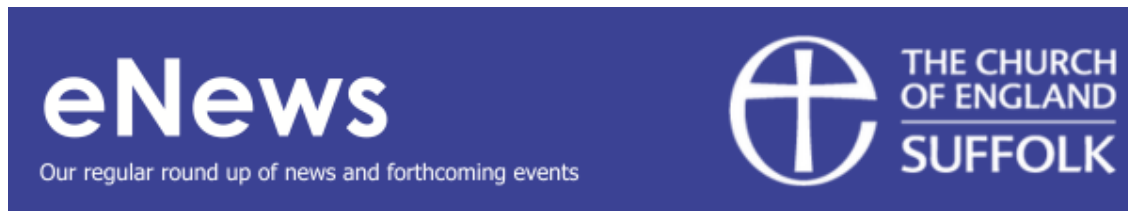


Thursday 14 November 2024



Message from Bishop Martin



"The Archbishop of Canterbury's decision to step down shows how clearly the Church of England understands the need for change and its profound commitment to creating a safer church. The Archbishop has taken personal and institutional responsibility for the failures of safeguarding brought to light by the Makin Review and is deeply sorry for the horrific abuse inflicted by the late John Smyth and its lifelong effects, already spanning more than 40 years.

We know that no words can undo the damage done to people's lives both by him and by the failure of individuals in the Church and other institutions to respond well. I would like to add my profound gratitude and appreciation for the victims who came forward to reveal the horrific extent of Smyth's abuse, for their courage, grace and dignity.

"We knew the review would be incredibly important and I was very grateful to be among the large number of people contributing to the review nationally.

The Church and its associated organisations clearly must be deeply penitent and learn from this review, and continue to be committed to implementing ongoing robust safeguarding procedures, across all parts of the Church".

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads '+ Martin'.

The Review and its subject matter may have been personally painful, triggering memories of abuse you may have experienced yourself, and this is true also for members of our congregations. If you are looking for support for yourself, or someone you know, please either contact the safeguarding team, Karen Galloway (Diocesan Safeguarding Officer) or Shelly Thomas (Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Officer) email: safeguarding@cofesuffolk.org, or, if you want to talk to someone independently, please visit [Home - Safe Spaces England and Wales](https://www.firstlight.org.uk)safespaces@firstlight.org.uk, or call [0300 303 1056](tel:03003031056).

This Safeguarding Sunday we must remember that safeguarding is everyone's

responsibility, as the reviewer points out in his recommendations. Sunday 17 November is a chance for congregations to use their regular Sunday service to listen and talk together about how spaces can be created that are safer for everyone, and encouraging church communities to talk about how they can work together to prevent abuse and create a world where every child and adult can feel and be safe.

Safeguarding Sunday is also an opportunity to thank those working behind the scenes to make our churches safer for all as we celebrate and pray for the work and commitment of our volunteer parish safeguarding officers who work closely with the diocesan teams to ensure the Church is a safer place for all.

For information about our safeguarding team please visit our website [here](#).



100th anniversary of the unveiling of the Ipswich Cenotaph

Bishop Martin gave the short address in Ipswich specifically remembering the 100th anniversary of the unveiling of the Cenotaph in May 1924. He said: *"I am particularly honoured to give the address this year as we celebrate the centenary of the unveiling of the Ipswich Cenotaph. The Cenotaph has 2811*

names from the First and Second World Wars and from later conflicts, and the families and friends of many of those named continue to live in Ipswich. Their stories keep our Remembrance observance rooted in real lives of people with whom many of us are connected, and our honouring them is so important as we strive for peace in our own day."

Bishop Martin fears for farmers after 'devastating' Budget: Bishop Martin is among a growing number who fear for the mental health of farmers in the county after Labour's first Budget on Wednesday 30 October. He said, *"My take on this is they have just done their sums wrong and they have misunderstood what the value of an average farm is and placed this inheritance tax burden on family farms. It seems the most extraordinary and unnecessary move in order to secure more income when the whole farming industry depends on being able to pass on the farms intact from generation to generation."* Read the full story in the EADT [here](#).

Christmas Market 2025: St Edmundsbury Cathedral's annual Christmas Market will welcome all from Thursday 28 November to Saturday 30 November this year. Doors will open from 10.00am – 4.30pm each day and this year there will be an entry fee of £1.00. A variety of stallholders from Suffolk and beyond will join to showcase their products, with some familiar faces as well as new businesses. There will be over 50 stalls, including those selling gifts, jewellery, baked goods, alcohol and woodcrafts. Visitors will get the chance to browse stalls while also taking in the beautiful setting of the Cathedral. In addition to the shopping experience, there are plans for entertainment for visitors from local schools and performers and special Tower Tours will be available to pre-book [here](#).

Trees in the Tower: The town and Civic Church of Ipswich, St Mary le Tower, due to be redesignated Ipswich Minster in 2025, looks forward to welcoming thousands of visitors for its famous Christmas tree festival. A celebration of the life and community of Ipswich, the festival will include more than 100 real and artificial trees sponsored or bought by a whole variety of businesses, charities, community groups and individuals.

The festival, which has been running for more than a decade, is free and this year will be the longest ever festival running from Friday 29 November to Sunday 8 December. All will be able to enjoy the Christmassy atmosphere, the beautiful trees, the café and the free children's activities. The centre piece of the festival is the nativity scene in front of the high altar. Money raised during this event will be split between the Mayor of Ipswich's charities and the church. For more information visit www.stmaryletower.org or follow on social media @stmaryletower.



Follow the Star: Calm and Bright: The Church of England's theme for Advent and Christmas 2024, Follow the Star: Calm and Bright, draws on the world-famous carol, Silent Night: "Silent Night! Holy Night! All is calm, all is bright..." More information and resources are available [here](#). Join a Christmas themed webinar including:

Using AChurchNearYou.com Tuesday 19 November,

3.00pm - 4.30pm

Let's create on Canva Thursday 5 December, 11.00am - 12.30pm

All links for these events and lots more are available [here](#).

Giving during Advent and Christmas: There are resources available to parishes to help you use digital devices and online Give A Little accounts to set up Christmas Campaigns. For further help and assistance please contact Emma Denton at emma.denton@cofesuffolk.org or call 01473 298556.. Alternatively watch this Generosity at Christmas webinar [here](#).

Diocesan Elections

There are many ways in which you can support the mission and ministry of the church across our 443 parishes and one of them is to help us to exercise sound governance. We encourage a wide and diverse cross-section of our members to become involved. If you feel called to work collaboratively, assisting in openness of communication and ensuring clarity of decision making, then please do come forward to offer your time and talents. We currently have elections for:

Bishop's Council: Following the autumn elections to Bishop's Council there is one lay vacancy remaining, this has been created following the election of Simon Gash as the lay Vice President and therefore, we are repeating the process. Please come forward and nominate yourself or recommend others to fill this vacancy.

Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) election: The Board is particularly concerned with the promotion of education, church schools, RE and Collective Worship. The DBE,

through its team of staff, provides a range of support services for schools, supports collaboration between schools, advises on headteacher appointments and admissions, and provides training for governors. There are six to seven vacancies elected from Diocesan Synod who can be either clergy or lay and do not need to be members of Synod themselves.

Diocesan Board of Patronage: Is patron to a number of benefices within the diocese acting either solely or jointly with others. There are three clergy and five lay vacancies on the Board, with a six-year term starting on Wednesday 1 January 2025.

Vacancy in See: This committee considers the appointment of the new Diocesan Bishop when a vacancy occurs. The new membership will take up their office from 1 January 2025 for three years, until 31 December 2027. There are three clergy elected posts, and seven laity elected posts. Please note that the current Vacancy in See membership remains in place during the current and ongoing process to discern the next Diocesan Bishop after Bishop Martin retires in February 2025.

The deadline for nominations is at midday on Friday 29 November 2024. For full details, key dates and nomination forms please visit our website [here](#).

Events

Give to Go Green events

St Peter & St Paul Church, Pettistree IP13 0HR

Pettistree Church is fundraising for 'Give to Go Green' to create a dry, warm and welcoming meeting space for the use of the whole village. The church and village community welcome you to attend the humorous talk on Vice-Consul, Customs, Cannabis and Cocaine, Saturday 16 November 4.00pm: with Mr Jim Jarvie OBE, retired Head of Operations of the Central UK Border Force.

Give to Go Green events

St Peter's Church, Stoke Park, Ipswich IP2 9TH

St Peter's are looking to raise £10,000 to be match funded to replace their church windows. Between 3 November and 15 December there will be a number of Christmas-themed events - please do book and join!

Card Making | Saturday 16 November, 3.00pm: Just £5 to make three beautiful cards with refreshments provided. [Book here](#).

Afternoon Tea | Saturday 23 November, 3.00pm: Just £10 for a delicious afternoon tea. [Book here](#).

Wreath Making | Monday 2 December, 10.30am and 7.00pm. Costs £15 with all materials you need to make a wreath, and snacks included. [Book here for the 10.30am session](#) | [Book here for the 7.00pm session](#)

Christmas Film Night | Friday 6 December, 6.00pm. £5 per person or £10 for a family including a drink and popcorn. [Book here](#).

Santa's Grotto – Saturday 14 December, 3.00pm. £5 per child including the visit and a

present. [Book here.](#)

Flooded!

Friday 15 November, 6.00pm Repeated on Saturday 16 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 Noye's Fludde. Join local school children and professional musicians for a dazzling performance you won't forget! Tickets and more information are available [here](#).

An Introduction to Small Missional Groups

Saturday 16 November, 9.30am - 1.30pm
Freston Village Hall, Freston, Ipswich IP9 1AH

Join this morning with Two Rivers Benefice to find out how a Small Missional Group can make all the difference as you seek to share God's love your neighbours. Hosted by the Diocesan Mission and Ministry Team, joined by the Lightwave Team. [Sign up here.](#)

Stories and Chips

Saturday 16 November, 3.30pm - 6.30pm
Earl Stonham Village Hall, Stowmarket IP14 5HJ

Come along and celebrate with a fish and chip meal and listen to stories of what God is doing across the Lightwave Community, and worship together. Hot and cold drinks will be provided. Please [sign up here.](#)

Faith Story – with Archdeacon Rich

Monday 18 November, 7.00pm - 8.00pm by Zoom

All are welcome to join us for the next 'Faith Story' in our series as Archdeacon Rich shares his faith journey with us. There will be lots of time for questions and conversation. Listening to someone else's journey with God is not only interesting but encouraging and helpful for our own spiritual growth and development. [Book here to receive the Zoom link.](#)

PCC Workshops



You are invited to join us for a series of topic-based Zoom meetings by Diocesan staff and parish experts. Suitable for Treasurers, Churchwardens, PCC members and administrators, as well as clergy and LLMs. Each session will involve sharing information and knowledge with a short presentation and will include plenty of time for you to ask questions. If you have any questions, please

contact [Julie Podd.](#)

- Maintenance work and the importance of engaging appropriate contractors led by Pat Forero, The Architect Studio | Wednesday 20 November at 7.30pm | [Book here to receive the Zoom link.](#)
- Church boundary disputes, faculty jurisdiction and uses of churches and churchyards for commercial purposes led by Kevin Wilson, Diocesan Registrar | Wednesday 27 November at 7.30pm | [Book here to receive the Zoom link.](#)

Big Issues: The Edmund Lectures 2024

20 November, 7.00pm - 8.30pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

A series of lectures by internationally-renowned experts on big issues that challenge our lives as we continue to navigate the 21st century. Lectures are free to attend; all information and booking is available [here](#).

Light Up a Life

Starting 24 November, 3.00pm

To view the full list of dates and locations for these events please [click here](#).

You are invited to have the names of your loved ones read out at an event arranged by St Nicholas Hospice. The Light Up a Life events are free and open to all, not just those whose loved ones were cared for by St Nic's. They offer a meaningful way to come together as a community during the festive season and take a moment of reflection, with music and readings. To submit a name please visit their [website here](#), and to view the full list of dates and locations for these events please [click here](#).

White Ribbon Day launch event

Monday 25 November 2024, 10.30am

Online and in person - Church House, Westminster, London SW1P 3NZ

Do you want to prevent violence against women and girls? Are you looking for guidance about what you can do as an individual? You are warmly invited to attend the launch of the National Church Institutions' White Ribbon campaign. Led by a keynote speaker from the Christian Charity *Restored* on ending domestic violence against women, an expert panel will discuss key issues in the domestic violence space and how you can help make a difference. **Join online:** Sign up [here](#) to watch a livestream using Zoom. Use the password **NCI2024!** **Join in person:** Register to join the event in London [here](#). Use the password **NCI2024!**

Chaplaincy Gathering

Tuesday 26 November, 10.00am - 3.30pm

St Nicholas Centre, Ipswich IP1 1UQ

This day is for chaplains across all sectors and is an opportunity to network with others. There will be input from Ceri Bryant, Occupational Health and Wellbeing manager for Sizewell C, and some of our diocesan team. A sandwich lunch will be included. No parking is available at St Nicholas Centre - please use local car parks. To register, please [click here](#).

Eco Church Support

Tuesday 26 November 6.00pm - 7.00pm by Zoom

Join Robert Skelton (Ely Cathedral - Eco Church Gold Award) and Polly Eaton (A Rocha Eco Church - Eco Diocese Officer) for an informal session for people to chat about Eco Church Awards. Share success, obstacles and challenges you may be experiencing, seek support and support others. Please register [here](#) to receive a Zoom link (this will be emailed out prior to the session).

Advent for All

Tuesdays 26 November, 3 December, 10 December and 17 December at 7.00pm by Zoom

The Diocesan Spirituality Group invites you to a four-session Advent series delving into the riches of John 1: vs 1-18. Come and reflect on how the eternal Word made flesh makes all the difference to our lives. Each session will include prayer, some input and some discussion. To join online, please email elmswellrector@gmail.com to receive the Zoom link.

Theological Refreshment in Ministry: Spirituality and Art

High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, Herts
25 – 26 November

Join this short residential retreat, open to lay, commissioned and ordained ministers: priests, local pastors, preachers, Elders, Readers and LLMs from the Eastern region. This year the Revd Canon Sharron Coburn and the Revd Mother Ali Miller will lead on the theme of Spirituality and Art: *Connecting with our Creator God and our creative selves*. The cost of the conference is £120 per person. CMD grants can be used. To register [please click here](#). For more information, please email [Lesley Steed](mailto:Lesley.Steed).

Active Imagination and the Mystical Life Webinar

Saturday 30 November, 2.00pm to 5.30pm, Online

Led by the Revd Canon Dr Earl Collins, CMD Officer, Diocese of Chichester and based on lectures on Ignatius' *Spiritual Exercises* given by Jung in 1939-40, Earl Collins's talk explores the fundamental importance, for both Ignatius and Jung, of the experiential aspects of religion. This talk will be of interest to those involved in spiritual direction and accompanying. For further information and to book please [click here](#).

Christmas Fair

Saturday 7 December, 10.00am - 12.30pm
St John the Baptist, Felixstowe IP11 7PW

Come along to a Christmas Fair with plenty of stalls from local craft makers - find a variety of gifts for your friends and family. Entrance costs £3 and includes tea/coffee and a delicious homemade cake or savoury item. Children go free. Proceeds will be going towards a much needed upgrade of the lighting at St John's.

Waking the Women

Tuesday 7 January, 7.00pm - 8.30pm by Zoom

Women over the age of 40 are by far the biggest and the most active demographic in the Church of England. But while a huge proportion of any given congregation will likely have experienced menopause, it still remains largely unacknowledged, unspoken and unaddressed. Join Jayne who will be discussing her book *Waking the Women*, the menopause and the church with the Diocesan Advisor for Women's Ministry, the Revd Ali Miller, on Zoom. All are welcome to come and join the discussion. [Click here to register](#).

Youthscape Essentials

Earl Stonham Village Hall, Stowmarket IP14 5HJ

Tuesdays 14 January, 21 January, 28 January, 4 February, 11 February, 25 February, 4

March, 11 March, 18 March and 25 March 2025, 7.30pm - 9.15pm

Youthscape Essentials training is for all youth workers, youth ministers and youth helpers! Led by skilled practitioners using discussion, videos, skills practice, young people's insights and much more, to gain a foundational understanding into the lives of young people and how we can disciple them to know and love Jesus. Cost of the course is £10, including the course handbook. To sign up and find out more, please [click here](#).

Connect Family Ministry Course

The Woolpit Institute, Woolpit IP30 9QH

Saturdays 18 January, 22 February, 29 March, 24 May, 21 June and 19 July

In this course, we look at what families look like in the Bible and how the early church ministered to families. We then look at child development, learning and spiritual styles, discipleship, intergenerational worship, schools ministry and how we walk with families through life's key transitions. This course is perfect for anyone already doing some children or family ministry who wishes to consolidate their learning, access new resources and join a network of like-minded people who share their enthusiasm for this ministry. Please sign up [here](#).

The Only Way is Ethics

Earl Stonham Village Hall, Stowmarket IP14 5HJ

Tuesdays 21 January, 28 January, 4 February 2025, 11 February 2025, 25 February 2025 and 4 March 2025, 7.30pm - 9.30pm

The Christian Ethics module is a six-session course which explores the history of ethical thought and also everyday issues and moral questions from capitalism to the environment. Led by the Revd Rachel Revely, the course aims to further develop moral thinking, appreciation and judgment that is appropriate within the context of Christian teaching and pastoral ministry, and Christian living. [Book here](#).

Enhancing Pastoral Ministry

Earl Stonham Village Hall, Stowmarket IP14 5HJ

Wednesdays 22 January, 29 January, 5 February, 12 February, 26 February and 5 March 2025. Registration and coffee at 7.00pm, sessions 7.30 – 9.30pm

Enhancing Pastoral Ministry is a six-session course for people who are involved in anyway in pastoral care (for example, Readers, Lay Elders, clergy, pastoral visitors) as well as those interested in a deeper understanding of this ministry. The course is open to all and is free of charge. For more information on the course, please contact Lesley Steed at lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org, and to book onto the course please [click here](#).

Exploring the Old Testament

Earl Stonham Village Hall, Stowmarket IP14 5HJ

Wednesdays 22 January, 29 January, 5 February, 12 February, 26 February, 5 March and 12 March 2025. Registration and coffee at 7.00pm, sessions 7.30 – 9.30pm

In many of our churches, where the weekly service may be some form of the Eucharist, the Old Testament nowadays is never read. And even where it is, it is often ignored. But it

is the larger part of the Bible and has far more to say than the New Testament about things like the life cycle (birth, marriage, death), sickness and health, daily work, the environment, social justice, and so on. In other words, it relates to life as we know it on a day-by-day basis. Of course, there are some challenging bits which need also to be confronted in an honest manner, but they should not deflect us from the riches of what was, after all, Jesus's Bible. (Where did he get the first and great commandment ... and the second is like, namely this...?) In this short course, Hugh Williamson will try to open our eyes to some of this wealth by surveying in an engaging manner all the different types of material in the Old Testament, very much with an eye on how we can apply it in our own times in both church and society. To book your place on this course please [click here](#).

The Big Weekend

Friday 11 April, 11.00am - Sunday 13 April 4.00pm
Sizewell Hall, Leiston IP16 4TX

The Big Weekend is organised by the Church of England here in St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, and run by experienced youth workers from around Suffolk. It's a weekend of craziness, worship, games and friendship all focused around learning more about living as a Christian in the C21st. The event is for young people from school years 7-13. Whilst it is Christian in ethos and focus you don't have to call yourself a Christian to be able to attend and have fun! Cost of the weekend is £60. [Book here](#).

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

Earl Stonham Village Hall, Stowmarket IP14 5HJ
Wednesdays 30 April, 7 May, 14 May, 28 May, 4 June, 11 June and 18 June, 7.30pm - 9.30pm

This course looks at the beginnings of what became Christianity, in the writings of the New Testament, and explores their narrative features. Led by the Revd Canon John Parr, Approaching the New Testament takes a story-shaped approach to the heart of Christian faith. To book your place please [click here](#).

Building a Generous Church conference

Saturday 17 May, 9.30am
Bridge Community Church, 68 Queen's Road, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3EW

We invite you to join Archdeacons David and Rich; Gary Peverley, Diocesan Secretary; Diocesan staff and others to be inspired by 12 keynote speakers focusing on compassionate communities and the impact on our society, and how to put generosity at the heart of our lives. Help your church become more informed and better resourced to grow a generous culture and reach financial sustainability. Bishop Graeme will open the conference. All those who are part of the Church of England Suffolk community are welcome. For more information and to book please click [here](#).

Rural Mission and Ministry Course

Royal Agricultural University, Gloucestershire GL7 6JS
Tuesday 20 May - Wednesday 21 May 2025

The Rural Mission and Ministry Course is designed for lay and ordained church leaders across the denominations entering a rural appointment, and those already in rural ministry

who feel the need for a 'refresher'. The two-day programme employs a variety of approaches including practical sessions, group work and workshops led by practitioners, and includes sessions on understanding rural contexts, mission and growth, leadership, farming and work with children and young people in the countryside. The course costs £300. [Book here](#).

Save the Date- Growing in God in the Countryside

22-23 September 2025 | St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Join us for a National Rural Mission Conference to explore and share key learning about this context from the last decade of initiatives. This event will bring together senior leaders, pioneers, rural resource church leaders and other partners. We will share learnings from Suffolk and other Strategic Development Funded (SDF) projects across rural England. There will be opportunities to connect with others and explore new opportunities to make and grow disciples in the countryside. Email [Suzie Wall](#) or phone: 07729 854510

Notices

Dwelling in the Word: The new passage for Dwelling in Word to be used from Advent and through 2025 is Philippians 3:13-21. Please click [here](#) for the full text.

Lent study: 'United Beyond Borders' from USPG is now available and could form an interesting Lent study or a short course for a home group. USPG attended the recent World Mission Conference and gave a presentation on refugees and asylum seekers. The booklet has five case studies from around the world, each opening with a reflection followed by a bible passage and some questions. You can see the booklet online at [here](#) as a pdf, please email [Carol Miller](#) at USPG for further copies.

Vacancies

[Associate Leader of the Lightwave Community](#) | Closing date: 17 November

[Archdeacon of Ipswich](#) | Closing date: 20 November

[Diocesan Growing Younger Project Support](#) | Closing date: 22 November

[Team Rector](#) | Wilford Peninsula Team Ministry | Closing date: 25 November

[Associate Minister for Mission with Children, Families and Young People](#) | St Margaret's Church, Ipswich | Closing date: 29 November

[Precentor](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral | Closing date: 6 December

[Part time Associate Priest](#) | Carlford Benefice

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

[Part-time Youth Worker](#) | Brandon | Please email enquiry@stpetersbrandon.co.uk

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