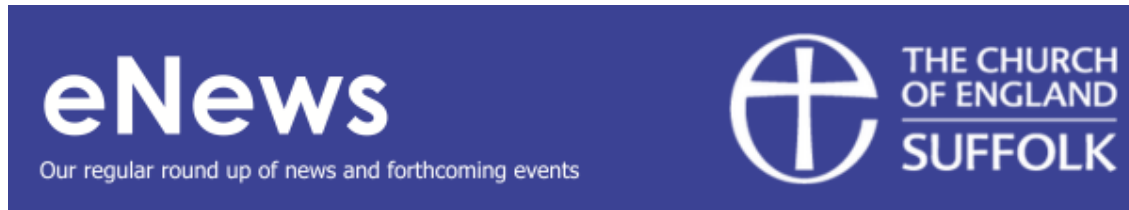


Thursday 21 September 2023



Service of Thanksgiving for 50 years of Suffolk Historic Churches Trust



With choirs, music, readings, prayers and a message from Griff Rhys-Jones, the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust (SHCT) celebrated, on Sunday, 50 years of supporting historic church buildings of all denominations, in Suffolk. Over the years they have awarded thousands of pounds of grants, for church restoration and improvements, that was raised through legacies and sponsored events -principally the annual

Suffolk Churches Ride and Stride.

To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Church remembers brave Battle of Britain airmen



A service to remember those who fought and died in the Battle of Britain was held at a church in Ipswich at the weekend. MP Dan Poulter and Ipswich's Deputy Mayor Elango Elavalakan were among the guests who packed St Mary and St Boltoph Church in Whitton for the commemoration service on Sunday. They were joined by 188 (Ipswich) Squadron Air Training Cadets, who led a procession into the church

before hymns and prayers were said in honour of the brave airmen who made the ultimate sacrifice in defence of our country.

To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Kagera Update

Chris and Anji Dawkins arrive safely in Kagera after a rather arduous journey. They were grateful to be taking with them five laptops as gifts from churches in Suffolk. *"The scenery is as ever amazing – steep hills and lush valleys where people were busy working on their rice paddies. It always feels such a privilege to see at first hand the sights and sounds of Africa – everywhere people walking, children playing with tyres and stones, goats tethered on the verges, bicycles laden with boxes, water, sugar cane and more. And the smells of*



dust and diesel and eucalyptus" said Chris. The group were greeted by an official reception at KCTC with delicious food, prayers, the college choir. However the highlight was the traditional dancing by a group of students dressed for the occasion. Chris adds *"It's always so humbling to be greeted like royalty with such warmth and love. They teach us so much about Welcome"*.

National Generosity Week 24 September to 1 October 2023

We are delighted to share with you all of the resources and materials available for this year's Generosity Week. To get you started, we have updated our website with the resources you need. There are service outlines, sermon starters, prayers and a quiz - all generosity-themed - which you can find [here](#). You might choose to do this during the designated week, as part of your harvest services, or at any time of year as the resources are not time sensitive. This is also an ideal time to say thank you to those in your congregation and community for their continued support, you can also find template thank you letters in the resources section of our Parish Resources page [here](#). The Parish Resources team is happy to help you: contact: Julie Podd, Parish Resources Manager, julie.podd@cofesuffolk.org

Follow the Star: Join the Song



The Church of England are relaunching the very popular *Follow the Star* branding for 2023. This year's theme – *Follow the Star: Join the Song* – highlights how singing can help draw us closer to God and each other through the journey from Advent to Epiphany.

In the story of the first Christmas, the shepherds are astonished to find the night sky filled with countless voices singing God's praise. Find out more [here](#).

Please join one of their launch webinars outlining the key elements of the Join the Song campaign - to invite choirs and singing groups of all ages to learn and sing the carol.

Using Join the Song with under-18s

Wednesday 27 September 10.00am | [register here](#)

Christmas 2023's digital resources unwrapped

Wednesday 11 October 3.00pm | [register here](#)

Youth Essentials - training for youth workers

Tuesdays starting 16 January and finishing 26 March (no meeting on 20 February) 7.15pm to 9.15pm

Earl Stonham Village Hall, Forward Green IP14 5HJ.

Join this innovative course which will increase your skills and build confidence in your role



working alongside young people. You may be looking to start youth work or you could already be volunteering - we can tailor sessions to suit you and your needs! Volunteers from all over the Diocese will join the course so we can learn from each other's situations and experiences. This is a 10-session basic level course designed by Youthscape and topics include Insights into Young People; Skills for Youth Work and Developing Character. [Click here](#) to download the leaflet for more information. Any enquiries to: [Matt Levett](#), Youth and Young Adults Enabler, 07736 941654 and to book onto the course please click [here](#).

Events

Climate Action Conference

23 September - 1 October
St Mary's Halesworth

An exploration of how climate change will impact Halesworth and surrounding villages, and what we as communities and individuals can do about it. To build solutions for community resilience and adaptation to a sustainable future. You are also invited to visit this exhibition on local projects which includes exploration, exhibitions, conversations, talks, workshops and actions. In addition on Friday 29 September, Bishop Martin will chair a question time style panel discussion with Dr Therese Coffey amongst others from 6.30pm in St Mary's Halesworth, you can watch the debate on www.youtube.com/@halesworthparish. For more details visit www.halesworthash.com.

The Bible, Bugs and Insect Decline

Sunday 24 September 3.00pm
Foxearth Meadows CO10 7HZ

The Revd Mike Perry is key speaker for this open air service, having worked as a research biologist before becoming an Anglican priest. For comfort, do bring along a chair or rug to sit on. We invite people to come along early to enjoy the reserve or stay afterwards for a guided walk. On-site car parking is available. More information is available [here](#).

Mission Shaped Ministry Course – Growing in God's Mission

Tuesday 26 September, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Earl Stonham Village Hall, Forward Green IP14 5HJ



Join our new MSM Course – Growing in God's Mission! The course will help equip you for Mission in the 2020s in parish churches and new Worshipping Communities. This six-session interactive and dynamic course is devised to help us reach out beyond our regular congregations, with experience in mission learning from many, both in our diocese and nationally. We will be introducing practices to

enable you to engage in God's mission in your context that will go beyond the course itself in whatever context. All dates, and booking details are available [here](#).

Vocation Conversations

Thursday 28 September, 7.00pm-8.00pm on Zoom



This is the first 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?'. For the first conversation we will be joined by Bishop Martin, who is going to share his vocation journey with us. Open to all interested in hearing Bishop Martin's story. Come and join the conversations with others about their vocational journeys. Sign up [here](#).

Faith Empowered - training for Evangelists

Saturday 30 September, 12.00pm

The Rectory, Grundisburgh IP13 6UF



Faith Empowered is a one-year course (September 2023 to July 2024) exploring the ministry of Evangelists, using materials developed with the Church Army. Participants come together in person and online to discuss key subjects such as how to get to know your context, what evangelism is, how to plan a missional activity and what to say when people ask big questions. If you are interested in exploring this ministry come along to our welcome BBQ. For more information please visit our website [here](#) or download our course leaflet [here](#).

Haverhill Heritage Days 2023

Saturday 30 September 10.30am

St Mary's Church, Haverhill CB9 8AX

The friends of St Mary's invite you to join them to find out about Stained Glass and Conservation - featuring Derek Hunt, an expert in the conservation of stained glass and leaded glass windows. The event is free and refreshments will be provided.

Suffolk Harvest Festival

Sunday 1 October from 12.00pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

The Dean of St Edmundsbury invites you to this year's Suffolk Harvest Festival. Starting at 12.00pm, the Cathedral will be open to visitors with Farming Live! a great, interactive, engaging demonstration from local Suffolk farmers. Perfect for children and adults alike, static farm machines will be on the Cathedral grounds for the public to get up and close with. There will also be live talks about the machinery, crops and farming in general with plenty of interactive elements and the chance to ask all your burning questions about farming! The Harvest Service will take place from 2.00pm to 3.00pm led by Bishop Martin and joined by Mark Murphy (former BBC Radio Suffolk presenter) who will interview some very special guests around this year's theme of Living Water.



Statistics for Mission and the Online Parish Returns System

Wednesday 4 October 2.00pm Online

Wednesday 11 October 7.30pm Online

This information-based webinar will be presented by Charlotte Hodgson, Paul Sparrow and Nigel Cook to explain the purpose of the Online Parish Returns System. The session is ideal for anyone associated with the Church but especially those involved in completing data

returns on behalf of their parish. Areas covered will include registering on the system, Statistics for Mission, Finance Return, and the Energy Footprint Tool kit. There will be an opportunity at the end for you to ask questions.

For the 4 October session please book [here](#), or for the 11 October session please book [here](#).

Live Launch: The Thrive Collection NEW

Thursday 5 October, 12.00pm-12.45pm, online

Join this free launch of the collection of resources from CPAS. Pam Macnaughton, creator of The Thrive Collection, and James Lawrence, CPAS Leadership Principal, will host this online lunchtime launch and share how these resources can help your multi-parish benefice to thrive. The Thrive Collection includes a book, a prayer guide, a leaders course and sessions for PCCs. All those who attend will be offered a one-off discount on The Thrive Collection. Book [here](#).

World Mission Conference - Ethical Consumerism

Saturday 7 October, 9.00am-1.00pm

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



Ethical consumerism is the practice of purchasing products and services produced in a way that minimises social and/or environmental damage, while avoiding products and services thought to have a negative impact on society or the environment. Key speakers include Mike Gidney, CEO of the Fairtrade Foundation

and Ruth Lindley, Campaigns Lead, Transform Trade, with more to be announced soon. Please book [here](#).

Pets Service

Sunday 8 October, 2.00pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

This service invites 'all creatures great and small', furry, feathered and scaled visitors to come along to the Cathedral for a blessing. Attendees can bring a photograph if they feel they cannot bring their pet. There will also be time to remember the pets we've had loved and lost and to thank God for them, because our pets are our family, and our grief is felt

very strongly when our pets die. It is a wonderful opportunity to thank God for the gift of animals and for us to ask God's blessing on all that he has made.

Inspire Counselling, Training Celebration and Thanksgiving Service

Sunday 8 October, 10.00am

St Matthew's Church, Portman Road, Ipswich IP1 2EX

Celebrating 25 years of providing a counselling service and 30 years of providing training. Bishop Martin will be in attendance and will re-commission Inspire and the team. Refreshments and cake will be provided. This is an open invitation - no need to respond, just turn up!

Saxophony Concert

Sunday 8 October, 2.30pm

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

You are invited to 'Saxophony', an experienced local saxophone quartet, for a concert. A shared project with Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Free entry, donations in aid of St Mary's church and Martlesham Wilds, the exciting new nature reserve which is right next to the church along Martlesham creek. No need to book, parking available. Come and enjoy great music from Mozart to the Beatles, Queen and Abba and find out more about Martlesham Wilds!

Rolling Down Justice: Disability, Intersectionality and God

Saturday 14 October, 10.00am to 4.30pm

On Zoom, with BSL and captions

Intersectionality is a way of describing how social categories (eg disability, race, gender) combine to create overlapping systems of discrimination or disadvantage. In this online conference you will explore intersectional experience and how we can help the waters of justice flow in church and the world around us. Through art, story and theology; in talks, small groups, workshops and worship. Book [here](#).

Lay Elder training and social morning

Saturday 21 October 21, 9.30am - 1.30pm

Salvation Army Stowmarket, Violet Hill Road IP14 1NE

As part of our two-year cycle of training and celebrating, we are holding an Elders training and social morning with special guest speakers from across the Diocese. We are also very pleased that our keynote speaker will be the Venerable Rich Henderson, Archdeacon of Suffolk. For more information and to book please click [here](#).

Caring for Creation

Saturday 21 October, 10.00am - 12.30pm

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

Join Mark Prina, Manager at Foxearth Meadows nature reserve along with the Revd Canon Mark Haworth for this talk on Caring for Creation. All welcome for this meeting of the diocesan group of the Society of Catholic Priests. Refreshments available on arrival. To book please email [Michael Wilde](mailto:Michael.Wilde@st-edmundsbury.org) or call on 01284 767415. A donation made on the day towards costs would be very much appreciated.

Practical Ways to Help Your Church Build a Generous Culture

24 October, 7.00pm start (arrive at 6.30pm for tea/coffee)

Hoxne Village Hall, IP21 5AN

Join the Diocesan Parish Resources Team (Julie Podd & Emma Denton) to find out more about the Parish Giving Scheme, contactless donation devices, online giving with QR codes, and grants & funding. They will be sharing details from the Anglican Giving Survey about why people give (and don't give) and suggest ways to encourage giving from both your congregation and wider community. To book contact: Rachel Ball by email: rachelball3@icloud.com or Tel: 07876 352796.

Holy Trinity Church Scaffolding Tours

Thursday 26 October, 10.00am - 4.00pm

Holy Trinity Church, Long Melford CO10 9DT

Following a successful event in August, this is another opportunity to view Holy Trinity Church, Long Melford from the highest interior point of the church to view the ongoing repairs; look at areas usually completely inaccessible to people, and take in panoramic views through the windows. Cost is £15 and includes coffee/cake. Booking essential, please contact [Judi Moss](mailto:Judi.Moss@stowmarket.org) on 07748 038074.

An Adventurous Advent

Saturday 28 October, 9.00am - 12.30pm

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

An invitation to all Readers, Licensed Lay Ministers, Elders and those in training - do join us as Mark Oakley leads us in preparation for An Adventurous Advent. The language of hope, promise and waiting is not evident in today's culture and our communities embrace Christmas at the beginning of December with the switching on of town lights and Christmas carol services throughout the month. The season of Advent, with its four weeks of waiting, is counter-cultural. To find out more and book your place on this event, please click [here](#).

PCC Workshop - Grants & Funding

Wednesday 1 November 12.00pm to 1.00pm | Book [here](#)

Wednesday 8 November 1.00pm to 2.00pm | Book [here](#)

Join Emma Denton, Diocesan Grants Advisor and John Bailey from Beccles on Zoom for this workshop. Both have considerable success in accessing grants and funding. Learn about the advice and resources available from the Diocese and find out about the Church Grants database. They will welcome questions at the end of their presentations.

PCC Workshop - Gifts in Wills

Wednesday 8 November 12.00pm to 1.00pm | Book [here](#)

Thursday 30 November 12.00pm to 1.00pm | Book [here](#)

Emma Denton will be joined by Eleanor Stead (Head of Giving, Church of England) to help you learn how to set up and promote a parish gifts in wills policy in your parish. Access to free online wills through Farewill.

PCC Workshop - Digital Giving

Tuesday 14 November 12.00pm to 1.00pm | Book [here](#)

An opportunity to share why digital giving is so important for all churches to enable your generous congregation and wider community to give easily to your church. Includes: setting up online giving campaigns, using payment providers and how to share the online link and QR codes on your A Church Near You Page and/or your website and more. We can show what different donation device options are available. We could also offer you a trial of the 'Collectin' device.

TRiM 2023 - You are not alone

Tuesday 21 November - Wednesday 22 November 10.00am to 1.30pm
High Leigh Conference Centre, Lord Street, Hoddesdon EN11 8SG

Each year the participating churches in the Eastern Region are invited to join together for a short residential conference on Theological Refreshment in Ministry. It is open to ministers, priests, local preachers and Licensed Lay Ministers from all of our participating churches. The TRiM conference provides an opportunity to learn and pray together in a relaxed atmosphere away from church duties. Each year it focuses on one particular theological discipline and in 2023 this will be Pastoral Supervision, led by the Revd Dr Jane Leach. For more information or to book, please [click here](#).

Bishops' Teaching morning: The Gospel of Mark, with Professor George van Kooten

Saturday 25 November 9.30am - 12.30pm
Salvation Army, Violet Hill Road, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

Bishop Martin and Bishop Mike invite you to a study morning on 'the Gospel of Mark' with guest speaker Professor George van Kooten from the Faculty of Divinity at the University of Cambridge, who will be asking what is the genre of Mark's gospel, what is its wider context and the thrust of its argument? Book early to avoid disappointment! Free of charge, please book [here](#). Enquiries to Lesley Steed on 07485 348889 or lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org.

The series of Bishops' teaching mornings will continue in 2024, the provisional dates are: 3 February 2024, 27 April 2024 and 23 November 2024.

Drawing near to God in Advent: prayer, postures and practices

Tuesday 28 November 7.00pm - 8.30pm, online

Bishop Mike will lead four Zoom sessions through Advent looking at aspects of prayer (e.g. praise, intercession...), Christian postures (e.g. peace, joy...) and associated practices to help us grow closer to God over Advent. These will run on Tuesday 28 November | Tuesday 5 December | Thursday 14 December and Tuesday 19 December. There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion. All are very welcome! Book [here](#).

The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion is a Cambridge-based interdisciplinary research institute improving public understanding of science and religion. Its main focus is on the relationship between science and the Christian faith, but it also engages with those of any faith or none. The following courses are available:

Mental Health Challenges: A Christian Response, Saturday 4 November, 9.30am - 3.15pm, online and in person.

Artificial Intelligence, Genuine Care: Helping church leaders to think Christianly about technology', spread over five evenings starting in November.

The Persistence of Faith: Scientific and Theological Perspectives, public lecture, Thursday 9 November, 6.00pm.

Cancer, Immortality and Christology: The Theological Resonance of Henrietta Lacks, 17 October at 1.00pm, online and in person.

Effective Field Theories in Particle Physics: A Mathematical Bridge to the Unknown, 31 October at 1.00pm, online and in person.

Find all details and booking information [here](#).

Notices

Diocesan Board of Patronage – re-run of the lay byelection

The Diocesan Board of Patronage (DBP) is the patron (either sole patron or jointly with another or others) of some 30 benefices in the diocese. Where a vacancy occurs in one of those benefices, the Board plays an important role in the vital process of selecting a new incumbent (or, where presentation has been suspended for any reason, a priest in charge). There is one casual vacancy on the Board. The DBP needs one lay member for it to be fully constituted. The person elected will serve until the end of the current six-year term on 31 December 2024. The lay position is open to anyone on a parish electoral roll. Candidates will need to be nominated and seconded by elected lay members of the Bishop's Council. Under the relevant Measure, they are also the electorate for any byelection.

If you are interested in standing for election, please email [Charlotte Hodgson](mailto:Charlotte.Hodgson@cofesuffolk.org), Governance Manager, on charlotte.hodgson@cofesuffolk.org who will send you a nomination form, or please [download a form here](#). Completed nomination forms must be returned by 12 noon on Thursday 28 September.

The elected lay members of the Bishop's Council who can nominate or second a lay candidate are:

- Mrs Penny Bird
- Mrs Emma Knight
- Mr David Lamming
- Mr Justin Rabett
- Mr Ian Wigston
- Mr David Walters

If you would like to know more about the work of the Board and the commitment that membership would entail, please contact the Chair of the Board, The Revd Canon Max Osborn, e-mail: max9@btinternet.com

BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship): offers prayer and thought-provoking new articles, find out more on their website: [BRF ministries](#) or sign up to receive [regular newsletters](#).

Vacancies

[Rector | Claydon and Barham, Great Blakenham and Henley](#) | Closing date: 22 September
[Priest \(0.5\)](#) | Sproughton, Burstall, Copdock with Washbrook & Belstead | Closing date: 26 September

[Part time Fundraiser and Bid-writer](#) | Lightwave | Closing date: 27 September
[Chaplain and Leader of Youth Orientated Congregation](#) | Debenham High School | Closing date: 28 September

[St Thomas Community Chaplain \(Part-Time\)](#) | Ipswich | 2 October

[Rector](#) | Beccles | Closing date: 4 October

[Priest in Charge 0.8 FTE](#) | Alde River Benefice | Closing date: 4 October

[House for Duty Priest in Charge](#) | The Wrentham Benefice | Closing date: 9 October

[Rector Designate](#) | East Bergholt, Brantham, Bentley & Tattingstone | Closing date: 10 October

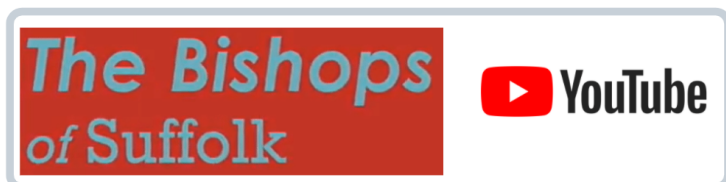
[Director of Music](#) | Woodbridge

[Director of Mission and Ministry](#) | Closing date: 19 October

[Centre Manager of the Sanctuary Day Centre](#) | Ipswich

River Church, Ipswich are recruiting for Director of Operations, Kids Pastor and Spear Centre Manager/Employability Coach. All details at: riverchurchipswich.org/vacancies

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