



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
SUFFOLK

## Creating a Plan for Growth

Congregation Guide

Listen | Choose | Plan



*I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth  
(1 Corinthians 3:6)*

  
**Growing in God**

# Flourishing Congregations

## Making a Difference

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 discern that God's desire is for us:

### Growing in depth

- to deepen our awareness of God with us through prayer and vibrant worship, centring our lives on Jesus Christ through the proclamation of the Word and the celebration of the Eucharist.

### Growing in influence

- to participate in God's loving movement towards the world in partnership with other congregations, denominations and people of good will.

### Growing in number

- to witness to the person and way of Jesus Christ, in word and worship, in service and daily life, inviting others into the fullness of life found in him.

### Growing younger

- to engage all generations, allowing them to shape how we do church and investing in them as present and future ministers of the gospel; to develop our congregations to reflect the age profile of the context in which they are set.

"We believe as Christians we are called to ministries of transformation for individuals, community and wider society, and so we seek to be flourishing congregations making a difference. We want to grow in whatever ways we can, to serve God in the communities where we are placed."



The Rt Revd Martin Seeley  
Bishop of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich





Everything we do and aspire to do needs to be soaked in prayer to change us so that we might see as God sees, and be ready to follow him wherever he leads.

## What can you do?

We would love you to get involved in helping shape a Plan for Growth for your benefice that is realistic and achievable, and to help it to come into being. Here are some things you can do:

-  Pray for your Incumbent and your Ministry/Leadership Team.
-  Pray for your Listening Event.
-  Pray for the community.

## Participate

Join in with this new stage of Growing in God which builds on the past and looks to the future. Take part in your Listening Event and tell us where you can see God at work where you are.

## Promote

Tell others what your church is aiming to do and to be. This means helping those within and those outside the church community to see what is happening using your noticeboards, your worship services and through serving your local community.

## Persevere

Continue to work with these plans even when things are hard. Play your part through your PCCs, your house groups and more.

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*"Do not worry about anything, but in everything  
by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving  
let your requests be made known to God.  
And the peace of God,  
which surpasses all understanding,  
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."  
(Philippians 4:6-7)*

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**Diocese of St Edmundsbury  
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