

Thursday 15 December 2022

Children enjoy 'Experience Advent' at Whitton Church



Children from Beeches Community Primary School attended an 'Experience Advent' at St Mary and St Botolph's Church, Whitton on Monday. The youngsters were taught about Advent at six stations dotted throughout the church – with fun activities at each. The Revd Mary Sokanovic said the children were really engaged in the experience, while having lots of fun too.

"It was a wonderful event," she said "The children were really engaged and had a lovely time taking part in the learning and activities. There's something very special about this church and the atmosphere it creates". Beeches Primary was the third school to visit the church in the last few weeks, after St Mary and St Botolph's previously hosted pupils from Castle Hill Primary School and Thomas Wolsey Ormiston Academy. At the event, children learned all about how Christians prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ and the importance of advent. [Read the full story here.](#)



Inspiring Ipswich: Last year, we had Inspiring Angels hoodies in bright pink- this year we have new hoodies in purple. They have our logo and say 'Inspiring Angels- Be an Angel' on the front. Available from this weekend at a cost of £18. They are very warm perfect for this cold weather! If you would like one or more please email- inspiringangelssuffolk@gmail.com.

For updates on Inspiring Angels please follow us on Facebook [here](#).

Events

Messy Masterclass - Messy Church Goes Wild

19 January 2023 7.30pm to 9.00pm - Zoom

This 90-minute training session on Zoom will give an overview of the Messy Church Goes Wild movement – why we're doing it, how it relates to the Messy Church values and what the Bible says about caring for creation. To book your place on the session please [click here](#).

Exploring the New Testament

Wednesdays 11, 18 and 25 January and 1 and 8 February and 1 and 15 March 2023 at 7.30 - 9.30pm
Earl Stonham Village Hall, Forward Green IP14 5HJ

Led by the Revd Canon John Parr, Exploring the New Testament takes a story-shaped approach to the heart of Christian faith. This seven-session course is for those on the AOP pathway, licensed ministers such as Lay Elders and LLMs, and anyone else who wants a fresh perspective on the New Testament. The course is an invitation to picture the impact of Jesus as a series of layers. Each layer tells its own story, with the story of Jesus at the centre. Each layered story belongs to a bigger story that continues into the present and can only be approached through the other layers – which makes interpreting the New Testament an unending, challenging experience.

The course is free of charge, for further details and to book please click [here](#).

Youth Work Essentials Training Course

Tuesdays January 10, 17, 24, and 31, February 7, 21, and 28, and March 7, 14, 21, 7.30pm - 9.15pm
Earl Stonham Village Hall, Forward Green IP14 5HJ



Join this innovative new 10-session course for volunteer youth leaders that increases your skills and confidence about work alongside young people. It's great for churches looking to start youth work or for those 'already volunteers' looking to gain some more skills and confidence. We can even tailor sessions to suit you and your needs! Please contact Matt on matt.levett@cofesuffolk.org to find out further details or book [here](#). The course costs £20 pp - CMD grants are available for licensed and commissioned ministers. Apply to lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org.

Enhancing Pastoral Ministry - Refreshed!

Wednesdays 11 and 25 January, 1 and 8 February, and 1 and 15 March 2023, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Earl Stonham Village Hall, Forward Green IP14 5HJ

A six-session course led by the Revd Stuart Batten and guests for people who are involved in pastoral care (for example, Readers, Lay Elders, clergy, pastoral visitors) as well as those interested in a deeper understanding of this ministry. Cost is £25 for the whole course, but free to those who undertake this as initial training as an Elder or part of the Auxiliary Ordination Pathway. CMD grants are available to LLMs and clergy, please contact Lesley Steed at lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org. To book your place on this course, please [click here](#).

Engaging All Ages in Worship workshop and service

19 February 2023

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP1 1LS

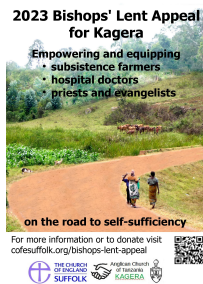


Join the Engaging All Ages in Worship workshop from InHarmony. The workshop with Sara and Sam Hargreaves runs from 2.00pm - 4.00pm and is open to any adults or teens involved or interested in leading services and worship for a range of ages. Explore how you can include a range of ages, spiritual styles, learning modes and all the senses in gathered worship. Followed

by an hour worship service at 4.30pm, ideal for families, putting into practice ideas from the workshop. Tickets cost £10 - CMD grants are applicable to those who are eligible. Find out more: <https://stedscathedral.org/events/engaging-all-ages-in-worship>

2023 Bishops' Lent Appeal for Kagera

22 February 2023



During Lent 2023 we are asking you and your churches to join our Bishops' Lent Appeal for Kagera. We realise that in many churches throughout our diocese wonderful work is being done to support local communities in the very difficult cost of living crisis. Through food banks, warm spaces and many more creative ways you are truly loving your neighbours. And our global neighbours need our support too. In Kagera the cost of staples like maize, beans and cooking oil has doubled in the past year. And of course these price rises come on top of the impact of the climate crisis.

Churches across Kagera work hard to empower communities to seek their own solutions to problems. In Lent 2023 the theme of our Appeal is 'Empowering and equipping farmers, doctors, priests and evangelists on the road to self-sufficiency'.

If you want to know more or to hear about how the money from the last appeal was used, invite a speaker to your church or group. Contact Chris and Anji Dawkins at kagera@cofesuffolk.org

Living your life with God

Starting 28 February 2023, 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Zoom Lent course

Brother Lawrence wrote about how he lived his Christian life in the 1600s and his very slim work "Practicing the Presence of God" has been massively popular ever since. Through Lent, Bishop Mike (and an occasional guest!) will be offering five Zoom sessions looking at how his insights can be applied in everyday life, with plenty of room for discussion on the way. For more details and to book your place [please click here](#).

Preaching Matthew, with Professor George van Kooten

Saturday 25 February 9.30am to 12.30pm

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

Bishop Martin invites you to a follow-up of the November 2022 study morning 'Preaching on the Gospel of Matthew'. This session includes guest speaker Professor George van Kooten from the Faculty of Divinity at the University of Cambridge. To book your place please visit here: [Bishops-preaching-Matthew-2023.eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bishops-preaching-matthew-2023). Please note the other Bishops' study morning dates in 2023 are 17 June and 25 November.

BIG Weekend

Friday 14 April 2023, 6.00pm – Sunday 16 April 4.00pm
Sizewell Hall, Sizewell, Leiston IP16 4TX

Matt Levett, Diocesan Youth & Young Adults Officer, invites you to the BIG Weekend. Organised by a team of experienced youth workers it offers young people the opportunity to come together and make new friends. Ask members of your youth group if they would like to come along. The age range is 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! To find out more and to sign up [please click here](#).

Notices

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Watch the ordination of the new Roman Catholic Bishop of East Anglia: The ordination of Canon Peter Collins took place at St John's Cathedral in Norwich on Wednesday. You can view the service on YouTube [here](#). Bishop Martin said: *"I join with our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters in rejoicing at the ordination of Fr Peter Collins as the new Bishop of East Anglia. I give thanks for the wonderful ministry to our region of Bishop Alan Hopes, now beginning well-deserved retirement. I look forward to working with Bishop Peter and wish him well as he gets to know East Anglia, and our county of Suffolk."*

Energy Support Grant application process: This is a nationwide scheme to support parishes in the diocese with rising energy costs. Please be advised that the application process for a grant towards energy costs is now open to all PCC's with a closing date of 12 January 2023. For all details please click here: <https://s.surveyplanet.com/76vvglg0>

Safeguarding Training: Zoom courses for Safeguarding Leadership training in 2023 are now open for bookings. Please go to our Eventbrite page [here](#) to book your place. Please note all clergy, those with PTO, Licensed Lay Ministers, Elders, PSOs and others need to complete the Leadership Safeguarding training every three years. The whole training course takes eight to 10 weeks to complete so please allow enough time before your current training runs out; book your place early to save disappointment. For more information on safeguarding training please visit our website [here](#).

Advent of prayer for peace in Ukraine: The Diocese in Europe is inviting all churches across the UK, continental Europe and beyond to come together online for an Advent service of Prayers for Peace in Ukraine. The service, on Wednesday 21 December, will be led by the Bishop in Europe, Robert Innes and the speaker will be Archbishop Justin Welby. The service is at 17.30gmt / 18.30cet / 19.30 Ukraine time. You can join the service

via [Zoom](#) (limited numbers) or via [YouTube](#). More details about the service will be published on www.europe.anglican.org.

Vacancies

[Youth and Schools Worker](#) | Newmarket and District Youth for Christ | Closing date: 23 December

[Human Resources and Safeguarding Administrator](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral | Closing date: 15 January 2023

[House for Duty Priest in Charge](#) | Wrentham Benefice | Closing date: 16 January 2023

[Archdeacon of Suffolk](#) | Closing date: 19 January 2023

[Vicar | Needham Market with Badley](#) | Closing date: 30 January 2023

[Priest in Charge | Orebeck Benefice](#) | Closing date 31 January 2023

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