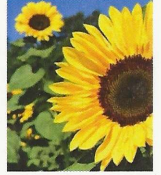
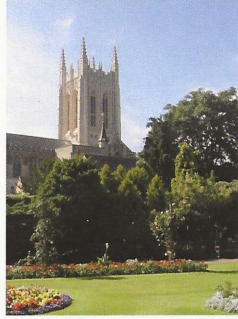


TOGETHER WE ARE



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
SUFFOLK

Parish share guide



Growing in God

OUR THANK YOU

Since arriving in Suffolk late last year, I have been deeply grateful for the warmth and kindness shown to me and my family.

Your welcome has been generous, kind, open-hearted and full of encouragement, and it has been a joy to begin meeting so many of you, and discovering all that makes our great county special.

As I embark upon my service here in Suffolk, I look forward to building on this welcome, strengthening our ties across the county, and supporting our Church to be the light of Jesus Christ in every community.

Over these first few months in the Diocese, I have been greatly heartened by the depth of generosity I see in our churches and our communities, and I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support, particularly for the extraordinary commitment you continue to show through Parish Share.

Your generosity sustains ministry in every part of Suffolk — in our rural villages, our towns, and our growing communities.

I am especially mindful of those parishes who give sacrificially and faithfully year after year, often in challenging circumstances. Please know how much this contribution means, and how greatly it is valued.

But, of course, I recognise that generosity takes many forms. It is to be found in the countless hours offered by volunteers, in the dedication of churchwardens and treasurers, in the pastoral care quietly given, in support for families, in youth work, and in the steady rhythm of prayer that upholds our common life.



Every one of these gifts strengthens the mission we share, and is to be valued as greatly as the financial contributions which we rely upon.

As I settle into this role, I am looking forward to working with you as we continue to grow the Church in Suffolk. My particular priorities — supporting and expanding rural ministry, championing young people and ensuring their voices are heard, and maintaining our commitment to the highest standards of safeguarding — are all grounded in a desire to see our communities flourish and our churches become places of hope for all.

Thank you for the generosity you show so readily, and for the faithfulness with which you serve your communities.

+ Joanne

Bishop Joanne



Our vision is to be Growing in God with *Flourishing Congregations – Making a Difference*. To achieve this growth, of course we have to be financially sustainable.

The Diocesan Board of Finance is the charity and administrative hub for the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, we work hard to be financially sustainable, and our expenditure is carefully monitored to ensure our income is used as effectively as possible.

The annual budget for the Diocese is just under £12m in 2025 and in general our finances are stable while they continue to be a challenge.

In 2024 and once again in 2025, we asked people and parishes to give generously and sacrificially, making every effort to support us through Parish Share. It is your generous donation that enables us to collectively make a difference in our communities.

With rising costs and our commitment to retaining clergy and lay minister numbers, we continue to recognise that our financial conditions remain challenging.

Over 80.8% of our Diocesan income goes directly back to our parishes providing ordained ministers and lay ministers alongside essential practice services and resources.

Lord Jesus,

You have shown us how to live and love generously, giving up everything – even your life – for us.

It is your loving generosity that has given us life.

We pray that you may continue to give us this gift of generosity and grow it within us.

So that your church may radiate your generous love and care for all.

Please help us to inspire and encourage each other to live the generous life you have called us to.

Amen

To find out more about our opportunities and challenges go to:

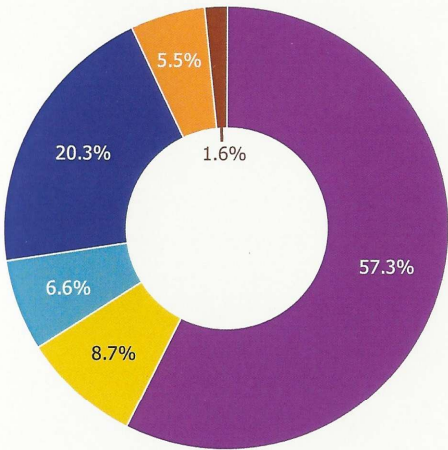


[cofesuffolk.org/
for-parishes/
parish-share/](https://cofesuffolk.org/for-parishes/parish-share/)

OUR FINANCES AND RESOURCES

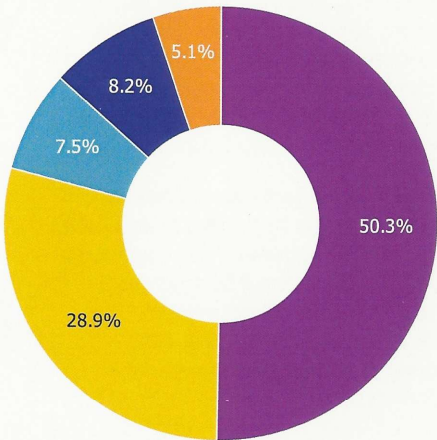
In 2025, the total Diocesan income, including project income, was £11,117,000. Our total expenditure was £11,914,000.

Income
£11,117,000



- Parish Share - £6,375,000
- Fees from life events and income from schools - £962,000
- Investment income - £741,000
- National Church funding - £2,251,000
- Rental income - £607,000
- Other income - £181,000

Expenditure
£11,914,000



- Clergy costs and housing - £5,991,000
- Support for parishes, churches, schools and current and future ministers - £3,440,000
- Contribution to the National Church - £896,000
- Governance, office and IT - £976,000
- Raising funds - £611,000

Generosity is at the heart of the diocese, reflecting our response to all that God has given us. Contributions to Parish Share from our churches help provide more funding for mission and ministry across the entire Diocese, benefiting everyone.



Together we are The Church of England in Suffolk and, as Christians, we meet the need in our county by joining forces to improving the lives of everyone.

We are thankful for giving in all its forms as it is fundamental to strengthening the quality of our mission, worship and the practical support we can offer to those around us.

Underpinning everything, with the generous support of Parish Share, is our central commitment to maintaining our clergy numbers and continuing to develop their skills to fully provide them with support.

Our clergy, alongside lay ministers (see Our Diocese in numbers) and with the support of voluntary churchwardens, treasurers and other PCC members, are united in a common vision: Growing in God - with flourishing congregations who make a positive difference to local lives.

We are most grateful for the financial gifts you have given to your church which in turn supports the Diocese. Parish Share is a key element in ensuring that all parishes throughout Suffolk have access to the resources they need, and it is your financial contribution that enables us to support a sustainable future for your local mission and ministry.

To find out more about Parish Share go to:



[cofesuffolk.org/
for-parishes/
parish-share/](https://cofesuffolk.org/for-parishes/parish-share/)

Our Diocese in numbers 2025

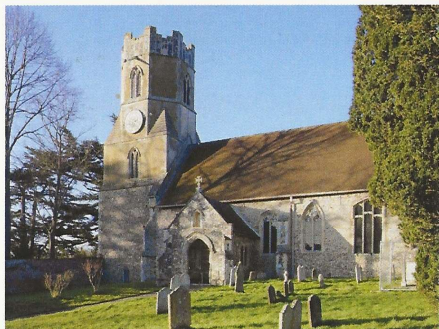
481	Church Buildings
443	Parishes <i>(excludes BMO & Cathedral)</i>
111	Benefices <i>(excludes BMO & Cathedral)</i>
16	Deaneries <i>(excludes BMO & Cathedral)</i>
	
87	Church Schools and Academies <i>(85 Primary schools and 2 High Schools)</i>
21	Schools in our Diocesan Multi Academy Trust
	
2	Bishop's Mission Orders
126	Stipendiary Clergy
	
74	Self-Supporting Ministers
142	Licensed Lay Ministers and others in a variety of lay licenced and commissioned ministries
	
315	Lay Elders
175	Clergy with Permission to Officiate
	
651	Baptisms and Thanksgivings
319	Marriages and Marriage Blessings
1,107	Funerals <i>(in Church only)</i>
	
684,000	Population in the Diocese
1,430	Diocese area (square miles)

TOGETHER WE ARE

ONE OF THE LARGEST CHARITIES IN
SUFFOLK WITH OVER 3,000 VOLUNTEERS



GIVING TOGETHER



Grow with us



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Insight here:



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Make your donation today

You can donate directly to support the work in Suffolk via this link:

givealittle.co/c/6M4hDIEJtrRO0zkaP2MOdH

Making a gift in your will

Legacy giving is a statement of values and a celebration of life. Remembering your church in your will is a lasting gift.



insight.cofesuffolk.org/?s=wills



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
**Diocese of St Edmundsbury
and Ipswich**

4 Cutler Street, Ipswich IP1 1UQ
Charity number 248919



To find your local
church visit:

www.achurchnearyou.com