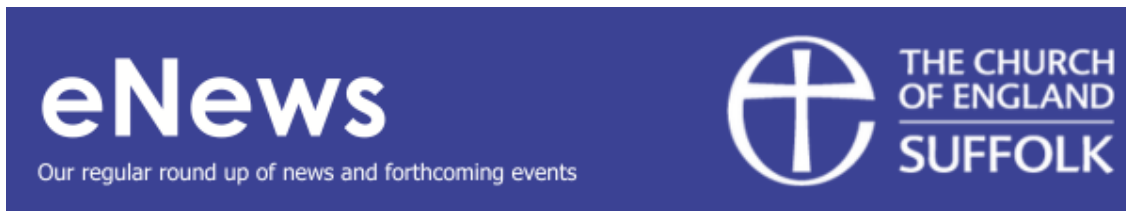


**Thursday 7 November 2024**



### **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](#). The team has just released 'Unwrap the Digital Planner', the digital asset generator, and you can read about the planner and [download it here](#). You can also [watch the webinar presentation](#) where you can dive into the planner and see content ideas for what to post. Or you can join a Christmas theme webinar including:

**Using Instagram for your church** Wednesday 13 November, 3.00pm - 4.00pm

**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](mailto:emma.denton@cofesuffolk.org) or call 01473 298556.



**Supporting Christian Aid this Christmas:** this year Christian Aid is focusing especially on the situation in South Sudan and sharing stories from refugees, many thousands of whom cross the border from Sudan, seeking refuge from the war there. With food shortages, high prices, a lack of clean water and poor sanitation, daily life is an enormous challenge. Could you get involved by taking part in carol concerts and holding collections during Advent services for Christian Aid. Take the opportunity to make paper doves to hang in windows and on Christmas trees as an act of solidarity to demonstrate a call for world leaders to do more to encourage peacebuilding. There's a link here to the template if you feel people would like to join us in this action - [Dove template](#). If you pop a photo of the dove on social media please tag @ChristianAid in the post. More information here: [caid.org.uk](http://caid.org.uk)

**Christingle 2024:** Christingle is a joyful celebration that brings families and communities together to share the light of Jesus and spread a message of hope. Fundraising for the



Children's Society at your Christingle celebration has never been easier. Every pound you collect helps young people build a brighter future as the Children's Society provides specialist support that empowers young people to make positive changes and rediscover their hope. Find out

more [here](#).

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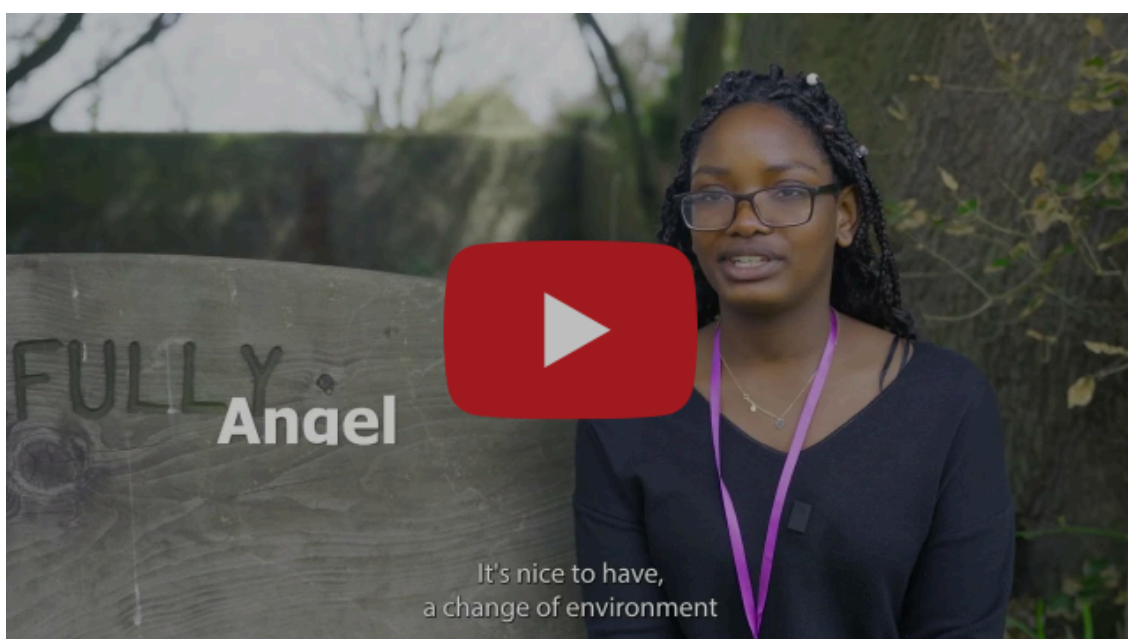
### **Inter-faith Week - w/c 11 November**

Suffolk is much more diverse a county than many people think, not least when it comes to religious beliefs. During Inter-Faith Week (11-17 November), the Diocesan social media will host a daily profiles of people of different faiths in Suffolk, introducing its followers to members of different local faith communities. During a particular time of year when inter-faith dialogue and opportunities for deeper understanding between people of faith is encouraged, we hope that this small initiative will act as a catalyst for the building of relationships between the Church of England and other faith communities locally. If you would like to find out more about different faith communities local to your parish or benefice, please email the Revd Tom Mumford, Diocesan Interfaith Adviser, at [vicar@stmaryletower.org](mailto:vicar@stmaryletower.org)

### **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](#).



## 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 these fundraising events:

**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.

### 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 3 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.](#)

### 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

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. Join us to reflect on our world today with the climate emergency and migration so often making headlines. 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

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. [Sign up here](#).

### **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

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 NCIs 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

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](mailto: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*. 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 ensuite room and all meals. CMD grants can be used to cover the cost. To register for a place, [please click on this link](#). For more information, please contact Lesley Steed at [lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org) or telephone 01473 298510.

### **Active Imagination and the Mystical Life Webinar**

Saturday 30 November, 2.00pm to 5.30pm

Online

The talk will be given by the Revd Canon Dr Earl Collins, CMD Officer, Diocese of Chichester. 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 clergy and lay people, and particularly to those involved in spiritual direction and accompanying. For further information and to book please [click here](#).

### **Waking the Women**

Tuesday 7 January, 7.00pm - 8.30pm

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, 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](#).

### **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](mailto: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](#).

### **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](#).

### **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](#).

## **Notices**

**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. We are now entering Phase Two of Give to Go Green, and the application pack and how to apply details for Phase Two were released on 21 October 2024. 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](mailto:james.rolls@cofesuffolk.org).

**Grants to help you kickstart a Net Zero project in your church:** Churches looking to reduce their carbon emissions can now apply for a 'Quick Wins' grant to help launch a small project. Grants of up to £5,000 can be applied for to help fund small-scale decarbonisation projects such as new LED lighting, pew heaters, insulation or updating electricity supplies. Contact our Net Zero Carbon Officer James Rolls at [james.rolls@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:james.rolls@cofesuffolk.org) for more details. Apply on our [website here](#).

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**Minor Repairs Grants:** The Church of England has a Buildings for Mission initiative and recently provided funds to our Diocese. The funds will focus on small-scale but urgent works and 'stitch in time' projects that could save larger sums in the long-term. The fund will also be able to help cover the cost of essential improvements for the mission and ministry of a church. Full information on the grants programme, key dates, eligibility, how to apply and the application form are all available on our website [here](#).

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**Growth Fund:** The Diocesan Growth Fund is also still open for applications in 2024. We are keen to support missional projects that focus on Growing Younger or Growing in Number, projects that would not happen without the support of this grant. Our next meeting is on 10 December. All details for the fund are on our website [here](#).

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**Grant opportunities for Parish Churches:** The Ouseley Church Music Trust's grants support the Anglican choral tradition. Applicants must clearly demonstrate how they will advance choral excellence in worship. For more information on the grant, please visit their [website here](#).

## Vacancies

[Children's and Families' Worker](#) | Sudbury | Closing date: 8 November

[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

[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](mailto: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](mailto:archdeacon.rich@cofesuffolk.org)

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# Watch our stories from around Suffolk



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