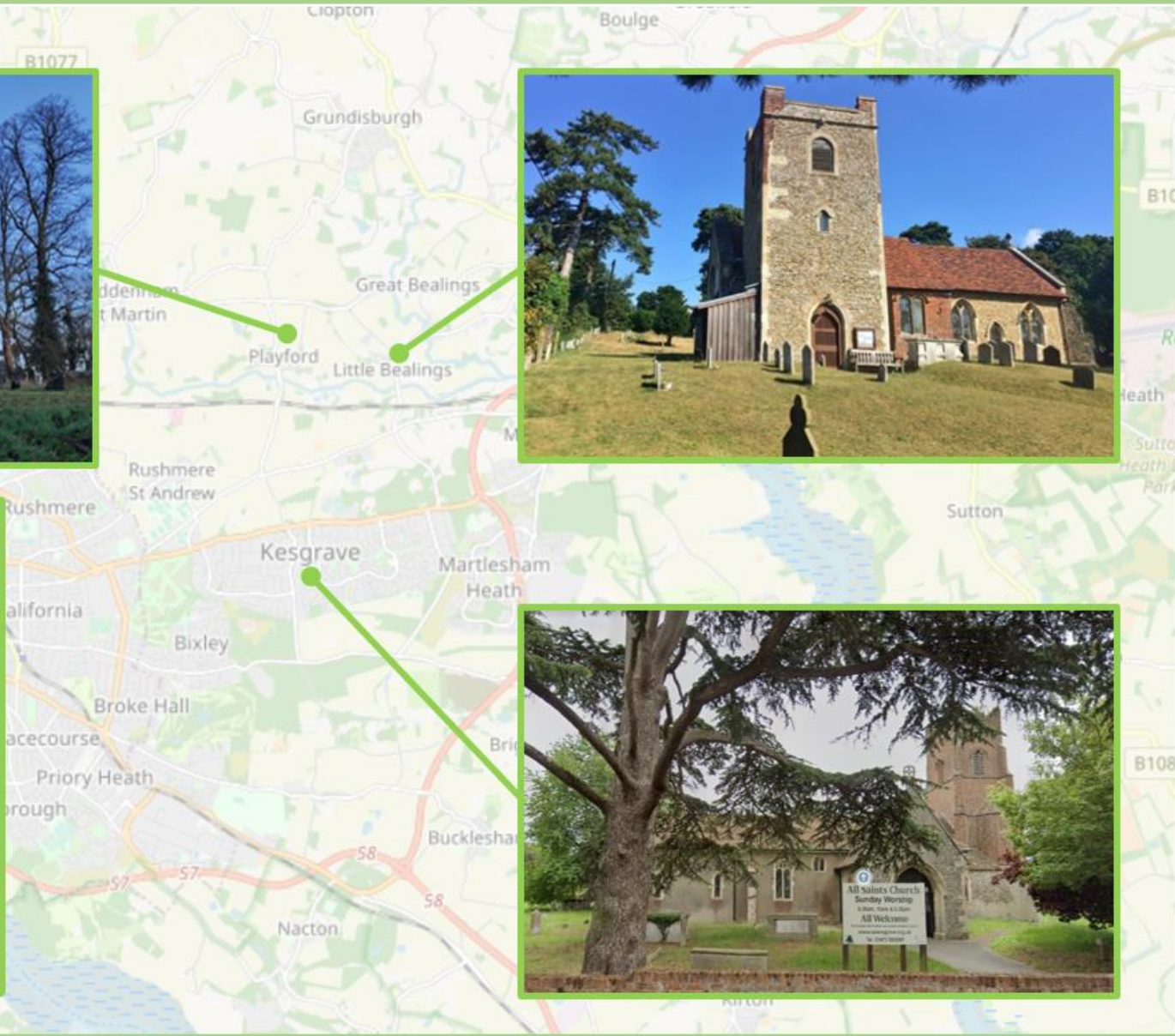


Benefice of Kesgrave with Little Bealings and Playford



February 2023

Benefice of Kesgrave with Little Bealings and Playford



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1. What Is Important To Us

We are seeking a new incumbent to share our growth vision and lead us in Christ and we will give that person great support. We are praying for a warm personality with a good sense of humour; someone who welcomes with an open heart, to truly inspire the ministry team, PCCs and congregations.

- Growing stronger relationships between the three churches which formed our Benefice 3 years ago.
- Reaching out to the 25 - 40 age group and individuals so that our congregation better reflects our community.
- Re-invigorating our work with children, families and young people, welcoming them into our church, encouraging them to join our activities and eventually our church family.
- Ensuring that the parish continues to be open to all, values diversity and continues to offer services and outreach to all ages.
- Continued recognition that the long-term future of the church will be heavily dependent on increasing attendance and support from younger people and families.
- Continued support for a range of church services to cover all ages and the different ways that people best engage with Church and God, e.g., traditional services, all-age services and less formal services such as After Hours and Faith In God.
- Moving forward with social media and our online presence.
- Personal and professional development including the health and well-being of the new vicar.
- Our work with local playgroups, schools, councils, major employers, hospitals, care homes and charities to continue the role of parish at the centre of the local community.
- Seeking and responding to new opportunities, making use of all the facilities available in the different church buildings.
- We are open to work with other churches in the area and to develop ecumenical links. We hold united services and clergy fraternal lunches once a month. Our local churches include Baptist, Anglican, Catholic and Salvation Army.

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2. Benefice Introduction

The benefice of Kesgrave with Little Bealings and Playford is situated just East of Ipswich in the beautiful Suffolk countryside and ten miles from the sea at Felixstowe. We are part of Colneys deanery which includes Kesgrave, Martlesham, Trimley and Felixstowe with lots of small villages in between. Information about the deanery and the diocese is available at the end of this document. The strong links with the community are an asset that are continually being developed to both grow the church and reach out to those in need. The useful information section contains links to a range of websites for further research.

Kesgrave

Kesgrave is a small Town situated on the Eastern edge of Ipswich, Suffolk. It has a population of just over 15,000 people and is predominately a residential area. All Saints Kesgrave is situated in the centre of the community. To the west are mainly post-war bungalows and to the east is Grange Farm housing development started in the late 1980's. Education is provided by three primary schools and one high school. Kesgrave has a blend of care homes, retired independent living, apartments and social housing. There are a range of independent shops and a Tesco Metro store. Community buildings include playgroups, scout hall and community halls. Although there is very little measured deprivation within the benefice we are mindful of hidden needs. There is good car ownership and mobility and mostly adequate warm housing.

Little Bealings

Little Bealings benefits from a thriving Primary School, a Village Hall and the Angela Cobbold Hall all situated in close proximity to the church and its new integral café to be opened in 2023. On the northern edge of the village sits Bealings Village Hall with its adjoining community Playing Fields, a facility which is shared with our sister village Great Bealings and was the subject of an exciting project to provide a refurbished amenity space with play and sports facilities in 2008. On the southern edge of the village, the old station buildings have been converted into the Mallard Business Centre, home to a number of small businesses. Whilst just 5 minutes drive away, in nearby Martlesham, there is a major technology centre. The village has a number of public footpaths and lies on the route of the Fynn Valley Walk.

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Playford

The small village of Playford is home to a friendly mixed community of young families, professionals, retired and working folk. Nestling in the verdant River Fynn valley a mere two miles east of Ipswich and sharing parish boundaries with Kesgrave and Little Bealings. Playford is surrounded by working farmland, a testament to its mainly agricultural heritage. A network of well-marked footpaths and bridleways afford wide access to this gently undulating picturesque corner of East Anglia. Although a few additional houses have been built in the village over the last twenty years there has not been a medium or large-scale development due to the topography of the parish and proximity to the river Fynn. In the centre of the village is a play area, football pitch and pétanque terrain; the adjacent refurbished village hall hosts the WI, Pilates classes, an art club, a toddler group and is used for church and parish social events and is available for meetings, parties, and receptions.

Benefice Outreach

For one week in June we organise a 'Holiday at Home' event for people who struggle to get out and about. We put on activities such as table games, a film afternoon, coffee morning and one or two outings.

Kesgrave Ukraine Hub is a whole benefice initiative welcoming 100+ Ukrainians from conflict May to September 2022. We provided English teaching, clothing, equipment, toys, advice, employment support and homing assistance. Children were encouraged to play and outings were arranged. Our WhatsApp group kept the wider community in touch and our leading example provided guidance to other hubs starting up in the area. We responded to a plea by an orphanage near Odessa, and raised funds for a transit van for long-term support. Our mission work for Ukraine continues with a small group helping with house moves, spreading Christ's light and hope into the darkness.



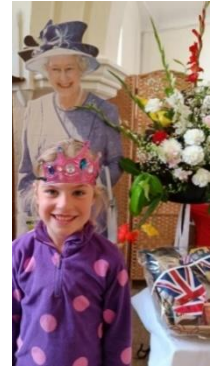
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3. The Role

We are looking for someone who...

- has vision to improve and grow the work being performed.
- enables the church community to embrace change.
- has a positive attitude towards the LGBTQ+ community.
- encourages introductory courses in Christianity and will support an initiative to explore growth.
- will support the idea of using the churches for wider community activities.
- has the passion and skills to engage with the younger generation and local schools.
- is keen to work with local playgroups, schools, councils, major employers, hospitals, care homes and charities to continue the role of the parishes at the centre of the local communities.
- will explore the possibility of a modern music band.
- confident with or willing to learn office software for documents, spreadsheets, presentations and email etc.



What we offer

- We are very friendly team of people, keen to welcome and engage with newcomers. This is important both for the new vicar and anything they might want to undertake.
- Commitment and help from our enthusiastic and capable ministry team.
- Breadth of appeal. The range and timing of services mean people with quite different tastes and circumstances can find a place here.
- Strong communication through notice boards, website, Facebook, posters and newsletter.
- Affection for the church from the community. The wider community is receptive to the church both with attendance at community events, and more recently responding to the appeals to support Ukraine.
- The Vicarage is a spacious well-maintained four bedroomed bungalow less than 200m from the Church on the corner of Bell Lane and Church Close.
- Up to date technology, a strong online presence, streaming of some services. We hope to develop our social media presence further.



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- We will encourage the new vicar to take days off and use their full holiday allowance.
- We will support our new vicar to take time for training (CMD), reading weeks, personal development, retreat and academic study. Health, well-being, personal and professional development are important to us.

Challenges

We, like many churches, have experienced testing times as a result of the Covid pandemic and this has had a further impact on our numbers, age profile, income and ability to reach out to new residents and young families. There is a real desire to grow our outreach although we recognise that this will take time.



Ambitions and Vision

We have committed to the diocesan vision of 'Growing in God', see Annex 2.

We have restarted fortnightly bible study to help us grow in depth and joining with the new Warm Space initiative is helping us grow in influence.

The new benefice has given us scope to widen our ministry and make it more fruitful.



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4. Our Team



We currently have two SSM priests and three lay readers who work between all three parishes. In addition, we have five elders, two at Little Bealings and three at Kesgrave. There are several part-time remunerated roles within the church and charities. The team is well supported by our Church Wardens, Organists, Treasurers and volunteers from the congregations. Providing strategy and oversight, our PCCs have a strong membership.



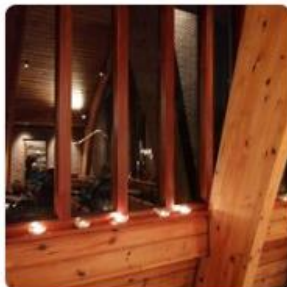
All of our leaders and volunteers are trained in Safeguarding procedures, whilst any worker who may be in contact with vulnerable people is also subject to government DBS checks. We have adopted the Church of England House of Bishops safeguarding policy called "Promoting a Safer Church". Our Benefice is served by two safeguarding officers.



The vicar is supported by a part-time Administrator and a part-time Children & Families Worker. The administrator coordinates and communicates all the services, events, activities and special services, and develops a monthly newsletter that can be received either by email or in hard copy format. The administrator manages our parish website and our presence on 'a church near you'.



Kesgrave has an active Mothers Union which meets monthly. M U organises a Sunday pre-service Breakfast Special and a lunch club for senior, single churchgoers; both monthly events.



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5.1 All Saints, Kesgrave

A church here was indicated in the Domesday survey of 1086 so people have worshipped on this spot for at least 900 years and our current building dates to 1280. As late as 1920 All Saints was quite a small, lonely wayside church serving a parish whose population had barely risen above 100 souls in its entire history. By 1980 the population had risen to 9,000 so to celebrate its seventh centenary an extension was begun on the south side which was in urgent need of restoration. Thanks largely to the generosity of Kesgrave people the result was a tastefully furnished, adaptable and spacious building which is well-suited to modern liturgical needs and social community opportunities. The old chancel was screened off, providing a chapel for prayer and small services. The population has now risen to 15,000. The church seats about 200 persons. The flags on the church tower are always displayed to observe various occasions. They mean a lot to the community.



Services



As the only Anglican church in the town of Kesgrave we are committed to welcoming all people with the good news of Jesus Christ, providing a range of services for everyone. Each Sunday we hold services at 8.30am (BCP HC) and 10.00am (Common worship HC with children's activities or All age worship) plus a 6.30pm service twice a month. We also hold morning prayer at 9.30am on Wednesday and Communion at 11am on Thursdays. Families with babies and children are very welcome at Sunday services at our church. Seasonal services such as Remembrance and Harvest are always very popular in the community. Christingle, Crib, Carol and Christmas Day services offer a range of worship for those wishing to sing traditional carols, and those wishing to spend the time in reflective prayer. Services are for all families and the wider community to grow in influence through welcome and hospitality. Prior to the pandemic we have run 'Christian basics groups', home groups and continue with informal 'After Hours' multimedia services.

Outreach

We have a weekly toddler and carer session, Little Explorers, in the church hall led by our Families and Children's Worker. These sessions offer carers an opportunity to meet and children the chance to play with toys and books and enjoy biblically themed activities. Silver Games and Silver Screen afternoons

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welcome our older community residents who appreciate the company and refreshments as well as the games or film. They provide the opportunity for social connection to promote health and well-being, and reduce isolation and loneliness. In addition, we hold Silver Café bi-monthly on a Sunday afternoon followed by a Songs of Praise service. All ages are welcome and we are often joined by a local brass band to accompany the hymn singing. We do not currently have an active Youth Group, but run 'After Hours', an informal worship service which is shared with the adjoining parish of Martlesham, who welcome young people from the area to their Broom Tree café project.



Pastoral care is very important at ASK (All Saints Kesgrave). We link with the care homes and sheltered housing, as well as providing home visits. Our emergency prayer chain responds to any need within 24 hours or less. We have an active prayer ministry. A request for prayer can be made with the Ministry team at any time. Each Wednesday a prayer request email goes out to vicars and faithful people who will include any request for prayers.

The recent flower festival was a huge success, bringing together schools, WI, local flower clubs, guiding and scouting. We would like to repeat these.

The Church works closely with the uniformed groups, and has a presence at special services and festivals, to bring people in to share the opportunity to worship with some for whom regular attendance is not their pattern. All Saints Kesgrave is the focus of the Remembrance events in the Town, and leads the occasion for residents to pay their respects to the fallen. Remembrance Sunday and 11th November at the war memorial are very well attended by uniformed organisations and the wider community. Links with local schools provide opportunities to further grow Gods work in the community. As well as well as the Town Council, two Charities are active in the Community: KWMCC (Kesgrave War Memorial Community Centre) and SPARK (Sport, Amenities, Recreation in Kesgrave). We support the work of Families in Need (FIND) Ipswich which offers a lifeline to people in Ipswich and the surrounding areas who are experiencing poverty and despair.



Finances

The overall finances of the church are well managed and in 2021 we raised £70,000 to meet the cost of the Lighting Project (the re-wire) as well as meeting the Parish Share in full. The whole congregation got behind the project and raised the money when needed. The Church Hall contributes 20% of its surplus income and there is the additional income from weddings, funerals etc. We have facilitated different ways of giving including the Parish Giving Scheme, contactless terminal in church and donate buttons on the website. Kesgrave Church Of England Charity has significant assets generating an income to

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support youth and families' work. Charity trustees are the incumbent and the two church wardens. Our church also benefits from monies donated and bequeathed to Kesgrave Parish Church Trust.

Attendance

45 - 60 across the Sunday services. Rising to over 100 for special services such as Remembrance and Christmas. 10 -12 for mid-week services. Pre-pandemic the figures were a lot higher but are now steadily growing.

Facilities

In addition to the main worship space, chapel and vestry, there is a kitchen and modern toilet facilities, bell tower with single bell, pipe organ and electronic piano. The church was re-wired in 2021 and a state-of-the-art LED lighting system was installed. Audio-visual facilities include a PC with video and audio distribution to two screens (and speakers) at the front of church, a further screen at the back to guide those preaching. Wi-Fi is available in the church and halls, allowing online services on Zoom and YouTube. Contactless giving is supported through a terminal in church and portable terminals for use in halls.

Beyond The Church Building

There are three car parks, which are shared between the two halls and the Roundabout Nursery.

Church Hall:

The church hall is a popular venue and is available to hire. It was updated in 2017. The facilities include a large hall, which can seat 80 people and a kitchen with fridge and oven. There is also a small stage. It is ideal for children's parties, jumble sales, bazaars and clubs.

Fred Upson Hall:

This is a medium sized hall that has recently been refurbished and has seating, tables, crockery and cutlery for 60 people. There is wheelchair access. This hall was acquired by the Church (charity) from the Royal British Legion in November 2020 thanks to the generosity of SPARK. It was re-named in remembrance of the only Kesgrave resident to die in the First World War.

Cemeteries:

The church yard is closed to new burials. The new cemetery, located in Doctor Watsons Lane, is owned and managed by a charitable trust. The trustees are the incumbent, the two church wardens, plus one other person. The day-to-day management and accounts are organised by a paid administrator. The burial grounds are only open to church members, Kesgrave parish residents either immediately prior to their death, or those who have been living in residential care or a nursing home.

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5.2 All Saints, Little Bealings

All Saints sits on a green hill in the midst of the village. We are in the beautiful Fynn Valley on the Fynn Valley footpath and our position benefits from passing school families and ramblers. All Saints has recently been transformed from a medieval church with limited facilities and no vicar to a beautifully light adaptable space with a well-liked ministry team. The congregation is growing, visitors increasing, and this spring we should reap the fruit of our labours.

All Saints has potential and people keen to reach that potential. We are not a quiet rural backwater; we have vision, passion and a determination to serve, support and bring people to God.

It is rare to find a church with such opportunity: a pretty village on a major ramblers' trail, beside a school, 1 mile from a major conurbation, with a new café about to open and the local ordained vicar and Elders/churchwardens totally dedicated to growing faith and shining Jesus' light far beyond the parish.



Services



All Saints holds 2-3 Sunday services monthly, Morning Prayer weekly on Wednesdays, and the church opens on Saturday mornings for private prayer and a friendly 'coffee and chat with the Elders'. Over the past 3 years, our Sunday congregation has grown from 8-15 people to 20-40. Remembrance Sunday saw 64 people join us, and Carols by Candlelight 64 people. In fact, we are bucking the national trend for a rural church; we are growing.



Attendance

Average attendance on a Sunday morning - 15-20; Wednesday Morning Prayer – 7; Church opening – Saturday morning between 9.30am until 12.30pm – up to 8 people.

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Outreach

We believe in putting our faith into action. Many house, hospital and hospice visits are made by our local ordained vicar. Our Elder team are active in pastoral care, outreach and mission. We have a popular walking group through the Fynn Valley; this brings God's seasons, friendship, exercise, listening and joy to 12-20 walkers weekly, with 40 walkers enjoying a Saturday Special. Our Fynn Valley Walks Group Facebook page encourages 183 walkers to stay in touch through the week. Morning Prayer precedes rambles and afterwards walkers are encouraged to share lunch in the church. Through mission we serve, gain interest in our church and faith, and are able to share Christ's message of love, hope, faith and peace with our communities. Our Elders have strong links with Lightwave, Together For Ipswich, Suffolk Refugee Services, Community Action Suffolk, and area churches and communities. Little Bealings Borrowers is an after school club for children and their families, formed by Lightwave in partnership with Little Bealings Church, East Suffolk Community Partnership and Bealings School. The group meets on Wednesdays in Little Bealings churchyard, 3:10-3:50pm. We learn about God's creation and lead wildlife and nature activities to care for the churchyard.



Finances

Our recent finances reflect a church under major internal renovation, plus an unplanned pandemic which severely affected build timescales; however, our Jubilee celebration raised £1,700 showing our hospitality potential. In August/September, a stewardship drive increased regular giving/loose collections from £1,000 per annum in 2021 to £8,500 in 2023 and growing.

Facilities

All Saints has undergone change recently and some church members and villagers had reservation over this. Removal of pews and the addition of a kitchen caused some upset; however our three-day Queen's Jubilee celebration marked a turning point; over 300 people visited and great joy filled the church. Everyone saw the massive potential and congratulated us on what had been achieved. Joy, acceptance and hope is returning to Little Bealings. Our ministry team is well respected and liked by all.



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5.3 St Mary's, Playford

The church of St Mary's Playford has undergone several alterations and refurbishments since the nave was constructed in the 13th century, the south and west windows added in the 14th century before the chancel was completely rebuilt in 1873-4 in an early English style. Next came the Victorians whose rather drastic re-ordering removed the earlier fittings and in time for Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 replaced the whitewashed barrel ceiling with the open trussed roof we see today.

Standing high above the village and gazing across the valley St Mary's can be approached from the south through an impressive lychgate, up a steep flight of steps and through an avenue of lime trees to the south door. Passing near the graves of Thomas Clarkson (d. 1846), the slavery abolitionist late of Playford Hall, an obelisk to his memory stands near the south tower porch and for whom we hold an annual service in July; and George Biddell Airy (d. 1892), 7th Astronomer Royal, there is a plaque to his memory in the church.



St Mary's is fortunate to have a strong, focused PCC, asking to join All Saints Kesgrave in the Colney Benefice and being united in that commitment by All Saints Little Bealings was an important step in building relationships beyond its own parish boundary and forging links between rural and urban communities.

Services



The future aim is to build on the strong foundation of the twice monthly services currently complemented with regular festival celebrations and workshops including the Good Friday children's activity, Rogation and Harvest Picnics, Stir Up Sunday, All Saints Remembrance, Remembrance Sunday and a full Christmas schedule with Christingle, Candlelight Carol Service and Midnight Mass and an occasional Songs of Praise to boost our spirits. We have a harvest supper which we had more than 60 people attending, these were people from Playford, but also came from other Churches as well. An example of the community coming together for events. We also had, during Holy Week, a Passover Meal which was well attended, and an opportunity to reach out to people with the Easter Story. We work closely with the local Lightwave Group and this year we did a Christingle together; which had a good number of people attending.

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Attendance

Average attendance on a Sunday morning - 10-15; Holy Communion once a month on a Wednesday average attendance - 4. Our carol service last year attracted 50 people; this was followed by refreshments. During lockdown our outside carol service brought together almost 70 people.

Outreach

Our door is always open to those of all faiths and none, in a world of constant innovation and change it is our mission to be a relevant part of that change, to inspire faith and encourage more to regular worship from inside and outside of the parish. Limited numbers have not stopped the resourceful inhabitants from reaching out beyond its community to engage a wider group of participants and supporters, the annual church fete held pre-Covid was organised in conjunction with the St Elizabeth's Hospice open gardens event to raise funds for both. Clarkson Day in June is a big event in our Church. We have good numbers attending, people come from away to celebrate the life of Thomas Clarkson, as there is a monument in the churchyard for him. This event is always followed with refreshments and sometimes a shared lunch. We are constantly seeking new ways of sharing our faith with others and reaching out to those residents. The local community supports the Church in many ways; one example is keeping the churchyard tidy. The Church always sends representatives to the local village meetings when things that are important to the community are to be discussed.



Finances

Due to generous benefactors St Mary's owns substantial financial assets, good stewardship of these resources has maintained a steady position which has served the parish well, enabling payment of the parish share, running and maintenance costs and allowing the PCC to focus on fundraising for an objective rather than survival.

Facilities

Grade 2* listed the building is always in need of care. An upgrade about 20 years ago saw improved heating and lighting, a toilet and small kitchen area installed. Pre-Covid the PCC were drawing up plans to convert to a more versatile multi-use space, encouraging wider use of this important and lovely building while also understanding the value of St Mary's as a place of sanctuary, contemplation, and worship.



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6. Useful Information Sources

CHURCHES

[Website – All Saints Kesgrave](#)

[Facebook – ASKESGRAVE](#)

[All Saints Church, Kesgrave - A Church Near You](#)

[Website – All Saints Little Bealings](#)

[Lt. Bealings, All Saints - A Church Near You](#)

[Playford, St Mary - A Church Near You](#)

SCHOOLS

[Cedarwood Primary School - Home](#)

[Bealings Primary School, Suffolk UK](#)

[Heath Primary School - Home](#)

[Gorseland Primary School](#)

[Kesgrave High School Suffolk](#)

LOCAL

[Suffolk Observatory](#)

[Kesgrave Community Website](#)

[Town Council](#)

[Playford Website](#)

[KWMCC](#)

[SPARK](#)

OTHER

[Kesgrave Church Of England Charity](#)

[Kesgrave Parish Church Trust](#)

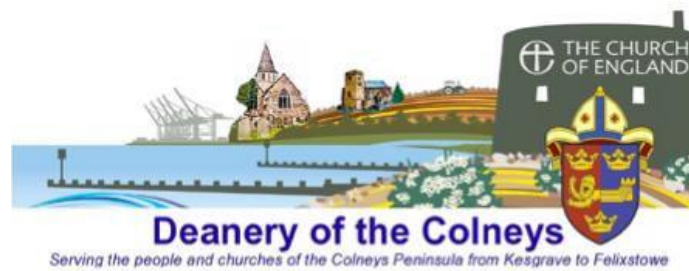
[Dashboard for the parish of Kesgrave](#)

[Parish share](#)

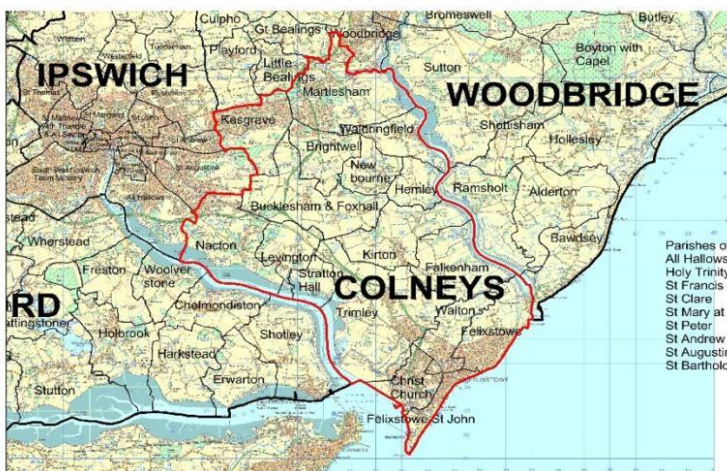
[The Charity Commission](#)

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ANNEX 1 – Deanery of Colneys



Colneys deanery is within the diocese of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich and lies in the extreme south-east of Suffolk, bounded by the estuaries of two rivers, the Deben on its north-east and the Orwell on its south-west. Ipswich, the County town of Suffolk, bounds the northwest; the North Sea borders Felixstowe in the southeast, and the market town of Woodbridge lies to the northeast.



It is approximately twelve miles from Felixstowe to Ipswich. Some of the deanery is rural, but there are three significant centres of population: Felixstowe, Walton and the Trimleys, Kesgrave and Martlesham. New houses are currently being built in most of these areas, which will increase the population significantly.

Led by the deanery leadership team, we support and encourage one another. We meet for chapter once a month, often over lunch, where we pray and discuss any issues and share things to celebrate. Sometimes we include other licensed ministers for social. Deanery Synod is held once a quarter, and we are keen to ensure that no parish feels alone. We discuss ways in which we can support one another.

Recently we have begun the process of creating a new deanery plan which places emphasis on how we support each other in the diocesan 'Growing in God' strategy. The aim is not just to produce another document but for it to be a workable and practical plan. As such, we have effectively started from the beginning, and all parishes are involved in building connections that will be meaningful and long-lasting.



Rev Paul Clarke, Rural Dean

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ANNEX 2 – Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

The 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.

Who are we?

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

What is our vision?

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

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

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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 <https://www.lightwave.community/>)

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'.

Benefice of Kesgrave with Little Bealings and Playford

ANNEX 3 – Lightwave and LoveRural



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.



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 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 convener 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

<https://www.lightwave.community/>