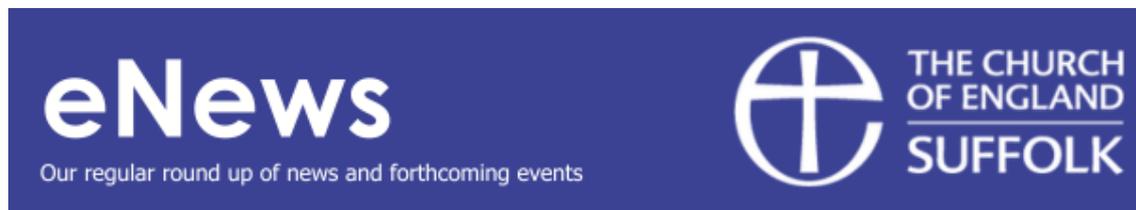


Thursday 11 April 2024



St Margaret's Church in Leiston celebrated Easter with a sheep trail



The trail started on Saturday 23 March and lasted until Saturday 30 March. The church family were delighted that 25 shops and businesses agreed to host a St Margaret's sheep and the result caused much smiling every time a sheep was spotted grazing in a shop window! Trail sheets were sent out through the local school as well as social media. All completed trail sheets earned a prize. On the Saturday, the group set up next to the CoOp car park to provide prizes for completed trail sheets, with the first 20 receiving a knitted sheep (kindly knitted by Jean), and all subsequent entries winning chocolate. The people of Leiston were also gifted wooden Easter Eggs with the Easter Message attached and invited to tie a prayer ribbon or thread a daffodil

onto a wooden cross. The finished Easter cross was then taken into St Margaret's Church ready for the celebration service on Easter Sunday. As part of the activities in Leiston on the Saturday, over 80 people asked to be prayed for. Following a blessing of the Local Community Easter Cross, all names were read aloud and held in prayer by the church family on the Sunday.

The Easter sheep trail was part of a project called 'Antioch Gatherings' which began in July 2023 with a group of people gathering to focus on worship and prayer in St Margaret's Church, focused on how God might be inviting the church family to join in with His mission in the local community. They now meet regularly to pray, drink tea and coffee together and share chocolate biscuits and ideas! The group have delivered spider plants with prayer sticks and a welcome from the church family of St Margaret of Antioch to the new residents on the nearby Buckton estate. They have also supported 'Project40Seven' with their Leiston Christmas Extravaganza which included a special St Margaret's Angel Trail around the High Street, where carols were sung and over 100 wooden angels carrying the Christmas story with a message of love from the church family were gifted to the shops, businesses and those who attended the event. The next festival event is 'Dragonfest' which will look to celebrate St Margaret the Patron Saint of the Church. Legend has it she was swallowed whole by a dragon! All are welcome to join the Antioch Gatherings.

Find out more by emailing the Revd Richard Finch [here](#) or Gail Southgate, Suffolk Centre of Mission, [here](#).

Growing Younger Prayer meetings



You are invited to join the new Growing Younger prayer group where you would be very welcome to join us in a weekly prayer meeting from 9.15am to 9.45am to pray for children, young people, families, paid and volunteer workers, teachers, schools and churches. Please email [here](#) for the Zoom link.

Work out your church's carbon footprint to help care for God's creation!



The Church of England's Energy Footprint Tool is now open for churches to enter fuel and power use from 2023. You can access the tool through the Parish Returns portal [here](#). The data collected from the tool will help your church understand its carbon footprint and will mean you may be eligible for grants to help kickstart your net zero projects.

If you need any help with the tool, please contact our Net Zero Carbon Officer at james.rolls@cofesuffolk.org who will be happy to assist you. This work is an essential part of caring for God's Creation, by helping to combat global heating and climate change. Find out more about the tool [here](#).

Growth Fund opportunities

The Growing in God Growth fund can provide money to help your church engage creatively in sharing faith in word and deed, and as a result grow the church younger and in number. The exciting thing is you can apply for up to £1,500 in a year to support an outward-facing initiative to develop your church's mission to the wider community. Applying is easy and the application form can be completed in moments. All the information, eligibility and the application form are on our website [here](#).

Last year, St Peter and St Paul Church in Lavenham benefitted from £500 towards their summer holiday club. A gallant team of volunteers led the Scripture Union Ancorra Treasure Seekers Holiday Club for local children, taking place from 10.00am until 1.30pm each day. A group of 23 primary school-aged children were in attendance and each day consisted of a bible story, crafts, songs, parachute games, ball games, a relay race bucket and water games in the park, and finally lunch was served to all the children before they left. Find out more [here](#).

Events

'Leading your Church into Growth' (LyCiG for short) is coming to Suffolk!

Friday 5 July 2024, 6.00pm to 9.30pm | Saturday 6 July 2024, 8.30am to 2.00pm

Sunday 7 July 2024, 2.15pm to 5.45pm
Debenham Community Centre IP4 6BL



SAVE THE DATES

Friday 5 July 2024, 4.00pm to 9.30pm
Saturday 6 July 2024, 8.30am to 2.00pm
Sunday 7 July 2024, 2.15pm to 5.45pm
Debenham Community Centre IP4 6BL

We are excited to let you know 'Leading your Church into Growth' (LyCiG for short) is coming to Suffolk!

LyCiG has been blessing the wider Church for over 25 years and we know from many other dioceses that participating can make a real difference to local churches. We, your Archdeacons and the LyCiG team look forward to seeing you there!



We are excited to let you know about an opportunity coming up this summer. 'Leading your Church into Growth' (LyCiG for short) is coming to Suffolk! A free conference offering practical help to partner with God to grow your church(es), to inspire church leaders and encourage you to feel that, in your own way, at your own pace, and with God's help you can do it! LyCiG will equip you with a straightforward and workable strategy to enable you to create (or finesse) and implement a

Growing in God plan for growth.

More information has been sent directly to your Incumbent and Churchwarden. Further information is available here: <https://lycig-2024.eventbrite.co.uk> or email lycig@cofesuffolk.org

Celebration and Thanksgiving for the Ministry of Churchwardens

Sunday 5 May, 3.30pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS



A service of celebration and thanksgiving for the ministry of churchwardens. Bishop Martin writes;

"I am delighted we are able to hold a service of celebration and thanksgiving for churchwardens, recognising the vital role they play in the life and ministry of the Church throughout the Diocese. I am conscious that so much of the work undertaken by churchwardens often goes on behind the scenes so this will be a wonderful opportunity to express our gratitude on behalf of the people and parishes of Suffolk. I really hope everyone will be able to join us at the

Cathedral." Further information will be sent to churchwardens and clergy in due course.

Annual Arts Programme

All Saints' Room, All Saints' Church, Newmarket CB8 8ES

Saturday 13 April, 10.00am-12.00pm

'By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken: for dust you are and to dust you will return' (Genesis 3:19). 'For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord' (Romans 6:23). Having lost Eden we now as a people face death – the result and conclusion of sin. Perhaps this is one reason why we find death so difficult – we were made to be eternal. Today we will be making graveyard prints – go out and sketch the graveyard then using polystyrene and paint one-colour prints. No booking is required for these events, more information is available [here](#).

Loes Deanery hosts the Parish Resources Team

Wednesday 17 April 7.00pm

Brandeston Village Hall IP13 7AE

The Revd Gary Best is kindly hosting a presentation by the Parish Resources Team who will be talking about how to build a generous culture and the benefits of the Parish Giving Scheme, Digital Giving, Gifts in Wills, Grants & Funding and more. This is an open meeting, and all are welcome to attend, whether treasurers, members of PCCs, churchwardens or anyone else wishing to learn more to benefit their church. Please book by emailing stpeterscretingham@gmail.com as it would be helpful to know numbers.

Vocations Sunday | Vocations Fair

Sunday 21 April, 1.30 – 3.00pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

We believe all are called to serve God according to their given gifts, talents and context. Every Christian has a vocation, and it is the task of all those serving in ministry to help identify and nurture the gifts and callings of every member of the Church. Vocations Sunday is a wonderful time to encourage individuals to consider what God might be calling them to. There is a bank of resources available [here](#), or come along to our Vocations Fair and visit the many stalls representing our ministries for an informal chat to find the right ministry for you: Chaplaincy, Children and Families, Church Army, Elders, Pioneers, Evangelists, Lightwave Leaders, Mothers' Union, ordained ministers, PCC Officers, Readers, Recognised Local Leaders, School Foundation Governors, Spiritual Directors and Youth Ministers are all included!

Virtute et Valor - The Bohemian Choir

Monday 22 April, 7.00pm

St Mary's Church, Halesworth IP19 8LL

Come along to a concert celebrating stories and music from the ancient kings of Bohemia. Prepared by Jana Konvalinková and Christopher Muffett. Jana writes: *"Dear friends and supporters in England, We look forward to seeing you at Halesworth Church. It seems very interesting to us and we were surprised by how strong and dramatic the stories we found. We never thought we would be treated to such powerful, such bold stories. Stories of bravery and patriotism that do not stop in the face of persecution, humiliate and still defend the Czech land. We are working diligently on the entire programme, and we believe that our programme will interest you and touch your hearts."*

Bishops' Teaching Morning: Priesthood in the Church of England

Saturday 27 April, 9.30am - 12.30pm

Salvation Army Hall, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

Bishop Martin and Bishop Mike will be joined by the Very Revd Mandy Ford, Dean of Bristol Cathedral, as they discuss the history and understanding of the church over the past 30 years and how women and men can flourish. This morning will also celebrate and reflect on 30 years of women in priesthood in our own diocese and the CofE more widely. For more information and to book, please [click here](#).

Digital Giving

Tuesday 30 April 1.00pm: online

Join the Parish Resources Team as they share why digital giving is so important for all churches to enable your generous congregation and wider community to give easily to your church. They will show you how to set up online giving campaigns using 'Give A Little' and 'Sum Up' or 'Stripe' (payment providers) and how to share the online link and



QR codes on your A Church Near You Page and/or your website as well as using it on pew sheets, posters and in parish magazines. They will also show you some donation device options for those churches with WiFi, churches that have good mobile SIM coverage inside their church, and for those who need an off-line device, including different pricing options. There will be time to ask questions and to see the CollecTin devices that we can lend out to you on trial. Sign up [here](#)

Doctrine

Tuesdays starting 30 April 2024, 7.00pm to 9.00pm
Bishop's House, 4 Park Road, Ipswich IP1 3ST

A six-session course led by Bishop Mike unpacking the Apostles' Creed so we can apply this to our own lives, understand our faith better and be able to articulate the faith to others helpfully. Subjects include God (including as the Trinity); Jesus; The Cross; Resurrection; Holy Spirit and Eternal Life. Bishop Mike will provide notes beforehand so most of the sessions can be spent in conversation, Q & A and going more deeply into areas participants want to explore further. For more information please [click here](#).

Music for a Cathedral Year: Choral Concert

Thursday 2 May, 6.30pm
St Mary Magdalene Church, Bildeston IP7 7EE

Join the St Edmundsbury Cathedral Girl Choristers and Adult Choir for an evening of uplifting music celebrating the Cathedral Year. This will be a memorable event, with music from the Tudor period up to the present day, including special arrangements by the Cathedral Director of Music, Timothy Parsons. Followed by canapés and champagne prepared by The Bildeston Crown, sponsored by Mauldons Brewery. Book [here](#).

Now I See: Exploring Prayer and creativity

Saturday 4 May, 9.30am - 12.30pm
St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

How do we broaden our vision to find deeper awareness and richer prayer? Join us for workshops on icons, photography and art with contributors: Sr Annette Lawrence, the Revd Wendy Gourlay, Canon John Parr, Canon Andrew Vessey and Bishop John Roundhill. For more information and to book, please [click here](#).

Hope for Creation: Community Concert

Saturday 4 May 7.00pm
St Andrew's Church, Rushmere, Ipswich IP5 1DH

In conjunction with Richard Hubbard and the SATB choir, St Andrew's youth team offer a lively presentation of musical items, dramatic interludes and readings on the theme of creation. Expect some audience participation. No charge and no need to book, just come and enjoy. For more information, please [click here](#)

Introduction to Online Giving

Friday 8 May, 3.00pm – 4.00pm

Take the first steps in setting up online giving for your church, including QR codes, web campaigns, accessing reports, and gift aid data. This webinar is helpful for newcomers to online giving, and also provides an opportunity for others to ask questions and think about how to optimise their online giving. Please [book here](#).

T h a n k f u ! : a service of remembrance and celebration

Sunday 12 May, 3.30pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS



A special service of remembrance for all who have received care from St Nicholas Hospice during the past 40 years. It is also an opportunity to celebrate those who have made this possible and a unique time to thank everyone involved in building their legacy. Everyone is welcome to attend - if you would like to join us, you must reserve your seat(s) by 26 April. The easiest way to do this is via a form on our website which can be [found here](#). Alternatively, you can contact Supporter

Care on 01284 715566.

Run with Joy: Benedictine Wisdom for Contemporary Living

Starting May 14, Tuesdays at 5.00pm by Zoom

We have limited spaces available on our new experiential and participatory group Zoom sessions. Run with Joy: Benedictine Wisdom for Contemporary Living will be led by The Revd Catherine Forsdike and The Revd Canon Matthew Vernon on Tuesdays at 5.00pm for 90 mins on 14, 21, 28 May and 4, 18, 25 June. If you'd like to join the six-week course, please [book here](#).

Deanery Drop in Sessions

Tuesday 23 April – Thomas Clarkson Centre, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3JT

Wednesday 15 May - St Augustine's Community Hub, Ipswich IP3 8TH

And others!



We are offering you support to help you achieve your Plan for Growth. The following [drop-ins](#) are around the diocese to give you a chance to get the help you need, this is an exciting opportunity to meet the various teams from the Diocesan office who are there to offer advice on Children's and Families' Ministry, Youth Ministry, Giving, Grants, Discipleship, Communications, Vocations

or anything else you'd like to ask – a real opportunity for us to have conversations and help people. For a full listing of the drop-in dates please click [here](#). Drop-in sessions coming up are all: 3.00pm - 5.00pm: book [here](#) or 6.00pm - 8.00pm: book [here](#).

PCC Workshop – Gifts in Wills

15 May, 12.00pm online

Emma Denton (Diocesan Giving Advisor) will be joined by Helen Simpkins (Head of Fundraising, Church of England) to help you learn how to set up a Gifts in Wills policy and promote Gifts in Wills in your parish. They will share new resources, explain access to free online wills through Farewill and help you to start the conversation around Gifts in Wills in your parish. This is supported by the Parish Resources Team. Please book [here](#).

Sacred Goddess: Concert of English Choral Music

Saturday 18 May, 7.30pm

Holy Trinity Church, Long Melford

Excalibur Voices, under the direction of Duncan Aspden, will perform classical choral music, alternating songs of religious allegory with songs of deities and mythical figures, by some of the finest English composers of their time. Music by Vaughan Williams, Elgar, Howells, Holst, Stanford and more. Tickets £15, £10 or £8 and are free for under-18s, available at bit.ly/ExV-May24

Catching the Fire

Sunday 19 May, 3.15pm to 5.30pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Catching the Fire is an annual County-wide celebration of God's mission in Suffolk facilitated by the Lightwave Community. It is part of the annual season of prayer 'Thy Kingdom Come' and the Great Suffolk Prayer Walk. It enables prayer and gives encouragement and commissioning for mission across the county. Join us for a rich service of worship at the cathedral on Pentecost Sunday. It's for all ages and culminates in a live link to youth groups across the country and saying the Lord's prayer together. Please sign up [here](#).

Lark Rise Retreat Days 2024

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

Upcoming events include:

- Friday 7 June | Celtic, green and godly | The Revd Dr John Bell.
- Friday 7 June | Using imagination to unlock scripture | The Revd Dr John Bell.
- Saturday 8 June | Come and sing workshop | The Revd Dr John Bell.

To book, please visit larkriseretreats.org.uk or call 01394 284213.

Understanding Connectivity

Thursday 13 June, 11.00am – 12.00pm, By Zoom [Book here](#).

Find out about the connectivity options available to your church - from WiFi to 4G - how to get your contactless devices connected, and what to do if you have no connectivity at all. We will be going through the connectivity options in relation to digital giving and how it can be optimised to make it easier in your church.

Clergy Retreat - Led by Bishop Martin

7 - 11 October 2024

St Andrew's Abbey, Zevenkerken-Brugge, Belgium

The best kept secret in the Diocese! Since 1960 when there was a formal link with Brugge a group of hardy clergy have braved the sea and weather to travel to the Abbey to spend time with the wonderful brothers at St Andrew's Abbey. Speakers in the past have spoken on a range of subjects from World Mission, The Psalms, and more. There are approximately 15 spaces available and you can come with spouses/partners. For more details or to book please contact the Revd David H Messer on 01964 563987 | davidharrymesser93@gmail.com.

Notices

Safeguarding survey: Anyone with an interest in safeguarding in the Church of England is invited to share their views in this online survey to offer reaction to the recommendations made in the [Jay \(Future of Church Safeguarding - FoCS\) Report](#). The purpose of this survey is to gather reactions to the recommendations made in the FoCS Report, which will inform the Wilkinson/Jay Response Group. You will be asked to draw attention to any strengths and limitations of these recommendations, as well as whether you think they will make the Church safer. Your response to this survey is important as the results will help to gather a national picture and steer future engagement. The survey should take no longer than 20 minutes to complete. To take part please click [here](#).

Energy assessment: www.groundwork.org.uk are offering an opportunity to have an independent energy assessment (iea) which could lead to a capital grant through the VCSE Energy Efficiency Scheme. Religious buildings primarily used for worship are ineligible, but religious buildings primarily used to deliver services to the community regardless of faith are eligible. Find out more information [here](#).

Vacancies

[Director of Development](#) (with specific responsibility for Bishop-led projects) | Closing date: Friday 12 April at 5.00pm

[Chaplain](#) | Launde Abbey | Closing date: 17 April

[Church Buildings Support Officer](#) | Closing date: 29 April

[Diocesan Schools' Adviser](#) | Closing date: 29 April

[Priest in Charge & Archdeaconry Mission Enabler](#) | Sproughton, Burstall, Copdock with Washbrook, Belstead | Closing date: 28 May

[Rector](#) | Bacton Benefice | Closing date: 17 June

[Priest in Charge](#) | Upper Alde Benefice

[Rector](#) | Walton and Trimley

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

[New Opportunities in Ipswich](#) | Inspiring Ipswich

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