



Thursday 10 September 2020

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Growing in God

Following the announcement of new 'rule of six' restrictions to help limit the spread of coronavirus, the Bishop of London, The Rt Revd Sarah Mullally, who chairs the Church of England's recovery group, said:

"I welcome confirmation from the Prime Minister that places of worship can still hold more than six people in total, despite the new restrictions on gatherings, and the reassurance that public worship can continue. We will continue to work with the Government on specific areas relating to our churches and church-based activities."

Information and guidance for churches during the Covid-19 pandemic is being updated. Please visit the Church of England page [here](#) and the Diocesan guidance page [here](#) for the most up to date information.

The shooting of a 15 year old boy in Kesgrave by another boy the same age is beyond our understanding.

We hold the young victim, in critical condition in hospital, in our prayers with his family and friends. We hold Kesgrave High School and their new head, Julia Upton, lay canon at our cathedral, in our prayers, and all the people of Kesgrave. And we hold in our prayers the boy who made the attack, and his family.

This terrible incident has affected many of us, bewildered to understand how such a thing could happen. I am grateful to All Saints Kesgrave for their twice daily walking witness to provide reassurance to the Kesgrave community. We place those affected and all the questions this raises in God's hands as we seek to be agents of healing, comfort and peace.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, starting with a cross symbol and followed by the name 'Sarah'.

Featured stories:

St Andrew's Tostock coffee mornings - during lockdown the team were able to replace their usual weekly coffee morning at the local village hall with a cake delivery service, direct to people's doors. In August they also held an outdoor coffee morning on the Village Green which led to them winning the Radio Suffolk Community award. Following this success, they held another outdoor coffee morning on Tuesday 8 September, with both of these events becoming more popular than the previous coffee mornings.

North Samford Benefice's very own Bear Hunt! Families took part in a Bear Hunt around the Sproughton Playing Fields and surrounding area. Guests followed signs and engaged in activities at each station, trekking through the long wavy grass, the deep cold river, the thick oozy mud, the big dark forest, the snow storm and found a huge teddy bear! A total of 11 children, two dads, nine mums and one granddad joined in on the fun. It was a huge success with families pleading for another trail so an alternative to Halloween is proposed! Future dates are posted [here](#).

Open air service for the Claydon Group of churches An amazing open air service was held on Sunday 6 September at Walnut Tree Farm, Henley. With wonderful views while sitting in God's garden there was a great time to be had by all. Visit their Facebook [page](#) for pictures.

Church café goes on the road St Peter's Church in Brandon normally runs a weekly café in its hall, but COVID-19 forced it to stop, however thanks to West Suffolk Council, the church is now running a six-week café stall on Brandon Market Square. Read more on our website [here](#).

If you have a story to share with the Diocese please do email them to communications@cofesuffolk.org

Ride & Stride

Saturday 12 September 2020



This event is being held, adapting as necessary for whatever Covid-19 guidelines are on the day. Not all churches may be open and there may be no one to welcome or sign you in, but two or three people cycling together in the Suffolk countryside or walking in our towns should be perfectly safe.

Please support this free annual event. Half your sponsor money will go to the Trust to be given in grants for church repairs, and half will go to the church of your choosing. For further information and all sponsorship details via Justgiving please visit: shct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/

Online experiences for Heritage Open Days

Friday 11 to Sunday 20 September 2020

St Edmundsbury Cathedral is offering online experiences to mark this year's Heritage Open Days.

The Ancient Library was founded in 1595 and has an extensive collection of books covering a range of subjects, including many of local interest. A new online document explores the fascinating stories behind who gave the books to the Library, many of them local people from Bury St Edmunds or the wider county of Suffolk. A second paper details the conversation work undertaken recently on two volumes.

The art of bell ringing is explained in a video made (pre-COVID-19) by James Sheen of the 'We Love Bury St Edmunds' group. It gives a great insight in to what happens in the Norman Tower, as we are not able to offer tours this year.

Established in 1994, Heritage Open Days is the country's largest community heritage festival and takes place annually. They give people a chance to look behind the scenes and find out more about their local heritage.

Full details can also be found on the Cathedral's website [here](#).

Journey with the Maker

Broadcast by St Edmundsbury Cathedral
Sunday 13 September at 3.30pm.



The service is themed around creation, uses words and music from the Iona Community, with special arrangements created by Richard Hubbard for performance by Cantus Firmus singers and musicians, all filmed individually during lockdown. Richard has been working with Stephen and Gail Southgate, who lead the Pilgrims Together Lightwave group in Thorpeness, to devise the service, which includes footage filmed during the last few weeks around the Suffolk coast.

The special guest is the internationally-renowned preacher, hymnwriter, composer, lecturer and broadcaster John Bell, who led a workshop and service at St Edmundsbury Cathedral last October. He has recorded a talk for this service from his home in Glasgow.

Find the service here: www.facebook.com/stedscathedral, after the launch on 13 September, the service will be available via www.cantusfirmus.org.uk, as a resource for churches to use during this time when usual gatherings are so limited.

How to start a small group for outreach in your community

Saturday 19 September, 9.30am to 12.30pm



Join Archdeacon Sally Gaze to find out how your small group can flourish through engaging in outreach together in practical and creative ways. Sally will be joined by Laurence Singlehurst, a sparkling speaker and expert in small group ministry, with expertise from his ministry with YWAM, Cell UK and Hope UK.

Discover how small groups can help people to take the first steps in discipleship and then to grow in depth. Learn how the Lightwave Community in Suffolk can offer you ongoing support and help.

Tickets are just £5 per person, and CMD grants can be used to cover the cost. Bookings are via Eventbrite using this link; <https://small-group-leaders-2020.eventbrite.co.uk> or for more information please contact Nina Seaman at

nina.seaman@cofesuffolk.org or phone 07394 559889. Zoom details will be emailed to the email address you book with.

A Season to Remember 2020 - All Souls, Remembrance and Christmas

Thursday 24 September, 2.00 - 3.00pm

Join Sandra Millar (Head of Life Events and Welcome) leading a free webinar exploring how the church can help people to remember those who have died, particularly around All Souls Day, Remembrance Sunday and as we journey towards a very different sort of Christmas. This webinar provides practical advice for finding new ways to be there for people, even though our usual patterns of worship may not be possible.

To find out more about this and other Evangelism and Discipleship webinars, please click [here](#).

Online Giving Webinar

Friday 25 September, 11.00am

Online giving is a growing platform in our Church. More and more of our churches now have websites, use the A Church Near You giving button, and are streaming services. Join this free webinar led by the national church which aims to help parishes consider how online giving fits into church life and includes an opportunity to ask questions live.

Sign-up [here](#). For more information, get in touch with Lee Jukes, Stewardship Manager.

Email:

lee.jukes@cofesuffolk.org

Music for Mission and Ministry

Zoom, Tuesday 29 September - Thursday 1 October

Music for Mission and Ministry offers training for leaders of worship, both lay and ordained, and church musicians, now available as an online course. The course uses a 'blended learning' approach over three days, combining tutor-led sessions, supporting online media and pdf handouts. Led by the Revd Helen Bent, RSCM Head of Ministerial Training in partnership with Praxis with Jonathan Robinson, RSCM Education Officer and Tutor for Music for Mission and Ministry.

The cost is £90.00 (RSCM members £75.00), booking is via the RSCM website:

rscm.org.uk/courses/music-for-mission-and-ministry-online/

Share!

Tuesday 6 October 2020

Share

Exploring the call to licensed evangelistic ministry

This is a one-year course open to all and including those exploring the possibility of becoming a Licensed Evangelist! You don't have to be Billy Graham, just someone with a passion for sharing the love of God with others. Former publican Julie Rayner is now a

licensed evangelist and part of the Ministry team in Rattlesdon and comments, *"Before licensing I ran a 'Bring and Share Night' in the local pub. Monthly we share food and talk about whatever comes to mind, but since training the focus became 'What is an Evangelist'. We had to stop during lockdown, but villagers requested us to return so I started a 'praying for you' blog. Licensing has given me the confidence to be adaptable and try something new."*

If you want to explore more then contact Andrew Payne, Diocesan Adviser for Evangelists 07950 562724 or email evangelist.adviser@cofesuffolk.org.

Christianity in the Public Space

Saturday 10 October, 10.00am - 12.30pm



Join us online at this year's Diocesan World Mission Conference. Key speakers include Andrew Bradstock speaking on how Christians can engage in world issues at all levels. Andrew Bradstock has been researching, teaching and writing about the relationship between Christian faith, politics and social engagement for more than 30 years. An academic and practitioner, his experience includes establishing New Zealand's first Centre for Theology and Public Issues (at the University of Otago), co-directing the Centre for Faith and Society at the Von Hügel Institute, Cambridge, and Secretary for Church and Society with the United Reformed Church. He is author of *Louder than Words: action for the 21st-century church* (DLT, 2007) and the authorized biography of Bishop David Sheppard, *Batting for the Poor* (SPCK, 2019). He is an emeritus professor of the University of Winchester. He will be joined by Luke Harman from Christian Aid who will talk about a successful campaign using a range of activities to raise awareness of an issue in the public space. There will be opportunities for questions and discussion.

Book your free place: [WorldMissionConference.eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.worldmissionconference.eventbrite.co.uk)

More info: richard.stainer14@gmail.com

To promote this locally please share this PowerPoint [slide](#) in your services or Zoom worship.

Notices:

Energy Footprint Tool - If you are looking for advice on how to complete the online tool please have a look at this tutorial from the Manchester Diocese Environment Group [here](#).

Vacancies:

[Deputy Diocesan Director of Education](#) | Closing date Monday 14 September 2020.

[Part time Verger at St Edmundsbury Cathedral](#) | Closing date Monday 14 September 2020.



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