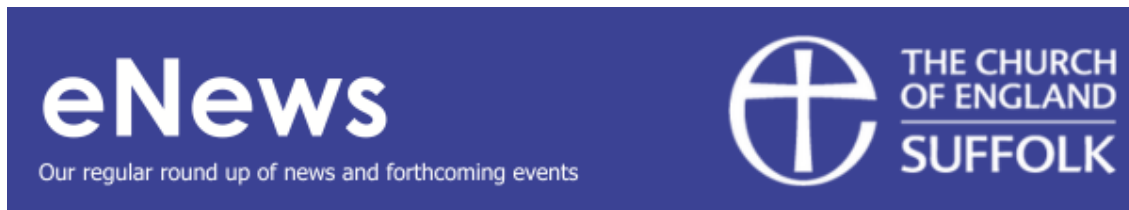


**Thursday 5 October 2023**



### **Suffolk Harvest Festival celebrated in true farming style**



The Suffolk Harvest Festival was celebrated at St Edmundsbury Cathedral on Sunday 1 October. With a focus on farming and living water, we were delighted that farmers, families, school children from Wetheringsett CofE Primary School and animals were all in attendance. Bishop Martin led the Harvest Service, and was joined by Beth Duchesne from Farming Live in conversation with Andrew Blenkiron, Estate Director at the Euston Estate and Patrick Barker, E J Barker & Sons,

Lodge Farm as they discussed the Harvest theme of water in regard to farming in the county.

The Harvest Festival was organised in collaboration with Lightwave; a Christian community with a special focus on sharing God's light and love in rural areas of Suffolk. Read the full story [here](#).

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### **News from Kagera - Chris and Anji Dawkins report**



"An early start on Sunday, for an ordination service in Rulenge. Google Maps suggested it would take us an hour to get there. The doubts began to creep in when the tarmac suddenly gave way to a dirt road. We passed groups of people on the road, some smartly dressed on their way to different churches, some carrying sticks or water buckets on their heads, others herding goats or cattle. Eventually we arrived and Google Maps had proved surprisingly accurate. People were already

gathering for the service when we arrived. The choir was singing, even though there was over an hour to go before the start. We were warmly welcomed into Pastor Manasseh's house for breakfast – hard boiled egg, sweet potato and mandazi, washed down with sweet milky tea.

We were found a place at the front and managed to get a copy of the service sheet, which stretched to 24 pages and we needed a translator. 3½ hours later after much singing, dancing and preaching, the 11 ordinands individually came up accompanied by their wives

to be blessed by the Bishop. Each ordinand had to read out an oath of allegiance and sign it. Then it was time for gifts – a long queue formed to load the newly ordained deacons with gifts, garlands, money and more. At last, after five hours we joined the procession of 300 out and enjoyed meeting many old friends. One of the ordinands had been in our first English class in 2013 and two others from subsequent classes. Back to teaching on Monday!"

### **Kagera Evening**

Thursday 19 October 7.00pm

Dove Cottage (Next to Debenham Church) IP14 6QJ

The Revd Susan Taylor revisited Kagera in the summer with a group led by the Bishop - come along to a memorable evening of films, photos and reflections on revisiting Kagera, our link diocese in Tanzania. The event will include a raffle of Tanzanian crafts. Tickets cost £5 including refreshments, all proceeds to go to the Kagera Appeal. To book, please email [revsusantaylor@icloud.com](mailto:revsusantaylor@icloud.com) or call on 01728 860222.

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### **Deanery Drop-in Sessions**



We will be offering a number of drop-ins around the diocese to give you a chance to meet with us and tell us what you need to deliver your Plan for Growth. Each drop-in will run from 3.00pm-5.00pm, and then 6.00pm to 8.00pm. Come when you like and talk to us. If you have a specific question you can email us in advance so we know what you need – please send your emails

to [helen.prior-townsend@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:helen.prior-townsend@cofesuffolk.org). There will be resources available for you to take away, as well as members of different teams present on the day: finance, DAC, buildings, giving, parish support, mission and ministry and so on. The first dates are:

Do come along, we are really looking forward to seeing you.

Monday 13 November | Salvation Army, Violet Hill, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

Wednesday 6 December | St Mary's Church, Hadleigh IP7 5DT

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### **Follow the Star: Join the Song**



The Church of England is relaunching the very popular *Follow the Star* branding for 2023. This year's theme – *Follow the Star: Join the Song* – highlights how singing can help draw us closer to God and each other through the journey from Advent to Epiphany.

In the story of the first Christmas, the shepherds are astonished to find the night sky filled with countless voices singing God's praise. Find out more [here](#).

Please join the launch webinars outlining the key elements of the Join the Song campaign - to invite choirs and singing groups of all ages to learn and sing the carol.

### **Christmas 2023's digital resources unwrapped**

Wednesday 11 October 3.00pm | [register here](#)

**Free downloads for Advent and Christmas on [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com):** One of

the key elements of the Join the Song campaign is to invite choirs and singing groups of all ages to learn and sing a new version of The First Nowell. The Resource Hub now includes the downloadable music tracks to help choirs of all ages and stages learn and perform the carol. In addition the hub has logos, poster templates, social media graphics, more music tracks, web banners and more.

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**Please note: Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC):** As each church building is professionally inspected every five years through a quinquennial inspection, the presence of RAAC should have been noted as part of those inspections. Please find Church of England guidance as a way to help with the identification of RAAC and provide advice on the next steps should RAAC be found within a church, church hall or other parochial building. Visit [here](#).

## Events

### FEATURED EVENT:

#### **Edmund Lecture with Dame Barbara Woodward DCMG OBE**

Friday 20 October, 6.30pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP31 1LS

Dame Barbara Woodward DCMG OBE, the British Permanent Representative (Ambassador) to the United Nations in New York, will be this year's speaker at St Edmundsbury Cathedral's Edmund Lecture. She was born and raised in Suffolk. The lecture will explore parallels between the Magna Carta and the UN Charter. Free to attend. Book online [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. Please book [here](#).

### **Harvest Festival of Talents**

Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 October

All Saints' Church, Kesgrave IP5 1JG

Come along to a Harvest Festival at All Saints' Church, lasting a whole weekend! Events include Harvest displays, activities for children and a talent concert - anyone can participate! Refreshments will be provided. The Talent Concert is from 5.30pm - 7.30pm on Saturday - to sign up to participate please contact Sally Wainman

on 07807 984589.

### **Saxophony Concert**

Sunday 8 October, 2.30pm

St Mary's Church, Church Lane, Martlesham IP12 4PQ

You are invited to 'Saxophony', an experienced local saxophone quartet, for a concert. A shared project with Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Free entry, donations in aid of St Mary's church and Martlesham Wilds, the exciting new nature reserve which is right next to the church along Martlesham creek. No need to book, parking available. Come and enjoy great music from Mozart to the Beatles, Queen and Abba and find out more about Martlesham Wilds!

### **2023 Tower Talks: Wolsey Church and State: Faith in the Public Realm**

St Mary le Tower, Ipswich IP1 3BE

Sunday 8 October, Dr Sarah Mortimer | Christ Church Oxford, University of Oxford | The Wolsey Sermon, 3.30pm

Sunday 22 October, Dr Paul Cavill | Pembroke College, University of Cambridge | Wolsey's Church and State: Lessons for now? | Follows Choral Evensong at 6.45pm

Sunday 29 October, The Rt Revd Tim Stevens | Former Convenor, Lords Spiritual | Meddling Bishops? The Church in Politics Now | Follows Choral Evensong at 6.45pm

Please find more information [here](#).

### **Faith in Partnership - East Suffolk Council**

Tuesday 10 October, 9.30am to 3.00pm

East Suffolk House, Riduna Park, Station Road, Melton, Woodbridge IP2 1PT

This is an opportunity for faith community representatives in East Suffolk to meet people from all sectors: the NHS, social care, local government, voluntary sector groups and grant bodies. You'll be able to hear about what the data says about needs in our communities - funding opportunities, volunteering, advice on setting up projects, how to work in partnership with other services, plans for this winter and more - to strengthen partnerships for the benefit of the communities. The day will be a mixture of talks, workshops and a plenary session, plus market stalls and networking. Lunch will be provided. Click [here](#) for details and to book.

### **Statistics for Mission and the Online Parish Returns System**

Wednesday 11 October 7.30pm Online | book [here](#).

This information-based webinar will be presented by Charlotte Hodgson, Paul Sparrow and Nigel Cook to explain the purpose of the Online Parish Returns System. The session is ideal for anyone associated with the Church but especially those involved in completing data returns on behalf of their parish. Areas covered will include registering on the system, Statistics for Mission, the Finance Return and the Energy Footprint Tool kit. There will be an opportunity at the end for you to ask questions.

### **The Joys and Challenges of Supervision**

Saturday 14 October, 9.30am to 4.00pm

Colchester Road Baptist Church, Ipswich (entrance on Sidegate Lane) IP4 3DL

Led by Sarah from Inspire Counselling and Training, who has been a practising Counsellor for 30 years and is a Senior Accredited Supervisor, this workshop will have relevance to counsellors currently working as supervisors, but also experienced counsellors considering supervision training. Offering an opportunity to explore what supervision means to the profession and us. Amongst other areas you will explore: Roles and responsibilities of a supervisor; Ethical dilemmas and ethical decision making; Fitness to practice issues.

Please bring your own case material to explore during the day. This course is currently being offered for £60 per person. For further information please contact Inspire on 01473 217694 or email Carole Sherratt at [contact@inspirecounselling.org.uk](mailto:contact@inspirecounselling.org.uk).

### **1000 Years of St Michael's, Beccles**

Saturday 14 October, 7.00pm

St Michael's Church, Beccles NR34 9HE

To mark all that has been achieved in the last five years to conserve the building and improve facilities, Dr Barry Darch will provide an engaging talk on '1000 Years of St Michael's'. Tickets cost £15, and include a glass of wine (or soft drink) and nibbles on arrival, as well as cheeseboard and tea/coffee. To book, please contact John Bailey on 07774 749201.

### **Prisons Week Service**

Sunday 15 October, 10.30am

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP31 LS1

Join this special service to mark Prisons Week which has been running annually for almost 50 years. Led by Bishop Martin the service will include prayers for prisoners, victims and staff. A number of serving prisoners from HMP Hollesley Bay, Suffolk's open prison, will take part in and join the service. This year, the address will be given by the Anglican chaplain at HMP Highpoint, the Revd Mark Osbourne. After the service, there will be an opportunity for engagement - with prisoners, prison staff and others - with current issues in prisons, and discussion and reflection. Refreshments will be provided.

### **Lay Elder training and social morning**

Saturday 21 October 21, 9.30am - 1.30pm

Salvation Army Stowmarket, Violet Hill Road IP14 1NE

As part of our two-year cycle of training and celebrating, we are inviting all Elders to a training and social morning, with special guest speakers from across the Diocese. We are very pleased that our keynote speaker will be the Venerable Rich Henderson, Archdeacon of Suffolk. For more information and to book please click [here](#).

### **A Miscellany of Musics**

Sunday 21 October, 6.00pm

Holy Trinity, Long Melford, CO10 9DT

Featuring Allegri's "Miserere" and Lewandowski's "Enosh", come along to enjoy the debut performance of Melford's Rossignal Consort. Tickets cost £10 and are available by calling 07932 233431 or emailing [ejcobb@talktalk.net](mailto:ejcobb@talktalk.net).

### **Practical Ways to Help Your Church Build a Generous Culture**

24 October, 7.00pm start (arrive at 6.30pm for tea/coffee)  
Hoxne Village Hall IP21 5AN

Join the Diocesan Parish Resources Team (Julie Podd and Emma Denton) to find out more about the Parish Giving Scheme, contactless donation devices, online giving with QR codes, and grants and funding. They will be sharing details from the Anglican Giving Survey about why people give (and don't give) and suggest ways to encourage giving from both your congregation and wider community. To book email [rachelball3@icloud.com](mailto:rachelball3@icloud.com) or telephone: 07876 352796.

### **Cathedrals at Night :Twilight Talks**

Starting on Thursday 26 October, 6.45pm  
St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds, IP31 1LS

St Edmundsbury Cathedral will host a series of Twilight Talks this winter. The talks will cover specialist subjects relating to the Cathedral building and its secrets. Tickets include a one-hour talk, refreshments and a short tour of the Cathedral in the context of the twilight talk subject matter. The line up includes: The Revd Tony Redman, surveyor of the fabric at St Edmundsbury Cathedral for 25 years from 1991 to 2016, Horry Parsons, project manager of the Millennium Tower Project and Alison Dickens BA MCIFA, Director of Granta Heritage. Full details available [here](#).

### **An Adventurous Advent**

Saturday 28 October, 9.00am - 12.30pm  
Salvation Army Hall, Violet Hill Road, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

An invitation to all Readers, Licensed Lay Ministers, Elders and those in training - do join us as Mark Oakley leads us in preparation for An Adventurous Advent. The language of hope, promise and waiting is not evident in today's culture and our communities embrace Christmas at the beginning of December with the switching on of town lights and Christmas carol services throughout the month. The season of Advent, with its four weeks of waiting, is counter-cultural. To find out more and book your place on this event, please click [here](#).

### **Church Recording East Anglia**

Tuesday 7 November, 10.30am to 3.00pm  
St Mary's Church, Woolpit IP30 9SQ

Join in and celebrate the work of East Anglia's Church Recorders. This seminar includes talks by Timothy Easton, the well-known artist and architectural historian, with an interest in witchcraft, magic, the occult, and particularly apotropaic marks, and John Vigar, a popular commentator on English history, a broadcaster, writer and accredited lecturer for the Arts Society. For more information email [Sue Medcalf](mailto:Sue.Medcalf).

### **PCC Workshop - Grants & Funding**

Wednesday 1 November 12.00pm to 1.00pm | Book [here](#)  
Wednesday 8 November 1.00pm to 2.00pm | Book [here](#)

Join Emma Denton, Diocesan Grants Advisor, and guest John Bailey on Zoom for this workshop. Both have considerable success in accessing grants and funding. Learn about



the advice and resources available from the Diocese and find out about the Church Grants database. They will welcome questions at the end of their presentations.

### **PCC Workshop - Gifts in Wills**

Wednesday 8 November 12.00pm to 1.00pm | Book [here](#)

Thursday 30 November 12.00pm to 1.00pm | Book [here](#)

Emma Denton will be joined by Eleanor Stead (Head of Giving, Church of England) to help you learn how to set up and promote a parish gifts in wills policy in your parish. Access to free online wills through Farewill.

### **PCC Workshop - Digital Giving**

Tuesday 14 November 12.00pm to 1.00pm | Book [here](#)

An opportunity to share why digital giving is so important for all churches to enable your generous congregation and wider community to give easily to your church. Includes: setting up online giving campaigns, using payment providers and how to share the online link and QR codes on your A Church Near You Page and/or your website and more. We can show what different donation device options are available. We could also offer you a trial of the 'CollectIn' device.

### **Mass in E-flat**

Sunday 19 November, 4.00pm

St Botolph's Chapel, Botesdale IP22 1RG

Come along for a premiere performance from Peter Creswell's new Mass in E-flat. Featuring top soloists, a small orchestra and chorus. Concert will last approximately one hour, tickets cost £15. To book tickets, please call 01379 890650.

### **TRiM 2023 - You are not alone**

Tuesday 21 November - Wednesday 22 November 10.00am to 1.30pm

High Leigh Conference Centre, Lord Street, Hoddesdon EN11 8SG

Each year the participating churches in the Eastern Region are invited to join together for a short residential conference on Theological Refreshment in Ministry. It is open to ministers, priests, local preachers and Licensed Lay Ministers from all of our participating churches. The TRiM conference provides an opportunity to learn and pray together in a relaxed atmosphere away from church duties. Each year it focuses on one particular theological discipline and in 2023 this will be Pastoral Supervision, led by the Revd Dr Jane Leach. Places are £130 for fully inclusive board and the conference. For more information or to book, please [click here](#).

### **Bishops' Teaching morning: The Gospel of Mark, with Professor George van Kooten**

Saturday 25 November 9.30am - 12.30pm

Salvation Army, Violet Hill Road, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

Bishop Martin and Bishop Mike invite you to a study morning on the Gospel of Mark with guest speaker Professor George van Kooten from the Faculty of Divinity at the University of

Cambridge, who will be asking what is the genre of Mark's gospel, what is its wider context and the thrust of its argument? Book early to avoid disappointment! Free of charge, please book [here](#). Enquiries to Lesley Steed on 07485 348889 or [lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org).

The series of Bishops' teaching mornings will continue in 2024, the provisional dates are: 3 February 2024, 27 April 2024 and 23 November 2024.

### **Drawing near to God in Advent: prayer, postures and practices**

Tuesday 28 November 7.00pm - 8.30pm, online

Bishop Mike will lead four Zoom sessions through Advent looking at aspects of prayer (e.g. praise, intercession...), Christian postures (e.g. peace, joy...) and associated practices to help us grow closer to God over Advent. These will run on Tuesday 28 November | Tuesday 5 December | Thursday 14 December and Tuesday 19 December. There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion. All are very welcome! Book [here](#).

### **Notices**



**Avocado plant looking for a new home:** Bishop Martin is looking for a warm home for the 2.5m potted avocado tree from Kagera that he has nurtured the past four years. It no longer fits in his house and over the Winter it mustn't fall below 10 degrees at night, so he is looking for a tall warm greenhouse or similar space, or else he will have to cut the top off. If anyone can help, please get in touch with the Bishop's Office on 01473 252829.

**Bishop's Officers for the Widows and Widowers:** After nine years, the Revd Canon Lionel and Mrs Rebecca Simpkins are retiring from their posts as the Bishop's Officers for the Widows and Widowers of Clergy in our Diocese. As they left they said, *'It has been a great privilege to serve in this way but the time has come to hand over to others.'* At a recent meeting of the Clergy Charity Trustees, tributes were made to them in recognition of their work. The Bishop has appointed the Revd Canon Alan and the Revd Catherine Forsdike as successors. Alan and Catherine's contact details are:

The Revd Canon Alan Forsdike - 07842 745160 - [rev.alan.forsdike@gmail.com](mailto:rev.alan.forsdike@gmail.com)

The Revd Catherine Forsdike - 07953 029430 - [revcatherine2@gmail.com](mailto:revcatherine2@gmail.com)

**INTERACT WITH US NOW!** The new sound of Suffolk!

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[studio@suffolksound.com](mailto:studio@suffolksound.com)

**Suffolk Sound**  
RADIO AT THE HEART OF YOUR COMMUNITY

### **Radio Sounds**

We are delighted to announce that the Sunday morning Faith Show will be presented by Lightwave Chaplain, Graham Miles. DJing for the first time, Graham will be interviewing a whole host of people over the next few months. Available online only, listen in [here](#) on Sundays 7.00am to 9.00am.



You can also ask your smart speaker "play Suffolk Sounds on Intune".

## Vacancies

[Rector Designate](#) | East Bergholt, Brantham, Bentley & Tattingstone | Closing date: 10 October

[Director of Music](#) | Woodbridge

[Director of Mission and Ministry](#) | Closing date: 19 October

[Priest in Charge](#) | Wickham Market & Pettistree cum Loudham | Closing date: 13 November

[Team Rector](#) | The Forest Heath Team Benefice | Closing date: 24 November

[Centre Manager of the Sanctuary Day Centre](#) | Ipswich

[Priest in Charge](#) | Sproughton, Burstall, Copdock with Washbrook & Archdeaconry Mission Enabler

[House for Duty Priest in Charge](#) | The Wrentham Benefice

[Rector](#) | Beccles

River Church, Ipswich are recruiting for Director of Operations, Kids Pastor and Spear Centre Manager/Employability Coach. All details at: [riverchurchipswich.org/vacancies](https://riverchurchipswich.org/vacancies)

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



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