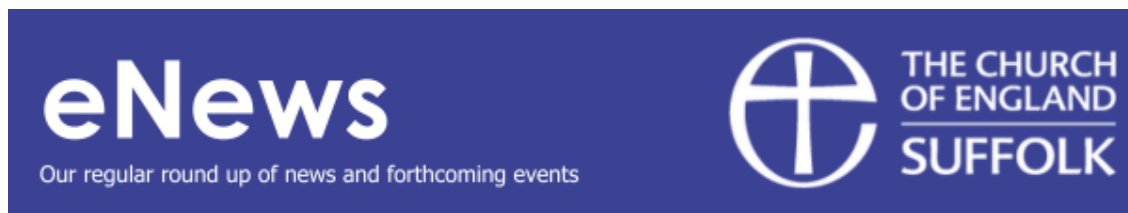


Thursday 24 October 2024



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...*"

Throughout Advent, there will be a focus primarily on how to find **Calm** during this busy period, with reflections offering people a chance to pause during the busy season and tips on how to prepare for a calm

Christmas. Then through Christmas, the focus will be on **Bright**, with a series of daily reflections from Christmas Day to the Eve of Epiphany (5 January) by Sammi Tooze, Discipleship Adviser for the Diocese of York, both in digital form and as a full-colour booklet to share locally. Resources include:

- Booklets, prayer cards and family resources
- Logos and design guidelines
- Regular webinars tailored for Advent and Christmas, blogs, how-to videos, and a Digital Planner to help you create and organise your church's digital content
- Christmas episodes from the Cheeky Pandas
- Get downloadable resources including digital Christmas card templates, social media covers and templates, poster templates, and PowerPoint templates from [AChurchNearYou.com](https://www.achurchnearyou.com) (login required)
- A directory of resources for use at home, church and school

Don't forget to tag your Christmas events on A Church Near You!

Find out all you need [here](#).

The UN Biodiversity Conference (COP16) is being held in Colombia (21 October - 1 November) and the UN Climate Change conference (COP29), is being held this year in Azerbaijan (30 November to 12 December). How can you get involved?

Jo Chamberlain, National Environment Officer at the Church of England, said: "*Climate change and big international conferences like this can be hard for any of us to get our heads round. People can also feel slightly helpless and unsure of how they can contribute from home but there are many ways we can all do our bit. As Christians we can pray, and we can share our concerns with our local MP and also raise awareness through our churches. This handy guide offers lots of useful tips on the best ways to ensure your voice is heard at this international climate event.*"

Read the short guide [here](#).

GIVE TO GO GREEN

Give to Go Green: is a national church match-funding campaign to help you double your locally raised donations. Funding is available for churches and church halls/rooms that want to carry out small to medium-sized projects that will reduce their carbon footprint. Match funding is available up to £10,000, or 50% of your project costs, whichever is lower.

The first phase of Give to Go Green fundraising started on Sunday 1 September and will finish on Sunday 15 December 2024. A number of our churches have taken part already including St Mary's Church in East Bergholt, who are raising funds to reduce the draughts coming from the two main church doors by fixing rails and hanging heavy, fire-retardant curtains in the porch and in the West End meeting room. St Peter & St Paul Church in Pettistree is also fundraising (see advert below!) to support their project to create a dry, warm and welcoming space for the use of the whole village.

We are now entering phase two of Give to Go Green, and the application pack and how to apply details for Phase Two will be released on 21 October 2024. The key dates are:

- Applications close: 16 March 2025
- Application assessment: 31 March 2025
- Churches notified: 7 April 2025
- Fundraising period: 17 May - 28 September 2025

All the details are on our website [here](#). The campaign team is holding two introduction and information webinars, please click the relevant date to register: [Tuesday 12 November](#) at 7.00pm or [Wednesday 13 November](#) at 12.30pm. If you need further support please email our Net Zero Carbon Officer, James Rolls, at james.rolls@cofesuffolk.org.



A message from Bishop Rhiannon: A huge thank you to the deanery of Ipswich and the whole diocese for your very kind send off, well-wishes and for your very generous gift. The pectoral cross (worn near the heart) was presented to me by the Archbishop of Canterbury at the consecration service at Canterbury Cathedral on the 18 October and I love it! It was designed by the jeweller, Gabriella Lane, and is a 'crux gemmata' (cross of gems) which speaks both of the beauty of the resurrection (represented by the gems) and of the suffering of Christ (represented by the cruciform shape) and how the two always need to be seen together just as the events of Easter Sunday and Good Friday need to be held

together. On the back of the cross is the inscription 'God forgives you' which will be a constant reminder of the power of the cross and God's offer of forgiveness to all.

I have dearly loved my time in Suffolk and will always remember Ipswich in particular with enormous fondness. With love and prayers, Rhiannon

Events

Banana Blush | Friday 25 October at 7.30pm
St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

A very special performance of Sir John Betjemen's Banana Blush! Broadcaster and writer Zeb Soanes will bring the much-loved verse to life alongside the dazzling virtuosity of the Chris Warner Ensemble. Set to the delightful toe-tapping score by Jim Parker, four times winner of the BAFTA for Best Original Television Music, this event is not to be missed! Get tickets now [here](#).

Give to Go Green events
St Peter & St Paul Church, Pettistree IP13 0HR

Pettistree Church has a separate building in its grounds, built as a Church Room in 1891 and used as the Sunday School. It had some restoration work done in 1982 and in 2023 the roof was re-felted and laid. The Give to Go Green project is to create a dry, warm and welcoming space for the use of the whole village as a meeting and social space. The building requires floor, wall and ceiling insulation, the windows repaired, efficient heating, a new kitchen and improved disabled access. The church and village community welcome you to attend these fundraising events

The Delightful Companions | Sunday 27 October 4.00pm: Listen to four highly accomplished musicians who will perform music from the 17th and 18th centuries on recorder, harpsichord and Baroque cello.

Life, Glamour and Art | Sunday 10 November 4.00pm: An illustrated talk on the life of Doris and Anna Zinkeisen. These talented, vivacious, stylish and sassy women were the toast of London's society during the 1920s and 30s.

Wildlife Talk | Wednesday 13 November 7.30pm: A talk on wildlife by Darren Tansley from Essex Wildlife Trust - to be held in Pettistree Village Hall IP13 0FA

Vice-Consul, Customs, Cannabis and Cocaine | Saturday 16 November 4.00pm: a humorous talk titled 'Vice-Consul, Customs, Cannabis and Cocaine' with Mr Jim Jarvie OBE, retired Head of Operations of the Central UK Border Force, also to be held at Pettistree Village Hall IP13 0FA.

Big Issues: The Edmund Lectures 2024 | Wednesday 30 October and 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](#).

All Souls' Day Requiem Mass
Saturday 2 November 11.00am
St John the Evangelist, St John's Street, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1SP

Join the Revd Rob Parker-McGee and the Revd Dr Andrew Miller for this Solemn Requiem Mass. To add names to the list of those to be remembered at the mass, please contact 07771 593403 or email adrian.mann@btinternet.com. All are welcome, and the service will be followed by refreshments.

Stats for Mission: How and why to complete the form

Wednesday 6 November 12.00pm by Zoom

Are you responsible for filling out your church's annual Stats for Mission form? Have you ever wondered why you need to do this, or how to answer some of the questions? Join Dr Ken Eames, Senior Statistical Research Officer, and Emma Buchan, Head of Churches and Networks Support, for insights on the following:

- Recommendations on the best way to approach the questions.
- Who uses the data collected?
- What is data used for?
- Why is it important to both the national Church and churches across the country?

This webinar will include a Q&A session. [Register by clicking on this link](#). If you can't attend live you can submit your question in advance using this form [here](#).

Clergy, lay ministers and ministers in training day

Saturday 9 November, 9.00am, sessions begin at 9.30am
Framlingham College, Framlingham IP13 9EY

An invitation from Bishop Martin: "*This day is for Clergy, all lay ministers and ministers in training, and is an opportunity for us all to be together to celebrate the ministry in which we share before I retire!*". A lunch will be provided. Instructions for parking will be sent to those registered nearer the time but we have been asked to reduce the number of cars by sharing lifts! Could you get a group together from your church? Enquiries to Sarah Brown on 01473 252829 or sarah.brown@cofesuffolk.org. To book this event you will need to be registered on Insight. Once registered you will be able to see the event booking [here](#), to book please click on register button on the left hand side and follow the booking instructions. If you have any problems using Insight please email lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org for more help.

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](#).

- Parochial Visitations led by Archdeacon David | Tuesday, 12 November 2024 at 7.30pm | [Book here](#)
- Maintenance work and the importance of engaging appropriate contractors led by Pat Forero, The Architect Studio | Wednesday 20 November at 7.30pm | [Book here](#)
- 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](#)

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. Flooded! will allow us to reflect on our world today with the climate emergency and migration so often making headlines. Tickets and more information are available [here](#).

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 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).

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*. These couple of days will be a chance to reflect theologically on how art – in all the ways we understand that term - helps us connect with God; to explore our reactions to various artistic media and the notion of what art is; and perhaps to have a go ourselves at some form of creative endeavour. The cost of the conference is £120 per person, which will cover all conference costs, including an en-suite room and all meals. To register for a place, [please click on this link](#). For more information, please contact Lesley Steed at lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org or telephone 01473 298510.

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, over six Saturdays, 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](#).

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, 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](#).

Notices

Vacancies

[Liturgy and Music Administrator](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral | Closing date: 4 November
[Rector](#) | Bungay Benefice | Closing date: 6 November
[Children and Families Missional Worker](#) | Holy Trinity Ipswich | Closing date: 7 November

[Children's and Families' Worker](#) | Sudbury | Closing date: 8 November
[Associate Leader of the Lightwave Community](#) | Closing date: 17 November
[Part time Associate Priest](#) | Carlford Benefice | Closing date: TBC
[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

Police Chaplain for Bury St Edmunds We are seeking one or two ministers, lay or ordained to serve as volunteer chaplains at Bury St Edmunds police station. The post involves being a pastoral presence and support to officers and staff. Training and induction is provided by Suffolk police and you will be part of a team that serves across the constabulary. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Archdeacon Rich archdeacon.rich@cofesuffolk.org

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