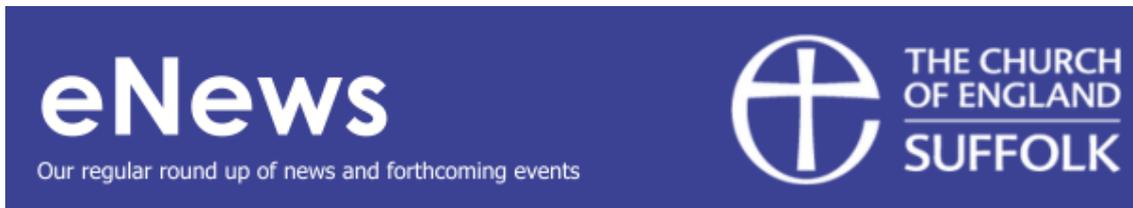


Thursday 21 March 2024



Bishops' Lent Appeal - Climate Change programme aired by BBC Radio Suffolk



The Lent appeal for Kagera was launched following visits by the Bishops to Kagera in Tanzania, Africa, where the diocese has had a link for nearly 30 years.

During the last visit in February Bishop Mike, the Revd Canon Sharron Coburn and the Revd Mark Bee took with them a BBC recorder to make interviews during their travels. The interviews were featured as part of an hour long Radio Suffolk show on Climate Change which aired on 20 March and will be repeated on Easter Monday.

During the show Suffolk farmers compared notes and recognised the similarities of the impact of climate change with those from Kagera. You can listen in on Monday 1 April or hear the show in the clips below.

www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0hjb355 | News fixture

www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0hjb355 | BBC Sounds clip

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0hjc3yn | BBC one hour long show

Communities throughout Suffolk have been urged to raise funds during Lent for farmers in Tanzania struggling with the impact of the climate crisis. Previous appeals for Kagera helped to teach new farming methods, supplied seeds and tree saplings and trained villagers to build rainwater tanks with local materials. Motorbikes were bought for priests to cut travel time too. For more information on the appeal and to donate please visit this webpage [here](#).

Events

Celebration and Thanksgiving for the Ministry of Churchwardens

Sunday 5 May, 3.30pm - **SAVE THE DATE**

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

A service of celebration and thanksgiving for the ministry of churchwardens. Bishop Martin



writes;

"I am delighted we are able to hold a service of celebration and thanksgiving for churchwardens, recognising the vital role they play in the life and ministry of the Church throughout the Diocese. I am conscious that so much of the work undertaken by churchwardens often goes on behind the scenes so this will be a wonderful opportunity to express our gratitude on behalf of the people and parishes of Suffolk. I really hope everyone will be able to join us at the Cathedral." Further

information will be sent to churchwardens and clergy in due course.

Deanery Drop in Sessions



We are offering you support to help you achieve your Plan for Growth. The following [drop-ins](#) are around the diocese to give you a chance to get the help you need, this is an exciting opportunity to meet the various teams from the Diocesan office who are there to offer advice on Children's and Families' Ministry,

Youth Ministry, Giving, Grants, Discipleship, Communications, Vocations or anything else you'd like to ask – a real opportunity for us to have conversations and help people. For a full listing of the drop-in dates please click [here](#). Drop-in sessions coming up are:

Thomas Clarkson Centre, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3JT Tuesday 23 April	3.00pm - 5.00pm: book here	6.00pm – 8.00pm: book here
St Augustine's Community Hub, Ipswich IP3 8TH Wednesday 15 May	3.00pm - 5.00pm: book here	6.00pm - 8.00pm: book here .

Here I am

Friday 22 March, 9.30am - 4.00pm
Ridley Hall, Cambridge CB3 9HG

A day conference for young women and non-binary people to explore ordination. Come to reflect on God's call, to hear about practicalities, to ask, to meet and to pray. Hosted by Church of England ministers from a range of perspectives and experiences, including the Revd Ali Miller from the Lark Valley and North Bury Benefice. All are welcome. More information is available from the Revd Wendy Thomson at wendy@chatteris.org. To book visit [here](#).

Grants and Funding Workshop

Monday 25 March, 12.00pm - online



Emma Denton (Diocesan Giving Advisor) will be joined by John Bailey from Beccles who has had considerable success in accessing grants and funding for his church. Emma will tell you about the advice and resources the Diocese can offer to support you as you apply for grants and fundraise for your projects, including the Church Grants database. John will share his knowledge and experience of what he has been able to achieve

for his church. They will welcome questions at the end of their presentations.

Sign up [here](#).

Faith Story

Monday 8 April, 7.00pm - 8.00pm - online

This is the third in a series of evening conversations for anyone who is thinking about the question 'how do I know what God is asking me to do?'. Everyone is welcome to join on Zoom and to listen to Bishop Mike as he shares his vocational journey. There will be plenty of time for comments, questions and conversations. Please book [here](#).

EV Charging Points in Churches

Tuesday 9 April, 2.00pm - Online

This webinar is aimed at any church interested in providing EV charging services either to parishioners or the wider community. It will also cover the health and safety of this service. EV charging provides a modest source of income for the church, and helps with your journey towards being carbon neutral. The minimum number of parking spaces to be converted to EV charging is two, and you must own (not rent) your car park. The scheme is equally open to urban and rural churches. Sign up [here](#).

Annual Arts Programme

All Saints' Room, All Saints' Church, Newmarket CB8 8ES

Saturday 13 April, 10.00am-12.00pm

'By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken: for dust you are and to dust you will return' (Genesis 3;19) 'For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord' (Romans 6:23). Having lost Eden we now as a people face death – the result and conclusion of sin. Perhaps this is one reason why we find death so difficult – we were made to be eternal. Today we will be making graveyard prints – go out and sketch the graveyard then using polystyrene and paint make one colour prints. No booking is required for these events, more information is available [here](#).

Singing for Nature

Sunday 14 April, 2.30pm

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

A vocal concert by singing duo 'Unusual Way' which promises to be a musical journey in song from operatic favourites to toe-tapping popular musical theatre items. Free, with donations shared between St Mary's Church and Suffolk Wildlife Trust's new nature reserve, Martlesham Wilds. Parking is available but please walk, cycle or car-share if you can.

Deanery Parish Resources Meeting

Wednesday 17 April 7.00pm

Brandeston Village Hall IP13 7AE

Please join the Parish Resources Team for an interesting talk about the Parish Giving Scheme, Digital Giving, Gifts in Wills, Grants & Funding. This is an open meeting - all are welcome to attend, whether treasurers, members of PCCs, churchwardens, or anyone else wishing to learn more about this important aspect of church life. It would be useful to



know if you are able to attend the meeting, so please book by emailing stpeterscretingham@gmail.com.

Vocations Sunday | Vocations Fair

Sunday 21 April, 1.30 – 3.00pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

We believe all are called to serve God according to their given gifts, talents and context. Every Christian has a vocation, and it is the task of all those serving in ministry to help identify and nurture the gifts and callings of every member of the Church. Vocations Sunday is a wonderful time to encourage individuals to consider what God might be calling them to. There is a bank of resources available [here](#), or come along to our Vocations Fair and visit the many stalls representing our ministries for an informal chat to find the right ministry for you: Chaplaincy, Children and Families, Church Army, Elders, Pioneers, Evangelists, Lightwave Leaders, Mothers' Union, ordained ministers, PCC Officers, Readers, Recognised Local Leaders, School Foundation Governors, Spiritual Directors and Youth Ministers.

Virtute et Valor - The Bohemian Choir

Monday 22 April, 7.00pm

St Mary's Church, Halesworth IP19 8LL

Come along to a concert celebrating stories and music from the ancient kings of Bohemia. Prepared by Jana Konvalinková and Christopher Muffett. Jana writes: *"Dear friends and supporters in England, We look forward to seeing you at Halesworth Church. It seems very interesting to us and we were surprised by how strong and dramatic the stories we found. We never thought we would be treated to such powerful, such bold stories. Stories of bravery and patriotism that do not stop in the face of persecution, humiliate and still defend the Czech land. We are working diligently on the entire programme, and we believe that our programme will interest you and touch your hearts."*

Bishops' Teaching Morning: Women and Priesthood in the Church of England

Saturday 27 April, 9.30am - 12.30pm

Salvation Army Hall, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

Celebrating 30 years of ministry. This morning will be dedicated to reflecting on women and priesthood in our own Diocese and the CofE more widely. Bishop Martin and Bishop Mike will be joined by the Very Revd Mandy Ford, Dean of Bristol Cathedral, as they discuss the history and understanding of the church over the past 30 years and how women and men can flourish. For more information and to book, please [click here](#).

Digital Giving

Tuesday 30 April 1.00pm – Online



Join the Parish Resources Team as they share why digital giving is so important for all churches to enable your generous congregation and wider community to give easily to your church. They will show you how to set up online giving campaigns using 'Give A Little' and 'Sum Up' or 'Stripe' (payment providers) and how to share the online link and QR codes on your A Church Near You Page and/or your website as well as

using it on pew sheets, posters and in parish magazines. They will also show you some donation device options for those churches with WiFi, churches that have good mobile SIM coverage inside their church, and for those who need an off-line device, including different pricing options. There will be time to ask questions and to see the Collectin devices that we can lend out to you on trial. Sign up [here](#)

Doctrine

Tuesdays starting 30 April 2024, 7.00pm to 9.00pm

Venue to be announced

A six-session course led by Bishop Mike unpacking the Apostles' Creed so we can apply this to our own lives, understand our faith better and be able to articulate the faith to others helpfully. Subjects include God (including as the Trinity); Jesus; The Cross; Resurrection; Holy Spirit and Eternal Life. Bishop Mike will provide notes beforehand so most of the sessions can be spent in conversation, Q & A and going more deeply into areas participants want to explore further. For more information please [click here](#).

Introduction to Online Giving

Friday 8 May, 3.00pm – 4.00pm



Take the first steps in setting up online giving for your church, including QR codes, web campaigns, accessing reports, and gift aid data. This webinar is helpful for newcomers to online giving, and also provides an opportunity for others to ask questions and think about how to optimise their online giving. Please [book here](#).

Introduction to Sight Loss Friendly Church

Thursday 9 May, 2.00pm

Zoom

This session covers a brief overview of what it means to be a sight loss friendly church. There is an interactive element in the form of an informal quiz, personal stories and videos about sight loss and an overview of our services. Come along if you're thinking of signing up your church or if you'd like to refresh old knowledge. Click [here](#) for the link.

Thank you! a service of remembrance and celebration

Sunday 12 May, 3.30pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS



A special service of remembrance for all who have received care from St Nicholas Hospice during the past 40 years. It is also an opportunity to celebrate those who have made this possible and a unique time to thank everyone involved in building their legacy. Everyone is welcome to attend - if you would like to join us, you must reserve your seat(s) by 26 April. The easiest way to do this is via a form on our website which can be [found here](#). Alternatively, you can contact Supporter

Care on 01284 715566.

Supporting Bereaved Children and Young People

Thursday 16 May, 10.45am to 3.00pm

Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Norfolk

Open to clergy and laity of all denominations and organised by the Guild of All Souls, an Anglican charity whose objects are praying and caring for the sick, dying, departed and bereaved. Visit their website [here](#). Cost of the conference is £20, including welcome coffee/tea and a two-course lunch. To book, please email mihoward@btinternet.com.

Working with Anger

Friday 17 May, 9.15am to 4.15pm

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

Are you working with children or adults who struggle to regulate or safely display their angry feelings? Whilst exploring anger, this course offers creative ideas and hands-on activities that will help you better support the people you work with and care for. It is designed to be a creative and practical day and will give you the opportunity to share ideas and engage with others in a safe and confidential setting. To book and for further information please contact Inspire on 01473 217694 or email Carole Sherratt at contact@inspirecounselling.org.uk

Sight Loss Friendly Church Q&A

Monday 3 June, 2.00pm

Zoom

Meet the expert panel from Torch Trust and ask your questions around welcoming and including blind and partially sighted people in all aspects of your church. Also offering hints and tips on how they have overcome any challenges. Sign up [here](#).

Understanding Connectivity

Thursday 13 June, 11.00am – 12.00pm, [Book here](#).

Zoom

Find out about the connectivity options available to your church - from WiFi to 4G - how to get your contactless devices connected, and what to do if you have no connectivity at all. We will be going through the connectivity options in relation to digital giving and how it can be optimised to make it easier in your church.

Working with Anxiety

Friday 28 June, 9.15am to 4.15pm

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

Are you working with children or adults who struggle with anxiety on a daily basis? Anxiety can also severely affect self-esteem, to the point where day to day life becomes difficult. Whilst exploring anxiety, this course offers creative ideas and hands-on activities that will help you better support the people you work with and care for. It is designed to be a creative and practical day giving you an opportunity to share ideas and engage with others

in a safe and confidential setting. To book and for further information please contact Inspire on 01473 217694 or email Carole Sherratt at contact@inspirecounselling.org.uk

Clergy Retreat - Led by Bishop Martin

7 - 11 October 2024

St Andrew's Abbey, Zevenkerken-Brugge, Belgium

The best kept secret in the Diocese! Since 1960 when there was a formal link with Brugge a group of hardy clergy have braved the sea and weather to travel to the Abbey to spend time with the wonderful brothers at St Andrew's Abbey. Speakers in the past have spoken on a range of subjects from World Mission, The Psalms, and more. There are approximately 15 spaces available and you can come with spouses/partners. For more details or to book please contact the Revd David H Messer on 01964 563987 | davidharrymesser93@gmail.com.

Notices

Statistics for Mission: Thank you to all parishes who have submitted their Statistics for Mission forms.

Scams - Be Aware: Unfortunately, scammers can often target churches as they believe they can appeal to emotion and take advantage of generosity. If you get a doorstep trader offer you work always ensure you find alternative quotes and do not let yourself be pressured. For more information on how to spot scams and how to report them, please [click here](#).

UK Minority Ethnic (UKME): The Church of England is actively seeking more people from a UK Minority Ethnic (UKME) background to serve as ministers and lay leaders within the church. The Revd Kiran Lotay is our UKME Vocations Champion. Please see details [here](#).

Racial Justice: The Revd Robert Otule is Diocesan Racial Justice Officer, who works with the Diocesan Racial Justice Group to ensure we combat racism in all its forms, promote training and awareness appropriate to different contexts, monitor representation and participation of all groups across the life of the diocese and advocates for those suffering any form of racism. Please see details [here](#).

Church 24: Here is an opportunity to engage with a perception survey organised by Professor Andrew Village at York St John University in partnership with Professor Leslie Francis. The aim of the survey is to look at longstanding issues to track trends as well as new issues in society to provide a perceptions baseline. Click [here](#) to take part.

Christian Aid Week - Seven Days 12 - 18 May: This year's Christian Aid Week is focussing on stories from Burundi, where families are working hard to transform their lives. Christian Aid supporters are showing their solidarity with their global neighbours by signing up for a new physical fundraising challenge to complete 70k in May in whatever

way you like. Why not get together with your church, friends, and family to take part? Find out more www.caweek.org/70kinmay.

Vacancies

[Rector](#) | South Hartismere Benefice | Closing date: 4 April

[House for Duty Priest](#) | Lakenheath with Santon Downham and Elveden | Closing date: 8 April

[Chaplain](#) | Launde Abbey | Closing date: 17 April

[Priest in Charge & Archdeaconry Mission Enabler](#) | Closing date: 28 May

[Rector](#) | Walton and Trimley

[River Church Opportunities](#) | Ipswich

[New Opportunities in Ipswich](#) | Inspiring Ipswich

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



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