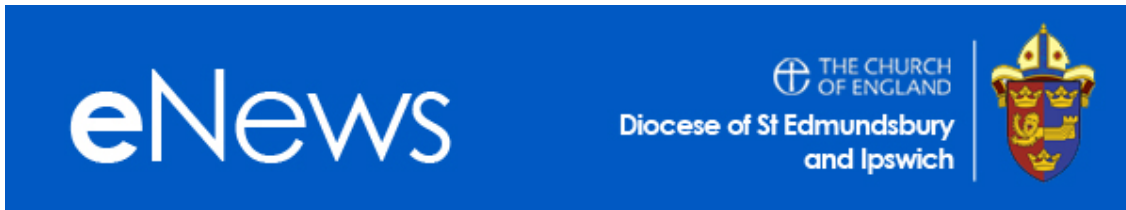


Our regular round up of news and forthcoming events from our diocese [View this email in your browser](#)

Thursday 16 March 2023



Celebrating the Coronation weekend



This is a 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](#).

Celebrating the Coronation in Kesgrave: The parish is holding a coffee and cake event on Sunday 7 May after their morning service. There will be an opportunity for the children to attend with a 'dress like royalty' theme alongside crown-making crafts and a decorated throne for the children to sit on, while parents can take a photograph of them. The parish is also holding a children's art exhibition with a theme of 'Kings, Lions and Unicorns' and prizes will be awarded to the favourite art pieces in three different age categories, with judging by residents of Alice Grange, a local care home. These events are fundraising events for the local Top up shop as well as for Home Start, both charities that support families in the area.

Cathedral Lent Series: 'Fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of God: Challenging perceptions to empower change'

Wednesday evenings in Lent (Wednesday 22 March and 29 March) 7.00pm - 8.00pm on Zoom, everyone welcome. The next meeting on Wednesday 22 March features: Disability: The Revd Canon Tim Goode. For more information and for the Zoom link please email the Revd Canon Michael Robinson: michael.robinson@cofesuffolk.org. You can find out more about these sessions, plus all the Cathedral Lent services, [here](#).

Living your life with God: Through Lent, Bishop Mike (and an occasional guest!) is offering Zoom sessions looking at how his insights can be applied in everyday life, with

plenty of room for discussion on the way. Recordings of the sessions are available on our [YouTube channel here](#).

Bishops' Lent Appeal for Kagera: Have you started the Lent Challenge? All the daily challenges are posted on our [Facebook page here](#) and you can add your comments and let us know how you are getting on. For information, including how to donate, please [visit our website here](#).

Holy Week at St Edmundsbury Cathedral: Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday 2 April. A full series of services and events are on offer at St Edmundsbury Cathedral. A list is available to download [here](#).

Crown of Thorns: St Edmundsbury Cathedral will be displaying a new sculpture by local artist, Steve Jones. The Crown of Thorns, made from stainless steel, will hang above the Nave altar under the cathedral tower from 20 March to mid-April. It consists of stainless steel rods and blade-like 'thorns' arranged in an irregular circle 3m in diameter. The upward facing thorns are gilded with pure gold leaf. The sculpture weighs 64kg and will be lifted into place by winches. From Easter Day, the crown will be adorned with flowers as a meditation on Jesus' death to joyful celebration of his resurrection.

Vocations Spotlights: Sarah Lock



I ran my own business and I was going through the process of selling it to reduce my hours and free up more time for God's work. Obviously, that was NOT going to be ordination, as I had a long list of reasons why I didn't need to be ordained to work for the Lord... I began to realise that they may just be excuses rather than reasons! Having 'pushed a few doors' they all swung open and here I am on the training course!

I am currently on the Auxiliary Ordination Pathway which I am loving. During the course, we spend one evening a fortnight with the Bishops learning about what we are committing to in the vows we will take at our ordination, as well as many other topics. We also attend training modules that feed us with

additional knowledge on a range of subjects such as the Old and New Testaments, Worship, Preaching, Ethics, Pastoral work and doctrine. I am learning so much about the different workings of the Church of England.

I hope that I make some difference to my benefice. My prayer is that the Lord will use me to truly serve him here amongst these wonderful people in our little corner of Suffolk so that many can come to see Jesus for themselves.

To read the full story please visit our website [here](#).



Churches Count on Nature

Parishes can now register to participate in Churches Count on Nature, an annual scheme where people survey and record the plant and animal species they encounter in churchyards.

The biodiversity survey, supported by environmental charities, will take place from June 3 - 11, 2023. The data collected will be used to determine where rare and endangered species are located in the country and to aid churches of all denominations to increase biodiversity on their land for the enrichment of the environment and local communities.

To register your church for this summer's Churches Count on Nature click [HERE](#).

Encouraging nesting birds and wildlife in their churchyard

Over a period of time, Holy Innocents' church in Great Barton has been steadily building up resources for birds and other wildlife in the churchyard. This includes a variety of boxes for small birds, as well as three barn owl boxes, two tawny owl boxes, and with a little owl box still to come. The wildflowers in the ancient part of the churchyard are also encouraged to grow. Various piles of branches are left for nesting birds and small creatures to make a home. Rotten wood is left for insects to colonise, likewise ivy on trees and headstones is left. Some wild fruit trees are also present. And even corrugated sheets may also be put down soon to encourage slow worms. Read the full story [here](#)

Eco Church: Congratulations to All Saints' Church, Hundon on achieving a Bronze Eco-Church Award in recognition of the work they are already doing to promote and support the environment. And their hard work doesn't stop there, as they are already working towards turning their Bronze award into a Silver one!

Suffolk Wildlife Trust - Churchyard Management

Wednesday 19 April, 7.00pm - 8.30pm

The grassland in churchyards has mostly gone untouched for decades, if not centuries, with no fertilising nor reseeding. It is therefore often rich in wildflowers, which are now so scarce elsewhere. Careful management of all or part of the churchyard to favour these wildflowers offers a unique opportunity to safeguard this valuable habitat in a place where it can be enjoyed by parishioners and visitors alike. 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](#).

Growing in God Growth Fund

The Growth fund is open for applications now for your summer activities. The Growing in God Growth Fund can provide a small amount of 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. You can apply for a grant of up to £1,500 to support an outward facing initiative to develop your church's mission to the wider community.

For details on how to apply for funding please visit our website [here](#).

Events

Church heating - To replace or not replace?

21 March, 4.00pm - 5.00pm [Book here](#)

2 May, 4.00pm - 5.00pm [Book here](#)

This webinar will tell you what you should think about when deciding whether to replace your heating. What are the implications for your carbon footprint and the historic context of the church? This will take in equipment, running costs, efficiency considerations, embodied carbon and maintenance.

A Spectrum of Song

Saturday 25 March 10.00am–4.00pm

St Peter & St Paul Church, Lavenham CO10 9SA

From Tallis to Townend – join Richard Hubbard as he leads you on a musical journey through Christian worship music. Explore a wealth of eclectic styles, from the music of the early church to the vibrant sounds of today's worship. You don't have to be an experienced singer to benefit from this workshop. The aim is to explore a wide variety of music suitable for churches of varying sizes, including those with limited musical resources. Whether you are a choral singer, a leader or planner of worship, or an enthusiastic member of the congregation, there will be something for everyone.

Tickets cost £10 and can be purchased at stedscathedral.org/inharmony/

Choral Evensong with the King's Voices Choir

Sunday 26 March 6.00pm

Hepworth Parish Church IP22 2PU

Join the King's Voices Choir and Dr Stephen Cherry, Dean of King's College Cambridge, for an evening of Choral Evensong.

JS Bach, St John Passion

Saturday 1 April, 5.30pm

Clare Parish Church

Join the Choir of St Mary Le Tower, Ipswich, with orchestra, soloist Daniel Joy and conductor Christopher Borrett for a performance of J S Bach's magnificent St John Passion. A fantastically fitting way to begin Passion Week. Admission is free and it isn't necessary to pre-book a seat. Refreshments will be available - donations towards Clare Church are gratefully received.

Good Friday Walk of Witness and Children's Trail

Friday 7 April, 10.00am

Holy Innocents' Church, Great Barton IP31 2QS

Join Holy Innocents' Church and Freedom Church, Great Barton for a 'Walk of Witness'. The walk will be from Holy Innocents' to Freedom Church, or you can join at any area of the walk. During the walk there will be eight Stations of the Cross, depicting Christ's journey. At each station there will be activities for children and reflections for older folk. If you would like lunch please [click here to book](#).

Finding my way - an Essex ministry

Wednesday 12 April, 6.00pm -7.30pm

University of Suffolk, Waterfront Building IP4 1QJ

Ivor Moody, the Vice-Dean of Chelmsford Cathedral will be speaking about responding creatively to the challenges of our contemporary world and changing British society, drawing on his past experiences and his present role as Vice Dean and Canon Pastor of Chelmsford Cathedral since 2010. Ivor is Chaplain to Essex County Council, Chair of the Mid-Essex Inter Faith Forum and also Chair of Essex Mind and Spirit, a community voluntary organisation which seeks to promote positive relationships between faith and spirituality and mental health issues. [To book, please click here.](#)

Church solar panels

19 April, 4.00pm - 5.00pm [Book here](#)

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. This webinar is a full update of the same webinar last run two years ago. The key speaker is Guy Hewitt from Treadlighter, who has 13 years' experience of designing and installing solar PV systems across all property types, including many projects for churches and listed buildings.

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](#).

Vocations Fair 2023

Saturday 29 April, 10.00am - 1.00pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS



Come and visit the many stalls representing our ministries for an informal chat to find the right ministry for you: Chaplaincy, Children's 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. For more information please contact the [Revd Stuart Batten](#). [Download this poster to advertise in your church.](#)

SHAPE

Wednesdays starting 10 May 2023, 7.00pm - 8.30pm

By Zoom



This online six-session course will look at our God-given gifts and skills, talents and experience and discover how God may be calling you into different forms of ministry. Your SHAPE for God's Service aims to enable church members to understand the unique SHAPE God has made them, the gifts he has given them and how he might want to use them. Hopefully this will enable participants to live and serve with more joy, satisfaction and fruitfulness. The core topics look at your: Spiritual Gifts, Heart's Desire, Abilities, Personality and Experience. For more information and to book please visit: [2023 SHAPE.eventbrite.co.uk](https://2023.shape.eventbrite.co.uk). [Download this poster to advertise in your church.](#)

Financial Planning During Ministry for Retirement and Beyond

Wednesday 10 May, 9.30am, Zoom

The aim of this seminar is to help clergy (and their partners) demystify financial matters, and to help you plan for your financial future no matter how far you may be from retirement. Key speakers include those from the Church of England Pensions Board, clergy pension and housing teams; plus independent financial advisers from Ecclesiastical Financial Advisory Services. To book your place, please email Lesley-Anne.Marriott@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Save the Dates:

Farewell and Thanksgiving Service: For Archdeacon Jeanette as she retires from the Archdeaconry of Suffolk. Sunday 23 April at Framlingham Parish Church, Church Street, Framlingham IP13 9BH. Starting at 3.00pm. Everyone is welcome.

The Big Suffolk Prayer Walk 2023

19-21 May All are welcome and we'll be sharing more information about ways you can get involved very soon.

Improving your Parish Finances conference - building a generous church

10 June. Please [download this poster here](#) to share in your parish.

Notices

Statistics for Mission: Over 50% of parishes have already submitted their forms - thank you.

Completing your Statistics for Mission will provide your benefice and our diocese valuable information and data. The results of your efforts are collated by the national Church and used to produce your parish dashboard. These are available on our website [here](#). These dashboards can be really useful to help you produce your Parish Profile or your Benefice [Plan for Growth](#). Obviously, the more accurate the information you can provide now, the better data analysis available later on! 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 Alison Barker by [email](#). The deadline is 31 March 2023. We are holding a support webinar if you need assistance with this on 23 March at 7.00pm. Please email [Alison](#) for the Zoom link.

Further information is available on our website [here](#).

The Mighty Hike: Dr Jane Pallister is fundraising for Macmillan Cancer Support in memory of the Revd Canon Marion Mingins (1952 - 2006). Marion was a Canon of St Edmundsbury Cathedral, our Diocesan Director of Ordinands in 1991 and she became the first woman to become an Anglican Chaplain to the Queen when she was appointed in 1996. If you would like to donate please [click here](#).

Vacancies

[Rector | Benefice of Haughley, Wetherden and Stowupland](#) | Closing date: 17 March
[Priest in Charge \(0.5\) | Capel St Mary with Great Wenham and Little Wenham](#) | Closing date: 17 March

[Priest in Charge | Benefice of Elmsett with Aldham, Hintlesham, Chattisham and Kersey](#) | Closing date: 24 March

[Safeguarding Administrator - Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich](#) | Closing date: 27 March

[House for Duty Priest in Charge | The Wrentham Benefice](#) | Closing date: 17 April

[Vicar | Kesgrave with Little Bealings and Playford](#) | Closing date: 17 April

[Rector, Benefice of Rattlesden, Brettenham, Hitcham and Thorpe Morieux](#) | Closing date: 25 April

[Priest 0.5 Exning w Landwade/Assistant Curate \(in charge\) of Exning St Agnes](#) | Closing date: 5 June

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

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