



Carlford Benefice 2020 Benefice Profile

Rector Wanted: to work with us to encourage deep and meaningful worship, and to develop all we do to make a difference in our villages and beyond.



Introduction

The post is that of rector of the Carlford benefice (Ashbocking, Boulge, Burgh, Clopton, Grundisburgh, Hasketon, Otley and Swilland), and priest-in-charge of Culpho (and rector-designate following the completion of the agreed pastoral reorganisation to add Culpho to the benefice).

We have tried to describe who we are and who we hope will come: at the heart, we want someone who is called to live and work with us here, so that together we can see the kingdom of God grow for people of all ages.

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1. Who we are, what we offer, what we are looking for, opportunities and challenges



Midsummer music in Grundisburgh with over 400 people attending.

Who are we?

We are the eight churches in the benefice, Ashbocking, Boulge, Burgh, Clopton, Grundisburgh, Hasketon, Otley and Swilland, together with Culpho, where we currently lead worship and have close connections. We look forward to becoming a benefice of nine.

The villages are in arable farming land, roughly four miles north-west of the historic market town of Woodbridge and six miles north-east of the county town of Ipswich. Rail journeys to London take just over an hour from Ipswich. Local employers other than the farms are Suffolk Rural College (Otley), BT, and a range of organisations in the Ipswich area. Many village residents are retired.



The congregations are mostly drawn from each village or with connections to the village; only Boulge has a primarily gathered congregation. Some villages are spread-out or the church is away from most dwellings but it remains important to the village. The church in Grundisburgh is in the centre of the village, as are the Parish Rooms and the pub. The (modern) rectory is at the edge of Grundisburgh village.

We have good connections with the two primary schools in Grundisburgh and Otley through Open the Book (Grundisburgh) and assemblies (Otley and Grundisburgh). We also run a monthly Messy Church rotating round the four

village halls in the benefice. Good secondary schools are in Woodbridge and Ipswich, with further and higher education opportunities also in the local area.

We are a caring community and many activities are run by lay people from the congregations. These include study and prayer groups, coffee mornings, hobbies groups, support groups, children's activities, a men's group, and collections for the principal Ipswich foodbank. There are many opportunities for mission, ministry and service.

We offer:

- nine friendly and committed congregations, who know how to work with the incumbent, one another and their local communities
- a strong ministry team, including the Messy Church team, working together as well as separately across all nine churches, and coping with changing and challenging circumstances (particularly during the coronavirus pandemic)
- deep involvement in community life – see the benefice newsletter, *Grapevine* (<https://carlfordchurches.org/grapevine/>)
- the opportunity to develop fresh expressions mission and ministry with potential for growth by working with the Lightwave project based at Suffolk Rural College (Otley)
- foodbank collections supporting FIND (Families in Need) in Ipswich
- established pastoral care, including marriage preparation and bereavement visits, and involving elders and other lay people across the churches
- excellent groups in Grundisburgh, Hasketon, Ashbocking and Swiland for church building projects there
- a benefice that pays its full share to the diocese, and treasurers who work well together in spreading financial costs across the parishes
- PCCs who are committed to providing and/or funding admin assistance for the rector to fit with his/her particular requirements and abilities and to pay parochial working expenses in full, subject to giving levels being maintained
- a pleasant rectory backing on to fields in Grundisburgh
- the Upper Room, also in Grundisburgh, with office/meeting room, kitchen and lavatory, providing a valuable admin hub and resource for the benefice
- a pattern of regular meetings with the benefice churchwardens helping to maintain unity across the parishes and serving as a useful precursor to PCC meetings
- PCCs meeting jointly and acting as informal joint councils (currently one of four and one of two PCCs) and a willingness to share talents and responsibilities across parish boundaries
- two primary schools, both very receptive to church involvement.

We are looking for a rector who:

- can enable encounter with God through worship, with people of all ages, both formally and informally

- puts people at the centre of their ministry, enjoys being with people, and taking part in all kinds of community activities
- is a good and confident leader, able to empower others, delegate, value and enable teamwork, give feedback, support and develop other people's skills, challenging where necessary, and being decisive when appropriate
- can work with others to explore new ideas and develop existing ones in the light of changing needs and abilities, balancing tradition and newness
- is aware of their own gifts, strengths and weaknesses, and able to draw support from colleagues and congregations
- will love us and allow us to love them.

Opportunities and challenges for our new rector and for our benefice working together:

In mission:

- to maintain and develop the existing strands of children's work – including work in schools, Messy Church and with Just42 (www.just42.org.uk) – and coordinate them for the benefit of the whole children and young people's age-range across the benefice
- to continue our engagement with the local communities (increased during corona), and join with us in offering hospitality, and developing contacts and invitations through baptisms, weddings, and bereavement anniversaries
- to develop Christian life and witness in and to people moving into the new housing being built in Otley and Grundisburgh, and to bring human and Christian perspectives to the ongoing debate about housing development in Grundisburgh, especially in the light of local deprivation
- to connect and work with Lightwave, particularly with its team at Suffolk Rural College (Otley)
- to maintain foodbank and Christian Aid collections, and to increase planned giving.



In collaborative leadership:

- to develop the leadership community, particularly to ensure there is pastoral care and a key person (local 'minister') in every parish
- to maintain and grow house groups (20-25 people at present)
- to work ecumenically where possible
- to recognise and value the gifts and contributions of committed Christians at whatever age and stage of faith.

In communication:

- to communicate well and build relationships across the benefice
- to help us develop a communication strategy, especially through new media, and to build on what has been happening during the corona virus emergency.



Some members of Messy Church

2. Benefice overview



Our recent history

The benefice of Carlford (the name of the old local government area) comprising the eight parishes was formed in 2011 and at the same time made a group ministry with the adjoining Great Bealings, Little Bealings, Playford and Culpho benefice. Since then the Bealings, Playford and Culpho have had a half-time incumbent and have largely worked separately from the Carlford eight until late 2018, when the Carlford ministry team assumed responsibility for Culpho's services. In 2019 Culpho, which, for many years has shared a parish council with Grundisburgh, expressed a wish to join Carlford, while the Bealings and Playford opted to work with other benefices. The new Carlford rector will serve as Culpho's priest-in-charge until pastoral re-organisation is complete.

The eight Carlford churches finally came together in 2011. Some have been joined for longer; Clopton, Otley, Ashbocking and Swilland became a benefice in 1983, Clopton and Otley in 1951; Grundisburgh and Burgh had been together for many years, before being joined by Boulge and then Hasketon. The churchwardens of the eight churches are used to working together and meet regularly with the incumbent. Clopton, Otley, Ashbocking and Swilland PCCs meet together four times a year and then divide for their own meetings later in the evening. The PCCs of Grundisburgh and Hasketon meet in a similar way. Burgh and Boulge PCCs currently meet individually to facilitate ease of attendance by members. There are churchwardens in all the churches except Otley and Burgh, where their absence is well covered by PCC members.

The ministry team

The ministry team has varied over the years and is currently made up of:

- Mark, an SSM assistant curate who takes services, attends PCCs, leads the termly men's group, takes on occasional offices, and supports the Messy Church team, which is led by Sandra, his wife, who also leads part of the Sunday morning children's work;
- Bill, an SSM assistant curate in a neighbouring parish, who lives in Grundisburgh and takes one service a month in Grundisburgh, also meeting regularly with the elders for ongoing training;

- Fred, a priest, and John, a bishop, both retired with PTO, who both take some services depending on their availability (the priest is an accomplished organist);
- James and Jane (Fred's wife), two readers who both preach and lead worship, James (the diocesan registrar) regularly and Jane (a prison chaplain) according to her availability;
- Charlotte, a priest working primarily in the Lightwave project, but also licensed to the benefice, who has been working with us, taking and sharing services, although she will shortly be moving elsewhere;
- Jenny, Molly, Dot, Doris, Linda and Judith, our six lay elders who make bereavement visits in Grundisburgh and as needed in Ashbocking, Clopton and Hasketon, and, with churchwardens, take some lay-led Sunday services. (For information on lay elders see <https://www.cofesuffolk.org/exploring-vocation/lay-elders>)

(For photographs and other information, see the benefice website:

<https://carlfordchurches.org/contact/>).

Some of the ministry team, including the rector, meet on Thursday mornings (using Zoom where necessary) for prayer, sharing thoughts on the lectionary readings for the following Sunday, and planning.



Messy Church is a key part of our activities

Our services

In the past two years and before corona, most churches have had one Holy Communion service a month and Grundisburgh has had an 8am and 11am service every week. Hasketon and Clopton have had a second, lay-led, service each month. If there is a fifth Sunday, the 11am service (usually) is a benefice service. Messy Church takes place once a month in the afternoon. Midweek Holy Communion takes place monthly in Hasketon, Otley, Culpho and Grundisburgh, often followed by a social activity. (The full pattern of services is in Appendix 1 and a diagram of the services and attendance relative to the village population is in Appendix 2.)

Our worship is generally middle-of-the-road. The framework is from Common Worship with some additions and reflective services (e.g. Holy Week) from the Iona Community and elsewhere. The Book of Common Prayer is used at the 8am service at Grundisburgh and at Boulge, Culpho, and at one service in Hasketon. There are people with backgrounds in various denominations in each congregation.

There are currently 244 people on the church electoral rolls: Ashbocking 16; Burgh 20; Boulge 8; Clopton 8; Grundisburgh 103; Hasketon 36; Otley 21; Swilland 9; and Culpho 23.



Our worship is often creative

Our congregations are committed. Even in Grundisburgh (the largest congregation) half are on rotas for reading, leading intercessions, welcome team, sidespeople etc. Nevertheless, ageing in congregations is beginning to result in a shortage of musicians, for example, although a member of Clopton's congregation is progressing well in learning the organ and is regularly playing for services.

There are about seven weddings, ten baptisms and 25-30 funerals in the benefice each year. Ipswich hospital (with A&E), Ipswich cemetery and Seven Hills crematorium are all approximately a 15-minute drive from Grundisburgh.

New opportunities

Suffolk Rural College (Otley) – the Otley campus of Suffolk New College provides vocational training in a wide-range of subjects, although its original strengths were in agriculture and horticulture, and it employs some local Otley people. In 2019 it became a base for Lightwave ('Growing God in the Countryside' – the diocesan-wide project working under a bishop's mission order), which develops and supports small groups to come together for worship, discipleship and witness in new contexts outside traditional church settings. Lightwave is funded by an Archbishop's Council grant and is led by the Archdeacon for Rural Mission, Sally, who lives in Otley. It is building a voluntary chaplaincy for staff and students on the Otley campus, as well as encouraging joint community engagement across rural Suffolk. In particular, it plans to develop a new rural resourcing church from Otley (Lightwave Hub) with a special focus on meeting the needs of young adults who live or work in rural areas. Charlotte, one of the Lightwave team, has been working collaboratively with us and although she is moving elsewhere, we are confident that her replacement in Lightwave, who may be lay or ordained, will continue this partnership. There is more information on Lightwave in Appendix 3.

The rural context and a significant number of people with small incomes mean that transport and housing are significant matters for people living in the benefice, presenting opportunities for the churches to offer help and make connections.

As restrictions imposed by the corona emergency are lifted, all churches will be presented with new opportunities to do things differently and reach people in new ways.



Supporting charities is important to us.

3. The rectory

The rectory is a modern four-bedroomed house in a secluded location at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac on the edge of the village, with attractive public footpaths on the doorstep, but only a few minutes' walk to the centre of Grundisburgh. There is ample parking and a large double garage, in which is the oil-fired central heating boiler. The house stands in the middle of a generous garden.

Inside a lobby and hallway open to:

- Large sitting room with open fireplace and patio doors to secluded rear garden
- Kitchen with views over the rear garden
- Utility room with doors to the back garden and to the garage
- Dining room overlooking the front garden
- Ground floor shower room
- Study overlooking both front and rear gardens



Upstairs the galleried landing leads to:

- Four bedrooms: the larger two have fitted wardrobes; the smallest is a good-sized single.
-
- Family bathroom, including an airing cupboard.
- A separate large shelved cupboard.

Grundisburgh has two village stores and a post office as well as seven acres of playing fields including tennis courts. The GP practice has a surgery and pharmacy in the village. The public house, The Dog, has won awards for its food. The surrounding countryside offers plenty of walks and further afield, the Heritage Coast is within 12 miles, so popular places such as Orford, Aldeburgh, and Southwold are in easy reach. Snape Maltings (near Aldeburgh) offers excellent live music and much else, while an impressive variety of birds can be seen on the coastal lagoons and reedbed pools at RSPB Minsmere (between Aldeburgh and Southwold).

4. Parish profiles

Ashbocking



Ashbocking is the western-most village in the benefice with a population of around 360, living in two clusters of private houses but mostly on a single road two miles from the church. Whilst All Saints church is remote from most of the village, it regularly attracts a congregation of 20 plus, increasing to over 80 for popular services such as Carols by Candlelight. Additionally, there are regular coffee mornings where the hymns for the following services are chosen and two regular house groups for Bible study.

Local businesses in the village include James White fruit juices. Children travel to schools to the west or north-west of the village. There is no shop, pub or village hall but there is a parish council which works cohesively with the church.

The church is grade I listed, dating back to the thirteenth century, and there is reference to a church in the Domesday Book. The church is always open and on a popular circular walk; it boasts a rare Charles I coat of arms, a Saxon font, and a fine set of six bells which regularly attracts ringers from far and wide. The building is well maintained and there is a preservation committee and development committee within the PCC. There are frequent events to raise funds for a much-needed kitchen and toilet. Parking is limited although parking is available at the adjacent Ashbocking Hall, with the owners' permission.



We are dog friendly!

Boulge



Boulge is a very small hamlet of some 13 houses on the east of the benefice, and it is understood to be the smallest parish in the diocese. Within the hamlet it

is believed that four houses are privately owned, one of which is occupied with a young family, while the others are tenants to local farms who tend to move quite frequently. There is no shop, pub, garage or school and no centre to the community which straddles the main road.

St Michael and All Angels' church is set off the road, and is accessed through private parkland. It was associated to the original Boulge Hall which was demolished in the 1950s and a smaller house built. Only a very few of the residents occasionally attend church, even though the monthly Grapevine newsletter is delivered to each house, and special invitation letters are sent for Christmas, carols and other special services.

Occasional offices are a rarity but we held one wedding in 2018.

Burgh



Burgh is a village of about 200 people, living in mostly owner-occupied farmhouses, detached houses, bungalows and terraced cottages. Workwise, there are labourers and a few professionals commute, but the majority are retired.

St Botolph's church dates from around 1300, grade II* listed, and is in reasonable repair. It is open during the hours of daylight for visitors. The bells are rung before the Sunday service by a benefice group of ringers. A small number of the congregation give generously of their time, organising and doing sacristan duties, lesson reading, the flowers, and cleaning. An individual maintains the churchyard on a regular basis on behalf of the PCC.

Burgh Church School Room dates from 1835 and is located near the entrance to the churchyard. Friends of Burgh Schoolroom (FOBS) was established in 2009 to raise money for the refurbishment and extension (for a kitchen and toilet) of the Schoolroom for the church and community. The building is used for fund-raising events such as coffee mornings and soup lunches and may be hired out. FOBS was disbanded in September 2019 and management of the Schoolroom was handed back to the PCC.



The altar at Burgh

Clopton



Clopton is a spread-out village with no central point and two busy roads running through it. The village is in two distinct parts, the larger settlement being beside the B1078 from Wickham Market. There are around 375 residents, mostly in the 16-64 age range. Most of the 143 houses are owner-occupied, including some of the 40 ex-council houses. There are three holiday homes and four tied cottages. A regular bus service runs to Woodbridge and Ipswich, where are also the nearest rail stations.

Most children go to primary school in Grundisburgh, Charsfield or Otley and by bus to secondary school to Woodbridge. There are three farms and a small light business complex in Clopton and it is bordered by industrial units at Debach Enterprises on the old airfield. Most people travel away from the village for their work.

A number of regular events take place in the village hall, which was opened in 1993 near to the most densely populated area, including a monthly coffee morning (started by the church).

St Mary the Virgin's church is grade II* listed and dates back to the 13th century. It underwent many changes in 1880 and the chancel was rebuilt. More recently the tower has been repaired, thanks to villagers raising over £200,000; a new bell-frame was installed and the bells restored and rehung. An enthusiastic team of bell ringers practise weekly and ring before the monthly communion service.

At the church's west end is a memorial to American airmen from nearby Debach Airfield, who died in the last war: strong links are still maintained with their families in the USA. Opposite the memorial is our heritage centre with the records of all the fallen, and also extensive information about the locality.



Remembrance at Clopton

The whole village supports all our regular fund-raising events, hosted in the church, for example, flower festivals, concerts etc. and the church was recently

gifted more than 20 kneelers made by the village hobbies group. Our organist has repaired the vestry saving us thousands of pounds.

The regular congregation is small, but the Christmas Eve Candlelight Carol Service (with mulled wine and mince pies) always has over 120 people.

Culpho



Culpho is a rural hamlet lying five miles north east of Ipswich and consists of a small number of scattered farms and cottages. It is one of only two 'Thankful Villages' in Suffolk who lost no men in either World War, a status which has special meaning within the community.

The church of St. Botolph is grade II* listed and is surrounded by agricultural land. It is a small, humble wayside church with a rustic charm of its own.

There are 47 residents living in 17 properties and, whilst many do not attend church, St. Botolph's remains an integral part of its community. Churchgoers and villagers both continue to give of their time and talents to ensure the church is viable and maintained to a good standard. It promotes spiritual growth through its services and promotes friendship through its activities.

St. Botolph's is accessible to everyone, welcoming people from diverse backgrounds. It has easy access for the less mobile and the Wednesday morning Holy Communion service suits the older parishioner who prefers a short service. With no running water or facilities, we refrain from holding lengthy services.

In 2019 16 people regularly come to Evensong and six to Holy Communion. There have been four marriages here in the last ten years and we have occasional funerals and baptisms too. The age profile of the congregation matches that of the parish's largest demographic; those aged 60 – 75 years. The lack of young people attending St. Botolph's is clearly a challenge for its future growth.

St. Botolph's exercises good governance and remains financially stable and self-sufficient. The fabric fund is healthy. A recent grant from Historic England will see work done to ensure the church is water-tight. The 2017 quinquennial report identified several issues which are currently being addressed and there are no major areas under review.

Fundraising is constantly at the forefront of church business and musical events provide a good income towards church funds. Each year events are staged, usually by a small core of dedicated church people with villagers willingly playing their part. There are no public buildings in the village so residents appreciate that the church is an integral part of village life and are always willing to help.

Grundisburgh



A settlement dating from the Middle Saxon era, Grundisburgh is now home to some 1600 people. It has seen a surge of developments in recent decades – both social housing for rent and larger housing aimed at the economically mobile – which has contributed to Grundisburgh's social breadth, age range and energy but means there are wide divisions in income, expectations and outlook. The village not only has the school, but also a village hall (with a new one planned) and parish rooms, and a number of local businesses. Many people commute to work and, like many other rural communities, Grundisburgh was not built with modern traffic in mind! Buses go to Ipswich or Woodbridge four or five times a day.

There are more than thirty village organisations, supported by the very active Grundisburgh and Culpho Parish Council, which give a clear identity and a distinct sense of community. These include Scouts and Guides, football team and the tennis club, folk dance group and the amateur dramatic society, village walks, and the art club, as well as St. Mary's Church and the Baptist chapel.

St Mary's church is 700 years old and has angels soaring high on the hammer beam roof. It is Grade 1 listed. The bells are rung before the morning services by the benefice ringers, and a choir (13 people) leads our singing, especially for the parish eucharist, accompanied by the organ with recorded music as needed. To keep the church welcoming and more adaptable, plans are well advanced for

toilets to add to the existing kitchen facilities. The church is open during the hours of daylight for visitors and quiet prayer. The large churchyard is an open churchyard, fully maintained and recorded. The church retains the affection and respect of the whole community through its celebrations and pastoral work.

The Parish Rooms are not owned by the church, but by a village charity with church involvement. The church has free use of the ground floor rooms on Sundays and Wednesdays and occasional other days. The Upper Room has been rented by the diocese for the use of the incumbent, ministry team, church activities and groups, which has proved hugely beneficial. Diocesan involvement will cease very soon, enabling the benefice to agree its own terms with the trustees for use of the Upper Room to continue.

Hasketon



Hasketon is off the beaten track with a central core of houses surrounded by farms and many well used footpaths – about 200 dwellings in total. The A12 is $\frac{3}{4}$ mile away and the centre of Woodbridge with shops, theatre/cinema and railway station about 2 miles away.

A variety of small businesses give employment, while others work at home or travel to Woodbridge, Ipswich and beyond. There is a nursery school in the village but older children mostly go to school in Woodbridge.

Life revolves around the church, the Victory Hall, the Turks Head pub, and the farm shop and café. The village hall, opposite the church, is much used for the village and for private parties and receptions. Regular clubs include St Andrew's Lunch Club, Sewing Group, Evergreens (for older people), Keep Fit, W.I., and Whist Club. The village fete and exhibition is in August, the Plant and Book Sale in May, and the Charity Fair in November.

St Andrew's church is located centrally in this spread-out village. It has Saxon origins and a Norman



Wood Exhibition at Hasketon

round tower. The roof was restored in Victorian times. It is open every day (thanks to volunteers) for visitors and quiet prayer. Plans are underway for some modernisation, with the addition of a kitchen and lavatory at the back of the church. Outside is a camping toilet and a gardener's shed. The churchyard is a wildflower sanctuary (under guidance from Suffolk Wildlife Trust). There is a dedicated cremation plot and a comprehensive plan of the graves. The grass and hedges are cut regularly.

We provide a monthly magazine 'Hasketon News' to every household in the parish (200 copies) containing church and village information and articles.

Otley



Otley village has a definite centre with additional scattered housing. There are about 290 homes (old and new) and a population of about 700, but housing is mostly not affordable by first-time buyers. A current re-development in the centre of the village will provide a range of homes for sale and for rent, and may include some small commercial units.

The village has a strong sense of community, an active parish council and community council and a well-used village hall.

Active organisations include bowls club, drama group, gardening club, friendship club (over 60s), and scouts and cubs. The Baptist chapel has regular Sunday and mid-week services.

St Mary's church is within the village, with a long drive and no car park. For special occasions such as weddings and funerals, parking is permitted at the bowls club, 50 yards away.

The church is medieval, grade II* listed, and well-maintained. The Otley Church Preservation Trust, a charity has raised considerable



Crib service in a Barn at Otley

sums for church fabric maintenance over the past 25 years. A legacy has been used for specific major projects. The pews in the south aisle have been removed to allow this area to be used for a wider range of activities. A toilet, accessible from outside, and a small kitchen have been constructed in the north porch. Heating is by electric heaters under the pews and the lighting has been modernised including having LED bulbs in the chancel.

The organ is in good condition and played for most services, with a sound system for pre-recorded hymns on other occasions. There is no regular choir but a choir is formed from people in the village and beyond for the Christmas carol service. On average there are one wedding, five baptisms and five funerals a year.

The church also has a peal of six bells in good working order, rung by an enthusiastic group for most services. The churchyard is maintained by volunteer and paid labour including (twice a year) a team of young offenders.

A church house group meets once a fortnight and a small Lightwave group aims to engage with residents in the new housing. Coffee mornings are held in different homes once a month. Christian Aid Week is well supported and the church contributes financially to a child in India.

We distribute 'The Signpost', our monthly magazine covering Otley, Clopton, Ashbocking and Swilland, to 260 households on a subscription basis.

Swilland



Swilland is a small village of over 70 houses with a local population of about 170. The village has several businesses, including a horse riding centre, a cattery, a garage, and several working farms. There is no shop or village hall but we have combined with the pub, the Moon and Mushroom, to host social events – and once held a service there.

St Mary's, a grade II* listed building, is open every day but it is used almost exclusively for services. The church has Saxon origins, with a very distinctive Victorian tower addition and features in the book of 100 famous Suffolk Churches. We would like to give the church a wider role to act as a centre for community so we are in process of obtaining permissions and raising funds to

adjust the seating at the back of the nave and to add an extension for a kitchen and toilet. In the last decade, we have successfully raised substantial funds for tower and organ repairs.

For services, there are usually 10-15 people, with greater numbers at the Christian festivals. Most of these are the older generation. We estimate there are 13 children in Swilland below the age of 16, and some are occasional worshippers. We offer coffee and refreshments after our monthly Communion service with good participation from worshippers. At present the coffee is brought in flasks and the cups are taken back to private houses for washing.

5. The diocese and Woodbridge deanery

Where are we?

The diocese covers the county of Suffolk, excluding the area around Lowestoft in the north-east, and one parish in Essex. It is a mainly rural Diocese with a large number of small villages, plus market towns including Woodbridge, Halesworth, Sudbury and Beccles and the



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

**Diocese of St Edmundsbury
and Ipswich**

cathedral town of Bury St Edmunds with its historic ruins of the old Abbey.

Ipswich is the county town with a population of about 137,000. Suffolk's population is c 650,000. The county embraces historic places of interest such as Sutton Hoo, culture at Snape with the famous annual Aldeburgh music festival, is on the Heritage coast and is a haven for lovers of natural history and birdlife. The busy port of Felixstowe is at the end of the A14 which runs via Cambridge to the Midlands and the A12 which gives access to London and the Norfolk Broads.

Who are we?

We are often known as 'the Church of England in Suffolk'. The diocesan bishop is the Right Reverend Martin Seeley, and the suffragan bishop is the Right Reverend Dr Mike Harrison. Both work from the Bishop's House in Ipswich. They work together closely to help us shape our vision and strategy, and amongst a plethora of other tasks offer regular teaching mornings to nurture the faith of people in our congregations – and a regular Vlog which can be found on Facebook. There are 3 archdeaconries and over 450 churches where visitors will find a wide range of worshipping styles, from the traditional to contemporary, as well as Fresh Expressions and growing numbers of 'Lightwave' groups for those who haven't connected with traditional church previously. The Cathedral of St Edmund and St James in Bury St Edmunds is the mother church of the Diocese and is proactive in offering support to clergy and parishes including welcoming parishes on pilgrimage. We also work closely with our 88 Church of England primary schools. All this is, of course, supported by a small and committed diocesan staff based in the diocesan office in Ipswich.

What is our vision?

Our diocesan vision is to be 'Growing in God', aiming to grow 'flourishing congregations making a difference'. This vision was accepted by Diocesan Synod in 2014 and since then we have been focussing on four key priorities:

- ❖ Growing in Depth: responding to the call of Christ in every part of our lives
- ❖ Growing in Number: drawing the contacts we have into the life of God's kingdom
- ❖ Growing in Influence: reaching beyond ourselves in our impact on the wider world
- ❖ Growing Younger; building churches whose age-range reflects our communities

Parishes are encouraged to use a simple Mission Action Planning tool to help us all to focus on these priorities and how they might be worked out in each different context. We are trusting God that this vision, underpinned by a commitment to Christian stewardship, will bear fruit as we look to the future.

As part of this vision, we have recently received Strategic Development Funding for two major projects: Inspiring Ipswich, overseen by the Archdeacon of Ipswich which aims to grow the church in Ipswich through church planting and reaching out to those who live in the town, and 'Growing God in the Countryside', overseen by the Archdeacon for Rural Mission, which focusses on developing Rural Resourcing Churches and nurturing and discipling new Christians through small Lightwave groups.

We have also been part of a pilot scheme exploring how we can use our church buildings more creatively both for those who worship regularly and for the benefit of our communities and many churches have benefitted from this.

We are broadening our vision through a growing partnership with the Diocese of Kagera in Tanzania, with fruitful visits and links being established.

How can we do this?

We value our huge range of different ministries: we have over 100 stipendiary clergy, plus many SSM and PTO clergy as well as lay and ordained chaplains who can be found in such diverse places as schools, prisons, hospitals, hospices, the army, RAF and the police. Some clergy are ordained to serve in their local benefice through our pioneering 'auxiliary ordination pathway' which enables people's vocations to ordained ministry to be discerned within the Diocese.

All clergy work alongside lay ministers – Readers, elders, and the growing number people exercising recently introduced licensed ministries: pioneer ministers, evangelists, youth ministers and children's and family workers. Our ministry deployment principles encourage teams or clusters of lay and ordained ministers to work together so that clergy feel less isolated and ministry resources the mission of the church more effectively. We are just beginning to develop the principle of 'local ministers' in our benefices, releasing people's gifts to serve in their locality.

We are excited about these new developments which are playing an important part in our diocesan vision of Growing in God.

So, in summary:

As our Growing in God vision states, we aspire to be people who know that 'God is with us, gathering us as Christ-centred communities, calling us to make Christian disciples, sending us in loving service, empowering us by the Holy Spirit'.

We hope you will come and join us on our journey!

To find out more, visit www.cofesuffolk.org

Woodbridge deanery

The diocese is divided into three archdeaconries and eighteen deaneries. The Archdeacon of Ipswich also leads the Inspiring Ipswich Project. The Archdeacon of Sudbury works mainly in the west of the county; we belong to the archdeaconry of Suffolk and the Woodbridge deanery. Please see <http://www.cofesuffolk.org/find-a-church-near-you/diocesan-maps>.

Woodbridge deanery synod meets together three times a year but takes forward the work of the deanery action plan in three geographic areas – west of Woodbridge (where we are), Woodbridge, and east of Woodbridge.



Woodbridge Tide mill and River

Appendix 1 Current pattern of services (before lockdown)

First Sunday	Grundisburgh	8.00 am	Holy Communion BCP
	Grundisburgh	11.00 am	Family Service
	Otley	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	Boulge	11.00 am	Holy Communion BCP
Second Sunday	Grundisburgh	8.00 am	Holy Communion BCP
	Grundisburgh	11.00 am	Parish Eucharist
	Hasketon	9.30 am	Parish Eucharist
	Clopton	11.00 am	Worship for all ages/ Morning Prayer (Lay Led)
	Ashbocking	11.00 am	Family Service
Third Sunday	Grundisburgh	8.00 am	Holy Communion BCP
	Grundisburgh	11.00 am	Morning Prayer
	Burgh	9.30 am	Family Communion
	Hasketon	9.30 am	Morning Prayer (Lay Led)
	Swilland	11.00 am	Family Service/ Holy Communion
	Culpho	3.00 pm	Evening Prayer BCP (Reader Led)
Fourth Sunday	Grundisburgh	8.00 am	Holy Communion BCP
	Grundisburgh	11.00 am	Family Communion
	Clopton	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	In the four village halls in turn	3.00 pm	Messy Church (for benefice) (Messy Church Team)
Fifth Sunday	Grundisburgh	8.00 am	Holy Communion BCP
	Benefice service in different villages in turn	9.30 am or 11.00 am	Holy Communion

Our pattern is that the Rector leads two services on most Sundays, occasionally three, as needed.

In addition, midweek communions offer opportunity for quiet reflection:

Monday after 1st Sunday Hasketon 9.30am Holy Communion BCP

Wednesday after 1st Sunday Grundisburgh 9.30am Holy Communion

Thursday after 2nd Sunday Otley 9.30am Holy Communion then coffee morning

3rd Wednesday Culpho 9.30am Holy Communion BCP

4th Thursday Hasketon 11.30am Holy Communion then Community lunch

Parade services (of the uniformed youth organisations)

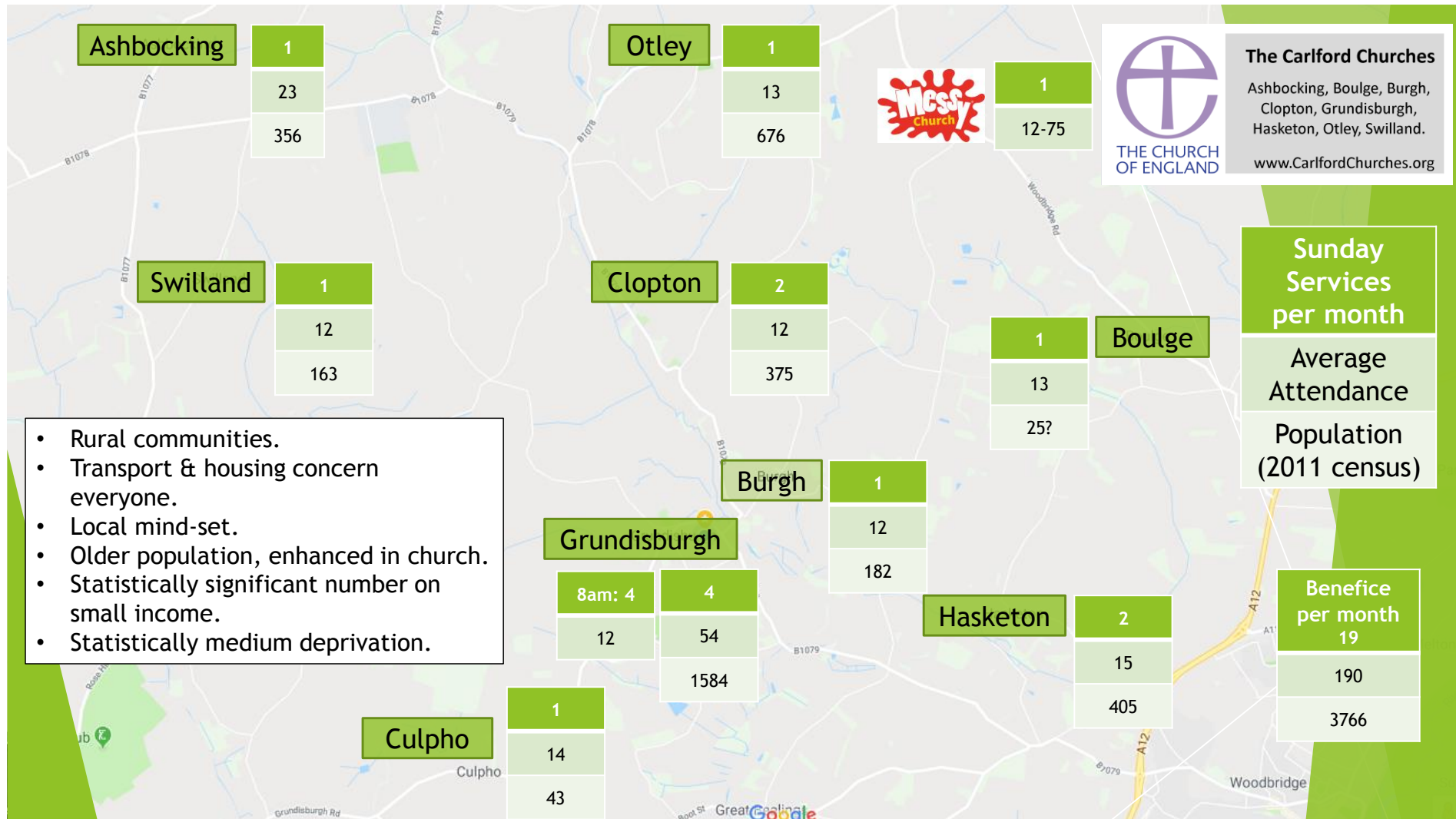
Grundisburgh: on Mothering Sunday, Harvest, and bi-annually on Remembrance Sunday when service is in Grundisburgh.

Otley: at Candlemas or in spring term; for Christian Aid (1st Sun in May), and at Harvest.

Burgh: Remembrance Sunday, bi-annually with Grundisburgh.

While churches have been closed, we have broadcast a regular 9.30am Sunday service on Facebook with contributions from different members of the ministry team, lesson readers, hymn choosers etc. We have also published via email and our website a weekly reflection, prayers, news and hymns.

Appendix 2: Services and attendance in relation to the village population





The diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich strongly encourages all incumbents to promote the growth of small missional groups and fresh expressions of Church in their benefices. 'Lightwave' has been created with a diocese-wide Bishop's Mission Order in order to support clergy and lay people to work together in mission-shaped communities, reaching out in innovative ways.

The Lightwave Community meets in small groups in homes, pubs, offices, schools and other places and complements other ways of being church. The name of the community comes from the idea of lightwaves being the way in which light spreads into dark places. Lightwave is committed to shining the light of Jesus in Suffolk through acts of kindness and practical service as well as worship and witness.

Each Lightwave group aims to do one activity together to bless their local community and to share faith in their locality or network. Each group receives support and training in their outreach through a growing network of coaches. Each is mainly concerned to bless people who are exploring faith for the first time, while simultaneously cooperating closely with local parish churches and others. The Lightwave Community is being developed through a Project called 'Growing in God in the Countryside', funded by the Strategic Development Fund of the Church Commissioners until 2025. While both urban and rural Christians are part of this community, there is a particular focus on helping 1500 new disciples come to faith in rural areas in the period of the funding. Many Lightwave groups are planting fresh expressions of Church. The understanding is that such fresh expressions of Church will be new or different ways of being established primarily for the benefit of people who are not yet members of any church.

The Lightwave Community is developing three Rural Resourcing Churches, in different parts of Rural Suffolk to create and support the development of the small missional groups in their area and to intentionally provide sufficient critical mass for particular ministries which are currently under-represented in rural churches, for example with young adults and those in lower income brackets. Every part of the Lightwave Community has a vision for the great wave of God's love, bringing light to our county.

For more detail see <https://www.light-wave.org/>



Making Jesus visible through loving action

Loverural (to be launched in early 2020) – is about ‘making Jesus visible through loving action’ in the Suffolk Countryside. It is part of the diocese’s strong commitment to rural areas. Loverural has 3 strands:-

- a) Drawing attention to the enormous role of rural Christianity in building social capital
- b) Acting as a convenor for projects and congregations in the countryside including those of different traditions and denominations so that good rural practice can be shared and mutual support offered
- c) Enabling those engaged in Christian-based social action to gain confidence and wisdom in how to make exploration of the Christian faith accessible to those engaging with their initiatives.