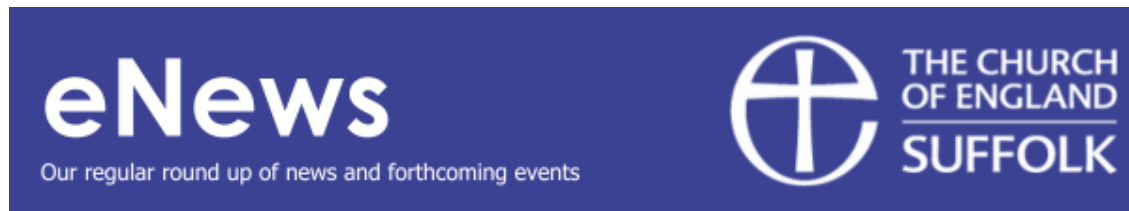


Thursday 1 August 2024



Bishop Martin's farewell visit to Kagera



Bishop Martin has been warmly welcomed back to Kagera this summer accompanied by a group of young people and clergy from Suffolk.

A game of Rounders was enjoyed at Good Shepherd's Primary School before sharing in lessons on Chemistry and Physics!



The group also travelled to NAPS Primary School, Murgwansa Hospital and the new Cathedral site, where Bishop Martin commented that the "work on the Cathedral moves apace, a remarkable testimony to the courage and faith of the team".

There have also been inspiring visits to Katoke Lweru Secondary School for music, lessons, parachute games and more. There has also been a trip to Lake Victoria and an opportunity to experience the local market at Muleba, and to meet the pupils at Katoke School. The group return to the UK today. To find out more about the visit and to see lots more photographs please visit [Facebook](#).



Bishop Martin writes about AI:

"With the advances of artificial intelligence, AI, in so many areas of life, is this something that clergy could use to write their sermons? Recently I attended a conference on preaching, since you can always learn more about this elusive art. One speaker explored the significance of AI sermons, sermons that have been composed by an Artificial Intelligence application like ChatGPT. You give the app some basic instructions about what

you want it to produce - like "Write a 1000-word sermon on Noah's Ark" and within seconds, you have a sermon.

Some at the conference were quite open to the benefits of AI. For others though, AI sermons are simply a step too far. The use of AI in many different fields is making many people feel uneasy, so what is really going on here?

The field of artificial intelligence has been born out of human imagination that the process of human thought could be replicated. That dream began to take shape in the 1950s, and computer programmes were developed that could simulate simple human thought processes, in some sense 'thinking' for themselves.

The popular applications – like ChatGPT – have only been with us for less than a couple of years, and what is interesting is that people are increasingly aware of them, and indeed using them. With this surge of technological innovation, it can be hard, I think, to remember what it means to be a human being in all of this. We have been tempted to treat technology as substitutes for human beings - rather than agents for human connection.

In the early years of Christianity, St Paul wrote many letters to teach and encourage the new church communities that had just started. Those letters are still an inspiration to millions of people today. But St Paul knew that letters, like any two-dimensional communication, were no substitute for meeting face to face. He says this much in his letters, just as we know that there are many times when Zoom is no substitute for sitting in the same room together.

And an AI sermon is no substitute for a sermon preached directly from the heart. It may speed up the process of writing a sermon, an essay or whatever else but as the name suggests, it will always be 'artificial.' As human beings we need another 'A' – authenticity. This we will only find in each other; in relationships, and in our shared experiences. We find it in discovering the uniqueness of each other and yet still being connected. AI is a great tool, but we need to use it with authenticity, to make connections with each other, not as a too easy replacement for that that connection".

Read the full article [here](#).

New Chaplaincy Role in Debenham

The Benefice of Debenham and Helmingham consists of seven parishes, of which St Mary Magdalene in Debenham is by far the largest. The Revd Susan Taylor is keen that as a church they are fully involved in supporting and serving the community. As part of their strategy for Growing Younger they have just started a youth café called The Corner Café. It is run by and is for young people aged 11-17. About 20 young people are using the café which only started earlier this summer. The church is delighted to have been awarded a Growing in God Growth Fund grant from the Diocese to develop this further.

The church has strong links with the local Church of England Primary School and the parish is currently advertising for an Associate Priest with responsibility for Chaplaincy at Debenham High School. They will be a visible Christian presence in the school, offering traditional school chaplaincy (without teaching) to develop and deepen the Chaplaincy

provision across the whole school, for students and for staff, and some one-to-one pastoral work with the aim of embedding the Christian ethos and school vision and supporting the Incumbent and Headteacher. As the post also includes the role Associate Priest, they will lead Sunday worship across the benefice and assist with occasional offices and community events, attend Debenham PCC and Deanery Chapter, with a remit to develop ministry with children and young people. This is a new exciting role needing commitment and creativity, faith and prayerfulness. Are you interested? Do you know anyone who might be suitable for the role? Please telephone the Revd Susan Taylor for an informal conversation about the role 01728 860222 or visit [here](#) for further information.

Growing in God Growth Fund: This fund can provide money to help your church engage creatively in sharing faith in word and deed, and as a result grow the church in number and younger. You can apply for up to £1,500 to support an outward-facing initiative to develop your church's mission to the wider community. Applying is easy and the application form can be completed in moments. All the information, eligibility and the application form are on our website [here](#). Apply now as our next meeting to review applications is Tuesday 3 September.

Events

Mary Sumner Day: Mothers' Union Celebration

Friday 9 August, 12.00pm

Southwold Pier, North Parade, Southwold IP18 6BN

Friday 9 August is the day we celebrate the life and work of Mary Sumner, who founded the Mothers' Union in 1876. In 2001 a plaque celebrating 125 years was put on Southwold Pier but with the recent renovations, the plaque appears to have 'gone missing'. Join us for an afternoon supporting the MU 'Summer of Hope' campaign and the search to find the plaque! Bring a picnic or grab some fish and chips nearby, bring your family and friends and perhaps a blanket, cushion or a folding chair. At 2.45pm the Royal British Legion Band will play familiar pieces of music with a seaside theme, and at 3.00pm we will hold a short Christian service of Worship and Thanksgiving for all that the Mothers' Union has, and is, achieving. For more information about the Mothers' Union contact Linda Ginn on 01728 648772

Beowulf

Friday 9 August, 6.30pm

St Mary's Church, Stoke by Nayland CO6 4QU

Quill and Inkling will be performing a family-friendly interpretation of Beowulf, complete with fire-breathing dragon. The play includes movement, poetry and puppetry to bring this great Anglo Saxon tale of bravery, honour and loyalty to life. Tickets will be available on the door and online. Tickets cost £15 each, or £10 for children, those over 60, students and people with disabilities. A discounted family ticket for two adults plus two children is available for £45. [Book here](#).

Let all Mortal Flesh

Saturday 10 August - Holy Trinity, Blythburgh

Sunday 11 August - St Mary's, Woodbridge

Tuesday 13 August - St Peter and St Paul, Aldeburgh

Wednesday 14 August - St Bartholomew, Orford

Thursday 15 August - Cathedral of St John the Baptist, Norwich NR2 2PA

Join the Luceat 2024 Choir tour around East Anglia. The choir was founded in 2017 primarily to give young singers the opportunity to perform in some of Britain's most beautiful spaces, the choir has gone from strength to strength, and now brings together some of the finest young voices in the country. Tickets available in advance from www.luceatchoir.co.uk/events or on the door via donation.

Lark Rise Retreats: Exploring the Story of Ruth

Thursday 5 September, 10.00am - 4.00pm

St Nicholas Church, Felixstowe Ferry IP11 9RZ

Exploring the story of Ruth and its relevance today, led by the Revd Penny Brinkley. The day includes refreshments, cake and a fish and chips lunch. To book, please [click here](#) or call 01394 284213.

Suffolk in Prayer weekend for schools

6 - 8 September

Suffolk in Prayer is a movement of Christians committed to praying for God's blessing on this beautiful county and its people. They would like to invite you to participate in a prayer weekend for teachers and children as they return to school after their summer break.

Please share your prayers for schools, education and teaching by emailing suffolkinprayer@gmail.com. Thank you.

On Voice: Speech, Song, Silence: Human and Divine

Thursday 12 September 2024 beginning with Mass at 11.00am

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

A joint meeting of the Society of Catholic Priests and Affirming Catholicism, beginning in the Cathedral with Mass. Mass will be followed by a talk in the Edmund Room by Victoria Johnson on her recent book *On Voice*, published by Darton, Longman and Todd. Copies will be available for sale. Lunch will be served in the Edmund Room at 12.30pm, followed by departure. Price: £10 for two courses, wine and coffee. If you would like to attend, please email cormack246@gmail.com or call Michael Wilde on 01284 767415.

Living Hope

13 - 15 September

St Augustine's Church, Ipswich IP3 8TH

Three days focused on sharing God's living hope with our local community. You are invited to this missional weekend including a Youth night, Men's breakfast, Women's brunch, Mission on the Streets, Saturday Night Live and Festival of Celebration Service. Join us to hear Simon Guillebaud, previously a missionary in Burundi, and listen to his daring stories of faith, risk and sacrifice that have inspired people all over the world. Please click [here](#) for more information.

Suffolk Ride and Stride and Pedal and Drive

Saturday 14 September

Join this annual sponsored 'Ride and Stride', a national event when cyclists and walkers raise money for their local county Churches Trust. Also happening is the Pedal and Drive - a rally with a difference! The owners of five of Suffolk's most beautiful and important historic houses have very kindly agreed to open their gates and to act as the assembly and start points including Euston Hall near Thetford, Heveningham Hall near Halesworth, and Crowe Hall in Ipswich. From there you will set out on a tour across Suffolk taking in lovely countryside and remarkable churches as you tackle a fiendish church quiz. And finally end up for teas and prizes at the grand rally where the five teams of cars will all gather together. For more information please visit the SCHT [website here](#).

Harvest-themed Choral Concert

Saturday 14 September, 5.00pm

St Mary's Church, Barking with Darmsden IP6 8HJ

Come along to a fantastic harvest-themed Choral Concert by the Suffolk Churches Singers. Preceded by refreshments from 4.30pm, in aid of the Church Fabric Fund. Tickets cost £10 from 01473 658583 or are available at the door.

Great Glemham Quilt Exhibition

Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 September, 10.00am - 4.00pm

All Saints' Church, Great Glemham IP17 2DA

Come along and see a bright array of quilts. There will be a sales table as well as delicious refreshments. Entry costs £3. All funds raised will go to All Saints' Church. A good place to stop by and take a break if you are on the SHCT Ride and Stride.

Building a Generous Church Conference

Saturday 28 September

Bridge Community Church, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3EW



This is a fantastic opportunity to hear keynote speakers, attend workshops and meet staff to give you help and support to increase generosity and giving in your parish. This is a chance to network with others throughout the Diocese and access the information and resources on offer. Please download and share this poster [here](#).

For more information and to book your free place, which includes lunch, please visit Insight: insight.cofesuffolk.org/building-a-generous-church-conference

Bishop Mike's Final Service

Sunday 29 September, 3.30pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Everyone is warmly invited to St Edmundsbury Cathedral as we say farewell to Bishop Mike as he leaves to become the Bishop of Exeter. The service will be followed by Devon cream

teas and fizz. For catering purposes, please use this link to RSVP so we have an indication of numbers: <https://forms.gle/7Byys8vNYtMTqQF99>

Bishop Mike will be enthroned in Exeter Cathedral on Saturday 2 November at 3.00pm. Tickets for the service will be available via Exeter Cathedral's website in due course. We will send out the link when they become available.

County Harvest Festival

Sunday 6 October, 11.30am, service starts 2.00pm
Trinity Park, Ipswich IP3 8UH

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Lightwave and the Suffolk Agricultural Association are delighted to invite you to the County Harvest Festival for 2024. This hugely popular biannual event is held at Trinity Park and includes food, bar, live music, craft and produce stalls, as well as an opportunity to meet the animals. It's a special year as Bishop Martin, President of the Suffolk Agricultural Association, will be leading the 2.00pm worship. If you would like a stall please contact graham.miles.lighwave@gmail.com.

World Mission Conference: Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Saturday 12 October, 9.00am - 1.00pm
Salvation Army Hall, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

As Christians we are called to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it (Hebrews 13.2). How can we best do this? Our speakers will offer an insight into the refugee and asylum seeker issue on a global scale and in our own county, with practical suggestions as to how your church can become involved in welcoming and supporting those from overseas. More information and booking [here](#).

Flooded

Friday 15 November, 6.00pm and repeated on
Saturday 15 November 1.00pm and 6.00pm.
St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 1LS

Flooded! is a theatre, opera and song extravaganza combining The Fools' Flood by Neil Clayton, a new play about an historic flood in Bury St Edmunds, and Benjamin Britten's family opera, Noye's Fludde. Supported by Arts Council England and partnering St Edmundsbury Cathedral, 15 local schools, Britten Pears Arts, Suffolk Music Service, and multiple community groups, the production is the largest arts project undertaken by the Cathedral in recent times and will involve over 200 locals and professional creatives. As well as being full of beautiful music and fast paced action, Flooded! will allow us to reflect on our world today with the climate emergency and migration so often making headlines. With a set made almost entirely from recycled materials and with many costumes decorated by the children themselves, the production is a space for the community to come together, listen to, and create a wonderful evening of theatre and music together. Tickets and more information are available [here](#).

Lark Rise Retreats: Speak Lord your servant is listening - An Advent Quiet Day

Thursday 28 November or Saturday 30 November 10.00am-4.00pm
230 Ferry Road, Felixstowe IP11 9RU

We invite you to a quiet day led by Sarah Wallington-Smith: before the pre-Christmas rush, spend time resting in peace and reflecting as Advent approaches. The day includes refreshments, cake and a fish and chips lunch. To book, please [click here](#) or call 01394 284213.

Save the date: Chaplains' Gathering: Advance notice of a day conference for all involved in chaplaincy from all sectors across Suffolk. Tuesday 26 November 10.00am-3.00pm. Details of venue, programme and booking will be shared in September.

Vacancies

Return of Parish Finance: Many thanks to all parishes who have submitted their form. Completing your Return of Parish Finance provides your benefice and our Diocese with valuable information and data.

Energy Footprint Tool: Thank you to everyone who has completed their Energy Footprint this year. This is valuable information to help us achieve Net Zero Carbon by 2030.

Notices

[Associate Minister for Mission with Children, Families and Young People](#) | St Margaret's Church, Ipswich | Closing date: 9 August

[Bishop's Chaplain \(Interim, fixed term 18 months\)](#) | Closing date: 14 August

[Associate Priest](#) | St Mary Le Tower, Ipswich | Closing date: 19 August

[Children's and Families' Worker](#) | The United Benefice of Stanton | 31 August

[Associate Priest](#) | Debenham High School | Closing date: 18 September

[House for Duty Priest](#) | Lakenheath with Santon Downham and Elveden | Closing date: 24 September

[River Church Opportunities](#) | Kids Pastor (full-time), Debt Centre Manager (part-time) and internships | Ipswich

[Gap Year opportunities](#) | St Mary's, Haverhill

[Associate Priest with responsibility for Chaplaincy](#) | Debenham High School

St Peter's Church, Westleton is looking for a new Treasurer, Please contact, [David Blencowe](#) or [Jeremy Branch](#) if you are interested. All Saints' Church, Wetheringsett are also looking for a new volunteer Treasurer, please contact [Tim Rowe](#) for more information.

Click here to print and share with others

Click here to view our new film:
Let's hear from young
voices in Suffolk



*The Bishops
of Suffolk*



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