

Our regular round up of news and forthcoming events from our diocese

[View this email in your browser](#)**Thursday 30 March 2023****Pushchair Pitstop at St Edmund's Church, Felixstowe**

Featured on BBC News online, you may have heard about the bring and share scheme and how it has given away almost £750,000 in baby and children's clothes and equipment since it was launched just three years ago.

The Revd Andrew Dotchin and his army of volunteers set up the Pushchair Pitstop at St Edmund's Church in Felixstowe just before lockdown in 2020 to help families through difficult times. Families are invited to donate unwanted baby and children's clothing when they attend - as well as items such as buggies, highchairs, bottles, toys and bikes - and to take any items they need themselves.

Andrew said: *"We started the Pushchair Pitstop just before lockdown once a month so parents can swap and share their children's clothing... our vision was to create our own church giveaway shop and since lockdown ended the pitstop has just got busier and busier. I think we have given away almost £750,000 of kit over the last three years."*

To read more on this story, please visit our website [here](#).

Celebrating the Coronation weekend**6 - 8 May 2023**

This is an historic moment in the life of our nation and an opportunity to bring communities together. Building on common themes of community, faith and service, it will be a celebratory moment, and a chance to share an invitational message about the Christian faith and show the church as a dynamic Christian presence at the heart of community life in 21st Century Britain. To access the resources please visit the website [here](#). This page, along with our own Coronation website page with local details available [here](#), will be updated regularly.

Church of England recorded webinar 'Celebrating the Coronation Weekend at your church': to find out how your church can get involved, click [here](#).

Coronation Bunting for St Nicholas Hospice: St Nicholas Hospice Care is asking crafters to knit or crochet bunting which will be used to decorate their stores in Haverhill and St John's Street in Bury St Edmunds, as well as the Hospice building in Hardwick Lane, Bury St Edmunds. This is being done in celebration of the upcoming coronation. Bunting can be of any size and colour, and we encourage people to be as creative as they can. Bunting can be dropped off at any of their shops and at the Hospice building in Hardwick Lane. Bunting can also be posted to: The Spiritual Care and Chaplaincy Team, St Nicholas Hospice Care, Hardwick Lane, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2QY. To ensure the displays can be up in plenty of time before the coronation, they need bunting to be with them before Friday 21 April.

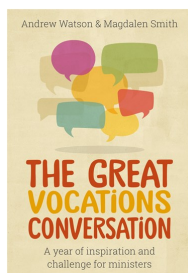
Thank you from Mothers' Union

A big thank you to everyone who supported the Mothers' Union *Make a Mother's Day* by purchasing a virtual gift. Over £70,000 has been raised through the 2023 Mothering Sunday virtual gifts. The theme for these gifts this year was gifts of perseverance, which aims to empower women around the world through a range of projects and outreach programmes which transform their lives.

Vocations Sunday

We believe all are called to serve God according to their given gifts, talents and context. Every Christian has a vocation, and it is the task of all those serving in ministry to help identify and nurture the gifts and callings of every member of the Church. The next Vocations Sunday is on **Sunday 30 April 2023**. It is a wonderful time to encourage individuals to consider what God might be calling them to. Please find a few resources and events to help you:

Firstly, our very own **Vocations Padlet** available on our website [here](#).



The Great Vocations Conversation seeks to encourage vocations across the whole of the Church of England. This guide offers 12 monthly encouragements to anyone who wants to take the challenge, covering topics such as seeing as God sees, passing on the baton, taking risks, and getting it wrong.

Vocations Fair 2023

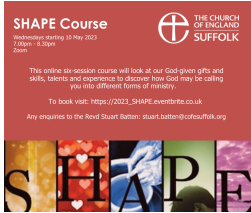
Saturday 29 April, 10.00am - 1.00pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Come and visit the many stalls representing our ministries for an informal chat to find the right ministry for you: Chaplaincy, Children's and Families, Church Army, Elders, Pioneers, Evangelists, Lightwave Leaders, Mothers' Union, Ordained ministers, PCC Officers, Readers, Recognised Local Leaders, School Foundation Governors, Spiritual Directors and Youth Ministers. For more information please contact the Revd [Stuart Batten](#). [Download this poster to advertise in your church.](#)

SHAPE

Wednesdays starting 10 May 2023, 7.00pm - 8.30pm. By Zoom



This online six-session course will look at our God-given gifts and skills, talents and experience and discover how God may be calling you into different forms of ministry. Your SHAPE for God's Service aims to enable church members to understand the unique SHAPE God has made them, the gifts he has given them and how he might want to use them. Hopefully this will enable participants to live and serve with more joy, satisfaction and fruitfulness. The core topics look at your: Spiritual Gifts, Heart's Desire, Abilities, Personality and Experience. For more information and to book please visit: 2023_SHAPE.eventbrite.co.uk. [Download this poster to advertise in your church.](#)

Events

Good Friday Walk of Witness and Children's Trail

Friday 7 April, 10.00am

Holy Innocents' Church, Great Barton IP31 2QS

Join Holy Innocents' Church and Freedom Church, Great Barton for a 'Walk of Witness'. The walk will be from Holy Innocents' to Freedom Church, or you can join at any area of the walk. During the walk there will be eight Stations of the Cross, depicting Christ's journey. At each station there will be activities for children and reflections for older folk. If you would like lunch please [click here to book](#).

Suffolk Wildlife Trust - Churchyard Management

Wednesday 19 April, 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Suffolk Wildlife Trust's conservation advisers Cathy Smith and Graham Hart will reveal some of the many hidden gems you might find in churchyards and how to optimise the habitat for wildlife, whilst supporting its value for the wider community. [Sign up here](#).

Church solar panels

19 April, 4.00pm - 5.00pm [Book here](#)

20 June, 4.00pm - 5.00pm [Book here](#)

This webinar will give you an introduction to solar PV panel technology, its applications, usage and on-going benefits that accrue to system owners. This webinar is a full update of the same webinar last run two years ago. The key speaker is Guy Hewitt from Treadlighter, who has 13 years' experience of designing and installing solar PV systems across all property types, including many projects for churches and listed buildings.

Godly Play Taster Day

Thursday 20 April, 10.00am – 4.00pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP31 1LS

An introduction to Godly Play – discover how Godly Play could be used in your church and community.

Come along to this Taster Day to explore the subject of spirituality as well as stories from the Old and New Testaments and experience a full Godly Play session. Find out what resources and support are available. Book [here](#).

Her bleeding stopped...

Saturday 29 April 9.30am – 12.30pm

Salvation Army Stowmarket, Violet Hill Road, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

We invite women clergy and women LLMs to join our guest speaker, the Revd Dr Julie Gittoes who will be delivering a presentation based on her own paper entitled 'Her bleeding stopped: the embodied borderland of the menopause'. This will be followed by Q and A and discussion, plus a short presentation from a Suffolk GP again followed by Q and A. *"The focus of this short paper is to explore the embodied borderlands of the menopause, with a focus on the woman whose constant bleeding stopped. It's a borderland of life and mortality, generatively and barrenness, flows of blood and of power. So I want to talk about the M-word before focusing on one woman's story; we'll look at some commentaries - and the theological space it opens up around bodies, before ending with a coda on the ecclesial body."* To book and for more information, please visit Eventbrite [here](#).

Exploring the Old Testament

Seven Wednesdays starting from 3 May, 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Earl Stonham Village Hall, Forward Green IP14 5HJ

In this short course, Hugh Williamson will try to open our eyes and engage with all the different types of material in the Old Testament, very much with an eye on how we can apply it in our own times in both church and society. Open to all, free of charge, it is commended to those who are seeking Permission to Preach, Lay Elders and LLMs, and anyone else who wants a fresh perspective on the Old Testament. This module is required for those on the Auxiliary Ordination Pathway, unless exempted through prior learning. To sign up, please [click here](#).

Suffolk Saints Pilgrimages

8-10 May 2023, 3-7 July 2023

Two Suffolk Saints Pilgrimage opportunities are planned for this summer! The team at the Cathedral have been working on two routes across our beautiful county to link three of 'our' saints: Felix, Botolph and Edmund. A three-day pilgrimage from 8-10 May, and a five-day pilgrimage from 3-7 July, both ending at the Cathedral and the site of

the former Abbey of St Edmund, building on the 1000th anniversary celebrations last year. For more details, please contact Canon Philip Banks on philip.banks@cofesuffolk.org.

Save the Dates:

Farewell and Thanksgiving Service: For Archdeacon Jeanette as she retires from the Archdeaconry of Suffolk. Sunday 23 April at Framlingham Parish Church, Church Street, Framlingham IP13 9BH. Starting at 3.00pm. Everyone is welcome.

The Big Suffolk Prayer Walk 2023

19-21 May All are welcome and we'll be sharing more information about ways you can get

involved very soon.

Improving your Parish Finances conference - building a generous church

10 June. Please [download this poster here](#) to share in your parish.

Notices

Friday 31 March - deadline for Statistics for Mission: Thank you to those that have completed their Statistics for Mission. Tomorrow is the last day for submissions, so if you haven't done so yet, please do complete your Statistics for Mission now! Returns are submitted on the [Online Parish Returns System](#), if you require login details or any other assistance regarding the online portal, please contact Alison Barker by [email](#). Further information is available on our website [here](#).

Parish Buying have asked us to encourage parishes who are in the Energy Basket to return their Letters of Authority by the 30 April 2023 deadline. For more information please click [here](#) (including live chat) or contact Energy enquiries by emailing energy@parishbuying.org.uk or telephoning: 0800 368 0887.

HMRC online Gift Aid Portal: HMRC is aware that some charities are having difficulty accessing their online portal for submitting Gift Aid claims. If your charity is in this position and the time limit for making your claim is 31 March, HMRC has asked you to get in touch, using the link below, to explain that there is a claim that you are unable to submit before it falls out of time. Your position will then be protected by a note of intention to file being placed on your charity's record. <https://online.hmrc.gov.uk/shortforms/form/CHYCASC>

Vacancies

[House for Duty Priest in Charge](#) | The Wrentham Benefice | Closing date: 17 April

[Vicar](#) | Kesgrave with Little Bealings and Playford | Closing date: 17 April

[Chapter Member](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral | Closing date: 18 April

[Vicar](#) | Needham Market with Badley | Closing date: 24 April

[Rector](#) | Benefice of Rattlesden, Brettenham, Hitcham and Thorpe Morieux | Closing date: 25 April

[Rector](#) | Orwell and Deben | Closing date: 25 April

[Rector](#) | Claydon and Barham, Great Blakenham and Henley | Closing date: 26 May

[Priest 0.5](#) | Exning w Landwade/Assistant Curate (in charge) of Exning St Agnes | Closing date: 5 June

[Rector](#) | Benefice of Haughley, Wetherden and Stowupland | Closing date: 13 June

[Cook/Chef](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral

Perspectives Ipswich's Centre Co-ordinator | for further information please

email perspectivesipswich.plss@gmail.com or call 07443 537541.

[Diocesan Treasurer](#) | Mother's Union

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