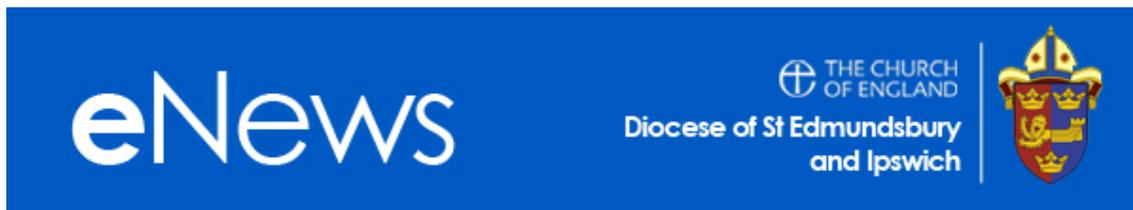


Our regular round up of news and forthcoming events from our diocese [View this email in your browser](#)



Thursday 9 February 2023

Preaching Matthew, with Professor George van Kooten

Saturday 25 February 9.30am to 12.30pm

Salvation Army Hall, Violet Hill Road, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

Bishop Martin invites you to a follow-up of the November 2022 study morning 'Preaching on the Gospel of Matthew'. This session includes guest speaker Professor George van Kooten from the Faculty of Divinity at the University of Cambridge. Prof van Kooten will be asking who the magi were, and why they are so important for understanding the rest of Matthew's Gospel and particularly the Sermon on the Mount, and will look at what we can tell about the Christian community for whom Matthew wrote, and why his is 'the Gospel of the Church.' To book your place please visit here: [Bishops-preaching-Matthew-2023.eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk). Please note the other Bishops' study morning dates in 2023 are 17 June and 25 November.

Lent 2023

Cathedral Lent Series: 'Fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of God: Challenging perceptions to empower change'

Wednesday evenings in Lent (Wednesday 1 March to 29 March) 7.00pm - 8.00pm

On Zoom, everyone welcome

St Edmundsbury Cathedral's Lent series will host a series of speakers looking at the theme 'Fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of God: Challenging perceptions to empower change'. The interested line up of speakers are all people who know something about what it means to be part of the Church where misguided perception, unconscious bias or prejudice has undermined their place in the family of God. Our speakers will talk about how perceptions of sexuality, race, disability and social class have called people to question, 'Am I really welcome here?' These will be rich, open and theological discussions about how we can challenge perceptions to empower change.

The series starts on Wednesday 1 March with **The Revd Dr Charlie Bell**, curate of St John the Divine, Kennington and author of *Queer Holiness* (May 2022). He is also an academic psychiatrist at King's College London and the Maudsley, as well as being the John Marks Fellow, College Lecturer and Director of Studies in Medicine at Girton College, Cambridge.

Everyone welcome! Join us, on Zoom, for more information and for the Zoom link please

email Canon Michael Robinson - michael.robinson@cofesuffolk.org You can find out more about these sessions, plus all lent services [here](#)

Dust and Glory:



This Lent we are all invited to explore how we can live well with the mess of everyday life. Dust and Glory encourages us to take a fresh look at the frustrations and failings that every day brings and, rather than pretending we can always avoid them, seek to learn from them and grow closer to God through them. There is a daily Bible reading, a short reflection and a practical challenge, as well as a prayer linked to the week's theme. Co-written by Bishop Emma Ineson and Abbie Martin, the booklet is designed to be used either in parallel with the Lent Book or independently. An accompanying children's version is also available to help children and their families explore how we can live well together, offering a simple daily activity designed to explore the weekly themes. For more information please visit [here](#).

Bishops' Lent Appeal for Kagera: Lent Challenge booklets are flying off the shelf. Have you ordered yours yet? One churchwarden told us that they had so much fun doing the last challenges at her own church that she's suggested it to all those in her group of churches - 150 booklets have gone to them. Another home group has ordered 25 because they enjoyed using it as a basis for discussion during Lent in previous years and want to do it again. And we are really happy that some other churches have come on board for the first time this year. Do order yours now! We also have plenty of posters and bookmarks if you'd like those as well. [Visit our website here.](#)

Living your life with God: starting 28 February, 7.00pm - 8.30pm by Zoom. Brother Lawrence wrote about how he lived his Christian life in the 1600s and his very slim work "Practicing the Presence of God" has been massively popular ever since. Through Lent, Bishop Mike (and an occasional guest!) will be offering five Zoom sessions looking at how his insights can be applied in everyday life, with plenty of room for discussion on the way. For more details and to book your place [please click here](#)

Journeys - Lent course offered by The Clewer Initiative: The Clewer Initiative has produced a new resource 'Journeys' based on the 'Stations of the Cross'. Through five mini-films and an accompanying devotional resource, it will take churches and individuals on a journey, challenging them to take action against modern slavery and not be a bystander. It can be used in in-person small groups, individual study or online. Sign up [here](#).

The Archbishops' Big Church Read for Lent 2023: 'Failure' by The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby: [click here](#) to find out more and 'Godforsaken' by Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell [click here](#) to find out more.

Diocesan Diary - Gavin Bultitude

As we move ever closer towards Lent, it is important to note that there is still so much happening in the diocese. About two weeks ago I went to an evening event organised by *Together for Ipswich* in St John's Church. It was a fantastic evening with brilliant organisations showing just how much Christians are doing for the people of the town -

God's people are leading the way in providing mental health support, housing the needy, supporting families and reaching out to people in so many ways.

The most inspiring thing for me is that so many churches, both Church of England churches and others, were there. It's easy, especially at the moment, to focus on what divides us and what we disagree on, but here were a range of churches with differing theological positions uniting in service for the town and showing just how the love of God works through them to show this love for other people. Find out more about *Together for Ipswich* [here](#).

The cost-of living crisis is still far from over, and with more cold weather on the way and only very modest reductions in inflation, more and more families are feeling the pressure. Inability to afford heating has a big impact on people's diet, physical health, mental health, and for children, their ability to flourish at school.

I have seen the Top-up shops in Ipswich first-hand and many warm rooms have popped up across the diocese, but we know that not all churches have the scale or resources to do such things and in some cases our churches themselves are struggling to heat themselves. Nonetheless our churches are making a huge difference showing kindness and compassion to those in their communities offering porch pantries, community fridges, supporting food banks, well-being support and signposting to key sources to further help available.

One of the best ways of signposting to further help is through Citizens Advice (CAB). They offer a service without complicated paperwork or referral forms and it's absolutely free. They cover the whole of the county and they have access to specialists for complex or technical issues. I'm really excited about working with them and to spread the message I am hosting two webinars with our local Citizens Advice and I would be delighted if you can join me as we find out more about how we can all help those in need in our communities, combining their knowledge and experience with our Christian love and compassion.

Cost of Living support with Citizens Advice (CAB)

Wednesday 1 March 3.00pm repeated at 7.30pm

By Zoom

Join Gavin Bultitude, Diocesan Secretary, and key speakers from the CAB to look at the advice and support they can offer. Support includes assistance with food, heating, debt and more. There will be an opportunity for Q&As. To book please visit Eventbrite [here](#).

Environment news

We are pleased to update you with the news that Claire Ling is the newly appointed Community Support Officer for the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership (SCCP). The partnership consists of all of Suffolk's local authorities, Groundwork East, the Environment Agency and the University of Suffolk. The SCCP is defined by a shared vision: for Suffolk to be an exemplar in tackling climate change, protecting and enhancing its natural environment and to be the county with the greatest reduction in carbon emissions. Claire is here to support, provide advice and signpost communities and community groups to be part of this vision; working together reaching towards Net Zero by 2030.

Please have a look through the Greenest County website: [Green Suffolk - Creating the Greenest County](#) for inspiration and information. Here you will find the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan, news, events, funding opportunities and a Suffolk-specific climate awareness course which is really worth completing: [Introduction to Climate Change Awareness Course – Green Suffolk](#).

If you are part of an eco-church, a Green group or something similar, or interested in setting up an environmental or eco-group in church, please visit our Environment webpages [here](#). Claire would be delighted to hear what is happening around the diocese, please email: claire.ling@suffolk.gov.uk

Vocations Spotlight: Evangelists, Helen Prior Townsend says



"I came to faith around 13 years ago when I started going to church after the birth of my daughter. I hadn't been to church apart from things like weddings, baptisms and funerals since I was at primary school, but when I was pregnant I started to think that there was much more to life. I was blessed to meet so many welcoming and friendly people at church and soon I got more involved.

I had felt a calling to do more but I wasn't sure what. Then I saw information about Evangelist training and I couldn't get it out of my head. I completed my Evangelist training during the Covid-19 lockdown in 2020-2021.

Since I have finished my training, I have been able to create our Advent and Lent bags project where we give bags with readings, a short reflection and activity for each week of Lent or Advent to all our congregation, encouraging them to share the bags with friends and family. We take the bags to our toddler group where many of the families who come along don't attend church, we also give them to our school who have used them in their RE lessons.

Being an Evangelist is now really part of who I am. My faith is an integral part of me. I believe that everything I do shines with the light of Christ. I hope I make a difference! I feel that I help build people's confidence in their faith, that they feel confident to tell people that they are a Christian, I ask questions about faith and ask people to serve our church using the gifts that God has given them.

Read the full account from Helen on our website [here](#).

Plans for Growth – The Revd Phil Dykes

The Plan for Growth process is simple and straightforward but will transform the mission and ministry of your benefice as you put it in place. Once we know where God is leading

you, we will be able to support you as you go forward. If your benefice has already finished yours – please share your plan with us [here](#). If you would like my support to develop your own Plans for Growth, I am here to help – do email our Mission Project Officer helen.prior-townsend@cofesuffolk.org to arrange a chat or have a look at the resources available to help you on our website here:

[Growing in God](#) | [Plan for Growth - Incumbent and PCC resources](#) | [Growing in God - Parish resources](#)

Events

Engaging All Ages in Worship workshop and service

19 February 2.00pm - 4.00pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS



Join this workshop with Sara and Sam Hargreaves and explore how you can include a range of ages, spiritual styles, learning modes and all the senses in gathered worship. Followed by an hour worship service at 4.30pm, ideal for families, putting into practice ideas from the workshop. Tickets cost £10 - CMD grants are applicable to those who are eligible. Find out

more: <https://stedscathedral.org/events/engaging-all-ages-in-worship>

Promises and Prophecies: Mary in Art

Saturday 25 February, 10.30am

Museum Street Methodist Church, Ipswich IP1 2EF (entry via Black Horse Lane).

Join this workshop for an illustrated exploration of Our Lady in the visual arts by Fleur Dorrell. This is a free event but there is an opportunity to donate.

Safeguarding Volunteer Training

28 February 7.30-8.30pm and 15 March 3.30-4.30pm, Zoom

As momentum to meet National Church guidelines for delivering Safeguarding training across the diocese continues apace, we are looking to grow our excellent core group of Volunteers Trainers to work alongside our two Diocesan Safeguarding Trainers, Lisa Hicks and Mark Bee. As a Volunteer Trainer we would be asking you to deliver training locally on a one-to-one basis or in small groups. If you are interested in finding out more about being a Volunteer Trainer, Lisa and Mark are hosting two separate information sessions via Zoom, outlining how a Volunteer Safeguarding Trainer can support the drive towards promoting a Safer Church for all. To book your place, [please click here](#).

Sunday Afternoon Concerts at St Andrew's Church, Rushmere

Sunday 5 March, 3.00pm

St Andrew's Church, Rushmere IP5 1DH

The spring programme of weekly Sunday afternoon concerts at St Andrew's begins on 5 March. The concerts present a high quality of performance and a wide range of musical styles - solo guitar, big band, wind quintet, organ recital and concert band. There is no charge for admission and everyone is welcome to attend. Refreshments are provided and we invite voluntary contributions after each event in support of the local Air Ambulance Service. For more information, [please click here](#).

Praxis East - Treasures Old and New

Thursday 16 March, 7.00 – 9.00 pm, Zoom

Come and explore the tensions between traditional and contemporary expressions of worship. This is another opportunity for liturgy and worship practitioners across the eastern dioceses to come together. Using a peer-led discussion on Zoom, clergy and lay ministers can share experience, ideas and expertise. To book your place please email Helen: helenbent99@gmail.com.

Finding my way - an Essex ministry

Wednesday 12 April, 6.00pm-7.30pm

University of Suffolk, Waterfront Building IP4 1QJ

Ivor Moody, the Vice-Dean of Chelmsford Cathedral will be speaking about responding creatively to the challenges of our contemporary world and changing British society, drawing on his past experiences and his present role as Vice Dean and Canon Pastor of Chelmsford Cathedral since 2010. Ivor is Chaplain to Essex County Council, Chair of the Mid-Essex Inter-Faith Forum and also Chair of Essex Mind and Spirit, a community voluntary organisation which seeks to promote positive relationships between faith and spirituality and mental health issues. [To book, please click here](#).

Candlelit Vigil for Ukraine

Monday 24 April, 5.30pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Come along to a special service to hold those in the Ukraine in our thoughts and prayers. The service will feature prayer, moments of reflection and some elements of sung Ukrainian Liturgy. Bishop Martin will lead the vigil with Ukrainian Priest Father Bohdan Chyborak and the Cathedral choir.

Women in Ministry

Saturday 29 April, 9.30am - 12.30pm

Salvation Army Hall, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

A reminder for women clergy in the diocese - a gathering featuring guest speaker the Revd Dr Julie Gittoes talking on 'Her bleeding stopped: the embodied borderland of the menopause'. This will be followed by Q and A and discussion. Any questions please email the Revd Ali Miller: on teamvicarlvnb@btinternet.com or DAWM@cofesuffolk.org

Vocations Fair 2023

Saturday 29 April, 10.00am - 1.00pm

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: Children's 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. For more information please contact the [Revd Stuart Batten](#).

Financial Planning During Ministry for Retirement and Beyond

Wednesday 10 May, 9.30am, Zoom

The aim of this seminar is to help clergy (and their partners) demystify financial matters, and to help you plan for your financial future no matter how far you may be from retirement. Key speakers include those from the Church of England Pensions Board, clergy pension and housing teams; plus independent financial advisers from Ecclesiastical Financial Advisory Services. They will address personal financial planning issues and questions that in their experience face most clergy. To book your place, please email Lesley-Anne.Marriott@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Notices

Save the Date!

Bishop Martin and Bishop Mike invite you to the Farewell and Thanksgiving Service for the ministry of Archdeacon Jeanette as she retires from the Archdeaconry of Suffolk. The service will take place on Sunday 23 April at 3.00pm followed by light refreshments, at Framlingham Parish Church, Church Street, Framlingham, IP13 9BH. Everyone is welcome.

Statistics for Mission: Thank you to all parishes who have already submitted their Statistics for Mission forms. **The national Church deadline has been extended to 31 March 2023.** Returns are to be submitted on the [Online Parish Returns System](#), if you require login details or any other assistance regarding the online portal please contact Alison Barker by [email](#). Further information is available on our website [here](#).

New arrival: Yalda Davis has been appointed as Giving Advisor (Giving) in the Parish Resources Team in the Diocesan Office, joining Julie Podd, Parish Resources Manager.

Hattie and Mattie: The Great Communion Adventure Order Form

Download and fill out the [form here](#) to order your own copies of The Great Communion Adventure.

Vacancies

[Priest-in-Charge, All Hallows Church, Ipswich | \(Five year fixed-term post\)](#) | Closing date: 12 February

[Head of Operations | River Church](#) | Closing date: 19 February

[Growing Younger Project Support](#) | Closing date: 19 February

[Communications and Media Manager | River Church](#) | Closing date: 19 February

[Assistant to DAC Staff \(Part-time 21 hours a week\)](#) | Closing date: 20 February

[Rector | Rougham, Beyton with Hesselton and Rushbrooke](#) | Closing date: 21 February

[Priest in Charge 0.5 | Exning St Martins with Landwade, Exning St Agnes](#) | Closing date: 28 February
[Priest in Charge | Alde River Benefice](#) | Closing date: 28 February
[Rector | Claydon and Barham, Great Blakenham and Henley](#) | Closing date: 28 February
[Giving Advisor, Parish Resources Team \(Grants\)](#) | Closing date: 7 March
[House for Duty Priest in Charge | The Wrentham Benefice](#) | Closing date: 4 April

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