

ST MARGARET'S

Parish Church for Leiston-cum-Sizewell



PEACE AND JOY TO YOU ALL

AT CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 2022

£1 25

St Margaret's Worship

Places of Worship can be used for services carefully following all the government rules, including; social distancing, wearing face coverings, hand hygiene etc. At St Margaret's we continue to offer a service of Holy Communion in church at 10am each Sunday.

There is a short service of Morning Prayer every Tuesday at 9.30am; this is held by telephone conference call. A service of Evening Prayer is held on Wednesdays at the Vicarage at 5pm. The church is open for private prayer and quiet reflection from 10 am to 3 pm, Monday to Saturday. [Christmas services on page 18.](#)

Our Good Morning news sheet, readings and other resource material and information are shared by email every Saturday.

If you wish to join our mailing list or the Tuesday Morning Prayer please contact me (email: vicarleiston@gmail.com or telephone: 01728 830421). Richard Finch

CONTACT US

Priest in Charge: Reverend Richard Finch: T.830421

The Vicarage, Church Road, Leiston E.vicarleiston@gmail.com

Associate Priest: Reverend Morag Finch

Reader: Mr Bernard Smith: 3 Daneway Gardens, Leiston T.830105

Lay Elders:

Mrs Pat Carter, 42 Haylings Road, Leiston T.831852

Mrs Sandra Harle: 4 Lime Tree Avenue, Leiston T. 833578

Church Wardens:

Two Vacancies

PCC Treasurer: Mrs Sandra Harle: 4 Lime Tree Avenue, Leiston T. 833578

PCC Secretary: Mrs Emma Jameson, 4 Woodlands, Leiston T.832166

Organist & Choir Master: Mr Matthew Merrett

Deanery Synod Representatives:

Vaughan Windle, 21 Eastward Ho T. 833988

One Vacancy

Resident Retired Priest:

Reverend Richard Ellis: 9 Kings Road, Leiston T.832168

Website Editor: Mrs Maureen Fox T.830929

Magazine Editor: Mrs Pat Carter T.831852 **Email:** pm42carter@gmail.com

For all that is good ...

Humans are amazing creatures. We can use our skills to create incredible things, we can grow crops, travel, think and dream and ... the list is endless. Yet, even with all these amazing skills, we can also be cruel, hurt others and damage our environment. At Christmas Christians throughout the world believe that God was here, with us, as a human (one of the names given to Jesus Christ was 'Emmanuel' which means – God with us), amid the messiness of life.

God is here with us, shown to us in Jesus Christ and the story of his life, his teaching and the beginning of Christianity is recorded in the New Testament in the Bible. Jesus, in his ministry, reached out to everyone, not just in his community but to other communities, to children and to people considered to be outcasts, on the fringes of society. He did this to show that all people are children of God, all can come close to God, that there is no distinction made, whether rich or poor, young or old, all are children of God.

As children of God, we can all use our creative skills for good, to heal and mend, to sing and dance. In the middle of winter, we celebrate the birth of Christ, God with us. We have festivities, share gifts, all to celebrate what is good, what is joyful.

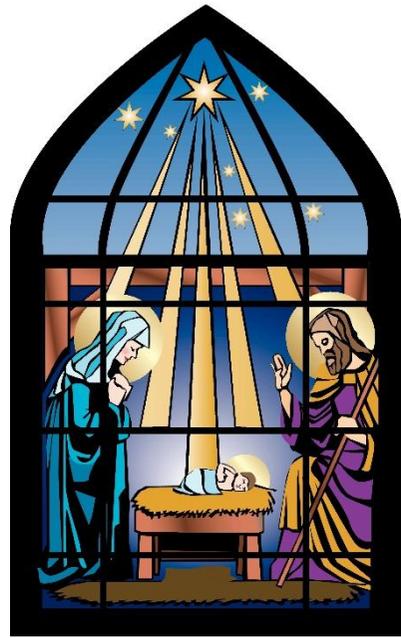
The birth of a child makes us realise that we have to protect the vulnerable. A baby cannot fend for itself, it needs loving care. Jesus taught us to care for one another. Maybe we need to learn again to love our world, just as people care for a baby. Maybe, at Christmas, we need to say 'For all that is good ... thank you'.

My prayer is that Christmas will again be a time to reevaluate, to check again, and consider our actions. Not just to thank God for what is good but to do good. Especially this winter, with the rising costs of fuel and food, to look out for neighbours and check if they have enough to eat or keep warm, to support organisations that help people in need.

May you have a blessed Christmas time.

God bless you and keep you.

From Richard



Rev Richard Finch

Pondering Prayer

How often should we pray? Just weekly when we go to church or just now and again at home? No reason why not, of course, but my feeling is that it is best to get into a regular habit of prayer that you can stick to preferably on a daily basis . Without some sort of regularity you might otherwise find yourself forgetting to pray at all until some tragedy arises and a prayer is desperation.

So why else do I recommend daily prayer? Firstly and most importantly the prayer that Jesus taught us: (Matthew 6: 9-13) encourages daily prayer in Verse 11 “Give us **TODAY** our daily bread”. Not tomorrow, not this week, just today. This is because each day is a new day, a new start. Each day is separate from yesterday or tomorrow. Today is the present and all that is really important. Each day is a new start and will have its own joys and sadness, its good deeds and its wrong-doings, by ourselves or others, whether intentional or not. It is a new beginning. So by praying to our Heavenly Father to be with us whatever the day brings, to keep us safe, and to give us strength for the day itself. Tomorrow is another day, it can wait, so need not concern us today. One day at a time is enough.

Prayer at the beginning of the day is a good preparation, and at the end of the day it is also good to find time to give thanks for the day you have had, or tell Him of any problems or concerns you have as a result of what the day itself has been like. Of course there is nothing to stop you calling on our Father at any time of the day, or for any reason. He is always ready to listen. It may not lead to instant answers, but the prayer itself will give comfort, because God is Love and cares about us and over time helps us work out our problems.

A Morning Prayer: Thank you Father for bringing me to another day, help me to make the most of the day ahead, and to do all things according to your will so that whatever I do or say may reflect your love for me and all who I meet.

Br. Christian

DECEMBER

It's a dull, dreary, wet day. We have just got home from a visit to the Craft Fair at the Church; in spite of the weather several people had made an effort to turn out. There was a lovely variety on the stalls and good ideas for Christmas presents, lovely Birthday and Christmas cards which I'm always glad to buy from Eileen. Bill was glad to find a lovely hand-knitted scarf to put round his neck like a tie from Jackie. He put it on straight away and he was nice and warm. In fact I told him to get another one. It was nice to catch up with so many people we hadn't seen for a long time and enjoy a chat. There was also lovely tea, coffee, cakes, sausage rolls, sponges – all provided by the hard-working ladies in the kitchen.

Now, here we are in December with Christmas getting nearer; and what a worry for so many people this year, especially with young children, who think Father Christmas can get you their presents, and their parents relying on food banks. Our parents didn't have much to live on, no food banks as people didn't have food to put in them. But with ration books people helped each other out. For example, some used more sugar or tea so they swapped coupons and we got through, and the cockerel up the garden ready. We had the basic things for presents and were pleased. But we didn't have the pressure or choice like today so it must be harder now.



Within our family Bill got a cockerel to fatten up for Christmas but we didn't have the heart to kill it and it lived for years. It was such a lovely cockerel, in spite of some neighbours getting annoyed with its early morning crowing. I hope you all have a lovely time and be grateful for our health, the greatest gift we can have.

Margaret Clarke

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Monday 12th December
2 30pm

Members Talks

This will be our third "hybrid" talk — so over Zoom AND physical — at our new venue, Saxmundham's Fromus Centre, behind the Library, but for December only on the SECOND Monday of the month rather than our usual third Monday. Attendees over Zoom can book in the normal way after the November talk has taken place (21st), but please before 5:00pm on Friday, 9th December, free to Members and at £3.00 for visitors — acknowledgement comprises outline instructions, with detailed information following soon before the talk. In-person attendees can just turn up — at £1.00 for Members, £3.00 for visitors, and with free tea/biscuits.

Further Programme:

3rd December 10am to 12 noon Drop-in advice and personal research session – Council Office, Main St (opposite Long Shop Museum)

12th December Members' Talks on zoom and in person at the Fromus Centre, Saxmundham IP17 1AL

7th January Drop-in advice and personal research session – Council Office, Main St (opposite Long Shop Museum)

16th January Monthly talk: History of Dunwich Heath – on zoom and in person at the Fromus Centre, Saxmundham IP17 1AL

Harvest Festival

Sharing God's bounty!

On Sunday 9th October, our annual Harvest Festival service was followed by a delicious bring-and-share Harvest Lunch. Donations received at the lunch totalled £245.10 and were forwarded to the Alde Valley Food Bank. The following reply has since been received: *An enormous thank you for your cheque for our local food bank. It will make a big difference, especially this winter when we are expecting a big demand.*

The AV Food Bank was established to provide additional support for Saxmundham Food Bank, and is managed by local residents who happen to be volunteer advisers at Citizens Advice. Funds raised are used to buy additional food and household items, which are then donated to Saxmundham Food Bank for their volunteers to distribute as part of their parcels. This includes, for example, fresh fruit and vegetables, milk, bread and cheese.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Food Bank, please contact Citizens Advice, Suite 14 Colonial House, Station Road, Leiston. IP16 4JD
Tel: 01728 832193.

Sandra Harle (Church Treasurer)

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MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2023

Many thanks to everyone who has bought the Parish Magazine during 2022. We are most grateful for your support of St. Margaret's and its outreach work both in our local community and further afield.

If you would like to continue, or start, subscribing to the St. Margaret's Church Magazine we will be collecting subscriptions for 2023 during January. This will be via a payment envelope which will be enclosed in January's edition of the magazine. Please enclose your £15.00 annual subscription in the envelope provided and then return it either to the person who delivers your magazine, to church or directly to Sandra Harle at 4 Lime Tree Avenue. Cash or cheques are both welcome - cheques must be made payable to 'Leiston PCC'.

To help increase the small profit we make from producing the magazine, we would welcome new advertisers. If you, or anyone you know, would like to place an advert at just £2 per month, please contact the editor Pat Carter on 01728 831852 for further details.

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

We are delighted to report that we raised a whopping £860.50p at our coffee morning on 29th October plus an additional £185 for the sale of Christmas cards.

We were overwhelmed with the generosity of those stalwarts who made a fantastic array of cakes, jams, pickles, mincemeat and lemon curd; raided gardens for apples, nuts and even lavender; filled the table with raffle prizes then served it all up to the kind people that came along to support us.

We could not have achieved this magnificent figure if it were not for Chris at the Parrot & Punchbowl, Aldringham allowing us to stage the event in the lovely setting of the Outside Inn and providing us with a constant supply of fresh ground coffee and hot water for our teas.

We are grateful to everyone who helped us to promote the occasion. Our efforts will help The Children's Society to continue to fight for the hope and happiness of young people threatened by abuse, exploitation and neglect in our towns and cities.

Thank you all so much, Lorraine Lloyd

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE

A letter recently received from The Children's Society reads:

'Thank you so much to the box holders of St. Margaret's Church for collectively raising a total of £181.04 for The Children's Society. You are helping to improve the lives of children who feel scared, unloved and like they simply don't matter. On behalf of all the young people that your gift supports, thank you so much for caring and making this life-changing work possible'.

If you would like to become a box holder, then please contact Sandra Harle by calling 01728 833578. For more information on the work of The Children's Society, please visit www.childrenssociety.org.uk

Sandra Harle (Box Co-ordinator)

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Merry Christmas Word Search

Search for the words going up, down, left and right.



tinsel
sack
lights
Rudolph
glitter
angel
stocking

presents
Santa
tree
sleigh
Christmas
twinkle
star





SNOW AND ICE



1. Always popular at Christmas, who wrote the book "The Snowman" on which the popular TV animation was based?
2. Who provides the voice for Manny, the woolly mammoth in the "Ice Age" series of movies?
3. Which song by Snow Patrol was declared in 2019 to be the most played song to be played on UK radio?
4. Which former X-Factor finalist won both Series 4 and the 2014 All-Stars series of ITV's "Dancing on Ice"?
5. Who composed the opera "The Snow Maiden"?
6. Which rapper, real name Tracey Lauren Marrow, stars in "Law and Order-SUV"?
7. How are ex-BBC newsman Peter Snow and long running presenter of Channel 4 news Jon Snow related?
8. The series of epic novels entitled "A Song of Ice and Fire" were transformed into which record breaking TV series?
9. In the USA they are known as Snow Peas, how do we know this vegetable in the UK?
10. The single "Ice in the Sun" gave which band their second of 22 top ten UK chart hits?
11. The song "Do You Want to Build a Snowman" comes from which Disney movie?
12. In which city did ice skaters Torvill and Dean win Olympic gold with their "Bolero" dance?
13. Who wrote the 1941 Award winning novella "The Snow Goose"?
14. The Vanilla Ice hit "Ice Ice Baby" was based on the bass line from which other song?
15. By what other name do we know The Abominable Snowman?
16. "Ice Station Zebra" was a thriller novel by which Scottish author?
17. Who had a UK top ten hit in 1959 with the instrumental "Snow Coach"?
18. Which ice cream company has flavours such as "Phish Food" and "Caramel Sutra" among its best sellers?
19. For which county did England fast bowler John Snow play his first class career?
20. Which American Nobel Prize winning author wrote the short story "The Snows of Kilimanjaro"?

ST. MARGARET'S GETS CRAFTY – AGAIN!

At the Craft Fair held on Saturday 5th November, the church was packed full of stalls each laden with lots of lovely hand-made craft and gift items. These included cards, knitwear and floristry, together a wide selection of jewellery and many more seasonal goodies, which made for perfect early Christmas shopping!



Stall holders ready for action!

Our ladies in the kitchen were kept busy throughout the event, serving up delicious refreshments, which had been kindly donated by members and friends of St. Margaret's and the raffle, as always, was well supported. The total amount raised for church funds amounted to £643.50, so many thanks to everyone who came along on the day and/or helped in any way.

All the stallholders did a brisk trade, commented on the lovely atmosphere and said they were very much looking forward to the next one!

For those of you who tried to guess Teddy's name, it was Noah and he is now living happily with his new owner in St. Margaret's Crescent.

Sandra Harle

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL



For the first time since I became the Leiston and Sizewell RBL Poppy Appeal Organiser I decided to take advantage of the offer from the Leiston Co-operative Funeral service to use their window for a display. Thank you to Leiston RBL Branch for the use of the RBL Standard and Leiston Scout Group for the use of the Union Jack. Sandra Harle and I had great fun making sure the posters were the right way up and level and that all the items were placed in such a way that they wouldn't all fall over. Thank you also to Tania from the Funeral Service who was very helpful.

Thank you to the management and staff of Leiston Co-operative Store for their help with facilitating two weeks of collecting for the Poppy Appeal. We raised £1,865.38 cash in the Co-op plus £330 on the card reader. With the money raised from the raffle at the Festival of Remembrance, house to house collections, payments for wreaths, poppy boxes in shops and organisations, the collection at the Remembrance Sunday service at St. Margaret's and donations from people who have boxes all year round in their homes and pop in the odd coin, the total raised at the moment is £5,370.38 with more expected.

I would like to say a very grateful "Thank You" to all the loyal collectors and generous donors who have made this wonderful amount possible. I have a supply of small poppy boxes for home collectors and large ones for business premises to use all the year round. Please contact me if you would like one.

PAT CARTER, POPPY APPEAL ORGANISER, LEISTON AND SIZEWELL

A VISIT TO BRONTE COUNTRY

The October half-term saw me driving to Haworth to meet up with son Neil, his wife Lucy and grandsons Craig and Ryan at the house we had rented there. I had never been to Haworth before but I have always loved the Bronte sisters' books. The Bronte Parsonage Museum, the house where the family had lived, is a writers' house museum, maintained by the Bronte Society in honour of the Bronte sisters. The Parsonage is where the sisters spent most of their lives and wrote their famous novels. The surrounding moorland had a profound influence on the writing of Charlotte, Emily and Anne. In 1846 the girls self published their poems under the pseudonyms Currer, Ellis and Acton Bell.



We visited the Bronte Parsonage Museum and were fascinated by the contents and exhibits. When the Bronte family lived in the Parsonage it was known to be cosy, comfortable and very clean. When visiting the house it's difficult to imagine where everyone slept – two adults, six children and two servants. The Museum gives an interesting and informative view of the family and how they lived. There are examples of the tiny books the children wrote when young.

In February 1820 Patrick Bronte took up the perpetual curacy of Haworth and the family of five daughters and one son moved into the Parsonage. In 1821 his wife Maria died (of cancer) and her sister Elizabeth moved in to help look after the children.

In May 1825 the oldest girl Maria died and in June the second daughter Elizabeth died (both of tuberculosis). In September 1848 son Branwell died

(of addiction) and in December Emily died (of tuberculosis). In 1849 Anne died (of tuberculosis) at Scarborough where she had gone for the sea air. In June 1854 Charlotte married her father's curate but died in the early stages of pregnancy in March 1855. Patrick outlived all six of his children and died at Haworth in 1861.

Patrick was born in 1777 in County Down, Ireland, the first of ten children. His wife was born in 1783 in Penzance, Cornwall and they were married in 1812. The couple first lived at Hartshead where Patrick was the perpetual curate and their first two daughters were born. The Brontes' next move was to Thornton in 1815 where the rest of the children were born. We visited the house in Thornton where the family had lived (part of which is now a coffee shop called "Emily's") and also the ruins of the Old Bell Chapel at Thornton. Patrick was a social reformer, he arranged for a government health inspector to visit Haworth in 1850, campaigned for piped water and efficient drainage. He built the school and Sunday School. He enjoyed his children, discussing with them world affairs, arranged drawing and music lessons and walked on the moors with them.



The house at Haworth overlooks the churchyard and the local church, St. Michael and All Angels which isn't the church in which Patrick Bronte preached, although the eighteenth century tower survives from the previous church. The Bronte Memorial Chapel is built over the family vault, near where the family pew used to be. All the family except Anne are buried there. Charlotte, to save her father having to conduct the third funeral service for one of his children in eight months, arranged for Anne to be buried at St Mary's at Scarborough.

More next month: The St Michael and All Angels and the Worth Valley railway
Pat Carter

Hello everyone

We at the Leiston Good Neighbour Scheme would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy 2023.

We held our 3rd AGM on November 1st at The Waterloo Centre. This was attended by several of our volunteers and it was a happy event. There was a lot of discussion about the scheme and good ideas were suggested. We are planning to have a social event for all our volunteers in the new year.

The Community Allotment continues to grow and develop. Liz and her team of volunteers have worked very hard this year to make it more variable both in produce, sustainability, access for those who are less able and a safe haven for wildlife and people. Anyone can come and join in, either to grow what they would like, or volunteer, or just to come and sit and be alone or with other people. We are shortly going to be erecting fruit cages, and there are several plans for further projects.

The scheme has been quite busy now that things are more normal again, which is nice. The types of things we have been doing are collecting and delivering medication, helping people to fill in forms, giving information about other services and facilities locally, and befriending both on the phone and in person.

We will be taking a group of people to the Tea Dance at Snape Maltings in December. This is a lovely event, and always a favourite for everyone.

If you would like any help, or if you are interested in volunteering please contact our phone on 07724 777465

Leiston Good Neighbour Scheme Management Committee

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH TOWER LIGHTS UP



During November and December the lighting of the Church Tower was sponsored on

Saturday 19th November

In loving memory of John Geater, dearly loved husband, father, Grandfather and Great grandfather who left us 3 years ago

Saturday 26th November

Stew, Thinking of you today on your birthday and always.

Jacque & family

Sunday 4th December

Sperry Free. Thinking of you always and especially today on your birthday.

Loving you always, Eileen

Monday 26th December – Sunday 1st January 2023

Wishing everyone at St Margaret's a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Claire & Steven Miles

If you would like to mark a special occasion by sponsoring the lighting of the Church Tower for a minimum donation of £7 50p per day, please contact Sandra direct (contact details page 2)

Listen out for the Christmas Bells!

On Friday 16th December starting at approx. 10.45am, members of the Suffolk Guild of Ringers will be attempting a Christmas Peal on our round of eight. If all goes to plan, the ringing should last for about three hours.

FROM THE REGISTERS

SERVICES OF CELEBRATION AND THANKSGIVING/FUERALS

27 th October 2022	Peter Bower
31 st October 2022	Sheila Dorothy Bradley
23rd November 2022	Bryan Thomas Kemp

BAPTISM

6 th November 2022	Eden Rose Hazelwood
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CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE

Please remember to support our annual Christmas Hamper Raffle in the Co-op Store on Friday 9th December by calling in and buying some tickets.

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CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST MARGARET’S

CHRISTMAS EVE

Saturday 24 December - Crib Service (setting up the Nativity scene and telling the Christmas Story) 3 pm

Saturday 24 December – Holy Communion (“Midnight in Bethlehem”) 9 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday 25 December - Holy Communion 10 am

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EMPTY BLISTER PACKS

Please remember to keep your EMPTY blister packs and bring them to church so that they can be sent for recycling. The cardboard boxes and information leaflets can be recycled in your household recycling wheelie bin. Please DO NOT include plastic bottle lids – include them in your household recycling wheelie bin.

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH

Dear Friends

December's magazine continues to focus on monthly prayer time, with the St Margaret's Church family group for this month as shown below. There are three family groups with each one appearing in the magazine every three months. However, you remain in our thoughts and prayers always.

If you would like to be included in our family monthly prayers, or have any queries please email stmargaretsleiston@gmail.com. If you feel you would prefer to be remembered in a particular month then please let us know. Also, if you have a specific need for additional prayer time then please let us know and we will add you to our 'special prayers' section.

In our Church Family Prayers

Bernard & Patsy Smith	Kathryn, Mark, Ian & Stuart Langley
Joe Diegnan	Adrian & Jackie Shotter
Pat, Neil, Lucy, Craig & Ryan Carter	Stephanie, Craig, Isla, Edie & Harrison Shotter
Daryl, Helen & Chloe Cartley	Kim, Dan, Indi Rose & Florence Nola
John and Joy Kemp	Keeble
Mary Joel	Jan Snowden
Kate Kersey	Nicola, Jon, Toby & Robert Kerridge
Peter Downey	Josie, Steven, Olivia & Maisie
Donna Button	Snowden
Billy & Margaret Clarke	Derek & Barbara Cole
Lesley Martin	June Linsell
Julie, Ellie & Charlie Howard	Hilda Woodhead
Kay, Trevor & Grace Nash	Pat & John Swatton
Anthony & Sue Hawkes	Debbie, Samantha & Matthew
Hilary & Richard Slaughter	Vettesse
Toby, Sharon, Emma & Sophie Slaughter	Kay Curtis
Gill & Rick Harvey	Colin, Lucy, Freya, Lola & Leeam
Glyn & June Clarke	Curtis
Mary Cornish	Nicola, Matthew, Callum & Jamie
Trevor & Thelma Hawkins	Smy
Kirsty Stowe	David, Lisa, Isle & Neave Curtis
Helen Thackeray	Elaine & Jon Ellis
Shirley Newman	Norman Chapman
Matthew, Vanessa, Alex, Kierah & Sasha Newman	Eamonn, Cathy & Ursula Harvey
	Jim & Pauline Florance

St. Margaret of Antioch



Parish Church of Leiston-cum-Sizewell
Church Road, Leiston, Suffolk IP16 4HG

NOTICE: Items for January's magazine

Please note that all articles, adverts etc. will need to be submitted to Pat Carter by **10 December** for inclusion in the January Magazine. Thank you.

Email: pm42carter@gmail.com

The Parish Magazine is available from St Margaret's Church. Delivery can be arranged.

Keep up to date with all Church Events

By visiting our own website

www.stmargaretschurchleiston.onesuffolk.net

How to Find Us

