



Wednesday 21 September 2022

Growing in God

As a diocese we want to be Growing in God: in depth, influence, number and younger. We want to see **"flourishing congregations making a difference"** across Suffolk in all aspects of our county's life and among the people who live here.

As Bishop Martin says: *"We believe as Christians we are called to ministries of transformation for individuals, community and wider society, and so we seek to be flourishing congregations making a difference. We want to grow in whatever ways we can, to serve God in the communities where we are placed."*

This eNews eXtra is to highlight some of the resources and key activities happening this autumn to help you as you press on with this vision.



Growing in God Prayer

Plans for Growth with the Revd Phil Dykes



It was really good to meet so many of our churchwardens, incumbents and other clergy at the visitations in June. I was grateful to be able to speak about Growing in God and the new Plan for Growth materials which focus on 'Listen, Choose and Plan'. These three simple steps will help you create a Plan for Growth to focus your attention in the next three to five years.

All the Plan for Growth materials are now available digitally and can be easily found here:

[Growing in God](#)

[Plan for Growth - Incumbent and PCC resources](#)

[Growing in God - Parish resources](#)

We also have more printed copies available. Email [Helen Prior-Townsend](mailto:Helen.Prior-Townsend) if you would like some.

Each benefice is different and faces different challenges and opportunities. I am already working with a number of benefices to help them create their Plan for Growth. If you would like help, please invite me to your ministry team meetings, Synod or Chapter, attend one of my check-in sessions (see below) or email me on phil.dykes@cofesuffolk.org.

Plan for Growth check-in sessions
7.00pm to 8.00pm online

To help you as you go through the development of your **Plan for Growth** we are offering a number of online check-ins in October (as below) and November (dates to be released shortly). Please book to come and tell us how you are getting on and what you need to help you go forward – churchwardens, clergy or whoever is best suited to represent your benefice are all very welcome. If you have a quick question, you can always email phil.dykes@cofesuffolk.org.

October check-in dates - please click to book:

Monday 10 October | [Book here](#)

Thursday 13 October | [Book here](#)

Tuesday 18 October | [Book here](#)

Wednesday 19 October | [Book here](#)

If you are new to the diocese and would like some help to complete your Plan for Growth, I would be glad to come to you at a convenient time and meet you (with your ministry team if you have one). Please contact me on 07917 385843 or email: phil.dykes@cofesuffolk.org.



Growing in God Growth Fund

This fund can provide money to help your church engage creatively in sharing faith in word and deed, and as a result grow the church in number and younger. In 2022 this fund has increased to £35,000 and you can apply now!

The exciting thing is you can apply for up to £1,500 to support an outward-facing initiative to develop your church's mission to the wider community. This could be in relation to your Plan for Growth or perhaps a project you are planning for Christmas or linked in with outreach through a school, the environment or more.

Applying is easy and the application form can be completed in moments. If your request for funds is up to £250 you could receive your funds in a couple of weeks. All the information, eligibility and the application form are on our website [here](#).

To give you some ideas and find out how the fund has helped others please have a look the case studies at the bottom of the web page [here](#).

Vocations

Since the Vocations Conference in April earlier this year, the Revd Stuart Batten, Diocesan Director of Ordinands, has been visiting deaneries offering personalised presentations on vocations. To find information about exploring your vocation, please visit our website section [here](#).

Called Together - a celebration of Licensed Lay Ministry

Sunday 25 September 3.30pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

We encourage you all to join us at the Cathedral for our annual Lay Ministry Celebration service, to support ten new lay ministers as they are licensed and to welcome those moving to the diocese and taking up their ministry here. We will also be celebrating some significant licensing anniversaries.

There will be refreshments following the service. Please register your attendance [here](#). You can watch the service live on St Edmundsbury Cathedral's Facebook page [here](#).

Celebration of Lay Elder Ministry

Sunday 9 October

Refreshments from 2.30pm, service at 4.00pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

We are delighted to be able to invite all commissioned Elders and their family and friends to a Celebration of Elder Ministry. You are warmly invited to join us for refreshments from 2.30pm in the Edmund Room before we gather for Choral Evensong. This promises to be a beautiful service with a variety of choral and instrumental worship. Bishop Mike will be there to welcome you and will be preaching.

Please register here: [Celebration-of-Elder-ministry.eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk) by 30 September. If you know anyone who would like to explore the possibility of Elder ministry, why not invite them to come along too. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

This service will be live streamed from the Cathedral Facebook page [here](#).

PCC Workshops

The diocesan team are offering a series of workshops to help PCCs as part of supporting parishes as they focus on Growing in God.

Stewardship:

Tuesday 27 September, 11.00am Book here	Julie Podd (Parish Resources Manager), Grant Forrest and Catia Oldrey from the Parish Giving Scheme.	Parish Giving Scheme: Who, What, Why?
Tuesday 27 September, 2.00pm Book here	Julie Podd (Parish Resources Manager), Grant Forrest and Catia Oldrey from the Parish Giving Scheme.	Using the Parish Giving Scheme as a catalyst for generosity
Tuesday 11 October, 12.00pm Book here	Beccy Hills (Parish Funding & Grants Advisor) with John Bailey.	Learn more about how to get started with grants and funding

Caring for Church Buildings:

Wednesday 2 November, 7.30pm Book here	Catherine Ross, Open & Sustainable Churches Officer at the Church of England.	Focusing on environmental sustainability
Wednesday 16 November, 7.30pm Book here	Diana Spencer, Eastern Region Engagement Officer, Church of England's Bats in Churches team.	Offering advice on bats in churches.

Wednesday 23 November, 7.30pm Book here	The Venerable Dr David Jenkins.	Focusing on alternative uses for churches in addition to regular worship.
Wednesday 30 November, 7.30pm Book here	Edmund Harris, DAC Secretary.	Presentation on faculties, the DAC and church buildings in general.

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