

St Mary with St Peter Bury St Edmunds Parish Profile



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Imagine the possibility of leading a large parish, firmly rooted in the evangelical tradition of the Church of England, and situated in the centre of a thriving market town in a beautiful part of the country? St Mary's and St Peter's are two district churches in one parish in the historic town of Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk. We have a strong tradition of Bible teaching, with engaging biblical preaching being an important part of our meeting together on Sundays, coupled with a variety of styles of worship. We long to introduce the people in our parish to Jesus, and to see lives changed to the glory of God and to the benefit of the community.

We can offer you

- a warm welcome of two churches
- the people of St Mary's and St Peter's, their love for Jesus, their heart to move forward, and their prayers
- a strong, friendly and supportive ministry team and a large team of talented volunteers
- opportunities to re-establish our ministry in local schools
- an attractive location and spacious modernised accommodation
- the opportunity of leading a civic church with its wide range of activities
- the privilege of heading up a distinctive evangelical ministry which enriches the town and the Diocese

If you think that you are called to this position, then maybe you are the person we are looking for!



Who we would like to lead us:

We are seeking a visionary leader of godly character, and Christ led¹, who will nurture us and help us share our Christian faith, someone who is:

- Committed to living out the message of the cross and resurrection in their life².
- A thoughtful and articulate preacher, well-grounded in the Bible as the inspired word of God³.
- An approachable leader, experienced in managing a broad team of staff and volunteers, equipping and releasing them to work interdependently as their identified gifts allow⁴.
- Mission-minded and passionate to work alongside the local community, as well as supporting the world-wide church⁵.
- A pastor, able to get alongside people and support them with love and compassion
- Energised by the opportunity and potential of a significant civic role.
- Able to minister effectively to a diverse range of people including those new to Church of all ages or from other traditions and faiths.
- Enthusiastic for a variety of worship styles, both formal and informal.
- Able to work creatively and collaboratively with us, leading the PCC and working with the leadership team of St Peter's (in line with the agreements in Appendices 2 and 3) as well as other local churches and organisations
- Able to maintain and promote the vision of the parish amongst the many and diverse demands of it.

The post is open to men and women. The vicar must be willing to support the ministries of colleagues, both male and female.

¹ 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 ² 1 Corinthians 3:3-14 ³ Timothy 3:16-17 ⁴ Ephesians 4:11-13 ⁵ 1 Corinthians 9:22-23

Location

Bury St Edmunds is a historic market town in the heart of East Anglia, with a growing population of nearly 42,000. It has a fascinating heritage and the town centre is a vibrant mix of medieval and Georgian architecture, with Victorian and 20th century additions.



The town was built around a vast Benedictine Abbey, whose ruins lie within the public gardens adjacent to St Mary's. It was founded on an ancient Christian settlement and became an international centre for pilgrimage in the Middle Ages, centred around St Edmund, former king of East Anglia, martyred for his faith.

Bury has a good range of shops, as well as many small independent retailers and a thriving market. There is a wide variety of restaurants in the town, as well as pubs serving beers from the Greene King brewery which is in the centre of the town. The Theatre Royal dates from 1819 and is the only surviving Regency playhouse in Britain.



There are a good number of excellent schools in the town, both state and in the private sector. The thriving college of Further Education is now part of the University of Suffolk.



Situated midway between Cambridge and Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds has good road links to London (under 2 hours), Stansted Airport, the east coast, and the Midlands. Train services to London, the Midlands or the North are good. Bury also has good bus/coach links to other parts of the country. Despite this, the character of the town remains rural: we are surrounded by beautiful countryside and well-used footpaths.

There are a diverse range of businesses and employers spread throughout the town which has a low level of unemployment. The town has two leisure centres, one with swimming pools, as well as numerous other sports facilities. It has a large, busy hospital with a hospice on site and a wide range of GP services. There are several residential care homes as well as sheltered accommodation.

The Local Christian Communities

St Edmundsbury Cathedral is situated a short distance from St Mary's and, within the parish, Southgate Community Church is a local LEP (Anglican, Baptist and URC) on which we have statutory representation. The town has many other churches of different denominations: The main Roman Catholic Church for the area is within the parish. Westgate Chapel, an FIEC, is directly adjacent to St Peter's. Most Bury churches belong to Churches Together which encourages links between the churches. A strong fellowship of evangelical ministers regularly meets together. Many of the churches (including ours) support cross church initiatives such as Bury Christian Youth, Town (Street) Pastors, Christians Against Poverty, Sporting 87 (a Christian Football Club), a food bank and a Drop-In Centre.

The Parish

St Mary's and St Peter's are two district churches within one parish in the heart of Bury St Edmunds. Our parish is in the Thingoe Deanery of the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. Our patrons are the Simeon Trustees. Both churches have an evangelical tradition rooted in our love for God's word. We trust Him to shape our lives and our attitudes through clear biblical teaching. We are united in our desire to share the joyful message of Christ with those around us. We hold services in traditional, contemporary and informal styles.



There is a parish community centre, the Thomas Clarkson Centre.

The parish covers the south-eastern part of Bury and has a population of 12,690. There is a wide range of housing within the parish, with about 75% owner occupied. A significant new housing development is planned for the east side of the parish.

The major employers within the parish are the West Suffolk Hospital, Greene King brewery, the BMI St Edmunds hospital, the police station and police investigation centre, and shops and offices in the town. We are involved with the community already in many ways and want to develop that involvement even more widely.

There are several schools in the parish, post pandemic we are beginning to re-establish links with Guildhall Feoffment Primary school (St Mary's) and Westgate Primary school (St Peter's). Other schools use St Mary's for services on special occasions. There are no Voluntary Aided Schools in the parish.

Ministry Team

The current ministry team consists of:

The incumbent

Associate Vicar with special responsibility for St Peter's:
Rev'd Andy Williams

Curate: Rev'd Laura Mumford

6 ministers with permission to officiate

1 Lay Pastor

1 Reader

1 Licensed preacher

6 Lay elders

The parish actively encourages training for various types of ministry. Currently we have one person following the Diocesan Auxiliary Ordination Pathway with a view to ordination. Another person is training to be a lay Reader.

The parish has a long history of welcoming and supervising associate curates and students on placement from theological colleges.



Andy



Laura

Congregations

Congregations are primarily well educated and relatively well-off in both churches. There are currently 187 on the electoral roll for St Mary's and 76 for St Peter's. There is little socio-economic difference between the congregations at St Mary's and St Peter's. Although there is social housing close to both churches, we struggle to attract people living there and recognise this as a weakness.



Vision for the Parish:

*"We seek to **worship** the God and Father of our Lord Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit; to **teach** the Bible in a way relevant to everyday life; to **grow** people in faith, understanding and love; to **equip** people to serve others; to **offer** people opportunities to meet Jesus and discover forgiveness and new life."*

Activities

We recognise the impact the pandemic has had on our recent ministry and are currently rebuilding our pastoral and social activities. There is some overlap between the churches, and currently include:

- A number of small groups meet during the week for Bible Study, prayer and pastoral support. Some years, groups and others in both churches come together for a Lent Course.
- Little Fishes, a Parish parent and toddler group at the Thomas Clarkson Centre. This has recently recommenced after Covid on the 1st Wednesday of each month with 9 families but normally was weekly with very large numbers.
- A weekly community cafe at the Spread Eagle pub (St Peter's)
- A Men's group which holds a monthly breakfast with invited guest speakers in the Cathedral Pilgrims refectory and a monthly study breakfast in a member's house led by one of the men from the group. The group consists of men from St Mary's and other churches locally. Some of the men meet weekly in a local pub for lunch and occasionally hold other social gatherings. It also arranges a Parish walk once a month on Saturdays, March to November which culminates in a pub lunch
- Monthly Tea and Chat in St Peter's and monthly Lunch and Chat in the Thomas Clarkson Centre have now recommenced with approximate numbers of 15 and 40 respectively (a considerable drop on normal numbers). Participants and helpers for the latter are drawn from both churches.
- "Time Together" has recently been reintroduced, 4 times a year at St Mary's, enjoyed mostly by over 65's by invitation through the newsletter. Around 32 people attend regularly. This includes afternoon tea and 20 minutes activity and a "thought for the day" (we are very happy to have younger members – not exclusive!)
- A monthly pop-up cafe at St Mary's has just started on a Thursday morning as part of a Mission Shaped Ministry project
- The "Sometimes on Sunday" group for people with learning disabilities in the local community. It ran regular events at harvest, Christmas, Easter and summer, which involved singing, craft, tea and a short Christian message. This was discontinued during the pandemic.
- A Holiday Club for 5–11-year-olds during a week in August ran successfully before the Pandemic, and there are plans to reinstate this in 2022.



Activities continued

- A small 20s and 30s group, which meets monthly for a social pub night. A core group also meets for a book group, discussing either a book on theology or a book from the Bible
- Both churches participate in Thy Kingdom Come and have run Alpha and Christianity Explored courses in the past
- The pandemic created its own opportunities with the introduction of Morning Prayer on-line and a “Reaching Out” Project. The latter involved not only contacting everyone in the congregations by telephone about once a fortnight but also, at St Mary’s, delivering monthly handmade cards and small gifts to about 60 households who were especially impacted by Covid. There were also monthly socials on Zoom throughout the winter months

There are regular services in residential homes in the parish. This currently includes a monthly service at 11 Cullum Court, Cornwallis Court and Glastonbury Court.

Regular visiting of individuals is offered to those who are housebound, those in care homes and the sick. For St Mary’s this is done by the vicar, the lay pastor and some members of the pastoral team. St Peter’s have similar arrangements.

There are small benevolent funds in both churches.

For St Mary’s specific vision and ministries, see page 15 for St Peter’s, page 16

Safeguarding

We have a Parish Safeguarding Officer, who works voluntarily. We are all committed to promote a safe culture throughout our churches and ensure that everyone in a leadership role or who has responsibilities for leading/supervising activities involving children, young people and/or vulnerable adults has a DBS certificate and the required level of Safeguarding Training. This is reviewed regularly. We recommend anyone in our congregation to complete a Basic Level of safeguarding training to help build a culture of informed vigilance within our churches.

Parish Finance

The Trustees Annual Report and Accounts for 2020 are available on the Charity Commission Website. PCC registration 1134666

Total income for the financial year ending 31 December 2020 was £293,764, with a total expenditure of £350,565. This relates to the whole parish including St Mary’s, St Peter’s and the Thomas Clarkson Centre, and was affected by income lost as a result of the pandemic and exceptional expenditure. Fortunately, there are adequate reserves to bear this loss, and we are now recovering, although St Peter’s still has a deficit.

Mission

Mission is very important to us. We are outgoing, and committed to many aspects of mission, locally and worldwide. The parish has a longstanding commitment to mission, exemplified below but far from exhaustive. Both churches have a mission policy to tithe income.

In addition to our own church activities, we cooperate closely with a number of churches of different denominations in our town through involvement with Bury Christian Youth [BCY], Sporting '87 (a Christian football club), Town [Street] Pastors, the Drop-In Centre, and Christians Against Poverty, providing personnel and resources for all of these.

Both churches in the parish have active Mission Focus Groups which each year review the list of agencies/ministries we will formally support. Mission giving is prioritised in our budgets, we have a Parish Mission Policy and each agency or ministry we support formally has a designated representative in each church. We aim to support a variety of agencies/ministries, all of them with a clear gospel focus.

In 2021 we formally supported the following agencies/ministries:

Both churches:

The Fifield family, serving at Bingham Academy in Ethiopia, through Serving In Mission <http://binghamacademy.net/>

Bury Town Pastors <https://burytownpastors.org.uk/>

Open Doors <https://oduk.azurewebsites.net/>

Bury Christian Youth [BCY] <https://www.bcy.org.uk/>

Tearfund <https://www.tearfund.org/>

Sporting '87 <https://sporting87fc.co.uk/>

Bury Drop-in <http://www.burydropin.org/>

Storehouse foodbank <https://www.facebook.com/Storehouse-182877023529/>

St Mary's:

Dignity Freedom Network, India, anti-trafficking awareness and action
<https://dfn.org.uk/>

Montgomery Heights (orphanage and school) in Zimbabwe
<https://www.montgomeryheights.org/>

Global Hope <https://www.globalhope.org/>

Emergency Appeal- Ethiopia in December 2021

St Peter's:

A2B (Aid to the Balkans) <https://www.a2balbania.org/>

SIM/Rachel MacInnes <https://sim.co.uk/mission-workers/rachel-macinnnes/>

DOXA <https://thedoxaproject.org>

Several of the agencies and ministries we support have regular specific prayer meetings and each month we focus on an agency or ministry in the weekly online newsletter and at the Parish prayer meeting.

Property

The parish Vicarage is a 5-bedroom house in Sicklesmere Road and is about 15 minutes walk from St Mary's. It has a large dining/living room as well as an office downstairs. The house has ample parking space and is surrounded by attractive gardens. Some funding for redecoration will be available.



The Associate Vicar has a 4-bedroom house close to the St Peter's District.

There is a smaller property available for the curate in Vinery Road which is currently rented.

The Thomas Clarkson Centre is situated adjacent to St Peter's Church. It has ample parking facilities and is used for various parish and community purposes. It has two large halls, a fully equipped kitchen, as well as a lounge and two smaller rooms. It also houses an office for staff use. The Centre is run by a management committee from both churches. It generates income from groups hiring the centre. It makes a significant net contribution to Parish income. It is used daily and before the onset of the pandemic it was estimated that approximately 30,000 users passed through the Centre each year.



The Parish Office and Staff

This office is situated in the tower of St Mary's church. We currently have the following employed staff:

Church Administrator - 11 hours per week

Events Manager - 30 hours per week

Caretaker 8 hours per week

Other employed staff include our Music Director - 12 hours per week

Parish website: www.wearechurch.net

Introducing St Mary's Church

St Mary's is an historic building with an important civic role with lively and committed members.

Our building

St Mary's has been on this site since 1135 although the earliest parts that remain date from c.1290. It is one of the country's largest and finest parish churches and is situated in the centre of the town at the south-west precincts of the now ruined Abbey of St. Edmund.



It is grade 1 listed and is featured in Nikolaus Pevsner's *"The Buildings of England, Suffolk Edition"* and Simon Jenkins' *"England's Thousand Best Churches"*. The church is open to visitors every day and before the pandemic attracted around 15,000 visitors each year. It is a major tourist attraction containing one of the best examples of a medieval angel roof and the tomb of Mary Tudor (*sister of Henry VIII*). It is also the home of the regimental chapel of the Suffolk Regiment and its successor regiment, the Royal Anglians.

It is the civic church for the town and borough.

The building is in good condition and has a nave that can seat up to 800 people. The Regimental Chapel is on the North side of the chancel, and to the South is a Lady Chapel which can be used for smaller services if required. The tower contains the parish office, a meeting room, a choir school room and a bell ringing chamber.

Our Services and other events

St Mary's is an evangelical church. We embrace both traditional and more modern forms of worship. At present we offer the following Sunday services:

9.15 am Contemporary Worship in a loose liturgical but informal style. Typically, about 70 people attend. Songs are accompanied by our music group. A family-centred service is resuming once a month.

11.00 am Traditional Worship with organ and robed choir which currently attracts about 40-60 people. The service uses Common Worship 2000.

Between these two services there is an opportunity for the congregations to meet together over coffee.

4.30 pm Choral Evensong, again using Common Worship 2000, with a robed choir, currently twice a month.

Each Wednesday morning there is a 10.00 am Communion service attended by 15 – 20 people, using BCP and Common Worship alternately.

Morning prayer takes place on-line at 9.30 am every day except Wednesday and Sunday.

Our history

St Mary's Church hosts the longest established charity commemoration in the country, since 1481, in memory of Alderman Jankyn Smyth. This service continues to be held on the fourth Thursday of June when the leader and members of the local council join residents of alms houses and children from the local school.



Upon the dissolution of the Abbey in 1539 it became the principal church in the town and the county of West Suffolk. It has been the seat of the Mayor from the granting of the status of Borough in 1609 by James 1.

St Mary's was the home church of the Suffolk Regiment from the 1870s and has a chapel dedicated to the regiment and its successors, in which the regimental colours are laid up.

The church continues the role of Civic Church, holding four civic services each year along with numerous other services which include local schools, the Scouts and Guides and the Hospice "Light Up a Life" service. We hold a joint Ascension Day service with the Cathedral. Several of these services are very large.

During Advent we host a number of carol services, including for local schools and various local organisations.

There are about 20 weddings each year and a similar number of baptisms / thanksgivings, as well as many funerals, some held at the church and some at the Crematorium. We recognise this as an important ministry and opportunity to develop links with the community.

Being close to the town centre provides us with opportunities to host events that bring into the church people who do not normally attend services. These have ranged from choir concerts to children's film shows, from brass band concerts to an African dance troupe and many other events and exhibitions.

Our Music

Music at St Mary's is led by our newly appointed Director of Music and our Choir Director. It remains a rich source of spiritual expression and rejoicing. The 9.15 am service generally enjoys modern worship songs with our band and the 11.00 am service is the home of the mixed choir. There has been a choir at St Mary's for at least 400 years. It is a member of the prestigious St Nicholas Guild, and all members have an opportunity to study the award scheme of the Royal School of Church Music.

Before the pandemic, our choir toured in the UK and Europe, sharing our outreach ministry with many thousands. St Mary's reputation for excellent music has previously attracted families and individuals from a wide area, inspired loyalty and offered a distinctive ministry which is greatly valued by the whole church family and town. The pandemic has had a serious effect on this ministry. Our new Director of Music, Richard Baker, is committed to restoring the choir for boys and girls.



Fabric

Our last quinquennial inspection was completed in 2021. A recent survey of the nave roof timbers and carved wooden angels showed them to be in excellent condition.

We have an experienced and active Fabric Committee who, with the church architect, oversee repairs, maintenance and reordering projects. They are working towards Ecochurch status.

In the past few years we have reordered the front of the nave to give more flexibility for worship, concerts and other events, and installed under-pew heaters. There is a modern kitchen and toilet facilities.



A consultation and subsequent discussions identified work to be carried out to achieve significant improvements to the west end of the nave and the Lady Chapel, as well as enhancing the audibility of the organ. There is a general lack of storage space: a beautiful historic building gives us challenges for the 21st century!

The Quinquennial Report in June this year described the church in a good state of repair. There is quite a lot of minor work needed on the lead flashings and stonework. We are currently “out to tender” to have this work done at an estimate of £50,000 to £80,000. Most of the roof has been re-leaded within the last 40 years. Funds are available.

Our Finances

The finances of St Mary’s are generally sound. General Fund income for 2020 was £133,792 and expenditure was £156,319 giving a deficit of £22,527. The income figure could be enhanced by various restricted giving to meet items of General Fund expenditure and the expenditure can be reduced by fabric insurance charges that can be transferred to Fabric Fund. After these adjustments, the deficit on the General Fund can be more realistically seen as a mere £105. Further distortions for 2020 were that there were tax recoveries covering a period of more than a year and there was a one-off transfer of £8,299 to the General Fund representing previous years' investment income on Mission Development Fund. Removing those distortions would have given an adjusted deficit for 2020 of about £11,200. Annual deficits of that order can be borne by drawing on reserves.

The main reserves for unrestricted purposes as at the end of 2020 were the General Fund balance and associated surplus on General Fund investments, together totalling £45,500 and the balance on the Mission Development Fund and surplus on linked investments together totalling almost £223,500. The Mission Development Fund has been built up from unrestricted bequests and is intended to be used to develop rather than simply maintain mission activities. The reserves for restricted purposes consist mainly of amounts available for Fabric totalling about £625,000. That appears to be a large amount, but it should be appreciated that few works on the Fabric at St Mary’s are inexpensive.

Our strengths

- We are rooted in high quality biblical teaching.
- Accessible and welcoming with a wonderful building. Despite the pandemic we managed to remain open for worship and individual prayer for most of the time. Morning prayer was introduced on-line at the beginning and has proved popular, with an international following.
- We have a good number of dedicated volunteers with a strong loyalty to the church. These include around 20 stewards, who are available to keep the church open 10.30-3pm on Weekdays and Saturdays. Pastoral support, safeguarding, gardening and churchwardens' positions are all voluntary
- The thousands of visitors who come to St Mary's each year are given the opportunity to encounter the love of God.
- Our links to schools and other organisations in the town which we are currently re-energizing.
- Our involvement with the wider mission of the church in Bury and beyond.

Our Ambitions:

- Grow our work with children. At our Sunday services, provide at least one group for children at the 11.00 am service, building on the work of our girls' and our boys' choirs, ensuring the continuity of youth bible study and establishing a toddler/after school club
- Develop a sense of one community in and between our congregations: the 9.15 and 11.00 o'clock services have their own distinct congregations, and who need to find ways of meeting together.
- Build up our prayer life. There are a number of Home Groups, but there is scope for more.
- Develop our pastoral support and community activities which were affected by the pandemic.
- Develop our plans to reorder the West end of the church. We love our church but would like to make it a more welcoming space, particularly around the entrance.

This is consistent with the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocesan Vision and Strategy "Growing in God" 2020. ((See pages 19 and 20).

St Mary's website: www.stmaryschurchbse.org

Introducing St Peter's Church

Our Church

St Peter's is an evangelical Anglican church located in Hospital Road, Bury St Edmunds. It was built in 1858 and was extensively refurbished in 1997 and 2008.

We are a part of the Parish of St Mary with St Peter, but St Peter's has a unique identity as a district church within the Parish. This position was consolidated with the appointment of our own full-time minister in September 2015. (See working agreement in Appendix 2 and Scheme of Delegation in Appendix 3). Andy Williams is the Associate Vicar of the Parish with responsibility for St Peters.

The staff team includes the Parish Vicar (who is welcome/expected to preach/ preside at St Peter's on occasions), the Associate Vicar of St Peter's, a reader, 3 retired clergy with permission to officiate, and a licensed preacher.

Our strengths:

- Have a strong desire to reach out and share the Gospel with our community.
- We have many friendly, willing helpers, with a sense of belonging.
- We support one another well.

Our purpose statement is:

"To grow a genuinely all age, gospel centred church family in the St Peter's district."



Our 5G purpose statement, updated from 4G, with effect from the summer of 2021 is:

We **gather** as St Peter's Church family
to **glorify** God through worship
to **grow** closer to God together
to **give** ourselves to God and others
and to **go** out in loving service to impact the world.

This is based on the "The Purpose Driven Church" by Rick Warren.

Just as '4G' was synonymous with cutting edge communication, we believe that pursuing our 5G purpose statement puts us at the 'cutting edge' of communicating the Gospel of our Lord Jesus.

Our building

St Peter's has excellent facilities for Mission. We have comfortable chairs which when moved can create a large flexible space which is carpeted and used for a variety of events. We can accommodate about 300 people when the space is filled with chairs, for instance at our "Carols by Candlelight" Christmas Eve service.



We have a digital electronic organ as well as a keyboard. There is a warm air heating system. In 2020 we installed a state-of-the-art digital AV system.

Exciting plans are moving forward for a large extension to the west and north aspects of the nave which will provide a modern cafe / meeting room, mixed gender toilets with baby changing facilities. An outline planning application has been submitted. The vestry currently has a small kitchenette, suitable for making tea and coffee, as well as a toilet and loft storage.

Highlighted items requiring attention in the last quinquennial report (December 2016) were completed. The next report is due at the end of 2021.

Our finances

The finances of St. Peter's are generally sound. General Fund income for this year is projected to be £ 75911 and expenditure £ 75188 meaning we expect to break even.

We are on track for this.

In 2017 we were blessed with a major bequest of over £ 359,531 restricted to the Fabric Fund. This will form the cornerstone of our fundraising for the proposed church extension.

The church's giving has increased significantly in the past two years with the appointment of our own minister. St Peter's pays an agreed proportion of the Parish share.

We acknowledge God's goodness to us in maintaining our income during Covid.

The Parish Share is by far the largest item of expenditure although the church also tithes its income to support a range of local, national, and international missions and charities.

St Peters financed the employment of a "Children and Families Worker" initially for 3 years, subsequently extended by 9 months, again utilising another generous bequest to the church. The contract could not be extended further due to lack of finance.

Our hope is to build on the success of the hard work put in by our elders.



Our services

Physical attendance at church services is slowly recovering. We currently have one Sunday morning service at 10.30am averaging 54 (3 children, 51 adults). In the same period in 2019 before the pandemic, average attendance was 84 (10 children and 74 adults). It is principally families with young children who have not, as yet, returned to services. Clergy do not usually robe, and lay members are encouraged to read, pray and assist in communion. The church family appreciates and expects this. Sermons are always Bible based and usually expository.

Music is led by music groups, using organ/keyboard and guitars, and other instruments. Hymns/songs are a mixture of traditional and more modern, chosen to reflect the theme of the service.

On the 2nd and 4th Sundays, provision is made for children's activities and teaching in the Thomas Clarkson Centre.

Our pattern of worship is

First Sunday	All Age Worship
Second Sunday	Holy Communion
Third Sunday	Morning Worship
Fourth Sunday	Holy Communion

There are 5 Bible study groups running in various homes mid-week.

There is a weekly Vision prayer meeting for the Church.

Pastoral care operates through a network of ministry team members, a commissioned pastoral visiting team, home groups and a group of Link Contacts. These members of the church have an assigned group of the congregation, whom they undertake to pray for and support pastorally.

In 2021 there were 5 funerals and 1 baptism in St Peter's Church.

Consideration, post Covid, is being given to a monthly "Craft Night" building on the success of "Crafts around the world" which had a regular attendance of 30 drawn mainly from the community. The special Christmas craft event was attended by 80 people.

Post Covid, we hope to reinstate a calendar of social activities throughout the year, which will offer the opportunity to bring friends into a church environment and strengthen existing friendships. In the past these events have been well supported.

St. Peter's website: www.stpetersbse.uk



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

The logo for 'Growing in God' features the text 'Growing in God' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. Above the letter 'o' in 'Growing' is a small green sprout with two leaves.

Parishes are encouraged to use a simple Mission Action Planning tool to help us all to focus on these priorities and how they might be worked out in each different context. We are trusting God that this vision, underpinned by a commitment to Christian stewardship, will bear fruit as we look to the future.

As part of this vision, we have recently received Strategic Development Funding for two major projects: Inspiring Ipswich, overseen by the Archdeacon of Ipswich which aims to grow the church in Ipswich through church planting and reaching out to those who live in the town, and 'Growing God in the Countryside', overseen by the Archdeacon for Rural Mission. This focusses on nurturing and discipling new Christians through small Lightwave groups and hubs such as the one being established at Bungay. (The Growing in God in the Countryside project plan is available among the documents at www.light-wave.org/vacancies)

We have also been part of a pilot scheme exploring how we can use our church buildings more creatively both for those who worship regularly and for the benefit of our communities and many churches have benefitted from this.

We are broadening our vision through a growing partnership with the Diocese of Kagera in Tanzania, with fruitful visits and links being established.

How can we fulfil our “Growing in God” vision?

We value our huge range of different ministries: we have over 100 stipendiary clergy, plus many SSM and PTO clergy as well as lay and ordained chaplains who can be found in such diverse places as schools, prisons, hospitals, hospices, the army, RAF and the police. Some clergy are ordained to serve in their local benefice through our pioneering 'auxiliary ordination pathway' which enables people's vocations to ordained ministry to be discerned within the Diocese.

All clergy work alongside lay ministers – Readers, elders, and the growing number people exercising recently introduced licensed ministries: pioneer ministers, evangelists, youth ministers and children's and family workers. Our ministry deployment principles encourage teams or clusters of lay and ordained ministers to work together so that clergy feel less isolated and ministry resources the mission of the church more effectively. We are just beginning to develop the principle of 'local ministers' in our benefices, releasing people's gifts to serve in their locality.

We are excited about these new developments which are playing an important part in our diocesan vision of Growing in God.

So, in summary:

As our Growing in God vision states, we aspire to be people who know that 'God is with us, gathering us as Christ-centred communities, calling us to make Christian disciples, sending us in loving service, empowering us by the Holy Spirit'.

From The Rural Dean of Thingoe

Dear partner in the Gospel.

I am so pleased that you are taking an interest in these wonderful churches based in the town centre of Bury St Edmunds. Each church has its distinct character and tradition largely focused on worship and outreach to the town. They have among them many gifted and faithful servants of the gospel and offer a generous evangelical ministry and mission as the Thingoe deanery continues growing in God. If appointed, you will be a valued member of our deanery chapter and enjoy the fellowship and support of your fellow clergy. You will also have a very significant role as a civic voice to the town on behalf of the church. We are very much a deanery in a process of transition with new clergy arriving, and I have only been rural dean since July last year. St Edmundsbury & Ipswich Diocese is a wonderful place to live and serve God, and I am sure you will receive a very warm Suffolk welcome!

Canon Max Osborne

Appendix 1

Role Description

1 Details of post	
Role title	Vicar
Name of benefice	Bury St Edmunds: St Mary with St Peter
Deanery	Thingoe
Archdeaconry	Sudbury
Initial point of contact on terms of service	Archdeacon of Sudbury

2 Role Purpose
General
To share with the Bishop both in the cure of souls and in responsibility, under God, for growing the Kingdom in this benefice. To ensure that the church communities in the benefice flourish and engage positively with 'Growing in God' and the Diocesan Vision and Strategy
To work as the vicar in this benefice, having regard to the calling and responsibilities of the clergy as described in the Canons, the Ordinal, the Code of Professional Conduct for the Clergy and other relevant legislation.
Specific tasks and responsibilities
To serve as vicar of St Mary's with St Peter's, to have oversight of the parish and develop a vision for the parish, recognising the autonomy of both St Mary's and St Peter's, together with the staff team and PCC. Andy Williams was appointed to take primary charge of the church of St Peter within the benefice. This is a senior post of some responsibility and the new incumbent will need to be willing to work alongside Andy as he continues to provide leadership at St Peter's
To fulfil the civic role by working with the borough and town councils, Royal British Legion, RAF Honington and other local organisations with services in St Mary's and events in the town.
To collaborate within the deanery both in current mission and ministry and, throughout the deanery plan, in such reshaping of ministry as resources and opportunities may require. To attend Deanery Chapter and Deanery Synod and to play a full part in the wider life of the deanery.
To work with the ordained and lay colleagues as set out in their individual work agreements, and to ensure that they have working agreements which are reviewed. This involves discerning and developing the gifts and ministries of all members of the congregation.
To work with the PCC towards the development of the local church as described in the benefice profile, and to review those needs with them. To recognise and value the individuality of each community.
To ensure that a high standard of worship, preaching and pastoral care is provided.
To work together, as appropriate, with other Christian denominations which have a presence in the parish and the wider deanery.

Schools

To work closely with the local schools. The diocese is committed to work with both community and church schools and this should be seen as a key part of the priest's role.

In line with the diocesan 'Growing in God' strategy, to lead the members of the churches (especially at St Mary's) to share the Christian faith with people of all ages. To be a witness to Jesus Christ in and encouraging relationships with young people, families, and single adults, encouraging and resourcing small groups and prayer support, as well as expanding pastoral care for those in need such as the elderly, lonely and isolated.

To have immediate responsibility and oversight of the services, pastoral work and administration at St Mary's, developing a strong team, and helping the church members to grow in prayer, biblical understanding, mission and evangelism, and generosity.

To build on and develop relationships with the civic leaders, employers and church leaders, demonstrating commitment to the organisations with which we have and could have positive relationships, including the cathedral and the deanery, as well as other churches in the town.

To maintain and build up relationships with local schools especially the Guildhall Feoffment School. Because this is not a church school the Vicar is not ex officio a member of the governing body. However, the last three Vicars have been members, and the governing body intends to invite the next Vicar.

3 Key contacts**Generic**

The PCC
The Deanery Chapter and Synod
The Church Wardens
The Rural Dean and Lay Chair

Specific

Ordained and lay colleagues (those holding the Bishop's licence, office holders, and administrative staff)

Schools

The head teacher and Chair of Governors of the local schools

Supportive

The Archdeacon, who will review this role description with you when you are six months into post
The Rural Dean and Lay Chair
The Diocesan Director of Mission and Ministry
The Bishop's Ministry Officer

Patrons

The Simeon Trustees

Role Context and any other relevant information

Predictions of 'available stipendiary clergy' nationally mean that each deanery is being asked to consider what re-organisation might enable a decrease in stipendiary numbers. The consequence of this is that there must be a greater sense of collaborative working.

To be aware of the implications of the Centenary Share system on the finances of the benefice.

To continue to support and develop the ministry of others across the benefice.

4 Benefice Summary	
Parish	Bury St Edmunds: St Mary with St Peter
Churches	Bury St Edmunds: St Mary (Grade I) Bury St Edmunds: St Peter (Grade II)
Schools and Colleges	There are several schools but particularly strong links with Guildhall Feoffment Primary School (St Mary's) and Westgate Primary School (St Peter's)
Churchwardens	2 Parish wardens, 2 District wardens
Ministers	Associate Vicar Assistant Curate 6 ministers with permission to officiate 1 Lay Pastor 1 Reader 1 Ordinand on the Diocese Auxiliary Ordination Pathway (under supervision) 6 Elders
Buildings	Parish Community Centre (Thomas Clarkson Centre)
Churchyards (closed)	Bury St Edmunds: St Mary Bury St Edmunds: St Peter
Population	Bury St Edmunds: 42,000 (12,690: Parish)
Average Sunday Attendance (before pandemic)	Bury St Edmunds: St Mary - (230) 120 Bury St Edmunds: St Peter - (90)54
Parish Share	For 2021 the parish will pay a parish share of £154,000. We expect the request to rise modestly in 2022 but that is still being discussed.
Expenses	Reimbursed in full
Resolutions	None
Church Tradition	Evangelical
Pastoral Care	Re-organisation in progress following the pandemic
Presence of other Christian denominations	Southgate Community Church: LEP (Anglican, Baptist, URC) St Edmunds: Roman Catholic Westgate Chapel: FIEC
Presence of other faith communities	

Appendix 2

Working agreement between Parish Vicar and Associate Vicar

The working agreement between Parish Vicar and Associate Vicar is at the discretion of the Parish Vicar. The arrangement worked well under the previous two Parish Vicars and fulfilled a desire of St Peter's to have their own minister. The Parish would wish this arrangement to continue.

The Associate Vicar

Will play a full part within the Parish team, working together with the Parish Vicar, helping set vision, sometimes chairing the full staff meeting and PCC meeting and also sharing in the conduct of parish and special services and events (e.g., civic services, occasional offices, courses, retreats, holiday club, parish weekend away etc.). He will also be expected to be present and to share in the leadership of the parish prayer meeting and weekly staff prayers. He will be a member of the PCC standing committee.

When the Parish Vicar is absent he will take on leadership of the Parish delegating responsibility where appropriate, to other colleagues.

Will be 'de facto' vicar of St Peter's, chairing St Peter's DCC and Vision group, and be accountable to the Vicar of the Parish for St Peter's. The Vicar chooses to hand over his responsibility for St Peter's fully to the Associate Vicar, and will only lead, celebrate or preach by invitation. He will not override decisions in relation to St Peter's made by the Associate Vicar, apart from when those decisions go explicitly counter to the overall parish vision, policies or canon law.

He will by agreement periodically preach and preside at Sunday services at St Mary's.

Will develop links between St Peter's and the community, initially working alongside Thomas Clarkson Centre users, and explore ways of drawing users to become worshippers, but also looking at how to equip church members to better serve our community. Will be a member of the Thomas Clarkson Centre Management group.

Will usually have Friday as a day off and he will communicate with the Vicar when an alternative day is taken and when additional days are taken. Holidays will be arranged in liaison with the Vicar.

Will submit expenses for approval to the Treasurer of St Peter's.

Will develop his own initiatives within the context of a whole parish strategy, in conversation with the Vicar and subject, when required, to the authorisation of the PCC. He will also develop his own role within the Deanery and Diocese.

This is a working agreement and will be revised annually.

The Associate Vicar will have the similar responsibilities and rights as the incumbent under Common Tenure.

Appendix 3

A Scheme for the formation, by the Parochial Church Council of St Mary's with St Peter's Parish, Bury St Edmunds, of a District Church Council for each Church and for the delegation of such functions as are permitted under Rule 18 of the Church Representation Rules.

The following Scheme was made by the annual parochial church meeting of the Parish on 22 November 2016 and approved by the Bishop's Council on 19 January 2017 and shall come into effect on 23 April 2017.

1. Division of Parish

For the purposes of this scheme the parish shall be divided into two districts ("Districts") called St Mary's District and St Peter's District. The St Peter's District shall be defined as the area north of Out Westgate and Horringer Road to the edge of the parish boundary. St Mary's District shall comprise the remainder.

2. District electoral rolls

2.1 electoral rolls for each District ("District Rolls") shall be compiled by derivation from the church electoral roll of the parish ("the Parish Roll") and maintained as provided below.

2.2 person whose name is on the Parish Roll shall be entitled to be enrolled on a District Roll if, had the District been a separate parish, he or she would have been entitled to be enrolled on the church electoral roll of that parish, save that no separate application shall be required for enrolment on a District Roll.

2.3 person who resides in one District and habitually worships in another District shall be entitled to be enrolled only in the District in which he or she habitually worships.

2.4 electoral roll officer of the parish may act as district electoral roll officer for one District and shall appoint a district electoral roll officer for the other District within six weeks of this Scheme coming into effect. The district electoral roll officers shall keep the District Rolls and may determine in cases of doubt which roll is appropriate for any particular enrolment, subject to appeal by application to the parochial church council.

2.5 of the Parish Roll, preparation of a new roll, or removal of names from the roll, shall be followed as soon as may be by similar action in respect of the District Rolls.

3. District annual meetings

3.1 shall be an annual meeting held for each District, such meeting to be held, if possible, in the calendar month before the annual parochial church meeting.

In usual circumstances the chair of the district annual meetings will be the person who chairs the DCC.

3.3 persons entitled to attend a district annual meeting shall be those who, if the District were a separate parish, would have been entitled to attend the annual parochial church meeting of that parish, save that the chairman appointed under clause 3.2 above, and any clerks in holy orders beneficed in or licensed to the parish, shall be entitled to attend all district annual meetings.

3.4 district annual meeting shall:

3.4.1 lay representatives to serve on the district church council constituted under this Scheme.

3.4.2 free to make recommendations to be submitted to the annual parochial church meeting as to the persons to be elected lay representatives of the parish to serve on the deanery synod.

3.4.3 free to discuss matters of concern to the church in the District.

3.4.4 two district wardens; and

3.4.5 free to make a recommendation to be submitted to the meeting of parishioners held pursuant to the Churchwardens Measure 2001 as to the persons to be chosen as the four parish churchwardens: and

3.4.6 be free to make a recommendation to be submitted to the annual parochial church meeting as to the persons to be chosen as the parochial representatives of the laity at deanery synod, when elections to deanery synod are due. The maximum number of representatives that each district council may recommend shall be calculated by reference to the total number of representatives and the respective sizes of the district rolls. Those elected to deanery synod shall thereby be members of both the PCC and of the DCC of the district where they are on the district roll.

3.5 10 and 11 of the Church Representation Rules shall have effect substituting "District Roll" for "roll of the parish" and "district annual meeting" for "annual meeting" and "district church council" for "parochial church council" as appropriate.

4. District church councils

4.1 There shall be a district church council for each District with the following membership:

4.1.1 clerks in holy orders beneficed in or licensed to the parish.

4.1.2 deaconess or lay worker licensed to the parish.

4.1.3 district wardens of the District.

4.1.4 licensed lay minister who is licensed to the Parish and any elder commissioned to the Parish, who, in either case, habitually officiates in that church.

4.1.5 members of the deanery, diocesan or general synods whose names are on the District Roll.

4.1.6 elected to the PCC pursuant of clause 6 of this scheme.

4.1.7 elected under clause 3.4.1 of this Scheme being not less than 5 for each District.

4.1.8 -opted members, if the district church council so decides, not exceeding two-fifths of the number elected under clause 4.1.6 above.

4.1.9 member of and appointed by the other DCC.

4.2 The following provisions of the Church Representation Rules shall have effect substituting "District" and "district church council" for "parish" and "parochial church council" respectively:

4.2.1 14(2), 14(3), 16(1), 16(2).

4.2.2 II except for Paragraph 1(e), (f) and (g)

4.3 All references to "the minister" shall refer to the minister of the parish. References to "the churchwardens" shall refer only to the churchwardens of the church situated in the District.

4.3.1 Each district church council shall be quorate i.e., can conduct business, if a third of its current membership, including one third of its elected membership is present

4.3.2 Each district church council shall meet at least three times a year.

4.3.3 Each district church council may form its own standing and other sub-committees.

5. Functions of the District church councils

5.1 to the provisions of this Scheme the parochial church council may delegate to a district church council such of its functions (insofar as they relate to the District in question) as it thinks fit subject to clause 5.2 below.

5.2 following powers shall not be delegated:

5.2.1 in respect of producing the financial statements of the parish.

5.2.2 of an interested party under the Dioceses, Pastoral and Mission Measure 2007.

5.2.3 functions of a parochial church council under the Patronage (Benefices) Measure 1986 Part II.

5.2.4 functions of a parochial church council in relation to women priests and bishops; and

5.2.5 concerned with the holding of real property and other matters for which separate legal personality is required.

Provided that in relation to real property used only by one District the parochial church council shall follow the directions of the relevant district church council unless it considers that such action would prejudice the legitimate interests of the other District. The Hyndman Centre is to be treated as a parish asset and will therefore be under the direct control of the parochial church council.

5.3 following functions shall automatically be delegated:

Matters relating to the church building, financial matters, worship and liturgy, social activities, pastoral matters, vision, mission, local strategy, outreach and general day to day running insofar as they relate exclusively to the church and residents in that District, but subject to any general directions given and budgets set by the parochial church council. The parochial church council shall not revoke any delegation without the consent either of the district church council or of the annual parochial church meeting or of a special parochial church meeting called to consider the revocation.

5.4 St Mary's district church council shall be chaired by the parish priest or his nominee. With the consent of the parish priest, the St Peter's district church council shall be chaired by the priest responsible for St Peter's or his nominee. (see comment in 4.2)

6. District representation on PCC

For the purposes of Rule 14(1)(g) of the Church Representation Rules, there shall be 5 representatives of the laity elected to the parochial church council from each District. Such persons shall be chosen at the two separate district annual meetings immediately prior to the annual parochial church meeting by those entitled to vote at the relevant district annual meeting. These members shall automatically be members of their respective DCC and approved by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting