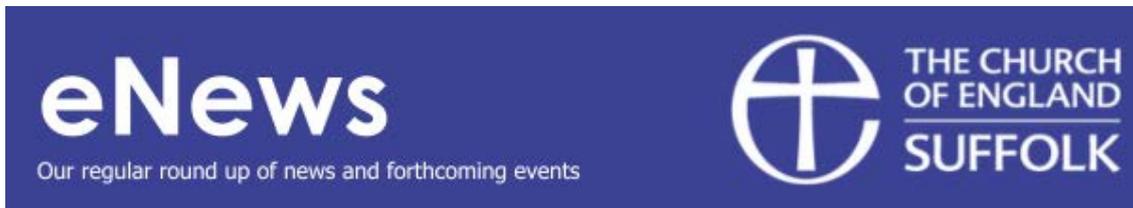


Thursday 1 February 2024



Bishop Mike and eight others visit Kagera

Bishop Mike is heading to Kagera in Tanzania, along with the Revd Canon Sharron Coburn, Rector of St Peter's Church in Brandon, (and newly appointed Diocesan Director of Mission and Ministry). They will be accompanied on the two-week trip from Friday 2 February to 16 February by several curates and the hope is that the visit will enhance the relationships made by Bishop Martin who visited Kagera last July.

It is hoped the visit will provide insights into life in communities abroad where people of faith not only survive at the sharp end of climate change but demonstrate enthusiasm and joy. Sharron said she wanted to understand how parishes in Suffolk could learn from people living in such challenging conditions. *"The curates we are taking out with us will be a catalyst for their own churches to think more globally. The learning, challenges and experiences that they will encounter can only deepen their own ministry for the future. I have never travelled like this before so I have a mix of anticipation, fear and excitement at the prospect,"* she said.

Bishop Mike added: *"I hope that the visit will enable our curates to be so inspired, and indeed to have experiences motivating them to engage passionately with the link with Kagera upon their return to our diocese."*

For a full list of those accompanying Bishop Mike and their thoughts about their visit please visit this website page [here](#). You can follow stories about the trip on our website blog [page](#) and our Facebook page [here](#).

The dioceses in Suffolk and Kagera have been linked since 1994 with the aim of benefiting from shared experiences and this trip coincides with the Bishops' Lent Appeal which is focused on **'Faith in Action – Transforming lives in Kagera'**. If you would like to raise funds for Kagera please visit our website [here](#). You can order our fundraising booklets from kageralink@cofesuffolk.org.

Together with the Diocese of Kagera, we can make a huge and lasting impact on people's lives.

Record breaking fundraising

Suffolk Churches Ride and Stride and Pedal & Drive jointly raised £214,470 in 2023 - a record breaking amount. Hundreds of churches, chapels and meeting houses were open to welcome participants, many of whom are not church- worshippers but who love the



ancient buildings that have been part of their community for generations.

"What a day, and what a result! Blistering sunshine and a fantastic turnout in support of our beautiful churches and heritage. Well done and thank you to all our helpers in the churches who kept us cyclists and walkers on the go. Thank you too to all our sponsors who helped us achieve such a generous total," said Simon Ronan, SHCT

Ride and Stride Chairman.

St Edmundsbury Cathedral to welcome prehistoric visitors this February half-term



Two special guests will be delighting children this half-term at St Edmundsbury Cathedral: a pair of dinosaurs! On Wednesday 21 February, the animatronics will be teaching and entertaining audiences at two sessions, one at 10.00am to 11.30am and the second from 2.00pm to 3.30pm. The dinosaurs are from Teach Rex, who provide creative workshops that ignite young minds and imaginations. Tickets are on sale and are £8.00

each. As well as Teach Rex, there will be additional free-to-attend prehistoric-themed activities for families. These arts and crafts sessions will be on Tuesday 20 February at 10.00am and Thursday 22 February at 2.00pm. Both sessions are two hours in duration and the whole family is welcome.

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](#).

Events

ChurchGrants Free Q&A

Friday 2 February, 3.00pm

This Friday and then every other Friday until the end of April, Church Grants will be hosting a one-hour free church fundraising Q&A webinar, please use [this link](#).

Candlemas Solemn Eucharist

Friday 2 February, 7.30pm

St John the Evangelist, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1SN

Come along to St John's Solemn Eucharist led by the Revd Ali Miller, featuring The St

John's Singers with organist, David Honeyball. This event is to be followed by a party. All welcome.

Lay Elder training and social morning

Saturday 3 February 2024, 9.30 AM

Salvation Army Hall, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

The Ven Rich Henderson, Archdeacon of Suffolk, will give a keynote address, and bookings are being taken for either pastoral or liturgical workshops led by Karen Gardner and the Revd Canon Sharon Potter. After the morning's training we will share some social time while we eat our lunches - cake will be provided! For more details and to register for your free place, please email lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org with your choice of workshop: pastoral or liturgical.

Come and See Lent Course

In person: Thursdays starting 15 February, 1.30pm-3.00pm

Online: Wednesdays starting 21 February, 7.00-8.00pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral/Zoom

Join either virtually or in-person for 'Come and see', a five-session Lent course at St Edmundsbury Cathedral. Using new material from the forthcoming book "Meeting God in John", David Ford, Divinity Emeritus at the University of Cambridge, invites you to reflect upon how John's Gospel draws us into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ who is 'The beginning and the end' and 'in whom all things were made'. To join online, please email chriseyden@stedscathedral.org to receive the Zoom link. To join in person, please [book here](#) and choose either the free-to-attend Lent course, or the Lent course with lunch (£5.00 per session). Spaces are limited.

Big Weekend of Prayer for Farming

16-18 February



We would love for you to pray for our farming community over the weekend 16-18 February, in whatever way which is appropriate to you, in your location/context. Please share any thoughts/reflections from your time of prayer on the Facebook page [@suffolkinprayer](#), or email them to Suffolkinprayer@gmail.com. We'll be sharing a variety of things you can pray for during the weekend on our Facebook and Instagram pages and also on the Lightwave website.

Here are a few points to get you started:

- Good weather for crops
- Mental health of farmers and their families
- Finding farm workers and training up new farmers to take over
- Rural and isolated areas with little contact to community
- Rest and peace of mind
- Those struggling with suicidal thoughts
- Partners of farmers who are homeschooling, book-keepers, emotional support and so much more.

Find out more on Facebook - [@suffolkinprayer](#). Click [here](#) to watch a video introduction from Graham Miles, Lightwave Rural Chaplain.

Major Donor Training

Monday 19 February, 7.30pm or Tuesday 20 February, 10.30am

Bookings are now live for the ChurchGrant training on major donor fundraising for church appeals. From decades of church-related major fundraising capital appeal experience, you will learn how to identify major donors already within your networks, how to find new major donors and know how best to approach these and gain the confidence in how to 'present the ask' and 'close the ask' [Book here](#). Don't forget to use CHURCH10 to get 10% off.

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. Booking essential as places are limited. 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. There will be time to share your own ideas, hopes and frustrations, plus a chance to pray for one another. Refreshments will be 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 have looked at your Plans for Growth to see if there were any common themes or areas that you need help with. To support you we are offering a number of [drop-ins](#) 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:

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

Church Army Discovery Days

Monday 26 February, 7.00pm to 9.30pm, online

or Saturday 13 April, 10.00am to 3.00pm, Wilson Carlile Centre, Sheffield.

If you have a heart to see people reached with the Good News of Jesus Christ, then you're invited to attend this event and discover how you can train as a Church Army Evangelist. Free to all. Further information is available [here](#).

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. To book, please [click here](#).

Lark Rise Retreat Days 2024

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

Upcoming events include:

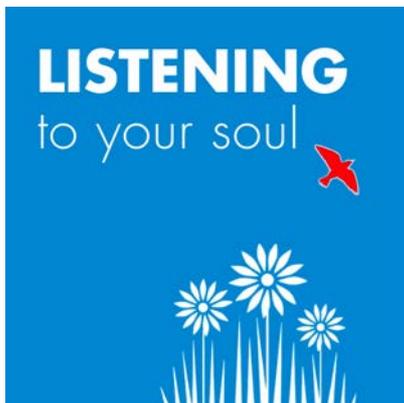
- Thursday 29 February | An Introduction to Franciscan spirituality | The Revd Canon Andrew Dotchin.
- Thursday 14 or alternatively Saturday 16 March | The women who sat at Jesus' feet | The Revd Catherine Bond.
- Thursday 4 or alternatively Saturday 6 April | Exploring the resurrection appearances of 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 call 01394 284213.

Listening to Your Soul

Saturday 2 March, 9.30am - 12.30pm

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

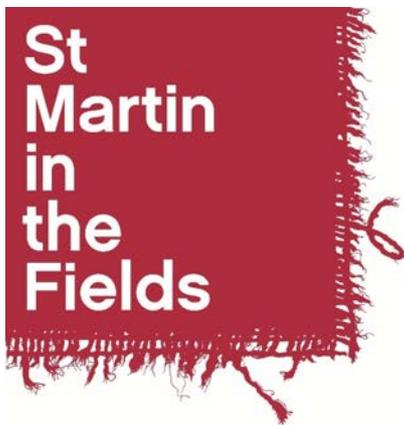


"If you could be your own best friend, that would be your soul... she holds wisdom, insight and experience, compassion and courage - and offers them to you."

How do we find wisdom for the spiritual journey? A morning to feed your soul. Led by the Revd Julia Mourant, Programme Leader for the Course in Spiritual Direction at Sarum College, Salisbury, where she also teaches in the Centre for Formation in Ministry. This free event is open to all. To book, please [click here](#).

Concert and Workshop

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



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 to register your interest

and receive more information.

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](#).

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. These Stations of The Cross focus the attention of visitors on the last known movements of Jesus, among them: his mock trial, him meeting women in the crowds and his execution.

The Blyth Valley Stations of the Cross 2024 will open with 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. A copy of each of the images will be prayerfully presented in each of the 14 churches of the benefices for the following week. From 7.30pm on Friday 22 March, the artist Iain McKillop will talk about his creative encounters with the Stations concept. Again, refreshments may be purchased at the Queen's Head afterwards.

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. There is no charge for any of these events. However, our church committees are grateful for your generosity towards maintaining the parochial ministry that underpins events such as this.

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](#).

Doctrine

Tuesdays starting 30 April 2024, 7.00pm to 9.00pm
Venue to be announced

A six-session course 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](#)

In the beginning was the story... Approaching the New Testament

Starts 1 May 2024 7.00pm to 9.30pm
Earl Stonham Village Hall, Forward Green IP14 5HJ

This course looks at the beginnings of what became Christianity in the writings of the New Testament, and explores their narrative features. The course is open to all and free of charge. Please book [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.

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.

Faraday Institute Research Seminar Series

The Faraday Institute offers a range of events which may be of interest to you. Their course 'Artificial Intelligence, Genuine Care' explores how Christians can engage with technology in a godly way. [Click here](#) to find out more. There is also an upcoming summer course on 'The Art and Science of Human Health and Spirituality'. What does it mean to be human in an age of technology? Are we slaves to our genes? How does artificial intelligence affect healthcare? Can art help with healing? Explore these questions by signing up [here](#).

National Churches Trust (NCT) Training: Every year NCT delivers training sessions to help empower churches in their work. Most of the events take place online, making them easily accessible for you no matter where your church is located. Over the next few months sessions include Creating the perfect welcome and Fundraising fundamentals, with the Chief Executive Claire Walker. Find out more and register for [free here](#).

Notices

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 17 March 2024. Returns should be submitted via the [Online Parish Returns System](#). If you require log-in details or any other assistance with the online portal, please contact statistics@cofesuffolk.org. Further help can be viewed on our website here: [Stats for Mission Help](#).

Are you working in children's and youth ministry? If so, please take part in this survey by the Church of England who are striving at a national level to do more to support the sector: [Wellbeing survey for people working in children's, youth and family ministry | The Church of England](#)

Christian Aid recruiting volunteer speakers:

People passionate about making a difference are being invited to join a team of more than

100 volunteers who champion global justice by speaking to church congregations and community groups. The aim is to inspire people to give, act and pray to help others in need and support communities to find new ways out of poverty. If you are interested in applying, please email volunteering@christian-aid.org.

Mission with a Vision Girls' Refuge

This year the charity Mission with a Vision is in the final year of a three-year build to help provide more accommodation for girls in their refuge in South West Kenya. The girls have been rescued from female genital mutilation (FGM) and/or forced early marriage. Liz Beale from Onehouse is one of the volunteers going to Kenya to help with the project through the charity Mission Direct (www.missiondirect.org). Liz needs to raise £2,350 as a contribution to the cost and is asking for your help to meet this target. If you would like to make a donation, please visit Liz's Just Giving page: www.justgiving.com/page/liz-beale-1706280284642.

Canva.com training:

This is an easy-to-use design tool, created for people without any design experience in mind, giving you the opportunity to easily create posters, social media posts, leaflets and more. Canva offer a free, non-profit account which churches are eligible to apply for. Church of England is also offering Canva training to churches, please [click here](#) to find out more.

Vacancies

[Team Vicar](#) | The Forest Heath Team Benefice | Closing date: 2 February
[Priest in Charge](#) | Wickham Market & Pettistree | Closing date: 6 February
[Chaplain and Leader of Youth Orientated Congregation](#) | Debenham High School | Closing date: 8 February
[Rector](#) | Walton and Trimley | Closing date: 11 February
[Priest in Charge & Archdeaconry Mission Enabler](#) | Sproughton, Burstall, Copdock with Washbrook | Closing date: 13 February
[Rector](#) | The Benefice of Badwell Ash & Walsham-le-Willows | Closing date: 19 February
[Diocesan Mission Enabler](#) | Closing date: 19 February
[Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Officer](#) | Closing date: 26 February
[Welcome Assistant](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral | Closing date: 27 February
[Director of Music](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral | Closing date: 5 March
[River Church Opportunities](#) | Ipswich
[New Opportunities in Ipswich](#) | Inspiring Ipswich

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