

Issue date: 6 January 2022



Growing Younger Sunday

Sunday 30 January 2022



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On Sunday 30 January we are encouraging churches to recognise that young people are co-pilgrims on our journey of faith and they can teach, share and reflect in a relevant, reverent and innately spiritual way.

Join children, young people and their families as we share in the planning, leading and serving in worship on this or every Sunday.

Any enquiries? Please contact:
hilary.wordsworth-sewell@cofesuffolk.org (Children and Families)
or matt.levett@cofesuffolk.org (Youth and Young Adults).
www.cofesuffolk.org

- 1 Include the Growing Younger Prayer in your worship - written by young people and commissioned by our Bishops.
- 2 Use our short YouTube video in your worship or in mailings to your communities and school.
- 3 Look out for our online resource bank of ideas and experiences - Liturgy, Music, Prayer, Talk and Listen.



On this Sunday in January we would love each and every church in our Diocese to involve children and young people in their services, whether it is to pray for them and their leaders or to encourage them to plan and lead a service. We hope all churches to do *something* on this Sunday to recognise that young people are co-pilgrims on our journey of faith, and can teach and share and reflect in a relevant, reverent and innately spiritual way.

Bishop Mike *"We would love children and young people to take a leading role in worship on this Sunday perhaps being part of the welcome team, giving the reading or even actually breaking the word"*

To support you in this we have a prayer written for and by children and young people, a Padlet of resources, posters, music and more - please download these from our website [here](#). For further information please contact Hilary Wordsworth-Sewell hilary.wordsworth-sewell@cofesuffolk.org (Children's and Families) or Matt Levett matt.levett@cofesuffolk.org (Youth and Young Adults).

Supporting young people to participate in a carol service: Justin Rabett, Churchwarden in St Edmund's Church in Hargrave, invited several young people to do the readings at their Christmas Carol Service. Justin says *"So picture a sporty teenager who has never been great with reading at school (cool with Maths though) who is asked to read a lesson at our village carol service. His mum volunteers him but on the day, in the pew,*

he's slightly overwhelmed when I tell him where to stand. "I'm not doing it, nah, sorry". No problem I say, I'll be there and if you get stuck, just pass it to me and I'll finish it for you, don't worry. Of course, he gets up in the last verse of the carol and reads Luke 2, 8-18 'See, I am bringing you tidings of great joy' perfectly and clearly. What a great confidence boost for a boy about to face the world. So pleased for him".



Celebrating Epiphany: For some years, Mellis Church of England Primary School has been celebrating Epiphany on the return from the Christmas break. The School's special service celebrating Epiphany (also known as 'Three Kings Day') and the arrival of the Three Kings sees the entire School process around the grounds following a star, which is a tradition in many parts of the world.

This year the School is continuing its practice of marking its doorways in the Christian tradition of 'chalking the doors'. The markings of 20 + C + M + B + 22 will be written by the children above the doors of the school. The marking has two meanings: the first and last numbers represent the year while the C+M+B represent the initials of the three Kings (Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar), and also the Latin blessing 'Christus

Mansionem Benedicat' - Christ bless this house'. Mr Paul Ryle, Headteacher says, "This is a lovely start to the year as the School dedicates itself to God by asking for his blessing on the School and those within it - with a focus on helping them to work and learn together".

Church and Vaccination Centre!

Churchwardens of St Mary's church in Hadleigh are delighted to have teamed up with their health centre, offering a safe space for them to deliver some 6,000 Covid-19 booster jabs in seven sessions. Without St Mary's, Hadleigh would never have been able to administer so many jabs so quickly.

Jessica Janas says *"We are the largest covered space in our market town and are delighted to have had the flexibility to achieve such positive things for our wider community...everyone was able to enjoy the beautiful stained glass windows and peace of the place while having their jab... and on a couple of occasions we even had a friend in to play some light music on the organ! Together with a large team of volunteers to steward the events, brilliantly organised by the Patient Participation Group, we achieved the seemingly impossible. It also gave us the chance to chat to people waiting in the queues and we know that some, and hope that many, will return to enjoy our hospitality and worship in the months to come".*

Events

Youth Work Essentials

Diocesan Office, 4 Cutler Street, Ipswich IP1 1UQ

Starting mid January 2022 (dates and timings to be confirmed)

Matt Levett, Diocesan Youth and Young Adults Officer, says *"If you are you looking to start a youth group but just need some ideas and guidance then this course is for you. In ten weeks you will have the confidence to give it a go!"* This course, designed by ['YouthScape'](#) is aimed at helping equip churches and train people starting out in youth ministry. It does not pre-suppose a great level of knowledge or existing practise. Please email matt.levett@cofesuffolk.org to learn more and book your place.

Mission Shaped Ministry - Flexi

Three Saturdays, one in each Autumn, Winter and Spring term

Mission Shaped Ministry (MSM) is a one-year learning journey, equipping people to building, sustaining and growing mission initiatives, including Lightwave groups. It consists of 15 modules which include areas such as: Listening for mission, Gospel and culture, Starting new initiatives, Building a strong team, Worship and sacraments in fresh expressions of church and Making a fresh expression of Church sustainable. This course is delivered flexibly with a group or team who want to reach out to their community or network and help others discover God's love. Each Saturday looks at a current challenge in mission and this term's topic is outlined below. These sessions are also open to anyone in the Diocese to attend on an ad hoc basis, booking details below.

Discipleship in a Time of Reconstruction Saturday

Saturday 29 January – 10.00am – 12.30pm via Zoom

During 2020, 20% of the population engaged with some form of online service or Christian spiritual input. What does that say about the longing there is in the hearts of many, especially when facing difficulty about the need for guidance beyond ourselves?

If discipleship is more caught than taught, then what sort of communities are we trying to form where what it means to follow Christ is honestly lived and shared? How do people turn to us for guidance, wanting to reconstruct their lives in the face of an existential threat, move from enquirers to attendees, to choosing to be baptised and confirmed as new disciples?

Are our Churches and Fresh Expressions willing to face the cost of what it might mean to be places where anyone can experience what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ? This will be based on one of the key units from the Mission Shaped Ministry course B04 Discipleship.

It is £10 to attend, please select a general admission ticket if you are attending this session as a standalone event. Those who have a CMD allowance can use this to cover the cost of this session. Please email Lesley.Steed@cofesuffolk.org to arrange this. This course is free for those participants already signed up on the MSM-Flexi course, please select a MSM-Flexi participant's ticket if you are already on the course. You only need to select

one ticket.

To book your place for this Saturday, please go to Eventbrite [here](#). You will be emailed the Zoom link for each Saturday to the email address you register with on Eventbrite. For further enquiries contact Nina.Seaman@cofesuffolk.org.

Notices

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 during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Message from Gary Peverley, Finance Director, on Parish Share end of year payments:

Thank you to all of our parishes for your giving towards parish share so far for this year. We would like to remind you that we continue to accept payments towards the 2021 parish share **up to and including Monday 31 January 2022. Payments received after that date, unless we know about them in advance, will be treated as 2022 parish share.** This is to enable us to move more quickly to close our own accounts and prepare for our statutory audit. We understand that, for some parishes, it can take time to work through final parish share payments for the year just ending, but would appreciate it if we could all work to the timetable above and understand the cut-off dates. Our preference is to receive funds via online banking (but please ensure you make clear which year the payment is for in the text field).

Any cheques must be received at the office by 31 January 2022 to be included in your 2021 Parish Share figures. Cheques received after this date will only be accounted for in your 2021 figures if you have told us by 31 January to expect the cheque so that we can accrue for it, allowing us to finalise our own accounts.

Free Premium 'Give A Little' membership for 2022: Parishes using 'Give A Little' for their contactless and/or online giving will be pleased to hear that Parish Buying members will continue to receive free Premium membership for the duration of 2022. Premium membership allows givers to make a Gift Aid declaration when they are making their donation and comes with lots of other features like the ability to customise campaigns with images and videos and reporting. You can find ideas of how to promote your online giving page [here](#) and you can also integrate your 'Give A Little' account with your 'A Church Near You' page. To find out more visit the [parish buying website here](#).

'Give A Little' Monthly Donors – Secure 3D Changes: If you give to your parish online through 'Give A Little' you may have recently received an email asking you to cancel your existing monthly subscription and set it up again in order to meet the new level of security required by 'Sum Up' (card payment processor). Due to increasing security requirements in the industry, all card payments now need to be secured with the actions detailed in the email and these need to be completed by 1 February 2022. Should you have any queries or worries over the instructions please contact 'Give A Little' to discuss by emailing hello@givealittle.co.

Church Magazine competition: The Association for Church Editors organises an annual national competition for church magazine editors and for 2022 they are asking for A5 magazines printed in colour (even just on the cover). All entry details can be found on the website [here](#), closing date is 7 February 2022. Please submit entries to Sally Churchus, 103 Gravel Road, Bromley Common, Kent BR2 8PW.

Vacancies

[Rector](#) | St Gregory's Sudbury and All Saints' Sudbury | Closing date: 10 January 2022

[Human Resources Manager, Norwich/Ipswich](#) | Closing date: 24 January 2022

[Chief Finance Officer](#) | Diocesan Multi-Academy-Trust | Closing date: 24 January 2022

[Priest-in-Charge](#) | Waterfront Parishes, Ipswich | 0.5 | Closing date: 26 January 2022

[Rector](#) | Suffolk Heights Benefice | Closing date: 7 February 2022

[Vicar](#) All Saints' Newmarket | Closing date: 9 February 2022

[Interim Priest-in-Charge](#) (3 years full-time) | Mid Loes benefice | Closing date: 20 February 2022

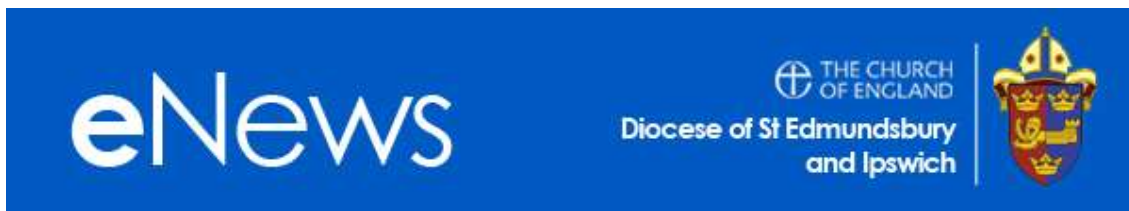
[Vicar](#) | Bures with Assington and Little Cornard | Closing date: 25 February 2022

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

[Trusts and Foundations Manager](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral

[Worship Pastor, Coffee Shop Manager, Fundraising Assistant](#) | River Church, Ipswich.

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