



Thursday 10 March 2022

Crisis in Ukraine

The crisis in Ukraine is creating a humanitarian catastrophe, as all of us can see from the daily news reports. Bishop Mike and I are calling on all the parishes and congregations of the Diocese this Lent to raise funds through collections, individual gifts, events and activities, to respond to the terrible situation the people of Ukraine are facing - both in the country and as refugees.

We are very grateful to be in partnership with World Vision who will receive our donations and handle the gift aid. A dedicated webpage has been set up to receive donations to this Lent Appeal. Please make donations as you receive them so that they reach the people in desperate need as soon as possible. Be assured that every pound goes directly to those in need. World Vision is also part of the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), whose appeal is supported by the UK Government.

Please click [HERE](#) to make your donation.

We also have a new page on our website [here](#) for further information and prayers, this page will be updated regularly.

We ask you to be as generous as possible, and to continue to pray fervently for the end of the military operation and for peace. With prayers for you, and for the children and families affected by the conflict in Ukraine.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Mike' with a small cross symbol above the first letter.

Growing in God

On Sunday 6 March the first Recognised Local Leaders the Revd Diane Ekins-Powell and the Revd Peter Schwier, were commissioned at Fressingfield Church at a joyful service that



also celebrated the ministry of Lay Elders.

Recognised Local Leader (RLL) is a new role offered to those called to use their skills as the first point of contact for both the local community and their church family. They focus on gathering people together to grow mission and ministry enabling the local church to flourish. They work alongside the incumbent, ministry team and PCC to ensure an active, long-term

sustainable church presence in every community. The Revd Phil Dykes, Diocesan Mission Enabler, says *"We aim to develop a network of Recognised Local Leaders. By being formally recognised they are both accountable and supported in their role to serve the local church"*.

The Revd Diane Ekins-Powell says *"The response from the community has been encouraging. I visited every house in the parish, to introduce myself and then again with a gift of a candle at Candlemas. Even people who do not want to come to church or do not profess a faith, are pleased to see me and delighted with the gifts."*

The Revd Peter Schwier says, *"I am very excited about this ministry and believe it will grow our churches and increase our community engagement."*

Do you have leaders in your church or congregation ready to be recognised? Would they benefit from being formally acknowledged by the PCC and Incumbent, and given the support they need to develop that role? If you would like to know more, please email the Revd [Phil Dykes](#) who will be glad to talk to you about it further.

To read more relating to this article please visit our website [here](#).

Photograph credit: Peter Christian. Caption: Peter Schwier, Phil Dykes and Diane Ekins-Powell.

Celebrating the Queen's Jubilee



Bishop Martin invites everyone in our parishes to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee together and to bless those around us, whether as part of services of thanks for those who have supported our communities, sharing the Suffolk Jubilee prayer at services, during school assemblies or whilst joining in community Jubilee celebrations. We recommend finding out what is going on in your local community – probably street parties, exhibitions and beacon lighting to name a few favourites. Please visit website [here](#) and download our Jubilee booklet available [here](#). We

would also love it if you shared your plans with us and followed us on our new Facebook group [#suffolkblessing](#) available [here](#).

The ties that bind

Saturday 19 March 9.30am to 1.00pm

St Mary le Tower, Ipswich

St Mary le Tower will be holding a retreat morning, with addresses by the Revd Canon Dr John Parr. The morning will use the Passion narratives in St John's Gospel as a focus for reflecting on our own world, and will be framed by prayer, music and time for silence. Addresses will be given in the church, with Church House available for use in breaks. Walks in Christchurch Park and use of local coffee shops will also be encouraged. A suggested donation for this morning is £5. Click [here](#) for further information.

Taizé

Sunday 20 March 6.00pm

All Saints' Church, Gazeley, CB8 8RB - 5 minutes from A14 junction 40.

Taizé is a quiet and reflective service inspired by the worship of the Taizé community in France – an international, ecumenical Christian community with its own distinctive style of worship. Come along and join this special moving and reflective type of worship.

National 12 Bell Striking Contest

Saturday 26 March 2022, starting 11.00am

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

The National 12 Bell Striking Competition is an annual event which has been running since 1975. This year, St Edmundsbury Cathedral and the Suffolk Guild of Ringers will host one of three eliminator rounds at the Norman Tower in which teams will compete for the Taylor Trophy.

Seven teams of 12 ringers from across the country, from Bury St Edmunds, Leeds, Sheffield, Towcester, Ipswich, Birmingham, and The Society of Royal Cumberland Youths, will be competing to win a place in the final to be held at Guildford Cathedral in June, by impressing two judges, plus an electronic judge known as 'Hawk-Ear'. Hawk-Ear (much like Hawk-Eye in other sports) helps measure the accuracy of the ringing. Teams are judged on the timing between each bell striking, with the aim being to have consistent and equal spacing throughout the test piece while adhering to the ever-changing order in which the bells should strike. The test piece for the contest is a method known as Stedman Cinques, with each ringer required to accurately strike their bell in the right place 252 times.

Faith in Older People and Anna Chaplaincy

Wednesday 6 April from 4.30–6.00pm

Free online seminar

Anna Chaplaincy has seen a rise in the number of people wanting to help those in the older age category. Anna Chaplains – named after the faithful widow 'Anna' who appears in Luke's gospel – are community-based. The Anna Chaplaincy network is now more than 200-strong. Anna Chaplains pursue a vocation to work in their own communities on reaching retirement-age themselves, finding renewed meaning and purpose in local

ministry. If you'd like to find out more, then we invite you to a joint webinar with Faith in Older People and the Anna Chaplaincy team, led by pioneer of the movement and former broadcaster, Debbie Thrower. To book and find out more please click [here](#).

Abiding Wisdom

Saturday 14 May 2.00pm – 9.30pm

Sunday 15 May 10.00am – 5.00pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Ecumenical Benedictine Celebration hosted by Bishop Martin Seeley (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich) and Bishop Alan Hopes (East Anglia). Monastics, lay Benedictines and others will explore the wisdom of Benedict for 21st century life, including how we should live now following the pandemic. Further information is [here](#), book your ticket here <https://abiding-wisdom-2022.eventbrite.co.uk>

The Faraday Institute

'The Robot Will See You Now'

Thursday 31 March, 1.00pm, online and in person in Cambridge - a discussion of the intersection of Artificial Intelligence and the Christian faith between Prof John Wyatt and Mr Graham Budd. Register [here](#).

'101 Great Big Questions About God and Science' and 'God Made the Dinosaurs' book launch

Thursday 17 March, 7.00pm. Register [here](#).

Science and Faith Perspectives on the Art of Being Human: Summer Course

3-8 July both online and in Cambridge. For more details see faraday.institute/summer2022.

Their research seminar series continues and are held at 1.00pm on Tuesdays both online and in person for a full list please see faraday.institute/seminars

Notices

Covid-19: Please visit the recently updated Church of England page [here](#) and the Diocesan guidance page [here](#) for the most up to date information and guidance for churches.

APCMs & Articles of Enquiry Update: An email has been sent to all Churchwardens, PCC Secretaries, PCC Administrators and incumbents this week containing helpful guidance, further information and documents required to help parishes organise their APCMs, as well as an update on this year's Articles of Enquiry. If you have not received this email, please contact statistics@cofesuffolk.org and we send you a copy.

Vacancies

[Part-Time Verger](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral | Closing date: 15 March

[Priest in Charge](#) | Alde Sandlings (Aldeburgh) Benefice | Closing date: 16 March

[Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Officer](#) | Closing date: 28 March

[Human Resources Manager](#) | Norwich/Ipswich (hybrid working) | Closing date: 28 March

[Diocesan Secretary](#) | Closing date: 7 April

[Team Vicar](#) | Wilford Benefice | Closing date: 10 May

[Rector 0.5](#) | St Mary Stoke, Ipswich

[Children and Families' Worker](#) | Bridge Church, Ipswich

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