

BENEFICE PROFILE

All Saints, Wickham Market

St Peter & St Paul, Pettistree with Loudham

2024



An exciting opportunity to engage in mission, in a variety of worship forms and with a call to working with our communities and young people in the parishes. We seek a dedicated person of faith - a spiritually mature, enthusiastic, and friendly minister with wisdom to come and lead God's people.

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INTRODUCTION

We are two churches in adjoining villages, both openly evangelical, both serving at the heart of the community through different expressions of worship.

WHAT WE OFFER

- A Benefice committed to honouring God through worship, witness and fellowship.
- An openness to fresh insights into our Churches and parishes and to engage in new things to expand our ministry and grow as a Church to the glory of God.
- Two supportive, friendly and prayerful Church families within thriving village communities, committed to praying for our Minister.
- An appreciation that ministry belongs to the whole Church community - we do not expect our Incumbent to do everything, but rather to enable and encourage the 'body of Christ'.
- An understanding that the new Incumbent will come with his/her own strengths, gifts and needs and as such will require support, adequate time off and time for his/her wider family and interests.
- A good sized vicarage close to All Saints church.



WHAT WE HOPE FOR

We are seeking a Minister who can build on the good work of previous Incumbents and lead the Church family forward in its desire to know and serve God and our Lord Jesus Christ better, aided and empowered by the Holy Spirit. This will include building the Church to grow younger and reach those who are unrepresented at present in the congregation.

Therefore, we hope that you will bring:

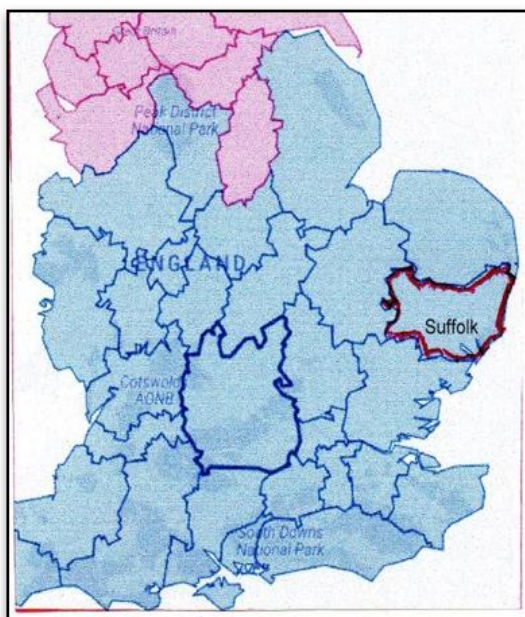
- A faith and passion in the saving grace of God through Jesus Christ.
- A belief in the power of personal and corporate prayer.
- A belief in the use of the spiritual gifts.
- A bible based ministry and teaching.
- An acceptance and support for the principles of shared ministry.
- A love and care for God's people.
- A love for the lost.
- A humble spirit to serve God, his gospel, his people, his world.
- The qualities of a gifted team player, communicator and teacher with a pastoral heart.

THE DEANERY OF LOES

Loes is a rural deanery situated in a lovely part of Suffolk; 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. Rural communities are varied and socially diverse and good to minister in.

As a deanery we are working together to help us Grow in God in ministry and mission.



THE BENEFICE

Overview

The Benefice sits within the county of Suffolk towards the south-east corner of the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. As will be seen from the Deanery map, the Benefice of Wickham Market with Pettistree sits on the south-eastern boundary of the Loes deanery.

The present Benefice dates from 1986.

We are very grateful for the assistance of three retired clergy who live in the Benefice, who lead a number of services in both churches. We also have an Assistant Priest, a lay reader, an Ordinand and a trainee lay reader. We have also in the past seen several members of our benefice go on to train as priests

The vicarage is a modern 4 bedroomed house for the use of the Incumbent and family. This is adjacent to the Wickham Market church and has a reasonably sized garden with an easily accessible study. It is next door to 'The Beehive' church hall, a couple of minutes' walk to the church and close to the centre of Wickham Market (the Market Hill).



Church Traditions

The church traditions of the two churches in the benefice are different and complementary. At present Pettistree favours a service pattern following a more formal traditionally based liturgy, including psalms and canticles as part of some services. On the other hand, Wickham Market follows a more 'free' service format. All Saints' Wickham Market does, however, follow a written liturgy for its main communion services (Common Worship 2000). Pettistree prefers its ministers to be robed, whereas Wickham Market generally prefers its ministers not to be robed.

In-Benefice relationships

Both churches are community focused, active and their services are openly evangelistic.

The churches continue to enjoy an established constructive and mutually beneficial relationship – with joint churchwardens' meetings.

Both churches view the variety of worship styles positively. They ensure that, within the Benefice, the community is offered a choice of worship styles and traditions.

Wickham Market is a growing, well-resourced village. We have a health centre, a dentist, a chiropodist, a pharmacy, a residential home, Co-op, hairdresser, fish and chip shop, Bengali and Chinese restaurants, two tea rooms, a charity shop, a football club, a bowls club, a vet, a beauty salon, and a British Legion club and hall. There are also a couple of vehicle repair shops, a Post Office, a carpet shop, a solid fuel/animal food shop, and a locally famous butcher shop.

The nearby town of Woodbridge has many independent shops, restaurants, lovely river walks, and a cinema. The seaside at Aldeburgh is within easy reach, and the famous Snape Maltings Concert Hall is close by.

The local primary school is a founder member of Avocet Academy Trust and has recently received a “good” OFSTED report. The church has links with the school. The pupils visit the church for three services a year, and the vicar has visited in the past to hold assemblies regularly. We have restarted “Open the Book” assemblies. One of the lay elders is a Member of the Academy Trust. There are local secondary schools in Woodbridge and Framlingham.

The nearby A12 gives easy access to Ipswich, and places further afield.



All Saints Christingle service



A Benefice choir was established seven years ago, building on what was an informal gathering of an ad hoc choir each year to contribute to the carol services at both St. Peter & St. Paul and All Saints. The Benefice choir, under the leadership of one of the Pettistree organists, now numbers up to 20, and contributes to the major services at Easter, Christmas and Harvest and Pettistree Evensong.

Occasional joint Benefice are organised to attract a Benefice-wide congregation.

Both churches have bells rung for services, and a group play handbells at both Carol Services.

Benefice Finance

Since the two parishes were combined into one Benefice there has been an amicable agreement masterminded by the PCC Treasurers to agree the split of the diocesan share and Incumbent's expenses on the basis of average unrestricted income.

The PCCs' approach to the Benefice share is to meet this requirement as a first priority along with those running expenses that fall to the PCCs.

ALL SAINTS, WICKHAM MARKET

Introduction

The following statement has been prepared under the leadership of the churchwardens. It is hoped that it will assist in understanding the Church family of All Saints Church, Wickham Market.

All Saints has a strong and long-established evangelical tradition. It is a firmly bible-based Church which seeks to be led by the Holy Spirit. As such it recognises that the gifts of the Holy Spirit (as received by the early Church and recorded in the New Testament) are available and applicable to the Church today and encourages their practice.



Church Mission and Vision

Our mission:

Love - in response to God's love shown to us in Jesus, we obey the command to love God and love our neighbour.

Grow - As the family of Jesus, we long to grow together so that our lives more clearly reflect the life of Jesus.

Serve - As servants of Jesus we seek to serve Him, one another, and our local community by proclaiming the Good News in word and action.

Our vision:

We aim to be a Church which is growing spiritually and numerically, reaching more and more of the community of Wickham Market. The Church family should reflect the community of which we are part. We aim to build on our relationship with the school, have restarted 'Open the Book' assemblies, and have restarted a café style service "Together@11". We also have plans to start a Youth Club.

Our strategy:

To achieve our vision we aim to focus our resources on developing a culture of intentional Christian discipleship and loving service, and outreach across the community focusing especially on young families and the elderly. This aims to be via a pathway of groups that allow contact, enquiry and commitment using the model of 'Belong, Believe, and Behave'. We recognize that our outworking of this strategy is an ongoing process, but we are learning as we are building.

Meet The Team

Church Wardens:

Alison Elliott

Paul Catchpole



Ministry Team:

Jenny Catchpole – Assistant Priest (SSM)

Ian Jenkins - Lay Elder

Pip Smith - Trainee Lay Reader

Jean Maxwell – Reader

Emma Steadman - Ordinand

Peter Elliott - Lay Elder



Members of our
Welcome Team



Members of our
Technical Team



Some of our
Musicians



Leaders of our
Ladies Group

Plus, we have a Prayer Ministry Team, a team of folk preparing refreshments, and various members of our Church Family who run our Open Pantry, Open Door and 'Oasis' Service.



Open Door Coffee Morning

Our Church Family

This year there are 85 on the Church Electoral Roll, of whom 64 are parishioners and 21 are not resident within the parish.

The average weekly attendance is 48 and 15 online, this number increases at festivals. (See also Statistical Information on page 17)



The congregation represents a diversity of backgrounds (many have come from other denominations). This presents both blessings and challenges, resulting in a somewhat non-conformist approach and a congregation of fairly independent-minded bible-believing people.

We are seeking to be a Christian Church in the world today, part of the "one, holy, universal, and apostolic Church of Christ."

Our Church house groups, which are attended by around 80% of our congregation and meet mainly on Tuesday evenings, continue to flourish. Some groups meet on other days, some meet every week and some less frequently. There is a loosely associated Girl Guide Company and Brownie Pack which meet during the week in the Beehive (Church Meeting Room). We also run a food bank (Open Pantry), a drop-in coffee morning (Open Door) and a ladies' seekers/enquirers group (PJT - Praise Jesus Together) every week along with a monthly informal evening service of praise and prayer, and a monthly informal afternoon service with refreshments.(Oasis).

The Church holds an annual parish weekend of worship, teaching, and socialising at Sizewell Hall Christian Conference venue on the Suffolk coast. This is well attended by people from all our expressions of worship.



We continue to support and receive regular updates from former Church members Jane & Alan Hutt who were commissioned by us to serve the Lord in Kenya where they work to provide a safe home for sexually abused child mothers and their babies/ children.

Our Worship

The Church promotes regular public worship open to all. The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to grow in their faith through teaching and spiritually fulfilling worship at our Church and so to become part of the All Saints parish community. During the Pandemic we started to live-stream our services and this continues, alongside our YouTube channel and our Website postings, to meet the needs of congregation members who cannot attend in person.



The Wardens and Ministry team maintain an overview of the worship services to ensure they meet the needs of our Church community. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament, enabling people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer.
- Knowledge of scripture and developing their trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

All Saints tries to meet the needs of all its congregation with a varied service pattern (see Statistical Information). Services are usually accompanied by a music group from a pool of musicians that lead modern songs and traditional hymns. We also have a team who lead a Creative Worship slot as part of the main service.

Prayer for people's needs is always available after every service, supported by a prayer ministry team. We also have a weekly morning prayer meeting and a fortnightly evening prayer meeting. There is also a prayer chain, so people can request prayer about their concerns, from members of the congregation.

We strongly hold to the principle of Team Ministry.

Bricks and Mortar

The spire is the first thing most people notice about All Saints Parish Church. Rising to over 137 ft. on a slender octagonal tower above the flint work of the medieval building, it is a landmark for many miles around. The church is located off the main shopping square.

The Grade 2* listed building dates back over 700 years. The exterior is stone and flint work. Inside there are four stained glass windows, and a 600 year old font. There are six bells in the tower which are usually rung twice weekly.

To facilitate our work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the church building and the 'Beehive' (former vicarage stable block and store converted to meeting rooms and kitchen/toilets). This, together with a pre-fab building and field, are owned by the PCC and held on our behalf by the Diocesan Board of Finance. Regular and routine maintenance is carried out.

Time and thought is given to making best use of the church facilities. The PCC encourages review of areas of our church body/structure to see how we can move forward and make more use of our buildings and improve facilities in keeping with the needs of modern-day services and wider use.

Our church building interior was re-ordered in 2012 to facilitate flexible use beyond traditional Sunday worship. (The pews were removed and toilet and kitchen facilities introduced).

In the last five years, the East wall and South aisle ceiling have needed, and received, extensive repairs. The church is open every day.

Mobile phone transmission equipment is installed in the church tower, for which an annual income is received.

Finances

The church allocates 10% of its unrestricted income to a Tithe Fund which supports seven missions/missionaries which is regularly reviewed by the PCC.

The PCC's approach to the demands of the parish share is that we, as a church, try as a first priority to meet as much as possible of our part of the Benefice share (after attending to those running expenses of All Saints that fall to the PCC).

Other Matters

We fully endorse the ministry of women in the church and our desire is for the next incumbent to be the best candidate to meet the needs of the churches and parishes as expressed in this statement.

All Saints holds firmly to the traditional biblical doctrine of marriage and are seeking a leader who would support us in that conviction.

While we, as a fellowship, would welcome into the congregation anyone with same sex attractions, we would encourage a growing relationship with God which we expect would include celibacy.

ST PETER & ST PAUL, PETTISTREE WITH LOUDHAM

Church and people

Pettistree Church is in the centre of the village and is a traditional simple building, part of which dates to the 1300s. It is well maintained, with the most recent significant works consisting of external stonework renovation and repairs carried out in late 2014. At the same time there was a redecoration of the Nave interior walls. This remains subject to some remedial work because of the application of inappropriate paint, which was applied in breach of the conditions of the faculty specification. A consistory court was held in September 2017 to determine the approach to restoration, at which the contractor, PCC and Churchwardens were exonerated from any culpability. Preparations are now underway for the restoration of the Nave decoration. The earliest remaining structures are small sections of mediaeval glass that were restored in 1991. There is a fine ring of six bells which were restored and rehung in 1986, which are in constant use, being rung for every service. The church is open but unmanned during daylight hours for all who wish to visit. The tower area is locked to prevent access to the bells and roof.



The churchyard is particularly well maintained. There was a reorganisation of the ground in the late 1940s so that it is still open for burials. An avenue of native fruit trees was planted in May 2014 to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee of 2012, this was carried out as a joint activity between the church and the village community. Some of the non-churchgoing parishioners regularly help with maintenance

of the church buildings and land, and this is much appreciated by the congregation.

The Church Room, a separate small building located near the church within the grounds of the churchyard, is used for PCC meetings, parish council meetings and for some occasional church functions. This was restored in 1982 with electricity and heating, and in more recent years the addition of a water supply and an easily accessible WC for church use. Following some storm damage and identification of decayed roof timbers, the building underwent full roof repairs in late 2022.





There is a long history of cooperation between the church and the civil parish, which is often evident during village events in aid of the church. The PCC has always been aware of the need to maintain strong links with those who do not regularly attend services and feel that it is vital to foster these links and to welcome any opportunity to engage with the village community. A number of events over recent years are becoming established, with the aim to maintain and grow these contacts,

including a Harvest lunch and a summer's afternoon walk with tea and cake. Church attendance is higher at festivals but also at times of personal stress, which emphasises the need to maintain the familiar presence of Pettistree church for the community we serve.

The present congregation are well known to each other, and it is always easy to maintain good contact and to be aware of any unexpected absences. There are 55 names on the Electoral Roll and the average attendance at the regular Sunday service is 24 adults. Any visitors or new members of the congregation are easily identified and are welcomed without any formal procedure for organising this. The congregation includes people from a wider catchment area, with many from Wickham Market and some other nearby villages, who prefer the type of service offered and enjoy the atmosphere at Pettistree. Many of the congregation attend weekly or monthly house groups coordinated through All Saints in Wickham Market.

The ringing band is one of the strengths of Pettistree and the PCC is very grateful for its presence within the congregation. During the week there is a regular bell ringers' practice, with the bells rung for every Sunday service and to mark national occasions.



There is a monthly Friday Communion Service taken by the Assistant Priest of the Benefice with an average attendance of 14. The service is always followed by fellowship, shared with coffee and cake in the Church Room.

Finances and Giving

Financially the church benefits from the careful management by the previous generations; there are no large endowments, but income continues to match expenditure, and we have not gone into debt. In the past income has often exceeded expenditure, but post-Covid effects and the recent inflationary pressures have started to introduce more budgetary constraints. There is a restrictive fabric fund which paid for the Church Room repairs in 2023. The diocesan share has always been met in full, with monthly contributions being paid regularly and on time again this year. There is an annual tithe donation to a range of charities, both Christian mission based and secular. The PCC encourages regular giving, and the Gift Aid scheme is well supported, ensuring that the majority of giving is financially efficient.

Administration and Pastoral Activities

We are fortunate that we have a full PCC, with all essential roles filled, and two churchwardens. The PCC holds quarterly meetings, complemented with ad hoc meetings and Standing Committee meetings as required.

Pastorally, the parish with support from the Vicar and several retired clergy living in the benefice, tends to look after itself to a certain extent. As in many rural villages, the villagers prefer and would expect the vicar to visit in times of spiritual need instead of the laity. Practical help is different, and members of the church have always tried to assist with such activities as hospital transport or shopping.

Worship

St. Peter and St. Paul church has a warm and welcoming congregation. There is a general preference towards the more traditional service formats at present. The PCC feels that there is a need to maintain this balance and to ensure availability of these styles of service within the benefice. We use Hymns Old & New at all services. The church is fortunate to have the voluntary services of two organists from within the congregation, with the organ played at every service.



The monthly service pattern is as detailed on page 17 (statistical information).

There are additional occasional special services including a children's harvest service and Christingle service, both held in conjunction with the nursery based in the village. There is an Act of Remembrance service held by the war memorial in the churchyard on the 11th November at 11.00am. In recent years we have also held a number of outdoor short Harvest and Carol services, held in the churchyard grounds. These have proved popular and have attracted a wider attendance from the village community, family & friends.

There is some lay involvement in the regular services, often helping at communion services and intercessory prayers are led by a lay member at some services each month.



PCC Policy is to welcome all those from the parish who wish to come to the Pettistree church for baptism, marriage and funeral services. We are pleased to welcome non-resident family members of churchgoers also for these rites, when this is considered appropriate in discussion between the vicar and churchwardens. The vicar ensures that the deep commitment needed for baptism and marriage within the Church of England is fully understood.

We are keen to see a new incumbent of the open evangelical tradition who is prepared to continue to lead us in a similar style of services as we hold in our church of St. Peter & St. Paul. We welcome a woman as readily as a man. We also hope for someone who is enthusiastic to participate in wider village life and by doing so strengthen the links with the non-churchgoing people of Pettistree and Loudham.

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 centers, 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.

Chris Davey, Rector of Framlingham and Rural Dean
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Woodbridge
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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] (24)
5th Sunday	11.00am: Morning Service (55)	9.30am: Holy Communion (28)
Other		3 rd Friday of each month 10.30am: Holy Communion (14)
Festival Services	Easter (74) Christmas (118) Carol Service (80) Remembrance Sunday (110)	Easter (58) Christmas (18) Carol Service (70) Harvest (29)
Electoral Roll	85 (64 parishioners and 21 not resident in the parish)	55
Occasional Offices (over last 12 months)		
Weddings	None	1
Baptisms	None	None
Confirmation	None	None
Funerals in church	11	3 2 committal only/ashes burial
Cremation services	3 have been taken by the Assistant Priest 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