

# The Alde Sandlings Benefice Profile



St Peter and St Paul, Aldeburgh



St Andrews, Aldringham



**Alde Sandlings Benefice**



St Mary the Virgin, Friston



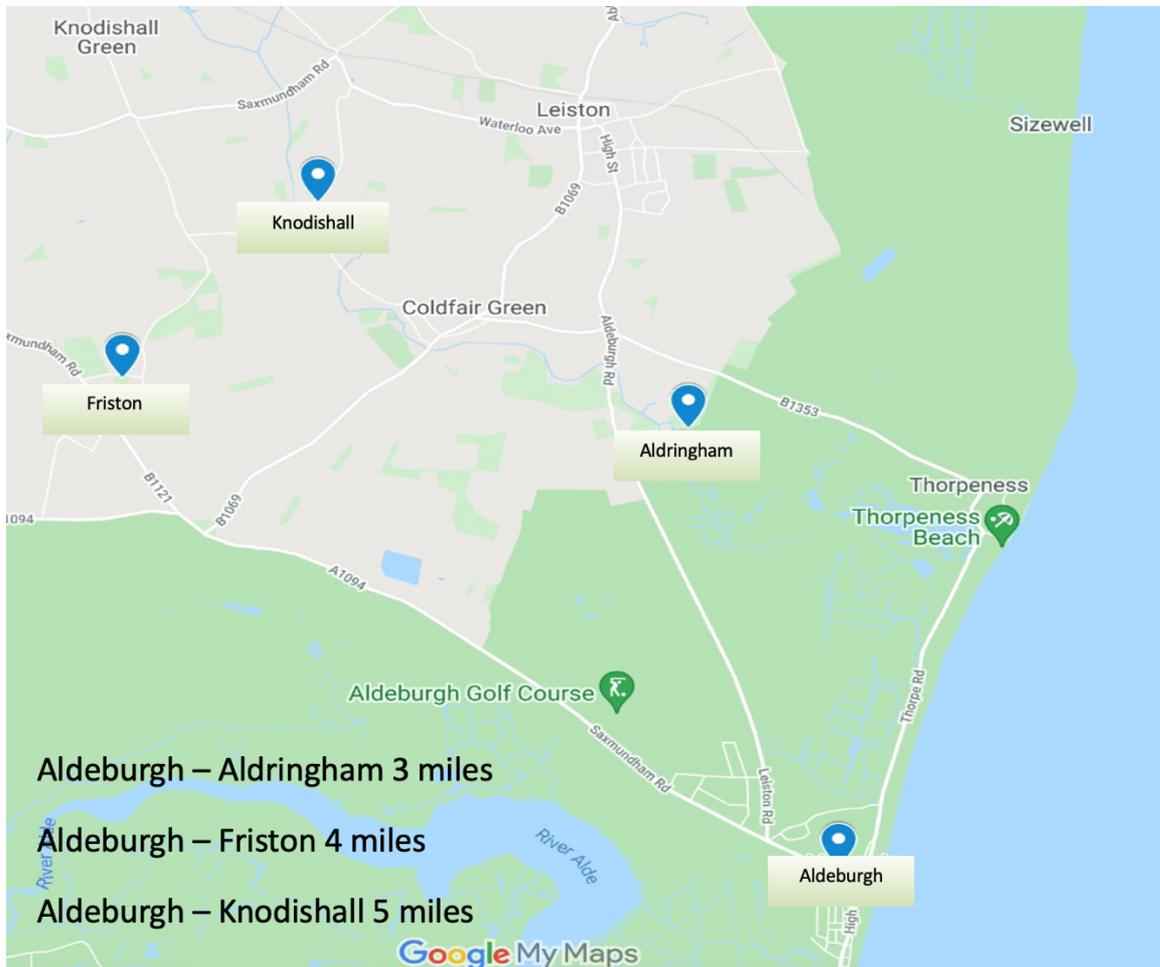
St Lawrence, Knodishall

**November 2021**

# INDEX

<b>ALDE SANDLINGS BENEFICE .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>ALDEBURGH PARISH CHURCH .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>ALDRINGHAM PARISH CHURCH.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>FRISTON PARISH CHURCH.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>KNODISHALL PARISH CHURCH .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>PILGRIMS TOGETHER.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>DEANERY.....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>DIOCESE OF ST EDMUNDSBURY.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>LIGHTWAVE .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>LOVE RURAL &amp; ALDEBURGH VICARAGE .....</b>	<b>20</b>

## Map of the Area





## **Alde Sandlings Benefice Profile**

We are delighted you might be considering joining our benefice as Priest-in-Charge. We hope what follows will convince you that your interest is justified.

We are four diverse and active churches – a resort town with a civic church and three smaller village churches - on the Suffolk Heritage coast. We are eucharistically focussed, with a range of traditional and innovative worship. We are excited as we enter this new phase in our life together about who God is calling to share the journey with us.

We'd like to tell you about our shared vision for the role.

### **The Role of Priest-In-Charge**

#### **We are praying for someone who:**

- Is a shepherd who will bring the congregations together across the benefice in all its variations.
- Is confident in articulating their faith, approachable, flexible and sensitive to the working of the Holy Spirit.
- Is able to exercise an oversight role, yet is a team player.
- Is capable of enthusing and inspiring our church communities giving us confidence to develop mission opportunities in our communities.
- Can handle the inevitable tensions of parish ministry with wisdom.
- Will nurture and develop discipleship by supporting, education and training lay persons to take on congregational roles and promote benefice co-operation.
- Will help us to worship in both traditional and new ways.
- Can extend and promote our existing programmes for young people and families.
- Will grow our well-established wedding and funeral ministry and offer pastoral care.
- Will continue our strong tradition of ecumenical collaboration with other Christian groups and churches in the benefice.

#### **We can offer you:**

- A generous group of PTO and self-supporting clergy and lay elders (we need more!) who have enabled us to have weekly services in each church.
- Well maintained church buildings ably supported by community volunteer led fundraising.
- A commitment to reimburse all expenses of office.
- A modern, 4-bedroom, detached vicarage in Aldeburgh (see below for more details).
- Congregations that will welcome you and pray for you and encourage you to take your regular days off, holidays, retreats and make time for personal refreshment and deepening your faith.
- A desire for growth.
- A willingness to be flexible and adaptable for the sake of mission.
- A benefice who traditionally pay their parish share.
- A willingness to celebrate the unique characteristics of each parish.

### **The Local Setting:**

- The world-famous Aldeburgh Festival of Music and Snape Maltings, the world-renowned Britten music centre nearby.
- For nature-lovers, glorious coastal and rural walks and the famous RSPB nature reserve of Minsmere.
- 2 primary schools, with secondary schools nearby with bus service.
- In Aldeburgh: A community hospital offering limited facilities (not including A&E) with larger healthcare facilities in Ipswich, about 40 minutes' drive away, a GP Surgery and a private dental practice.
- A number of care homes with strong links to the benefice.
- An active RNLI station.
- Many local organizations including the Arts Society, History Society, Gardening Club, Flower Club, and Music Club
- A thriving cinema, two sailing clubs, golf clubs, bowls club and rugby football club
- A high percentage of second homes as well as an attractive community for the retired.

### **Challenges:**

- The impact on the benefice population of the proposed energy coast projects.
- The need to attract new, younger congregants who will assure the future of our churches.
- To address the differing opinions regarding traditional and contemporary liturgies.

**We hope what you have read so far has captured your interest and imagination. Read on to find out more about our individual parishes!**

## St Peter & St Paul's Parish Church, Aldeburgh

St Peter and St Paul is Grade 2\* listed and is the largest church building in the Benefice. Our church can seat up to 350 people and hosts Civic services, Benefice services, musical performances and a variety of other local events and meetings.

The church is open every day during daylight hours for parishioners and visitors alike and is known as a place of peace.



We have 140 members on our electoral roll and the majority of the congregation tends to be in the older age bracket. There are however, many young families and children to whom we reach out and encourage to join us in our activities. We offer a wide range of services both traditional and modern including weekday Morning Prayer, Wednesday morning Communion service (BCP) and our main Sunday service at 10.30 am. We have restarted Communion services at 8.00 am on Sundays and one Evening Prayer Service a month.

Our major celebrations during the year can fill our church to capacity. During the Christmas period we offer a Crib Service, a Christingle service, Christmas Eve Holy Communion Service and a 10:30 Christmas Day Service. We hold Lent courses leading up to Easter and offer services on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and on Good Friday a Morning Family Service followed by a 3-hour Devotional Service. On Easter Sunday there is a Sunrise Service and Easter Communion Service. Ascension Day is marked with hymns sung from the top of the church tower followed by Holy Communion and breakfast in the Church Hall.

Other special services held through the year include the Mothering Sunday Service, Harvest Festival Services, Remembrance Sunday, Fisherman's and Seafarer's Service, Civic Service, Festival Service and Pet Service, which draw many people who are not regular church attendees.

We have a dedicated team of volunteers who use their gifts in leading Morning Prayer, cleaning the church, providing refreshments, welcoming worshipers, acting as Sacristans, serving at Holy Communion, arranging flowers and the myriad tasks which contribute to the life of St Peter and St Paul Church.

### **We offer our new priest the support of:**

- 6 Lay Elders who contribute greatly to our services and to the local community
- An outstanding Administrator (15 hours per week) with many practical skills to assist with all aspects of church communications, publications, and events.
- A Churchwarden and PCC that takes responsibility for the parish buildings, contents and finances
- A robed choir
- An experienced Verger - essential for Weddings and Funerals
- A Tower Captain and bellringing team

The church has a Steinway Grand Piano, a two manual pipe organ and 8 bells in the tower. We have an excellent sound system providing both amplified sound and recorded music when needed. There is a visual display system which is regularly used and we have applied for a faculty to permit the installation of equipment for the live streaming of services. Our Church Hall and large paved car park provide a venue and parking for large meetings and social events.



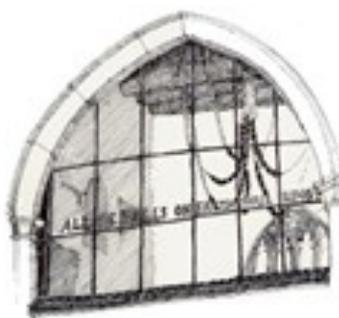
### **Church Within the Community**

We are an active and enthusiastic Church family who are looking forward to welcoming the new Priest-in-Charge with friendship and support. We are seeking a priest who will support our commitment to community activities:

- For young children and teens – Rainbow Tots providing pre-school children’s weekly activities; Messy Church, a Bible based seasonal activity for children up to 12 years of age; The Aldeburgh Youth Club, financed and supported by the Church.
- The Fairfield Centre, our outreach centre, which provides hot meals for the elderly on a Tuesday, a meeting place for social activities in Aldeburgh and a venue for ecumenical services shared with the Roman Catholics and Baptists.
- Friends of Aldeburgh Church who support the fabric of the church through fundraising events.
- Our annual August Friday Markets are planned and organized by a group of church volunteers and well supported by the community.

There are also Roman Catholic and Baptist churches with ministry in Aldeburgh. Ministers from the three town churches meet regularly to organize ecumenical monthly services, summer services on the beach and monthly prayer services. Our multi denominational Good Friday Procession of Witness through the town is well supported by all of the town churches.

For more information, please visit our web site: <http://www.aldeburghparishchurch.org.uk/>



## St Andrew's Parish Church, Aldringham

St Andrew's is a small country Church with a loyal following. The Church itself is tucked away down a narrow lane between Aldringham and Thorpeness and serves both villages. Aldringham village is positioned mid-way between Aldeburgh and Leiston and is a small community with a lovely pub, but apart from the church, no other amenities. Thorpeness was built as a seaside holiday village but now has about 300 permanent residents. The church is active, in good repair and with a committed and enthusiastic congregation.

There are two churchwardens and a PCC with another eight members. Services are held every Sunday at 11 am with congregations typically between 20 and 30 souls. A considerable proportion of these are of retirement age and are able to contribute to the church in practical ways. At Christmas and Easter, the church is often full to its capacity of about 100 persons. There are 85 people on the Electoral Roll.

### High points are:

- A small but active choir who rehearse each Wednesday evening and sing an Introit each Sunday as well as other music.
- A beautiful (and very large) churchyard which is a destination for walkers and hosts clergy retreats
- A modern vestry with ongoing proposals for a vestry extension to make more use of the church building
- A stable and comfortably secure financial position.
- A church in good repair
- An active Friends Group which organizes events and raises funds for the church.
- Community services such as the 'Blessing of the Animals'



- We are hoping for a Priest-in-Charge who is excited by the challenge of rural ministry and who can offer new ideas as we develop our discipleship and continue to grow in faith.

- With recent outdoor services proving highly successful, we are keen to reach out with Christian hospitality and witness to those beyond our congregation with someone who can enthuse and excite both in the church and in the wider community.



- Bearing in mind that this is a four-parish benefice, we would wish to see someone who is happy to share ministry tasks as appropriate to churchwardens and the PCCs
- We would hope that a new Priest-in-Charge would find time for pastoral care in the community and would encourage lay and ordained ministry.

For more information, please visit our web site: [www.achurchnearyou.com/church/1886/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/1886/)

## St Mary the Virgin Parish Church, Friston

The Parish of Friston consists of 216 dwellings, around 55 of which are second homes or holiday lets. The population is around 350 which is approximately split 56% over 65 and 44% under 65.

The Church of St Mary the Virgin has a small congregation of roughly 5% of the population (although a larger percentage support us financially).

St Mary's style of worship has always been that of a traditional Church with a love of music and singing. We have a small organ and, prior to the pandemic, had a 'pop-up' SATB choir for festivals and special occasions. We are also blessed with a good quality sound system as well as musicians and our very own composer!



Our Church building is open during daylight hours to enable visitors to come in, seek a moment of reflection and enjoy the unique aspects of our interior –including our uniquely decorated Chancel.

Our village and Church do not lack energetic support and we are blessed to have an intrepid group of people who keep our church clean, decorate it with flowers and ensure that it is a welcoming place – whether for a service or simply to enjoy its uniqueness. We have also experienced small expressions of God's awareness of our needs – e.g. the week we had no organist when two visitors to the village happened to be organists themselves.

We aim to encourage and welcome as many parishioners and visitors as we can to services on key festivals such as Easter, Christmas, the Harvest Festival, Remembrance Sunday and our Patronal festival and we make full use of outdoor spaces both in the Churchyard and on the Village Green. Our community has been very generous in its physical and financial support of the Church through these and the many other events we enjoy across the year.

We envisage an enthusiastic, caring, and prayerful Shepherd to help us build on our strengths, increase our numbers, reach out to others, and grow in our love and knowledge of Christ. We have been blessed with a generous group of PTO and Self-supporting clergy who have enabled us to have weekly services and would wish to continue with this, however, we recognize that this may not always be possible. Our new Priest-in-Charge would, we hope, be someone who could unite the Benefice and bring worshippers together from all the churches in new and spiritual ways.

## Community Outreach

Under normal circumstances, there are a variety of village activities throughout the year including: Concerts in the Church Yard, Classics on the Green, Open Gardens and Bowling Club Fete. We also support an Annual Boot Fair, Christmas Fayre, Ride & Stride and Friston Goes Green (plant and cake sale).



There are currently around 55 families with dependent children living in the village and we would love our church to be able to offer something relevant for this section of our community, perhaps being able to form better links with the other churches in our Benefice where there are larger numbers of children.

## Moving Forward

We are keen to form closer associations across our Benefice, whilst maintaining our individuality. St Mary's has a distinct personality borne out of past and present challenges and our prayerful as well as practical responses to these.

The initiative now is to use the best of what we have learnt to take St Mary's forward: upward and outward in ministry, worship, and mission. Our hope is that a new Priest-in-Charge will share our vision of growth, helping us to develop spiritually and reach out to encourage more people to join our congregation.

## Community Care

The community aspect of Friston village is what has made it a welcoming and caring parish in which to live and worship, and we look forward to developing this with the involvement and leadership of a new Priest.

Much pastoral care is carried out on an informal basis amongst the congregation and the village community with us all looking out for our neighbours, the elderly and those living alone, however we would like to feel that any new Priest-in-Charge will take an active and supportive interest in the needs of our community, understanding the issues facing our village - particularly the ongoing threat of the energy projects - and helping us form new avenues of support where needed. <https://sases.org.uk/>

For more information visit our website: [www.achurchnearyou.com/church/2318](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/2318)

# St Lawrence's Parish Church, Knodishall

## About the Parish

Knodishall is a vibrant village. We have a very well-maintained Village Hall used for sporting, educational and leisure classes as well as being the centre for the village Flower Show and a variety of charitable and Church fund-raising activities – in this connection the most successful church-run events (both socially and financially) are the ever popular Quiz Nights (demand for places sometimes exceeding the numbers permitted!).

The very popular Coldfair Green Primary School draws pupils from the village, Aldringham, Thorpeness, Friston, and Leiston. Pear Tree Lodge, a residential home, provides care for older people, those with dementia, physical disabilities, and sensory impairment. There is a small Methodist Church and in addition the Leewood Gospel Hall Trust has a Plymouth Brethren Meeting Place in the village.

The Mission Room (in the ownership of the Church) is currently leased to the thriving and popular Knodishall and District Playgroup. The 100-year-old building is in urgent need of repair and discussions are taking place for the lease to transfer to the Parish Council who would be able to apply for grant funding to raze the building and rebuild on the site. Whilst retaining ownership, this would enable the church to re-establish its presence in the centre of the village (outside Playgroup hours), especially since the church itself is located over half a mile from the village along Church Road - a narrow lane with neither footpath nor lighting.

St. Lawrence was part of the Whinlands Benefice formed 32 years ago when the parishes of Knodishall, Friston and Aldringham-cum-Thorpe and is now part of the Alde Sandlings Benefice, which includes Aldeburgh. Coming together for special events, e.g. The Women's World Day of Prayer, Taize services, the First Communion of Christmas, Harvest Festival etc. are manifestations of a greater willingness to come together.

There is also an informal relationship with members of Knodishall Methodist Chapel best seen at our annual joint contemplative service which takes place on Good Friday.

Our Church is a well-loved small medieval building standing in a beautifully maintained country churchyard. Until Covid times the church was open daily and we know from the comments in the Visitors' Book how people appreciate the peace and tranquility of both church and churchyard.

Due to age and the residential profile only a small number of people are actively involved in the running of the church. However, these people willingly arrange flowers, decorate the church for all special services throughout the year, prepare the altar and church for services, read lessons, lead intercessions, act as sides persons, manage our finances and Gift Aid arrangements, and clean and prepare the church in readiness for services each Sunday at 9.30am.

## The pattern of services at present are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Holy Communion,
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Morning Prayer (led by one of our Elders),
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Holy Communion,
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Morning Praise, a shorter more informal service (led by our second Elder).
- Benefice Services take place when there is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday.

Our aim continues to be that we provide services which inspire, encourage, and meet the needs and wishes of our parishioners.



The East window was put in by Mr Elworthy in memory of his wife in 1937 and dedicated on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 1937 by The Lord Bishop of the Diocese.

The window forms an attractive setting, with the centre light representing the figure of Our Lord, with a hand raised in Blessing. In the right light is the Blessed Virgin holding the Lily and the Sealed Book, in allusion to the text Isaiah ch29.v11-12. In the left light is the figure of St Lawrence, to whom the church is dedicated, complete with gridiron.

Maintaining the church is indeed costly but in recent years the building has been re-roofed. Further exterior work is required but our main focus at present is the addition of a toilet and kitchen facilities – our latest plans are currently with the Diocesan Advisory Council. We are indebted to both the Parish Council and a member of our congregation who jointly finance and provide manpower to maintain the churchyard to a good standard.

Since Covid, attendance at services has reduced with some of our members also now housebound because of ill-health and ageing. (It is good to note here that we have still been able to pay our Parish Share in full although of course this has proved increasingly difficult with income severely reduced over recent years).

The loyal band of 'regulars' continue to keep alive the great feeling of care, concern and love which permeates both within and without the walls of the church – we know as a church fellowship if any one of us were in need we could call upon one another and the response would be immediate. We are very keen to welcome more people to join us and pray that new life will spring up once the 'new order' (post Covid) is established, and even more so when we can re-create a village base at the Mission Room (when rebuilt!)

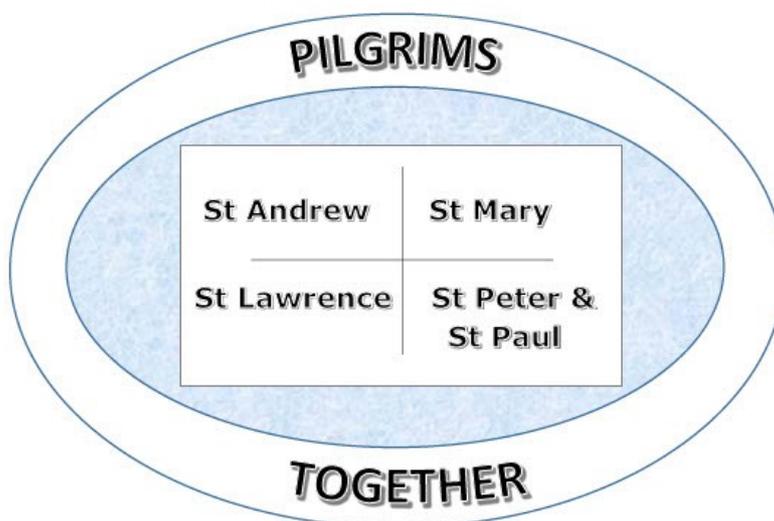
Whilst we are naturally happy to join with the other churches to create and maintain a cohesive Benefice, we feel it equally important to maintain our identity and individuality thereby remaining an integral part of village life.

We have over the years developed something of a reputation, especially with the reducing number of clergy, of *'Knodishall not making a fuss and quietly getting on with things themselves'* - as borne out by the fact that we are normally reliant on clergy for just two Sundays each month. This in no way detracts from our sincere wish to receive our 'fair share' of support from the new Priest-in-Charge, for him/her to be a visible presence in our community and by working together to grow the Church in the village.

For more information please visit our website: [www.achurchnearyou.com/church/2317](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/2317)

## Pilgrims Together

Is a local Christian group, in the Alde Sandlings Benefice, rooted in outreach and contemporary forms of worship. We are part of the Lightwave Community, a Diocesan initiative. Pilgrims Together is not attached to any specific church community nor is it directly represented on any individual Church PCC, but rather sits at Benefice level, overseen by the Bishop's Mission Order, under which it fulfils all the necessary legal obligations.



Pilgrims was birthed at the beginning of 2018 in response to a distinct calling to provide lively and engaging, community-focused worship. Pilgrims is ecumenical and actively respects and welcomes all people who seek to express their Christian faith in diverse ways, by encountering and engaging in new and meaningful liturgies. We also seek to welcome people who wish to engage, potentially for the first time, with a different expression of church to that offered in more traditional local church settings. The welcome is to all. The dual aspects of Christ-centred hospitality and the renewal of worship are central to Pilgrims Together. The pursuit of inclusivity, which endeavours to affirm each individual and enable each person to grow and thrive, underpins each Pilgrim gathering. Different people welcome and lead the worship each week, which is crafted such that multiple participation is needed. All are encouraged to participate and grow their gifts.

We use worship materials produced by the Iona Community. The Iona Community commitment to the renewal of worship and radical hospitality is very much embedded in the values of Pilgrims Together. Currently meeting on a Wednesday evening on Zoom, Pilgrims previously met in village locations, other than church buildings, both inside and in the open air. Pilgrims have very much enjoyed and appreciated the beauty of outdoor worship in the round long before the Pandemic!

We are intentionally missional. From the outset, we desired to serve the local community and actively spread the Gospel message in ways and places outside of a church building. We endeavour to bring the Gospel message to people who do not cross the threshold of a church building. We aim to proactively do this through worship gatherings, not restricted by the same physical space, and through community-building events and actions which show Christian hospitality, as well as meeting people where they live and gather. Prayer which seeks the guidance of the Holy Spirit is at the heart of all our activities.

Current initiatives include: welcoming new residents who have moved into the local community, with the current focus on a new housing estate, with the gift of a houseplant and card expressing God's love and blessing for them in their new home; planning with and hosting our local pub landlord, Chris, to lead baking events on Zoom within the local community. We have baked Jammie Dodgers, tossed pancakes filled with different toppings and baked Mini Egg Easter Brownies to date! Dialogue also continues with Chris on previously agreed plans to hold a monthly Sunday morning faith breakfast café in the pub when Covid restrictions allow. Zoom Pilgrim Quizzes, Storytelling Ceilidhs and Bible Study have all been regular features throughout the pandemic. When the situation has allowed, Pilgrim breakfasts and rambles around our local area are also greatly enjoyed!



The approach of Pilgrims Together is both different from and complementary to that of the four benefice churches, who by their very nature are church-centric for much of their worship and associated activities. Through our alternative approach, we aspire to fulfil the needs of a different community of individuals from both within the existing benefice and further afield. We are very much about engaging in the mission of God to reach out to as many of His people as possible, through whatever means, so that they can experience a personal relationship with Jesus in their lives.

We believe Pilgrims Together is now a valued community within our local Benefice of churches, having been blessed by the active support and prayerful presence of our former Rector, Mark since our inception.

Our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Pilgrims-Together-925268094321475>

## **Saxmundham Deanery Profile**

Saxmundham Deanery is situated on the eastern edge of the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, much of our coastal area is designated as 'Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty' and there are Sites of Special Scientific Interest. The coastline (part of which is owned by the National Trust), delightful countryside, RSPB and Suffolk Wildlife nature reserves, the attractive towns and villages, the association with the composer Benjamin Britten (along with the world-famous concert hall at Snape Maltings) and much more, all combine to draw many thousands of visitors and holiday makers. Many people appreciate the beauty and resources of this area as being a great place to live. In the last two centuries the area was at the forefront of much engineering innovation in agriculture and industry and today Sizewell is the site of one of the UK's major nuclear power stations and currently has a small substation for the offshore wind farms.

There is concern across the deanery about EDF's proposals for the building of the new nuclear power station (Sizewell C), Scottish Power's proposals for the building of very large onshore substations at Friston for the enlarged offshore wind farms and the new proposal for the Nautilus Interconnector. We are monitoring the plans and considering how they may affect the work of our churches if the proposals are given government approval.

This deanery serves a resident population of twenty thousand and is composed of five benefices with three small towns and many villages. The deanery has five stipendiary clergy and a number of self-supporting clergy, readers and lay elders. There are opportunities to help shape our deanery mission in response to identified priorities with regard to the Diocesan Vision 'Growing in God' which seeks to encourage flourishing congregations which make a difference.

The deanery is keen to foster collaborative ministry and encourage the ministry of the laity. It is essential that the person appointed to the Alde Sandlings benefice works creatively with the ministry team, the deanery clergy chapter (which meets monthly) and deanery synod (usually meets three times per year). We have a supportive Clergy Chapter and a Deanery Synod at which we attempt to include speakers from the Diocese who will challenge our members in what it means to 'be church'.

In order to best respond to the future needs of the area Bishop Martin has proposed that the presentation for Alde Sandlings is suspended. This is an exciting time to be joining our deanery as we seek to re-imagine ministry in this interesting area. We hope that whoever is appointed will have a sense of humour and the confidence to take risks to further the Kingdom of God.



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 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. The Diocese is on the Heritage Coast and is a haven for lovers of natural history and wildlife. 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 three 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 focusing 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 of 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](http://www.cofesuffolk.org)



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 Bishops Mission 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 Unit 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.



making Jesus visible through loving action

Loverural (launched in early 2020) – is about “making Jesus visible through loving action” in the Suffolk Countryside. It is part of the dioceses’ strong commitment to rural areas. Loverural has three 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 streams 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.

[www.light-wave.org](http://www.light-wave.org)

### **The Vicarage, Church Walk, Aldeburgh, Suffolk, IP15 5DU**

The Vicarage is situated in a convenient position and within short walking distance of the Church of St Peter and St Paul, the sea front and Aldeburgh town centre. The property consists of a large 4-bedroom house with sitting room, study, dining room and kitchen. There is a good size walled garden, mainly laid to grass and edged by mature borders. There is also an electric car charging point.

