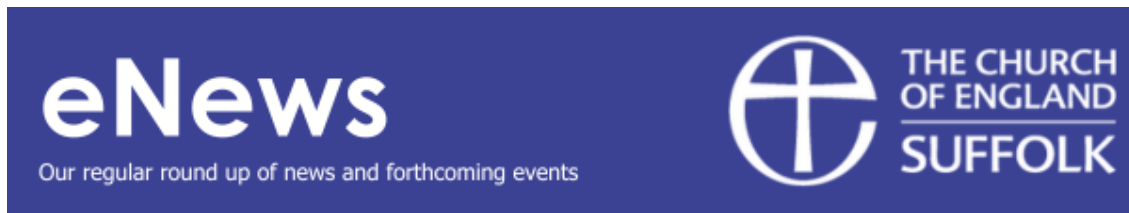


**Thursday 25 April 2024**



### **Church events tackle rural isolation and food poverty**



A church project at St Mary's Church, Hadleigh aims to cut rural isolation and help alleviate food poverty, it has become so popular that up to 100 parents and children attend events.

Pop-Up events were started to promote a community spirit for those struggling in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. They also became a warm space for residents

and villagers finding it difficult to pay for soaring energy costs or have a hot meal. The majority of attendees come from Hadleigh, however some people travel to the town and events are also supported by Ukrainians and military families. Events have included weekly free meals, children's activities, crafts and a Christmas party. Financial support comes from church members, Hadleigh Town Council, charities and a local business. Food was supplied by Morrisons in the first few months. One attendee, Zoe, who brings along her two young children said: *"We really appreciate the warm welcome, food and a safe place to chat and enjoy ourselves. The church building is being used as a community space and it is fun, noisy and lively which brightens up our day."* To read the full story on our website, please [click here](#).

### **Work out your church's carbon footprint to help care for God's creation!**

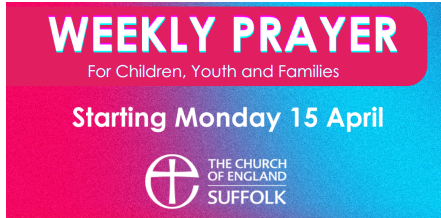


The Church of England's Energy Footprint Tool is now open for churches to enter fuel and power use from 2023. You can access the tool through the Parish Returns portal

[here](#). The data collected from the tool will help your church understand its carbon footprint and will mean you may be eligible for grants to help kickstart your net zero projects.

If you need any help with the tool, please contact our Net Zero Carbon Officer at [james.rolls@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:james.rolls@cofesuffolk.org) who will be happy to assist you. This work is an essential part of caring for God's Creation, by helping to combat global heating and climate change. Find out more about the tool [here](#).

## Growing Younger Prayer meetings



You are invited to join the new Growing Younger prayer group where you would be very welcome to join us in a weekly prayer meeting from 9.15am to 9.45am to pray for children, young people, families, paid and volunteer workers, teachers, schools and churches. Please email here for the Zoom link. Work out your church's carbon footprint to help care for God.

## Events

### 'Leading your Church into Growth' (LyCiG for short) is coming to Suffolk!

Friday 5 July 2024, 6.00pm to 9.30pm | Saturday 6 July 2024, 8.30am to 2.00pm  
Sunday 7 July 2024, 2.15pm to 5.45pm | Debenham Community Centre IP4 6BL



We are excited to let you know about an opportunity coming up this summer. 'Leading your Church into Growth' (LyCiG for short) is coming to Suffolk! A free

conference offering practical help to partner with God to grow your church(es), to inspire church leaders and encourage you to feel that, in your own way, at your own pace, and with God's help you can do it! LyCiG will equip you with a straightforward and workable strategy to enable you to create (or finesse) and implement a Growing in God plan for growth.

More information has been sent directly to your Incumbent and Churchwarden. Further information is available here: <https://lycig-2024.eventbrite.co.uk> or email [lycig@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:lycig@cofesuffolk.org)

### Celebration and Thanksgiving for the Ministry of Churchwardens

Sunday 5 May, 3.30pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS



A service of celebration and thanksgiving for the ministry of churchwardens. Friends and family are welcome. Bishop Martin writes; *"I am delighted we are able to hold a service of celebration and thanksgiving for churchwardens, recognising the vital role they play in the life and ministry of the Church throughout the Diocese. I am conscious that so much of the work undertaken by churchwardens often goes on behind the scenes so this will be a wonderful opportunity to express our gratitude*

*on behalf of the people and parishes of Suffolk. I really hope everyone will be able to join us at the Cathedral."*

### **Bishops' Teaching Morning: Priesthood in the Church of England**

Saturday 27 April, 9.30am - 12.30pm

Salvation Army Hall, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

Bishop Martin and Bishop Mike will be joined by the Very Revd Mandy Ford, Dean of Bristol Cathedral, as they discuss the history and understanding of the church over the past 30 years and how women and men can flourish. This morning will also celebrate and reflect on 30 years of women in priesthood in our own diocese and the CofE more widely. For more information and to book, please [click here](#).

### **The Lightwave Community Thank you Gathering (and AGM)**

Monday 29 April, 6.30pm - 9.00pm

Salvation Army Hall, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

A fantastic opportunity to hear about what has been happening in and through the Lightwave Community in the last year, to praise God and to show our gratitude all those who have been part of making it happen, especially our trustees. The meeting will also include the essential business of the Annual General Meeting for the Lightwave Community. Full details available [here](#).

### **Digital Giving**

Tuesday 30 April 1.00pm: online



Join the Parish Resources Team as they share why digital giving is so important for all churches to enable your generous congregation and wider community to give easily to your church. They will show you how to set up online giving campaigns using 'Give A Little' and 'Sum Up' or 'Stripe' (payment providers) and how to share the online link and QR codes on your A Church Near You Page and/or your website as well as using it on pew sheets, posters and in parish magazines. They will also

show you some donation device options for those churches with WiFi, churches that have good mobile SIM coverage inside their church, and for those who need an off-line device, including different pricing options. There will be time to ask questions and to see the Collectin devices that we can lend out to you on trial. Sign up [here](#)

### **Music for a Cathedral Year: Choral Concert**

Thursday 2 May, 6.30pm

St Mary Magdalene Church, Bildeston IP7 7EE

Join the St Edmundsbury Cathedral Girl Choristers and Adult Choir for an evening of uplifting music celebrating the Cathedral Year. This will be a memorable event, with music from the Tudor period up to the present day, including special arrangements by the Cathedral Director of Music, Timothy Parsons. Followed by canapés and champagne prepared by The Bildeston Crown, sponsored by Mauldons Brewery. Book [here](#).

### **Now I See: Exploring Prayer and creativity**

Saturday 4 May, 9.30am - 12.30pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

How do we broaden our vision to find deeper awareness and richer prayer? Join us for workshops on icons, photography and art with contributors: Sr Annette Lawrence, the Revd Wendy Gourlay, Canon John Parr, Canon Andrew Vessey and Bishop John Roundhill. For more information and to book, please [click here](#).

### **Hope for Creation: Community Concert**

Saturday 4 May 7.00pm

St Andrew's Church, Rushmere, Ipswich IP5 1DH

In conjunction with Richard Hubbard and the SATB choir, St Andrew's youth team offer a lively presentation of musical items, dramatic interludes and readings on the theme of creation. Expect some audience participation. No charge and no need to book, just come and enjoy. For more information, please [click here](#)

### **Introduction to Online Giving**

Friday 8 May, 3.00pm – 4.00pm

Take the first steps in setting up online giving for your church, including QR codes, web campaigns, accessing reports, and gift aid data. This webinar is helpful for newcomers to online giving, and also provides an opportunity for others to ask questions and think about how to optimise their online giving. Please [book here](#).

### **T h a n k f u ! : a service of remembrance and celebration**

Sunday 12 May, 3.30pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS



A special service of remembrance for all who have received care from St Nicholas Hospice during the past 40 years. It is also an opportunity to celebrate those who have made this possible and a unique time to thank everyone involved in building their legacy. Everyone is welcome to attend - if you would like to join us, you must reserve your seat(s) by 26 April. The easiest way to do this is via a form on our website which can be [found here](#). Alternatively, you can contact Supporter

Care on 01284 715566.

### **PCC Workshop – Gifts in Wills**

Monday 13 May, 12.00pm online

Emma Denton (Diocesan Giving Advisor) will be joined by Helen Simpkins (Head of Fundraising, Church of England) to help you learn how to set up a Gifts in Wills policy and promote Gifts in Wills in your parish. They will share new resources, explain access to free online wills through Farewill and help you to start the conversation around Gifts in Wills in your parish. This is supported by the Parish Resources Team. Please book [here](#).

### **Run with Joy: Benedictine Wisdom for Contemporary Living**

Starting May 14, Tuesdays at 5.00pm by Zoom

We have limited spaces available on our new experiential and participatory group Zoom sessions. Run with Joy: Benedictine Wisdom for Contemporary Living will be led by The Revd Catherine Forsdike and The Revd Canon Matthew Vernon on Tuesdays at 5.00pm for 90 mins on 14, 21, 28 May and 4, 18, 25 June. If you'd like to join the six-week course, please [book here](#).

### **Deanery Drop in Sessions**

Wednesday 15 May - St Augustine's Community Hub, Ipswich IP3 8TH

3.00pm - 5.00pm: book [here](#) or 6.00pm - 8.00pm: book [here](#).



We are offering you support to help you achieve your Plan for Growth. This is an exciting opportunity to meet the various teams from the Diocesan office who are there to offer advice on Children's and Families' Ministry, Youth Ministry, Giving, Grants, Discipleship, Communications, Vocations or anything else you'd like to ask – a real opportunity for us to have conversations and help people.

### **Sacred Goddess: Concert of English Choral Music**

Saturday 18 May, 7.30pm

Holy Trinity Church, Long Melford CO10 9DT

Excalibur Voices, under the direction of Duncan Aspden, will perform classical choral music, alternating songs of religious allegory with songs of deities and mythical figures, by some of the finest English composers of their time. Music by Vaughan Williams, Elgar, Howells, Holst, Stanford and more. Tickets £15, £10 or £8 and are free for under-18s, available at [bit.ly/ExV-May24](https://bit.ly/ExV-May24)

### **The Big Suffolk Prayer Walk - Thy Kingdom Come**

10 – 12 May



Thy Kingdom Come is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. You can get involved in the Big Suffolk Prayer Walk, which is an ecumenical initiative lead by Suffolk in Prayer and Ipswich in Prayer. We are aiming for 48 hours of continuous prayer through our online Big Suffolk Prayer weekend prayer room and lots of prayer walking/cycling/ praying for God's blessing and for people in the area come to know Jesus in their lives. To find out more, please go to <https://bit.ly/TBSPW>

### **Catching the Fire**

Sunday 19 May, 3.15pm to 5.30pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Catching the Fire is an annual county-wide celebration of God's mission in Suffolk facilitated by the Lightwave Community. It is part of the annual season of prayer 'Thy



Kingdom Come' and the Great Suffolk Prayer Walk. It enables prayer and gives encouragement and commissioning for mission across the county. Join us for a rich service of worship at the Cathedral on Pentecost Sunday. It's for all ages and culminates in a live link to youth groups across the country and saying the Lord's prayer together. Please sign up [here](#).

### **Mothers' Union Sung Mass**

Sunday 26 May, 9.45am

St Mary's Church, Newmarket CB8 0HP

The Newmarket Branch of Mothers' Union is celebrating 100 years of service since its foundation and are hosting a MU-themed sung mass in the church, followed by a Bring & Share style lunch. All are very welcome to attend and celebrate this momentous occasion.

### **Medieval Church Geometry Workshop**

Wednesday 29 May, 10.00am to 12.00pm

St Peter's Church, Monk Soham IP13 7EN

Come along to a workshop that will offer an introduction to the symbolic proportions and geometric constructions employed in Gothic church architecture, by Clarissa Grandi. This is a hands-on session, with no prior experience necessary, and all items required will be provided for use. Tickets cost £30 each, to purchase please call: 01728 685663.

### **Death & Life Webinar**

5 June, 2.00pm to 4.00pm

Why reflecting on mortality is an essential part of healthy living! This webinar will combine theological insights and practical wisdom to enable churches to create spaces for people to discuss mortality and what is sometimes known 'as the last taboo'. Church leaders, bereavement counsellors, chaplains in care homes, hospitals and hospices and those working in pastoral care will benefit from this free webinar. Resources are being made available by BRF Ministries, and participants will receive a discount code for use in BRF's online shop. To register for the webinar please click [here](#).

### **Lark Rise Retreat Days 2024**



Lark Rise Retreats in Felixstowe provide a space and time for people to relax with God. Upcoming events with the Revd Dr John Bell include:

Friday 7 June | Celtic, green and godly

Friday 7 June | Using imagination to unlock scripture

Saturday 8 June | Come and sing workshop

To book, please visit [larkriseretreats.org.uk](http://larkriseretreats.org.uk) or call 01394 284213.

### **Rooted in Prayer**

Saturday 8 June, 9.00am to 1.00pm

Salvation Army Hall, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

An invitation to all Readers, Licensed Lay Ministers and Lay Elders to explore journeying in prayer to flourish faith and fellowship in communities and congregations. There will be the

opportunity to share prayer resources used across the Diocese, join a workshop to create prayer activities for all ages and explore creating a prayer walk. Reserve your free space [here!](#)

### **Understanding Connectivity**

Thursday 13 June, 11.00am – 12.00pm, Zoom, [book here](#).

Find out about the connectivity options available to your church - from WiFi to 4G - how to get your contactless devices connected, and what to do if you have no connectivity at all. We will be going through the connectivity options in relation to digital giving and how it can be optimised to make it easier in your church.

### **Clergy Retreat** - Led by Bishop Martin

7 - 11 October 2024

St Andrew's 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. Speakers in the past have spoken on a range of subjects from World Mission, The Psalms, and more. There are approximately 15 spaces available and you can come with spouses/partners. For more details or to book please contact the Revd David H Messer on 01964 563987 | [davidharrymesser93@gmail.com](mailto:davidharrymesser93@gmail.com).

### **Notices**

**Archdeacons' Articles of Enquiry:** This year's Articles of Enquiry is being hosted on the online parish returns' system, which may be accessed [here](#): For any help in accessing it, including logins and passwords, please contact [statistics@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:statistics@cofesuffolk.org). The deadline for completing this is Friday 30 August.

The following is a statement from the archdeacons on this year's Articles, which focus on questions about your church's ministry with children under five years of age and their families.

*Our ministry with children under five and their families is vital. Statistics show that 62% of people come to faith in Jesus before the age of 14 and a highly significant 38% before the age of 4\*. How we minister to these families in our communities really matters. Often, our ministry with the under-fives can be the crucial first step on a child's (and indeed their family's) journey to faith. We are conducting this research to better understand what is already happening with the under-fives in our diocese and how we can use this as a foundation for growth. We want to share learning and best practice and learn how we can help you develop this area of your ministry. The data we collect will help us to know what support and advice and resources you would value and start to develop these.*

\*Talking Jesus report 2022. Evangelical Alliance. [Talking-Jesus-Report.pdf \(eauk.org\)](#)

**Invitation to Christian Aid Week prayer moment:** Christian Aid invites supporters to

join them for a 30-minute prayer and reflection moment to help launch Christian Aid Week. Staff, supporters and volunteers will be getting together via Zoom on Monday, May 13 at 12.30pm, for prayer and thanksgiving, led by Chief Executive Officer Patrick Watt. For more information please [click here](#).

**Last Call for Kneelers:** To all those who have not yet contacted the Cathedral about their parish kneeler – on Sunday 5 May at 3.30pm there is a Celebration and Thanksgiving for the Ministry of Churchwardens' service at St Edmundsbury Cathedral. We would love to reunite you with your kneeler after this service, if this is of interest. This is our last call for kneelers. Following this date, we will begin to assign kneelers to churches who have made a request for additional hassocks. If you would like to collect your kneeler on 5 May, or organise collection at an alternative time, please email [visits@stedscathedral.org](mailto:visits@stedscathedral.org).

**Parish Giving Scheme – New Printable Gift Form (PDF):** You will be aware that the PGS has undergone some changes and although they have the same staff and ethos it is now a charity that is owned and funded by the National Church Institutions of the Church of England. This has required a few changes to the Gift Form and you can either download and save the latest Gift Form PDF [here](#) and enter your parish's details or contact [pgs@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:pgs@cofesuffolk.org) or Yalda Davis [yalda.davis@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:yalda.davis@cofesuffolk.org) who will send you out the new form including your parish details and codes. We recommend using the latest QR code poster found [here](#) as well.

## Vacancies

[Teacher](#) in Philosophy and Ethics | King Edward VI High School, Bury St Edmunds | Closing date: 29 April

[Church Buildings Support Officer](#) | Closing date: 29 April

[Diocesan Schools' Adviser](#) | Closing date: 29 April

[Detached Youth Worker and Assistant Chaplain](#) | Closing Date: 2 May

[Diocesan Growing Younger Enabler](#) | Closing Date: 9 May

[Priest in Charge | North Hartismere with Redgrave, Botesdale & the Rickinghalls](#) | Closing date: 22 May [Vicar/Minister & Archdeaconry Mission Enabler](#) | Christ Church Moreton Hall | Closing date: 24 May

[Priest in Charge & Archdeaconry Mission Enabler](#) | Sproughton, Burstall, Copdock with Washbrook, Belstead | Closing date: 28 May

[Rector](#) | Bacton Benefice | Closing date: 17 June

[Priest in Charge](#) | Upper Alde Benefice

[Rector](#) | Walton and Trimley

[River Church Opportunities](#) | Head of Operations (full-time), Kids Pastor (full-time), Debt Centre Manager (part-time) | Ipswich

[New Opportunities in Ipswich](#) | Inspiring Ipswich

[Click here to print and share with others](#)



**The Bishops  
of Suffolk**



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