into our community. Nevertheless, we are always seeking to find new ways to enact our Team Vision Statement.

Changes in our Clergy team always create new opportunities, and we are seeking a Team Vicar to join us as we embark upon a fresh season of Mission and Ministry. We are open-evangelical in tradition aiming to grow in the inspiration and gifts of the Holy Spirit. We also place a strong emphasis upon the activities of mission and discipleship, which we believe should flow from a life of prayer and worship.

We seek to enact the 5 Marks of Mission through our life together and, in relation to the fifth mark of mission, we have received the A Rocha Eco Church bronze award (St Michael's) and, in 2025, St Mark's became the first Church in the Diocese to receive the Eco Church gold award. We continue to try and grow in our care of creation and in being ambassadors for the same.



We hope that in reading this Profile, and by visiting our website and Facebook pages, you'll gain a greater sense of who we are, see the opportunities that there are for growth and development and, most especially, receive a clearer sense of whether God may be calling you to join our team.



St. Michael's and St. Mark's with St. Luke's

We are seeking a Team Vicar who loves the Lord and is:

- Committed to their own growth in discipleship;
- Open Evangelical in their convictions and ministry;
- Committed to communicating and living out God's word
- Prayerful and sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit;
- Pastorally caring, with a love for people of all ages and backgrounds, and for the wider community;
- Pioneering and innovative, motivated by opportunities to try new things
- Committed to making disciples and able to inspire and equip others to join them in mission, including to children, young people and their families;
- Able to lead people deeper in discipleship and service, setting an example in life and faith;
- Able to work across the diverse range of contexts and worship styles within the Team.



OUR NEW TEAM VICAR

We are excited to see whom God will call to be our new Team Vicar, serving alongside committed lay people and the other Clergy of our Team. Some Team Ministries work geographically with Clergy having oversight of individual Parishes. It is our contention, however, that working together more creatively and flexibly, sharing resources across our parishes and encouraging movement of people, we can be 'more than the sum of our parts'. This means that, rather than being assigned one particular Church or Parish, the Team Vicar will, minister across both Parishes in common with most members of the wider Ministry Team. Alongside this, they will have responsibility for significant areas of ministry which will, under God, be 'theirs' to explore and develop. There is a wide range of possibilities for a Team Vicar, depending on their gifts and passions, to 'get their teeth into'. Some of these options are discussed below.

ECO MISSION

We see opportunities for eco mission as we continue our Eco Church journeys, and consider how we may develop and use our outdoor spaces for creative outreach. St Michael's has an open churchyard which, with beautiful views over the marshes, is known as a place for those seeking solace. We have used the Churchyard in various ways, one being the recently established nature prayer trail. We have a field adjacent to St Michael's car park, and plans are underway for an eco building on that site. The rest of the field is, similarly, alive with possibility. Ideas have included sports pitches, an outdoor classroom, wildlife trails, community garden schemes, a performance area, an eco play area with mud kitchen, wild worship areas and more. The Church is adjacent to Oulton Marshes, an area managed by Suffolk Wildlife Trust, which is popular with walkers and naturalists alike, and so the opportunities for eco mission are vast.



SOCIAL ACTION

St Luke's is adjacent to the Whitton Estate which is the area of greatest deprivation within our parishes. *St Luke's Pantry*, our weekly low cost shop, and *Cuppa, Cake, Chat* which runs once a month, both serve this area but we are aware that there is



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OUR NEW TEAM VICAR

more that we can be doing to respond missionally and creatively to the needs within Whitton. We are already exploring ways in which we can work in partnership with London Road Baptist Church who operate the 'Whitton Life' hub.

MISSION IN AN AREA OF NEW HOUSING

In Oulton parish, there is a significant area of new housing at Camps Heath (see Parish maps), known as Woods Meadow. It is a large mixed -use residential plan which is being rolled out in sequential phases by developers, including Persimmon Homes and Oldman Homes. When complete, this plan will have added 800 new homes and bungalows, a local country park, play areas, a school (https:// thelimesacademy.org/) and community infrastructure to our Parish. Construction is in the later phases but still ongoing. This development has changed the nature of Oulton parish and has created new opportunities for mission which are, largely, untapped to date. A Team Vicar may choose to explore the feasibility of planting an intergenerational congregation in the area, or perhaps moving 'Breakfast Church' from St Michael's to the Woods Meadow area.

SCHOOLS MINISTRY

We have six schools in our two Parishes and, despite the fact that none of them are Church schools we have enjoyed significant contact with all of them in recent years. Whilst contacts with the five primary schools are still good, our link with the special school has been lost since a change of leadership in the school, and we need to seek reconnection. Our schools ministry includes 'Open the Book', Church visits, Assemblies, Pray for Schools Day, 'Experience Christmas' and 'Experience Easter', special school services e.g. Harvest, Easter and Christingle, and participation in the RE Curriculum. We are busy with our schools but there is always scope for further development.

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAYS

Our reach to families is growing but is currently, largely, through gatherings which only meet monthly, or when families come for Baptism. There is an opportunity to create new discipleship pathways for families with whom we currently connect only on an ad hoc basis. We would believe that there is scope for an intergenerational congregation which meets weekly, within our parishes.

The options above are not an exhaustive list. We are open to the ways in which the Holy Spirit may envision and lead us in new areas of mission according to the gifts and passions of a new Team member.

Our Vision and Values







Our Team Vision Statement is to be:

A growing, Christ-centred community, led by the Holy Spirit, worshipping God and making disciples.

We further seek to create opportunities which help individuals to continue on the path of Discipleship.

We have summarized this in the following terms:

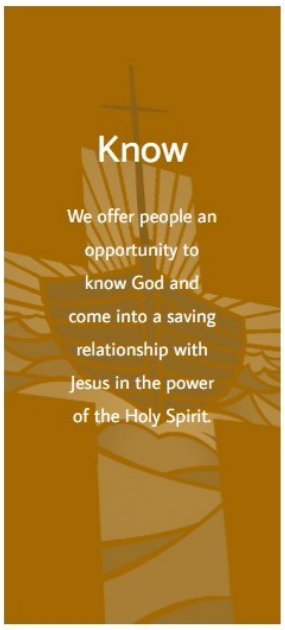
HELLO

KNOW

GROW

SOW



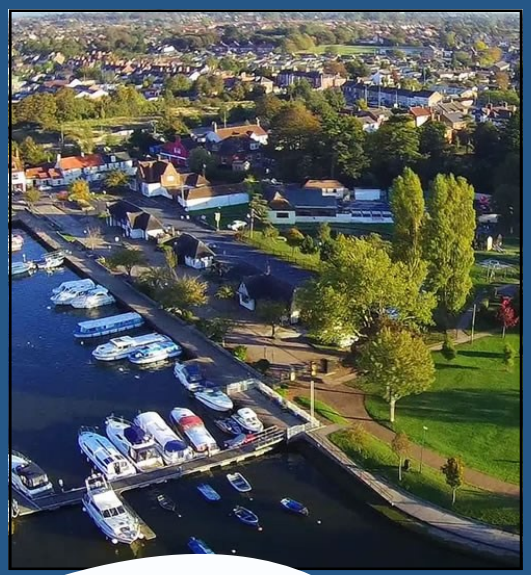












OULTON AND OULTON BROAD

This is a beautiful place to live and work, with the Broads, the Beach and plenty of tourist infrastructure on the doorstep.

The parishes of Oulton and Oulton Broad are divided by an inlet from the North Sea which flows into the Broad. The river creates a physical division but both parishes border the Broad which is the southern gateway to the Broads National Park. Oulton Broad is a significant body of inland water, located just a mile west of Lowestoft. The area offers year-round water sports, with the Waveney and Oulton Broad Yacht Club, the Lowestoft and District Canoe Club, rowing, paddle boarding, kayaking and windsurfing. The area boasts characterful cafés, Broadside pubs and eateries, fishing spots and a popular Edwardian park which has tennis courts, an all weather table tennis table, boat hire, trampolining, crazy golf, a large children's play area, boating lake, park café, slipways and bandstand.

There are many events held in the area including sailing regattas, pleasure boat hire and a wide range of festivals, seasonal events, music, pop-up cinemas and other activities held in the park.

Walking routes and wildlife activities and are available at Oulton and Carlton Marshes. Both are managed by Suffolk Wildlife Trust and there is an engaging visitor centre at Carlton.

Public transport links are good with frequent trains to Norwich and Ipswich that connect to London via the Oulton Broad North and Oulton Broad South stations.

In Oulton Parish there are two primary schools (Reception, and Years 1-6). There are no secondary schools within the parish boundaries but the closest is just in a neighbouring parish.

Within Oulton Broad Parish there are three primary schools and one special school. The closest secondary school (Years 7-11) is just outside the parish boundary.

Beyond secondary school level, in Lowestoft there is the East Coast College, home to Lowestoft Sixth Form, which opened in 2012 and has ties to the University of Suffolk.

The housing of both parishes reflects their diversity and includes Victorian terraces, mid-20th Century semi-detached houses, social housing and private housing estates with a large number of bungalows.

"We have a mixed economy of worship, incorporating liturgical approaches alongside more informal, extempore and contemporary worship styles. "

Our Worship

We have a mixed economy of worship, incorporating liturgical approaches alongside more informal, extempore and contemporary worship styles. Our current service pattern is below.

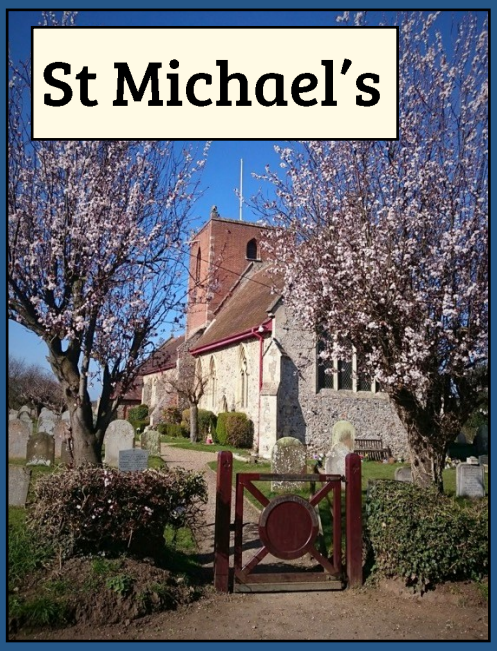
There are several acts of worship during the month which have an Intergenerational focus. These include: *Breakfast Church* at St Michael's, *IG Worship* at the 1045 and *The Sunday Mix* at St Luke's. Ideally, we would like to explore planting a weekly Intergenerational congregation.

Within our Team we aim towards unity rather than uniformity and we hope that everyone will find opportunities within our regular pattern of worship which will help them to encounter God.

We seek to give God our best Sunday by Sunday. We value prayer ministry as well as intercession, and we have a strong musical tradition with organists, pianists, a worship band and a festival choir.

		SUNDAYS				
		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
09:00AM AND 09:30AM	ST MARK'S	*MW (with Baptism?)*	*HC*	*MW*	*HC*	
		More traditional in style, robed and liturgical worship				
	ST LUKE'S	*HC*	*MW (with Baptism?)*	*HC*	*MW*	
		Usually liturgical worship				
10-10.30AM	ST MARK'S	*Hospitality Time: Tea, Coffee, Refreshments etc. in St. Mark's Hall*				
10.45AM	ST MICHAEL'S	*HC*	*HC*	*Breakfast Church*	*HC*	
		Robed and liturgical worship, except third Sunday				
	ST MARK'S	*Intergen Worship*	*MW*	*HC*	*MW (with Baptism?)*	*United Worship*
		Informal style, band-led worship, word & ministry				Mixed
12.30PM	ST MARK'S and ST MICH'S		*St Mark's Baptisms?*	*St Michael's Baptisms?*		
4:00PM	ST LUKE'S				*The Sunday Mix*	
					Café/Messy	
	WEEKLY IG CONGREGATION	*Intergen Worship*	*Intergen Worship*	*Intergen Worship*	*Intergen Worship*	*Intergen Worship*
		Possibly expand Intergenerational Worship to a Weekly Congregation				
7:00PM	VARIED LOCATIONS	*Occasaional Evensong / Worship Events / Festivals and Holy Days e.g. Annunciation, Ash Wednesday, Ascension etc.*				

OUR CHURCHES



There are three buildings within the Benefice; St. Mark's and St. Luke's in the Parish of Oulton Broad, and St. Michael's in Oulton.

St. Michael's is situated at the edge of the parish in a beautiful location overlooking marshland, which is a haven for wildlife. The churchyard is well maintained by volunteers and offers a peaceful retreat for the bereaved, creating opportunities for pastoral ministry. A small kitchen and a toilet have been added to the church and there is discussion about whether we could adapt the Chancel, which is separated from the nave by the tower and glass double doors, into a flexible, multi-purpose space.



St Mark's is late Victorian with a striking east window. The Church was reordered in the summer of 2022 and we now have moveable seating, a children's area and a relaxed space with sofas and a coffee table. This gives us great flexibility in how we use the building

St. Mark's has an accessible church centre, comprising a large hall, meeting room, office, catering kitchen and toilets, which are all connected to the Church.

St Luke's was built in the 1960's through the enthusiasm and dedication of a few people who wanted a local community church. It originally stood within green fields but is now surrounded by housing. The multi-function main hall is used for worship as well as by many organisations that hire it. In 2015 the kitchen was enlarged and modernized, and is a great asset that allows catering for larger gatherings. There is also a smaller meeting room with storage. There is a small brick weave car park to the front with a large garden to the rear.











OUR ACTIVITIES

There are many activities which take place across our Churches. There are a wide variety of lay people involved and, in general, events and activities are well attended. There are obviously significant overlaps between the categories below, but this will give 'a feel' of all that goes on.

Prayer and Discipleship

Prayer is important in the life of our churches. There are regular prayer meetings, Daily Prayer during the week, opportunities to receive prayer ministry, participation in 'Thy Kingdom Come', midweek quiet time, prayer stations and half nights of prayer. We believe that prayer should underpin all that we do.

We currently have nine Life Groups, each meeting at least twice a month, with over 80 people involved, approximately half of our current Sunday morning worshippers. The key aim for our Life Groups is stated as: Transformation—becoming more like Jesus, growing in knowing him and making him known to others.

We regularly run evangelistic or discipleship courses, such as Alpha. These are occasionally supplemented by Lent or Advent Groups and the Sanctuary Course which addresses faith and mental health.

Our worship is enhanced by a number of musicians, a worship band and a festival choir. Alan, our Musical Director, has oversight across the Team. We currently also host *Selah* worship gatherings.

At St. Mark's there is a children's work team who lead *Faithbuilders* on Sundays, as well as other events for families and children such as Easter Egg Hunts, Family Crafts, the 'Light Night' drop-in at Halloween, Back to School events and Holiday Clubs.

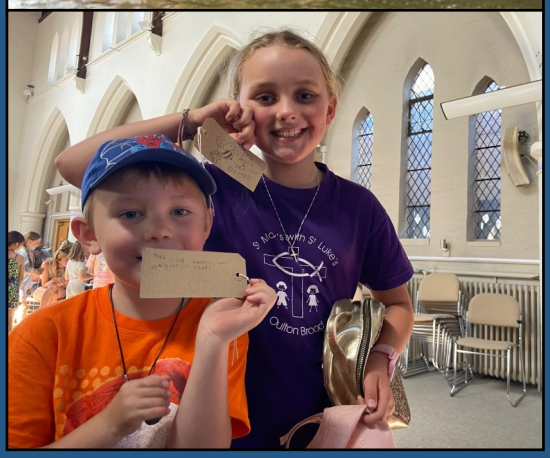
Mission and Outreach

We have good links with the schools in our Parishes and, although none of them are church schools we are regularly involved: taking assemblies; welcoming schools to our churches for visits; visiting classes; conducting 'weddings' and 'Baptisms' in Church as a learning experience; and we have an active 'Open the Book' team who go regularly into two of the schools. At St Mark's we have *Ducklings*, a parent & todder group which meets weekly in term









OUR ACTIVITIES contd.

time. We have good links with our local uniformed youth organisations who sometimes have 'Parade Sundays' in Church. There have been well-attended summer holiday clubs for children in recent years.



There are regular social and fundraising events. These include Christmas and Summer Fairs, Concerts, Ceilidhs, Quizzes and more. In recent years we have hosted Riding Lights Theatre Company and Christian Singer Philippa Hanna.

We lead regular services in two of the local care homes and have an Anna Chaplain who is part of our team. Our Green Team are active with many activities, including regular litter picks, bug hunts, Gardener's Question Times, Eco Days and give leadership in our care of Creation.

We have pastoral care teams and we seek to maximize the mission opportunity afforded by the numerous Life Events (Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals) that we are privileged to be involved with.

We continue to play an active part in the Lowestoft Food Plan participating in Food in School Holidays and running the Pantry at St Luke's. We host a regular Community Lunch at St Michael's as well as Open Church. We have a Community Allotment and a team who grow produce for the Pantry.

Groups



There are ladies' groups, a men's group, 'Knit and Natter' groups, a railway modelling club, Ladies' Strollers and the St. Mark's Mothers' Union prayer group has just reached it's 90th Anniversary.

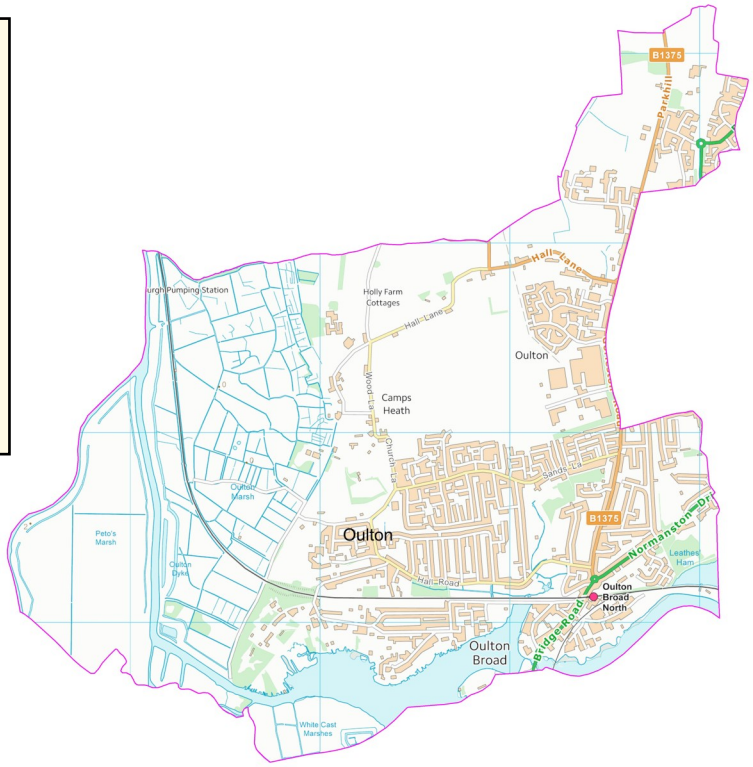
We run a regular club for over 50s which is called 'Young at Heart' and includes a summer holiday club. We have an active group of Bellringers at St. Michael's.

PARISH MAPS

Oulton

The most recent population estimate (2021 Census)* is **9,740** which continues to increase with the new housing development at Camps Heath.

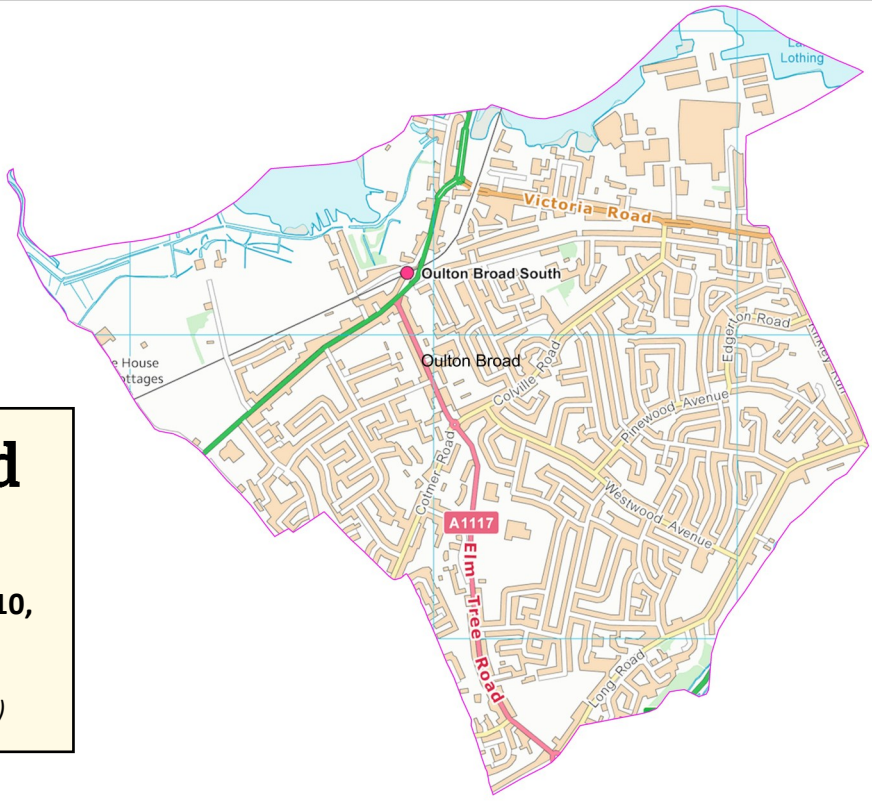
** Parish Maps Online (arcgis.com)*



Oulton Broad

The most recent population estimate (2021 Census)* is **10,191** which is also climbing.

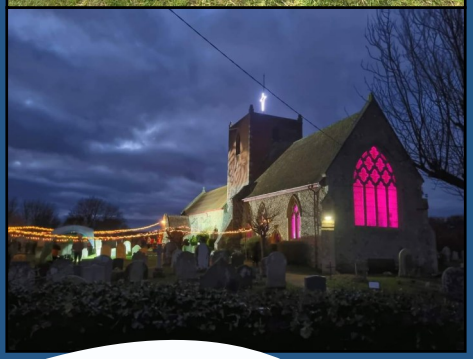
** Parish Maps Online (arcgis.com)*











OUR TEAM



Rev'd Canon Helen Jary was inducted as Team Rector in November 2019. She served as a Curate in Oulton Broad, and this was followed by almost 8 years as a Team Vicar in Thetford. Alongside Helen, there are a number of people, ordained and lay, who assist with Ministry across the Benefice. These include five active Clergy with PtO, a Musical Director, an Ordinand in Training, five Licensed Lay Ministers, an Authorised Pastoral Assistant and we are just about to commission five new Authorised Worship Assistants.

We employ a Team Administrator and two Caretakers for our Churches, and we recently conducted interviews for a Youth Worker, but are yet to appoint.

We have a wide team of other volunteers including a full complement of Churchwardens, members of both PCCs, St Luke's Council members and two Parish Safeguarding Officers. We have a number of teams who oversee various aspects of our life and ministry including the following: Children's work Team, Breakfast Church Team, Sunday Mix Team, Green Team, Events Team, Pastoral Teams, Allotment Team, FiSH Team, Hospitality Teams, Fabric Team, Churchyard Team, Pantry Team and the 'Young at Heart' Team.









THE RECTORY

St Michael's Rectory is a spacious detached house with five bedrooms. On the ground floor the study, with a smaller adjoining room, is located close to the front door. There is a downstairs toilet, plus lounge, separate dining room, kitchen and utility room.

On the first floor are five Bedrooms all with wardrobes or storage cupboards, bathroom and a separate WC. Outside is a single detached garage and gardens of good size to front and rear.

The Rectory is within a few minutes walk of St. Michael's Church and a short drive from St Mark's & St Luke's.



CONTACT

More information about the life of the Churches of the Oulton Broad Team Ministry can be found on our new Website, which is almost complete, and our Facebook pages:

http://www.obtm.org
https://www.facebook.com/stmarksob
https://www.facebook.com/St-Michaels-Church-Oulton-103838944389976

For further information, or for an informal discussion about this post and our vision for working together in the Team, please contact the Bishop of Thetford, The Rt Revd Ian Bishop, or the Team Rector, the Revd Canon Helen Jary.

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