



**Thursday 7 July 2022**

**We are delighted to announce £1.3m of new strategic transformation funding**

The logo for 'Growing in God' features the words 'Growing in God' in a blue, sans-serif font. A small green sprout with two leaves is positioned above the letter 'o' in 'Growing'.

The Church of England in Suffolk has secured £1.3m funding over five years from the Church of England Strategic Transformation Fund to support its existing vision to create flourishing

congregations making a difference.

The project aims to support visibly flourishing and growing Christian communities across the diocese, including Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds, Haverhill and Felixstowe, up to 12 market towns and rural areas of the diocese. The work in rural areas could form a blueprint for Christian mission in other rural areas of the country.

Bishop Mike said, *"This funding is a huge boost to the Church of England in Suffolk as we continue to build our Christian presence in our communities. We have learned a lot during the pandemic as we focused on serving our communities, and we want to continue to grow in whatever ways we can".*

The new funding will enable churches to develop their work with children, young people and their families – particularly in deprived areas. The funding will also enable the development of a learning hub offering training, learning, events and resources to those in churches across the county, recognising the value of the parish church and the contribution they make to their local communities.

Bishop Mike adds, *"I am delighted that with this extra funding we will be able to expand our parish training programmes as well as develop a leadership programme to further support our church leaders."*

For more information visit: [Growing in God](#) - Our vision.

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**Churches rise to challenge as cost-of-living crisis strikes**

As the country faces a cost-of-living crisis, Ipswich churches are rising to the challenge to help those in need – both financially and emotionally. Churches across the town are helping to make life easier, running nine 'top-up' shops across Ipswich, while providing vital community spaces for those in need.



Among these is The Lighted Cross (TLC) Renew Wellbeing Café at St Augustine's Church, which has been running every Wednesday and is attended by around 20 people, offering free refreshments and snacks and a host of games, crafts and activities to keep visitors entertained. Sue Pettitt, who helps run the event, said: "*We have our message out with local GPs, occupational health teams and are known by the local mental health trust. The*

*whole idea is to provide a welcoming environment and space where you can just be*".

Triangle Church, in Dickens Road, is another church holding a Wednesday wellbeing event, where people can find a range of support and signposting to relevant service providers, according to their need. This follows the church's weekly 'top-up' shop.

Read the full story [here](#).

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### **Mission Brandon**

From today, Thursday 7 July to Sunday, a group of Licensed Evangelists are descending on Brandon for a series of mission events. This is the chance for them to put their training into practice, supporting the local church community as they seek to be flourishing congregations making a difference. Schools visits, a Listening Bench (developed as part of Brandon in Bloom), a Big Breakfast, Adult Youth Club, Family Games and all ending on Sunday morning with an open air Celebration Service in the market square. Please pray that by our worship and service we will show Christ's love to all we meet.

### **Growing Rural**



The Growing Rural programme has been developed specifically to help multi-parish churches to see and grasp the opportunities for mission in their context. Your incumbent plus up to five other key leaders in the benefice will journey together as they explore, develop and implement a shared vision for mission and growth in your

context. This programme starts October 2022.

The Revd Phil Dykes, Diocesan Mission Enabler, is holding a taster session on 27 July at 7.30pm. To sign up and to find out more please do give Phil a call on 07917 385843 or visit our website [here](#).

### **Partnership for Missional Church**

This internationally recognised programme is designed to help benefices shift the culture of their congregations to a more missional focus. A mixed group of six to eight benefices (each including an incumbent plus up to five key church leaders) journey together over three years to embed key spiritual practices which will bring lasting change, helping them

to see what God is already doing and to join in. The programme is focused around three main themes: Listening, Experimenting and Creating. To find out more please visit our website [here](#) or give Phil a call on 07917 385843.

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## 2022 contactless giving digital roll out



Following the successful contactless giving pilot launched in September 2021 we are delighted to announce that we have been selected to receive another 40 devices for delivery in early October.

The devices available will suit churches with no Wi-Fi or mobile SIM coverage as well as those with Wi-Fi and good mobile SIM coverage, so no church is excluded from applying. The pilot was very over-subscribed so please apply as soon as possible. The applications link is [here](#). Further information is available on our website [here](#).

## Events

### A Pilgrimage of Song

Saturday 16 July

Shelland to Great Finborough



Led by Richard Hubbard, St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Music Development Director, this day is for all who enjoy walking and singing. Meet at Shelland Church (near Stowmarket) at 9.30am for a workshop to learn the music, then a walk of five to six miles through beautiful Suffolk countryside, singing a short service in five churches along the way. We end with a hot meal. A mix of music, suitable both for experienced singers and those who enjoy just

singing the tune. A great opportunity to engage with God through music and fresh air!

Advance booking essential - booking closes Friday 8 July. Full details at [cantusfirmus.org.uk](http://cantusfirmus.org.uk), or email Richard at [music.development@stedscathedral.org](mailto:music.development@stedscathedral.org) This is a joint event between St Edmundsbury Cathedral's InHarmony Project and Cantus Firmus Trust.

### Roadmap to Net Zero Carbon

After months of work and consultation, the Church of England has recently published its "[Routemap to Net Zero Carbon by 2030](#)". It will be debated by General Synod on Friday 8 July. This webinar will give an overview of the Routemap, what it contains, and what it

means. The webinar is open to all, and will be particularly useful for those in diocesan roles involved in some way in implementing net zero carbon in their area.

Tuesday 30 August, 12 noon - 1.00pm, [Book here](#)

Monday 5 September, 4.00pm - 5.00pm, [Book here](#)

Tuesday 6 September, 12 noon - 1.00pm, [Book here](#)

### **How Parish Buying can support parishes with Net Zero Carbon**

Thursday 15 September, 12noon - 1.00pm

At this webinar, you will hear about the range of support available for parishes from the central procurement activities of Parish Buying and 2Buy2. Covering energy audits, solar panels, low-carbon heating, and more. Led by Nick Jenni from Parish Buying and David Thomas and Julie Davies from 2Buy2. [Book here](#)

### **Marvellous and Mischievous: Literature's Young Rebels**

The Hold, Ipswich IP4 1LR

15 July – 25 September 2022

On tour from the British Library this interactive, family friendly exhibition showcases some of your favourite rebellious characters from children's books. Featuring over 50 books, manuscripts and original artwork, the exhibition includes characters such as Tracy Beaker, Pippi Longstocking, Jane Eyre, Dirty Bertie and Matilda.

The exhibition will highlight how rebels in children's literature have been presented in many different ways: characters who stand up for what they believe in, break away from convention, have a cause for which they are striving, are extremely resilient, survive difficult situations, or are just slightly mischievous. To find out more and book please visit [here](#).

## **Notices**

### **Responding to the crisis in Ukraine, please visit our website [here](#).**

The Bible Society are offering up to five free copies of several publications, including bibles in Ukrainian, to people and churches involved in supporting refugees. Click [here](#) for information.

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**Study Leave:** This is offered to any licensed minister who has been licensed for more than seven years in the diocese whose ministry involved a clear element of preaching and teaching; this includes SSMS and licensed lay ministers. There are still a limited number of spaces available for 2023. Applications will close at the end of October. If you are interested please make an initial application to the diocesan study leave co-ordinator, the Revd Tony Redman [ssm.advisor@cofesuffolk.co.uk](mailto:ssm.advisor@cofesuffolk.co.uk). Further information can be found [here](#).

**Goodbox (contactless device):** GoodBox was placed in administration by the Court on 28 June 2022. Parish Buying's legal advisors (Walker Morris) have been in contact with the

Administrators (Frost Group) who state that they plan to continue to operate GoodBox while they work with various parties to secure a positive outcome to a restructuring plan. Funds donated through GoodBox devices continue to be safe, and are held in segregated accounts and will continue to be paid out to churches and cathedrals by the Administrator. Further information will be made available by Parish Buying as it is received and you can find [the Administrator's statement here](#). If you have any queries please email [Julie Podd](#), Parish Resources Manager.

**Rural Reports:** Please visit our website [here](#) to read our latest monthly newsletter focusing on issues of rural life and farming of relevance to the work of the Church of England in Suffolk. Information is drawn from organisations connected with the countryside (in its widest sense) and brief reports are given on a range of issues. Items may be of general interest or provide opportunity for prayer. For more details are please contact Brian Chester 01572 757600.

**Iona Pilgrimage 30 September to 7 October 2022:** An extra place has become available - please contact the Revd Canon Mark Haworth for details: 01638 577196 or [mhaworth50@hotmail.com](mailto:mhaworth50@hotmail.com)

#### **Vacancies**

[Bishop's Diary and Events Manager](#) | Bishop's Office | Closing date: 19 July

[Choir Director & Assistant Organist](#) | St Mary the Virgin, Woodbridge

[Mission-focussed Priest in Charge](#) | Four Rivers Benefice | Closing date: 1 September

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



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