

The Bacton Benefice

Parish Profile



CHURCHES

*St Mary the Virgin Bacton, St Andrew's Cotton, St Nicholas Chapel Gipping,
St Mary's Old Newton, St Andrew's Wickham Skeith
and St George's Wyverstone*

Bacton Benefice Profile 2023

Contents:

Our Need

Our Values

Our Priorities

Our Offering

Gipping Valley Deanery

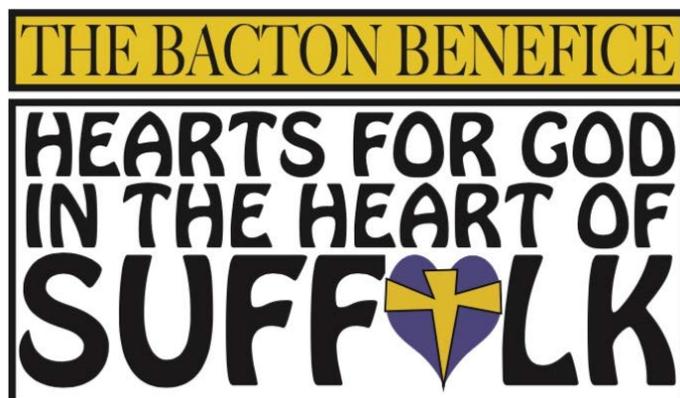
Our Benefice

Our Parishes

Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich

Appendix 1 Statistics

Appendix 2 Service Pattern



Thank you for considering to apply to become the new Priest to the Bacton Benefice.

We hope you will find the information in this document helpful and encouraging about what we have to offer in support of the new incumbent and we pray that the right candidate comes forward to work with us.

OUR NEED

We are praying for an incumbent who will share our values and inspire and engage with us. Enabling us to develop our priorities in the next stage of our Parish and Benefice life. Someone who will offer Biblical teaching and engage with the wider community across all age groups and all the parishes, responding to individual needs.

A person of faith, prayer and vision whose life and ministry are enlivened by and based on the study of scripture.

A leader who is sociable, approachable and encouraging to others, helping us to place the church at the centre of the community.

Broad church tradition, willing and able to value the diversity and range of local church traditions but able to bring fresh insights and energy to the pastoral and spiritual care of all in our parishes, seeking to build on and grow our congregations.

A priest capable of making the Gospel and Christianity relevant to people in the modern age, both in sermons and in study groups.

A good communicator and listener, with a caring disposition.

Be able to demonstrate consistent gifts of leadership, wisdom and compassion in developing and supporting the ministry team within the benefice.

OUR VALUES

For ministry and mission within the Benefice:

To model our lives as individuals and churches on the way of Jesus Christ.

To engage in worship, prayer, learning and loving service.

To participate in the life of our communities, offering widespread pastoral care.

To value and support each other in our parishes and across the Benefice and Deanery, by working collaboratively.

To build relationships characterised by Christ-like love, mutual care and respect.

To nurture the hospitality, thanksgiving, fellowship and welcome in our church communities.

To use our faith and imagination to be creative in ministry and mission.

OUR PRIORITIES For our Parishes and Benefice:

Growing in God

Follow Daily, Tread gently - to grow and sustain our faith, witness and worship whilst protecting and preserving God's creation.

Care Deeply - to respond to those in need

Grow Boldly - to continue to develop our provision for children and families, to grow in number and in love.

OUR OFFERING

The Bacton Benefice comprises a strong cohesive group of parishes each with their own distinct identity but common purpose in the heart of rural Suffolk.

Our Benefice is looking forward to welcoming and working with an inspirational incumbent committed to guiding our spiritual direction and leading our congregations in compelling worship.

We trust that by fully engaging in the social life with us in each and every community he/she will enable our participation in outreach and mission with all our population.

We offer a very attractive Rectory and Parochial Church Councils eager to work collectively to strengthen the Benefice as a whole.

We believe strong parishes make for an even stronger Benefice which enhances our ability to support each other as the need arises.

Our Ministry Team and retired clergy have continued to work energetically to maintain a wide range of services during a considerable vacancy and are a valuable resource to support the new incumbent in their vision for mission and worship in the Benefice.

With a combined active congregation of around 100 and a population of nearly 4000 growing to 5000 in the next few years, there is a significant challenge but enormous scope for growth.

PARISH SHARE

Meeting the Parish share is challenging, but the Benefice has continued to do so.

The apportionment between parishes is recommended by the Treasurers and agreed by the PCCs

THE CHURCHES

There are six churches, five of whom have patrons who are: The Martyrs' Memorial and Church of England Trust, the Lord Chancellor, Church Patronage Trust and J.C.S. Priston Esq. The sixth, St Nicholas Chapel Gipping belongs to the Trustees of Gipping Chapel.

Methodists worship locally in Old Newton and other denominations travel to services beyond the Benefice.

The Bacton Benefice has evolved over a number of years and has been working together since 2000.

THE TEAM

The Benefice Ministry Team comprises one licensed Lay Minister for children and families, five Elders and eight Church Wardens. Currently the Benefice Ministry Team meets with the Churchwardens on a regular basis to set the service programme for the churches within the Benefice. Administrative support can be made available when required.

WORSHIP

A regular pattern of worship is maintained within all the churches who come together in a Benefice Holy Communion rotating between the parishes on the fifth Sunday.

The current schedule of services is shown in Appendix 1. Special arrangements are made for the festivals and Holy days. As well as the regular worship, joint services are held from time to time with the Methodist congregation in Old Newton. Communion services are generally Common Worship. Family Services, Morning Worship and the occasional service from the Book of Common Prayer along with informal services such as Praise in the Community provide a wide variety of worship opportunities across the Benefice.

A weekly Benefice wide Pew Sheet is centrally produced and used across all parishes and includes a weekly Prayer List and details of upcoming church activities.

LOCATION

The Benefice of Bacton is located north of Stowmarket in the beautiful county of Suffolk. The county town of **Ipswich** is 16 miles to the south east and the market town of **Bury St Edmunds** is just 15 miles to the west. **Stowmarket** enjoys excellent road and rail communications with the rest of the country and is approximately 30 minutes from **Norwich** and 75 minutes from **London** by rail. The main line railway from **Norwich to London Liverpool Street** is accessible at **Stowmarket** and, on an average weekday, there are 19 trains travelling from nearby **Elmswell to Cambridge**. The journey time is 59 mins but may be longer on weekends and holidays.

There are excellent links to the rest of the country via the A14 trunk road which runs from **the Port of Felixstowe**, past **Ipswich and Stowmarket**, towards the **M11 (London/Peterborough)** and **Cambridge** and on to **Huntingdon and the North**. While **London** can also be accessed by car via the **A12 at Ipswich** or the **A14/M11**.





Gipping Valley Deanery.

The Deanery is situated in the centre of the County of Suffolk and of the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. The Deanery comprises ten benefices with forty-two individual parishes/churches.

In the Deanery there are nine stipendiary clergy posts, one House for Duty post and two self-supporting ministers. The Clergy Chapter meets monthly and is friendly and very supportive, with a wealth of experience upon which to draw. Everyone's voice is heard. There is active lay participation throughout the Deanery, with a number of Readers, Elders and other Licensed Lay Ministers, including a Licensed Evangelist.

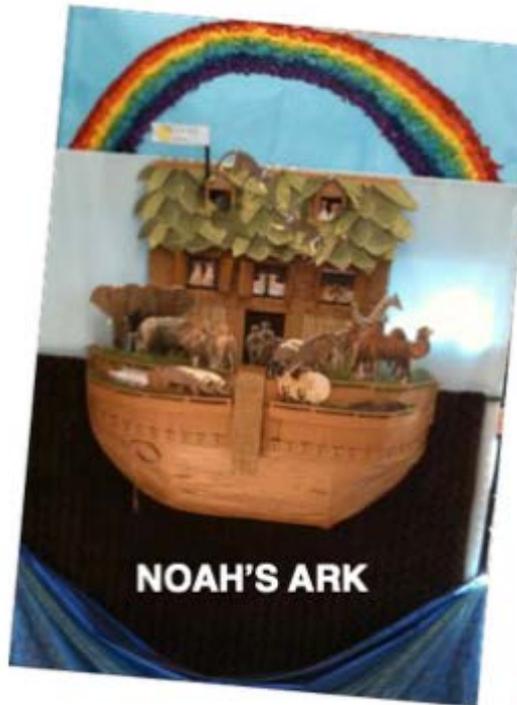


The Bacton Benefice Storytelling team.

The Bacton Benefice is lucky enough to have an active team telling Bible stories in the form of short plays (approx, 10mins.) in two local schools, the Church School at Old Newton and the Primary School in Bacton. We perform once a month in the respective churches on the same morning, one at 9.00 and one at 11.00.

The Bacton Team consists mainly of 7 people, Chris Lawson, our Lay Minister for children and families, reads the stories and the rest of us provide the action, helped along by props and costumes either made or donated over the years.

Our aim is to familiarise the children with the Bible so they can be aware of it in their daily lives.



In the past couple of years we have performed a Christmas Experience in and around two churches. The first one being 'The Star Trail' performed in Old Newton and Bacton churches, and the second one being 'The Nativity Trail' in and around Bacton Church only. For this performance children were brought from Old Newton school by coach.



Diddy Disciples - Our group has now been running for nearly 3 years. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday morning every month all year round. We received funding from the Growing in God Growth Fund. The target was to resource each session on a 2-year cycle and now this is well under way. We have children from babies to pre-school.

We have intentional Christian content, including little prayers, bible stories, songs and crafts, followed by tea, coffee and fellowship.

We have purchased books, puppets, whiteboards, nativity sets and Noah's ark and there are resources for each session.

Each set will be scripted and stored for a 2-year cycle although some of the stories are done annually.

It is a lovely, relaxed and friendly group involving mums and grandmas at the moment and some church helpers.



Parish Pantry

We have been fortunate to access food through Community Action Suffolk and have been able to collect supplies from Ipswich every couple of months although the funding for this will stop next March.

We have put food into the porch, with extra supplies kept in the church and people who have needed help have been able to collect what they want discreetly and without question. We know that people have faced challenges, and some have thanked us for the support during very difficult times.

We have just had our last delivery of non-food items.

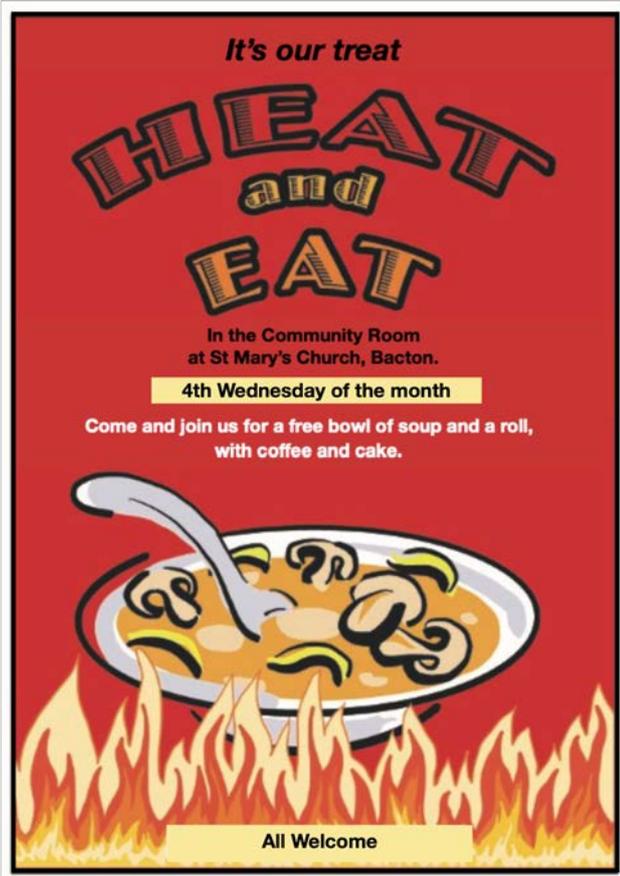
We will need to look at different ways of provision after March 2024.



Heat and Eat

Two years ago, we identified the fact that coming out of the pandemic and into a time of austerity, there were some, mainly older people who would benefit from a warm space, fellowship and some hearty food, with no charge.

Therefore, we applied for and received, some funding from our local County Councillor so that we could provide hearty soup, rolls, home made cake and a hot drink. We purchased a camping stove and crockery from the funding. We meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month between September and April in the community room at the rear of the church. The number of attendees varies but there is always a cheery atmosphere, stories to tell and great fellowship. A number of church members help with the meal and provide magazines for the visitors to take away with them.



BACTON

Church of St Mary the Virgin

Parish

St Mary's is open from 10-4 every day and floodlit from dusk to 11.00pm as a beacon in the community.

Our church tradition has been mid-church Anglicanism with the active participation of the congregation in all aspects of our worship.

Holy Communion and Family Services alternate through the month with our innovative Cafe Church on each third Sunday.

The Family@Church programme is being followed for our Family Services. Special services such as the Toy Service and Christingle result in donations to their associated charities.

The Parochial Church Council actively supports the life of the church in the village and fund raising for the parish share, maintenance and ongoing improvements.

The PCC has developed a Five Year Strategy to help drive continued development of the parish in line with the Growing in God ambitions of the Diocese.

A parish magazine is produced in Bacton for Bacton, Cotton and Wyverstone villages. Over 700 copies are produced per month and it is also an important income line to the church.

The Good Neighbours scheme supports the community providing transport to hospitals, health centres, appointments and help with occasional domestic repairs.

Strengths

The Bacton Benefice Storytelling team take their performances to Bacton Primary School and Old Newton C of E Primary School approximately once a month in term time.

The Friends of St Mary's continue to provide invaluable contributions to the upkeep of the fabric of the church having raised nearly £100,000 since their inception.

Opportunities for development

The new housing offers the prospect of new families being introduced to the church and village and we deliver a church Welcome Pack to all new residents as and when they move in.

Our Family Services are particularly accessible and are run during the vacancy by Lay minister for children and families Chris Lawson.

Bacton Stores on Shop Green houses the village Post Office. *Lamberts Garage* nearby offers fuel, repairs and recovery services. New car sales and garage services are provided by Jeffries on Broad Road alongside Bacton Bears gift and country shop.

Manor Farm Health Centre provides the full range of NHS services with dispensary on site.

The Bull Public House is a lively hub for village life.

Bacton Community Primary School (part of the John Milton Academy Trust) is adjacent to St Mary's along with the Under-Fives pre school Play Centre. The school regularly uses the church for seasonal services and exhibitions.

There are two recreational areas, one with updated play equipment and a number of football pitches at the Bacton 89 FC ground.

The population of 1200 is due to increase significantly as three major housing developments underway are adding over 400 houses to the current 500 in the village.

The Parish Council meets regularly throughout the year and has worked closely with the Parochial Church Council on successful joint ventures at Christmas, Easter and Harvest.

The Village Hall near the church hosts many of the societies and organisations central to Bacton life.

The Annual Fayre is held on the first Saturday in August.

Our Church of St Mary the Virgin

St Mary's is a Grade 1 listed building seating about 200 in comfort. Its fine double hammer-beam roof and newly restored Doom painting on the chancel arch draw many visitors.

The Community Room at the west end of the church is used by church and community groups throughout the week and for refreshments after every service. This also provides a meeting place for the Faith and Fellowship Group, 'Kettles Calling' and two W.I. groups.



The central pews are now removeable to allow greater flexibility for village events.



W.I. 'Knit and Natter'

COTTON

Church of St Andrew

Parish

Cotton is a lively rural parish and is 45 minutes from the Suffolk Coastline. There is a mixture of families, and retired people. Children in the village travel to local schools. Village life has been altered post covid era. The village has a strong community feel, supporting various activities such as, history groups, quizzes, occasional concerts, and drama performances. The Trowel & Hammer public house re-opened this year following a full re-furbishment. There is a lot of open space in and around the village where all can enjoy the countryside. We have a Community Meadow where various activities are on offer every summer. You can also picnic here and perhaps catch a glimpse of the barn owls. There is a variety of housing. At the edge of the village is a cafe and gift shop, opposite this is an outlet for a variety of retail shops.

At the back of the village hall is a recreation field with a newly constructed children's play area and football pitch used regularly by all the surrounding villages.

Church

St Andrew's is a Grade 1 listed building and has undergone much renovation and conservation work over the last 15 years due to support from external organisations and fundraising. The church is 14th Century made of flint and stone with an open bell tower containing 8 bells which are rung occasionally. It features a double hammer-beam roof, an octagonal font and carved wooden late 17th century pulpit and a medieval carved porch doorway with original stone polychrome colours still evident. The church yard and building are very well kept and are appreciated by the community. The churchyard remains open for burials and there is a well regarded cremated remains facility and memorial. The graves are well tended by families and the church yard provides a calm and reflective space to all visitors.

Strengths

We have a small, dedicated PCC whose enthusiasm ensures that the Parish Share is paid in full every year.

The PCC is always open to new ideas and loves to welcome all into St Andrew's. Five species of bat live in our church, we have held two Bat evenings over the years which have been well attended. The church hosts occasional events which help to raise vital funds and breathe life into the church.

St Andrew's is the largest capacity building in the village, suitable for a wide range of public activities, and because of a close working relationship with the Parish Council a number have taken place.

We have a regular pattern of services with extra services for special occasions such as Harvest, Remembrance, Carol service and Maundy Thursday. We have a trained Lay Elder within the village who is now training for Ordination on the Auxiliary Ordination Pathway, it is hoped she will be licensed as a Deacon in June 2024.

We are a friendly welcoming Church.



GIPPING

St Nicholas' Chapel

Gipping is part of the parish of Old Newton, with a small population housed within 26 dwellings. The residents benefit from and contribute to the local community facilities, groups, committees, and newsletter which are shared with Old Newton & Dagworth.

What Gipping lacks in size is amply compensated for by the church building, a late perpendicular structure largely faced with knapped flints. It has been described as: 'Unique', 'having the quality of a great Suffolk church in miniature', 'a shrine to the Christian faith'.



The church building and grounds are well maintained and offer a warm welcome. Coach parties visit to explore the church with its history and connections to Sir James Tyrell. It is known as a local gem and the small church is chosen as a more intimate setting for weddings.

It is recognised as a place for quiet reflection and private prayer in peaceful surroundings. Local

walkers appreciate that it is open and often visit to pop inside or to sit in the sunshine on the south facing bench outside.

St Nicholas was built as a private chapel for the Tyrrell family with a host of motifs, initials, emblems, and arms on buttresses that are embellished with flint and stone panelling. Guide books are available giving visitors an explanation of these.

It is now a separate church charity run by Trustees. The Benefice incumbent will act as Chaplain to Gipping Chapel and become one of its trustees.

The trustees are supported by a small but devoted church committee who usually organise two annual fundraising events. These are well supported and enjoyed by the wider community as valued social events.

Gipping offers a monthly afternoon service of Evening Prayer with a small faithful following. We have easy to

read booklets that support newcomers to participate in the traditional service from the Book of Common Prayer. We also enjoy a less formal service using a Family Service format at Harvest and for Baptisms.

Being nestled in the centre of farming life the church is well decorated for the Harvest Festival. We attract people from beyond the parish boundary for all services and at Christmas we use our additional seating to increase capacity for the Candlelit Carol Service.



The congregation is warmed with beams of sunlight from the large windows in the summer and the under-pew heating in the colder months. We value the opportunity to enjoy some informal time together after the service and usually extend this welcome with a drink (and biscuits!). Members of our congregation help with this and have created an over pew (removable) serving table, knitted a tea cosy, and sourced a small bin for the tea bags! Although there is no water connection, we serve hot drinks from an urn filled with bottles of water, by using china mugs that are taken home to wash up we are working towards the next level of 'Eco Church'

We look forward to welcoming our new incumbent.



OLD NEWTON

Church of St Mary

There are approximately 512 dwellings and a planned new development of 100+. We have a church primary school for 5 to 11 year olds.

There is a high level of employed residents, although most work outside the village.

We have a village store and Post Office, some light industrial units, farming businesses and a Chinese takeaway.

Community institutions include under 5s, Over 60s, Bowls Club, Football Club, Sports and Social Club, W.I., Village Hall and environmental groups.

A free community magazine is distributed monthly to every house and contains church news and a church editorial.

There is a Good Neighbour Scheme in which church members take part.

Our Church of St Mary

Located central to the eastern part of the village, built on pre-Domesday foundations, a largely medieval building in excellent condition. Peter Godden continues his work in ensuring that the church and grounds are well maintained.

We have a ring of 5 bells, kept in excellent condition. A team of bell ringers ensures that the bells are rung for all main services and we encourage learners of all ages to attend weekly teaching sessions.

Seating for approximately 250.

There is an active Friends of the Church which organises fundraising and social events during the year.

The church owns the Church Institute, a building regularly used for social events as well as church meetings. Church members are actively involved in other village organisations, including the Community Council.

Strengths

We provide a wide range of structured services each month, including a Holy Communion, all supported by a 4 part, robed choir. Cafe Church is held each month in the Church Institute.

We have coffee after every service which provides the opportunity to both reflect on the service and share fellowship. Refreshments are also provided for visitors to the church.

Our fund raising activities involve large numbers of village people, many of whom are not regular churchgoers.

We have a good relationship with the local Methodist Church which includes some shared services during the year.

We have an excellent relationship with the school, which we are keen to maintain.

In 2019 the school was assessed as 'Outstanding' in SIAMs. There is regular use by the school for visits, assemblies and services. Church members volunteer at the school and the Benefice Storytelling team present a Bible-based playlet most months in the church for the whole school.

We are represented by two Foundation Governors.

We have good opportunities for outreach through coffee mornings, lunches and a wide range of other fund raising events and we are keen to encourage and extend the involvement of village people in services and the life of our church in general.



The Knitted Bible
Come and see a beautiful collection of
Bible stories depicted in knitted figures.
St Mary's Church,
Old Newton, IP14 4PJ
Friday 1st December - Monday 4th December
between 10.00am and 4pm
Contact: libbybrooks@btinternet.com

WICKHAM SKEITH

Church of St Andrew

Parish

Wickham Skeith lies equidistant between Stowmarket & Diss, each about 9 miles away. The centre of the village is the Green & Village Hall.

The population of the village is approx. 350 including about 60 children. There are about 130 houses, mainly privately owned but also including rural housing association bungalows & houses, farms and a few second homes.

A free monthly village newsletter is delivered to each home, its content including village news, church news and service details.

There is no longer a village school, pub, shop or Post Office, but we have a well-used Village Hall.

Activities in the village include monthly meetings of a Women's Club and a Lunch Club, a Crafternoon, Bridge and History Group plus social and fund-raising events, Yoga and Pilates classes. The committees for many of these groups include church members among their numbers.

There is a Care Group which sources drivers for needs such as doctor's appointments.

Church

The church lies on the eastern edge of the village, beside Wickham Hall, surrounded by fields. It is the sole place of worship, and the only Grade 1 listed building, in the village. It was built mainly in the 14th century with porches added in the 15th century. A church was noted in the Domesday survey. The interior is plain and light with a single aisle. The exterior flint walls have been repointed and the roof repaired within the past 40 years.

There is seating in the church for approx. 90 people. It has modern lighting, effective under-pew heating and a modern sound system which aids the 'hard of hearing' and also enables us to use a computer for music as we no longer have a regular organist.

A project to repair & restore the gallery, introduce running water and install an accessible toilet and a server was completed in July 2019. This resulted in some seating in the gallery and we have some chairs on loan from the village hall which are used in our open area when required.



The tower houses 6 bells, restored & rehung 20 years ago, which are rung regularly and are popular with visiting ringers.

Average attendance at services is 11, with a greater attendance at festivals. The services include a monthly informal Café Church with lay-led discussion.

Strengths

Among church members are 2 members of the Ministry team -2 Elders 1 of whom can take services throughout the benefice. We are the newest member of the benefice but have forged strong benefice links.

Some church members have signed up to the Parish Giving Scheme scheme. The parish has maintained a record of always paying our Parish Share in full. The Friends of St Andrew's raise funds for the repair & restoration of the church fabric.

Visitors comment on the warm welcome and the strong community spirit. Refreshments are served, with time for a chat, after all services.

We have a good musical tradition. The cleaning & flower rota is supported by a number of non-churchgoers.

We have achieved a Bronze Eco-church award and are working towards Silver. We have a well-maintained churchyard with a conservation area.

Opportunities for development

To encourage more children & young people to attend church on a regular basis.

To develop mission outreach, both within the parish and abroad.



WYVERSTONE

Church of St George

Wyverstone's strength is its residents. For a small village of only 142 homes, there is an incredible sense of community. We have a vibrant monthly Village Café which acts as a meeting place for most of the village (plus many others from surrounding villages); a monthly Cinema Evening and a regular, well supported Mid Suffolk Gamers Night, plus an annual Beer Festival.



With so many community activities gravitating towards the Village Hall, it does make our beautiful little Norman Church rather redundant as a Social Hub. Having seen a reduction in attendance at formal weekly services, we now only have a monthly service, our popular and relaxed 'Praise in the Community' (often led by members of the community rather than clergy), which allows for a wider exploration of God's world today.

Many of our congregation come from neighbouring villages; however, Wyverstone residents come into their own when it comes to supporting the Church as a building. We have a very active Friends group who have worked hard over the years to significantly raise funds to maintain this 14th Century flint and stone, single aisled Church, alleviating part of the fund-raising burden. Other projects included a millennium project which produced the beautiful matching hassocks; various well attended events plus biannual Jig-Saw Festivals raise thousands to be spent on the church and the monthly jig-saw meetings also help bring the community together. There is no shortage of volunteers to help with the flowers and cleaning even if people do not attend regular worship; the churchyard is always well kept and tidy, and a Building Committee ensure the Church is kept in good repair.

Our aim for the Church in Wyverstone is one of inclusion and spreading the Word, and we recognise that we are all on a journey of faith which starts with engagement. God never closes His door on anyone; hence St. George's is always open to visitors, or residents seeking sanctuary or a quiet space for contemplation or prayer.

The future: the P.C.C. is very aware of the need to make the church even more welcoming. There are plans afoot to improve the lighting, perhaps changing the seating arrangements and to create an external door on the porch. We also want to build our electoral role and need to extend our regular giving; but believe this should happen in response to the Mission we deliver to the community at large. We are looking for a priest who not only has leadership and inspirational qualities but also a sense of humour and a readiness to become involved in this vibrant village's social activities. We feel our mission is helping people living in a very busy world to understand how to connect with God in a modern context.

GROWING IN GOD





The Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich was founded in 1914 and includes the county of Suffolk, except for an area of North East Suffolk around Lowestoft, and one parish in the county of Essex. It serves about 720,000 people living in a geographical area of more than 1,400 square miles. Out of this population, over 23,000 identify themselves with the Church of England by being members of the church electoral roll. An average of over 19,000 attend church activities weekly and over 17,000 attend a service of worship every Sunday.

A wide range of communities exists in the diocese – from small rural villages to urban centres such as Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds, Stowmarket, Haverhill, Sudbury and Beccles.

The region has many sites of historic interest among which are Sutton Hoo, the Saxon village at West Stow and the ruins of the old Abbey at Bury St Edmunds – famously where, in 1214, the barons of England met and swore to force King John to accept the Charter of Liberties, later known as the Magna Carta. The whole county, together with its Heritage coastline, is also a haven of delight for lovers of natural history.

The A14 provides rapid access from Felixstowe, one of the largest container ports in Europe, across the county to the A1 and the Midlands.

There are good road and rail links to London.

OVERSIGHT and MISSION

The diocese is overseen by the Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, the Right Revd Dr Martin Seeley and supported by the Suffragan Bishop of Dunwich the Right Rev Dr Mike Harrison, and the Archdeacons of Suffolk, Sudbury and Ipswich.

The Cathedral Church of St James and St Edmund, the mother church of the diocese, has been a place of pilgrimage and tourism for centuries and remains today a focal point for the Christian faith in Suffolk. The Dean is the Very Rev Joe Hawes

The communities of the diocese are served by 443 parishes with 116 Benefices and 18 deaneries.

There are 478 church buildings of which 457 are listed. There are around 117 stipendiary clergy and

44 self-supporting ministers, some 150 Lay Licensed Ministers, including Readers and a few Licensed Lay Pastors and Local Evangelists and about 500 commissioned lay assistants (Lay Elders) in the parishes. There are 87 Church of England Controlled and Aided schools in the Diocese (42 Voluntary Controlled, 10 Voluntary Aided and 35 Academies).

The Anglican churches across the Diocese seek to develop close links with other Christian denominations and to build understanding with members of other faiths.

The Diocese also has close ties with churches across the world, most especially with the Diocese of Kagera in West Tanzania.

ADMINISTRATION

The Diocese works through the synodical structures and is served by a small team of diocesan office staff led by the Diocesan Secretary Mrs Anna Hughes and Executive Officers, most of whom are based in modern offices in the centre of Ipswich.

The Diocese has a total annual revenue budget in excess of £8 million and the Diocesan Board of Finance manages a total balance sheet of £80 million. The office staff provide administrative, financial, secretarial, property, communication and general support to clergy and parishes as well as supporting the Church of England schools across the county.

MISSION and PASTORAL POLICY

Growing in God is our Diocesan Vision for Growth

In order to have flourishing congregations making a difference, parishes and benefices will continue to concentrate on our four priorities of depth, number, influence and younger.

"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth" 1 Corinthians 3:6

Growing in Depth – responding to the call of Christ in every part of our lives

Growing in Number – drawing 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

We have highlighted four 'building blocks' which will be the tools we use to achieve our vision.

They are - Faith & Discipleship, Vocation & Ministry, Relationships & Structures and Resources and Buildings.

- **Faith & Discipleship**

- Through enhancing the quality of our worship, building up our fellowship and extending our witness, we will develop flourishing and outward-looking congregations making a difference for our communities.

- **Vocation & Ministry**

- We will build up the numbers of those in lay and ordained ministries including pioneers, evangelists and children's and youth ministries. Our training will be accessible, flexible and integrated.

It will place as much emphasis on continuing development as it does on initial training.

- **Relationships & Structures**

- We will develop partnerships and networks for mutual learning and support and sharing good practice; working with ecumenical partners, schools and people of good will.

We will align all our structures to serve the flourishing of our congregations.

- **Resources & Buildings**

- We will manage our resources and buildings as gifts for mission.
- We will develop resources and operations to support congregations for growth. We will be innovative and work together to identify the best use of our buildings for mission.

- **Vocation & Ministry**

- We will build up the numbers of those in lay and ordained ministries including pioneers, evangelists and children's and youth ministries. Our training will be accessible, flexible and integrated.

It will place as much emphasis on continuing development as it does on initial training.

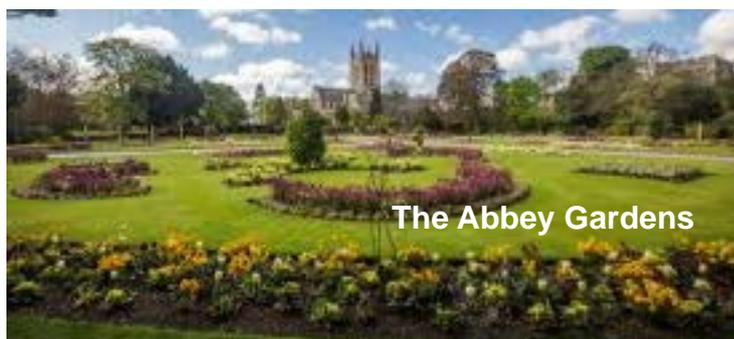
- **Relationships & Structures**

- We will develop partnerships and networks for mutual learning and support and sharing good practice; working with ecumenical partners, schools and people of good will.

We will align all our structures to serve the flourishing of our congregations.

- **Resources & Buildings**

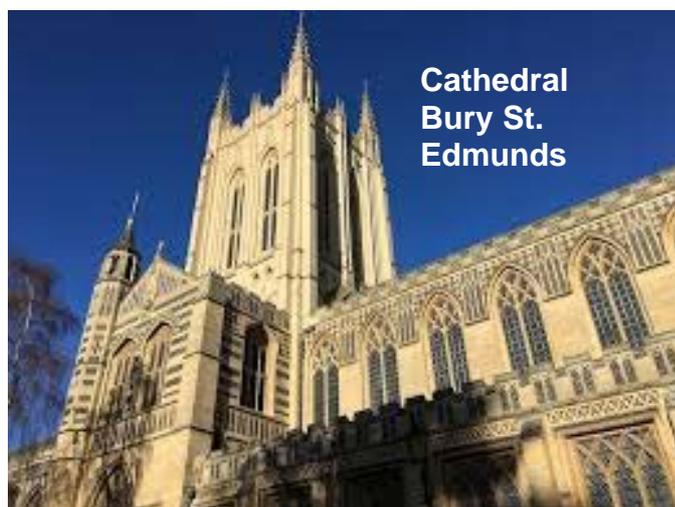
- We will manage our resources and buildings as gifts for mission.
- We will develop resources and operations to support congregations for growth. We will be innovative and work together to identify the best use of our buildings for mission.



The Abbey Gardens



The Theatre Royal



Cathedral
Bury St.
Edmunds



APPENDICES - Appendix 1 - Statistics

Usual Sunday 2022	Bacton	Cotton	Gipping	Old Newton	Wickham Skeith	Wyverstone
Adults	27	12	14	16	11	16
Children	3	1		2	0	

Electoral Roll 2022	Bacton	Cotton	Gipping	Old Newton	Wickham Skeith	Wyverstone
	38	15	7	40	32	29

Attendances 2022	Bacton	Cotton	Gipping	Old Newton	Wickham Skeith	Wyverstone
Easter	92	31	0	70	19	21
Advent	111	25	0	178	47	54
Christmas	247	22	74	218	24	25
School/ Civic	93	0	0	90	0	

Worshipping Community 2022	Bacton	Cotton	Gipping	Old Newton	Wickham Skeith	Wyverstone
0 - 17	11	1	0	2	0	1
18 - 69	8	3		14	3	9
70 +	28	9		10	9	4
Total	47		14	26		14

Occasional Offices 2022	Bacton	Cotton	Gipping	Old Newton	Wickham Skeith	Wyverstone
Baptisms		1	0	2	0	
Weddings	2	0	1	2	1	
Funerals		4	0	5	1	

Fresh Expressions 2022	Bacton	Cotton	Gipping	Old Newton	Wickham Skeith	Wyverstone
		0	0	Cafe Church	Cafe Church	

Appendix 2 Service pattern

1st Sunday	9.30	Bacton	Family Service
	9.30	Wickham Skeith	HC
	11.00	Old Newton	Café Church
	11.00	Cotton	HC
	3pm	Gipping	BCP EP
	6.30	Wyverstone	Praise in the Community
2nd Sunday	9.30	Bacton	HC
	9.30	Wickham Skeith	Café Church
	11.00	Old Newton	HC
3rd Sunday	10.00	Bacton	Café Church
	9.30	Wickham Skeith	HC
	11.00	Old Newton	Family Service
	11.00	Cotton	HC
4th Sunday	9.30	Bacton	HC AA
	9.30	Wickham Skeith	Morning Prayer
	11.00	Old Newton	HC
5th Sundays and Benefice Services	10.00 Rotate	Bacton Wickham Skeith Old Newton Gipping Wyverstone	

Appendix 3 The Rectory

The Rectory is located on Church Road Bacton, just a short walk across Tailors Green from St Mary's Church. It has recently been redecorated and comprises three reception rooms, four bedrooms, kitchen, utility room, a bathroom and downstairs toilet. There is a good sized parking area with single garage housing the church ride on mower available to the incumbent to maintain the lawns surrounding the house.





Churches in the Bacton Benefice
St. Mary's Bacton, St Andrew's Cotton,
St. Nicholas' Gipping, St Mary's Old Newton,
St Andrew's Wickham Skeith,
St George's Wyverstone.