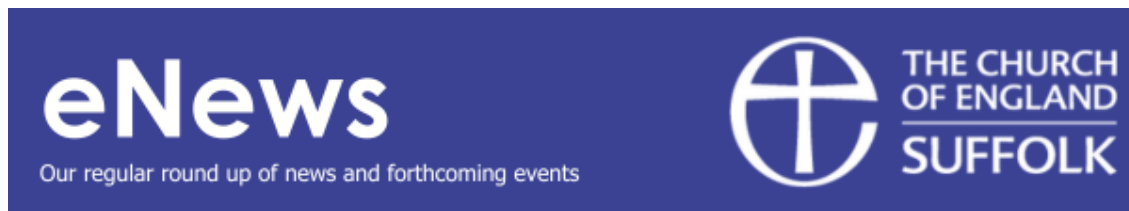


Our regular round up of news and forthcoming events from our diocese

[View this email in your browser](#)

Thursday 15 June 2023



John's Gospel with Prof David Ford

Saturday 17 June, 9.30am to 12.30pm

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

Prof David Ford will lead the Bishops' Study morning looking at John's Gospel. Prof 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 recently published theological commentary on John's Gospel, 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.

Building a Generous Church Conference



We were delighted that over 60 Treasurers, Churchwardens, PCC members and Clergy attended the first diocesan conference on how to improve your church's finances. They were supported by over 30 diocesan staff and volunteers meaning that St Augustine's was filled with 100 people all united in finding out more about living generously. On the first very hot day of the year we enjoyed inspiring keynote

speeches from Jonathan de Bernhardt Wood, National Advisor for Giving and Income Generation, Church of England. Bridget McIntyre, Social entrepreneur, and former High Sheriff of Suffolk and the Revd Al Metcalfe, Vicar of St Augustine's Ipswich and Chair of Oasis Centre, Gorton. This was followed by a selection of nine specialist workshop s.

Gary Peverley said, *"This was a great opportunity to explore what generosity looks like. The event offered networking with others as well as a chance to learn practical solutions to try out in parishes. My takeaway from the conference is that God is generous, and we should have the confidence to talk about money and ask for donations to support mission and ministry."*

In response to the conference, we have received great feedback with 74% rating it as 'excellent' and 18% as 'good', including comments such as, *"Phenomenal day of focus on a*

Godly model of church/ministry generosity” and “Inspirational, welcoming, needed, great speakers.”

Archdeacon Rhiannon said, *“I am in awe of the commitment shown by so many people who came along, on such a warm day, to learn about stewardship and talk about generosity. I am praying that the learning can be shared with others, and everyone can benefit from the knowledge taken away from the day.”*

Read the full story [here](#). All resource materials from the day can be accessed on our website [here](#).

Introducing Julie Alcock, here to support the DAC



Julie Alcock was appointed to the role of Assistant to the DAC, supporting Edmund Harris and Charlotte Hodgson, on 21 March 2023. Julie has previously been a churchwarden for the Waterfront Benefice and understands the role and the process of applying for a faculty. She aims to help our other churchwardens through the Online Faculty System, something not everyone finds straightforward!

Julie says "It is a challenging but very interesting role. Every church's needs are different, whether they are fitting swift boxes, making repairs to doors and floors, or more complex issues. I work with other departments in the office, such as Parish Resources for grants, to help our churches get all the help and information they need. We also work with architects, archaeologists, National England (bats), and have advisers for clocks, bells, trees and organs to name a few. All these cogs in the machine help our churches to understand what is involved in an application and to keep our churches safe and a vital part of community life."

PCC Workshop - The DAC: A User's Guide

Tuesday 11 July, 7.30pm, Zoom

'You will need a faculty for that' is a phrase that strikes dread into the heart of many churchwardens and members of the clergy. But it need not be. As an insider talking to users, Edmund Harris explains how the faculty system works. Please book [here](#).

PCC Workshop - Crime in our churches and churchyards and how to reduce it

Tuesday 18 July, 7.30pm, Zoom

Sergeant Brian Calver, one of Suffolk Constabulary's top police officers from the Rural Crime Neighbourhood Partnership Team, will cover the current areas targeted by thieves in churches and churchyards across the region, and what parishes and local communities can do to reduce the chances of falling victim to these heinous acts. Please book [here](#).

PCC Workshop - Building Friends' Groups

Tuesday 25 July, 7.30pm, Zoom

Lots of churches have Friends' Groups and they can be very useful for mobilising the wider community to look after the fabric of your church. This webinar will tell you what you need to know to get your Friends' Group off on the right foot and functioning effectively and harmoniously. Please book [here](#).

We are delighted to announce that Gail Southgate has been appointed as Lead Evangelist for the Suffolk Centre of Mission commencing on 1 September. She will be part of the Mission and Ministry Team. Gail is currently Lightwave Pioneer Evangelist and will remain in this role until taking up the full-time appointment. Her contact details remain gail.southgate@churcharmy.org.

Suffolk Community Awards

The Suffolk Community Awards 2023 recognises and celebrates all those who have improved the quality of life for a community in Suffolk. It is a partnership approach, delivered by Community Action Suffolk, Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Association of Local Councils.

In total, 16 awards are up for grabs, with categories ranging from Most Active Town to Outstanding Contribution to Volunteering, and The Anne Dunford OBE Award for Youth Participation. New this year is a special accolade acknowledging the work of the faith sector which is sponsored by Bishop Martin.

Entries for any of the categories must be made via the awards website – [Home – Suffolk Community Awards](#) – and should be submitted no later than Sunday 16 July.

Events

Holy Trinity Church, Long Melford exhibition

From Monday 19 June

Holy Trinity Church will be covered in scaffolding ready for commencement of repairs to the 38 clerestory windows and east window over the coming months. During this time, the scaffolding will be utilised as a backdrop for mounting a series of displays and exhibits. In addition, two special weekends will be held, the first being 23-25 June and the second 15-17 September, both of which will offer dynamic events for visitors to take part in such as Lego modelling and a treasure hunt. There will also be enactments from the church's long history; bell ringing; organ music; brass rubbing; tower tours (with the possible opportunity to abseil down if you have a head for heights!) plus guided tours of the works to the clerestory windows with live pictures and commentary courtesy of a drone. Find out more [here](#).

Safeguarding Q&A Session

This is a meeting for all Parish/Benefice Safeguarding Officers to ask questions, and the Diocesan Safeguarding Team will do their best to provide you with some answers. Please

join us so that we can get to know you a little better, at the same time as updating you with any changes to Safeguarding Training, DBS checks, the Dashboard, or other matters that you would like to know more about. All sessions are the same, please choose from:

- Monday 19 June, 10.30am [Book here](#)
- Tuesday 4 July, 7.00pm [Book here](#)
- Saturday 15 July, 9.30am [Book here](#)

A Quiet Day with The Revd Dr Charlie Bell

Friday 16 June 10.00am - 3.30pm

The Barn, The Rookery, Hollesley Road, Eyke IP12 2RR

Join this meeting from the diocesan group of the Society of Catholic Priests and meet the Revd Dr Charlie Bell, well known to some of us from his time working at the West Suffolk Hospital. Please bring food to share at lunch-time - drinks will be provided. Participants are welcome to stroll in the delightful gardens. Booking via Michael Wilde 01284 767415 or cormack246@gmail.com. A £10 donation would be appreciated.

Johnny Cash Tribute Band

Saturday 17 June 2023, doors open at 7.00pm

Bentley Church, IP9 2DA

Come along to a fabulous fundraising concert with a superb Johnny Cash tribute band playing in Bentley Church. An evening of song and music, with a licensed bar provided. Tickets cost £12 each. To book, please email Peter Day or call 07570 103005.

Diocesan Education Service

Monday 19 June, 1.30pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

This service is open to all church schools in the diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich and this year will follow a theme of 'seeking wisdom, knowledge and truth'. The Education Service is an annual event, and this year will be held on a weekday. Bishop Mike will preside and Dean Joe Hawes will be in attendance.

Supporting families through school and life transitions

Thursday 22 June, 7.00 - 8.00pm on Zoom.

Are you working with Children and Families, or are you a Youth Worker or part of a team that ministers to local schools? Perhaps you're a parent of a child who is about to start Primary School, High School or go on to Higher Education? Maybe your family or a family you know is journeying through a life transition such as a big move or a bereavement? If so, we would love you to join us for an evening of support and advice on all things 'transition'. To book your place click [here](#).

Early Years Ministry Network Meeting

Saturday 24 June, 2.30 - 4.30pm

The Woolpit Institute, Woolpit IP30 9QH

Are you involved in Early Years Ministry in the diocese? Perhaps you run a parent and toddler group, a pram service or work with under 5's on a Sunday? If so, this event is for

you. It will be a chance to make friends, share experiences, look at the Bible together, explore new resources and eat some delicious, home-baked cake. This event is open to anyone, lay or ordained, who has a heart for reaching the youngest children and their families in our communities with the hope of the gospel. To book please click [here](#).

Crematorium Familiarisation Visits

11.30am on Thursday 22 June, Thursday 20 July, Thursday 24 August, Thursday 21 September, Thursday 19 October or Thursday 23 November
West Suffolk Crematorium, Bury St Edmunds IP28 6RR

West Suffolk Crematorium, situated close to Risby on Junction 42 of the A14, has kindly offered familiarisation visits on a selection of dates to see 'behind the scenes'. This is an opportunity to help those of us wishing to understand more of what happens when a cremation takes place.

The visits all start at 11.30am at the main office and are available on the dates above; all visits will be followed by light refreshments. Please note there is a maximum of six people per visit. To make a booking, and for further information, please contact West Suffolk Crematorium direct on 01284 755118.

Photographic portrait exhibition

4 - 26 July 2023

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 1LS

St Edmundsbury Cathedral is thrilled to host the next stage of the ambitious exhibition tour of well known photographer, the late Peter Marlow, in his series 'The English Cathedral'. This is an exceptional photographic project documenting all 42 of England's Anglican cathedrals undertaken by Peter Marlow (1952 - 2016) who travelled across England documenting the interiors of these iconic architectural landmarks. More information [here](#).

Summer Fair and Gloria!

8 July 2023

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 1LS

The Summer Fair is free to attend and will start at 12.00pm. It will feature Morris dancing, an indoor market, a BBQ from the Cathedral restaurant Pilgrims' Kitchen, family craft activities, face painting, a family treasure hunt, LEGO activities, tower climbs and much more. There is also an opportunity to climb the Cathedral Tower with prices just £3.00 for individuals and £10.00 per family, tower climbs will be available at 12.00pm, 1.00pm, 2.00pm, 3.00pm and 4.00pm. Children must be 10 years old or over and accompanied by an adult.

In the evening of the same day, Gloria! A Summer Concert will showcase the talent of the St Edmundsbury Cathedral musicians, performing a magnificent programme of music for a summer's evening. Tickets for Gloria! A Summer Concert start at £8.00 and are available online [here](#).

Churchwarden training 2023

[Sudbury Archdeaconry](#) | 10 July at 7.00pm at Cockfield Village Hall, Church Lane IP30 0LA

[Suffolk Archdeaconry](#) | 17 July at 7.00pm at Aldeburgh Church Hall, Victoria Road, Aldeburgh IP15 5EA

[Ipswich Archdeaconry](#) | 19 July at 7.30pm at St Mary at Stoke Church Hall, Stoke Street, Ipswich IP2 8BX

These training sessions are aimed primarily at new or nearly new churchwardens, but experienced ones invariably find that there is always something new to learn. The session covers Churchwardens' tasks and legal responsibilities, issues about building maintenance and faculties and Q&As.

Building a generous culture

Wednesday 12 July, 7.00pm

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

Join the Parish Resources Team to find out about building a generous culture in your parish. To book please email Yalda.davis@cofesuffolk.org, stating your name, parish role and parish.

Threads Through Creation

Friday 14 July - Wednesday 26 July

Ely Cathedral CB7 4DL

Eight million stitches expressing God's love! 'Threads through Creation' is an extraordinary, uplifting textile art exhibition touring twenty cathedrals. People get to see a spectacular display of twelve huge and beautiful huge silk panels retelling the story of Creation from Genesis, the first pages of the bible. More info can be found at www.creation-threads.co.uk and www.elycathedral.org.

Charlie Haylock talk - The History of Spoken English

Saturday 15 July, 7.00pm

Risby Village Hall IP28 6RT

Charlie Haylock is one of Suffolk's leading entertainers and a master of Suffolk dialect. Join Charlie as he show us how the seeds of spoken English were first set and how each invading force affected the English language, and the different sounds they brought; from the Angles and Saxons to the Vikings and Normans. Tickets are £10.00 per person to include a glass of wine and nibbles. To book please contact: Annie Throssell on 01284 810314 or 07796 215478.

Notices

Return of Parish Finance: Over 50% of parishes have already submitted their forms - thank you. Completing your Return of Parish Finance provides your benefice and our Diocese valuable information and data. The results of your efforts are collated by the National Church and used to report key trends and key features of parish financial activity.

Returns are to be submitted on the Online Parish Returns System, if you require login

details or any other assistance regarding the online portal, please contact statistics@cofesuffolk.org by email. The deadline is 28 June 2023. Further information is available on our website [here](#).

Vacancies

[Rector](#) | Kesgrave with Little Bealings and Playford | Closing date: 19 June

[Priest](#) | East Bergholt and Brantham, & Curate in charge of Bentley & Tattingstone |

Closing date: 26 June

[Priest in Charge 0.8 FTE](#) | Alde River Benefice | Closing date: 27 June

[Independent Volunteer Health & Safety Advisor, Governance Committee](#) | Closing date: 30 June

[House for Duty Priest in Charge](#) | The Wrentham Benefice | Closing date: 7 July

[Rector](#) | Orwell and Deben | Closing date: 10 July

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

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

Area Secretary Local branch of the Royal School of Church Music | for information

please email Richard Hubbard, RSCM Suffolk Team Leader, rscmsuffolk@gmail.com

[Choir Director](#) | Woodbridge

Vacancies at River Church: Director of Operations, Spear Centre Manager, PA to the Church Leaders and River College Internship. For details on all these roles please visit [Vacancies at River Church here](#).

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