



Priest in charge of the Bungay Benefice

comprising Holy Trinity with St Mary's, Bungay;
Holy Trinity, Barsham with Shipmeadow;
and All Saints Mettingham

and Pioneer Leader of the Lightwave Rural Hub



Waveney and Blyth Deanery

Index

Page 3	Is God Calling You?
Page 4	The local area
Page 5	Benefice House and Office
Page 6	The Bungay Benefice
Page 7-8	Holy Trinity, Bungay
Page 9-10	Holy Trinity, Barsham with Shipmeadow
Page 11	All Saints Mettingham
Page 12-13	The Lightwave Community
Page 13	Vision for a Lightwave Rural Hub in Bungay
Page 14-15	The Waveney and Blyth Deanery
Page 16-17	The Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich
Page 18	Working Together to make and grow disciples

Is God calling you to combine pioneer and parish ministry?

Priest in Charge of the Bungay Benefice and Pioneer Leader of the Bungay Lightwave Hub

This post brings an exciting opportunity to grow new disciples in the beautiful Waveney Valley and develop the rural congregations of the Bungay benefice

The benefice consists of the market town of Bungay with the small parishes of Mettingham and Barsham with Shipmeadow.

Lightwave is a Suffolk wide missional community. An important part of this role will be to pioneer a Lightwave hub congregation in Bungay, reaching people who are not yet part of any church.

Are you somebody who...

- places prayer at the heart of their ministry
- has a passion for making new disciples
- has a positive approach and the ability to build on our faith
- will foster Christian community, including small missional groups
- will help us to realise and build on the possibilities and potential through work with local schools, families and young people
- has the energy and ideas to meet the challenges of pioneering the new forms for people who are not yet members of any church alongside cherishing existing forms of church
- can help us with stewardship so we become able to pay a full Benefice share
- will cherish all the traditions in our benefice in their variety and richness
- will start new forms of worship alongside the old and encourage younger people in discipleship
- will lead, equip and release people into ministry
- is sympathetic and supportive of the natural environment in a rural area.
- is committed and able to help churches to grow in depth, in number, younger and in making a difference

...?

If you are you are the one for us!

A wonderful area in rural Suffolk

The three parishes of Bungay, Barsham with Shipmeadow and Mettingham have a total population of 5703, with the market town of Bungay representing 5127 of that total.

Bungay is a beautiful and historic market town standing on the banks of the River Waveney, the boundary between Suffolk and Norfolk. It has a good range of independent shops and a weekly market held in the shadow of the ancient Butter Cross.

Led by a town council, with the mayor as civic leader, Bungay it is in the East Suffolk District Council area. It is the only town in the country to retain the ancient office of Town Reeve as its figurehead role, heading the Bungay Town Trust.

A wide range of clubs and societies provide an outlet for the interests of people of all ages. On the sporting front they include football, cricket, tennis, bowls and running clubs, and young people groups include a thriving youth theatre group based at the Fisher Theatre, Army Cadet Force and Sea Scout and Guide groups. There is an active Churches Together group, linking Anglican, Methodist/United Reformed and Roman Catholic churches. A purpose-built community centre is currently under construction.

There is a high school and primary school in Bungay. There are other primary schools in the neighbouring Norfolk villages of Earsham and Ditchingham. Bungay also has a Roman Catholic primary school. Bungay has a modern medical centre, and there are two university hospitals at Norwich (15 miles) and Gorleston (20 miles).

World renowned book printer Clays is the main employer in the benefice, while there is other light industry, and farming is also a big employer in the area. The nearby town of Beccles has a number of manufacturing and service companies, and the tourist industry is also important in the Waveney Valley. Cultural and sporting assets in the benefice include the historic Fisher Theatre, a recently refurbished indoor swimming pool and gym, an 18-hole golf course, and a wide range of clubs and societies for all ages and interests.

Housing developments in Bungay and the area are bringing young families in, providing a mission challenge for the benefice.

The wider area - Waveney and Blyth



The Waveney and Blyth Deanery sits in the north east corner of Suffolk and comprises 53 parishes. There are four principal areas of population, Beccles, Halesworth, Bungay and Southwold with Reydon. Lowestoft is the nearest large town, but it is in the Diocese of Norwich. Norwich itself is a popular city for shopping, culture and football.

The Deanery is predominately rural. Farming is very important and so is tourism with the coastline between Lowestoft and Felixstowe being an area of outstanding natural beauty.

Employment opportunities are provided by light industrial and commercial areas on the outskirts of Beccles, Halesworth and Reydon. The many parish churches in our Deanery are, like most of East Anglia, listed medieval buildings with much historic interest.

Travelling from Beccles to Norwich takes about 25 minutes by car, whereas Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds are at least an hour away. The East Suffolk Railway Line passes through the Deanery with stations at Beccles, Brampton and Halesworth.

London Liverpool Street is about two hours twenty minutes by rail from Beccles.

The charm of the Deanery is the physical beauty of the countryside and coast. The geographic location can contribute to a sense of being a long way from everywhere, which some might consider a good thing!



Benefice House and Benefice Office

The priest's house is a modern four-bedroomed family home in a quiet position in Bungay close to the church.

It has a large kitchen-breakfast room and two reception rooms, a good-sized secluded garden and a double garage.



There is a well-equipped parish office located in the rectory garden. The office is pictured right with volunteers, Pat Ripley and Margaret King at work.



The Bungay Benefice

The benefice comprises three very different churches, one in the town of Bungay and two in neighbouring rural parishes, Barsham with Shipmeadow and Mettingham, each with their own parochial church council.

Currently the benefice is headed by a Rector, ably supported by a team of seven lay elders and a number of retired clergy. There is a parish office in Bungay currently staffed by volunteers.

- Retired clergy assist throughout the benefice
- Lay elders lead at least one service a month at Bungay

During the coronavirus epidemic the churches in the benefice have taken steps to continue to provide worship while observing the necessary restrictions. A service via Zoom was organised while churches were closed. Later, they reopened at certain times for private prayer. When restrictions were eased, services resumed in July on a weekly basis, without hymns and time limited to 35-40 minutes. Steps were taken to keep in regular contact with members of the congregation who were confined to their homes, and this continues during the second lockdown.



The Growing in God diocesan initiative is very much a central part of our mission. The aim is to preserve and grow the churches in our part of the Waveney Valley, so they are a focal point of their communities and the benefice as a whole.



Contact with children and young families is at the heart of our mission. We have the space, and we need to build up our inventory of equipment and aids for small children and establish a framework to stir the interest of those of high school age.

Involvement in schools is an important part of achieving that. Bungay has a two-tier schools system, with a high school and two primary schools in the town (one an RC school), but Bungay and Mettingham children also go to school in neighbouring villages (some in the adjoining Norwich diocese), while Barsham children go mainly into

Beccles. So, the challenge is there to reach out to all Bungay's young people. The vision is to achieve a situation where Family at Church truly means that, with all generations worshipping, and playing, together. We see the Lightwave initiative as an important tool in all aspects of this challenge.



Our mission, too, is to build on our contacts with local care homes for the elderly - we take communion into two in Bungay at the moment - and also expand our pastoral mission to our communities in general. In all these things we need to build up our communications network - and the Lightwave initiative can be a central part of that.

The Church of Holy Trinity, Bungay

There are two church buildings in Bungay. Holy Trinity, which has a traditional-modern ethos, is the living church, with St Mary's Church redundant. St Mary's is still consecrated and belongs to the Churches Conservation Trust. It is managed by the Friends of St Mary's.

Pattern of Services (pre-coronavirus)

8am Communion (BCP) is held each Sunday.

10am Communion is held weekly on a Wednesday

10am Morning Eucharist is held on the first and third Sundays.

10am Morning Prayer is held on the second and fourth Sundays. The fourth Sunday service is organised and led by the lay elders,

10.30am Eucharist is held on a fifth Sunday, alternating between the three churches.

11.30pm Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve

A town Remembrance Day service with parade is held on the second Sunday in November.

Church groups

Lay elders: Meet monthly on a Saturday for communion and discussion. They also take communion to two care homes monthly.

Anglican Ladies Guild: Meet fortnightly on a Tuesday afternoon.

Home Prayer Groups: Meet fortnightly

Prayer groups: Meet fortnightly

Home communion: *As required*

Mens' Breakfast: Meet monthly on a Wednesday at 7.30am



The church has an electoral roll of 89 and an average Sunday morning congregation, over two services, of 50 plus.

The incumbent is ex-officio chairman of the PCC, Eliza Dreyer trustees, and the Henry Smith charities, and a committee member of the Friends of St Mary's Church.

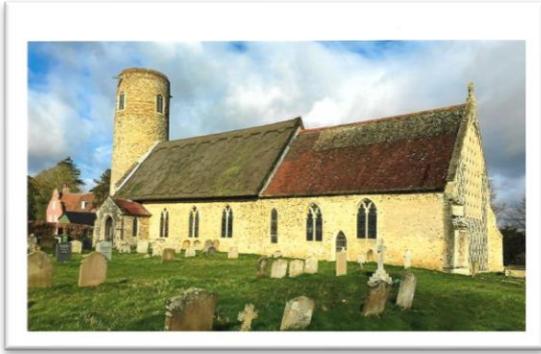
Holy Trinity Church, Bungay, dates back to 1041- the date a local historian put on the round Saxon tower. So, in just 20 years the parish will be celebrating it's millennium anniversary! It is believed the tower was originally built as a watchtower, with the north aisle added about 100 years later, when it became a church. The south aisle was added a couple of hundred years after that, and the chancel re-built in 1926, after it had become derelict. The beautifully carved pulpit dates back to 1588.

Today it has kitchen and toilet facilities, and a meeting room was added six years ago

A Bungay Holy Trinity Miscellany



Through the Lightwave initiative we hope to have many more pictures of children and families taking part in events in Bungay and the wider benefice in the future



The Church of The Most Holy Trinity Barsham with Shipmeadow

We are two very rural villages with one church. St Bartholomew's, Shipmeadow was made redundant in the 1980s and the church is now a private home. Holy Trinity Barsham, dating back to the 11th Century, is Grade 1 listed and the only other amenity in the village is the village hall which was previously the village school. We have a highly scattered population of approx. 350 over the two parishes of Barsham and Shipmeadow. Holy Trinity stands in a picturesque and peaceful setting set well back across grassland from the Beccles-Bungay B1062 road. The Church is well cared for and our visitors often comment on its atmosphere of peace and tranquillity. The round tower has five bells which are regularly rung by visiting teams. The churchyard is well maintained with mown paths and areas left for wildflowers, enabling bees and insects to thrive. We have rotas of dedicated cleaners and flower arrangers. The church has very good parking facilities, a newly installed kitchen area and the advantage of a Portaloo with disabled facilities.

Only four of the congregation live in the parish but our worshipping congregation of around 33 regularly travel up to a radial distance of 20 miles to attend our weekly Sunday worship of Sung Eucharist. The growth of the congregation at Barsham has come through the nurturing of its High Anglican tradition going back to the 19th century using the Book of Common Prayer. This has only been possible through the good services of our local non-stipendiary clergy. We keep the reserved Sacrament and are fortunate enough to have a full set of vestments, some of historic interest. We have a choir and a resident organist.

Key Statistics

- **Electoral Roll - 48**
- **Worshipping Congregation – 33**
- **Households receiving lockdown sermon & worship resource – 35**
- **Monthly Parish Newsletter**
- **Committed PCC**
- **Weddings in 2019 – 3**
- **Funerals in 2019 – 6**

The spirituality of this congregation includes having a male priest to preside and administer eucharist. In order that this tradition be protected and nurtured, the PCC have recently passed a resolution for alternative episcopal oversight. Nevertheless, other than celebrating the eucharist, we welcome the ministry of women and would seek to support and work closely with a female priest-in-charge in the benefice, should one be appointed. We envisage that those who preside at our Barsham eucharists, will do so only at the invitation of the priest-in-charge (male or female)



The PCC entertain our visiting clergy and their wives to lunch at the home of our Patron, Mrs B Suckling

The church is renowned for the warm welcome and hospitality visitors receive and the majority of our eclectic congregation stay behind after services to socialise over refreshments. The summer lunch, which is usually held in the grounds of Shipmeadow Church, attracts most of the congregation and a large number from Barsham, Shipmeadow and the surrounding villages, as does the Harvest Supper (pictured right). Holy Trinity experiences the unique phenomena of The Equinox Events in March and September when the figures on the rood screen are illuminated by the setting sun. This attracts many visitors.



Care and Support

LOVE BOXES in association with the Lions Club. (166 boxes sent in 2019)

WATER AID

CHRISTIAN AID

FOOD BANK (over 1000 items so far in 2020 – extra contributions during lockdown)

CLERGY LUNCH (our annual lunch given by the PCC to thank our 5 visiting clergy and their wives for their continuing support)

Pattern of services (pre-coronavirus)

1st, 2nd & 4th Sunday—11 a.m. BCP Sung Eucharist

3rd Sunday—11 a.m. Common Worship Sung Eucharist with incense

5th Sunday—Benefice Service 10.30 a.m. rotating within the Benefice

- Patronal Festival Sung Evensong - Trinity Sunday
- Harvest Festival Sung Evensong
- Carol Service with lessons & carols
- A course of themed Lenten services with communion each Friday during Lent culminating with Good Friday devotions at 2 p.m.
- Remembrance Service in the Church on Remembrance Sunday and an Armistice Day service in the Village Hall with wreath laying at the War Memorial by the Hall.



We celebrate Nony's 100th birthday after the morning service

Fundraising Activities

- *Monthly sales table*
- *Concerts*
- *Summer Lunch*
- *Harvest Supper*
- *Orchid Walk*
- *Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride*



Gathering for the 2019 Orchid Walk

Looking to the future

We are committed to working with our sister churches in the Benefice and would like to be a beacon of mutual flourishing, where our tradition is cherished and continues to grow. We would like our new benefice priest and the Lightwave community to support us in developing deeper discipleship and outreach, especially in ways which are distinctive of the high Anglican tradition. We want to continue to develop our outreach in the villages of Barsham and Shipmeadow and would appreciate help to build on our current community events, thus deepening our relationships in the wider community.

The Church of All Saints, Mettingham

The village of Mettingham is situated two miles east of Bungay. It has 87 houses and a population of around 200. It has a bowls club, a village hall and a splendid new village sign. The church is found up a narrow path off the B1062, adjacent to the former Tally Ho tearooms. The churchyard is unusually large compared to the normal Suffolk size of an acre; it is mown round the paths and round some of the graves but otherwise populated by diverse flora and fauna.



The building itself is unique. The north door probably dating from the early 12th century, has a delightful, though grotesque, head above it designed to ward off evil spirits. Mettingham has a round tower, one of 185 in Great Britain, which has had extensive repairs starting in 2006. It has a much-praised organ and beautiful stained glass. Although the congregation is small, verging on the tiny, the community has a very positive humanitarian and Christian ethic, as demonstrated during the Covid-19 pandemic. Sunday services, weddings and funerals resumed in the church building during the summer.

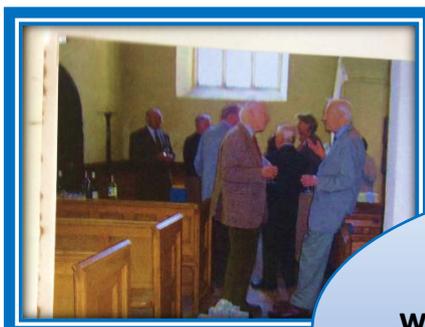
The village may well benefit from the Lightwave initiative. We have an active Friends of All Saints group, who are the main financial contributors to the upkeep of the church and hugely supportive of the small, but committed Parochial Church Council (PCC). The Friends may not attend regular worship, but they come for family occasions, carol services and other events in the church, and are greatly valued.

In normal times the pattern of services is as follows:

- 1st Sunday no service
- 2nd Sunday Morning Prayer 11am
- 3rd Sunday Holy Communion 11am
- 4th Sunday Morning Prayer 11am
- 5th Sunday Benefice Service 10.30am

The electoral roll stands at 13.

There are 6 regular worshippers.



The PCC looks forward to welcoming, and working with the new incumbent in the Growing in God Vision

What is the Lightwave Community?



God's Light Shines in Suffolk

The creation of the Lightwave Community with a Bishop's Mission order covering the whole diocese is an important part of diocesan-wide growth in local mission. 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.

Small groups shining Christ's Light

The Lightwave Community is made up of small groups, shining Christ's Light all over Suffolk. Our groups meet in homes, pubs, offices, schools and online. We are simple worshipping communities that work alongside and complement traditional Sunday services. We try to be down to earth and to be the sort of place you can feel at home even if you've never been part of church before.

Each group aims to find its unique way of shining Christ's light in the local community.

Lightwave groups can deliver food parcels, visit the isolated, run community choirs, lead after-school clubs, support parents and toddlers, welcome people moving into the neighbourhood, empower teenagers, engage with nature, organise clay-pigeon shooting... You get the idea.

Love God. Love People.

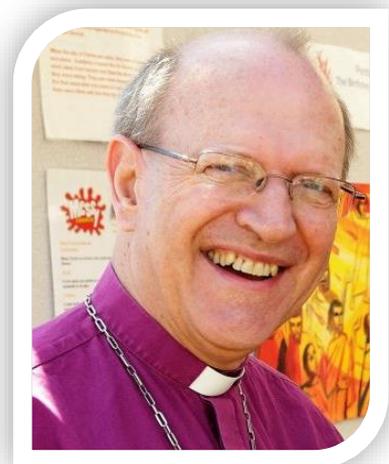
Jesus said the greatest command is to Love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind soul and strength and the second is to love our neighbour as we love ourselves. It's simple really. Our ability to love people and ourselves comes from receiving God's love.

Listening and learning together

In a Lightwave group, everyone has a part to play. It is not just for leaders. Everyone has talents. Everyone has needs. We care and pray and learn and work and have fun together.

"God calls the church in each generation to show and share his love in ways both old and new. I believe Lightwave is one of the new ways - rooted in the wisdom of the old - that God is calling us to embrace here in Suffolk."

Right Rev'd Martin Seeley, Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich



Vision for a Lightwave Rural Hub at Bungay

Half this post has been funded through Strategic Development Funding and has a specific focus of building a Lightwave Hub at Bungay focusing on making new disciples.

Our vision is for the new priest-in-charge to work with us to establish a Lightwave Rural Hub at Bungay as a mission-focused church community which

- has a strong focus on prayer for God's transforming work in the whole of a rural area
- makes new disciples
- creates Christian community for and with people who were not previously part of any church
- develops a distinctive approach to connect with new people, especially younger people
- works closely with other churches for mission, especially those in the Saints as well as this benefice
- develops, resources, trains, mentors and supports small mission groups known as "Lightwave Groups"
- develops community outreach and partnerships in the wider rural area including schools
- is contextualised by missional listening in the area in and around Bungay
- develops people in their ministries, creating synergies between old and new and becomes a great context for a pioneer curate (2022)

Measurable Outcomes as part of the Growing in God in the Countryside Project

Over £2m of Church Commissioner's Strategic Development Funding [SDF] has been allocated to support the diocesan Growing in God in the Countryside project This project started in 2018 under the leadership of a newly appointed Archdeacon for Rural Mission.

We are seeking to make 1500 new disciples in rural Suffolk by 2025 through the ministry of sixty plus small missional groups and fresh expressions of Church across the whole county. The development of Lightwave as a countywide Fresh Expressions Community, supported by three Rural Hub Churches, is fundamental to enabling this growth. We would expect about twenty of these missional groups to be established through the work of the Bungay rural Hub by 2025, leading to around 400 new disciples in the deanery and wider area.

The Hub Churches are expected to have journeyed towards being financially sustainable through giving by 2025 and there is significant support to help the Hub Church Leaders to work on this with their congregations. More details are in the role descriptions.

The existing ministry team and PCCs are committed to work closely with the new priest-in-charge to enable the establishment of the Lightwave Hub by:

- seeking to put prayer at the heart of everything
- helping to make and welcome new disciples
- encouraging people to work with the new priest in small Lightwave groups and teams
- commitment to creating synergy between old and new and developing all in ministry
- encouraging the whole church to be involved in Christian stewardship to support future financial sustainability
- joining in this exciting learning journey (involving both church and not-yet Christians) to enable flourishing communities making a difference in each context

Waveney and Blyth Deanery

The Deanery Churches

Many of the rural parishes are characterised by the faithful few sustaining witness and worship in small villages. Our medieval heritage is such that, in common with neighbouring Norfolk there are more than we really need, and most are still open. We are still committed to a Christian presence in every community and there are vibrant shoots of change in many of our churches.

There is a high level of second home ownership in some parts of the Deanery and rural depopulation because of falling agricultural employment.

The reduction in stipendiary clergy is leading to a growing awareness of the importance of Lay Ministry in leading worship. There is a growing openness to change, and an awareness that we must all embrace a new future together if the church is to survive, flourish and grow.

In many parishes SSM's, Readers, and particularly Lay Elders, share the pastoral work of the church in the community. We are also blessed by the help of a number of active retired clergy.

Clusters

In recent years the Deanery has been considering at Synod, Clergy Chapter and PCC level the options for offering the best possible ministry and mission with the resources that we have available.

The mix of formal team ministries and informal groupings, have the generic title of "Clusters". This implies a larger centre, e.g. Beccles, Bungay, Southwold and Halesworth in which a certain vibrancy of Christian life, witness and worship might offer support and resources for smaller rural parishes to access. It is hoped that clergy will be encouraged and sustained by working in a collegiate system, formal and informal, rather than alone.

Our Cluster partnerships are -

Beccles | Hundred River & Wainford | Worlingham, North Cove & Barnby

Bungay | The Saints

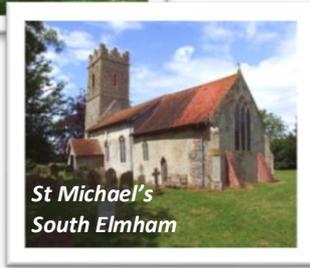
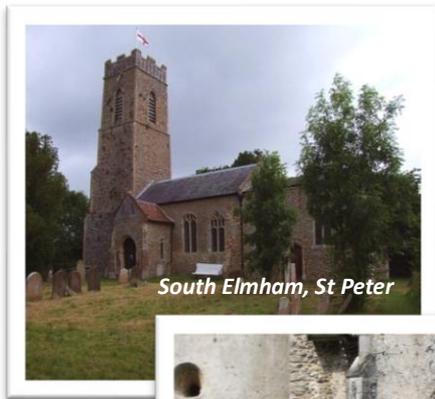
Blyth Valley Team | Heveningham, Huntingfield & Cookley

Sole Bay Team | Wrentham Benefice

Special Relationship with the Saints Parishes

The new priest-in-charge will work collaboratively with colleagues and parishes in the Cluster Benefice of the Saints. The Bungay and Saints Benefices have enjoyed a good 'light touch' working relationship over several years. This has mainly focussed on clergy support, both in terms of fellowship and providing occasional pastoral cover. The Saints are a collection of twelve small villages south of Bungay most named after their parish churches. The benefice is looked after by a House for Duty priest on a part-time basis with the help of a lay reader and several lay elders. The Sunday pattern of worship involves an eleven-week rotation round each parish with many of the congregation happy to travel each week. The lay ministers have been able to lead morning and evening prayer services to extend the worship on offer.

There is a strong commitment from the congregation to equip new elders who would be licensed to take services, provide pastoral care and perhaps become 'focal ministers'. Over the next twelve months, the parishes will explore a new Joint Church Council structure to replace the current eleven independent PCCs.



The Saints benefice would like to deepen the relationship with the Bungay team, sharing training and discipleship opportunities as we discover new ways to minister to our communities.

Deanery Planning

A new Deanery Plan was approved at a recent Deanery Synod, this seeks to assist our parishes in delivering the diocesan Growing in God vision. A key part of the plan is to equip people locally, through training, encouragement and support.

The Deanery Plan seeks to be outward looking and missional, encouraging each Cluster to develop Lightwave groups and projects. Progress has been made in some areas of the Deanery and we are committed to learn from and support each other.

An extract from our planning document, referring to our Cluster model: -

“Clergy / ministry teams / congregations, working together where possible, sharing resources and growing together. Valuing both inherited and innovative forms of church.

- Develop strands for village and town ministry where necessary.
- Draw on the recommendations of the Ministry Deployment Group. ”

The full Deanery Planning document is available from the Rural Dean.

Deanery Chapter

Chapter meets on alternate months. Stipendiary clergy are expected to attend and take a full part in Chapter meetings. There are several wider chapter events during the year that are open to all forms of ministries.

Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod meets three times a year.

We have a full complement of Representatives to Diocesan Synod.

Deanery Synod members are encouraged and expected to give a report of Synod business to their PCCs.

Summary

The Deanery seeks to be a supportive structure that enables parishes and individuals to flourish where they are. In our context the sharing of experience, gifts and resources is encouraged.



Revd Canon Rich Henderson
Rural Dean

01502 349143

richhenderson@btinternet.com

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

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:

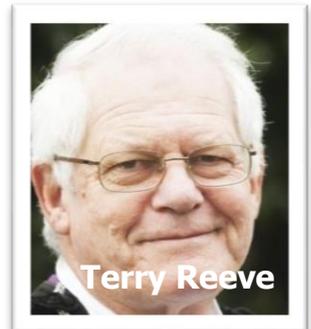
As our Growing in God vision states, we aspire to be people who know that ‘God is with us, gathering us as Christ-centred communities, calling us to make Christian disciples, sending us in loving service, empowering us by the Holy Spirit’.



Working together to make and grow disciples

The Churchwardens:

"There are six of us churchwardens overall (we are still short of one in Bungay) and we stand ready to support you in the next challenging, but exciting and potentially hugely fulfilling, chapter in the history of the benefice"
Terry Reeve, Bungay churchwarden



The Benefice Ministry Team:

All looking forward to this new initiative for spreading discipleship and outreach in the benefice.



Members of the PCCs

The Rev Rich Henderson, Rural Dean

"There is a growing openness to change, and an awareness that we must all embrace a new future together if the church is to survive, flourish and grow."

The Rev Leon Collyer, The Saints Vicar

Archdeacon Sally Gaze, leader of the Lightwave Community and the Lightwave Staff Team



The Bungay benefice lay elders, pictured above at their licensing at a service in November, 2016, by the Bishop of Dunwich, the Rt Rev Mike Harrison

We are praying for you.

Come and explore with us whether God's next step for you is to join us in this exciting journey to make and grow disciples in the countryside.