



**Thursday 3 March 2022**

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## Growing in God

### Message from Bishop Martin

*The crisis in Ukraine is creating a humanitarian catastrophe, as all of us can see from the daily news reports. Bishop Mike and I are calling on all the parishes and congregations of the Diocese this Lent to raise funds through collections, individual gifts, events and activities, to respond to the terrible situation the people of Ukraine are facing, both in the country and as refugees.*

*We are very grateful to be in partnership with World Vision who will receive our donations and handle the gift aid. Please follow the instructions on this [World Vision webpage](#) to make your donation, and please make donations as you receive them so that they reach the people in desperate need as soon as possible. Be assured that every pound goes directly to those in need. World Vision is also part of the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), whose appeal is supported by the UK Government.*

*We ask you to be as generous as possible, and to continue to pray fervently for the end of the military operation and for peace. With prayers for you and for the children and families affected by the conflict in Ukraine.*

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads '+ Martin'.

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### Celebrating the Queen's Jubilee

Bishop Martin invites everyone in our parishes to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee together. *"This year we are very much looking forward to the UK and Commonwealth celebrations of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. As the Church of England in Suffolk, we are ready to play our part in bringing communities together for these national celebrations, joining in with the Festival of Suffolk, an initiative to celebrate our Queen and our County. We know the blessings God pours upon us, and in turn we seek to be a blessing in the lives of others through love and service...We have chosen the theme of #SuffolkBlessing*



*for our part in these celebrations. We hope that you will join in as we celebrate the blessings we receive and share with others through worship and service."*

### **#Suffolkblessing**

We would like to bless those around us, whether as part of services of thanks for those who have supported our communities, sharing the Suffolk Jubilee prayer at services, during school assemblies or whilst joining in community Jubilee celebrations. These graphics [here](#) will help you engage with the

#suffolkblessing.

As Bishop Martin has mentioned above, the Festival of Suffolk will bring us together in celebration of the Jubilee through a series of events - some completely new, others already established - including the Suffolk Show, the [Let's Rock Festival](#) in September, a special race day at Newmarket and a torch relay led by local heroes. Please be part of the Festival by advertising your local events on the Festival's website just click [here](#) for details.

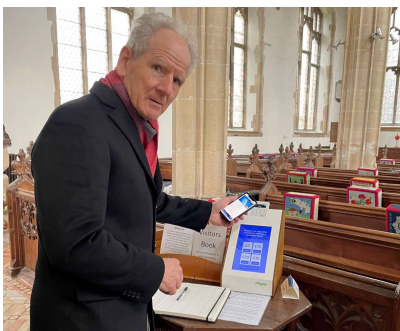
### **How can you get involved?**

We recommend finding out what is going on in your local community – probably street parties, exhibitions and beacon lighting to name a few favourites. Local schools may need help with assemblies and prayer spaces. There are ecumenical prayer walks and plans to create prayer spaces. The Cathedral is hosting a Jubilee service and you can use the order of service in your setting. The team at HopeTogether has pulled a brilliant resource pack together and Thy Kingdom Come is linking into the Jubilee theme.

Our website has more information and to help get you started we have produced a booklet which you can download [here](#). We would also love it if you shared your plans with us and followed us on our new Facebook group #suffolkblessing available [here](#).

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### **Churches in Suffolk are leading the way in digital giving:** A total of 30



churches received a free contactless device as part of a national pilot and they have raised more than £12,000 between September and January through more than 1,150 donations. A further £2,190 was raised through pilot churches from online giving and QR codes. Churches were given a free machine and training, with further investment made into accessing internet connectivity in rural areas. Among those to receive a machine was St Mary Magdalene Church in Debenham.

Richard Blackwell, treasurer, said: *"We have raised £1,234.50 since we received it in September. More and more people are starting to use it too, which is great."* Mr Blackwell added that the digital shift has also helped the church run online campaigns for local charities, raising more than £4,000. For the full story please visit our website [here](#).

The National Giving Team are offering webinars on 'Getting started with contactless giving' and the next dates are

Monday 28 March | Please book [here](#) or

Wednesday 27 April | Please book [here](#).

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**MIE (Mission in the East) St Andrew's, Leisure Club:** For the last 15 years, MIE has been offering a leisure club for older people – helping to meet the needs of social isolation.

A committed and enthusiastic team of volunteers meet fortnightly on a Tuesday with a varied programme of activities such as indoor bowls, music and quizzes. A homemade two-course lunch is also offered for a very reasonable £6 per session. To find out more or if you know anyone in the area who may be interested in attending please do contact MIE by emailing [office@mie.org.uk](mailto:office@mie.org.uk).

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**Sing Praise musical play:** Sing Praise is an after-school singing group in Framlingham. Led by Catherine Johnson and a group of volunteers including the Revd Chris Davey, a group of 30 children meet each week and sing regularly at the monthly all age service in Framlingham. They are hosting a performance of a musical play based on Charlie Macksey's book, *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse*.

The show is inspired by his book and interpreted for the group by Chris. Five original songs have been composed by Suffolk's own Bryan Hall. During the production, each week the children have been creating an incredible journal together exploring some of the themes of fear and isolation and the power of friendship. Chris says "Some of the youngsters' reflections have been very moving and it has been a privilege to be making this journey together". The production has been sponsored by the Framlingham Foundation which is part of the Ed Sheeran Suffolk Music Foundation, enabling them to transform the church into a fully functioning performance space for the three nights.

The show will be held on 24 to 26 March from 7.00pm at St Michael's Church Framlingham. At least one show will be livestreamed. Places are by email, limited to two places per application (which must include the names of those applying and a contact number) to [framtickets1@btinternet.com](mailto:framtickets1@btinternet.com)

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**Parish visits to St Edmundsbury Cathedral:** We are delighted that you can now book a Parish Visit to the Cathedral. Parish Visits provide an opportunity to enjoy a reflective pilgrimage of the Cathedral, to experience the Cathedral Choir at Choral Evensong, followed by tea and cakes in the Cathedral Centre, meeting with members of the Cathedral's community, clergy and Friends. Spaces are limited but we will of course maintain a waiting list and allocate visits accordingly. A reminder also that the maximum number we can accommodate for a visit is 30. For more details of the programme, see [here](#). To book a date please contact Naomi Sturges by email at [liturgy.admin@stedscathedral.org](mailto:liturgy.admin@stedscathedral.org).

**Cathedral library re-opens:** Approximately two years ago, the St Edmundsbury Cathedral Library of some 3000 theology books was closed, packed in boxes and donated to the East of England Faiths Agency. (EEFA). Since then, with the help of a professional librarian, this collection has been reclassified and shelved at the East of England Multi-Faith Centre which is located at 47 St Helen's Street, Ipswich. The Cathedral collection has been augmented by about 600 books which were part of the previous SIFRE library. The library

is now open on Wednesdays between 11.00am and 3.00pm. The library catalogue is viewable on line at [www.eefa.net/index\\_t.htm](http://www.eefa.net/index_t.htm) and the librarian can be contacted at [librarian@eefa.net](mailto:librarian@eefa.net)

## Events

### **Radical Living: St Edmundsbury Lent Series**

Starting Wednesday 16 March, 7.00pm - 8.00pm throughout Lent by Zoom

Following the success of the Cathedral's 2021 Lent series 'Radical Faith, extraordinary lives for challenging times', the Cathedral will be holding another series of Lent Talks 'Radical Living, Christians and the Environmental Crisis.' The talks will be held on Zoom and each week a new speaker will look at the environmental challenges of today from a different perspective. If you would like more information please email Canon Michael Robinson at [michael.robinson@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:michael.robinson@cofesuffolk.org).

### **St Mark's Gospel Live**

Tuesday 22 March 7.00pm - 9.00pm

St Mary's Church, Bures

The Revd Gerald Osborne (SSM) spent three years memorising the whole of St Mark's Gospel as a spiritual discipline, he now performs a slightly dramatised version. He has performed all over the country including Salisbury Cathedral, Bath Abbey and the Edinburgh Festival. It is approximately 60AD in Rome; persecution is all around, so Mark is dictating the account of Jesus' life, death and resurrection to a pagan scribe as a matter of urgency. It is the night after St Peter's crucifixion and Mark knows that he could be next. Entry is free for further information please email: [Office@parishchurch.co.uk](mailto:Office@parishchurch.co.uk)

### **Lightwave Small Group Leader Training**

Wednesday 16, 23 and 30 March 2022, 7.30pm to 9.00pm

Zoom



You are invited to join this three session course to train as Lightwave group leaders and helpers by enabling you to experience and model the life of a Lightwave group. These are groups which do life together - worship, serve, learn from the bible, pray and help new people to find faith too.

To book for the March course and for all additional information please

visit: <https://lightwave.churchsuite.com/events/yk5jyhp>  
[o](#)

## Notices

**Covid-19: Please visit the recently updated Church of England page [here](#) and the Diocesan guidance page [here](#) for the most up to date information and guidance for churches.**

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**Statistics for Mission:** Thank you to the 55% of churches throughout the diocese who have submitted their Statistics for Mission for 2021. The deadline for submitting your data is 20 March 2022. The online parish return system can be accessed here:

<https://parishreturns.churchofengland.org/>. For more information and guidance contact Alison Barker at the Diocesan Office in the first instance [statistics@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:statistics@cofesuffolk.org).

**Faculty Simplification Process:** Please be aware that applications for List B and Faculties have moved online. Applicants will need to register to use the **Online Faculty System** via the following link

<https://facultyonline.churchofengland.org/Secure/Register.aspx?returnurl=%2fDefault.aspx>

and go to '**Create Account**'. The DAC Secretary and the Assistant Secretary will be automatically contacted to approve the account. Once the account is verified, applicants can start new applications. The whole process is dealt with online including the completion of the List B or faculty petition form, uploading supporting documents and images, and consultation with advisers and other interested parties. In the case of faculty applications, the Notification of Advice and Public Notice are created online, and the roles of the Registrar and the Chancellor are also conducted here including the Chancellor's determination and judgement. There are numerous, helpful **User Manuals**

<https://facultyonline.churchofengland.org/user-manuals> along with automated guidance at each step, but if you need further help setting up an account or processing an existing application, please email [Charlotte Hodgson](mailto:Charlotte.Hodgson), Assistant DAC Secretary.

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## **Vacancies**

[Diocesan Temporary Parish Finance & Resources Advisor](#) | Closing date: 7 March

[GenR8 Director](#) | Closing date: 7 March

[Part-Time Verger](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral | Closing date: 15 March

[Priest in Charge](#) | Alde Sandlings (Aldeburgh) Benefice | Closing date: 16 March

[Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Officer](#) | Closing date: 28 March

[Team Vicar](#) | Wilford Benefice | Closing date: 10 May

[Rector 0.5](#) | St Mary Stoke, Ipswich

[Children and Families' Worker](#) | Bridge Church, Ipswich

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