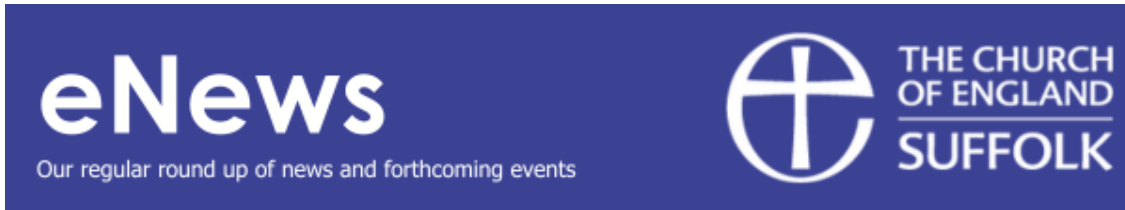


**Thursday 29 August 2024**



**Recently ordained Suffolk curate says role is 'greatest job in the world'**



The Revd Rob Allinson - the new curate at the Benefice of Martlesham with Brightwell Benefice, has just completed his first six weeks in the role – and says it's 'the greatest job in the world'.

Rob, who was ordained in June, is settling into his new role in the clergy, having previously worked as an insurance broker.

The Benefice represents three churches - St Michael and All Angels in Martlesham Heath, St Mary the Virgin in Martlesham and St John the Baptist in Brightwell.

Rob, a father-of-three and husband of Emma, says he loves his new role and the opportunities it brings to talk about Jesus and to make a difference in the community. *"One of the big lessons I have learned in my first few weeks is getting used to being ready to be approached - to be available" he said. "It's a useful part of the job, wearing the dog collar, as many people know instantly what it represents. Although, on the odd occasion I've worn it to the supermarket, you can't help but feel yourself being looked at a lot more. Many people will want to come and talk to you, often about nothing specific but sometimes about some pretty deep stuff. Sometimes it's chit-chat, other times it will be about things they are really struggling with".* Read the full story on our website [here](#).

**HMP Highpoint**



**From Darkness to Light:** The two prisons at HMP Highpoint held a wonderful art exhibition - From Darkness to Light - for two weeks. The paintings were displayed in the Chapels when the Revds Mark Osborne and Wendy Norris held memorial services for Deputy Governor Nicola Thurston and to remember the loved ones of prisoners from across the two prisons.

**The Knife Angel competition:** The prisons also hosted a Knife Angel Art competition - the Knife Angel is a giant 27 foot sculpture made from over 100,000 seized blades and the exhibit travels across the country. It is coming to Haverhill in September to promote anti-

knife crime. There were over 30 submissions including a poem about regret after taking a life, and the artist Michael Pollington judged the competition. The Chaplaincy also hosted a speaker event, where a family who lost a teenager to knife crime bravely spoke to the prisoners about how their lives have been changed forever.

**Could prison ministry be for you?** HMP Highpoint in West Suffolk is hiring 1.5 full-time equivalent roles to expand the team. They are looking for Readers or clergy to work on a full or part-time basis. Job link [here](#). Alternatively, chaplains often start out as volunteers and if you would like to help out with worship music, Bible classes or a Living with Loss course as a volunteer instead please also get in touch with the Revd [Wendy Norris](#), managing chaplain, for an informal chat or to arrange a visit. If you would like to support their prison's ministry, there is an Amazon wish list of items needed [here](#). Please pray for this recruitment process and the chaplains' ministry.

### Getting ready for Christmas



The Church of England's theme for Advent and Christmas 2024 is Follow the Star: Calm and Bright, drawing on the beloved carol, *Silent Night*. Further information is available at [cofe.io/CalmAndBright](https://cofe.io/CalmAndBright).

Please sign up to attend the *Follow the Star: Calm and Bright* webinar on Wednesday 4 September at 3.00pm, to learn about the resources available to help you plan services, events and online content. [Find out more and register](#). Or, learn how your church can engage with children and young people this Christmas on Saturday 17 September at 11.00am. [Find out more and register](#).

### Events

#### Building a Generous Church Conference

Saturday 28 September

Bridge Community Church, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3EW



Join Bishop Mike, Gary Peverley and Archdeacon Rich at this year's conference to hear inspiring speakers, network with other clergy, treasurers, churchwardens and PCC members. Listen to our keynote speakers talk about how to live a generous life and build a church

with generosity at its heart, hear about compassionate communities and their role and impact in civil society and find out about a new resource inspired by the story of Mary anointing Jesus's feet. Workshops include:

- Starting a Gifts in Wills campaign
- How the Parish Giving Scheme can help

- The 'Porcupine Principle' and other fundraising secrets
- Explaining Parish Share to your PCC and congregation
- Getting the most out of digital giving in your parish
- Running a Stewardship Campaign
- Navigating grants and funding
- How to run 'Generosity Fika'
- How a Friends Group can help spread the load
- How to plan a finance strategy
- Let's discuss banking and accounting
- Giving in a Fresh Expression of Church or a small group

A light lunch is included. To book your free place, please visit

Insight: [insight.cofesuffolk.org/building-a-generous-church-conference](https://insight.cofesuffolk.org/building-a-generous-church-conference) or email [Julie Podd](mailto:Julie.Podd) for more information.

### **Lark Rise Retreats: Exploring the Story of Ruth**

Thursday 5 September, 10.00am - 4.00pm

St Nicholas's 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 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](mailto:suffolkinprayer@gmail.com).

### **Farming Community Breakfast**

Saturday 7 September, 9.00am - 10.30am

Barrow Village Hall, IP29 5AN

For all who work the land - whether arable or livestock. Enjoy a complimentary full English breakfast as a thank you for all the hard work on the land you do and to give thanks to God's wonderful creation. To be joined by Archdeacon David, Archdeacon Sally, Graham Miles, alongside various members of clergy. We hope you can join us! Please RSVP to the Revd Lynda Sebbage: 01284 811280 or [revlyndasebbage@gmail.com](mailto:revlyndasebbage@gmail.com) by 30 August.

### **St John's Church Coffee Morning and More**

Saturday 7 September 10.00am

St John's Church, Orwell Road, Felixstowe IP11 7PW

Everyone is invited to this eventful coffee morning, with craft stalls, tombola, raffle, bric a brac sales and more. Entry costs £3 and includes tea or coffee and a cake. Proceeds to go to Felixstowe Friends of St Elizabeth Hospice.

### **Annual Ecumenical Pilgrimage Walk: Our Lady of Grace of Ipswich**

Sunday 8 September, 3.00pm  
St Peter-at-the-Quay (by the Waterfront), Ipswich IP4 1BF

All are invited to join this pilgrimage walk with Bishop Peter Collins. The walk follows Wolsey's original route and ends at St Mary Elms, the home of the modern shrine. It lasts about an hour and is followed by tea at the Elms.

### **Accession Day Evensong**

Sunday 8 September 2024 at 3.30pm  
St Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich IP1 3BE

The Vicar and Churchwardens of St Mary-le-Tower, together with the Trustees of The Prayer Book Society, invite you to join them for a special Choral Evensong to mark His Majesty's Accession Day. Preacher: The Rev Dr Stephen Hampton, Dean of Peterhouse. Drinks reception after the service.

### **Living Hope**

13 - 15 September  
St Augustine's Church, Ipswich IP3 8TH

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.

### **Permission to Preach**

Course training dates for 2024-25 are on Saturdays, 10.00am to 1.00pm, 14 September 2024 | 14 December 2024 | 1 March 2025 | 12 July 2025

The Church of England ensures that all those who preach in public with its authorisation are appropriately discerned, trained and supported with ongoing reviews. Clergy and Readers are trained at a high level to national standards to enable this ministry, and in addition, a bishop can give permission to preach for those who are under the authorisation of the Incumbent and have the support of the congregation via the PCC. If you have a commissioned role such as Elder or licensed ministry such as Evangelist, Pioneer, Children's & Families' Minister or Youth Minister you can gain authorisation to preach (up to six times a year) for three years. For the full details about the discernment process and requirements please visit our website [here](#). To apply and for more information, please contact your Incumbent or email [lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org).

### **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 vintage and classic car 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](#).

### **Behind the Scenes at 'Time Team'**

Saturday 14 September, 7.30pm

Hitcham Church IP7 7NN

After working on the Sutton Hoo excavations from 1987 to 1991, Helen Geake now works as an Anglo Saxon and early-medieval finds adviser to the Portable Antiquities Scheme in East Anglia, a post she has held for 25 years. Since 2005 she has been with 'Time Team' alongside Tony Robinson, working both as an expert and as a presenter, and has been closely involved in the recent re-boot of this popular tv series. Helen has also appeared in *Britain's Secret Treasures*, presented by another Time Team veteran, Bettany Hughes. Helen is going to talk about her work with 'Time Team' and how people, objects, ideas and raw materials moved around early-medieval Western Europe showing how human imagination has always been inspired by remarkable objects. The event is being held in aid of Hitcham church funds. Tickets cost £7.50 on the door or at Hitcham Post Office. For more information contact [RNFCurrie@gmail.com](mailto:RNFCurrie@gmail.com).

### **Give to Go Green Events**

St Mary's Church in East Bergholt is taking part in the Give to Go Green programme as they seek to raise funds specifically to help save money on heating costs, which last year totalled over £2,000. The church is organising a series of events in to fundraise for six weeks, and any donations raised during the campaign will be match-funded by the Church of England:

**Saturday 7 September at 7.00am**, Men's breakfast, tickets £6. Join us for bacon butties, tea and coffee and listen to our speaker Malcolm Lawson, Secretary of Hadleigh Men's Shed, about the community initiative helping to combat loneliness.

**Saturday 14 September at 7.00pm**, Classical guitar and accompaniment, tickets £10. Come along and listen to Tim Pells, a well-known local classical guitarist and composer, playing music by Vivaldi, Purcell and Bach and more. He will be joined by celebrity friends!

**Saturday 21 September at 7.00pm**, Da Capo singers, tickets £10. The theme for the evening will be Dreams, and expect some community singing!

**Saturday 28 September at 7.00pm**, tickets £6. Join Francis Franks for a demonstration of the range of music offered by ringing handbells, and there may also be the opportunity to have a go.

**Saturday 5 October at 7.00pm**, Brass and Ivories, tickets £10. Finally, back by popular demand, join Tia Eagle and Joel Cooper who have played at and for St Mary's on a number of previous occasions. Miss them at your peril!

To reserve your tickets please email: [stmarysebfundraising@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysebfundraising@gmail.com). Payment will be

taken on the door. If you would like to financially support the initiative but are unable to attend the events, please contact Jackie Reeves 01206 299973 or Fiona Trott 01206 298205.

### **Being Anglican**

16 September, 6 January and 7 April, 7.30pm - 9.30pm - by Zoom

Join us to explore the essential aspects of Anglicanism together in an informal learning style. This six-session course will be delivered partly on Zoom and also in-person as we visit places of particular Anglican interest on 12 October, 18 January and 5 April, 10.00am - 4.00pm This course will be particularly valuable if you would like to explore your rich Anglican heritage. The sessions are free of charge and all are welcome, please book through our [website here](#).

### **Lessons from Noah - the First Conservationist**

Sunday 22 September, 3.00pm

Foxearth Meadows Nature Reserve - what3words: charm.dragonfly.townhouse

Come along to this open air service featuring speaker Professor James Pearce-Higgins, Science Director for the British Trust for Ornithology. To be followed by refreshments, please bring along a chair and a mug. For more information please contact Sarah on [sarah.leadham@arocha.org](mailto:sarah.leadham@arocha.org) | 07810 141234

### **Renewing Hope in Smaller Churches**

Saturday 28 September 2024, 10.00am – 4.00pm

St Peter's, Cringleford, Norwich NR4 6UE

This day is aimed particularly at leaders and worshippers in smaller local churches (typically 15-55 worshippers on a regular Sunday). We will encounter God afresh, renewing our confidence in the inextinguishable power of biblical hope. We will also have time to worship, to reflect, and to wrestle together with the practicalities of living hopefully in our own little local and 'ordinary' churches. For further information and to book a ticket please [click here](#).

You can also sign up to find out more about their ministry and upcoming events at [www.resourcingrenewal.org](http://www.resourcingrenewal.org).

### **Enhancing Worship**

Wednesdays 2, 9, 16 and 23 October and 6 and 13 November 2024 , starting 7.30pm

Earl Stonham Village Hall, Forward Green IP14 5HJ

A six-session course to deepen your understanding of worship that will encourage you to live out your faith in everyday life. No matter what your tradition or preferred style of worship, this course offers an opportunity to learn from each other and the different strands of our Anglican Community. The course applies to both existing and new worshipping communities, Charismatic, Catholic, Choral and Contemporary, we are all part of the rich tapestry we offer as we express our devotion to God in different ways, young and old alike! Guest speakers will include:

1. Gail and Stephen Southgate of Pilgrims Together, members of the Iona Community and part of Lightwave
2. Andrew Gosden, who leads a contemporary worship band and sings in a four-part choir
3. Richard Hubbard, Director of InHarmony
4. Stuart Batten, Diocesan Director of Ordinands.

This course is free of charge and aimed at Readers in training, Elders, AOP trainees and everyone else! All welcome and booking is available through our [website here](#).

### **County Harvest Festival**

Sunday 6 October, 11.30am, service starts 2.00pm  
Trinity Park, Suffolk Show Ground, 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](mailto: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](#).

### **Healing & Wholeness – Developing and Deepening Ministry where you are**

Saturday 19 October, 9.30am  
Salvation Army Hall, Violet Hill Road, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

A workshop for lay and ordained ministers to develop or deepen the ministry of healing and wholeness in their parishes (organised by the Diocesan Healing & Wholeness Group) Featuring keynote speaker The Revd Dr Gillian Straine, CEO of the Guild of Healing & St Raphael. Admission is by donation of a minimum of £5 at the door, please do [register 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.

## Events held in St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

### **Farewell Evensong for the Revd Canon Philip Banks**

Sunday, 8 September at 3.30pm

Please do join us at the Cathedral for the farewell Evensong service for Philip. This service is a chance to say goodbye and give him a heartfelt and joyful send off before he moves to take up his post at St Paul's Cathedral. There will be refreshments following Evensong so please do let us know if you're coming along by completing an RSVP via this [Google form](#).

### **Heritage Open Days**

Step into history and explore the Ancient Library on Fridays 6 and 13 and Saturdays 7 and 14 September at various times. Discover the wonders of the treasured collection and delve into the stories behind the books with knowledgeable Library Guides. Various 30-minute sessions are available but spaces are limited so please book [here](#).

Discover the Norman Tower on Saturday 7 September at various times. Find out information about the bells and hear about the art of bellringing, including a demonstration! There are timed visits lasting 45 minutes. Spaces are limited so please book [here](#). There will also be opportunity to 'drop in' on Thursday 12 September between 2.00pm – 5.00pm (no booking required).

Twilight Talks about the Cathedral's tower and stained glass. Light refreshments are included in the tour price. Thursday 19 September, Horry Parsons will share 'More Stories from the Tower' and on Thursday 28 September, Pippa Blackall will share 'How to Make a Stained Glass Window'. Book for these talks [here](#).

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

Thursday 12 September 2024 beginning with Mass at 11.00am

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. Price: £10 for two courses, wine and coffee. Please RSVP by email [cormack246@gmail.com](mailto:cormack246@gmail.com) or call Michael Wilde on 01284 767415.

### **Bishop Mike's Final Service**

Sunday 29 September, 3.30pm

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.

### **Big Issues: The Edmund Lectures 2024**

Wednesday 9 and 30 October and Wednesday 30 November, 7.00pm - 8.30pm

A series of lectures by internationally renowned experts on big issues that challenge our lives as we continue to navigate the 21st century. Dr Ed Kessler will explore the tensions, positive as well as negative, between religion and civil society, both in the UK and around the world. Mark Russell will address the number of British children living in poverty and how we contribute to a society which cares for our children and young people better; and Professor Rachel Warren will discuss how climate science can help us to think about our planet and how we can safeguard its future. Lectures are free to attend but please book a space [here](#).

### **Banana Blush**

Friday 25 October at 7.30pm

We are very lucky to be welcoming a very special performance in its Golden Anniversary year, 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! A unique blend of wit and charm, with a deep appreciation for the English landscape and its history, Betjemen's work remains beloved by countless readers. Get tickets now [here](#).

### **Festival of Remembrance | Long Melford Silver Band**

Friday 8 November at 7.30pm

St Peter and St Paul's Church, Clare CO10 8PB

Long Melford Silver Band, together with The Military Wives Choir Wimbish present a Festival of Remembrance in St Peter & St Pauls Church in Clare. Come and join us for an evening of music to pay tribute and remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. To book, please [click 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](#).

### **Faith Tour of North India**

4 - 18 March 2025

Open to all and will take place from the 4 to the 18 March 2025. It will visit Delhi, Amritsar, Dharamshala, Varanasi, Sarnath, Agra and Mathura – where we will spend time visiting Christian, Muslim, Bahai, Hindu, Buddhist, and Sikh, holy sites and spend time with the local communities there. For additional information or to book a place please [click here](#).

### **Parish Visits from the Dean**

The Dean's 2025 diary is now open for Parish Visit requests. Dean Joe would very much like to preach and/or preside at churches across the Diocese, particularly those he has not yet had the pleasure of visiting yet. For further information or to request a visit, please contact his PA Erin at [deanspa@stedscathedral.org](mailto:deanspa@stedscathedral.org) or 01284 748722.

### **Notices**

**Insight reminder:** Insight is the new learning and resource tool developed by the diocese and we are excited to invite you to visit [insight.cofesuffolk.org](https://insight.cofesuffolk.org) and start exploring the content available. The purpose of Insight is to make finding interesting courses, events and resources that are relevant to you, as easy as possible. We have created a handy leaflet to help you register for Insight and start to set up your personalised preferences - download it [here](#). If you have any technical support questions, please contact [insightsupport@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:insightsupport@cofesuffolk.org).

### **Vacancies**

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

[Chaplain](#) | HMP Highpoint | Closing date: 9 September

[Rector](#) | Horringer Benefice | Closing date: 11 September

[Diocesan Safeguarding Trainer and Training Coordinator](#) | Closing date: 13 September

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

[Historic Church Building Support Officer \(HCBSO\)](#) | Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich | Closing date: 22 September

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

[Priest in Charge](#) | Wickham Market and Pettistree cum Loudham | Closing date: 15 October

[Rector](#) | South Hartismere Benefice | Closing date: 23 October

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

time) and internships | Ipswich  
[Gap Year opportunities](#) | St Mary's, Haverhill

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