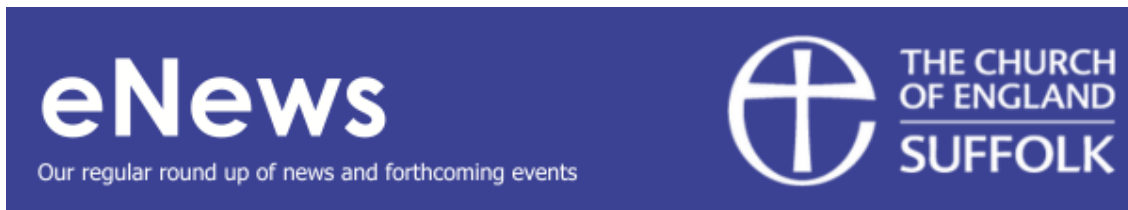


**Thursday 18 January 2024**



### **Watch and Pray Lent Resources**



*"Watch and Pray challenges us to seek God in both familiar and unfamiliar places: in darkness and in quiet; in movement and migration; in the healing and transforming work of the Spirit; in the weeping of Holy Week and in the joy of Easter morning."* Archbishops Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell.

The Church of England's Lent theme for 2024 is Watch and Pray: Wisdom and hope for Lent and life. On the night he was betrayed, Jesus kneels in darkness in the Garden of Gethsemane. Though he pleads with his disciples, *"Stay here with me ... Watch and pray,"* they all fall asleep, leaving him alone in his hour of deepest suffering.

This Lent all of us are encouraged to draw on the wisdom of Black Spirituality, particularly the practice of "tarrying" (waiting) as a community to draw closer to Jesus and to each other. Combining exuberant singing, fervent prayer and quiet lament, such services typically take place at night and last somewhat longer than the "one hour" Jesus asked of those first followers.

Join this **'Watch and Pray' webinar** on Wednesday 24 January at 11.00am to hear more and learn more about all the support available for you and your church as you get ready for Lent. Register [here](#) to receive the Zoom link.

For further Lent resources please visit our website [here](#).

### **Holocaust Memorial Day to be marked at St Edmundsbury Cathedral**

On Friday 26 January, St Edmundsbury Cathedral will hold a special service in the Abbey Gardens for Holocaust Memorial Day, to remember the victims of genocide. The service will take place in the Peace Garden in the Abbey Gardens at 10.30am. The theme is Fragility of Freedom, reflecting on the 10 stages of genocide, as identified by Professor Gregory Stanton, which demonstrate that genocide never just happens. Instead, it's a staged process where piece by piece, freedom is taken from a group of people by limiting movement, religion, creativity and more. Joining the Cathedral for the service will be local schools Guildhall Feoffment, County High School and King Edward VI who will contribute readings and music. Later at 7.00pm, the St Edmundsbury Cathedral Youth Choir will offer an act of meditation for Holocaust Memorial Day.

Alongside the service, an exhibition titled, "We have to move on": Jewish refugees in Suffolk in WW2' will reside in the Cathedral from Tuesday 23 January to Sunday 4 February. Through the exhibition, discover the stories of the Jewish refugees who found a safe home in Newmarket in Suffolk during the Second World War.

On Saturday 27 January, the Cathedral Tower will be lit in purple, along with other iconic buildings and landmarks in the UK, a powerful national moment of commemoration and solidarity. The public can also take part by placing a candle safely in their window at 8.00pm on 27 January.

## Events

### Annual Epiphany Procession

Sunday 21 January, 3.30pm - 4.15pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St. Edmunds IP33 1LS

Parishes, Benefices, Deaneries are, as in previous years, warmly invited to the Cathedral for the annual Candlelit Epiphany Procession. As we move in this season from the mystery of the incarnation to the revelation of light and hope in Jesus Christ, the service includes readings and carols celebrating the 'three signs' which mark Jesus as Saviour for all peoples. The service is led by the Cathedral choirs and Bishop.

### 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:

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>Zoom</b> Tuesday 23 January  | 3.00pm to 5.00pm<br>book <a href="#">here</a>  | 6.00pm – 8.00pm:<br>book <a href="#">here</a>   |
| <b>Zoom</b> Wednesday 27 February   | 3.00pm to 5.00pm:<br>book <a href="#">here</a> | 6.00pm – 8.00pm:<br>book <a href="#">here</a>   |
| <b>St Luke's Church, Beccles NR34 9JQ</b><br>Thursday 21 March              | 3.30pm to 5.00pm:<br>book <a href="#">here</a> | 6.00pm – 8.00pm:<br>book <a href="#">here</a>   |
| <b>Thomas Clarkson Centre, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3JT</b><br>Tuesday 23 April | 3.00pm to 5.00pm:<br>book <a href="#">here</a> | 6.00pm – 8.00pm:<br>book <a href="#">here</a>   |
| <b>St Augustine's Community Hub, Ipswich IP3 8TH</b> Wednesday 15 May       | 3.00pm to 5.00pm:<br>book <a href="#">here</a> | 6.00pm - 8.00pm:<br>book <a href="#">here</a> . |

### AChurchNearYou.com: How to use the platform as your free website

Wednesday 24 January 6.00pm - 7.30pm, Zoom.

Come along to this extended live demonstration to gain confidence editing your site at

both individual church level and at benefice level. 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>

### **How to use Instagram for your church**

Monday 29 January, 3.00 - 4.00pm

Are you looking to reach your community using Instagram? This webinar will cover how to create an account, what you could be posting, and more. Book [here](#).

### **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).

### **Candlemas Solemn Eucharist**

Friday 2 February 2024 at 7.30pm  
St John the Evangelist St John's Street, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1SN

Come along to St John's Solemn Eucharist featuring The St John's Singers, and David Honeyball, Organist. This event is to be followed by a party. All welcome

### **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](#).

### **Churchwardens' Gathering (for Sudbury and Suffolk Archdeaconries)**

Saturday 24 February at 10.00am-3.30pm

Sizewell Hall Christian Conference Centre, Leiston IP16 4TX

Archdeacon David and Archdeacon Rich invite churchwardens to gather for a day of fellowship, worship and reflection. The keynote speaker will be Bishop Graeme Knowles. Offering a space to be with others to share ideas, support and encourage. Bring your own lunch, drinks are provided. Booking essential as places are limited. Book via [Eventbrite 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 Street Methodist Church and St Mary Elms. For further information email [Nicholas Jardine](#).

### **Christian Ethics**

Starting Tuesday 27 February, 7.30pm-9.30pm

Earl Stonham Village Hall, Forward Green IP14 5HJ

This module explores the history of ethical thought and also everyday issues and moral questions from capitalism to the environment. The module aims to further develop moral thinking, appreciation and judgment that is appropriate within the context of Christian teaching and pastoral ministry, and Christian living. The sessions are on Tuesdays for 6 weeks, starting 27 February 2024 and finishing 16 April (no meetings during Easter). Refreshments will be served from 7.00pm for a prompt 7.30pm start and finish by 9.30pm. This module is open to all but a requirement for locally deployable curates. To book, please [click here](#).

### **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 14 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. 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. 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.

**Partnering with Home for Good: Suffolk this year:** *Home for Good: Suffolk* is a Christian rooted, county-wide small organisation helping Suffolk churches to play their part in helping to transform the lives of vulnerable children. With 35,000 children coming into the UK care system every year, it's important that the Church supports the need for fostering, adoption and encouraging systemic change. Visit their website [here](#) to learn more about how your church can get involved.

**Parish Visits to St Edmundsbury Cathedral 2024:** 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. 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).

**Grants from Parish Councils:** The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 is now signed into law. This removes an ambiguity of wording in the 1894 Local Government Act, which has discouraged most parish councils from making grants to local churches, which have thereby also been excluded from benefiting from money available for community

activities. PCCs will now be able to apply for grants and parish councillors will be able to approve them if they so wish. Find out more [here](#).

## 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

[Diocesan Mission Enabler](#) | Closing date: 29 February

[Director of Music](#) | Woodbridge

[River Church Opportunities](#) | Ipswich

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

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



---

*Copyright © 2024 Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, All rights reserved.*

This email is generated from the Communications Office at the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

**Our mailing address is:**

Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, 4 Cutler Street, Ipswich. Suffolk, England IP1 1UQ

[Add us to your address book](#)

[unsubscribe from this list](#)   [update subscription preferences](#)

---