

St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich
Ipswich Deanery

Benefice Profile

The United Benefice of
Westerfield &
Tuddenham St Martin
with Witnesham

wtandw.org.uk

 wtandw



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Welcome to our Benefice

We are a rural benefice located very close to the northern outskirts of Ipswich. Our three village parishes have their own individual characters but gel well and work together individually and as a group.

Whilst many of our village residents and church parishioners are old in years, we are young in spirit and embrace modern life and technology - we have a website and Facebook page. (Please check us out!)

We are looking for a minister who will:

- help us in realising our hopes and vision, described below
- work with the Ministry Team in discerning where God is leading us, working with collaborative focus on mission and ministry
- encourage and help us all to develop our personal prayer life and Bible study
- build relationships and encourage discipleship and growth
- discern people's giftings and help develop their ministries
- embed mission and ministry into all aspects of Church life, from corporate worship, preaching and pastoral work to finance and fabric
- call us to prayer and lead us in mission in our neighbourhoods
- build upon and develop relationships we have within our communities with missional intent
- help ensure that we all present a consistent profile in our communities
- not neglect his/her own spiritual well-being as we will achieve little together without a shared bedrock of prayer



Our commitment to you:

We recognise that no minister can do everything, and we all expect to have a part to play in our parishes' ministry. We will celebrate your strengths and support you where you need support

We will also respect your need for a healthy calling-work-life balance, especially as this is no more than a 0.5 post.

There is a well equipped office for you to use located in the Parish room at Westerfield.

We have a small voluntary administration team who work in the Parish room on Friday mornings. A housing allowance is available or a 3-4 bedroom property will be bought in one of the villages.

Our Desires and Challenges

We are striving within our Benefice to grow in personal discipleship, being built up to be able to share our journey in Christ with others, in particular by engaging with [Inspiring Ipswich](#) (See Page 15) to see growth in our church communities, in and beyond the church buildings and beyond our village communities.

We are looking to increase the number of regular worshippers by building on events such as the Good Friday Children's Workshop, *Messy Church* and Children's Christmas Services which especially attract parents with young children who do not normally attend church

We hope to develop our ministries among families, children and young people, and seek to reach out to the full age profile and build upon relationships we have within our communities with missional intent.

Our aim is to build on our pastoral and missional work through identifying, encouraging and training members to be involved in visiting, encouraging, interceding and mission and ensure that occasional offices offer a positive experience and pastoral follow-up is effective

We are looking to establish patterns of worship, study and prayer other than on Sunday and develop prayer and healing ministry within services and in pastoral contexts

We are working to build stronger links with the community at Hope Centre in order to help them with the valuable work that they do.

We work with Witnesham Baptist Church <http://www.witneshambaptist.org.uk/> and continue to enjoy good relationships. We have a rotating joint service (with WBC) every 5th Sunday.

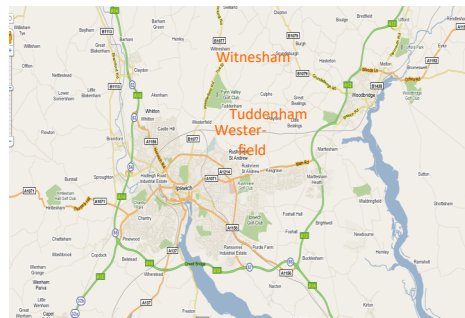


About us

Where we are

Suffolk is an attractive county with miles of unspoiled coastline and open vistas, picturesque small towns and villages.

Our parishes are situated to the north of Ipswich, within a quiet rural environment with easy access to Ipswich, a large county town.



The Diocese and Deanery

The United Benefice of Westerfield and Tuddenham St Martin with Witnesham, although village parishes, sits within the Ipswich Deanery in the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich .

Details of the Diocese and our mission can be found on pages 13 and 14

The Benefice

wtandw.org.uk

Our Benefice attracts a half-time post. Westerfield and Tuddenham parishes have been together since 1973 and Witnesham joined in 1983. We are a “rural” benefice in Ipswich Deanery, 25 parishes arranged into 15 benefices with 18 (fte) stipendiary priests.

We are engaging with the ambitious *Inspiring Ipswich* initiative, having established a Learning Community team of two members from each parish working with a “Mission Accompanier” (an Incumbent at another benefice). Over the next five or so years we aim to play our part in establishing new worshipping communities and growing our own congregations in number and in depth.

We have an annual away morning and hold some joint PCC meetings. We have also enjoyed a 24 hour residential recently, and plan to do more.

We work with Witnesham Baptist Church <http://www.witneshambaptist.org.uk/> and continue to enjoy good relationships. We have a rotating joint service (with WBC) every 5th Sunday.

Our Benefice supports FIND charity and is closely connected with the Hope Centre.



We have one school—Witnesham Primary (105 pupils) www.witneshamprimaryschool.co.uk which is federated with Otley Primary and enjoys a good relationship through *Open the Book* and Christmas services. Younger children from our Benefice villages attend a variety of primary schools e.g Grundisburgh Primary School, Rushmere Hall Primary School and Bealings School.

Older pupils go to a variety of secondary schools, particularly Northgate, in Ipswich, Farlingaye in Woodbridge or Debenham Secondary School. Suffolk New College and Otley College provide further education. University of Suffolk has its main campus in Ipswich.

Who we are

We are three village church communities, each of which has its own particular character.

Our three church buildings are very old and beautiful and are all in good repair - St Mary's at Witnesham has recently been renovated inside and offers a bright and spacious interior whilst St Mary Magdalene at Westerfield and St Martins at Tuddenham retain many lovely historic features.

Our ministry team comprises two Readers and one Elder, who meet regularly and also meet with the six Wardens (two for each parish) as a Wardens and Ministry team.

All three churches are integral to village life and have members who are involved in village organisations, civic parish councils and the local primary school.

Each church has people involved in worship: administering communion, reading and leading prayers in services; and pastoral work: visiting and supporting the elderly, working with young people and families and taking communion to local nursing homes.

We have a history of paying our parish shares in full .



Churchwardens Judy, Karen and Monica



We have:

- a range of worship services— each parish has at least one service each Sunday
- Sunday school at Witnesham
- our own Lent and Advent daily email reflections
- a positive relationship with Witnesham Baptist Church (WBC).
- Contact with Witnesham and Otley primary schools through *Open The Book*, with WBC *Messy Church*, also with WBC (currently inactive).
- a well supported Mothers' Union group
- contact with Westerfield Scout Group www.westerfieldscouts.org.uk



Westerfield

<http://www.westerfield-village.co.uk/index.html>

Westerfield is a short ride from Ipswich and is easily accessible by bus and rail. It has a population of about 500 of which about a third are retired. The age profile in the parish tends towards older people and we have difficulty in appealing to younger people and their parents. Housing in the village is diverse, there are around 200 privately owned or let homes, ranging from small two bedroom cottages to large mansions. This will change with the major housing development of the *Ipswich Garden Suburb* on the edge of the parish over the next 5 years

<https://www.ipswich.gov.uk/content/about-ipswich-northern-fringe>

Westerfield Village Hall hosts a wide range of social, leisure and health activities, as well as the 1st Westerfield Scout Group which the church sponsors.

A number of social activities take place in the village – a weekly coffee morning, WI, Yoga, Chi Kung, Art Club, Bowls Club, Pilates and a Garden Club.

There are some employment opportunities with the village. There are two public houses, a small care home for people with learning disabilities, Westerfield Business Park has 12 small units let as office accommodation and a secure storage facility.

Westerfield has a community Facebook page giving news of village and church activities.

St Mary Magdalene Parish Church

Average attendance at services is 20; however some festival services are very well attended, particularly the Scout Group Carol Service.

The Church sits near the centre of the village and has a good relationship with all residents, including non-church goers, who support the Church Fete and Gift Day each year.

The Church includes the Parish Room which is the administration hub of the Benefice and where the Admin Team work each Friday morning. It also houses the regular meetings of the Benefice Mothers Union.



Tuddenham St Martin

<http://tuddenhamstmartin.onesuffolk.net/>



Tuddenham is situated in the Fynn Valley and is less of a dormitory to Ipswich than Westerfield. It is a relatively compact village with a thriving pub and restaurant. There are numerous walks in the picturesque Fynn Valley which are very well used both by locals and Ipswich visitors. There is a wide age range in the village with a strong sense of community.

The village has a population of about 400, of which probably 40% are retired. It has around 180 households in mixed housing types, mainly privately owned, but including some run by a housing association.

Tuddenham is an active village with its own Community Facebook page providing village news and information. Church members are involved in the various village organisations. There is a Women's Institute which meets monthly, a small Over-Sixties Club, a Book Club, a Carpet Bowls Club and an amateur dramatic group (TADPOLES) who put on a variety of productions including pantomimes, variety shows and murder mystery nights.

St Martin's Parish Church

Average attendance at regular services is 18. The congregation take an active part in services by reading, leading prayers and serving at the altar. Festival services are well supported by the wider community. There is no formal choir, just a band of enthusiastic singers led by an equally enthusiastic organist.



The church sits in the centre of the village at the top of the hill and is a focal point. It is in good condition. The annual Church Gift Day with attendant cake and produce stall provides an excellent opportunity for outreach to the village as well as raising funds for the maintenance of the church.



Witnesham

Witnesham is the largest of the three villages. With a population of about 850 (c25% children, c35% elderly). It is over one mile long, with most housing concentrated at south and north ends.

The church is next to the Village Hall in the middle of the village, but down a narrow lane and somewhat isolated from the main residential areas to the north and south. Witnesham Baptist Church is well situated at the north end on the main road. It hosts the outreach Post Office. The primary school has attracted young families to the village.

The Hope Centre in Wash Lane is a supported living initiative run by a Christian organisation. <https://www.talithakoum.org.uk/>

There are around 325 households, most of which are privately owned. There have been recent new developments which has attracted new families to the village. .

There are some employment opportunities in the village - the *Barley Mow* pub, Witnesham Nursing Home, Witnesham Primary School, Fynn Valley Golf Club and some ex-farm business units.

Church members are very much involved in village life - being involved in the Parish Council, Village Hall, school governing body, the Royal British Legion, a chiropody/social afternoon for older people, Village Voices <http://village-voices.uk> and a Book Club.

The village hall hosts a number of clubs. There is a large thriving junior football team, Brownies and Rainbow groups and a Carpet Bowls Club. The *Barley Players* stage plays with local character.

The church distributes the monthly In Touch local magazine to village households, and maintains regular contact with the nursing home through a monthly communion service.

St Mary's Parish Church

The average attendance at weekly services is approx. 20 and Sunday Club attracts a small number of children (This is run monthly in the side chapel, concurrently with our morning service.) The Youth Group is currently on hold. Messy Church has run alternately in Witnesham Parish Church and Witnesham Baptist Church, attracting around 35 children and parents.

The Church building has recently undergone extensive refurbishment, including the removal of some pews, separated side aisle, toilets, servery, new LED lighting and AV system. The overall effect is dazzling!

We have worked with Witnesham Baptist Church for many years and continue to enjoy good relationships. A church fete and Gift Day are held each year and are well supported by the village.



How we currently operate

Ministry Team

Both our priest-in-charge and his associate priest wife have moved on. Two Readers (Paul and Carol) and one Elder (Julia) lead services.

The Ministry Team meets regularly to study and pray and to discern God's direction for us.

The Wardens and Ministry Team meets between PCC meetings for co-ordination and planning for the Benefice. It covers diary coordination for special services.

The volunteer Administration team work in the Parish Rooms at Westerfield on Friday mornings and undertake other admin tasks as required. The office is equipped with a photocopier/printer, telephone and internet access .

Tradition

We follow Common Worship, using our own printed booklets. We are open to fresh ideas.

Current Policies

These are listed on our website .

Incumbent's Expenses

Paid in full. Each church in the Benefice pays an equal share.

Electoral Rolls

Westerfield 22; Tuddenham 32; Witnesham 38. Westerfield and Tuddenham attract a number of attenders from outside (mainly from the northern suburbs of Ipswich) whilst the Witnesham congregation is mainly local. Those coming from outside often have family connections with the villages., but recently we have seen folk coming from Ipswich looking for a welcoming and friendly place to worship

Occasional Offices

To end December 2019. Baptisms: 4 Weddings: 2 Funerals: 7

Current Patterns of Worship

Services are listed on the [website](#).

We have had a service in every church every Sunday. This is something we are committed to and place great importance upon.



The Appointment

This will be a half-time appointment (Sunday and 3 days) with Incumbent status which will come under Common Tenure under Clergy Terms of Service 2011.

A housing allowance is available or a 3-4 bedroom property will be bought in one of the villages.

All expenses are paid in full.

Application form

This can be downloaded from <http://www.cofesuffolk.org/>

Please return the completed form to

Diane Matthews

Bishops' and Archdeacons' PA

St Nicholas Centre

4 Cutler Street

Ipswich, IP1 1UQ

e-mail: diane.matthews@cofesuffolk.org.uk

Tel: 01473 298500

Closing Date for Applications

8th March 2020

Date of Interviews

23rd March 2020



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

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 cathedral town of Bury St Edmunds with its historic ruins of the old Abbey. Ipswich is the county town with a population of about 135,000. 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. 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 Light-wave 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



Inspiring Ipswich is an imaginative and exciting new initiative of the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. It spans six years from early 2019 til the end of 2024 and during this period it seeks to strengthen the existing 24 churches within the deanery of Ipswich, helping them 'to communicate good news and make new disciples', as well as adding 25 new worshipping communities into the mix. Front and central is the overall aim of praying for and nurturing the faith of 1500 new Christians across the town.



With the help of a substantial and unprecedented grant from the Church Commissioners and a central *Inspiring Ipswich* team the project aims to support every parish with regular learning community gatherings and with a highly skilled Mission Accompanier. Central courses such as 'Leading your Church into Growth', 'Mission Shaped Ministry', Evangelist training, Alpha training and the 'Growing Leaders' course are part of the offer and the support of three full-time Deanery Pioneer Developers is available for those leading fresh expressions of Church.



The Deanery aims in everything to be 'relational, pastoral, missional and inspirational' and aspires to offer a good welcome and ongoing support to all its clergy, primarily through its Deanery Leadership Team, its Deanery Chaplains, clergy chapter meetings and through the Archdeacon's ministry, which is focused solely on this one area.

One of the primary goals of *Inspiring Ipswich* is to help at least 5% of the population (around 7,500 people) enjoy an opportunity to explore faith and our prayer is to offer Alpha or an equivalent to over 1000 people each year across the deanery.

In short, we believe that any prospective Incumbent at Witnesham, Tuddenham and Westerfield would not only find themselves warmly welcomed within these villages but would also find themselves at the heart of an inspiring vision and team in the deanery.

