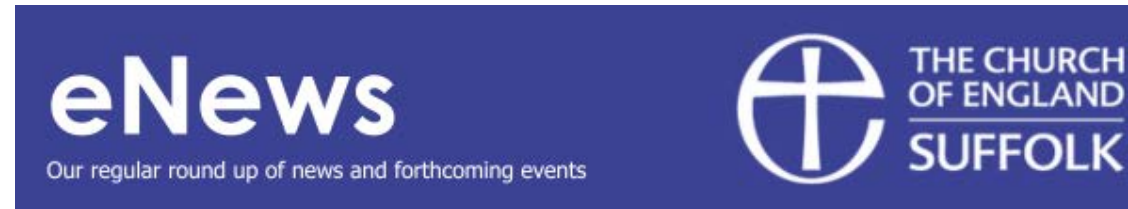


## Thursday 11 January 2024



The Yard project at St Edmundsbury Cathedral is celebrating after being awarded £10,000 in National Lottery funding to support its work with young people.

The Yard is an area of the Cathedral that was previously left overgrown. It has been redeveloped as part of a social action project for young people. The project's aim is to create a dedicated place for young people in the Cathedral gardens and a space they can make their own.

The Yard has been designed to offer a safe space where young people can come and spend time, learn new skills, meet new friends and improve their mental health, wellbeing and resilience.

The new funding from The National Lottery Community Fund, which distributes money raised by National Lottery players for good causes and is the largest community funder in the UK, will allow for the project to continue to offer sessions for young people in need.

Read the full story [here](#) or please [click here](#) to learn more about the lottery funding.

**Parish Visits 2024:** St Edmundsbury Cathedral is delighted to invite you to book for a Parish Visit this year. Parish Visits provide an opportunity to enjoy a reflective pilgrimage of the Cathedral and to experience the Cathedral Choir at Choral Evensong, followed by tea and cakes in the Cathedral Centre where you will meet with members of the Cathedral's community, clergy, and Friends of the Cathedral. Please be aware that spaces are limited and we usually have more waiting parishes than available Sundays so we will maintain a waiting list where necessary and allocate visits accordingly. Dates will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis. A reminder that the maximum number of people we can accommodate for a visit is 30. For more details of the programme, [click here](#). To book a date, please contact Naomi Sturges by email at [liturgy.admin@stedscathedral.org](mailto:liturgy.admin@stedscathedral.org).



**Plough Sunday and Tractor Run at Bures:** St Mary's Church, Bures held a Plough Sunday service and tractor run last Sunday. The event was organised by Val Sayer and Tallon Avery, who were delighted that 19 tractors took part. During the service the old hand plough was blessed and prayers were said for our farming community and the agricultural year ahead. It was fantastic to see so many tractors and this will hopefully become an annual event!

## Events

### **Paradise Lost – Eden to where we are now - Annual Arts Programme**

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

Monthly on Saturdays, 10.00am-12.00pm

*Saturday 13 January 'God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning – the sixth day'. (Genesis 1:31). Humans find things*

incredibly difficult to make, and they take time. In contrast, God speaks each thing into existence. We will be pencil sketching objects that God created in Eden, they were good. Materials needed: paper, pencils, sharpeners, rubbers, clipboards or cardboard and a smartphone or camera if you want to take a photo!

### **Youth Work Essentials training course**

First session Tuesday 16 January, 7.15pm - 9.15pm  
Earl Stonham Village Hall, Forward Green IP14 5HJ



This is an innovative new course for volunteer youth leaders led by Matt Levett, the Diocesan Youth & Young Adults Enabler, to increase your skills and confidence about working alongside young people. It consists of a 10-session basic level course designed by Youthscape and aimed at helping equip churches and train people in starting out in youth ministry. Book [here](#).

### **True Freedom**

Thursday 18 January, 1.00pm by Zoom.

Join this webinar to find out about True Freedom, a new Lent resource produced with the World Council of Churches and the Clewer Initiative. Offering a six-week course for Lent, it draws on themes from the book of Galatians, and encourages individuals and churches to respond to modern slavery in their communities. The campaign includes resources, prayers, stories and action points. To book the webinar click [here](#). To find out more click [here](#).

### **Deanery Drop-In Sessions**

Join members of 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. Our next Drop In Sessions are on:

**Zoom** | Tuesday 23 January | 3.00pm to 5.00pm: book [here](#) or 6.00pm – 8.00pm: book [here](#)

**Thomas Clarkson Centre, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3JT** | Tuesday 6 February



| 3.00pm to 5.00pm: book [here](#) or 6.00pm – 8.00pm:  
book [here](#)

### **St Augustine's Community Hub, Ipswich IP3 8TH**

| Monday 13 May | 3.00pm to 5.00pm: book [here](#) or  
6.00pm - 8.00pm: book [here](#).

### **So What About the Old Testament?**

Wednesdays starting 24 January 2024, refreshments  
from 7.00pm, sessions 7.30 - 9.30pm

Earl Stonham Village Hall, Forward Green IP14 5HJ

In this short course, Hugh Williamson will try to open our eyes to the different types of material in the Old Testament, with an eye on how we can apply it in our own times in both church and society. The course is open to all and is free of charge. For course dates, more information and to book please click [here](#).

### **How to tap into unrestricted funding for your church in 2024**

Wednesday 24 January, 7.00pm-7.30pm on Zoom

Come along to this informal session to find out your church can benefit from unrestricted funding in 2024.

The Community Fundraising Manager, Becky Coleman from Easyfundraising will talk through how your church community can use the [www.easyfundraising.com](http://www.easyfundraising.com) platform to raise donations for your church when they shop with thousands of popular retailers. Please register at: <http://tinyurl.com/33mchyez>

### **Lightwave Small Group Leader training - in person**

Wednesdays starting 31 January 2024, 7.15pm - 9.15pm  
13 Spring Park, Chapel Road, IP6 9NX

Join this course for Lightwave group leaders and helpers. Lightwave groups do life together - worship, serve, learn from the Bible, pray and help new people to find faith too. This six-session course takes place in person and ideally, you will need to complete all six sessions. Come prepared to learn, to laugh, to pray and be both supported and

challenged. This course is free of charge. For further information please contact [nina.seaman@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:nina.seaman@cofesuffolk.org).

### **Lay Elder training and social morning**

Saturday 3 February 2024, 9:30 AM

Salvation Army Hall, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

This Lay Elders event was postponed as a result of the storms in October - we are delighted that we have been able to set a new date with the same guest speakers. The Ven Rich Henderson, Archdeacon of Suffolk, will give a keynote address, and bookings are being taken for either pastoral or liturgical workshops led by Karen Gardner and the Revd Canon Sharon Potter. After the morning's training we will share some social time while we eat our lunches - cake will be provided! For more details and to register for your free place, please click [here](#).

### **How to make your toddler group more missional**

Saturday 24 February, 2.00pm

Salvation Army Hall, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

An opportunity for anyone involved in toddler group ministry to explore ways to make your sessions more intentionally missional. You'll hear from those who are already doing this well and also explore resources and strategies which can help you. There will also be time to share your own ideas, hopes and frustrations, plus a chance to pray for one another. Refreshments will be provided. [Book here](#).

### **A Greener Lifestyle**

Monday 26 February, 7.30pm

Museum Street Methodist Church, 17 Black Horse Lane, Ipswich IP1 2EF

Come along for this interesting talk by James Pearce-Higgins, from EcoChurch. The event is ecumenical, presented by Museum St Methodist Church and St Mary Elms. For further information email [Nicholas Jardine](mailto:Nicholas.Jardine).

### **Lark Rise Retreat Days 2024**

Lark Rise Retreats provide a space and time for people to relax with God. Upcoming events all held in Felixstowe include:

- Thursday 29 February | An Introduction to Franciscan spirituality | The Revd Canon Andrew Dotchin.
- Thursday 14 or alternatively Saturday 16 March | The women who sat at Jesus' feet | The Revd Catherine Bond.
- Thursday 4 or alternatively Saturday 6 April | Exploring the resurrection appearances of Jesus | The Revd Penny Brinkley.
- 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.

Please visit their website [here](#) for more details and to book.

### **Walk the Way of the Cross with the Blyth Valley Churches this Easter!**

This spring, the churches of the Blyth Valley are giving you the opportunity to visit the Holy Land without leaving Suffolk! Across their 14 churches they are presenting an exhibition of original paintings by nationally acclaimed, local, religious artist Iain McKillop. These Stations of The Cross focus the attention of visitors on the last known movements of Jesus, among them: his mock trial, him meeting women in the crowds and his execution.

The Blyth Valley Stations of the Cross 2024 will open with Bishop Mike leading a full set of reflections for a seated congregation at All Saints, Blyford, at 7.30pm on Friday 15 March. The Queen's Head, Blyford, will be open afterwards so people may stay and buy refreshments. A copy of each of the images will be prayerfully presented in each of the fourteen churches of the benefices for the following week. From 7.30pm on Friday 22 March, the artist Iain McKillop will talk about his creative encounters with the Stations concept. Again, refreshments may be purchased at the Queen's Head afterwards.

On Saturday 23 March, Team Rector Dominic Doble and colleagues will lead a pilgrimage presenting a short contemplation at each parish church in the benefices.

All churches will be open during daylight hours. There is no charge for any of these events. However, our church committees are grateful for your generosity towards maintaining the parochial ministry that underpins events such as this.

## **Gather: The Big Weekend 2024**

Friday 12 April 2024 6.00pm to Sunday 14 April 4.00pm

Sizewell Hall, Leiston IP16 4TX



A weekend of craziness, worship, games and friendship all focused around learning more about living as a Christian in the C21st. The Big Weekend is organised by the Church of England in St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, and run by experienced youth workers from around Suffolk. Offering young people from school years 7-13 the chance to explore

faith and have fun! Book [here](#).

## **Doctrine**

Tuesdays starting 30 April 2024, 7.00pm to 9.00pm

Venue to be announced

A six-session course 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](#)

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

Starts 1 May 2024 7.00pm to 9.30pm

Earl Stonham Village Hall, Forward Green IP14 5HJ

This course looks at the beginnings of what became Christianity in the writings of the New Testament, and explores their narrative features. The course is open to all and free of charge. Please book [here](#).

## **Notices**

### **Statistics for Mission**

Thank you to all parishes who have already submitted their Statistics for Mission forms. Completing the Annual Statistics for Mission Return has benefits for Parishes, Deaneries, the Diocese, and the National Church. Statistical information gives a great repository of data enabling analysis of trends in growth or areas of decline, and enables resources to be prioritised accordingly. The National Church deadline is 31 January 2024. Returns should be submitted via the [Online Parish Returns System](#). If you require log-in details or any other assistance with the online portal, please contact [statistics@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:statistics@cofesuffolk.org). Further help can be viewed on our website here: [Stats for Mission Help](#).

**Church Magazines:** the search is on for Britain's best church magazine. Entries are now invited for the annual competition run by the Association for Church Editors (ACE). Entries for the 2024 competition close on Tuesday 2 April. Please visit: [www.churchmag.uk](http://www.churchmag.uk) for all the details.

**Libraries public consultation:** Please participate in this consultation which will inform the tender specification for the new provider of library services from June 2025. In particular, please include in the comments section any ways in which your church might like to partner with library services in future. For example, you could say that you would like mobile library services to visit your community to coincide with a regular coffee morning or offer space and volunteers for a pop-up library or ask if you could hold an event in a library building. You can fill the questionnaire [here](#), or request printed copies for your congregation by calling 0345 603 1842. The consultation ends on Friday 26 January 2024. If you would like support with a current mission opportunity with your local library or other partner, Lightwave may be able to help.  
Email [lightwave.community@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:lightwave.community@cofesuffolk.org)



**Give A Little – Free Premium Membership Continues for 2024:** The National Giving Team and Give A Little have agreed to renew the group licence for Premium membership, giving Parish Buying members access to the Premium version of Give A Little for free during 2024. The paperwork for the agreement is currently being finalised, but churches won't experience any disruption using Give A Little Premium, which will continue automatically into next year without charge. No action is required from individual account holders. If you want to find out more about contactless



donation devices or online giving with QR codes please visit our website [here](#) or email [Emma Denton](#) or tel: 01473 298556.

**www.AChurchNearYou.co.uk (ACNY):** This website is a significant web signpost to your church, attracting 70 million page hits per year and it the first port of call for many looking to explore faith. This offers an amazing opportunity for you to reach out to people in their community and welcome them to the church. The ACNY team have just released new guidance and support and the full presentation is available here: [Church of England guide](#).

### **Vacancies**

[Director of Engagement](#) | Closing Date: 19 January

[Insight Technical Support \(Temporary part-time\)](#) | Closing date: 29 January

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

[Team Vicar](#) | The Forest Heath Team Benefice | Closing date: 2 February

[Priest in Charge](#) | Wickham Market & Pettistree | Closing date: 6 February

[Chaplain and Leader of Youth Orientated Congregation](#) | Debenham High School | Closing date: 8 February

[Rector](#) | Walton and Trimley | Closing date: 11 February

[Priest in Charge & Archdeaconry Mission Enabler](#) | Sproughton, Burstall, Copdock with Washbrook | Closing date: 13 February

[Rector](#) | The Benefice of Badwell Ash & Walsham-le-Willows | Closing date: 19 February

[Director of Music](#) | Woodbridge

River Church, Ipswich are recruiting various posts - all details at:

[riverchurchipswich.org/vacancies](http://riverchurchipswich.org/vacancies)

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

**[Click here to print and share with others](#)**

**The Bishops  
of Suffolk**



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