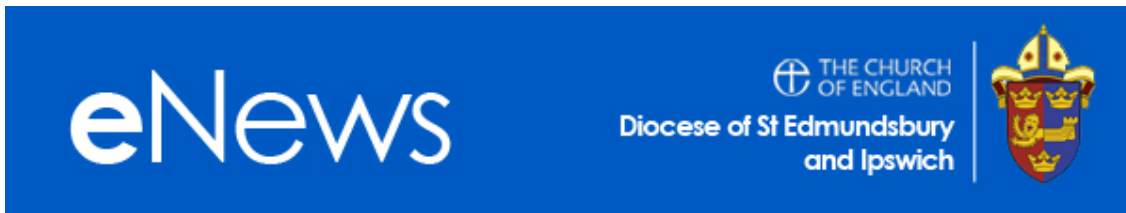


Our regular round up of news and forthcoming events from our diocese

[View this email in your browser](#)



**Thursday 26 January 2023**

### Church mice help all ages share church services



St Mary's Church in Bacton has created two booklets for all ages to engage in worship featuring Mattie and Hattie the church mice. The first Mattie and Hattie book is *Great Communion Adventure*, a service of Holy Communion, Order One, from Common Worship, suitable for all ages to engage in the liturgy of the church in a way that is accessible for them. It can be used as a Sunday service booklet for everyone or used with a group of children in churches or schools.

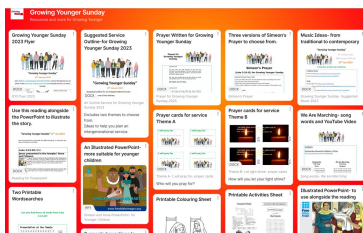
The second book is the *Great Baptism Adventure* and is available now. This is a fantastic collaboration by a local team led by the Revd Carl Melville and designed and illustrated by Amanda Manley. Carl said: *"It can feel like we have our own language in church, and we want to*

*help everybody engage with the words by means of a glossary at the back of the book. In fact, many of the adults in our congregation have also benefited from reading the explanations."*

For more on this story visit our website [here](#).

The booklet is being used in several parishes as a Growing Younger resource. Both books are available at a moderate cost, please email [Hilary Wordsworth-Sewell](mailto:Hilary.Wordsworth-Sewell), our Diocesan Children's and Families' Enabler, for more information and ordering.

### Growing Younger Sunday - 29 January 2023



This Sunday is Growing Younger Sunday, which aims to embed growing younger (0-25 year olds) in the diocese by viewing everything through the lens of children and young people and providing ideas, information and support to areas or groups that seek it, to support their long-term success and development of discipleship. **Growing Younger Sunday resources**

**are now on our website [here](#).**

## Plans for Growth – The Revd Phil Dykes

As a diocese we want to be Growing in God: in depth, influence, number and younger. We want to see *"flourishing congregations making a difference"* across Suffolk in all aspects of our county's life and among the people who live here.

To help us work together in achieving this, all benefices have been asked to prepare a Plan for Growth and share it with the diocesan office. We're really pleased to report that we have started to receive these already.

The Plan for Growth process is simple and straightforward but will transform the mission and ministry of your benefice as you put it in place. Once we know where God is leading you, we will be able to support you as you go forward.

If your benefice has already finished yours – please share your plan with us [here](#).

If you would like my help and support to develop your own Plans for Growth, I am here to help – do email our Mission Project Officer [helen.prior-townsend@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:helen.prior-townsend@cofesuffolk.org) to arrange a chat or have a look at the resources available to help you on our website here:

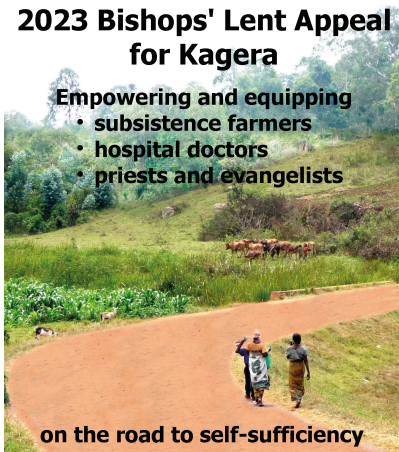
[Growing in God](#) | [Plan for Growth - Incumbent and PCC resources](#) | [Growing in God - Parish resources](#)

## 2023 Bishops' Lent Appeal for Kagera

### 2023 Bishops' Lent Appeal for Kagera

#### Empowering and equipping

- subsistence farmers
- hospital doctors
- priests and evangelists



on the road to self-sufficiency

For more information or to donate visit [cofesuffolk.org/bishops-lent-appeal](https://cofesuffolk.org/bishops-lent-appeal)



Lent Challenge booklets are flying off the shelf. Have you ordered yours yet? One churchwarden told us that they had so much fun doing the last challenges at her own church that she's suggested it to all those in her group of churches - 150 booklets have gone to them. Another home group has ordered 25 because they enjoyed using it as a basis for discussion during Lent in previous years and want to do it again. And we are really happy that some other churches have come on board for the first time this year. Do order yours now! We also have plenty of posters and bookmarks if you'd like those as well.

### Have you thought of taking part in 'Buy a Bishop'?

We've already had one bid! Can you or your church or group think of an exciting challenge for our bishops, or invite them to join you doing something they wouldn't normally do? Contact Chris and Anji Dawkins on [kagera@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:kagera@cofesuffolk.org) to order posters, bookmarks, leaflets etc or to buy a bishop. To access all of our resources and to donate [please click here](#).

## Events

### **Holocaust Memorial Day Service 2023**

Friday 27 January, 10.30am

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

St Edmundsbury Cathedral will hold a special service for Holocaust Memorial Day to remember the victims of genocide. The service will take place in the Peace Garden in the Abbey Gardens, and the theme is *Ordinary People*. Ordinary people were perpetrators, bystanders, rescuers, witnesses - and ordinary people were victims. Joining the Cathedral for the service will be local schools Guildhall Feoffment and County High School who will contribute readings and music. As well as the special service at 10.30am, the Cathedral will be open throughout the day with areas set aside for reflection and contemplation.

### **St Thomas Pilgrim Community - Invitation to find out more**

Monday 30 January, 7.00pm

St Thomas' Church, Bramford Lane, Ipswich IP1 5BS

This is an opportunity for the curious, the toe-dippers, the explorers, and the committed to spend some time sharing something of St Thomas and its community journey, and why it is important and relevant in today's world. Do come along and find out more, you would be very welcome. There will be time for some 'Lectio Divina' (a quiet way of reading the Bible together) and Dwelling in the Word, discussion and prayer, and the evening will end with a short informal Eucharist. For more information, please email [st.thomaspilgrimcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:st.thomaspilgrimcommunity@gmail.com).

### **Comedy Evening with the Revd Ravi Holy**

Tuesday 31 January, 7.00-8.00pm

Free Online event organised by Bridge Church, Ipswich

The Revd Ravi Holy is both a stand-up comedian and an Anglican vicar. He has appeared on the One Show as well as the Hunter Club in Bury St Edmunds. His act comprises of telling his own life story through humour. He provokes laughter as well as some serious thought. As part of the evening there will be opportunity for Q&A. So, blow any January blues away by signing up on [Eventbrite here](#) to access the Zoom details.

### **Eco Church Forum - Encouraging Biodiversity**

Tuesday 31 January, 7.00-8.00pm, Zoom

For all those on their Eco Church journey – at whatever stage. Bishop Graham will be joining us to share a short reflection, drawing on his passion as an ecologist and lead bishop on environment. Come and be inspired and please bring your own stories to share of how you are making a difference in your churchyard, or any local land owned by your church. To book your place [please click here](#).

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### **Candlemas Celebrations:**

**Presentation of Christ in the Temple | Thursday 2 February, 7.30pm**

St John the Evangelist, St John's Street, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1SN

**Tumbling into Light - Candlemas Celebration | Sunday 5 February 5.30pm**

St Mary's Church, Woodbridge IP12 4LP

**Engaging All Ages in Worship workshop and service**

19 February 2023

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS



Join the Engaging All Ages in Worship workshop from InHarmony. The workshop with Sara and Sam Hargreaves runs from 2.00pm - 4.00pm and is open to any adults or teens involved or interested in leading services and worship for a range of ages. Explore how you can include a range of ages, spiritual styles, learning modes and all the senses in gathered worship. Followed

by an hour worship service at 4.30pm, ideal for families, putting into practice ideas from the workshop. Tickets cost £10 - CMD grants are applicable to those who are eligible. Find out more: <https://stedscathedral.org/events/engaging-all-ages-in-worship>

**Journeys - Lent course offered by The Clewer Initiative**

The Clewer Initiative is producing a new resource for Lent 2023 which will be available to download from their [website](#) in early January. 'Journeys' will be based on the 'Stations of the Cross' and through five mini film and an accompanying devotional resource, it will take churches and individuals on a journey, challenging them to take action against modern slavery and not be a bystander. It can be used in in-person small groups, individual study or online. The films will include interviews with church members, experts and community leaders who have done significant anti-slavery work. They will highlight the journeys that they have been on to deliver their work. Sign up [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. To book your place please visit here: [Bishops-preaching-Matthew-2023.eventbrite.co.uk](https://bishops-preaching-matthew-2023.eventbrite.co.uk). Please note the other Bishops' study morning dates in 2023 are 17 June and 25 November.

**Church Army Discovery Events**

Monday 27 February 7.00pm - 9.30pm, Online

Saturday 25 March 10.00am - 3.00pm, in person

Do you have a passion for seeing people come to know Christ? Are you exploring vocations or wanting to find a network of like-minded people? Are you unsure where you fit? How about considering Church Army? To book a place, please [click the link here](#) or

contact [Andrew Payne](#).

### **Living your life with God**

Starting 28 February 2023, 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Zoom Lent course

Brother Lawrence wrote about how he lived his Christian life in the 1600s and his very slim work "Practicing the Presence of God" has been massively popular ever since. Through Lent, Bishop Mike (and an occasional guest!) will be offering five Zoom sessions looking at how his insights can be applied in everyday life, with plenty of room for discussion on the way. For more details and to book your place [please click here](#).

### **CMS Southern Regional Conference - Online**

Friday 3 March - Saturday 4 March 2023

A gathering to hear from people in mission and be encouraged by ways that God is at work at the edges. Featuring guests Alison Giblett, mission partner in Ukraine, and Russian-born Anton Ponomarev of Faith to Share. For more information and to book, please visit the website [here](#) or contact Jane Fulford by email on [janecfulford6@gmail.com](mailto:janecfulford6@gmail.com)

### **Praxis East - Treasures Old and New**

Thursday 16 March 2023, 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](mailto:helenbent99@gmail.com).

### **BIG Weekend**

Friday 14 April, 6.00pm – Sunday 16 April 4.00pm

Sizewell Hall, Sizewell, Leiston IP16 4TX

Matt Levett, Diocesan Youth and Young Adults Officer, invites you to the BIG Weekend. Organised by a team of experienced youth workers it offers young people the opportunity to come together and make new friends. Ask members of your youth group if they would like to come along. The age range is from school years 7-13. Whilst it is Christian in ethos and focus you don't have to call yourself a Christian to be able to attend and have fun! To find out more and to sign up [please click here](#).

### **Financial Planning During Ministry for Retirement & Beyond**

Wednesday 10 May 2023, 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](mailto:Lesley-Anne.Marriott@peterborough-diocese.org.uk)

## Notices

**Message from Gary Peverley, Deputy Diocesan Secretary and Finance Director, on Parish Share end of year payments:** Thank you to all of our parishes for your giving towards parish share. We would like to remind you that we continue to accept payments towards the 2022 parish share **up to and including Tuesday 31 January 2023.**

**Statistics for Mission:** Thank you to all parishes who have already submitted their Statistics for Mission forms. The national church deadline is 31 January 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](#).

**Do you want to play an important role in clergy appointments?** The Diocesan Board of Patronage plays an important role in appointing clergy. We need four lay members and one ordained member of the Board for it to be fully constituted. These are elected positions open to anyone on a parish electoral roll, and elections will take place later this year. If you are interested and would like to discuss this opportunity please email either [Gavin Bultitude](#), Diocesan Secretary or [Charlotte Hodgson](#), Governance Manager.

## Vacancies

[Vicar | Needham Market with Badley](#) | Closing date: 30 January 2023

[Priest in Charge | Orebeck Benefice](#) | Closing date: 31 January 2023

[Rector, Benefice of Rattlesden, Brettenham, Hitcham and Thorpe Morieux](#) | Closing date: 3 February 2023

[Sales Assistant | St Eds Cathedral](#) | Closing date: 8 February 2023

[Head of Operations | River Church](#) | Closing date: 19 February 2023

[Communications and Media Manager | River Church](#) | Closing date: 19 February 2023

[Rector | Claydon and Barham, Great Blakenham and Henley](#) | Closing date: 28 February 2023

[Giving Advisor, Parish Resources Team \(Grants\)](#) | Closing date: 28 February 2023

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