



Profile Headlines

In 'business' terms the Church of England in Suffolk:

- is the county's largest charity and one of the 10 largest businesses
- manages an annual budget in excess of £7.5m
- 'employs' approximately 200 people of which some 160 are priests, and maintains around 450 'branch offices' (parishes)
- has recently launched Suffolk's newest mid-sized conference, training and entertainment venue – the St Nicholas Centre (www.stnicholasipswich.com)

Overview

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 for one parish in the county of Essex. It serves over 585,000 people living in a geographical area of over 1,400 square miles. Out of this population over 25,000 claim allegiance to the Church of England by being members of the church electoral roll and over 19,000 attend church services every Sunday.

The Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, the Right Reverend Nigel Stock, leads a large team of people spreading the gospel of Christ throughout the diocese. He is assisted by the Suffragan Bishop of Dunwich, two Archdeacons and the Dean of St Edmundsbury Cathedral.

The diocese is split into geographical areas known as archdeaconries. Each is subdivided into local areas known as deaneries. Within these 19 deaneries are a total of 182 benefices, 443 parishes and 479 church buildings of which 453 are of listed status. Within the parishes there are around 150 stipendiary (paid) clergy, together with over 460 other people working for the mission of the church either as ordained priests or licensed readers.

The diocesan Cathedral Church of St James is in Bury St Edmunds on the old Abbey site famous for being the place in 1214 where the barons of England met and swore to force King John to accept the Charter of Liberties, later known as the Magna Carta.

A small team of diocesan staff, based primarily in modern offices in the centre of Ipswich, manage an annual budget in excess of £7.5m. The team provides administrative, financial, secretarial, property, communication and general support to the parishes. Support is also provided to 97 Church of England schools across the county. Led by a Chief Executive Officer, the diocesan office team receives its business direction from the Church's 'parliament' in Suffolk, the Diocesan Synod.

Although one of the youngest dioceses in the country, St Edmundsbury and Ipswich is at the forefront of setting standards of good practice, sound financial management and providing a missionary platform for increasing the gospel.