

DEANERY OF LOES

Loes is a rural deanery situated in a beautiful part of the Suffolk countryside. Here, small rivers start and head towards the nearby sea, with lovely villages and gently rolling countryside. There are good schools, teashops, and pubs! What's not to like?

There are three larger population centres, Debenham, Framlingham and Wickham Market, with the rest being small villages. There is a total population of about 15,000 people across the deanery. Our rural communities are varied and socially diverse.

As a deanery our clergy have a strong and supportive chapter and, after a number of new appointments, now have a new senior leadership team in place to help us focus on how we can collaborate and support each other across the 32 churches that make up the Loes deanery. We recognise the challenges that we face as rural communities with smaller communities and a smaller pool of resources, but we remain confident that ministering collaboratively across parish boundaries we can maintain a lifegiving and fruitful ministry across the deanery as we follow Jesus and build the Kingdom of God

We are looking forward to welcoming a new colleague to work with us in Wickham Market and Pettistree as we seek to further our engagement with the developing Diocesan strategy of Growing in God.

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STATISTICAL INFORMATION

	All Saints Wickham Market	St Peter & St Paul Pettistree
Service Pattern (with typical attendance)		
1st Sunday	11.00am: Holy Communion (Common Worship) (average 55 communicants)	9.30am: Morning Prayer (24)
2nd Sunday	11.00am: Morning Service with a member interview slot (55) 3pm: Oasis (Informal service with tea) (average 25-30)	9.30am: Holy Communion (28)
3rd Sunday	9.30am : Holy Communion (Common Worship) (22) 11.00am Together@11 (Informal café style service) (49) 6.30pm: Evening Prayer & Praise (25)	9.30am: Morning Prayer (24)
4th Sunday	11.00am: Morning Service with Testimonies (55)	9.30am: Holy Communion (28) 6.00pm: Evensong [summer months] (26)
5th Sunday	11.00am: Morning Service (55)	9.30am: Holy Communion (28)
Other		3 rd Friday of each month 10.30am: Holy Communion (12)
Festival Services	Easter (74) Christmas (118) Carol Service (80) Remembrance Sunday (110)	Easter (57) Christmas (28) Carol Service 61) Harvest (36)
Electoral Roll	84 (64 parishioners and 20 not resident in the parish)	56
Occasional Offices (over last 12 months)		
Weddings	0	2
Baptisms	1	1
Confirmation	1	None
Funerals in church	12	1 3 committal only/ashes burial
Cremation services	Approximately 10 have been taken by the vicar, curate or retired clergy in the Benefice	

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.lightwave.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'.



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