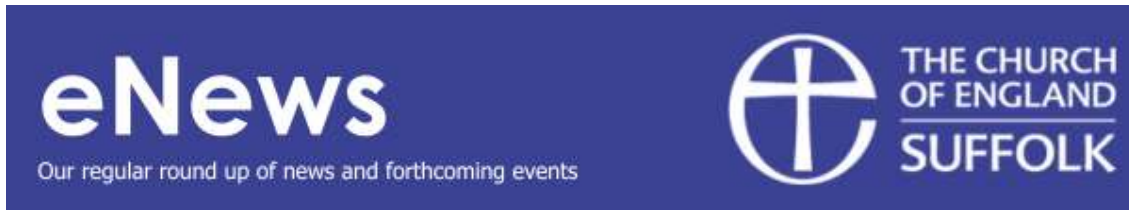


**Thursday 27 July 2023**



### **Kagera Visit 2023**

The Revds Sarah Gull, Sarah Geileskey and Susan Taylor have returned from Kagera they have each sent us their first impressions.

**Sarah Gull**, as a former doctor I was particularly interested in the healthcare in Kagera, and spent some time with the staff at Murgwanza Hospital. This included a teaching session on obstetric emergencies and a trip to an outlying health centre, where basic care for low-risk pregnancy and treatment of common infections, such as malaria, is provided. There is no substitute for actually going to a place to make connections and friendships and to aid mutual understanding. The challenges in the hospital seem insuperable, but less easy to ignore if you are actually there. Small-scale contributions, such as provision of spectacles, would make a difference. Working relationships will help important decisions around the future of the hospital.

**Sarah Geileskey**, it would be easy to focus on the differences between our diocese and Kagera diocese, so it was good to be with the community in Kagera, to go deeper in conversation and in communion: finding that which we share in common - the love of God from which nothing can separate us. I was on common ground working with a small group of children at Ngara Anglican Primary School to lead with them the same words prayed by pupils of St Margaret's CEVAP School in Ipswich. In familiar territory, distributing communion among those worshipping on a Sunday morning. Sharing burdens; reflecting with ministers on the challenges of finding sabbath rest and spiritual refreshment. Noticing

the ways in which too many people are going hungry: reliant on basic food provision or top-up-shops.

Our differences are significant, of course. Yet by being with one another, spending time together and celebrating all that we share made room for questions. We were challenged by the environmental realities of increased consumption. Gender issues were often before us. Visible, abundant and generous hospitality and public offertory contrasted with private-personal-quiet patterns of faith-full living and giving.

This was incarnational ministry. For God is with us in Jesus, that we might see and learn and live differently. So we too, spend time with one another, recognising that each of us is made in the image of God and that we all have something to reveal of God's truth in the world. This is the value, the joy and the challenge of spending time with one another, supporting and encouraging one another and for this, I am grateful!

**Susan Taylor**, Kagera is a place of great warmth. The red earth glows with each glorious sunrise and sunset. It is warm in climate, situated at 6000 feet, the temperature is comfortable; the air dry. But it is the warmth of the friendships, made and renewed, that really makes my heart sing. Relationship is the heart of who we are as human beings; who we are made in the image of our creator. And our short time with our sisters and brothers in Christ in Kagera has been so important in growing together through our mutual love of Christ and through those mutual joys and challenges of being human. It was a deep joy to see and experience the warmth of faith lived out in practical community development and assistance; expressed in beautiful, rich song and joyful dance; in the care and generosity we received.

Bishop Martin and Adam Geileskey both remain in Kagera as they travel further field to Lake Victoria, visiting among others, a children's centre in Biharamulo, a primary school and survival unit (for vulnerable 6 - 12 month babies), attending a confirmation service for 26 people joined by nearly 600 people in the congregation, a community church at Kimbuja and a church under construction at Bunazi near the Uganda border.

We can look forward to hearing more about the trip to Kagera over the summer.

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### **Connect - training for Children's and Families' Ministers**

Are you working with children and their families in your church? Do you have a desire to nurture children's spirituality? Do you see the church growing through engagement with children and young people?

A Children's and Families' Minister works alongside their church and community with toddler groups, children's clubs, Messy Church, baptism families, with young people in church or similar.

Connect is a one-year course starting in September 2023, exploring child development, spirituality and formation, new approaches to Family Ministry and personal skills to enable

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
SUFFOLK

# CONNECT

Ten Saturdays over a year  
Woolpit Institute, IP30 9QH

This is an opportunity to expand your personal skills to enable you to be a visionary Family Ministry leader. The course covers all aspects of leadership in Children's and Family Ministry exploring:

- What is Family Ministry?
- How Children Learn
- Leading and Building Teams
- Vision into Practice
- Being and Growing Disciples
- Culture change and Being Intergenerational
- Supporting Households
- Travelling the Journey of Life
- Looking Back and Going Forward.

Sessions will be delivered through a mixture of location based, on-line access, and seminars. Assessment based on course work and portfolio building. Reflective Practice is taught and encouraged. There is no charge for this training.

Saturday 23 September, 21 October, 25 November 2023 and 20 January, 24 February, 20 April, 18 May, 16 June and 13 July 2024

Any enquiries to: Emma Allinson  
Growing Younger Project Support  
07483 031927 | [emma.allinson@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:emma.allinson@cofesuffolk.org)

**CONNECT**  
Training for Children's and Families' Ministry

participants to be visionary Family Ministry leaders within the parish and across the Diocese. Following the training some will go on to licensed ministry.

If you are interested in exploring this ministry please email [emma.allinson@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:emma.allinson@cofesuffolk.org). For more information please visit our website [here](#) or download our course leaflet [here](#).

**Congratulations to those graduating from River College:** At the graduation ceremony last week, Bishop Mike awarded students their certificates as they shared their stories and experiences. If you are interested in joining River College, applications are open now for 2023-24 for a September start. For more information head to their [website](#).

**Cursillo:** a gathering on Tuesday 25 July saw members of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Anglican Cursillo gather in the Cathedral for their Annual Eucharist Service. The Revd Julia Lall stepped down as Spiritual Director, after four years service and Bishop Mike licenced the Revd Penny Brinkley as a new Spiritual Director. If you would like to know more about the Cursillo please see our website on [www.edsipskursillo.org](http://www.edsipskursillo.org) or contact us on [stedsipskursillo@gmail.com](mailto:stedsipskursillo@gmail.com)

## Events

### **Lightwave Celebration and Vision nights in the Waveney and Blyth Deanery**

Sunday 30 July 6.30pm at Emmanuel Hall, Bungay NR35 1BH

Sunday 13 July 6.30pm at St Luke's, Beccles NR34 9JQ

These two evenings will be an opportunity for Lightwave to thank their volunteers and helpers, to celebrate all that God has been doing and to cast a vision for the future work of Lightwave in the area. All are welcome to come along. Please sign up [here](#).

### **Planning a church fundraising capital appeal**

Monday 31 July 2023, 10.30am - 12.00pm, Zoom

Our Christian churches are some of the most beautiful and important buildings in our country. The cost of maintaining and sustaining these buildings is often much larger than the means of the congregation and groups that meet there. Join this webinar from Church Grants and gain a greater insight about capital appeals and hear examples of resources to help and execute your fundraising appeal. [Sign up here](#).

Please note: As our Diocese subscribes you can have 10% off when using CHURCH10 as a discount code when purchasing a ticket.

### **Holy Trinity Church Scaffolding Tours**

Thursday 10 August, 10.00am - 4.00pm  
Holy Trinity Church, Long Melford CO10 9DT

For one day only Holy Trinity Church, Long Melford, will be running interior scaffolding tours led by the Church's architect. This unique opportunity offers the chance to climb to 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. To book, please contact [Judi Moss](#) on 07748 038074.

### **Crematorium Familiarisation Visits**

Thursday 24 August, Thursday 21 September, Thursday 19 October or Thursday 23 November, all starting at 11.30am  
West Suffolk Crematorium, Bury St Edmunds IP28 6RR

West Suffolk Crematorium has kindly offered familiarisation visits on a selection of dates to see 'behind the scenes'. To make a booking, and for further information, please contact West Suffolk Crematorium direct on 01284 755118.

### **'Find your Voice' Conference for Young Adults of Global Majority Heritage**

1-3 September  
Christ Church, Saint Aldate's Oxford OX1 1DP

The new CofE Racial Justice Unit is inviting young adults (aged 18-23) of all UKME/GMH backgrounds to represent their diverse communities so that their voices can be heard and amplified within the life of the national church. Accommodation and meals will be provided over two nights (Friday and Saturday) and reasonable transport costs will be refunded. More information and registration please visit: [here](#) or email Brunel James: [brunel.james@churchofengland.org](mailto:brunel.james@churchofengland.org).

### **A Pilgrimage of Song – Coddtenham to Whitton**

Saturday 9 September, 9.30am  
St Mary's Coddtenham IP6 9PZ



For all who enjoy singing and walking. The day begins at 9.30am at St Mary's Church, Coddtenham, with a workshop to learn the music. The walk then proceeds along a 6-mile route, singing services at Barham and Akenham, with a final service at St Mary & St Botolph, Whitton, and ends with a hot meal in the church hall.

Full details can be found [here](#). Advance booking by 5 September is essential (or by 2 September to include the meal). For more information [please email Richard Hubbard](#).

### **Discovery Evening - Church Army**

Thursday 14 September, 7.00pm-9.15pm (by Zoom)

Church Army train and support Pioneer Evangelists. Come and find out more, hear from Evangelists and be introduced to some of their ENVOY resources To book a place please email: [Andrew Payne](#).

### **Farmers' Harvest Breakfast**

Saturday 16 September, 9.00am  
Barrow Village Hall IP29 5AN

If you work as a farmer, come along and be served a complementary freshly cooked full English breakfast to say thank you for all your hard work on the land and to give thanks for God's wonderful creation. We will be joined by the Very Revd Joe Hawes, Dean of St Edmundsbury; Graham Miles, Lightwave Rural & Agricultural Chaplain for Suffolk; a representative from the NFU and the Farmers' Community Network. To book, please contact the [Revd Lynda Sebbage](#) on 01284 811280 by 6 September to secure your place.

### **St Martin's Voices in Concert**

Friday 22 September, 7.00pm  
St Peter's Church, Thurston IP31 3RU

St Martin's Voices is one of the UK's most versatile professional vocal ensembles, performing concerts on the international stage as well as giving regular BBC broadcasts and special services at London's iconic St Martin-in-the-Fields and beyond. Join this specially arranged performance of their signature 'Lord of all Hopefulness' concert. This hour-long concert reflects on themes of love, hope, joy and peace drawn from this much-loved hymn, and includes music from over four centuries of choral masterpieces, including works by Hubert Parry, Gerald Finzi, Amy Beach, Ola Gjeilo, Lucy Walker and James MacMillan. Tickets: £10 (Students £8, U16s £5) Available from: [here](#).

### **Know and Grow Makaton Course**

Saturday 23 September 9.45am-4.30pm  
All Saints' Church Hall, Church Road, Sudbury CO10 2BL (parking opposite)

We're hoping to equip churches with key-word signing so they can become more welcoming and accessible to adults with learning disabilities, enabling them to come to know Jesus and grow in their faith. Tickets are £25 per person. To book please email Makaton Tutor: [janneke@counteveryonein.org.uk](mailto:janneke@counteveryonein.org.uk) or call 07896 675538. Please bring your own lunch, [parking is available opposite the church.

### **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](#).

### **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. Many of us are concerned about the way in which some businesses

exploit their workers and cause harm to our natural environments. By thinking about what we buy and where we invest we can make a real difference to people and the planet. This is an opportunity to hear from experts in the field of Ethical Consumerism and to ask them questions. 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](#).

### **RSCM Choral Festival**

Sunday 8 October, 2.00pm - 5.00pm

St Michael's Church, Beccles NR34 9AN



The annual Choral Festival, organised by RSCM Suffolk, takes place in Beccles this year, and is open to choirs and individual singers. It will be conducted by Timothy Parsons, Director of Music at St Edmundsbury Cathedral. Singers will need a copy of the book "Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will Be Done", available from

[rscmshop.com](http://rscmshop.com). Advance booking is essential. Full details are [here](#) or contact [rscmsuffolk@gmail.com](mailto:rscmsuffolk@gmail.com)

### **National church webinars**

Over the summer the National Church of England team is offering a selection of webinars including: Online Giving, How to use Canva, Editing videos for social media, Getting started with Eco Church, Using AChurchNearYou, Getting started with contactless giving and so many more. For all the details and how to register please click [here](#).

### **Notices**

**Apply for a National Churches Trust maintenance grant for your church:** The deadline for the next round of National Churches Trust Medium grants is Tuesday 15 August. You could get a grant of up to £10,000 to cover costs on maintenance or repair projects in any UK church, chapel or meeting house, where project costs are between £20,000 and £80,000. [Find out more and apply here.](#)

**Return of Parish Finance:** Over 80% of parishes have already submitted their forms - thank you. 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 [statistics@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:statistics@cofesuffolk.org) by email. The deadline is extended to 31 July 2023. Further information is available on our website [here](#).

**Message from the Safeguarding Team:** As summer approaches and we have more visitors to our churches, the Safeguarding Team wishes to remind everyone of the importance of having up to date safeguarding information on display in every church across the diocese. We would ask that checks are made to ensure that your church has a Safeguarding Poster displaying the correct contact details, and that safeguarding information features on your websites. We would also encourage you to display the posters and QR codes for the Safe Space project which can be found on [our website here](#).

## Vacancies

Perspectives Ipswich's Centre Co-ordinator | for further information please email [perspectivesipswich.plss@gmail.com](mailto:perspectivesipswich.plss@gmail.com) or call 07443 537541

[Choir Director](#) | Woodbridge

[Administrator](#) | Hadleigh Benefice

[Volunteer Parish Administrator](#) | St Peter's Church, Stoke Park, Ipswich

[Rector](#) | Beccles | Closing date: 23 August

[Associate Vicar for Mission | St Augustine's Church, Ipswich](#) | Closing date: 27 August

[Parish Nurse Vacancy](#) | Walton Parish Nursing | Closing date: 31 August

[Team Rector | The Forest Heath Team Benefice](#) | Closing date: 12 September

[Priest \(0.5\) | Sproughton, Burstall, Copdock with Washbrook & Belstead](#) | Closing date: 26 September

[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

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



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