

Beccles Parish Profile



Our values:

**All involved | Becoming disciples
Creating community | Doing evangelism
Encountering God**

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Person Specification

Beccles Parish is very much focused on community and therefore we would like our new Rector to be willing and able to communicate with the wide and diverse groups with which we come into contact.

All five churches are known within the parish as being very involved with community via many things such as Parish Pantry, Food Bank, Food in the School Holidays (FISH), Wild Church, links with local parish councils, varied School work, Beccles Food & Drink Festival, British Legion etc.

In this respect we would hope that the new Rector will embrace this attitude and continue to grow and establish new contacts.

The successful candidate will need to understand the sheer breadth of the role and range of things expected of the Rector and have a heart for this enormous task. However, this person will need to be a willing team player in order to encourage an established team of people who are all ready, willing and able to work with them. In the same vein they will also need to continue to encourage individual gifts and growth within the wider parish as a whole.

In seeking our new Rector, we are looking for someone who:

- is committed to sharing God's love and demonstrating Christian faith and service
- is an encompassing good communicator, team enabler, innovator and leader
- values the spaces we have but is outreaching and looks beyond the walls of the churches and into the community
- relishes the opportunity to join us and drive the growth of God's kingdom in our town and villages.

We can offer you:

- One PCC for all five churches
- Good working relationships across the Churches
- Full expenses paid
- An administrator (part time)
- A staff team, Lay Elders and PTO clergy
- Good working relationships with schools, with teams visiting regularly
- Good track record on fostering vocations
- Being a training parish
- Good working relationship with Town and Parish Councils
- A people who will care for and love their rector
- A willingness to work with the rector in developing new expressions of church /worship



Parishioners were asked to give three words to describe our ideal new rector. This word cloud is created from their contributions.

Our Parish



This word cloud describes how the congregation feel we are as a Parish.



- We have a staff team of two Associate Priests, two Curates, one Reader and a Youth and Young Adults Pastor, supported by the wider ministry team.
- Ministry is collaborative and we believe in nurturing people's gifts
- We are outward looking, and community serving.
- We deliver diverse worship and are Gospel based

What do you see as the biggest challenge for our Parish going forward?

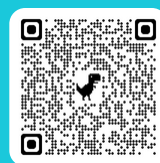
- Predominantly centred around growing younger
- Encouraging the Parish as a whole to embrace and gain a better understanding of the younger generation
- Finding out what blocks youngsters from engaging in 'church activities and worship'
- How we adapt our ways so that we unite and work towards worshipping together
- Work to be more relevant and accessible to people with younger families and older members of our community who feel that church is not reaching out to them or meeting their needs.
- How to enable change to happen without it being threatening to the constant in people's lives.
- To remove the unknown ritual barriers that appear to others as exclusive and excluding



On 1st July 2021 we became one parish of five churches with one PCC. Together we have a shared goal to spread God's love, share our faith and work to the good of the community. We have learnt to work together and have reached out and involved many more people than is currently reflected within weekly congregation numbers. We recognise that in order to grow, the Parish needs to be inclusive and able to communicate with all, from young to old, cradle to grave, across the town and villages. We link with other church denominations, encouraging spiritual growth, addressing needs within the community and encouraging every individual to use their talents to be part of God's work and love for all.



This chart shows the possible stepping stones for faith for all age groups across the parish, with particular focus on children, youth and young people as part of our growing younger goal. Click on or scan the QR code for a larger version of this document.



What are our areas for growth?

The following points arose from "sticky note" responses from the churches.
Much of this work is already happening and is ongoing.

- Encouraging people to develop their gifts and providing opportunities to do so
- Being a centre of love, hope and hospitality for all, continuing to develop empathy, inclusivity and acceptance
- Increasing our welcome to younger families and continuing the development and growth of ministry to children and families
- Encouraging youth and their involvement in Sunday worship
- Develop new ways of engaging with those who don't come to church, such as Fresh Expressions, to grow the congregation and God's Kingdom
- Working together with other churches in Beccles and the villages
- Continuing to contribute to community, town and village life
- Recognising church is 7 days a week, not just Sundays
- Growing together in fellowship and commitment
- Encouraging prayer and spirituality
- Outward looking discipleship
- Reaching out to those who feel hopeless through a range of services and support
- The use of music and choirs
- The opportunities provided by the building of the new village hall in Worlingham.

Growing in God



In our dedication to growth as a parish, we wholly buy in to the Diocesan 'Growing in God' initiative (see page 15). As such, our Growing in God priorities are:

- Growing in Number – Building connections
- Growing in Depth – Increasing the number of small groups and promoting these in 2023
- Growing in Depth/Number/younger – outdoor services and events.

Find out more about our parish by clicking on the logos below to access our Youtube channel, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram pages.



@becclesparish9295



@BecclesParish

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@BecclesParish



@becclesparish

Our Churches



St. Michael's is a large medieval church in the town centre, its foundations being laid in 1369. It has a detached tower built in the 16 century, which houses a peal of 10 bells, and is now owned by the East Suffolk District Council.

Throughout the year several civic services take place and also visitors from many counties and countries are welcomed but St. Michael's is also the venue for less formal and social events across all ages.

The very active Friends of St. Michael's hold a weekly coffee morning and other occasional money raising events which have helped greatly in the many repairs and renovations which ensure that the mission and ministry of the church can continue in a safe, attractive building.



St. Luke's Church Centre was built in the mid 60's on what was the Rigbourne Hill Housing Estate. It was extended in the 1970's and extensively renovated in 2006.

St. Luke's has always been a hub for the local community, never more so than now, and as a church we show God's love by serving the community in many varied ways.

We are also the base for some children's and young people's work, and for the Detached Youth Work Team. The building is often used to capacity, and plans have been drawn up for a possible extension. The Church Centre houses the Parish Office, and is open most days with 13 regular user groups meeting each week.



All Saints, Worlingham is approximately 900 years old and is a popular venue for weddings, baptisms, funerals and celebrations of the life of a loved one. We have small but faithful congregation for our services.

We have a very good link with the local church school, and there are regular services where the children attend and take part.



Local historians have dated St John the Baptist, Barnby, to around the 1300's. The church is noted, for its medieval wall paintings, and uniquely for its pierced-wood banner stave door, thought to be 14th century.

Despite it's tricky location the churchyard is actively used and tended by neighbours, so in many ways the church is strongly and spiritually supported by the local community even though the services are less frequent.



St Botolph's church, North Cove, is a Grade 1 listed building which was built in the early 12th century. Inside the church contains a series of beautiful medieval wall paintings possibly painted early 14th century and restored in 1986. It has a fine Norman doorway built around 1180 and an early 15th century carved font. Our regular congregation numbers approximately 15 and the church enjoys a wider support from those who live in the village.



Church Family and Services

During a month there are a variety of services and fresh expressions of church across the parish. These often have their own distinct congregations, however we come together as a parish on fifth Sundays. There is variety and breadth in the liturgical practice across our open evangelical parish. From services using the Book of Common Prayer (Common Worship), through to more informal 'café' services such as Gather and Feast, and Ignite, a service with contemporary music and style. There is something for everyone and a deliberate focus on 'growing younger', whilst still being very much 'Anglican' in pattern.

First Sunday

- 9am Holy Communion**
(BCP) at St Michael's
- 9.30am Holy Communion**
with Junior Church at St Luke's
- 10.30am Holy Communion**
at St Botolph's
- 11am Gather interactive**
worship at St Michael's

Second Sunday

- 9am Holy Communion**
(BCP) at St Michael's
- 9am Holy Communion**
(BCP) at All Saints
- 9.30am Morning Worship**
with Junior Church at St Luke's
- 11am Holy Communion**
at St Michael's
- 3.30pm Evening Prayer**
at St John the Baptist
- 7pm Ignite**
Contemporary Service

Third Sunday

- 9am Holy Communion**
(BCP) at St Michael's
- 9.30am Holy Communion**
with Junior Church at St Luke's
- 10.30am Morning Worship**
at St Botolph's
- 11am Morning Worship**
with Junior Church at St Michael's
- 5pm Still prayer and meditation**
at St Michael's

Fourth Sunday

- 9am Holy Communion**
(BCP) at St Michael's
- 9am Holy Communion**
(BCP) at All Saints
- 9.30am Feast**
(informal service with breakfast from 9am) at St Luke's
- 11am Holy Communion**
at St Michael's
- 3.30pm Choral Evensong**



Services during the week:

- Morning Prayer - 8.30am - Mondays and Tuesday at St Michael's and Wednesdays at St Luke's
- Midweek Communion - 10am - Tuesday at All Saints and Thursdays at St Michael's
- Evening Prayer - 4.30pm - Tuesdays at St Botolph's
- Lightwave Prayer and Worship - 7pm - First Tuesday at St Luke's

Fresh Expressions:

- Messy Church - third Wednesday at St Luke's
- Wild Church - First Saturday at St Botolph's

Children and Young People

Our ministry amongst children and young people is wide and varied. This ranges from toddler groups to Youth Hub, catering for babies to young adults.

Our children and family ministry includes different expressions of church such as Junior Church on Sundays, Wild Church once a month and Messy Church that meets both monthly and for 'Messy Mornings' during school holidays.

A dedicated team of volunteers run these, led and supported by the staff team.



Recently, and supported by a generous legacy donation, we have started our youth chorus group, Joy Collective! This is for young people aged 8-17 and they have already performed at a number of services and are currently working towards a full concert.



The Parish has fully funded a Youth and Young Adults Pastor who leads the work with young people. Youth Hub, aimed at young people in Year 6-8, runs fortnightly and is supported by a team of Young Leaders. These Young Leaders also organise and run our pop-up games café, Cakes'n'Ladders, which runs on Tuesdays during the school holidays.

More information about our Youth work can be found on our [website](#) and social media pages.

Thirst has been in existence for over 15 years, running from St Luke's Church. Initially the project was an open access youth club catering for the young people of the Rigbourne Hill Area. The project provide a space for young people who gathered outside the Church but did not wish to engage in Christian based activities.

Since Covid the project renewed its look, and the focus was placed on Detached Youth Work and projects. It is still based at St Luke's Church but uses buildings throughout the Parish. The highly skilled team operates under the authority of the PCC and consists of volunteers, who report to the Charity Commission, and this enables the team to access funding to support the work undertaken and provides resources for children and young people.

Although not a faith-based team, they actively engage with work centred around the Church and wider community, attending key services appreciating the home that the Church of England offers. The Thirst Team are passionate about the relationship with the Parish and supporting the vital community work that takes place.



Schools

Primary Schools

Within Beccles Parish there are four primary schools, including a federated primary and infant school: Albert Pye with Ravensmere, Barnby and North Cove, Beccles and Worlingham primaries. All four schools are welcomed to church regularly for services and learning opportunities and, in turn welcome staff from the parish to give assemblies in school.

As a church school, Worlingham CEVC Primary School has strong links with us as a parish. Staff and the Open the Book team lead regular assemblies as well as offering workshops and lessons to support learning and life events, such as transition to high school.

Click on the school logos to view their websites.



Albert Pye and Ravensmere Federation



Barnby and North Cove Primary School



Beccles Primary Academy



Worlingham CEVC Primary School



From the Head at Worlingham CEVC Primary School

Worlingham CEVC Primary School has strong links with the parish. The Open the Book team and Ministry Team regularly attend the school to lead collective worship. The school visits the church on a regular basis, including an end of term service. In addition, the Ministry Team lead workshops and other sessions for pupils on different themes, such as transition to high school for Year 6 pupils and Baptism for KS1 pupils. The Ministry Team has recently supported the school with updating and developing our new bible verse, core Christian values and school vision.

High Schools

There are two high schools within the town, Beccles SET School and Sir John Leman High School.

Sir John Leman High School holds regular events in St Michael's church, including their annual Christmas Concert and summer Awards celebration.

Our Youth and Young Adults Pastor has regular contact with both schools, including attending and occasionally leading Christian Union at Sir John Leman.

Click on the school logos to view their websites.



Beccles SET School



Sir John Leman High School

OUTREACH

ACROSS THE PARISH AND CLUSTER

As a Parish we are very keen to reach out into the community in a variety of ways, demonstrating the importance of the church in all aspects of everyday life as well as on special occasions.

We have a team of Lay Elders who, amongst other things, assist the staff team with home visits, helping at services in our three local care homes, and generally being the eyes and ears for the church in the congregation and community.

Regular coffee mornings are held in some of the churches.. There is a magazine called "Grapevine" which is delivered to all the houses in Worlingham, North Cove and Barnby. It contains information on services and the Parish makes a monthly contribution.

Beccles Parish plays an important part in the local Christians Together group, which is also supported by other local churches.



As the Beccles cluster we join with Hundred River and Wainford Benefice for an annual Marriage Preparation Day and occasional Alpha Courses.

Other outreach includes a garage sale, a school uniform bank, a lunch club, Cuppa and Chat, Parish Pantry, the town Food Festival, the Christmas Fairs, occasional outdoor services and many other events throughout the year.





MUSIC

IN THE PARISH

Music is an integral part of our worship across the parish. St Michael's and Worlingham have always had a tradition of a robed choir and regular choral evensong takes place as part of our pattern of worship. The choir also lead the music for Holy Communion once a month at St Michael's, as well as at major festivals. Their repertoire ranges from Stainer's Crucifixion to more modern pieces by composers such as John Rutter.

This year, St Michael's will be the host of a Royal School of Church Music service on Sunday 8th October, in which our choir will take part.

The range of music across the parish is wide and varied, from the more traditional church music, to more contemporary worship songs, such as the music used at our monthly 'Ignite' and the joint Lightwave Prayer and Worship evenings.

St Michael's also plays host to a number of concerts throughout the year, ranging from the Sir John Leman Christmas concert to works performed by Beccles Choral Society.

The Friends of St Michael's also host Friday lunchtime concerts during July and August, as part of their fundraising.

WORLD MISSION LINKS

As a Christian community we think it is important to raise awareness of and support for a number of organisations who, in different ways, are proclaiming the good news in the wider world. So, beginning in January and in alternate months we support the work of:

- The Children's Society
- Our link diocese of Kagera in Tanzania
- Christian Aid
- CMS/ our mission partner, Catherine Lee in Taiwan
- The Rukungiri Orphan Partnership in Uganda (several members of the congregations support individual children through monthly donations)
- Bible Society.

A daily prayer diary for these organisations is produced each quarter.

We have recently enjoyed visits from both Catherine from Taiwan and Alice from Rukungiri.



Church Leadership

Staff Team



Rev. Phil Cudmore
Associate Priest



Rev. Claire Kiddy
Associate Priest



Rev. Doreen Page
Curate



Rev. Alix Taylor
Curate



Faith Darch
Reader



Kate Cracknell
Youth and Young
Adults Pastor



The staff team are well supported by Churchwardens from each church, as well as an extensive ministry team of 8 lay elders and 6 assistant (including 4 retired) clergy. The ministry team are available for, and make a significant contribution to, the service rota and life of the parish.

Finance

Over the last 7 years, Beccles Parish has paid its Parish Share in full. We pay as much as we can afford each month and expect that this year we will also pay the requested amount in full.

Although Beccles is one Parish, we have one Treasurer who covers both St Michael's and St Luke's Churches, while the remaining 3 churches have their own independent Treasurers.

At present, St Michael's and St Luke's continue to pay the majority, with Worlingham, North Cove and Barnby paying an appropriate proportion.



The Rectory

A Place to call Home!

The Rectory, that will be the successful incumbent's home, is situated in the village of Worlingham, which makes it more central to the 5 churches and is on the main road connecting Beccles to the 3 villages.

Our Church Primary School is situated nearby and there are also local amenities including a general store with post office; newsagent; hairdresser/beautician; pharmacy and fish and chip shop. There are regular buses that run between Norwich and Lowestoft.

There are plans to build a new Rectory but at present the current house is a substantial 4 bedroomed dwelling and sits in a large plot of land set back from the road.

Downstairs there is an Entrance Lobby, Hallway, Dining Room, Study, Sitting Room with bay window, Kitchen, downstairs Cloakroom and Rear Lobby with a Utility area. The house is heated by gas fired central heating and cooking is by electric. Upstairs there is a landing with the 4 bedrooms leading off. There is a separate WC, a family bathroom, and an airing cupboard.

Outside a driveway leads up to a good size parking area and attached to the side of the house is a single garage. The house is surrounded on all sides by lawns with flower beds, mature trees, and shrubs.



Beccles Area

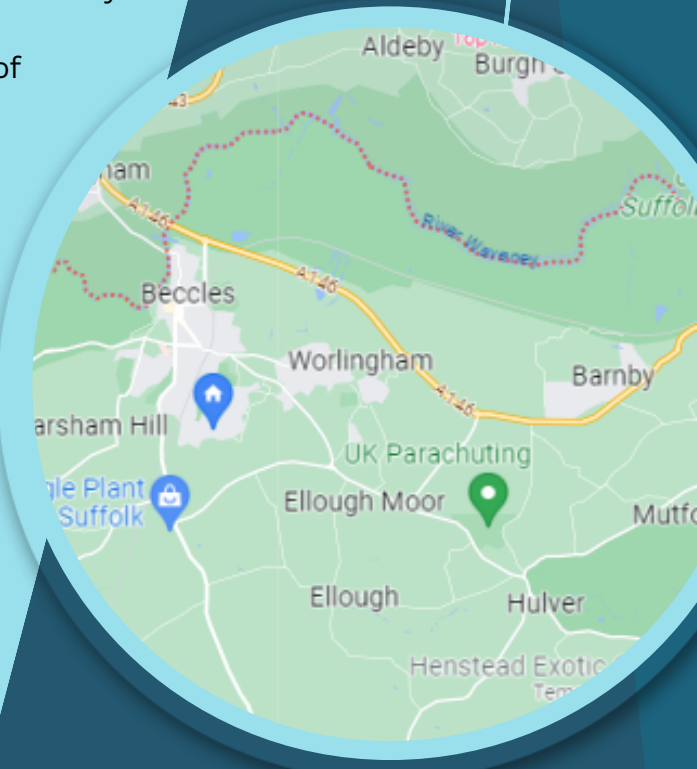
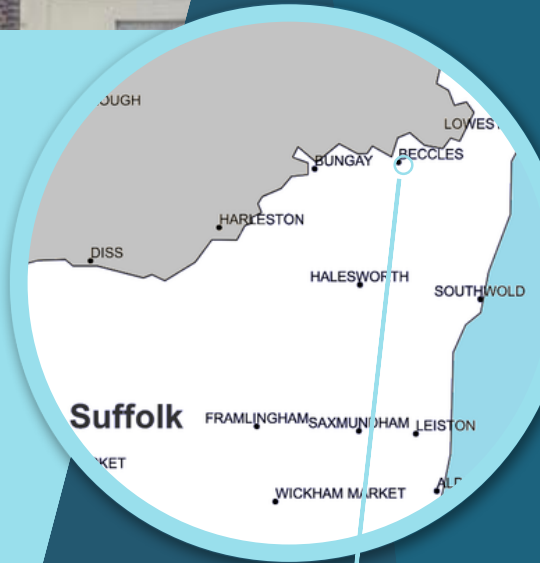
Beccles is a flourishing market town situated on the River Waveney on the southern point of the Suffolk & Norfolk broads.

From the top of the 97ft detached bell tower it is possible to obtain panoramic views of the river and surrounding countryside. The town is a short car drive from local beaches, theme park and wildlife park.

Beccles has been home to many historic figures including Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin, the actor Sir John Mills and Catherine Suckling who was married in St Michael's Church to Revd Edmund Nelson, a former curate at the church, and became the parents of England's greatest naval hero, Lord Nelson.

In the town itself there is a busy Friday market and a bi-monthly farmer's market on the Ellough Estate, which also houses Clowes printers, the modern crematorium and a number of local employers and businesses.

Worlingham is just over a mile east of Beccles. It is served by a local parade of shops including a pharmacy, small general store, hairdressers and a fish & chip shop. Worlingham has a Church of England primary school which has close links with Beccles Parish. However like most urban villages it is constantly expanding.



North Cove & Barnby. North Cove lies about 3 miles east of Beccles and it merges with Barnby. The villages share some resources whilst still maintaining their own parish councils. Predominantly rural villages, Barnby and North Cove have a strong sense of community supported by volunteer groups. There is a primary school in Barnby with which the parish is building links, a shared village hall and two pubs. Barnby Broad and marshes is designated as a site of special interest and covers an area of 469 acres

Waveney and Blyth Deanery



The Waveney and Blyth Deanery sits in the northeast corner of Suffolk and comprises 51 parishes. There are four principal areas of population, Beccles, Halesworth, Bungay and Southwold with Reydon. Lowestoft is the nearest large town, but it is in the Diocese of Norwich. Norwich itself is a popular city for shopping, culture and football.

The Deanery is predominately rural. Farming is very important and so is tourism with the coastline between Lowestoft and Felixstowe being an area of outstanding natural beauty. Employment opportunities are provided by light industrial and commercial areas on the outskirts of Beccles, Halesworth and Reydon. The many parish churches in our Deanery are, like most of East Anglia, listed medieval buildings with much historic interest.

Travelling from Beccles to Norwich takes about 25 minutes by car, whereas Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds are at least an hour away. The East Suffolk Railway Line passes through the Deanery with stations at Beccles, Brampton and Halesworth. London Liverpool Street is about two hours twenty minutes by rail from Beccles.

The charm of the Deanery is the physical beauty of the countryside and coast.



In 2019 we developed a deanery plan that is a working and evolving document. The plan reflects the diocesan priorities in our context and highlights that through clergy chapter, deanery synod, and the deanery learning hub, how we seek to be collaborative and missional as we work together, sharing gifts, talents, and resources where possible.

A copy of the deanery planning document is available from the Deanery Lay Chair.



Mr George Fisher
Deanery Lay Chair &
Secretary
ye.fishers@btinternet.com



The Deanery Churches

Many of the rural parishes are characterised by the faithful few sustaining witness and worship in small villages. Our medieval heritage is such that, in common with neighbouring Norfolk, there are many churches and most are still open. We are still committed to a Christian presence in every community and there are vibrant shoots of change in many of our churches.

There is a high level of second home ownership in some parts of the Deanery and rural depopulation because of falling agricultural employment.

The reduction in stipendiary clergy is leading to a growing awareness of the importance of Lay Ministry in leading worship. There is a growing openness to change and an awareness that we must all embrace a new future together if the church is to survive, flourish and grow.

In many parishes SSM's, Readers, and particularly Lay Elders, share the pastoral work of the church in the community. We are also blessed by the help of a number of active retired clergy.

Clusters

In recent years the Deanery has been considering at Synod, Clergy Chapter and PCC level the options for offering the best possible ministry and mission with the resources that we have available.

The mix of formal team ministries and informal groupings, have the generic title of "Clusters". This implies a larger centre, e.g. Beccles, Bungay, Southwold and Halesworth, in which a certain vibrancy of Christian life, witness and worship might offer support and resources for smaller rural parishes to access. It is hoped that clergy will be encouraged and sustained by working in a collegiate system, formal and informal, rather than alone.

Our Cluster partnerships are-

Beccles with Worlingham, North Cove & Barnby | Hundred River & Wainford
Bungay | The Saints + Lightwave Rural Hub
Blyth Valley Team | Heveningham,
Huntingfield & Cookley
Sole Bay Team |
Wrentham Benefice

The Rural Dean is
Rev Josh Bailey.





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, 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.

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

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.



Growing in God



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. This focusses on nurturing and discipling new Christians through small Lightwave groups and hubs such as the one being established at Bungay. (The Growing in God in the Countryside project plan is available among the documents at www.light-wave.org/vacancies)

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 fulfil our “Growing in God” vision?

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’.



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 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 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.

Loverural 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 the 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

The logo for Loverural features the word "loverural" in a bold, lowercase sans-serif font, with a green leaf icon integrated into the letter 'o'. Below it, the tagline "making Jesus visible through loving action" is written in a smaller, lighter green font.



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