



Thursday 7 April 2022

Responding to the crisis in Ukraine

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

Together for Ipswich and *Ipswich in Prayer* are going to host a joint Prayer Vigil for Ukraine on Monday 25 April from 6.00-7.00pm at The Cornhill, Ipswich IP1 1BH. Prayers will be led by a range of different churches and everyone is very welcome.

Growing in God

Celebrating the Queen's Jubilee



Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee and our nation will come together over a four-day Bank Holiday weekend to celebrate.

Bishop Martin invites everyone in our parishes to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee together. *"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".

Our celebration of the Jubilee is detailed in a booklet to download [here](#) or, 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](#).

Suffolk Prayer Walks: The ecumenical 'Suffolk in Prayer' group is excited to be planning their first Suffolk-wide prayer walk for the Queen's Jubilee. Are you a walker, runner, cyclist? Would you like to join in praying for God's blessing on communities on our 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) is delighted to announce it is awarding Jubilee Grants totalling £70,000 in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and seek to benefit as many communities in Suffolk as possible. For full details please visit our website [here](#).



Vocations Sunday

8 May 2022

Our common vocation is to grow in our relationship with God, to love and serve God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. We have drawn together some helpful resources on a Padlet (an electronic noticeboard) to support you for Vocations Sunday, available [here](#). These resources are designed to aid the celebration of Vocations Sunday in the parish and to promote both our common vocation and the exploration of a specific ministry to which God may be calling some. On the Padlet you will find liturgies for a Vocations Sunday Eucharist or Service of the Word, prayers of intercession, reflections, Vocations Sunday posters, our new booklet 'Explore your Ministry and 'Nine Days of Prayer for Vocations' (designed for personal/private use by the church family, and has nine days of prayer and reflections with the aim to deepen our personal relationship with God. The ideal date to start this would be on 30 April, so the ninth and final day of this devotion is Vocations Sunday itself).

We will gladly send you paper copies of the Explore Your Ministry booklet and/or the Nine Days of Prayer booklet, please just contact lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org or phone 07485 348889.

If there is anything else that we can do to support and encourage vocations in your parish, or if you have any questions about your vocation, please do get in touch with the Revd Stuart Batten, Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Vocations, at stuart.batten@cofesuffolk.org or 07468 474065.

Vocations Fair

Sunday 8 May 2022, 2.00pm - 4.00pm

The Cloisters, St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Come and visit the many stalls representing our ministries for an informal chat to find the right ministry for you for example: Licensed Youth Ministers, Anna Chaplaincy, Children's and Families Ministers, Church Army, Elders, Pioneers, Evangelists, Lightwave Leaders, Ordained Ministers, PCC Officers, Readers, School Foundation Governors and Spiritual Directors. If you would like to download a poster to advertise the Vocations Fair, please visit the Padlet [here](#).

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>

A message from the Revd Canon Dave Gardner

It is with regret that Ruth Dennigan will be leaving our employment as from the end of work on Friday 8 April as the role of Discipleship and Ministry Development Officer has been made redundant. This is due to changes as to how we are going to support initial training for Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers), give more resource to those training on the Auxiliary Ordination pathway and the plans we have for introducing an online Learning and Development Hub.

We would like to thank Ruth for over seven years of service in which she has dedicated her gifts and abilities to providing discipleship and training materials for parishes alongside developing an extensive programme of modules and support for those undertaking initial training for prospective Readers and AOP ordinands and Curates as well as providing ongoing training and support for Lay Elders. This has been through a time of significant change in the Diocese during a time of previous reorganisation and latterly the challenges of the pandemic. She will continue to serve as a Reader in the Benefice of Claydon and we will let you know how we are going to mark her leaving once we have the details.

In the meantime I want to express our debt of gratitude to Ruth and reassure her of our prayers for her future.

Events

Holy Week

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, 10 April, and culminates in the three great Holy Days: Maundy Thursday on 14 April, Good Friday on 15 April and the Easter Vigil and Easter Day

on 16 and 17 April. This week is at the heart of the Christian faith. Communities around the world come together to re-tell the stories of the last days of the life of Jesus, his self-offering work which brought our salvation. You are warmly invited to the Cathedral services during this week and the schedule for Holy Week at St Edmundsbury Cathedral is available to download [here](#).

Immigration and the Refugee: An Exploration of Scripture

Monday 11 April 2022 7.00pm 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>

How to make a Difference!

Monday 25 April 7.00-8.00pm online

Guy McGregor has been appointed as Diocesan Political Enabler, a voluntary role, the purpose of which is to help those parishes which want to become more powerful advocates in support of their communities. Guy is organising some workshops focussing on the themes of Poverty, Housing and Education. If you would like to attend, you will be sent the booklet '*Engage politically – How to make change happen*' in advance. To book please click here <https://how-to-make-a-difference.eventbrite.co.uk>.

A Pilgrimage of Song - Chevington to St Edmundsbury Cathedral

Saturday 14 May 2022

A day for all who enjoy walking and singing. Meet at Chevington Village Hall at 9.30am for a workshop to learn the music, then walk via the old Abbots' Way, singing a short service at each church on the route. At the cathedral we meet with Benedictines from across the country for a final service and hot meal, followed by a live Zoom talk from Rowan Williams (former Archbishop of Canterbury). This is a joint event between St Edmundsbury Cathedral's InHarmony Project and Cantus Firmus Trust. Advance booking essential. Full details at cantusfirmus.org.uk. Booking closes 9am 6 May.

PCC Workshop Programme

Online events

We would like to help our parishes feel more supported by and part of 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.

Further workshops will be announced in due course.

Funding & Grants	Beccy Hills, Diocesan Funding and Grants Advisor, with a volunteer from Beccles	25 April at 12 noon
Parish Giving Scheme – Who, What, Why?	Julie Podd, Diocesan Parish Resources Manager, with Grant Forrest CEO & Catia Oldrey from the PGS	17 May at 11.00am and 27 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	11 May at 12 noon
Festival of Suffolk Photography Training - covering the basics in taking good photographs with whatever equipment you have and permissions..	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.

Parish Share: We have raised over £6m in parish share, surpassing last year's total, a wonderful result in such a difficult year and a cause for rejoicing and gratitude. We thank every one of you for your incredible generosity, hard work and creativity, and we thank God that all our efforts were blessed again in 2021. Parish share goes principally to providing stipends for clergy and without everyone's contribution to this effort we would not be able to retain our stipendiary clergy numbers. Not only did just over 70% of parishes meet their full contribution, 24 parishes paid *over* their share allocation to support those unable to meet their commitments. Each Church Treasurer has been sent an email with full details, please email dbf@cofesuffolk.org if you have not received your letter.

Diocesan Office, 4 Cutler St, Ipswich: As many of you will know, 4 Cutler St has been the administrative base of the diocese for some decades. How we use it (as an office and for events) is changing, made more visible by the impact of Covid-19 over the last two years. Arguably, we do not need as much space as we once did, especially with more working from home and holding many events on-line and so we are exploring future

options.

Because 4 Cutler St is an unusual site, it being blessed with the deconsecrated medieval church of St Nicholas, it has been difficult to ascertain its value. Therefore, we have decided the best way forward is to test the market and you may therefore notice some marketing materials appearing around the site and possibly in the press. We anticipate that this will be a slow moving process.

Please be re-assured that we will always have an accessible office, as an important and valuable part of our support to parishes and schools. It may not be as big, it may be cheaper to run but it will definitely accommodate our future needs. If you have any immediate questions, please email diocesan.secretary@cofesuffolk.org. We will update you with progress.

Energy Footprint Tool for Church Buildings: Please be aware that this is now open for 2021 data collection and the deadline for entering data is 31 July 2022.

Vacancies

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

Vicar | All Saints, Newmarket | Closing date: 4 May

[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.

[Lead Evangelist](#) | Centre of Mission, Ipswich

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