

**Thursday 13 April 2023****Vocation Spotlight - Sandra Creswell**

At church I have always given back, either in helping at Sunday school or by cooking breakfast for the first Sunday of the month. Nearly seven years ago, we moved to Suffolk and once here, it took me a while to find a role in our rural benefice, until I started setting up and leading Messy Church. This was a new area for the team and we learnt together adapting things as we went. I was then asked by my Vicar to attend a Connect Course. I love learning new things and although I did not really read the paperwork, I signed up for the course - it was 10 Saturdays and quite a commitment on top of my full-time job as a primary school teacher!

The Connect course was just what I needed, here were other people doing what I was doing and all of us having the same struggles! It was my oasis in the month and I really looked forward to the Saturday's. The training was great, presented in a fun way, where no question was too silly to be asked. It was not long before I realised that this was a pathway to becoming a licenced Children's and Families' Minister. (I should have read the material) but I think God knew. After a bit of battling I decided that becoming licensed could open more doors than it would close.

I am thankful that I have God given skills as a teacher which helps with leading anything. I know that children are born with a spirituality and I believe it is our job to nurture and nourish that relationship. To show children that God loves them just as they are and that they are very important now. I like to teach children different ways to pray and to enjoy the presence of God. I do not have all the answers but know that God has enabled me to use the gifts that He has given to me in this place.

To read Sandra's full story please click [here](#).

To find out more about the Connect course please click [here](#).

**Latest Vocations information:**

1. Vocation Sunday is on Sunday 30 April - it is a wonderful time to encourage individuals to consider what God might be calling them to.
2. Our Vocations Padlet is available on our website [here](#).
3. Join us at our Vocations Fair on Saturday 29 April, 10.00am - 1.00pm, at St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS
4. Have you considered joining our SHAPE course? Wednesdays starting 10 May 2023, 7.00pm - 8.30pm. By Zoom. For more information and to book please visit: [2023.SHAPE.eventbrite.co.uk](https://2023.SHAPE.eventbrite.co.uk).

## 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](#).

**NEW:** Resources have been released for schools and young people - download from the website [here](#).

### Hargrave run raises over £900 for church and community events

A cross-country race helped to raise over £900 for a village church over the weekend. A record number of 72 participants took part in the run in Hargrave, near Bury St Edmunds, on Saturday which included a 5k run and a 10k run. Justin Rabett, church warden and runner, said: *"The day went really well. We had more participants than last year and the runners said it was a lovely course"*. Read the full story [here](#).

### Focus on Parish Resources

#### Building a generous church conference

Saturday 10 June, 9.30am to 3.30pm  
St Augustine's Ipswich, IP3 8TH

We are delighted to invite Treasurers, Churchwardens, PCC members and Clergy to our first conference on how to improve your church's finances. Our 'Building a generous church' conference is led by Archdeacon Rhiannon King and the Diocesan Parish

**BUILDING A GENEROUS CHURCH**

*You're Invited!*

**IMPROVE YOUR CHURCH'S FINANCES**

**Saturday 10 June**  
**9.30am to 3.30pm**  
**@ St Augustine's Ipswich**

**Jonathan De Bernhardt-Wood**  
 National Advisor for Giving and Income Generation, Church of England

**Bridget McIntyre**  
 Social entrepreneur and former High Sheriff of Suffolk

**The Revd Al Metcalfe**  
 Vicar of St Augustine's Ipswich and Chair of Oasis Centre, Gorton

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND SUFFOLK

Organised by Inspiring Ipswich and the Diocesan Office

Inspiring Ipswich

Resources staff. You are invited to join us in Ipswich to celebrate all that our churches do and learn from our keynote speakers:

- Jonathan de Bernhardt-Wood, National Advisor for Giving and Income Generation, Church of England
- Bridget McIntyre, Social entrepreneur and former High Sheriff of Suffolk
- The Revd Al Metcalfe, Vicar of St Augustine's Ipswich and Chair of Oasis Centre, Gorton

This will be followed by nine specialist workshop options on topics including: creating a financial strategy, parish share, giving and generosity dilemmas, financial MOTs, Parish Giving Scheme, running a stewardship campaign, raising money for mission and ministry, Church grants and digital giving.

We can offer you free parking, a light lunch, exhibition stands, advice and support and a chance to connect and share your ideas with others. Registration is free and available on a first come, first served basis. Numbers are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment by visiting Eventbrite [here](#). To download the poster please click [here](#).

### **Building a generous culture**

Wednesday 12 July, 7.00pm

Bradfield St George Village Hall, Felsham Road, Bradfield St George, Bury St Edmunds, IP30 0AS.

This is another opportunity to join the Parish Resources Team to find out about building a generous culture in your parish. Julie Podd, Parish Resources Manager and Yalda Davis, Giving Advisor will talk about how you can get set up for easy giving in your parish ([QR codes, online, contactless](#) donation devices and [Parish Giving Scheme](#)). Further details will be available on reducing your church costs, access [Church Grants](#) , [Gifts in Wills](#) and starting a [Friends' Group](#). To book please email [Yalda.davis@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:Yalda.davis@cofesuffolk.org), stating your name, parish role and parish.

### **Planning a church fundraising capital appeal**

Thursday 27 April 2023, 9.30am- 11.30am - online webinar

Our churches are some of the most beautiful and architecturally magnificent buildings in our country. The cost to maintain and sustain the amazing work that happens within them is often much larger than the means of the congregation and groups that meet there. So how do you even start to plan for a major capital appeal? Join this webinar to

- gain a greater insight regarding whether your capital appeal target is feasible or not
- hear more about the different income streams available and the techniques to get money from these
- understand what people, processes and resources you need before you even start fundraising
- see examples of resources to help and execute your fundraising appeal.

This webinar costs £9.99. For more information and booking details please click [here](#).

**Off the grid?** Check if you're eligible for government energy bill support. Customers which use over 10,000 litres of kerosene (heating oil) at a specific property can apply for additional 'top up' payments ranging from £750 to £5,800. For parishes that use alternative fuels and are off the grid, but use less than 10,000 litres of kerosene, the same application form can be used to apply for a fixed payment of £150. [Find out more here](#)

**Are you in the Energy Basket?** At this time of year, members have been asked to renew their Energy Basket membership for another two years, with pricing continuing to renew annually. Letters of Authority (LOAs), were sent to account holders this month. Signing your LOA gives Parish Buying permission to secure energy on your behalf, using a powerful hedging strategy. Read more Energy Basket [FAQs here](#).

**Parish Buying EV Charging Pilot** We're inviting you to participate in a pilot scheme to have EV charging points installed in their car park or on another suitable land. If you think your church might be suitable to take part, please click [here](#) for more information and the Expression of Interest form.

**Church heating part 1: to replace or not to replace?** 2 May, 4.00pm - 5.00pm, please book [here](#).

**Church heating part 2: choosing the best heating solution for your church** 4 May, 4.00pm - 5.00pm, please book [here](#) or 27 June, 4.00pm - 5.00pm, please book [here](#).

**Church solar panels:** 19 April, 4.00pm - 5.00pm [Book here](#) or 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.

**Generous God, Generous People resources:** Do have a look at our free resources offering bible study, for individuals and groups, to help us reflect on what it means to live as generous Christians (see PDF versions [here](#)). If you would like some free booklets please email [Yalda.davis@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:Yalda.davis@cofesuffolk.org), stating which ones are required, the quantity and to arrange collection,

## Events

### Ukrainian Easter Celebration

Saturday 15 April at 5.00pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP21 1LS

You are invited to join the Ukrainian community in Suffolk for a celebration of the Ukrainian Easter Night. This will be a unique opportunity to experience the spirit of the Ukrainian Easter, Velykden. There will be an Easter candlelit celebration, a short guide to Ukraine Easter traditions, an exhibition of Ukrainian Easter crafts, our Prayer for Ukraine "God, the Great and Only". All are welcome! Ukrainians in Suffolk are invited to come in their

embroidered national shirts and with Easter baskets. For those Suffolk locals who would like to join, they are invited to celebrate, be curious and to prepare for something a bit different. The event is being organised in collaboration with Suffolk Refugee Support. All donations received during the service will be given to the charity fund *Come Back Alive*, in Ukraine.

### **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.](#)

### **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.](#)

### **Evening of Music Inspired by the Bury Psalter**

21 April at 7.00pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP31 1LS

The Bury Psalter, a beautifully illuminated book of Psalms which dates from around 1400 and which was made and used at the Abbey, will be on display at St Edmundsbury Cathedral in a partnership with Suffolk Archives. To celebrate its return to the Abbey site, an evening of music will showcase its history. For centuries, the sound of sacred songs being sung by medieval monks would have filled the atmosphere at the Abbey in Bury St Edmunds. This one-off special event is an opportunity to experience what that might have sounded like. Starting with a performance of some music from the Psalter, early music experts Hexachordia will then take the audience on a journey through music of the medieval era, played on authentic copies of instruments of the time including the harp, vielle, gittern and psaltery. Tickets are £10.00 and can be booked here:

[www.eventbrite.com/e/441540067227](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/441540067227)

The Bury Psalter will be on display to the public from Friday 21 to Sunday 23 April in the Cathedral Treasury from 10.00am to 4.00pm Friday and Saturday, and 12.00pm to 3.00pm on Sunday. Visits are free of charge.

### **Her bleeding stopped...CANCELLED**

Saturday 29 April 9.30am – 12.30pm

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

With regrets, this seminar has had to be cancelled. The Revd Ali Miller, Diocesan Advisor for Women's Ministry, will be in touch with women clergy soon.

### **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](#).

### **Elevate Worship Night**

13 May 2023 7.00pm to 10.00pm  
Church Institute, 50 London Road, Brandon IP27 0HY

Join this youth worship night including a live band, refreshments and tuck shop. This event is for 13 - 18 year olds. Facepainting by Face it and Art Space will also be available. A great night encouraging any young person to come and meet new people, praise God, create art and of course, eat good food! Tickets are £5 please email [enquiry@stpetersbrandon.co.uk](mailto:enquiry@stpetersbrandon.co.uk) Poster download [here](#).

### **Catching the fire**

Sunday 21 May, 12:00pm - 4:00pm  
White House Farm, Great Glemham, Suffolk IP17 1LS (note Sat Nav is unreliable)

Join this Lightwave community event, part of Thy Kingdom Come, (10 days of prayer starting Thursday 18 May) and the Big Suffolk Prayer Walk, (19-21 May). This year, the theme is 'Celebrating God's Spirit at Work' we are coming together to worship, eat together and prayer walk. Please bring your own picnic and invite your friends. Enjoy the grounds and art displays. You can also participate in the prayer walk facilitated by Lightwave and discover craft activities for all the family. Bishop Mike, Archdeacon Sally and many others from rural churches will lead worship for all ages. Story, song and breaking bread in a breath-taking outdoor setting.

- Enjoy tea, cake and more in the banqueting barn at 2.30pm
- Worship and celebration of mission in Suffolk at 3.00pm

Car parking is available on site. You are welcome to just turn up - but it would greatly help our planning if you would sign up for this event here-

<https://lightwave.churchsuite.com/events/j3fyomne>

### **Big Suffolk Prayer Walk**

19-21 May 2023

Hosted by Suffolk in Prayer and Ipswich in Prayer to encourage people all across our county to unite together in times of prayer. You can follow local routes and maps, or very simply pray as you do your daily walk or pop to the shops. We believe that by just praying for five minutes as you walk or cycle around your local area, it will have incredible impact. Those less mobile are encouraged to join in at home, praying over maps or photographs of

their local area. More information can be found at [www.suffolkinprayer.uk](http://www.suffolkinprayer.uk) where you can let us know what you'll be up to, or you can email [suffolkinprayer@gmail.com](mailto:suffolkinprayer@gmail.com)

### **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, ending at the Cathedral with Choral Evensong. Full programme [here](#). For more information, visit: [www.stedscathedral.org/pilgrimage](http://www.stedscathedral.org/pilgrimage).

### **The Lightwave Community CIO Thank You Gathering and AGM**

16 May from 6.30-9.00pm

Ringshall Village Hall, Stowmarket IP14 2JB

You're warmly invited to join this fantastic opportunity to hear about what has been happening in and through the Lightwave Community in the last year, to praise God and to show our gratitude all those who have been part of making it happen, especially our trustees. The meeting will also include the essential business of the Annual General Meeting for the Lightwave Community and cake! Please let us know you're coming click [here](#)

### **The Season of the Spirit**

Saturday 27 May, 9:30am - 1.00pm

Salvation Army Stowmarket Violet Hill Road Stowmarket IP14 1NE

Join Mark Oakley, Dean of St John's College, Cambridge, and Bishop Mike. Mark Oakley is Dean of St John's College, Cambridge, and a former residentiary canon of St Paul's Cathedral. He was Chair of the Civil Liberties Trust and a Director of Liberty (Liberty), and is currently Patron of Tell MAMA and an ambassador for Stop Hate UK. All ministers have a commitment to undertake ongoing study throughout their ministry, and this is an opportunity to share in worship and fellowship, to reflect on our ministries and to be inspired afresh to share collaboratively in God's mission within our communities.

Open to all in Ministry: both lay and ordained, and those in training or who are exploring a vocation to public ministry. Although this event is free, please register [here](#) so that we can make provision for refreshments.

### **John's Gospel with Prof David Ford**

Saturday 17 June, 9.30am to 12.30pm

Salvation Army Stowmarket Violet Hill Road Stowmarket IP14 1NE

Prof David Ford will lead the Bishops' Study morning looking at John's gospel. Professor Ford is Regius Professor of Divinity Emeritus in the University of Cambridge and a Fellow of Selwyn College. He has studied John's Gospel for most of his academic life and the fruits of that study are distilled in his theological commentary on John's Gospel recently published, which has been widely acclaimed and the bishops can attest is a wonderful inspiration for sermon ideas! Come along and be inspired, illuminated and enthused as Prof Ford unfolds this the most multi-layered of gospels for sermon ideas!

Click [here](#) to book (please book early to avoid disappointment!) This event is free of charge, enquiries to Lesley Steed: [lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org). The series of Bishops' teaching mornings will continue in 2023, the next provisional date is 25 November.

### **Lightwave Community weekend away**

Friday 15 September to Sunday 17 September

Vauxhall Christian Trust, CO7 6QQ

You are welcome to join the Lightwave Community for a weekend away this September, come along for the whole weekend or just for a day. You will have the opportunity to:

- Learn more about following Jesus
- Find out more about the Lightwave Community
- Hear lively and thought-provoking speakers
- Worship with others
- Just have a rest and a weekend away

All details and information about how to book can be found here

<https://lightwave.community/events>. Why not click the video link [here](#) to view our first ever Launchpad event! We had so much fun and can't wait for September!

### **Clergy retreat**

9-13 October 2023

St Andrews Abbey Zevenkerken-Brugge Belgium

Great opportunity to travel to the Belgium to spend time with the wonderful brothers St Andrews Abbey. Cost for Accommodation and Food is 185 euros. If you would like more details or to book contact Revd David H Messer-01964563987 [davidharrymesser93@gmail.com](mailto:davidharrymesser93@gmail.com)

## **Notices**

### **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

[Insight Technical Support](#) | Closing Date: Monday 24 April at 5pm

[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 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](mailto:perspectivesipswich.plss@gmail.com) or call 07443 537541.

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

[Click here to print and share with others](#)



---

*Copyright © 2023 Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, All rights reserved.*

This email is generated from the Communications Office at the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

**Our mailing address is:**

Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, 4 Cutler Street, Ipswich. Suffolk, England IP1 1UQ

[Add us to your address book](#)

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

---

---

This email was sent to [lauren.bridgewater@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:lauren.bridgewater@cofesuffolk.org)

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich · St Nicholas Centre, 4 Cutler Street · Ipswich · Suffolk, England IP1 1UQ · United Kingdom