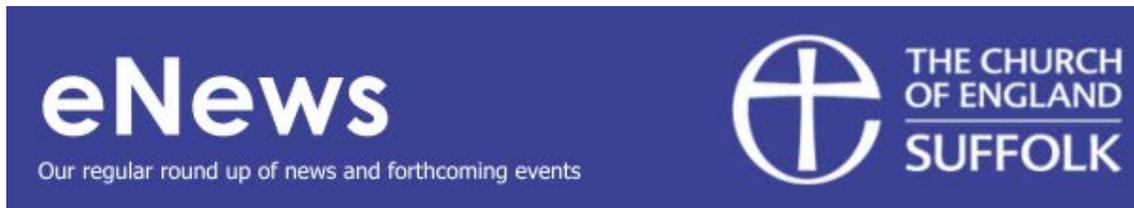


**Thursday 22 February 2024**



The Church of England's Lent theme for 2024 is **Watch and Pray: Wisdom and hope for Lent and life**. We are invited to seek God in both familiar and unfamiliar places this Lent: in darkness and in quiet; in movement and migration; in the healing and transforming work of the Spirit; in the weeping of Holy Week and in the joy of Easter morning. Sign up for daily reflections [here](#). For further Lent resources please visit our website [here](#).

### **Walk the Way of the Cross with the Blyth Valley Churches this Easter!**

This spring the churches of the Blyth Valley are giving you the opportunity to visit the Holy Land without leaving Suffolk! Across their 14 churches they are presenting an exhibition of original paintings by nationally acclaimed, local religious artist Iain McKillop which will be opened by Bishop Mike leading a full set of reflections for a seated congregation at All Saints', Blyford, at 7.30pm on Friday 15 March. The Queen's Head, Blyford, will be open afterwards so people may stay and buy refreshments. On Saturday 23 March, Team Rector Dominic Doble and colleagues will lead a pilgrimage presenting a short contemplation at each parish church in the benefices. All churches will be open during daylight hours. For all the details please visit [here](#). **\*IMPORTANT NOTICE** - *This is going ahead as planned on 15 March as opposed to the previously advertised date. We do apologise for the mistake and any inconvenience this may have caused.\**



**Fair Trade Shop in Ipswich:** As we enter Lent we think not only of what we can give up, but also what we can do for others. Buying Fairtrade items helps those in developing countries get a fairer price for what they produce. The Fairtrade standards mean better environmental protection and protection against slavery. We are reminded of Amos 5:24 'let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing

stream'. The Fair Trade Shop is situated in Upper Brook Street, Ipswich, and offers a wide range of products, currently this includes Fairtrade Easter Eggs. To find out more about the shop, visit our [webpage here](#).

### **Make a Mothers' Day Virtual Gift**

This year Mothering Sunday is during Lent, please consider giving a virtual Mothers' Union

Gift of Dignity. You might want to buy for your mother, choose to dedicate your gift in memory of a loved one, or help grandchildren surprise mum with these alternative and very special gifts. A gift such as the 'Money Matter gift', a gift that empowers women to learn the skills to run and grow their own business, which makes a real difference in the well being of not only their family, but also their church and local community as the women now have an income that enables them to feed, clothe and educate their children. The women also have resources to donate to their church and they share their knowledge with the community. Starting at £11 there is a gift for everyone. The order deadline is 1 March to ensure delivery in time for 10 March. For full details go to [www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org)

**Maximising giving:** Whatever form your Lent and Easter takes, please have a look at the Digital Giving Team's Easter newsletter. With information on how you might optimise digital giving over the coming season, it also takes a fresh look at digital giving processes, thinking about how to maintain trust with givers. Please click [here](#).

If you wish to find out more, the Church of England team are offering a short webinar 'Maximise your digital giving over the Easter and Spring period'. Webinar on 27 February, 3.00pm. Please register [here](#).

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### **Delight as church receives funding for urgent repairs**



St Mary and St Lawrence Church, Great Bricett, has received a grant from the Valencia Communities Fund through the Landfill Communities Fund, for urgent repairs to its internal wall rendering. The grant of £30,620 will enable its replacement with lime-based render so helping to secure the future life of this important heritage building. The work also includes re-decoration throughout which will transform the internal appearance to create a much more attractive space for visitors and church users alike. Arland Shawe-Taylor, Churchwarden, said: *"We're delighted that we have received this support thanks to Valencia Communities Fund. The opportunity to eliminate the risk to the building from this unsightly cement render and to redecorate throughout will transform the interior space for our visitors and worshippers. We are also grateful for the grant support of £3,000 from Suffolk Historic Churches Trust towards this project"*.

Edmund Harris, Diocesan DAC Secretary said *" I am so pleased for Arland and his team who have worked really hard with dedication to complete this final stage in a long project to get the church off Historic England's Heritage 'at risk' register, which happened in 2022 - well deserved"*.

The Landfill Communities Fund began life as the Landfill Tax Credits Scheme in 1996 as a way of improving community facilities for those living in the vicinity of a landfill site. It allows landfill operators to donate a percentage of their tax liability to an environmental body. In the last 26 years, more than £1.5billion has been spent on qualifying community, environmental and heritage projects all over the UK. For advice about grants and funding please email [Emma Denton](mailto:emma.denton@parishgiving.org), Parish Giving Advisor.



**Diocesan News:** Philip Codling, Diocesan Interim Head of Finance has been recruited to a permanent role within the Diocese. Philip starts his new role as Director of Finance and Operations immediately. *"Philip joined us last year to lead the finance department and I am pleased to secure this appointment so we can continue to consolidate the excellent work Philip has been doing."* Gary Peverley, Diocesan Secretary.

## Events

### **Concert of Hope**

Friday 23 February, 7.00pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

A charitable concert for Hospices of Hope to mark the date of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Featuring Eleanora and Tap, Alina Rybina, The Buskerteers Choir and more. Money raised from the concert will go to First Children's Hospice in Nadvirna, Ukraine which is supported by UK-based Hospices of Hope. Tickets and more information from [here](#).

### **Churchwardens' Gathering for Sudbury and Suffolk Archdeaconries**

Saturday 24 February at 10.00am-3.30pm

Sizewell Hall Christian Conference Centre, Leiston IP16 4TX

Archdeacon David and Archdeacon Rich invite churchwardens to gather for a day of fellowship, worship and reflection. The keynote speaker will be Bishop Graeme Knowles. Offering a space to be with others to share ideas, support and encourage. Bring your own lunch, drinks are provided. **Places are still available** please book via Eventbrite [here](#).

### **How to make your toddler group more missional**

Saturday 24 February, 2.00pm

Salvation Army Hall, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

An opportunity for anyone involved in toddler group ministry to explore ways to make your sessions more intentionally missional. You'll hear from those who are already doing this well and also explore resources and strategies which can help you. Refreshments provided. [Book here](#).

### **A Greener Lifestyle**

Monday 26 February, 7.30pm

Museum Street Methodist Church, 17 Black Horse Lane, Ipswich IP1 2EF

Come along for this interesting talk by James Pearce-Higgins, from EcoChurch. The event is ecumenical, presented by Museum Street Methodist Church and St Mary Elms. For further information email [Nicholas Jardine](#).

### **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:

<b>Zoom</b> Wednesday 27 February	3.00pm - 5.00pm: book <a href="#">here</a>	6.00pm – 8.00pm: book <a href="#">here</a>
<b>St Luke's Church, Beccles NR34 9JQ</b> Thursday 21 March	3.30pm - 5.15pm: book <a href="#">here</a>	6.00pm – 8.00pm: book <a href="#">here</a>
<b>Thomas Clarkson Centre, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3JT</b> Tuesday 23 April	3.00pm - 5.00pm: book <a href="#">here</a>	6.00pm – 8.00pm: book <a href="#">here</a>
<b>St Augustine's Community Hub, Ipswich IP3 8TH</b> Wednesday 15 May	3.00pm - 5.00pm: book <a href="#">here</a>	6.00pm - 8.00pm: book <a href="#">here</a> .

### Christian Ethics

Starting Tuesday 27 February, 7.30pm-9.30pm  
Earl Stonham Village Hall, Forward Green IP14 5HJ

This module explores the history of ethical thought and also everyday issues and moral questions from capitalism to the environment. The module aims to further develop moral thinking, appreciation and judgment that is appropriate within the context of Christian teaching and pastoral ministry, and Christian living. The sessions are on Tuesdays for 6 weeks, starting 27 February 2024 and finishing 16 April (no meetings during Easter). Refreshments will be served from 7.00pm for a prompt 7.30pm start and finish by 9.30pm. This module is open to all but a requirement for locally deployable curates. For more details and to book, please [click here](#).

### Explore - Parish Nursing Ministries

Thursday 29 February, 10.00am - 11.00am and 7.00pm - 8.00pm, Zoom

Discover what parish nursing could offer for your community. Join on Zoom for a free information session with regional nurse coordinator, Dawn Stephens. To book, please email [enquiries@parishnursing.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@parishnursing.org.uk)

### Lark Rise Retreat Days 2024

Lark Rise Retreats in Felixstowe provide a space and time for people to relax with God. Upcoming events include:

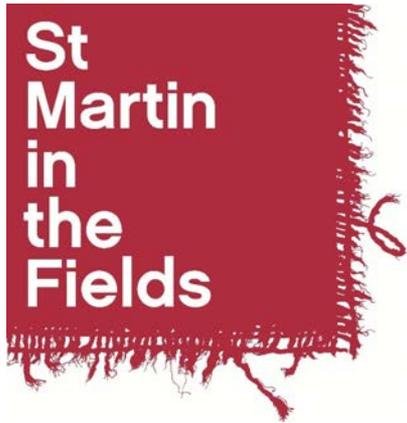
- Thursday 29 February | An Introduction to Franciscan spirituality | The Revd Canon Andrew Dotchin.
- Thursday 14 or alternatively Saturday 16 March | The women who sat at Jesus' feet | The Revd Catherine Bond.

- Thursday 4 or alternatively Saturday 6 April | Exploring the resurrection appearances of Jesus | The Revd Penny Brinkley.
- Friday 7 June | Celtic, green and godly | The Revd Dr John Bell.
- Friday 7 June | Using imagination to unlock scripture | The Revd Dr John Bell.
- Saturday 8 June | Come and sing workshop | The Revd Dr John Bell.

To book, please visit [larkriseretreats.org.uk](http://larkriseretreats.org.uk) or call 01394 284213.

### **Concert and Workshop**

Wednesday 6 March, Workshop 4.00pm to 5.00pm, Concert 6.30pm to 8.00pm  
All Saints' Church, Hitcham IP7 7NN



An invitation to join a singing workshop led by the St Martin-in-the-Fields Choral Scholars, directed by Andrew Earis. Suitable for local choirs/singers and anyone who is interested. The concert will include reflections from the Revd Sharon Grenham-Thompson. Tickets cost £7.50 to include refreshments. Please note the church has a toilet and a large car park signed from the B1115 - Sat Nav IP7 7NR. There will be a break from 5.00pm - 6.00pm, please bring your own packed meal, tea and coffee will be available.

Contact [RNFCurrie@gmail.com](mailto:RNFCurrie@gmail.com) to register your interest

and receive more information.

### **Annual Arts Programme**

All Saints' Room, All Saints' Church, Newmarket CB8 8ES  
Saturday 9 March, 10.00am-12.00pm

*'See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these'. (Matthew 6:28-29)* Jesus tells us: don't worry! It is like a command. Join this art session to be calm and learn from the flowers – creating a mixed-media collage to remind us of the Eden we have lost and the hope of the new Eden in the future. Materials needed: old magazines, PVA, scissors, paper and glue spreaders / brushes. No booking is required for these events, more information is available [here](#).

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

Friday 15 March, 6.30pm-7.30pm - **NEW DATE**  
St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Thank you so much for your patience, we are delighted that the Edmund Lecture with Dame Barbara Woodward DCMG OBE has been rebooked. The Ambassador will explore parallels between the Magna Carta, as the 'great charter' which laid the foundation for the modern British values of rule of law and equality before it, of liberty and rights, and the UN Charter, which established the international rules and values that have underpinned relative peace and stability since the second World War. The Lecture will be followed by a special service of Vespers at 7.30pm to which all are welcome. Vespers is a liturgy of evening prayer that, for centuries, was part of the daily rhythm of prayer kept by the monks at the Abbey of St Edmund. To book your place, please click [here](#).

### **What is an Anaerobic Digester?**

Saturday 16 March, 10.00am

Meet at St Nicholas Church, Little Saxham IP29 5LD

George Gittus is kindly offering to take a group round his digester, showing us what happens and how it all works. Tickets cost £10, and money raised will go Little Saxham church funds. For further information and to make a booking please ring Gillian Schorer-Nixon on 07557101564 or email [gillianschorer@me.com](mailto:gillianschorer@me.com)

### **Seeing is Believing**

Wednesday 20 March, 1.30pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Join Tracy de Bernhardt-Wood, Suffolk icon painter, as she guides you through the art and significance of icons. This talk takes place in the Week of 'Lady Day' when the Church remembers the Virgin Mary. Tracy's talk will last approximately 30 minutes and attendance is free, please by emailing [ChrisEyden@stedscathedral.org](mailto:ChrisEyden@stedscathedral.org). You can also visit Tracy at work throughout the week commencing Monday 18 March, during which time she will be working on painting an icon of Mary entitled 'Hodegetria, "she who points the way"'.

### **Here I am**

Friday 22 March, 9.30 - 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](mailto:wendy@chatteris.org). To book visit [here](#).

### **Vocation Conversations**

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, to hear Bishop Mike as he shares his vocational journey. There will be plenty of time for comments, questions and conversations. Please

book [here](#).

### **Gather: The Big Weekend 2024**

Friday 12 April 2024 6.00pm to Sunday 14 April 4.00pm

Sizewell Hall, Leiston IP16 4TX

A weekend of craziness, worship, games and friendship all focused around learning more about living as a Christian in the C21st. The Big Weekend is organised by the Church of England in St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, and run by experienced youth workers from around Suffolk. Offering young people from school years 7-13 the chance to explore faith



and have fun! Book [here](#).

### **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](mailto:stpeterscretingham@gmail.com).

### **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](#).

### **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](mailto:mihoward@btinternet.com).

### **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](mailto:davidharrymesser93@gmail.com).

### **Notices**

**St Edmundsbury Cathedral Pews for sale:** St Edmundsbury Cathedral is evolving, and part of its change is introducing chairs to the Nave. This means Cathedral pews will be offered for sale to the community and local people in February, both as they are, and as refurbished furniture and useful items. If you are interested in buying a Cathedral pew, or hearing more about their refurbishment project with Rough Stuff, please visit their [website here](#).

### **Cathedral Kneelers:**

New additional collection date: Wednesday 13 March from 1.30 pm – 3.30 pm

With the arrival of new chairs at the Cathedral and the removal of the pews, we now have an opportunity to evolve how we use the kneelers in the Cathedral. We really want to keep the kneelers as they mean so much to our community, but we also enjoy the idea of giving them new life. With this in mind, we will be keeping 500 of the kneelers in the Cathedral, each representing a parish or group. As most kneelers have a twin, we would love to offer it back to you to display in your church as part of the origin story of these items. If you haven't already been in touch but would like to arrange the collection of your kneeler/kneelers, please email [visits@stedscathedral.org](mailto:visits@stedscathedral.org) and let us know. You will be able to collect these on Wednesday 13 March from 1.30 pm – 3.30 pm.

**Annual Diocesan Confirmation Service:** A reminder that you are again warmly invited to bring candidates to this year's annual Diocesan Confirmation Service led by Bishop Martin at St Edmundsbury Cathedral: 10.30am on Sunday 5 May 2024. If you plan to bring candidates on that day, please get in touch with Canon Philip Banks in good time to make arrangements: [precentor@stedscathedral.org](mailto:precentor@stedscathedral.org).

### **Vacancies**

[Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Officer](#) | Closing date: 26 February

[Welcome Assistant](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral | Closing date: 27 February

[Director of Perfect Peace](#) | Inspiring Ipswich | Closing date: 29 February

[Associate Leader of Lightwave](#) | Lightwave | Closing date: 3 March

[Diocesan Development Officer for Social Enterprise](#) | Lightwave | Closing date: 3 March

[Rector](#) | [Bacton Benefice](#) | Closing date: 4 March

[Director of Music](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral | Closing date: 5 March

[River Church Opportunities](#) | Ipswich

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

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