

Thursday 13 October 2022

Growing in God

We pray that for the time ahead we will be able to care for those in great need in our communities and make the necessary provision for those who lead us in our worship and our service. We are therefore asking, as we have done once before, to pray this prayer in every service until All Saints' Sunday, 30 October.

Loving God,
you are always with us,
and give us all we need to be your church in Suffolk.
In these challenging times, as we respond in loving
action to those in great need,
help us, we pray, to give as we have received:
abundantly, generously, and joyfully,
that our worship and our service
may bear witness to your Kingdom of unfailing love.
In the name of your Son who gave himself for us,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



DS Diary with Gavin Bultitude

On Saturday 2 October my wife and I went to the Harvest Celebration at the Suffolk Showground. We met the famous Suffolk Trinity, ate some delicious food, chatted with old and new friends, and got closer to a combine harvester than I have ever been before. Even town dwellers like me and Eileen know we rely on the farmers for what we eat and drink, and so we need to thank them for their work, and also to thank God for the harvest, for his goodness, and for his provision for us.



But as we do this it's also important to remember that there are many in our communities who may find it hard to thank God for his provision when they are struggling without. There are many for whom 'heat or eat' is already a terrible choice they will have to make, and it will get worse this winter for them as even with a cap on energy costs, rising inflation and huge rises in fuel prices means they will face real hardship. And let's remember over a quarter of homes in Suffolk are heated by oil where there is, as of yet, no price cap.

As a Church we need to respond to this, and many churches are already doing so. We know well Christ's call 'to love one another' and in so many ways that love already manifests in service to our neighbours: toddler groups, food pantries, helpful neighbour schemes, companionship through coffee mornings, knitting groups, debt advice and compassionate listening. The list is endless and there is already a network of people and communities working across the Diocese to support others through the ups and downs of life. In showing hospitality to strangers, we entertain angels without knowing it [Hebrews 13.2]

The cost-of-living crisis brings with it challenges and opportunities – we pledge to do what we can and where necessary to work with others whose knowledge is more specialised than our own. We cannot solve a problem this big on our own, but we do need to do what we can. To help you do this we are launching a dedicated web page on [our website here](#) with suggestions of practical help. This will provide information around each of the key areas of need we will be facing this winter: warmth, fuel, food, isolation, money, social impact.

Please share this link widely among those who will support others in navigating access to appropriate and timely help. We are inviting you to share your knowledge with us to improve this 'one stop' resource by emailing to me information and updates for the website when you have learned something new or useful that has worked well and would be helpful for other churches to know: do send pictures and brief details. We are looking for those with expertise in a particular area, for example housing or finance. Would you be willing to be a point of contact for ministers to speak to for advice and guidance? Do let me know.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you who have done so much already and are preparing for the winter. I hope this web page can also be used to share good practice, celebrate the great things being done, and inspire others.

If you have a story you would like us to share more widely, or information to include please contact me directly at gavin.bultitude@cofesuffolk.org.

Helping families eating on a budget during the cost-of-living crisis

Volunteers at Triangle Church, Dickens Road, Ipswich, are offering a four-week cooking course to help people tackle the cost of living crisis. The Revd Lawrence Carey said: "*After becoming aware of people struggling with how to cook the food they were buying from the Top Up Shop, we sought to address this by successfully obtaining funding*



enabling us to create a slow cooker scheme... By giving people a slow cooker and then working in groups of six people over four weeks we have learnt how to best use a slow cooker, creating nutritional meals on a budget. And because slow cooking is very energy efficient people have been able to save on energy costs as well."

The group is encouraged to try the new recipes at home, and Lawrence adds *"They are now swapping recipes and adapting the recipes to suit their culture and tastes, which is delightful as we are all learning from each other. This project is building communities and bringing people together."*

Bishop Mike visited the Wellbeing Wednesday project and he said: *"These initiatives are vital as they offer practical, concrete steps to address some of the problems being faced by those most sharply affected by the recent downturn economically."*

See the full story [here](#).

Plan for Growth

As a diocese we want to be Growing in God: in depth, influence, number and younger. We want to see **"flourishing congregations making a difference"** across Suffolk in all aspects of our county's life and among the people who live here. Have a look at the resources available to help you Plan for Growth:

[Growing in God](#) | [Plan for Growth - Incumbent and PCC resources](#) | [Growing in God - Parish resources](#)



Bishop Mike reminds us, what it is to be Growing in God and outlines our key priorities.

Growing in God - Equipping for Life and Ministry

We are excited to announce four modules in the next few months that will deepen our walk with God in everyday life and enable us in a variety of ministries:

ENHANCING WORSHIP – Refreshed!

Wednesdays 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 November and 7 December, starting 7.30pm
Earl Stonham Village Hall, Forward Green IP14 5HJ

A seven-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. We are refreshing the course, so it is applied 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!

Co-hosted by Philip Banks Canon Precentor, St Edmundsbury Cathedral and The Revd Canon Dave Gardner, Director of Mission and Ministry, we want to demonstrate how we can worship together so we are inspired to witness to God's saving love to all.

£25 for the whole course. (Free to those who undertake this as initial training as an Elder or Auxiliary Ordination Pathway). Booking details for the first event is on Eventbrite [here](#).

Save the dates:

DOCTRINE

16, 23 and 30 November and 8, 14 and 21 December 2022, Online

Join this six-session online course unpacking the Apostles Creed so we can apply this to our own lives and draw others into a deeper experience of God. Bishop Mike has a unique way of expressing deep truths in memorable ways that make us both chuckle and think! Be prepared to be stretched! Subjects include God, Jesus, The Cross; Resurrection; Holy Spirit and Eternal Life! (Free to those who undertake this as initial training on our Auxiliary Ordination Pathway).

Exploring the New Testament with The Revd Canon Dr John Parr

Wednesdays 11, 18, 25 January and 1 and 8 February and 1 and 15, March 2023, 7.30pm
Earl Stonham Village Hall, Forward Green IP14 5HJ

Enhancing Pastoral Ministry – Refreshed with The Revd Stuart Batten

Wednesdays 11, 25 January and 1 and 8 February and 1 and 15 March 2023 7.30pm
Earl Stonham Village Hall, Forward Green IP14 5HJ

Events

Shadows of the Past

19 October - 30 October, 10.00am to 4.00pm

St Michael's Church, Beccles

For 11 days in October the seats of St Michael's Church, Beccles will be occupied by a hundred 'shadows' - life-size cardboard figures, each one representing someone who has a connection with Beccles and illustrates part of its history and heritage. Come along to learn about people you may never have heard of as well as some you may have known.

The exhibition starts with a preview evening on Wednesday 19 October at 7.00pm when Barry Darch will give a short talk (tickets at £5 each, to include wine and nibbles, available from the Parish Office 01502 716370 becclesparish@gmail.com). On Saturday 22 October at 2.30pm a short play about Chateaubriand, one of the hundred figures, will be performed by the Bungay Theatre Group with musical accompaniment from the Handbells of Beccles. The Revd Canon Rich Henderson said, "*We are very much looking forward to welcoming visitors to the church for this special event. This is a chance for people of all ages to join in a celebration of the rich heritage of Beccles.*" Find out more [here](#).

Why Christianity still makes sense in the modern world - Tower Talks

St Mary Le Tower, Ipswich IP1 3BE

Join St Mary Le Tower as they offer the last of their series of talks, featuring Helen Langton, Vice Chancellor, University of Suffolk on 23 October, starting after Choral Evensong at 4.00pm. The talks will conclude with refreshments and an opportunity for questions.



Plan for Growth check-in sessions

7.00pm to 8.00pm online

To help you as you go through the development of your Plan for Growth we are offering a number of online check-ins. Please book to come and tell us how you are getting on and what you need to help you go forward –

churchwardens, clergy or whoever is best suited to represent your benefice are all very welcome. October check-in dates - please click to book:

Tuesday 18 October | [Book here](#)

Wednesday 19 October | [Book here](#)

Prisons Week service

Sunday 16 October, 10.30am

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

This service will include prayers for prisoners, victims and staff, and hopes to involve prison governors, chaplains and others from HMP Highpoint, HMP Warren Hill and HMP/YOI Hollesley Bay as well as some prisoners from Hollesley Bay Open Prison. Bishop Mike will lead this service of Holy Communion. This year, the address will be given by HMP Highpoint Lead Chaplain, the Revd Alan McMahon. After the service, there will be an opportunity for discussion and reflection with the Bishop, Dean, prison chaplains and serving prisoners, with refreshments provided.

Torchlight Tour and More

Friday 21 October, 6.30pm to 9.00pm
St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmund IP33 ILS

The Cathedral will be open, free of charge, for visitors of all ages to explore the building at night. There will be the opportunity to join torchlight tours from knowledgeable guides highlighting the artwork and architecture of the Cathedral, or to follow an art trail to discover new treasures. Family activities will be available and those who are feeling artistic can contribute to an art project that will be displayed following the event. Book now: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/st-edmundsbury-cathedral-at-night-tickets-425655646497



World Mission Conference 2022

Our speakers will look at the issue of modern day slavery:

- Simon John and Lizzie Muir from Anti-slavery International - a global perspective.
- Caroline Virgo from The Clewer Initiative - in the United Kingdom today.
- Revd Dr Dan Pratt, founder of The Together Free Foundation - Christians' response and a local perspective.
- John French from Suffolk Police - slavery in Suffolk.

Saturday 22 October 10.00am — 4.00pm
Salvation Army Hall, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

Open to all - Tickets cost £5.

Book at: <https://2022-world-mission-conference.eventbrite.co.uk>
Join us for an interesting and informative day

World Mission Conference: Modern Day Slavery - a global issue

Saturday 22 October 2022, 10.00am to 4.00pm
The Salvation Army Hall, 3 Violet Hill Road, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

Join the World Mission Conference and hear from recognised speakers from Anti-slavery International, the Clewer Initiative, the Together Free Foundation and from

Suffolk Police. The conference is open to everybody. The cost of the day is £5. Please book here: <https://2022-world-mission-conference.eventbrite.co.uk>

'Jump n Jive' swing dance

Red Feather Club, Horham IP21 5DG
29 October from 7.00pm onwards.

Join in with music from DJs Terry 'Baker Boy' Benjafield and Mike 'Fortress' Kendall to raise the money to improve the Doorstep Green, Redlingfield Church and the 95th Bomb Group (Red Feather Club). Tickets are £10 each (with under 16s allowed in free) from mike@gn.apc.org.

University of Suffolk Open Lecture

Tuesday 1 November 6.00pm to 7.00pm

Join the Revd Canon Ivor Moody, Vice-Dean of Chelmsford Cathedral, as he shared how he found his way through an Essex ministry – parish priest, university chaplain, cathedral pastor and inter-faith lead. Ivor will be speaking about responding creatively to the challenges of our contemporary world and changing British society, drawing on his past experiences and his present role as Vice-Dean and Canon Pastor of Chelmsford Cathedral since 2010. Ivor is Chaplain to Essex County Council, Chair of the Mid-Essex Inter Faith Forum and also Chair of Essex Mind and Spirit, a community voluntary organisation which seeks to promote positive relationships between faith and spirituality and mental health issues.

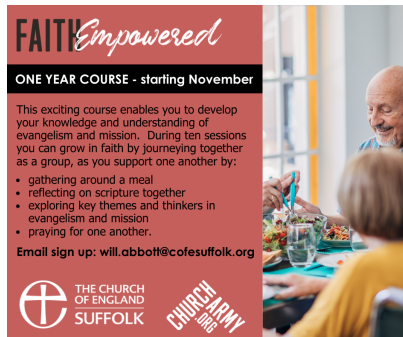
To book your place, please email openlectures@uos.ac.uk

Home for Good Sunday 2022

November is the month for sharing God's heart for vulnerable children.

Every 15 minutes, a child comes into care in the UK – either as tiny new-borns, children, teenagers and more recently asylum seekers. All need a safe place to call home, love and

support. Everyone has a part to play to ensure that every child and young person experiences the welcome, stability and care they need to thrive. Learn more about Home for Good and how they are encouraging churches to get involved and take part in bringing God's love to these children and those caring for them. Sign up now to order your free video and resources from Home for Good: Suffolk [here](#). For more information email hello@homeforgoodsuffolk.org.uk.



Faith Empowered

Starting November 2022

This is a one-year course exploring evangelism, with participants coming together to discuss key subjects such as how to get to know your context, what evangelism is, how to plan a missional activity and what to say when people ask big questions. Please contact the Revd Will Abbott, Lead Evangelist, Suffolk Centre of Mission, on will.abbott@cofesuffolk.org. For further

information please click [here](#).

Evangelism Brunch

Saturday 5 November 9.30am to 12.00pm

Great Blakenham Parish Room, Stowmarket Road, Great Blakenham IP6 0LN

An opportunity to gather, eat, pray and learn together about sharing our faith in Jesus. We are blessed to have Peter James Farmer as our speaker, whose Facebook page says, *"My purpose is to make disciples, plant new churches on mission & train others to do the same."* Whether an experienced licensed evangelist, or simply curious and wanting to know more, our time together will provide space for everyone to grow in their faith, be encouraged to reach out to others, and pick up practical tips and suggestions of how to do so, both from one another and from experienced practitioners alike. Sign up [here](#).

Preaching on the Gospel of Matthew - Bishop's Teaching Morning

Saturday 5 November 2022

Salvation Army Hall, 3 Violet Hill Road, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

What are some of the recent insights on Matthew's Gospel? How does Jesus' person and work come across in this gospel? What about the parables, the sermon on the Mount and Jesus' relation to Judaism? These are just a few of the questions the bishops will address as they look at the gospel which will be used through the lectionary year 2022-2023. For more information and to book please click [here](#).

Clergy and spouse Pre-Retirement Day 2022

17 November 10.00am to 4.00pm

We warmly invite clergy within three years of retirement and their spouse to this additional event. Priority will be given to those who have attended the spring Pre-Retirement Conferences. More information from Lesley Steed at lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org or 07485 348889. To book please visit [here](#).

PCC stewardship workshops:

Parish Share with Gary Peverley Diocesan Director of Finance, and Colin Firth, Deanery

Organiser for Thingoe | Tuesday 18 October, 2.00pm - 3.30pm | Book [here](#). Repeated on 9 November 10.00am - 11.30am | Book [here](#).

For webinars focusing on Caring for Church Buildings:

Wednesday 2 November, 7.30pm Book here	Catherine Ross, Open & Sustainable Churches Officer at the Church of England.	Focusing on environmental sustainability
Wednesday 16 November, 7.30pm Book here	Diana Spencer, Eastern Region Engagement Officer, Church of England's Bats in Churches team.	Offering advice on bats in churches.
Wednesday 23 November, 7.30pm Book here	The Venerable Dr David Jenkins.	Focusing on alternative uses for churches in addition to regular worship.
Wednesday 30 November, 7.30pm Book here	Edmund Harris, DAC Secretary.	Presentation on faculties, the DAC and church buildings in general.

Notices

Government Energy Relief Scheme: Information regarding this scheme is available on [our website here](#) and this page will be kept up to date as further information becomes available.

Sunday Scriptures for Reading Aloud (SSRA): Clergy and others who help prepare Sunday morning services may be interested in this new combined print and online resource. The Revd Michael Hampson from Blackburn Diocese takes all the hard work out of finding, choosing, printing and distributing the Sunday morning scripture readings. Visit [ssra.uk](#) for more information.

Vacancies

[Children & Families' Worker](#) | Bridge Church

[Café Manager](#) | Lightwave Red Lodge | Closing date 14 October

[Archdeacon of Suffolk](#) | Closing date 26 October 2022

[Rector](#) | Lavenham Benefice | Closing date 28 October

[Vicar](#) | Needham Market with Badley | Closing date 31 October

[Youth Minister](#) | The Haven at St Thomas's, Ipswich | Closing date 31 October

[Priest in Charge](#) | Orebeck Benefice (south of Framlingham) | part-time | Closing date 10 November

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