



**Thursday 22 September 2022**

## Growing in God

**Inspiring Angels this Christmas**



Last year Ipswich churches launched a Christmas campaign called Inspiring Angels and this year we would like to offer you the opportunity to roll this out across the diocese. We are producing a series of resources to make this as easy as possible.

Angels are a symbol of love, of presence, pointing the way to the moment it all changed, when God came in the person of Jesus to be with us in the world, to share in love and pain alongside us. Angels appeared to tell us about the birth of a baby in a manger. Angels sang,

bursting with joy, to some shepherds, and told them, 'Go and see!'

We are bursting with ideas to make angels as visible as possible. We are hoping that angels in a variety of shapes and sizes will appear all over Suffolk - in schools, shops, on public buildings, on the pavements, in bedroom windows, wherever people's imagination takes them! This is a great opportunity to fill Suffolk with joy this Christmas!

**Why not have a 'Be an angel' advent** We are hoping you may choose to donate to a food bank, cook for people, make a charity shop donation or another small act each day during Advent. You could post your activities on Facebook to let others know what you are doing. This is a fantastic opportunity for people to offer a service or event to help others over the advent period.

**Get creative** we have pulled together a series of resources to make Inspiring Angels as easy as possible You could try knitting angels, angels paper crafts, angel jars, angel prayers, and more. These resources will be great for use in Messy Church activities, for schools and other family projects in the home.

**Instagram moments**, last year a number of churches positioned large wings in public spaces to enable people to take photographs for social media. This is a fantastic idea to encourage engagement with everyone in your community. We have sourced a company to make the wings and if you would like to purchase a large set of wings for use in your parish, church or school please email [Helen.Prior-Townsend](mailto:Helen.Prior-Townsend) for all the cost and production details.

To find out more visit our website [here](#).

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### **Watch BBC Songs of Praise with Aled Jones this Sunday**



BBC Songs of Praise presenter Aled Jones was in Foxearth Meadows reserve earlier this month finding out about the importance of caring for nature and what the annual harvest celebration means to local Christians. The episode on 'Caring for Creation' will feature this Sunday, 25 September, at 1.15pm on BBC One. The hymns and music were filmed at Holy Trinity Church in Long Melford during July on the hottest day - a clear reminder of our warming climate. The Revd Lynda

Sebbage from Barrow EcoChurch invited seven children from their eco-group to join the recording to explore the reserve and try some pond-dipping.

Lynda said, *"We were delighted to be invited to take part in the recent filming at Foxearth Meadows, near Sudbury. Several children from the Barrow Benefice, all keen on the environment, joined the tour around Foxearth, which is a haven for a variety of dragonflies and damselflies."*

The Revd Matthew Lawson, from Holy Trinity Church, Long Melford said *"I look forward to seeing friends old and new in the broadcast; please pray that the programme will bear good fruit - both physically and spiritually."*

To find out more about Foxearth Meadows please click [here](#). To find out about Eco Church please click [here](#).

### **Big Green Week**

The Great Big Green Week is the UK's biggest ever celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature. It will unleash a wave of support for action to protect the planet. Tens of thousands of people in every corner of the country will celebrate the heartfelt, brave, everyday actions being taken to stand up for nature and fight climate change. To find out more and get involved click [here](#).

### **Generosity Week starts this week....**



National Generosity Week starts on 25 September 2022, helping us all to celebrate the generous love of God. Our churches are invited to hold services, run group sessions, broadcast podcasts and distribute readings on the theme of generosity to their communities.

Generosity can be shown in many ways, through

everyday acts of kindness to those in your community, helping and serving in your church, as well as financial giving.

We would like to encourage you to have a look at the national resources available, so please visit our website [here](#).

## Events

### **Generosity and Thankfulness Conference**

Saturday 24 September 2022 Online

The Diocese of Manchester would like to extend a warm welcome to their second giving conference called 'Generosity and Thankfulness: Inspiring and equipping our churches'.

This conference aims to inspire the development of generosity and thankfulness as part of the mission of every church across our diverse diocese. With keynote speakers, 22 workshops to choose from and a range of high-quality exhibitors, this promises to be a high-quality event. To register please book [here](#).

### **Called Together - a celebration of licensed lay ministry**

Sunday 25 September 3.30pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

We encourage you all to join us at the Cathedral for our annual Lay Ministry Celebration service, to support ten new lay ministers as they are licensed and to welcome those moving to the diocese and taking up their ministry here. We will also be celebrating some significant licensing anniversaries. This will be an integrated service to celebrate the range of lay ministries, followed by tea and cake. Please register your attendance [here](#).

### **River Coffee launch**

Monday 26 September, 10.00am launch with live music 12.00pm to 2.00pm

River Church, Key Street, Ipswich Waterfront

River Coffee becomes Ipswich's newest coffee shop, and launches with live music and a

special offer as all drinks will be £1 on launch day! River Coffee will be open Monday to Friday, 10.00am to 3.00pm is situated in a stunning and inspiring location, within River Church and will offer a welcoming space, perfect for a relaxing coffee and cake. A number of events are planned including 'Baby Love', a free weekly group for babies and toddlers and their parents or carers on Thursday mornings from 10.00am to 12.00pm and a Language Café to help those wanting to improve their English, and a course called Re-Work, which will help those who are currently unemployed to gain confidence and get back into work or education. For more information about River Coffee, follow them on the Instagram handle @rivercoffeeipswich or visit [riverchurchipswich.org/coffee](https://riverchurchipswich.org/coffee) and stay up to date!

### **Webinar: Five Ways Leaders can Thrive in the New Reality**

27 September 2022 10.00am to 1.00am. online

Join this webinar to learn five practical, realistic and easily applicable ways churches and leaders can thrive. Hosted by CPAS, there will be some input and an opportunity for sharing ideas and exploring issues. Sign up [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 a series of talks, each starting after Choral Evensong at 4.00pm. The talks will conclude with refreshments and an opportunity for questions.

Former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams - 2 October

Francis Spufford, Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature - 9 October

Helen Langton, Vice Chancellor, University of Suffolk, 23 October.

### **The County Harvest Festival**

Sunday 2 October 2022, 12 noon for 2.30pm service

Trinity Park, Ipswich IP3 8UH

Join Bishop Mike, Dean Joe and Archdeacon Sally as they lead the County Harvest Festival service. Gates will open at 12 noon for food, drinks, children's activities, craft stalls and to meet the Suffolk Trinity livestock (Suffolk Punch, Red Poll cattle and Suffolk Sheep).

Harvest Worship will include local farmers and people from different churches and chapels



around our county. Bring your chairs (but if it is very wet we will make this into a drive-in event!). Bring along tins and fresh produce to place on our straw bale altar, from where they will be distributed to local charities. For details and to book please visit: [A County Harvest Festival \(02-Oct-2022\)](#).

### **Open the Book: Air and Share**

Saturday 8 October 10.00am to 5.00pm

Mickfield Evangelical Church, Stonham Road,  
Mickfield, IP14 5LS

Hosted by Heather Land, Open the Book Training and Development officer, and Hilary Wordsworth-Sewell, Diocesan Children's and Families' Enabler. Connect with other story tellers across the diocese and learn from each other. An opportunity to hear the latest Christmas stories from Bob Hartman. To find out more and book please email: [heather.land@biblesociety.org.uk](mailto:heather.land@biblesociety.org.uk)

### **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 in October (as below) and November (dates to be released shortly). 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. If you have a quick question, you can always email [phil.dykes@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:phil.dykes@cofesuffolk.org).

### **October check-in dates - please click to book:**

Monday 10 October | [Book here](#)

Thursday 13 October | [Book here](#)

Tuesday 18 October | [Book here](#)

Wednesday 19 October | [Book here](#)

### **Celebration of Lay Elder Ministry**

Sunday 9 October, refreshments from 2.30pm, service at 4.00pm  
St Edmundsbury Cathedral

We are delighted to be able to invite all Elders and their family and friends to a Celebration of Elder Ministry taking place at St Edmundsbury Cathedral on Sunday 9 October 2022 at 4.00pm. You are warmly invited to join us for refreshments from 2.30pm in the Edmund Room before we gather for Choral Evensong. This promises to be a beautiful service with a variety of choral and instrumental worship. Bishop Mike will be there to welcome you and will be preaching. Please confirm that you would like to join us by registering by clicking here [Celebration-of-Elder-ministry.eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/celebration-of-elder-ministry) by 30 September so we can make sure we have plenty of refreshments. If you know anyone who would like to explore the possibility of Elder ministry, why not invite them to come along too. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

### **Choral Festival**

Sunday 9 October 2022  
St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS



St Edmundsbury Cathedral is delighted to be hosting the 2022 Choral Festival, organised by the Suffolk branch of the Royal School of Church Music. This is the first such festival to take place in Suffolk for some years, so the RSCM and cathedral music teams are particularly excited to relaunch this annual gathering of singers from

across the county and beyond, for an uplifting and exciting afternoon of music-making in glorious surroundings!

RSCM warmly encourages choirs who would like to attend as groups, but also invites individual singers who might not be regular members of a choir to become involved. You can book a place for an individual or choir at: <http://tinyurl.com/vxvujnbn>

### **Abortion: an ever-recurring ethical dilemma**



Tuesday 11 October 2022 ~ 9.45am for 10.15am  
Ufford church and hall IP13 6DS

Join the Revd Dr John Hare MD FRCOGMD. John was a Consultant Gynaecologist before ordination and has lectured widely on the theology and ethics of abortion. This session includes refreshments followed by said Eucharist, an opportunity to explore our own minds, a presentation, small group and full group discussion. It is essential to email Michael Wilde at [cormack246@gmail.com](mailto:cormack246@gmail.com) for a place to enable preparation of sufficient information papers for the day.

### **Intergenerational Worship**

Tuesday 1 November 2022 7.00pm – 9.00pm on Zoom

This is another opportunity for liturgy and worship practitioners across the eastern dioceses to come together. Using a peer-led discussion on Zoom, clergy and lay ministers can share experience, ideas and expertise. Praxis members and interested parties are invited to put the date in their diaries and come along. Everyone is welcome. Please contact the Revd Helen Bent on behalf of Praxis National and Praxis East Email: [helenbent99@gmail.com](mailto:helenbent99@gmail.com) or call: 07786 030399.

### **University of Suffolk Open Lecture**

Tuesday 1 November 6.00pm - 7.30pm

Join the Revd Canon Ivor Moody, the Vice-Dean of Chelmsford Cathedral, 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. Save the date, booking information on Eventbrite soon.

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

Saturday 5 November 2022

Stowmarket Salvation Army Hall



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](#).

**Chaplaincy for all – an EEFA Conference**

15 November 10.00am to 4.30pm

The Auditorium at The Hold, 131 Fore St, Ipswich IP4 1LN

Organised in conjunction with the University of Suffolk and in partnership with The Faith and Spirituality Network (Suffolk). With a keynote lecture by Joanna Mutlow from the SPaRC team at Bradford Teaching Hospitals entitled "We knew we needed to change but we didn't know how". Joanna is a Humanist Celebrant and part of the new Heart to Heart team at Bradford Teaching Hospitals. For more information and to book please click [here](#).

**PCC workshops on stewardship:**

Tuesday 27 September, 11.00am Book <a href="#">here</a>	Julie Podd (Parish Resources Manager), Grant Forrest and Catia Oldrey from the Parish Giving Scheme.	Parish Giving Scheme: Who, What, Why?
Tuesday 27 September, 2.00pm Book <a href="#">here</a>	Julie Podd (Parish Resources Manager), Grant Forrest and Catia Oldrey from the Parish Giving Scheme.	Using the Parish Giving Scheme as a catalyst for generosity
Tuesday 11 October, 12.00pm Book <a href="#">here</a>	Beccy Hills (Parish Funding & Grants Advisor) with John Bailey.	Learn more about how to get started with grants and funding

**Notices**

**Heath and Safety Volunteer:** The Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF) is looking for

someone to take on oversight of Health and Safety in a voluntary capacity. If you are interested please email [Dawn Gillett](#), DBF Head of Property.

**Bullying and Harassment - Dispute Advisers:** We are looking for people who can listen to individuals without judgement, maintain confidentiality, deal with demanding situations including conflict, and know when to refer to other services (e.g. safeguarding). For further details including application forms please email our Mission Project Officer [Helen Prior-Townsend](#). The closing date for applications is Friday 23 September.

**Independent Chair for Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel (DSAP) -**

**Voluntary:** We are seeking expressions of interest for this role. You will be asked to chair panel meetings and provide an independent challenge on safeguarding matters within the diocese. Further information is available [here](#). If you are interested please apply with your expressions of interest to [hr@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:hr@cofesuffolk.org).

**Vacancies**

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

[Youth Minister](#) | The Haven at St Thomas's, Ipswich | Closing date: 30 September

[Rector and Rural Dean](#) | Claydon and Barham, Great Blakenham and Henley | Closing date: 3 October

[Vicar](#) | St Andrew's Church, Rushmere | Closing date: 5 October

[Governance Manager \(Part-time\)](#) | Closing Date: 10 October

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