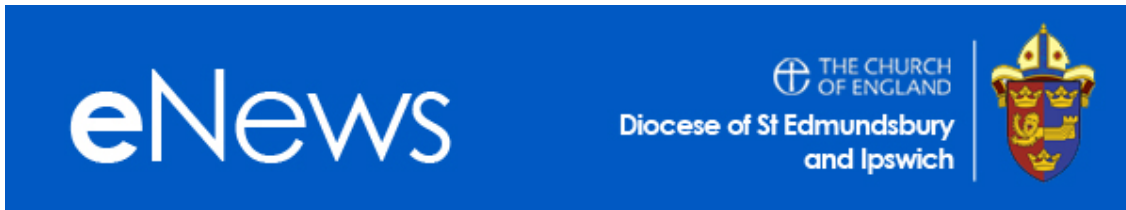


Thursday 23 February 2023**Bishop Martin's latest media article**

My wife and I recently took a walk through Staverton Thicks in Rendlesham Forest in the east of the county. This is one of a number of significant remnants of ancient medieval woodland in Suffolk, and the park of which it is part includes what may be the most extensive tract of ancient pollarded oaks in Europe. We wanted to walk there, though, not because of the human history but because of the trees.

There is something about trees, and large old trees in particular, that speaks to us – or me at least – in these uncertain and perplexing times. They have witnessed and survived the vicissitudes of the centuries and look set to do so for the centuries to come.

Trees help me in my relationship with God, and that sense of finding perspective, and deepening my sense of my place in creation, and most particularly, who Jesus is, through whom, as John's Gospel tells us, everything came and comes into being. And because we are at the beginning of Lent, the Christian season of forty days (excluding Sundays) leading to Easter Day.

We think of Lent as a time to give things up, or take something up, the reason why we do that is not to lose weight, or to feel virtuous (the first may be a good thing, the second, not!). Lent is a season to reflect on the fundamentals of who we are, our place in the universe, and so with our relationship with God. So places where we can make those connections, that take us out of ourselves, that draw us into wonder, are places for us to find in Lent.

It is easy to give things up – even though we moan, or actually give things up because we have ulterior motives. But the point of Lent is depth, honesty, truthfulness, growing in knowledge and wisdom.

And a place like Staverton, I have discovered, helps me do that. A place to ponder and to wonder, that puts me in a place where I find my place, and see beyond to the mystery and majesty of God.

Read the full story [here](#).

Preaching Matthew, with Professor George van Kooten

Saturday 25 February 9.30am to 12.30pm

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

Bishop Martin invites you to a follow-up of the November 2022 study morning 'Preaching on the Gospel of Matthew'. This session includes guest speaker Professor George van Kooten from the Faculty of Divinity at the University of Cambridge. Prof van Kooten will be asking who the magi were, and why they are so important for understanding the rest of Matthew's Gospel and particularly the Sermon on the Mount, and will look at what we can tell about the Christian community for whom Matthew wrote, and why his is 'the Gospel of the Church.' To book your place please visit here: [Bishops-preaching-Matthew-2023.eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk). Please note the other Bishops' study morning dates in 2023 are 17 June and 25 November.



This Lent we are all invited to explore how we can live well with the mess of everyday life. Dust and Glory encourages us to take a fresh look at the frustrations and failings that every day brings and, rather than pretending we can always avoid them, seek to learn from them and grow closer to God through them.

Download the Lent app available on the Apple store and

Google Play store, purchase Lent reflection booklets or explore the family activities calendar. All links and details available [here](#).

Dust and Glory with Lightwave

Lightwave are looking at moments in our lives that felt like 'Dust' but God turned them into something of 'Glory'. The first video has been launched and you can watch this video featuring Kathy Wilson here: [Lent- Dust and Glory - Lightwave](#). If you would like to join Lightwave's Lent events, they include a Lent Retreat at The Place by the Water on 18 February and 8 March plus a Lent Trail held on 26 February in Tattingstone. All details are on the website page above.

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

Wednesday evenings in Lent (Wednesday 1 March to 29 March) 7.00pm - 8.00pm

On Zoom, everyone welcome

Everyone is welcome to join this interesting line-up of speakers, each of which know something about what it means to be part of the Church where misguided perception, unconscious bias or prejudice has undermined their place in the family of God. The series starts on Wednesday 1 March with The Revd Dr Charlie Bell, curate of St John the Divine, Kennington and author of *Queer Holiness* (May 2022). He is also an academic psychiatrist at King's College London and the Maudsley, as well as being the John Marks Fellow, College Lecturer and Director of Studies in Medicine at Girton College, Cambridge.

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](#).

Bishops' Lent Appeal for Kagera

Have you started the Lent Challenge? All the daily challenges are to be 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](#).

For more details on all Lent resources and events [please click here](#).

Vocations Spotlights

We are delighted that Mark Cresswell, Associate Vicar in the Carlford Benefice, has joined our growing team of Vocations Champions.

Prior to being called to ministry Mark worked for a multinational company in marketing and IT management roles across Europe. He firstly became a Reader in the diocese of St Albans and then at the same time as moving to Suffolk he felt called to ordination through the Auxiliary Pathway. Mark now serves in a rural benefice near Woodbridge in a part-time capacity as well as spending time as a sailing instructor and landscape photographer. Having experienced these different facets of ministry Mark would be very happy to help others to discern their own calling.

To have a look at the biographies of all our Vocation Champions, please visit our website [here](#).

Make a Mother's Day

Mothering Sunday is a special time to say thank you to all mothers and caregivers for the selflessness with which they nurture, love and help us to flourish.

This year, you can celebrate or remember someone special by giving a gift of perseverance. For the past two years Mothers' Union has been especially aware how important community, perseverance and prayer are in our lives and in those of the people we are most connected with. Our gifts of perseverance are gifts you can give that will empower women around the world – often women who are themselves responsible for their own families and children.

Check out all the gifts available [here](#).

Events

Candlelit Vigil for Ukraine

Friday 24 February, 5.30pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

****Please note that this service takes place on the 24 February, not the 24 April as previously advertised. We sincerely apologise for the mistake and for any inconvenience this may have caused.****

Come along to a special service to hold those in the Ukraine in our thoughts and

prayers. The service will feature prayer, moments of reflection and some elements of sung Ukrainian Liturgy. Bishop Martin will lead the vigil with Ukrainian Priest Father Bohdan Chyborak and the Cathedral choir.

Promises and Prophecies: Mary in Art

Saturday 25 February, 10.30am (start coffee/tea for talk at 11.00am.)

Museum Street Methodist Church, Ipswich IP1 2EF (entry via Black Horse Lane).

Join this workshop for an illustrated exploration of Our Lady in the visual arts by Fleur Dorrell. This is a free event but there is an opportunity to donate.

Fairtrade Fortnight

Starting Monday 27 February

There will be events in most of the eight Fairtrade towns across the diocese over the next two weeks. To find out more, please [visit the Facebook page of the Suffolk Association of Fairtrade Towns here](#). Fairtrade is all about our fourth and fifth marks of mission, seeking to change unjust structures of society and safeguarding the integrity of creation. There are already many Fairtrade churches across our diocese, but if you would like to become one then please visit our [Get Involved website](#) to find out more, or contact our World Development Advisers, details on our website here: [Why Fairtrade?](#)

Safeguarding Volunteer Training

28 February 7.30-8.30pm and 15 March 3.30-4.30pm, Zoom

As momentum and meeting National Church guidelines for delivering Safeguarding Training across the Diocese continues apace, we are looking to grow our excellent Core Group of Volunteers Trainers to work alongside our two Diocesan Safeguarding Trainers, Lisa Hicks and Mark Bee. As a volunteer trainer we would be asking you to deliver training locally on a one-to-one basis or in small groups. If you are interested in finding out more about being a Volunteer Trainer, Lisa and Mark are hosting two separate information sessions via Zoom, outlining how a Volunteer Safeguarding Trainer can support the drive towards promoting a Safer Church for all. To book your place, [please click here](#).

Thanksgiving Service for East Anglian writer Ronald Blythe

Wednesday 1 March 2.00pm - 3.00pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Following his death on 14 January, St Edmundsbury Cathedral will hold a Thanksgiving Service for the life of East Anglian writer Ronald Blythe. Bishop Martin will lead the service which is open to the public and will feature a eulogy by Julia Blackburn, Suffolk author and friend of Ronald. The service will also include music by Benjamin Britten, Suffolk composer and a close friend of Blythe. For those unable to attend in person, the service will be livestreamed at: [Facebook.com/stedscathedral](https://www.facebook.com/stedscathedral).

Cost of Living support with Citizens Advice

Please be advised that this event has been postponed - new date to be announced soon.

Sunday Afternoon Concerts at St Andrew's Church, Rushmere

Sunday 5 March, 3.00pm
St Andrew's Church, Rushmere IP5 1DH

The spring programme of weekly Sunday afternoon concerts at St Andrew's begins on 5 March. The concerts present a high quality of performance and a wide range of musical styles - solo guitar, big band, wind quintet, organ recital and concert band. There is no charge for admission and everyone is welcome to attend. Refreshments are provided and we invite voluntary contributions after each event in support of the local Air Ambulance Service. For more information [please click here](#).

Ishmael's Praise Party Concert

Saturday 11 March, 2.00pm
Christ Church Moreton Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP32 7EW

Come along and celebrate God with this high energy concert, packed with praise, singing and participation, especially tailored for young people and young families. While it is free to all who attend, there will be an offering to support Ishmael's ministry. No booking required. If you would like more information please email the [Revd Jonathan Ford](#).

Praxis East - Treasures Old and New

Thursday 16 March, 7.00 – 9.00 pm, Zoom

Come and explore the tensions between traditional and contemporary expressions of worship. This is another opportunity for liturgy and worship practitioners across the eastern dioceses to come together. Using a peer-led discussion on Zoom, clergy and lay ministers can share experience, ideas and expertise. To book your place please email Helen: helenbent99@gmail.com.

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](#).

Women Clergy - meeting reminder

Saturday 29 April, 9.30am - 12.30pm
Salvation Army Hall, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

A reminder for women clergy in the diocese - a gathering featuring guest speaker the Revd Dr Julie Gittoes talking on 'Her bleeding stopped: the embodied borderland of the menopause'. This will be followed by Q and A and discussion. Any questions please email the Revd Ali Miller: on teamvicarlvnb@btinternet.com or DAWM@cofesuffolk.org

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](#).

The St Edmundsbury and Ipswich chapter of the Society of Catholic Priests (SCP)

Thursday 4 May, 11.00am

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Please join this inclusive - for ordained men and women - celebration of humanity in all God-given diversity with respect to ethnicity, gender, sexuality. It is in the Catholic tradition found within the Anglican communion and is centred on the Eucharist. For more information please email Mother Ali: teamvicarlvnb@btinternet.com

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. They will address personal financial planning issues and questions that in their experience face most clergy. To book your place, please email Lesley-Anne.Marriott@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

The Guild of All Souls Day Conference

Thursday 11 May 10.00am – 3.00pm

The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Norfolk

'How are you doing?' Exploring the reality of mental health and a Christian response to it. Come along to a day conference led by Mrs Michaela Suckling (RGN; PGC NHS leadership; Advanced Dip. in counselling and group work, who is a parish nurse of St Matthew Carver Street, Sheffield - also a member of the House of Laity of General Synod and Council of the Guild of All Souls). Also featuring The Revd Canon Paul Cartwright (Vicar of the Priory Benefice, Diocese of Leeds who is also a Police Officer, Mental Health First Aider (Youth and Adult) and a member of the House of Clergy of General Synod). Explore issues including myth-busting mental health issues, how poor mental health can present, how to discuss mental health and thoughts of suicide and when to seek help, and having solution-focussed conversations.

Price is £20 including coffee/tea and lunch. Places are strictly limited. To book please email Mrs Maureen Howard: mihoward@btinternet.com.

Re-Imagining Mothers' Union Discovery Day

Friday 23 June 10.00am to 3.00pm
Shepherd's Drive Baptist Church, Ipswich IP8 3SL

Mothers' Union members from branches across the diocese are invited to come together, to share ideas and address the challenges of running branch accounts, maintaining branch leadership roles and growing branch membership, as well as developing new projects and outreach programmes. To book your free place email:
Jeanette Appleton at Jeanette.Appleton@mothersunion.org

Clergy retreat in Brugge - Belgium

9-13 October 2023

St Andrews 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. The Revd David Messer has been organising the retreat for about 15 years. A range of speakers talk on a range of subjects from World Mission, The Psalms, Henri Nouwen, not forgetting Canon Matthew Vernon using a Japanese Tea Making Ceremony and its use of meditation. Cost for accommodation and food is 185 euros. For more information or to book, please email David: davidharrymesser93@gmail.com

Notices

Save the Date!

Bishop Martin and Bishop Mike invite you to the Farewell and Thanksgiving Service for the ministry of Archdeacon Jeanette as she retires from the Archdeaconry of Suffolk. The service will take place on Sunday 23 April at Framlingham Parish Church, Church Street, Framlingham, IP13 9BH. It will start at 3.00pm and will be followed by light refreshments. Everyone is welcome.

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 31 March 2023.** 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](#). Further information is available on our website [here](#).

Parochial fees: The framework for parochial fees in 2020-24 agreed by General Synod in 2019 resulted in the fees increasing by 9.9% (August CPI) rounded up to the nearest pound from 1 January 2023. The Archbishops' Council considered this was too high an increase in the light of factors such as stipend increases and cost of living pressures. It asked General Synod to consider an amending order which would reduce the increase to 5% rounded up to the nearest pound and set the 2024 increase at the lower of CPI and 5%. Last week General Synod approved the order [SI/SR Template \(churchofengland.org\)](#).

The Order has since been made and will be laid before Parliament on 28 February and come into force on 1 March. The tables can be found on the Church of England website

[Life events parochial fees and guidance](#) and an updated PF1 form, to be used for all funerals from 1 March, can be found on our website from 24 February at [Parochial fees](#).

Energy Updates from Parish Resources Manager Julie Podd. This useful update features important updates regarding energy bills, contracts, VAT and more. [Please download your copy here.](#)

Vacancies

[Priest in Charge 0.5 | Exning St Martin's with Landwade, Exning St Agnes](#) | Closing date: 28 February

[Church Planting Curates - Three opportunities across Ipswich](#) | Closing date: 28 February

[Priest in Charge | Alde River Benefice](#) | Closing date: 28 February

[Rector | Claydon and Barham, Great Blakenham and Henley](#) | Closing date: 28 February

[Priest in Charge \(0.5\) | Hundred River and Wainford Benefice](#) | Closing date 6 March

[Giving Advisor, Parish Resources Team \(Grants\)](#) | Closing date: 7 March

[Vicars Choral | St Edmundsbury Cathedral](#) | Closing date: 10 March

[Priest in Charge | Benefice of Elmsett with Aldham, Hintlesham, Chattisham and Kersey](#) |

Closing date: 24 March

[House for Duty Priest in Charge | The Wrentham Benefice](#) | Closing date: 4 April

Suffolk Clergy Charity - Hon. Secretary Post

The Suffolk Clergy Charity is a small charity in the Diocese which exists to support retired clergy and clergy widows and widowers. It is chaired by the Archdeacon of Suffolk, meets four times a year and currently needs someone to help put the agenda together with the Archdeacon and the Revd Dr Simon Hill, Bishop's Retirement Officer, and to take the Minutes. Any travel expenses will be paid. For more information on the charity, [please download this leaflet](#). Would you be able to help us? If so, please contact Archdeacon Jeanette: archdeacon.jeanette@cofesuffolk.org | 07710 479497

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