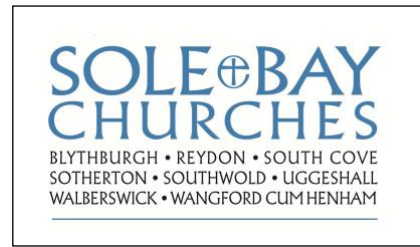


Sole Bay Team Ministry

www.solebayteamministry.co.uk

Team Ministry Profile

Part One: The Appointment



This is an exciting opportunity for the right person to join us in this beautiful, culturally vibrant part of East Suffolk. Our church community is looking forward to welcoming a committed and supportive colleague to succeed Canon Simon Pitcher, after twelve successful years of ministry, to help lead us into a new phase of development as we share Christ's liberating, inclusive and compassionate gospel in this East Anglian corner of England. You will be welcomed by an established team ministry that offers friendship, encouragement and enormous potential. We hope to work together with dynamism, enthusiasm and imagination as we reach out in service to the eight parishes and communities of the Sole Bay Team.

The Sole Bay Team Ministry is comprised of eight parishes located on the north east heritage coast of Suffolk: Blythburgh, Reydon, Sotherton, South Cove, Southwold, Uggeshall, Walberswick and Wangford.

Sharing with the Team Vicar, the Team Rector will have parochial responsibilities across the whole Team, with particular parochial responsibility for the parishes of Holy Trinity Blythburgh, St Andrew, Sotherton, St Edmund, Southwold, St Andrew, Walberswick, and St Mary, Uggeshall.

Our New Team Rector

The qualities (not in order of importance) we are seeking in our new Team Rector include:

- ❖ To be a person of prayer and faith, able to relate to and support people at all stages of their Christian journey.
- ❖ A willingness to work collaboratively and to encourage lay ministry. Previous experience of working as a team is essential.
- ❖ The ability to enjoy rural life and a desire to be part of community life and to take part fully in community activities.
- ❖ Someone who will enjoy working in our schools and who will help develop and deepen work with families and young people in all our team parishes.
- ❖ To be comfortable with both traditional and contemporary styles of worship.
- ❖ Someone who can accept fully the role of SSMs, PTOs and the ministry of all God's people.

- ❖ An ability to work well with volunteers and recognise their integral value for Christian ministry and mission in the 21st Century.
- ❖ Very good interpersonal and intrapersonal skills.
- ❖ Emotionally and theologically intelligent.
- ❖ A good communicator and preacher.
- ❖ An understanding of successful change management and wisdom to know what to change but also what not to change and when to do it.
- ❖ A good sense of humour and an ability to cope with stress at times.

Candidates must appreciate that to be effective, it will be necessary for the post holders to travel regularly around the Team and use of a car is thus essential. A bicycle would be useful too!

What We Can Offer

- ❖ An established Team Ministry with active, supportive congregations and a range of worship styles.
- ❖ A supportive ministry team, including the Team Vicar, Assistant Priest, Reader, Licensed Preacher, four retired Clergy, four lay Elders (who support services of the word and provide pastoral care) and a Team Administrator.
- ❖ A real heart among our church family for seeing our churches flourish in the years ahead.
- ❖ The Vicarage in Southwold is a detached property with a sizeable garden on a quiet road (Gardner Road) located behind the High Street. It has 4 bedrooms, two bathrooms, study, kitchen, utility room, lounge and dining room. The Team Office for the Administrator is located in a separate annex to the Vicarage and has its own access.
- ❖ Good local schools – both primary and secondary.
- ❖ Easy access to Norwich and Ipswich for shopping.
- ❖ Suffolk is awash with cultural highlights, including Aldeburgh, Snape Maltings, The Cut, and in Southwold itself a regional theatre and cinema.
- ❖ Wonderful restaurants and gastro pubs.
- ❖ Stunning wildlife all around and particularly at RSPB Minsmere

- ❖ Close to the sea and beautiful ever changing seascapes

Photographs of the
Vicarage in Southwold



The Team Described

About the Sole Bay Team

Coastal Suffolk

This part of the world is a cornucopia – overflowing with delights, from the ancient to the postmodern. We have: an Anglo-Saxon burial ground; Christian settlements dating from the 600s; a rich heritage of fishing, agriculture and vernacular building; artisan crafts of every description; food fit for the top table, music of international quality; museum-worthy artworks; rare heathland and marsh landscape; a jaw-dropping array of wildlife, especially on the wing. And, of course, the ever-changing sea.

People are drawn here from all over in order, to live, work, watch, wonder, worship and play.

The Sole Bay Team sits at the heart of this cultural and spiritual habitat. The eight congregations in our benefice are rooted in fertile ground. These people are often organically absorbed in the life of their communities. And our churches are beacons and landmarks both physical and metaphorical. Their buildings offer a haven for those seeking inspiration, and their people reach out – almost always – in welcome and inclusion.

The Sole Bay Team offers an immense opportunity. Yes, our congregations – like so many in the UK – are older than the national average, but they are active, imaginative, intelligent and savvy, they are also seeing some growth among children and families. They are open to a developing future.

Our Vision for the future in Sole Bay

We have adopted the Growing in God initiative of our Diocese and have expressed our vision and hope under the following principles:

Growing in Depth - opportunities to deepen our Christian faith

- Help people cope with loss, old age, death and dying
- Help people develop their skills with technology, especially the elderly
- Develop our understanding and valuing the farming community more
- Building on our Bible study groups, Women's Fellowship and Lent groups. Other opportunities for teaching and House Groups could be developed

Growing in Number – numerically stable or increasing

- More support for the lonely in our communities
- Working hard to remain stable numerically, and grow where possible
- Develop further our current active work in some of the churches among children and also give attention to the teenagers associated with several of our churches
- Re-energise some parishes that don't have a Church Warden; and some PCCs who need a fresh vision
- Empowering younger/less experienced congregation members
- Recognition that our actual ministry is much greater in number than the electoral roll would suggest
- Our online congregations need to be valued and celebrated and our online platforms could be further developed
- More and ongoing support with transport to assist the elderly to get to church and remain part of the worshipping community for as long as possible

Growing in Influence – local, national and international involvement

- Sustain and build on our churches support for numerous charities, including our link Diocese of Kagera in Tanzania and support for our local food bank and community larder
- Work collaboratively with other benefices, especially Wrentham
- Widening our use of church buildings – jazz nights, dramatic performances, concerts, exhibitions and other social and cultural events
- We are committed to environmental awareness
- We are working to reduce our carbon footprint in all our churches
- Publicising and promoting a positive image of what is good about our church family
- Explore how we can become more consciously inclusive and open to people – regardless of their age, gender, disability, sexuality or ethnicity

Growing Younger- our congregations continue to attract people of different ages

- We aim for our age profile to go down or minimum remain static
- Further develop our growing engagement with children and their families and reintroduce some active provision for teenagers scattered across the Team
- Build on our work in schools with local primary schools and high schools that serve our young people, especially those who attend schools beyond the benefice
- Ensure a warm welcome for younger retirees, second home owners (who often in time become first home owners) and younger people moving out of cities
- We recognise that working with our many wedding couples, and bereaved families are significant mission opportunities

Part Two: What is attractive about this post

1. Worship in the Team

Our Team works hard to respect traditions and diversity encouraging individuals and congregations to develop a distinctive, lived-out Christian spirituality that is responsive to contemporary experience.



Current Sunday Service Pattern

	Week One	Week Two	Week Three	Week Four
Blythburgh	18:00 - Choral Evensong	11:15 - Holy Communion	09:30 - Morning Worship	09:30 - Holy Communion
Reydon	09:30 - Parish Eucharist	08:00 - Holy Communion 09:30 - Parish Eucharist	09:30 - Parish Eucharist	08:00 - Holy Communion 09:30 - Café Church
Sotherton			09:30 - Holy Communion	
South Cove			15:00 -Evensong	
Southwold	08:00 - Holy Communion 09:30 - Family Service 11:00 - Parish Eucharist	09:30 - Holy Communion 18:00 - Evensong	08:00 - Holy Communion 09:30 Messy Church 11:00 Parish Eucharist	09:30 - Family Service 18:00 - Evensong
Uggheshall	18:00 - Evensong	18:00 - Evensong	18:00 - Evensong	18:00 - Holy Communion
Walberswick	11:15 - Parish Eucharist	18:00 - Evensong	11:15 - Parish Eucharist	11:15 - Family Service
Wangford	11:15 - Parish Eucharist	11:15 - Parish Eucharist	11:15 - Parish Eucharist	11:15 - Family Service/Morning Prayer

On fifth Sundays there is a Team service at 11:00. Mid-week Holy Communion services take place on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Compline online on Thursday evenings.

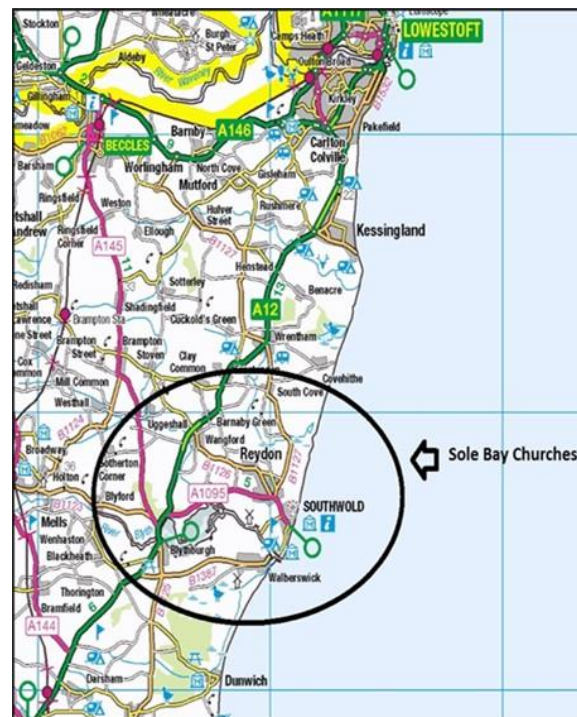


2. Geographical and social context

The parishes in the Team, with a combined population of 6,120 (2021 Census), cover an area of 16 square miles, including the Suffolk coastal town of Southwold 12 miles south of Lowestoft. The A12 provides good road links to the south. Norwich is very accessible. Rail links (from Darsham) provide a reliable service every hour to Ipswich with connections to Liverpool Street (journey time of circa two hours). Many people from the area work some of the week in London.



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Many parishes swell in the summer with holidaymakers (and a significant proportion of properties especially in Reydon, Southwold, Walberswick and Wangford are holiday homes). This is more significant than might at first appear because some regular holidaymakers are part of Church life while they are here and have weddings and baptisms in churches within the Team, who are then absent for long periods.

Southwold has an excellent summer theatre and well supported small private cinema. RSPB Minsmere is a few miles away and the area is popular for ornithologists and walkers. The internationally renowned Snape Maltings concert hall is a few miles south and Aldeburgh concerts are held regularly in Blythburgh and Southwold churches. Bury St Edmunds is 75 minutes away by car. This is an agricultural area with a number of arable and livestock farms. The large Henham Estate hosts the Latitude festival in July and the Steam Rally each September – both of these have significant church involvement. Adnams plc has its headquarters and brewery in Southwold and the distribution centre for the brewery is in Reydon.



Southwold and Reydon each has a primary school. St Felix independent school is in Reydon and the High Schools where the majority of our young people attend are outside the Benefice. The Sole Bay Health Centre opened in Reydon in 2015. Southwold Hospital closed in 2015 and the nearest hospital is the James Paget University NHS Trust Hospital in Gorleston (although Beccles Hospital has a minor injuries unit).



There is a local Voluntary Help Centre which runs a Community Car Service taking people on pre-arranged journeys for hospital appointments, doctor, dental and chiropody appointments, and to visit friends and relations.

There is a fortnightly lunch club for up to 40 local residents. This gives people the opportunity of meeting up with old friends and making new ones. For many this is the only time they get out of their own homes and helps to alleviate loneliness.

3. Local parish context

The parishes are led by an active and committed group of laity who are very supportive of the clergy. Some of the laity have held or do hold senior positions in their working lives. This brings competency and confidence to the ministry of the church. There are conservative (small 'c') elements and resistance to change in some quarters, but elsewhere there is considerable

openness. There is a variety of churchmanship and Common Worship is used in most churches in the Team although there is a strong preference by some for the Book of Common Prayer. Suffolk by tradition is low to middle church although some church members and some congregations are more high church in their preference. Village churches in general need to be able to serve the spiritual needs of the whole community and are unlikely to be extreme in any direction. They also serve Christians of other denominations. There is a strong and genuine desire by the laity to deepen their faith and to be equipped in developing the ministry of the local church. The church plays a major role in civic and community life. Festivals such as Remembrance Sunday, Christmas and Easter attract large congregations and the church is invited to be part of community celebrations and events.



The ministry and involvement of women in leadership (ordained or lay) is positively welcomed among almost everyone.

There is considerable collaboration within the Team at present such as:-

- ❖ Team services on fifth Sundays and festival days.
- ❖ Ecumenical Lent groups and Lent lunches
- ❖ Good Friday 'walk of witness' and open-air service
- ❖ Team confirmations and wedding preparation
- ❖ Bible study groups
- ❖ Ecumenical Discipleship Courses
- ❖ Open the Book Team
- ❖ Charitable fund raising
- ❖ Mother's Union

- ❖ Many joint social events

4. Ecumenical links

Christians Together in Southwold & District is an ecumenical group that represents the Sole Bay Team of churches, including the Roman Catholic, and United Reformed Church. There are good relations between all the churches and we work together to share the gospel and to support one another. Each year we jointly hold Lent groups and the Good Friday 'walk of witness' and an open air service, along with events for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Women's World Day of Prayer, and a visible presence at the Southwold and Reydon Christmas Lights Switch On. We have also shared fellowship during pilgrimages to Iona, The Holy Land and in 2024 to Santiago de Compostela.

5. Staff and Key Personnel

<i>Role</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Appointed</i>
Team Rector	Vacant	
Team Vicar	Rev Alan Perry	2016
Team Administrator (interim)	Megan Buncombe	2023
Assistant Priest	Judy Miller	2018
Reader	Robert Andrewes	2018
Licensed Preacher	Hugh Williamson	1990
Lay Elders	4 serving the Team	various
Team Council – Lay Chairman	Marina Turvill - Smith	2015

6. Occasional offices

Weddings and Baptisms

We are delighted to officiate at weddings and baptisms across the Team. We regularly hold annual Wedding Preparation Days and in 2023 there are 15 Weddings planned and already in 2024, 10 Weddings are booked.



Funerals

Many of our Funeral services are still conducted in one of our churches. Most cremation services are held in Beccles, just 8 miles away, but there are also crematoria at Gorleston, near Great Yarmouth (45 minutes north) and Ipswich (60 minutes south). Burials take place in most parish churchyards and our churchyards also have memorial gardens for the burial of ashes. A new ashes area at St Margaret, Reydon will be consecrated by the Bishop of Dunwich in August 2023.

In 2022 the team clergy took 44 funerals in church, 17 cremations, 20 ashes interments, 11 weddings, 3 blessings of a marriage and 22 baptisms.

7. Expenses

Approved expenses (using diocesan guidelines) are paid in full promptly each month by the Team Treasurer. Each year each PCC within the Team contributes to a central fund to pay for clergy expenses and to meet the costs of the Team office and administrator.

8. Communications

The Team's new and exciting website can be found at www.solebayteamministry.co.uk. This is managed by the Team Administrator who regularly inputs information about church services, social events and news. The Team Administrator also keeps our profiles on "www.achurchnearyou.com" up-to-date. St Margaret's Reydon, St Edmund's Southwold, St Peter & St Paul, Wangford have group pages on Facebook.

The Team magazine is entitled "Heart and Sole" and is published monthly, printed and online. Both the Team Vicar and the Team Rector will contribute articles and news stories each month. It is distributed in each parish, and is complemented in Wangford, Sotherton and Uggeshall by "The Messenger", by "Blythburgh Focus", and the "Village News" in Walberswick, all of which carry church news.

The local newspaper 'The Southwold Journal' and local publications including 'Southwold Organ' & the 'Southwold Gazette' are popular and widely read and all are enthusiastic and supportive publishers of church news.

The new Team Rector will be encouraged to use social media as well as the printed word to communicate beyond the boundaries of the immediate church family and to help as wide an audience as possible to appreciate the work of the local church. Opportunities to develop the live streaming of services further would be welcomed.

Team and community communications (given the rapidly changing media networks and opportunities) is ripe for review and improvement.

Part Three: Parish Profiles

- ❖ Holy Trinity Blythburgh
- ❖ St Margaret of Antioch Reydon
- ❖ St Andrew Sotherton
- ❖ St Lawrence South Cove
- ❖ St Edmund Southwold
- ❖ St Mary Uggeshall
- ❖ St Andrew Walberswick
- ❖ St Peter & St Paul Wangford

PARISH PROFILE OF HOLY TRINITY, BLYTHBURGH

PATRON: Sir Charles Blois



Population: 336

The Church and its people

Holy Trinity has a modest, but loyal, energetic and agreeable weekly congregation who come from a variety of church backgrounds. We enjoy each other's company. Our mixed diet of services – Common Worship and BCP eucharists, choral evensong and lay-led morning prayer, together with a weekly Zoom compline – is designed to accommodate the variety of churchmanship.

We more than weathered Covid, arguably coming out the other side stronger than before. We have made positive efforts as a church community to grow deeper in our faith – recently holding the first of what aims to be an annual 'quiet day'. We are now in the second round of home-based discussion groups which explore spiritual, ethical and global issues.

The church community is positively outward-looking and engaged. It makes a conscious point of being openly and actively hospitable, accepting and inclusive, regardless of age, ethnicity, sexuality or background. We have our own dedicated website: holytrinityblythburgh.org.uk.

There is a healthy interaction between the church and the wider parish community. Members of the congregation are active in – and often central to – many areas of village life. We host a monthly café and mini-market which acts as a vibrant social hub for the village. The Horticultural Society holds its annual flower and produce show in the church, and it has been the venue for local exhibitions and other events. We hold an annual Open Day for the growing number of 'Friends of Holy Trinity'. The church is also a drop-off point for the local food bank. There is a strong sense of ownership of the church by Blythburgh residents, and a group of villagers (most of whom aren't churchgoers) have formed a cleaning team to look after the place.

Special services – Christmas, Easter, Blessing of Animals, Harvest – attract large numbers. Our monthly choral evensong with the cathedral-quality Blythburgh Singers regularly attracts a congregation of 70 or more. On two Sundays a month we share our services with St Andrew's, Walberswick.

The Cathedral of the Marshes

The church building itself is known far and wide as the Cathedral of the Marshes, and is a kind of national treasure, acknowledged as one of the finest 15th-century parish churches in the country. It is a Grade 1 listed building. The interior has a remarkable translucent quality derived from its clear light, uncluttered spaciousness, and the awe-inspiring, painted angel roof. We estimate that around 15,000 people visit the church each year, and there is now a 'Brown' signpost to the church on the A12. People come to admire the spectacular architecture but also to find a moment of contemplation in this sacred, numinous space, and we see the welcoming of visitors as part of our ministry. We are currently working on plans to convert the tower base to provide an accessible toilet and kitchen/servery.

The church is floodlit at night, and acts as a beacon to weary travellers heading for home. The acoustic of Holy Trinity (which drew the composer Benjamin Britten to the church) lends itself to music, and to this day is regularly used as a venue for the Aldeburgh Festival and other concerts (the church can seat over 500 people). Holy Trinity's ancient medieval dignity makes it a forgiving space, which allows it to be at home with contemporary art, and performance.

Animals (horses and a variety of other creatures) are valued members of our popular Blessing of the Animals Service.

The physical upkeep of the church is supported generously by a countrywide group of loyal 'Friends'.

The church has a fine peal of six bells, which are rung by local and not-so-local ringers, though there is no permanent tower team.

Parish Community

Blythburgh is a lively, neighbourly community. Despite its small size, and the fact that the village is bisected by the A12, there is a strong sense of local identity. The community was seen at its best when Covid hit: quick to develop formal and informal ways of providing mutual support. And the 2022 Jubilee events saw a palpable desire to unite around communal celebrations. The village has a popular Horticultural Society (more social than horticultural), a well-attended monthly film night and a weekly line-dancing group.

Many community activities are supported financially by the Blythburgh Latitude Trust, which administers money raised by the sale of reduced-price Latitude Festival tickets to village residents. Grants are also made to individuals in need. The bi-monthly *Blythburgh Focus* magazine, along with Blythburgh Matters (an email communication service), and a village Facebook page keep people informed on what's taking place. Every year the village gathers in the grounds of a private home to celebrate Blythburgh Day. The garden of this home contains the remains of a 12th-century Augustinian priory and the church launches the day with an open air service in the ruins.

Blythburgh itself is an Anglo-Saxon foundation. Christianity came to Suffolk early in the seventh century and Blythburgh was one of its most important centres. It was here that the Christian King Anna was killed at the Battle of Bulcamp, opposing Penda of Mercia in 653/4. There has been a church in the village since 650, and possibly before. Holy Trinity is still building on that foundation.

In 2022 the Parish Share (Quota) of £13,965 was paid in full.

PARISH PROFILE OF ST MARGARET OF ANTIOCH, REYDON

PATRON: Robert Rous and Sir Charles Blois (alternate)



Population: 2,547

The Church and its People

Reydon is a large, active village whose boundary blurs with Southwold, so there is a fair amount of interchange. The area of the village is 11.45Km². The Age profile of the village from 2021 census is 309 (14 & under); 1259 (15 - 65) and 986 (65+). Our congregation reflects the village, in its lively mix and outgoing attitude. Our churchmanship is middle to high, with a focus upon the Eucharist. Our congregational numbers on a Sunday range from 20 to 45. There are currently 118 on the church electoral roll.

We hold a variety of Sunday services including BCP and Common Worship Eucharists and a monthly Café Church – an all-age fresh expression service. There is also a weekly evening Common Worship Eucharist (CW) and Team Morning Prayer. Services are taken at local Care Homes: Pitches View and Oaklands monthly and special services at Christmas and Easter. There is a wide range of pastoral visiting carried out among the housebound by clergy in Reydon. There is a Lay Reader with many years' experience together with a group of active retired priests who regularly assist.

St. Margaret's is realistic about the way in which rural ministry has to change and has been at the forefront within the Team of embracing such change, especially the benefits of modern technology to enhance worship. There is currently a reasonably active and very supportive congregation with a strong lay leadership.

There is a good congregational social life, with most members of the congregation staying for coffee after the weekly 09:30am; service and up to 30 parishioners meet monthly for a midweek parish lunch.

The age profile of the congregation has become younger due to an influx of new members who have all been willing to participate in church activities.

A Mothers' Union meets monthly in St Margaret's Church Room. Within the Team, there is a monthly 'Men's Breakfast' held on a Saturday morning at The Angel Hotel, Wangford, which involves a talk on a wide range of topics followed by a hearty meal.

The Church itself

St Margaret's is a 13th century building situated on the edge of the village with a large churchyard and carpark. Facilities include a sympathetically designed church room attached to the church in 1988, with a small kitchen and toilet facilities.

The church is in good repair. An amplification system with an induction loop has been installed. A major re-ordering took place in 2014 with the old pipe organ being removed from the chancel and being replaced with a new Copeman Hart instrument located at the east end of the nave. The old choir pews were removed from the chancel and replaced with bespoke chairs.

This has enabled the chancel to become an open, spacious and more adaptable worship area. New lighting and under-pew heating has been installed. As a result of Covid, services began to be livestreamed from the vicarage and once services resumed in church livestreaming equipment was installed in the church so services can be joined using the

YouTube platform from anywhere and at anytime in the world. A permanent retractable screen and projector are used for most services. On an average Sunday we have 20 devices join our on line services and this number increases significantly as the week goes on. The live streaming equipment can also be used for baptisms, weddings and funerals so that people can join a service from wherever they are based in the world.

The re-ordered Church and Church room with their very well equipped facilities allows for a warm and welcoming place for new members and for meetings and functions within the community.

There is a ring of 6 bells re-hung in 1997, and there is an active band of ringers who ring before the 09:30am service on most Sundays.

Parish Community

Contacts with the village are seen as very important. And we reach out to the local community by inviting them to activities including children's workshops, Crib Festivals, Crib services and Christingle services, and sales of 'St. Margaret's home Produce'.

There is mixed housing comprising private, council housing and affordable housing. Reydon also has a large number of second homes, or homes which are occupied as holiday homes. There are two well stocked village shops.

Other accommodation for the elderly and less able is available at Pitches View (sheltered accommodation) and Oaklands (private sheltered accommodation and residential care). Services are taken monthly in both care homes.

We have two schools in the parish: Reydon Primary School (200 students) and St Felix (350 students - Independent) both of which have nursery departments.

In the last few years a small team from the congregation has taken 'Open the Book' into Reydon Primary School, which has strengthened the links between the church and school, with the result that the school now visits the church for Harvest and Christmas services and other activities. The church provides pastoral support when required for the staff, governors, students and parents/carers.

There is a monthly Coffee & Conversation Group made up of both church and non-church members who meet just to chat. There is also a well-attended knitting group, knitting for various charities. A Walk and Talk group, organised by the Sole Bay Health Centre uses the Church Room facilities every third Tuesday. Members of the congregation support the Singing for Dementia Choir also organised by the Sole Bay health Centre.

In 2022 the Parish Share (Quota) of £30,034 was paid in full.

PARISH PROFILE OF ST ANDREW, SOTHERTON

PATRON: Robert Rous

Population: 81



The Church and its People

We are a small rural congregation in this tiny hamlet who enjoy worshipping God in our beautiful country church.

There is a service of Common Worship Holy Communion once a month, when we sing hymns accompanied by a hand-pumped organ. In addition, there are festival services at Christmas, Easter and Harvest. There are also non-sacramental services on occasion.

We are a small, hard-working group committed and determined to keep things moving forward. We are open to change and – with guidance and support – we hope to expand our congregation.

The annual Henham Steam Rally, which takes place in September, is fundamental to the financial viability of our parish, as well as playing a positive role in community participation. We also hold fund-raising and social events like quiz nights and cake sales on a regular basis.

The Church Itself

St Andrews is situated just off the A145, nestled in among fields. It has records dating back to 1556, although it was 'modernised' in Victorian times. Two panels from the long-lost medieval screen survive as panels to the vestry door, and a splendid carved figure of a crusader knight rests peacefully in the alcove. We have no electricity or running water, but in the darker months of the year, and for special evening services, candlelight lends a very special atmosphere to our worship.

St Andrews makes a beautiful intimate venue for weddings and baptisms.

In 2022 the Parish Share (Quota) of £697 was paid in full.

PARISH PROFILE OF ST LAWRENCE, SOUTH COVE

PATRON: Susan Lady Gooch



Population: 25

The Church and its people

South Cove is the smallest and most northerly parish in the Sole Bay Team. St. Lawrence motto is, 'A small church with a big heart'. We are a friendly and welcoming church family, representing the framework of English village life. There are 22 on the electoral roll, but, most of them come from neighbouring parishes. Most attend church services very regularly.

Once a month, there is a service, usually Evensong, with sung canticles and psalms and hymns, all accompanied by the organist (the churchwarden) on the chamber organ. Communion services are held twice a year. Harvest Thanksgiving and the Christmas Carol Service both attract large congregations. We also enjoy and celebrate an outdoor 'Songs of Praise' to mark our Patronal Festival in August with visitors, followed by tea and cake.

The PCC consists of a full complement of supportive and committed members who bring their many talents for the good of the ministry and mission of St. Lawrence Church. Together, we make sure that the on-going upkeep of the fabric of this medieval church, is in good order, which is a significant achievement, considering the church has been here for some 1000 years.

The Church itself

St Lawrence Church is a simple thatched Suffolk Church. The nave has been dated to the late Saxon period c.1000 AD. The chancel was added in 1240 AD and the tower in the 14th century. The north door is dated to the 15th century and, like the later south door, is set within exterior Norman arches. In 2022 the porch was restored and its roof re-slatted.

A particular feature of interest is that the rood loft stair remains and its original door bears an exquisite painting of the figure of St. Michael, with his sword and dragon, completed around 1470.

The Parish Community

St. Lawrence Church is open every day of the year and the many visitors comment on the beauty, friendliness and peace they experience on their visits.

The main highlight of the year is our annual Flower Festival and Meadow Sale at the end of July. Visitors come from far and wide to enjoy the superb floral displays arranged by 14 expert flower arrangers, to browse the book stall marquee and to chat with friends over some light, home-made refreshments on sale.

In 2022 the Parish Share (Quota) of £2,635 was paid in full.

PARISH PROFILE OF ST EDMUND, SOUTHWOLD

Patron: Simeon's Trust

Population: 950



The Church and its people

St Edmund's is at the centre of this busy seaside town. It has traditionally been a church of open, welcoming, and liberal evangelicalism, and many in the congregation are still broadly of that persuasion. However, there is an increasing number who come to Southwold from other, different traditions, providing a healthy mix. The church congregation is diverse but welcoming. We have a team of volunteers who enable us to keep the church open and who welcome approximately 30,000 visitors throughout the year.

There is a team of Lay Elders who regularly visit and take communion to St Barnabas Care Home and housebound parishioners. The Elders also assist the clergy with taking services. We also have an enthusiastic team assisting with lessons and intercessions.

The congregation is predominantly elderly, but with the introduction of the weekly family services including Sunday School and the worship band, the number of young people and families have grown over the last few years. The introduction of a new, professional sound system, together with the reconfiguration of the space and provision of toilet facilities will help increase opportunities for wider use of the church for concerts, performances and art exhibitions.

There are two or three services on a Sunday – BCP communion, Common Worship Eucharist, Family Service (including Messy Church) and Evensong. There is provision for young people to have their own activity in a separate room. Attendance usually totals 60-80 each Sunday, during the winter months, but these numbers do increase with visitors at bank holidays and during the summer months.

Mid-week there is a regular service of Holy Communion (BCP) on a Thursday morning which is followed by coffee. On Fridays there is said Common Worship Evening Prayer with open prayer.

There is a salaried part-time Director of Music. There is also a salaried Assistant Director of Music who leads a strong worship band which includes a variety of instruments.

The Church itself

St. Edmund's is a magnificent, Grade 1 listed, 15th-century building situated in the middle of the town. The church, with its dramatic angel roof, is well maintained. It has a fine organ and a grand piano, which are used for recitals as well as services. There is a small choir who sing regularly at services and present special choral events for Advent and Easter.

There are eight bells in the tower which are rung each Sunday and for practice on Friday evenings. In addition, quarter peals are rung and many visiting ringers come. There is also an enthusiastic band of hand bell ringers.

A great deal of work has gone into sympathetically updating the building for flexible use. This has included toilet facilities and the opening up of the west end of the building to incorporate kitchen facilities, a shop, and an enlarged children's corner.

Parish Community

Southwold is a hugely popular seaside/tourist resort, which – with its photogenic beach huts – attracts thousands of visitors almost all year round. It has a reputation for providing classic ‘bucket and spade’ holidays for families, and a rich offering of upscale culture, food and scenery for others. There is a small working population and many retired incomers. A good deal of the properties belong to second homeowners and with properties owned specifically for holiday lets.

There is a ‘live’ High Street, two moderately sized hotels, numerous holiday lets, and a variety of pubs and restaurants/tea-shops. Adnams Brewery is probably the largest employer, but there is also a good number of self-employed businesses such as builders, decorators and repair services.

Southwold has a Primary School, although many of the 70-plus pupils live outside the parish. There is also a daily nursery pre-school and a private nursery at the Old Hospital Community Hub. Southwold Primary School is not a Church school, but has strong links with St Edmunds, and holds services (such as St Edmund’s Day – also known as “Sticky Bun Day”) at least once a term.

There is a vibrant community life in the town. There are golf, cricket, rugby and football clubs, as well as tennis and sailing, all of which encourage young people. A number of clubs and societies are centred in Southwold’s several halls, including several national institutes such as the National Decorative and Fine Arts Society, WEA courses and Suffolk Wildlife Trust.

East Suffolk hums with creative activity, and Southwold plays a vital part in this. Until 2018, it held an annual Literature Festival ‘Ways with Words’, and currently hosts the vibrant Southwold Arts Festival – an eight-day celebration of the arts: music, drama, poetry, visual art, photography, dance, talks and literature. St Edmunds and members of its congregation play an active part in putting the festival on, and the church is used as a venue.

Guide and Scout groups are centred in Southwold and there is The Loft covering youth activities (although these are mainly fed from the villages nearby). There is also an inshore lifeboat station.

There is one private care home for elderly people, St. Barnabas, and Council-owned Crick Court which provides sheltered accommodation.



Non-churchgoers in the town very much regard St. Edmunds as 'their church', illustrated by the number of volunteers who come to clean and polish, arrange flowers, assist at church events and steward in the church to welcome visitors.

There are a number of activities and organisations generated from St Edmunds. An active parent and toddler group meets on Wednesday mornings. Church representatives take assemblies using "Open the Book" to the Southwold Primary School, where the Team Rector regularly takes assemblies. The Mothers' Union is a joint group with Reydon.

The church is used for community worship, such as the civic service and the annual Remembrance Sunday service. We are also actively involved in the ecumenical Christians Together in Southwold for such services as Good Friday followed by a Walk of Witness and to share special events such as Lent Lunches and Lent Study Groups.

In 2022 the Parish Share (Quota) of £59,737 was paid in full.





PARISH PROFILE OF ST MARY, UGGESHALL

PATRON: Robert Rous



Population: 170

The Church and its people

The regular congregation of St Mary's is small, but loyal, active and well-connected to the folk of this scattered, rural locality. There is a genuine sense of community throughout the parish.

Our services are BCP, mostly taken by retired clergy, while others are lay led. Although the regular attendance is modest, for special services the church is well supported by the wider community; the Christmas Eve Carol Service sees the church filled to capacity.

The Church Itself

St Mary's is an ancient and interesting church of flint construction with a thatched roof. The building is maintained to a high standard, though it has no running water. There is a well-serviced organ and working bell, both regularly used. The Churchyard is open. Income from the annual Henham Steam Rally helps sustain the building and ministry.

The Parish Community

There is a genuine sense of community throughout Uggeshall. It has a small number of second homes and holiday cottages, most of the houses are owner-occupied – full time residents are largely retired. There are two working arable farms and one small livestock concern. There is a busy garage for sales, repairs and MOT tests and a village hall. There is no public house or school, the nearest primary school is in Brampton. Uggeshall has a broad and rough expanse of water meadows, neighbouring the Henham Estate.

The local community feels a strong connection with the church and is actively involved in an annual church clean and churchyard clearance. The church sponsored Uggeshall Teas, held over one weekend each summer, are a big draw for surrounding communities. The money raised (last year over £2,500) goes into a fund primarily for the church thatch, but also towards maintenance and improvement of The Old School Hall. The Hall is the regular venue for a monthly coffee morning, cinema club and a gardening club.

In 2022 the Parish Share (Quota) of £5,243 was paid in full.

PARISH PROFILE OF ST ANDREW, WALBERSWICK

Patron: Sir Charles Blois



Population: 380

The Church and its People

Walberswick is a coastal village in an area of outstanding natural beauty just south of the River Blyth, and in a village with a wealth of talent, creativity and cultural resources. St Andrew's is very much at the heart of the community. The congregation is warm and welcoming to all.

The church provides a diversity of services. Common Worship Holy Communion is held on two Sundays a month, shared with Holy Trinity, Blythburgh. Once a month, we hold a more informal All Age Service, where coffee, hot chocolate and pastries are served. There is also a monthly BCP Choral Evensong. Once a week, there is a midweek service of BCP style Holy Communion. The Reserved Sacrament is kept in the church and vestments are worn by the celebrant for services.

Normally, our weekly attendance numbers on a Sunday are between 15 and 30, and our midweek service between 8-12, though holidaymakers and second home owners join us throughout the year. Seasonal and special services can attract large numbers. The three Christmas services each attract different congregations, and the 2022 Lessons and Carols even ran out of standing room.

St Andrew's has an organist/music director responsible for an Evensong Choir which also sings at major festivals such as our 'Gin & Sing' Epiphany service. Special services are often supported by local musicians, particularly brass players.

Our congregation is active and engaged in village life. Church members join the clergy in regularly visiting the housebound, where appropriate administering home communion. During the pandemic, our most vulnerable were identified and allocated to specific helpers. Members of the church are involved in the annual Village Fete, which jointly benefits the church and village hall. The Team Rector who has responsibility for Walberswick is also an ex officio trustee of the Walberswick Common Lands Charity which is responsible for custody of over 162 acres of land in and around Walberswick.

The Ladies' Fellowship has recently begun a weekly Warm Church initiative in St Andrew's offering tea, homemade cakes and conversation, which is proving popular and successful in bringing together other members of the community. A new coffee morning venture is aimed at the elderly and infirm but is open to anybody.

The Team wide Ladies' Fellowship, which was started in Walberswick, provides practical and pastoral help as well as building faith.

Many who do not attend services will visit St Andrew's for quiet contemplation, and appreciate its presence for family weddings, baptisms, and funerals. An extended congregation helps with cleaning and flower arranging, and willingly undertakes practical tasks.

The Church itself

St Andrew's is a Grade I listed building which seats up to 120 people. The current church (1696) is sited in the corner of the ruined mediaeval church and incorporates its tower, porch, and 2 walls. Extensive conservation and renovation work to the vast ruins were completed in 2017.

The churchyard which is still open, is a place of quiet contemplation for the village and to visitors who can often be found walking through the ruins or photographing or painting them. Through the generous actions of our neighbours, the church is open daily.

The committed PCC takes the upkeep of the building and its planned maintenance seriously to ensure it is in a good state of repair. Major works to the porches, roof and drainage identified in recent Quinquennial Reports have been undertaken.

The core annual income is approximately £30,000 which broadly covers our core annual expenses, the most significant of which is the Parish Share. Income comes from a small stable of regular donors, plate collections, giving by visitors and fees for services. The donation by the annual Village Fete is particularly important, as is an annual grant towards the maintenance of the churchyard from the Walberswick Common Lands Charity. Income is augmented from time to time by legacies.

The PCC makes use of every opportunity to secure grant-funding from local, regional and National grant-making bodies and keeps rigorous control of its finances.

The Parish Community

Walberswick lies in the Suffolk Coastal belt. The village comprises 350 houses accommodating a combination of full-time residents, second home owners and commercially let properties. A number of full time residents are families with generations of history in the village and many are retirees who have moved into the village during the past decade. There are a growing number of young families resulting in currently 38 children under 18 in the village, the largest number for a few decades. Of those working, many are employed locally or regionally with a few weekly commuters.

Forty per cent of the houses are second homes and some are owned specifically for holiday lets. More modern homes of various sizes are owned, and let in the main to local people, by the Suffolk Heritage Housing Association.

The village has two well-used public houses The Bell and The Anchor, which also have accommodation. There is a Deli, and a good size village shop. More tourist-focused shops and cafes are on the Village Green.

The Church is very much at the heart of the community and appreciated by visitors. It evokes a strong sense of ownership, especially by those who are not regular attenders but value its importance for funerals, weddings, and other social functions and really do love the building. Both village and church are greatly loved by generations of holidaymakers.

In 2022 the Parish Share (Quota) of £17,295 was paid in full.

PARISH PROFILE OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL, WANGFORD

PATRON: Robert Rous



Population: 591

The Church and its people

Our congregation reflects the make-up of this small village, just off the A12. We are predominantly an elderly congregation but with some younger members. The weekly Common Worship Eucharist has grown in recent years and now averages 22-25. We have introduced a family service once a month called Family@Church, which enables a more informal style of worship. Some members of the congregation attend the Team bible study groups especially in Advent and Lent.

We have an enthusiastic and capable PCC who are fully committed to maintain the fabric of the church but also a commitment to its mission. The Church benefits from the annual Henham Steam Rally, a two day event held in September at Henham Park.

We hold a popular Carol Service for the village the Sunday before Christmas and there is carol singing around the village and Beer and Carols in the churchyard before Christmas. We have many professional and amateur musicians and performers in the village and we regularly arrange concerts in the Church. We have also held Jazz evenings in the church, dramatic performances and hosted a University Choir from the Czech Republic.

The Church Itself

St Peter and St Paul is an impressive Grade 1 listed building, which stands on the former site of a Cluniac Monastery, as a cell of Thetford Priory. Mediaeval parts of the church remain, but the building underwent complete renovation in the 19th century. More recently it has undergone further extensive repairs to the roof of the north aisle, internal redecoration, improved sound system and installation of some heating and ramps for disabled access. The building is floodlit during the hours of darkness. The Nave and Chancel roofs have also been restored which ensures the building is now watertight. In 2018, a servery and toilets were sympathetically added at the West End of the Church which provides catering facilities for many church and village events.

The parish Community

We try to engage as many people as possible in our worship, life and work through our involvement in the local community. The village comprises a mixture of rented, private and holiday homes with many villagers historically connected to the adjoining Henham Estate. Church coffee mornings are held once a month in the church. There is also a Men's Breakfast group which meets monthly at The Angel Inn.

The village is well served by an excellent shop, veterinary practice, dog grooming parlour, doctor's surgery, farm shop and nursery, garage with petrol, two public houses and good bus services. There is an excellent and well used Community Centre building with full catering facilities. A number of village groups operate from the Centre – book club, painting and drawing group, keep fit classes, sports club, parent and toddler group and the knitting group.

The Parish Council looks after the village allotments and play area. The Community Garden was officially opened to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and was designed with sustainability, and care for the environment and natural world at its heart. There were many social events to mark The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, included a very well supported exhibition in church of memorabilia and photographs. The celebrations reinforced the link between the church and the village.

Both the Parish Council and Community Council Management Committee support the church and we have strong links and overlap between all three groups. The monthly publication *The Messenger* is printed and delivered free of charge to all homes in Wangford-cum-Henham, Sotherton and Uggeshall.

In 2022 the Parish Share (Quota) of £8,405 was paid in full.

Waveney and Blyth Deanery



The Waveney and Blyth Deanery sits in the northeast corner of Suffolk and comprises 51 parishes. There are four principle 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. The geographic location can contribute to a sense of being a long way from everywhere, which some might consider a good thing!

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 more than we really need 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

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.

The current Rural Dean, Rev Canon Rich Henderson , will take up the role of Archdeacon of Suffolk shortly, and the Diocese is actively seeking a replacement.



Mr George Fisher
**Deanery Lay Chair &
Secretary**
georgefisher67@icloud.com



God's Light Shines in Suffolk

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 Hub Churches, in different parts of rural Suffolk. These create and support the development of the small missional groups in the whole surrounding 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.

The Lightwave chaplaincy team support those involved in farming and rural business. 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 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

www.lightwave.community

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

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 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'.