

Issue date: 20 January 2022



### Suffolk's Youngest Churchwarden



Bishop Mike has welcomed the appointment of Ben Jenkins as Suffolk's newest and youngest Churchwarden at a special service held at St Nicolas' Church, Stanningfield near Bury St Edmunds recently.

Ben Jenkins, aged 19, was elected to the office of churchwarden at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting last month, making him the youngest churchwarden Suffolk. Ben is also thought to be the youngest churchwarden in England.

Bishop Mike said, *"Ben discussed his growing sense of vocation to serve as a churchwarden with his parish priest and discerned a call to serve the community in this way. I am delighted that Ben has taken on this role. More and more young people are coming forward to serve in a variety of roles within the life of the Church and this is a great example of that happening here in Suffolk."* He added, *"Growing Younger is part of the diocesan aspiration for our congregations across the county and this appointment fits the bill very well!"* Read the full story [here](#).

### Growing Younger Sunday

Sunday 30 January 2022



How are you taking part in Growing Younger Sunday? If you are still looking for resources to help please do have a look at our new Padlet of resources available on our website [here](#).

On this Sunday in January we would love each

and every church in our diocese to involve children and young people in their services, to celebrate with a theme for Candlemas of 'Being a light, Belonging and Building community'.

We are also offering several learning opportunities throughout 2022 through workshops, network contacts and resources (including an 'all-age' friendly Eucharist booklet) as well as within our usual training pathways - Connect Children's and Families' Ministry and the Licensed Youth Ministers 'Essential' training. To find out more please do contact Hilary Wordsworth-Sewell [hilary.wordsworth-sewell@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:hilary.wordsworth-sewell@cofesuffolk.org) (Children's and Families) or Matt Levett [matt.levett@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:matt.levett@cofesuffolk.org) (Youth and Young Adults) who would love to hear from you.

### **Growing Young Leaders, by Ruth Hassall**

Ruth Hassall, has 20 years' experience of working with individuals, churches and dioceses and has developed the Growing Young Leaders course during her time with CPAS. Bible Readership Fellowship (BRF) invited her to update her work and this revised publication will be available from 21 January to order [here](#). This book offers a practical guide to mentoring teenagers for leadership in a faith context, as it considers how to help young people identify their gifts and grow as Christian disciples.

### **Youth apprenticeships**

There are a number of opportunities for potential employers to join the National Youth Agency for an information session about Youth Work Apprenticeships (Levels 3 & 6). Churches which are looking to develop the skills of their youth worker might be interested in attending. To book your place visit [here](#)

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### **Message from Anna Hughes, Diocesan Secretary**

After five very happy years with the Diocese, and a great deal of thought in recent months, I have decided it is time to move on and I will be leaving around the end of May. Since I joined in 2017, I have been proud to help lead the team that has played its part in improving our finances, that has secured a more open and transparent approach in our culture and communications, and that has delivered good governance and better standards of support to our clergy and our parishes. All of which I hope has contributed to rebuilding trusted two-way relationships across the diocese.

I would like to offer special thanks to Bishop Martin, Bishop Mike and Mark Pendlington for their constant encouragement and support, to the clergy team for their tireless work, and to the army of wonderful volunteers across the parishes who sustain our church communities.

The Diocese has exciting plans for the future as we recover from Covid and look to grow and nurture the role of the Church across Suffolk. I am confident that my successor will build on what we have achieved together, with the ongoing commitment of the trustees and all my wonderful colleagues.

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## #LiveLent 2022 church resources: Embracing Justice

# LIVE LENT Embracing JUSTICE

Live Lent: Embracing Justice is the Church of England's theme for Lent 2022. It invites us to examine our own lives truthfully, to see the world more deeply and to pray – for the church and the world far and near – that 'justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream' (Amos 4.24).

Both the [Archbishop of Canterbury's 2022 Lent Book, \*Embracing Justice\* \(SPCK\)](#), and the daily reflections booklet for adults (CHP) have been written by Isabelle Hamley.

- **The adults' edition** offers a daily Bible reading, a short reflection and a prayer, as well as a practical challenge for each day of Lent. Each week follows a different thread through the many stories of justice in the Bible to explore how God works with humanity to bring justice, wholeness and salvation to all.
- **The kids' edition** provides a fun daily action to help children and their families explore how we can live well together, as well as a weekly reading and prayer.
- The book and booklets will be accompanied by daily social media posts from Ash Wednesday (2 March) to Easter Day (17 April).

This will be supported by a wide range of free digital resources for individuals, groups and churches available via [the Church of England website](#), you can also sign up [here](#) for the reflection emails.

### 40 Days of Kindness



Please join this Suffolk initiative during this Lent to offer simple acts of community kindness from phone trees to thank you surprises and help with practical issues. So much has been cancelled... but in Suffolk love has not been cancelled. For support in your local acts of kindness go to [www.light-wave.org/lent](http://www.light-wave.org/lent)

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### Improvements coming soon to A Church Near You (ACNY)



On 26 January ACNY is changing - with improvements to the site, all based on feedback from you, the editors. Each change is designed to make things even easier for editors and site visitors. To preview the improvements, you can watch a video demonstration and read more details in the editor help centre. If you would like more support, please book onto one of the live training webinars [here](#).

Remember ACNY is often the first point of contact for many people when they search for a church on the internet. The site receives around 10 million page views a year and 82% of

these are coming to ACNY for the first time. A lot of the enquiries churches receive through the site are for weddings and christenings. Using the tags it offers a great opportunity to advertise your events and services as well!

## Events

### Candlelit Epiphany Procession

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Sunday 23 January, 3.30pm to 4.15pm

Parishes, Benefices and Deaneries are, as in previous years, warmly invited to the Cathedral for the annual Candlelit Epiphany Procession which includes readings and carols celebrating the 'three signs' which mark Jesus as Saviour for all peoples of the world. The service is led by the Cathedral choirs and Bishop.

*Manifest at Jordan's stream,  
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;  
and at Cana wedding-guest  
in thy Godhead manifest. (Christopher Wordsworth)*

It is helpful, for service planning, if you can let us know if you hope to bring a group from your parish or benefice - just drop an email to: [liturgy.admin@stedscathedral.org](mailto:liturgy.admin@stedscathedral.org)

### Thank you for the rain

The Edmund Room, St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Monday 24 January at 7.00pm - 9.00pm



**Thank you for the Rain**  
**- St. Edmundsbury Cathedral**  
Monday 24 January 2022

Thank You for the Rain tells the compelling story of Kisumu, a smallholder farmer in Kenya who uses a video camera to capture the life of his family in the face of climate change.

This award winning film is a rare and personal insight into the cost of the climate crisis.

The Edmund Room, St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 1LS  
7pm-9pm

Christian Aid are showing an award winning film on the climate crisis in Kenya - a very interesting and informative evening as the film graphically illustrates how people in Kenya are affected by the crisis now and may indicate something of what we can expect in the future. Do come along if you can.

### Home for Good Foundations Course

Starting February 2022



Would you like to learn more about Fostering and Adoption? Why not join our next Foundations Course starting this February? The Foundations course explores fostering and adoption related themes over six sessions. There is plenty of time for discussion, reflection and bible study. It's for anyone wishing to learn more. Register your interest below to arrange the next course time/venue to suit your needs

<https://forms.office.com/r/RUu7EqxxfA> or email [hello@homeforgoodsuffolk.org.uk](mailto:hello@homeforgoodsuffolk.org.uk).

Suffolk urgently needs more foster carers and adopters and Home for Good is a Suffolk-wide small organisation, founded in 2014, connected to national charity Home for Good ([homeforgood.org.uk](http://homeforgood.org.uk)) but operate separately under the local charity Transforming Futures - Suffolk (Charity No. 1169250). Like the national charity, they are providing a Christian response to the social need for more foster families and adoptive homes by raising awareness of the local need through connecting and partnering with Suffolk churches.

### **Safeguarding Leadership courses via Zoom**

Wednesdays 2 and 9 February (10.00am – 12.00pm)

Wednesdays 16 and 23 February (7.00pm – 9.00pm)

Saturdays 19 and 26 February (10.00am – 12.00pm)

Saturdays 5 and 12 March (10.00am – 12.00pm)

Wednesdays 9 and 16 March (10.00am – 12.00pm)

Wednesdays 9 and 16 March (7.00pm – 9.00pm)

Wednesdays 6 and 13 April (10.00am – 12.00pm)

All Leadership courses take place over **two sessions**. Session one is the date advertised on the main screen on Eventbrite. Session two is one week later and shown when you book onto the course, so do please ensure you are available for **both** sessions at time of booking. We would encourage everyone who can to complete the training in this format, as although we will be delivering face-to-face training throughout the Diocese, the numbers are still extremely restricted due to facilitator requirements and Covid-19 precautions.

Please go to our Eventbrite page [here](#) to book.

If you are unsure what level of Safeguarding training you require, please have a look at the details given on our website [here](#) or check with your Parish Safeguarding Officer. For any other Safeguarding Training enquiries please contact us at: [safeguarding.training@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:safeguarding.training@cofesuffolk.org). We look forward to meeting you at a training event soon.

**Parish Safeguarding Office Training Requirements Questionnaire:** Thank you to all Parish Safeguarding Officers who returned their Safeguarding Training Requirements before Christmas. As a result, we have been able to contact our team of Volunteer trainers and set up a number of training events in specific areas. This is ongoing, so if you haven't been contacted yet, you will be soon. If you did not get the opportunity to return your questionnaire, please do so now. As a team we are committed to delivering training to everyone in our diocese who needs it, so the more we know about where the urgent needs for training are, the more quickly we will be able to respond.

## **Notices**

**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 during the Covid-19 pandemic.**



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## Message from Gary Peverley, Finance Director, on Parish Share end of year payments:

Thank you to all of our parishes for your giving towards parish share so far for this year. We would like to remind you that we continue to accept payments towards the 2021 parish share **up to and including Monday 31 January 2022. Payments received after that date, unless we know about them in advance, will be treated as 2022 parish share.** This is to enable us to move more quickly to close our own accounts and prepare for our statutory audit. We understand that, for some parishes, it can take time to work through final parish share payments for the year just ending, but would appreciate it if we could all work to the timetable above and understand the cut-off dates. Our preference is to receive funds via online banking (but please ensure you make clear which year the payment is for in the text field).

Any cheques must be received at the office by 31 January 2022 to be included in your 2021 Parish Share figures. Cheques received after this date will only be accounted for in your 2021 figures if you have told us by 31 January to expect the cheque so that we can accrue for it, allowing us to finalise our own accounts.

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Bishop Martin will be at St Edmundsbury Cathedral on Saturday 16 April at 5.30pm for an Easter Vigil and annual Diocesan Confirmation. You are warmly invited to bring candidates to this year's Diocesan Confirmation Service. Please confirm your attendance with Canon Philip Banks ([philip.banks@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:philip.banks@cofesuffolk.org)) for planning purposes and to prepare the usual paperwork.

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## Vacancies

[Human Resources Manager, Norwich/Ipswich](#) | Closing date: 24 January  
[Chief Finance Officer](#) | Diocesan Multi-Academy-Trust | Closing date: 24 January  
[Priest-in-Charge](#) | Waterfront Parishes, Ipswich | 0.5 | Closing date: 26 January  
[Schools and Youth Worker \(part-time\)](#) | Newmarket & District Youth For Christ | Closing date: 31 January  
[Trust Chaplain](#) | East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust | Closing date: 31 January  
[Cafe Manager](#) | St Michael's, Martlesham Heath | Closing date: 4 February  
[Rector](#) | Suffolk Heights Benefice | Closing date: 7 February  
[Vicar](#) | All Saints' Newmarket | Closing date: 9 February  
[Interim Priest-in-Charge](#) (3 years full-time) | Mid Loes benefice | Closing date: 20 February  
[Diocesan Mission Administrator \(Mission and Ministry\)](#) | Closing date 21 February  
[Vicar](#) | Bures with Assington and Little Cornard | Closing date: 25 February  
[Priest in Charge](#) | Alde Sandlings (Aldeburgh) Benefice | Closing date: 16 March  
[Rector 0.5](#) | St Mary Stoke, Ipswich  
[Worship Pastor, Coffee Shop Manager, Fundraising Assistant](#) | River Church, Ipswich  
[Children and Families' Worker](#) | Bridge Church, Ipswich

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# eNews

THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of St Edmundsbury  
and Ipswich



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