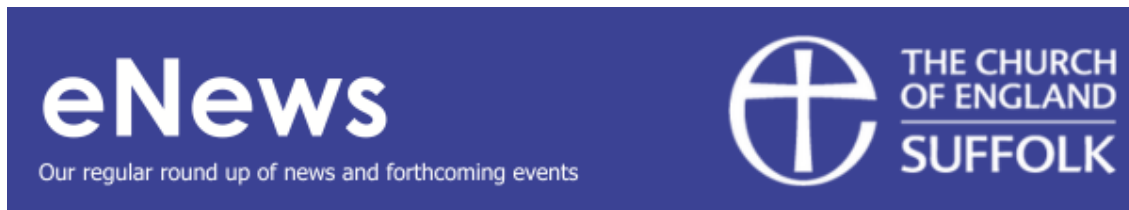


**Thursday 14 March 2024**



## **Diocesan Synod**

Bishop Martin welcomed Synod members to Stowmarket Salvation Army Hall on Saturday 9 March. The focus of Synod was Growing Younger and in his presidential address, Bishop Martin asked those present to think about their journey of faith and how early it started - during high school perhaps, primary school age or even younger. Bishop Martin also asked how many people had an important figure that helped them on their journey to faith, and spoke of the importance to Be With, Listen To, and Believe In young people. The following presentation shared statistics about how most people come to faith at a young age, and this reiterated the importance of young people being included within church environments. Synod enjoyed three inspiring presentations on Growing Younger each offering a different approach covering younger children and families, links with schools and singing as well as youth groups and the importance of 14 kg of Lego.

Over the coming days we will be adding the content from Synod onto our website. You can view the whole PowerPoint presentation, watch videos of some of the presentations, the Presidential Speech, and more. Please follow this [link](#).

## **Eco friendly Suffolk church wins gold**



All Saints' Church, Mendham, is the first within our diocese to achieve gold eco status from the A Rocha charity scheme.

The Revd Diane Ekins Powell, the local minister, said: *"Our Eco church journey began as we went into lockdown trying to meet criteria but now has become an integrated part of all we stand for and do. Our more recent actions have included equipping the church with all LED*

*bulbs, promoting plastic-free July with the local school, hosting a fayre to promote local products, including farms and developing opportunities to use the churchyard for worship, reflection and to improve people's well-being. We also e-twinning the toilet with Uganda helping a community to build their own basic toilet, access clean water and learn about hygiene."*

The church says that everyone in the congregation joined in and there was cooperation with other organisations and people in the community. Read the full story [here](#).

## **New chair for the Diocesan Environment Group**

We are delighted to announce that the Revd Alison Alder, Associate Priest in the Blyth Valley Team Benefice, has been appointed as Diocesan Environment Officer. Alison has gained experience in the environment working as the Eco Champion for the Waveney and Blyth Deanery. She has been a key facilitator for the deanery, sharing ideas, disseminating good news and signposting to resources to help all the churches focus on the environment. As part of this work, she has prepared a Deanery Plan for the Environment, launched a campaign called 'See it, Say it and Love it', and helped organise a Climate Action Conference in Halesworth, in partnership with the local town council.

*Alison says; "I really believe that the environment should be at the heart of our existing mission and ministry. I have learned that sometimes 'dealing' with environment issues can feel overwhelming. However, by making small adaptations to what we are already doing, I have been able to work with churches to re-focus on caring for God's creation. This may mean highlighting the climate justice work of Christian Aid, re-focusing the approach to harvest festivals or modelling sustainability, but it is mostly about sharing ideas with others. I have not been working alone; by working with children in local schools, partnering with the Town Council and inviting the involvement of other environment groups, I have found that we can do so much more working together". Alison adds "My plan is to start engaging with all our other Eco Champions across the Diocese so we can share ideas between us. I would also like to focus on developing smaller projects that all churches can do, small, fun and exciting projects that are not arduous or time consuming to achieve".*

To contact Alison please email [environment@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:environment@cofesuffolk.org)

## **Events**

### **Celebration and Thanksgiving for the Ministry of Churchwardens**

Sunday 5 May, 3.30pm - **SAVE THE DATE**

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS



A service of celebration and thanksgiving for the ministry of churchwardens. Bishop Martin writes;

*"I am delighted we are able to hold a service of celebration and thanksgiving for churchwardens, recognising the vital role they play in the life and ministry of the Church throughout the diocese. I am conscious that so much of the work undertaken by churchwardens often goes on behind the scenes so this will be a wonderful opportunity to express our gratitude on behalf of people and parishes of Suffolk. I really*

*hope everyone will be able to join us at the Cathedral."* Further information will be sent out to churchwardens and clergy in due course.

## **Edmund Lecture | Dame Barbara Woodward DCMG OBE**

Friday 15 March, 6.30pm-7.30pm - **NEW DATE**

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Thank you so much for your patience, we are delighted that the Edmund Lecture with Dame Barbara Woodward DCMG OBE has been rebooked. The Ambassador will explore parallels between the Magna Carta, as the 'great charter' which laid the foundation for the modern British values of rule of law and equality before it, of liberty and rights, and the UN Charter, which established the international rules and values that have underpinned relative peace and stability since the Second World War. The Lecture will be followed by a special service of Vespers at 7.30pm to which all are welcome. Vespers is a liturgy of evening prayer that for centuries, was part of the daily rhythm of prayer kept by the monks at the Abbey of St Edmund. To book your place, please click [here](#).

### **Seeing is Believing**

Wednesday 20 March, 1.30pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Join Tracy de Bernhardt-Wood, Suffolk icon painter, as she guides you through the art and significance of icons. This talk takes place in the Week of 'Lady Day' when the Church remembers the Virgin Mary. Tracy's talk will last approximately 30 minutes and attendance is free, please book by emailing [ChrisEyden@stedscathedral.org](mailto:ChrisEyden@stedscathedral.org). You can also visit Tracy at work throughout the week commencing Monday 18 March, during which time she will be working on painting an icon of Mary entitled 'Hodegetria, "she who points the way"'.

### **Deanery Drop in Sessions**

We are offering you support to help you achieve your Plan for Growth. The following [drop-ins](#) are around the diocese to give you a chance to get the help you need, this is an exciting opportunity to meet the various teams from the Diocesan office who are there to offer advice on Children's and Families' Ministry, Youth Ministry, Giving, Grants, Discipleship, Communications, Vocations or anything else you'd like to ask – a real opportunity for us to have conversations and help people. For a full listing of the drop-in dates please click [here](#). Drop-in sessions coming up are:

<b>St Luke's Church, Beccles NR34 9JQ</b> Thursday 21 March	3.30pm - 5.15pm: book <a href="#">here</a>	6.00pm – 8.00pm: book <a href="#">here</a>
<b>Thomas Clarkson Centre, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3JT</b> Tuesday 23 April	3.00pm - 5.00pm: book <a href="#">here</a>	6.00pm – 8.00pm: book <a href="#">here</a>
<b>St Augustine's Community Hub, Ipswich IP3 8TH</b> Wednesday 15 May	3.00pm - 5.00pm: book <a href="#">here</a>	6.00pm - 8.00pm: book <a href="#">here</a> .

### **Here I am**

Friday 22 March, 9.30am - 4.00pm

Ridley Hall, Cambridge CB3 9HG

A day conference for young women and non-binary people to explore ordination. Come to reflect on God's call, to hear about practicalities, to ask, to meet and to pray. Hosted by Church of England ministers from a range of perspectives and experiences, including the Revd Ali Miller from the Lark Valley and North Bury benefice. All are welcome. More information is available from the Revd Wendy Thomson at [wendy@chatteris.org](mailto:wendy@chatteris.org). To book visit [here](#).

### **Grants and Funding Workshop**

Monday 25 March, 12.00pm – Online

Emma Denton (Diocesan Giving Advisor) will be joined by John Bailey from Beccles who has had considerable success in accessing grants and funding for his church. Emma will tell you about the advice and resources the Diocese can offer to support you as you apply for grants and fundraise for your projects, including the Church Grants database. John will share his knowledge and experience of what he has been able to achieve for his church.

They will welcome questions at the end of their presentations.

Sign up [here](#).

### **Faith Story**

Monday 8 April, 7.00pm - 8.00pm online

This is the third in a series of evening conversations for anyone who is thinking about the question 'how do I know what God is asking me to do?'. Everyone is welcome to join on Zoom and to listen to Bishop Mike as he shares his vocational journey. There will be plenty of time for comments, questions and conversations. Please book [here](#).

### **EV Charging Points in Churches**

Tuesday 9 April, 2.00pm online

This webinar is aimed at any church interested in providing EV charging services either to parishioners or the wider community. It will also cover the health and safety of this service. EV charging provides a modest source of income for the church, and helps with your journey towards being carbon neutral. The minimum number of parking spaces to be converted to EV charging is two, and you must own (not rent) your car park. The scheme is equally open to urban and rural churches. Sign up [here](#).

### **Singing for Nature**

Sunday 14 April, 2.30pm

St Mary's Church, Church Lane, Martlesham, IP12 4PQ

A vocal concert by singing duo 'Unusual Way' which promises to be a musical journey in song from operatic favourites to toe-tapping popular musical theatre items. Free, with donations shared between St Mary's Church and Suffolk Wildlife Trust's new nature reserve, Martlesham Wilds. Parking is available but please walk, cycle or car-share if you can.

### **Deanery Parish Resources Meeting**

Wednesday 17 April 7.00pm

Brandeston Village Hall IP13 7AE

Please join the Parish Resources Team for an interesting talk about the Parish Giving Scheme, Digital Giving, Gifts in Wills, Grants & Funding. This is an open meeting - all are welcome to attend, whether Treasurers, members of PCCs, Churchwardens, or anyone else wishing to learn more about this important aspect of church life. It would be useful to know if you are able to attend the meeting, so please book by emailing [stpeterscretingham@gmail.com](mailto:stpeterscretingham@gmail.com).

### **Vocations Sunday | Vocations Fair**

Sunday 21 April, 1.30 – 3.00pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

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. Vocations Sunday is a wonderful time to encourage individuals to consider what God might be calling them to. There is a bank of resources available [here](#), or come along to our Vocations Fair and visit the many stalls representing our ministries for an informal chat to find the right ministry for you: Chaplaincy, Children 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.

### **Digital Giving**

Tuesday 30 April 1.00pm – online

Join the Parish Resources Team as they share why digital giving is so important for all churches to enable your generous congregation and wider community to give easily to your church. They will show you how to set up online giving campaigns using 'Give A Little' and 'Sum Up' or 'Stripe' (payment providers) and how to share the online link and QR codes on your A Church Near You Page and/or your website as well as using it on pew sheets, posters and in parish magazines. They will also show you some donation device options for those churches with Wi-Fi, churches that have good mobile SIM coverage inside their church, and for those who need an off-line device, including different pricing options. There will be time to ask questions and to see the CollecTin devices that we can lend out to you on trial. Sign up [here](#)

### **Doctrine**

Tuesdays starting 30 April 2024, 7.00pm to 9.00pm

Venue to be announced

A six-session course led by Bishop Mike unpacking the Apostles' Creed so we can apply this to our own lives, understand our faith better and be able to articulate the faith to others helpfully. Subjects include God (including as the Trinity); Jesus; The Cross; Resurrection; Holy Spirit and Eternal Life. Bishop Mike will provide notes beforehand so most of the sessions can be spent in conversation, Q & A and going more deeply into areas participants want to explore further. For more information please [click here](#).

### **Introduction to Online Giving**

Friday 8 May, 3.00pm – 4.00pm

Take the first steps in setting up online giving for your church, including QR codes, web campaigns, accessing reports, and gift aid data. This webinar is helpful for newcomers to online giving, and also provides an opportunity for others to ask questions and think about how to optimise their online giving. Please [book here](#).

### **Introduction to Sight Loss Friendly Church**

Thursday 9 May, 2.00pm

This session covers a brief overview of what it means to be a sight loss friendly church. There is an interactive element in the form of an informal quiz, personal stories and videos about sight loss and an overview of our services. Come along if you're thinking of signing up your church or if you'd like to refresh old knowledge. Click [here](#) for the link.

### **T h a n k f u l : a service of remembrance and celebration**

Sunday 12 May, 3.30pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS



A special service of remembrance for all who have received care from St Nicholas Hospice during the past 40 years. It is also an opportunity to celebrate those who have made this possible and a unique time to thank everyone involved in building their legacy. Everyone is welcome to attend - if you would like to join us, you must reserve your seat(s) by April 26. The easiest way to do this is via a form on our website which can be [found here](#). Alternatively, you can contact Supporter

Care on 01284 715566.

### **Supporting Bereaved Children and Young People**

Thursday 16 May, 10.45am to 3.00pm

Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Norfolk

Open to clergy and laity of all denominations and organised by the Guild of All Souls, an Anglican charity whose objects are praying and caring for the sick, dying, departed and bereaved. Visit their website [here](#). Cost of the conference is £20, including welcome coffee/tea and a two-course lunch. To book, please email [mihoward@btinternet.com](mailto:mihoward@btinternet.com).

### **Working with Anger**

Friday 17 May, 9.15am to 4.15pm

Colchester Road Baptist Church, Ipswich IP4 3DL (Entrance on Sidegate Lane)

Are you working with children or adults who struggle to regulate or safely display their angry feelings? Whilst exploring anger, this course offers creative ideas and hands-on activities that will help you better support the people you work with and care for. It is designed to be a creative and practical day and will give you the opportunity to share ideas and engage with others in a safe and confidential setting. To book and for further information please contact Inspire on 01473 217694 or email Carole Sherratt at [contact@inspirecounselling.org.uk](mailto:contact@inspirecounselling.org.uk)

### **Sight Loss Friendly Church Q&A**

Monday 3 June, 2.00pm

Meet the expert panel from Torch Trust and ask your questions around welcoming and including blind and partially sighted people in all aspects of your church. Also offering hints and tips on how they have overcome any challenges. Sign up [here](#).

### **Understanding Connectivity**

Thursday 13 June, 11.00am – 12.00pm, [Book here](#).

Find out about the connectivity options available to your church - from WiFi to 4G - how to get your contactless devices connected, and what to do if you have no connectivity at all. We will be going through the connectivity options in relation to digital giving and how it can be optimised to make it easier in your church.

### **Working with Anxiety**

Friday 28 June, 9.15am to 4.15pm

Colchester Road Baptist Church, Ipswich IP4 3DL (Entrance on Sidegate Lane)

Are you working with children or adults who struggle with anxiety on a daily basis? Anxiety can also severely affect self-esteem, to the point where day to day life becomes difficult.



Whilst exploring anxiety, this course offers creative ideas and hands-on activities that will help you better support the people you work with and care for. It is designed to be a creative and practical day giving you an opportunity to share ideas and engage with others in a safe and confidential setting. To book and for further information please contact Inspire on 01473 217694 or email Carole Sherratt at [contact@inspirecounselling.org.uk](mailto:contact@inspirecounselling.org.uk)

### **Clergy Retreat** - Led by Bishop Martin

7 - 11 October 2024

St Andrew's Abbey, Zevenkerken-Brugge, Belgium

The best kept secret in the Diocese! Since 1960 when there was a formal link with Brugge a group of hardy clergy have braved the sea and weather to travel to the Abbey to spend time with the wonderful brothers at St Andrew's Abbey. Speakers in the past have spoken on a range of subjects from World Mission, The Psalms, and more. There are approximately 15 spaces available and you can come with spouses/partners. For more details or to book please contact the Revd David H Messer on 01964 563987 | [davidharrymesser93@gmail.com](mailto:davidharrymesser93@gmail.com).

## Notices

**Statistics for Mission:** Thank you to all parishes who have already submitted their Statistics for Mission forms. The National Church deadline has been extended to **Sunday 17 March**. Returns should be submitted via the [Online Parish Returns System](#). If you require log-in details or any other assistance with the online portal, please contact [statistics@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:statistics@cofesuffolk.org). Further help can be viewed on our website here: [Stats for Mission Help](#).

**UK Minority Ethnic (UKME):** The Church of England is actively seeking more people from a UK Minority Ethnic (UKME) background to serve as ministers and lay leaders within the church. The Revd Kiran Lotay is our UKME Vocations Champion. Please see details [here](#).

**Racial Justice:** The Revd Robert Otule is Diocesan Racial Justice Officer, who works with the Diocesan Racial Justice Group to ensure we combat racism in all its forms, promote training and awareness appropriate to different contexts, monitor representation and participation of all groups across the life of the diocese and advocates for those suffering any form of racism. Please see details [here](#).

**St Edmundsbury Cathedral Pews for sale:** St Edmundsbury Cathedral is evolving, and part of its change is introducing chairs to the Nave. This means Cathedral pews will be offered for sale to the community and local people in February, both as they are, and as refurbished furniture and useful items. If you are interested in buying a Cathedral pew, or hearing more about their refurbishment project with Rough Stuff, please visit their [website here](#).

**Church 24:** Opportunity to engage with a perception survey organised by Professor Andrew Village at York St John University in partnership with Professor Leslie Francis. The aim of the survey is to look at longstanding issues to track trends as well as new issues in

society to provide a perceptions baseline. Click [here](#) to take part.

**Christian Aid Week - Seven Days 12 - 18 May:** This year's Christian Aid Week is focussing on stories from Burundi, where families are working hard to transform their lives. Christian Aid supporters are showing their solidarity with their global neighbours by signing up for a new physical fundraising challenge to complete 70k in May in whatever way you like. Why not get together with your church, friends, and family to take part? Find out more [www.caweek.org/70kinmay](http://www.caweek.org/70kinmay).

## Vacancies

[Voluntary Diocesan MU Secretary](#) | Mothers' Union | Closing date: 20 March

[Diocesan MU Treasurer](#) | Mothers' Union | Closing date: 20 March

[Rector](#) | South Hartismere Benefice | Closing date: 4 April

[House for Duty Priest](#) | Lakenheath with Santon Downham and Elveden | Closing date: 8 April

[Priest in Charge & Archdeaconry Mission Enabler](#) | Sproughton, Burstall, Copdock with Washbrook & Belstead

[Rector](#) | Walton and Trimley

[River Church Opportunities](#) | Ipswich

[New Opportunities in Ipswich](#) | Inspiring Ipswich

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



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