



Thursday 31 March 2022

Responding to the crisis in Ukraine



Ipswich churches are coming together to help Ukrainian refugees and to provide support as they are welcomed to the town. Churches from the county's main denominations and networks along with several Christian charities have launched 'Together for Ipswich.' One of its first initiatives is to provide a co-ordinated response to assist Ukrainian refugees.

Simon Barrington, Chair of the group (pictured), said the group will provide a single point of contact between the civic authorities, including the Local Authority, Christian churches, charities and the people of Ipswich. It has also created a welcome pack for churches to give out. For more information, visit www.togetherforipswich.uk or join the [Together for Ipswich Facebook Page](#).

Visit our 'Responding to the Crisis in Ukraine' webpage [here](#) for up to date information on donations, supporting refugees and to find links to Suffolk County Council and support for schools.

Growing in God

Charity's community pop-up shops pass torch to Ipswich churches



Pop up shops were launched by the BASIC Life Charity in churches across Ipswich, giving people somewhere to buy affordable food.

The churches, in partnership with Fareshare and Neighbourly, are now preparing to take over the day-to-day running of the charity's shops, working directly with food suppliers to stock the shelves.

They have also decided to rename them 'Top-up Shops', to better fit the way they are used and to reinforce that they are permanent and open every week.

The Revd Carol Mansell, Vicar at All Hallows Church in Ipswich, thanked the BASIC Life Charity for its incredible work, saying they feel honoured to be taking on its vision. She said: *"We are greatly thankful to Graham Denny and the BASIC Life Charity and are looking forward to continuing their great work. We would like to thank them for handing over the torch, which we will proudly carry to help those in need...The direct link to suppliers will give us extra flexibility at the top-up shops, allowing us to easily order more food when it is needed."*

Read the full story [here](#).

Tree planting for the Queen's Jubilee



A team at St Agnes' church in Exning, near Newmarket were inspired to plant a tree for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee this week, as a fitting tribute for Her Majesty's role as the Supreme Head of the Church of England and because of her lifelong interest in horse racing.

The Revd Cheryl Belding, The Revd John Hardy, Churchwardens Lady Victoria Fairbairn and Dorothy Thomas and the St Agnes' PCC wholeheartedly supported the initiative and were delighted when the congregation paid for the tree. Together they planted it on the lawn outside the south (main) door of the church. In many ways the area looks more like a garden than a churchyard and it is envisaged that the churchyard will become a community garden.

Suffolk Prayer Walks: The ecumenical 'Suffolk in Prayer' group are excited to be planning their first Suffolk-wide prayer walk for the Queen's Jubilee. They are looking for walkers, runners, cyclists and home prayers to join in praying for God's blessing on communities across Suffolk on the weekend of 22-24 April. To find out more about getting involved please contact: suffolkinprayer@gmail.com

The Suffolk Historic Churches Trust (SHCT) are delighted to announce they are awarding Jubilee Grants totalling £70,000, in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 and seek to benefit as many communities in Suffolk as possible. For full details please visit our website [here](#).

To find out how you can support the Queen's Jubilee please do have a look at our website section which includes information on the Festival of Suffolk, Torch relay, #suffolkblessing, lighting beacons and more. Please click [here](#).



Angels aren't just for Christmas

Malaika means angels in Swahili. The angels from Kagera are on the move round the Diocese, from the Cathedral at Christmas to St Peter's, Henley for Mothering Sunday via



Debenham, Needham Market and other places. They spent Saturday morning in the churchyard with children making posies for their mums. On Sunday the congregation enthusiastically sang a Swahili chorus so the angels felt at home!

If you'd like to have the angels visit your church or group, let us know on kagera@cofesuffolk.org

Events

Abbey 1000 Pilgrimage Day

Wednesday 6 April from 9.30am to 5.00pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP31 1LS

As part of the Abbey 1000 celebrations, the Pilgrimage Day will include talks, panel discussion and practical information on pilgrimage past, present and future routes leading to Bury St Edmunds. Throughout the day, participants will move to different locations for each part of the programme, culminating in a short service in the Abbey ruins.

Among the guest speakers will be Dr Rebecca Pinner, Associate Professor in Medieval Literature at University of East Anglia; Guy Hayward of the British Pilgrimage Trust; Adrian Tindall, Chairman of Bury St Edmunds Tour Guides; and Canon Peter Doll from Norwich Cathedral.

The event is free to attend. A soup lunch is optional but must be pre-booked. Donations (suggested £5) can be made on the day. Please note that booking is essential. For further information and to book visit www.abbeyofstedmund1000.co.uk

'Suffolk Calling' Exploring faith, God and life

5 April, 10 May and 7 June 7.00pm-8.00pm Online events

Join the Revd Stuart Batten, Diocesan Director of Ordinands, and the Revd Charlotte Cook for regular monthly informal chats about how God calls us and vocation in general. Suffolk Calling has grown from a smaller initiative called Ipswich Calling, now we have extended it so that anyone from the diocese can join. It's for all who want to explore more about vocations; sometimes there are speakers, other times not. To attend please email Charlotte for the Zoom details at charlotte.cook@cofesuffolk.org.

Immigration and the Refugee: An Exploration of Scripture

Monday 11 April 7.00pm – 8.00pm Online event

Join the Revd Canon Dave Gardner and the Revd Andy Buttress to explore together the amazing narrative of the Bible which pictures migration on almost every page. In particular we will discover that the heart of God leans toward the migrant and refugee. But we will also discover that within the Bible story is a message of disruption which calls the Christian to hold onto things lightly not tightly as 'this world is not our home, we are just a-passing

through.' We will be supported by a booklet written by Andy, which presents an overarching interpretation of the Bible as compassion towards immigrants and refugees. To download the booklet please go to this [webpage](#) and scroll down to the booklet, and scroll down to the booklet, or email Lesley Steed at lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org for an emailed copy.

To register to take part in the Zoom forum <https://immigration-and-the-refugee.eventbrite.co.uk>

Grow Alpha Ipswich

Thursday 28 April, 7.00pm to 9.00pm
River Church, Ipswich IP4 1BZ

'Grow Alpha Ipswich' is an evening to support you and your teams to run and grow Alpha at your church. Learn from the Alpha UK team and special guests as we gather in person for pizza, worship, teaching, stories, and prayer, to look to maximise Alpha as a tool for evangelism in your context.

Grow Alpha is for church leaders, Alpha leaders and helpers, and anyone interested in running Alpha in your context. The evening is completely free, but please book your place at www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/grow-ipswich-tickets-296689565477 so that we can order enough pizza!

God Calling?

18 June 2022 10.00am to 12.00pm
Assington Hall, 75 Further Street CO10 5LE

Sometimes life can seem so full on and fast paced that we don't feel that there is any time to stop and listen to God. **God Calling?** is an opportunity to press the pause button in our busy lives for a couple of hours and tune into God's still small voice. Join us at the beautiful surroundings of Assington Hall for a morning of quiet reflection on theme of God's call on our lives.

To book your place please visit: <https://2022-god-calling.eventbrite.co.uk> To find out more please email the Revd [Stuart Batten](#), Diocesan Director of Ordinands.

PCC Workshop Programme

Online events

We would like to help our volunteers in parishes to feel more connected and supported by the diocese and invite you to join us for a series of topic-based Zoom meetings facilitated by diocesan staff. These will be available to PCCs (Treasurers, Churchwardens, Administrators and Clergy). Diocesan staff and parish 'experts' will share information and knowledge in these sessions in the format of a short presentation or Q&A format, both followed by your questions. Please book these free sessions on Eventbrite [here](#). If you have any questions, please contact julie.podd@cofesuffolk.org

Funding & Grants	Beccy Hills, Diocesan Funding and Grants Advisor, with a volunteer from Beccles	25 April at 12 noon
Parish Giving Scheme – Who,	Julie Podd, Diocesan Parish	17 May at 11.00am and 27

What, Why?	Resources Manager, with Grant Forrest CEO & Catia Oldrey from the PGS	September at 11.00am
Parish Giving Scheme – How to use the PGS as a catalyst for generosity?	Julie Podd, Diocesan Parish Resources Manager, with Grant Forrest CEO & Catia Oldrey from the PGS	17 May at 2.00pm and 27 September at 2.00pm
Legacies – setting up a parish legacy policy and free wills	Julie Podd, Diocesan Parish Resources Manager, with Helen Simpkins, Deputy National Giving Advisor	26 April at 12 noon and 11 May at 12 noon
Festival of Suffolk Photography Training	Becky Luetchford, Lightwave Communications Missioner and Social Media Storyteller, with Leonie Ryle, Diocesan Communications Manager	17 May at 2.00pm

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.

Disability and Inclusion working group: The Diocesan Synod agreed to move forward with a diocesan-wide disability and inclusion working group to raise awareness and to support our churches and worshipping communities in improving access and inclusion for all. We are looking for people who might like to be considered for membership. We would like to find a wide range of people who are willing to commit to the group initially for two years – lay and ordained, those with disabilities or experience of living or working with people with a disability, for example, related to sight or hearing loss, mobility difficulties, learning disability, neuro-diversity, dementia or mental ill-health. If you are interested, please email Archdeacon [Jeanette Gosney](#) by 8 April explaining your interest.

Vacancies

[Diocesan Secretary](#) | Closing date: 7 April

Youth & Young Adults Pastor | Beccles Parish | Closing date: 1 May - please contact richhenderson@btinternet.com

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

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

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

[Organist – Choirmaster / Director of Music](#) | Dickleburgh, Diocese of Norwich.

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