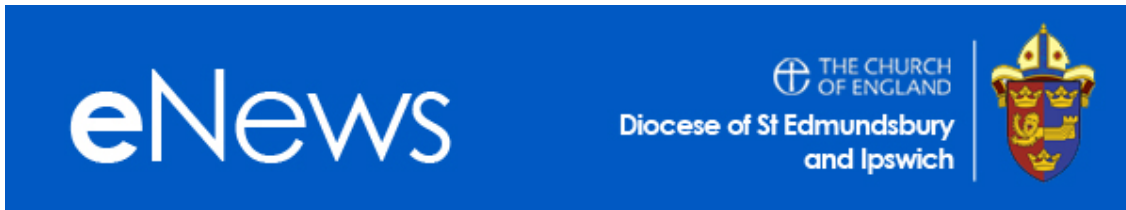


Thursday 23 March 2023**Diocesan Synod**

Bishop Martin welcomed Synod members to Stowmarket Salvation Army Hall on Saturday 18 March. In his presidential address Bishop Martin announced that Archbishops Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell have extended his episcopal leadership of our Diocese for a further year until the summer of 2025. He is thrilled and blessed to serve longer and will continue to provide continuity and stability following the pandemic.

Bishop Martin reminded Synod of the Growing in God commitment and he stated how he wants to focus on four personal priorities for the next two years including: to focus on reaching out to young people; to support and encourage ordained and lay ministry, with a commitment to retain our levels of stipendiary clergy while growing our SSM (self-supporting ministry) and lay ministry roles; to work together to ensure financial sustainability of our Diocese and finally to ensure our buildings are sustainable and suitable to fulfil our mission.

Synod also included presentations on Inspiring Ipswich, the cost of living and Living in Love and Faith. For a detailed round up, videos and copies of the presentations please visit [here](#).

Cathedral Lent Series: 'Fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of God: Challenging perceptions to empower change': The final meeting on Wednesday 29 March 7.00pm - 8.00pm is the Plenary Discussion "How shall we now live?" For more information and for the Zoom link please email the Revd Canon Michael Robinson: michael.robinson@cofesuffolk.org. You can find out more about these sessions, plus all the Cathedral Lent services, [here](#).

Bishops' Lent Appeal for Kagera: Huge thanks to everyone who is taking part in the Lent Appeal for Kagera. We've already received generous donations from coffee mornings, Lent lunches, buy a bishop, cake sales, concerts and more. We'd love to hear your stories - email kagera@cofesuffolk.org. And of course there's still plenty of time to join in! Click [here](#) to find out more.

Holy Week at St Edmundsbury Cathedral: Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday 2 April. A full series of services and events are on offer at St Edmundsbury Cathedral. A list is available to download [here](#).

Vocations Spotlights: Kate Cracknell



Having been brought up in the Anglican church, I became a Christian in my early teens. My father had not long been ordained and I really enjoyed that time in my life, where there was a vibrant youth ministry in the parish where we lived. I enjoyed a 20 year teaching career but I did feel that I was called to do something within the Church, but dismissed it time and time again – what could I offer? How could I give up teaching? I was filled with doubt.

I went back to our church in Beccles. The day I came back was the same day as the Youth Pastor's last Sunday. Then I saw the post advertised and noted that the post was fully funded by the parish, supported by the PCC, and most importantly it was real priority. I realised I couldn't ignore God any longer – He couldn't have made it any clearer! Now I am leading Junior Church on a Sunday and a Youth Hub on a Thursday...serving young people is a joy and a privilege and seeing these young people growing in confidence and faith is an honour.

To read the full story please visit our website [here](#).

Plans for Growth



We are delighted that 25 benefices have already shared their Plan for Growth with us and a further 15 benefices are in the process of completing theirs now. Creating a Plan for Growth is to help you, as a benefice, flourish in your own unique context. We have provided **three simple steps** to help you create your Plan for Growth: **Listen** to God, each other and your

communities, **Choose** your three main priorities and **Plan** your next steps.

The resources to do this (from videos to leaflets and examples) are all available on our website along with the opportunity to share your Plan for Growth using our online form. Just visit our website [here](#).

Having look at the responses we have received so far, we can see that a number of benefices are interested in support about funding opportunities. Therefore we have listed some funding opportunities below:

Church Grants: We are delighted to launch a new partnership with Church Grants. There are many grants available, but finding the right ones to apply for can be a minefield. Using Church Grants will provide you with free access to church and faith-based online grant searches. Benefits include:

- Results showing the grant-making bodies, potential gift size, contact and application details

- Hundreds of local and national funding sources relevant to churches
- A searchable tool which can be filtered according to your project type - for example, bells
- Resources that will support you to plan your fundraising campaign
- An interactive forum to pose questions and get expert advice.

To access this service, click here: <https://suffolk.churchgrants.co.uk/>

Also available is a flyer for your noticeboard [here](#).



Please note you will need your parish reference number to gain access (available from your PCC Secretary or your church administrators). For further help and support please email [Yalda Davis](mailto:Yalda.Davis@suffolk.cofe.org.uk), the Diocesan Giving Advisor.

Growing in God

Growing in God Growth Fund: The Growth fund is open for applications now for your summer activities.

The Growing in God Growth Fund can provide a small amount of money to help your church engage creatively in sharing faith in word and deed, and as a result grow the church in number and younger. You can apply for a grant of up to £1,500 to support an outward-facing initiative to develop your church's mission to the wider community. Don't forget, this funding opportunity can really help you 'kick start' the activities outlined in your Plan for Growth! For details on how to apply for funding please visit our website [here](#).

Friends' Groups: A Friends' Group can engage those who wish to support the life of the church building. We all know that a church building can be very expensive to maintain and a number of parishes have explored the idea of setting up a Friends' Group, which can be a way to engage with the wider community while also raising funds for the church. This might attract those who wish to support the life of the church building but may not be regular worshippers. We have updated the resources available on our website, designed to help you set up a Friends' Group in your benefice. Have a look at the resources available [here](#).



Gifts in Wills: For many of us, leaving a gift in a will is a life-affirming opportunity to ensure our values live on in our church and community. Each year, over 5,000 people generously leave a gift in their will to a Church of England parish.

We have provided you with an eight point plan to help you reach out to people about giving the church a gift in their will, from tips on running a campaign, templates and more. You will find all the resources on our website [here](#).

Events

A Spectrum of Song

Saturday 25 March 10.00am–4.00pm

St Peter & St Paul Church, Lavenham CO10 9SA

From Tallis to Townend – join Richard Hubbard as he leads you on a musical journey through Christian worship music. Explore a wealth of eclectic styles, from the music of the early church to the vibrant sounds of today's worship. You don't have to be an experienced singer to benefit from this workshop. The aim is to explore a wide variety of music suitable for churches of varying sizes, including those with limited musical resources. Whether you are a choral singer, a leader or planner of worship, or an enthusiastic member of the congregation, there will be something for everyone. Tickets cost £10 and can be purchased at stedscathedral.org/inharmony/

The Road to Easter

Saturday 25 March 10.00am - 3.00pm

St Mary's Church, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1RT

Come along and experience an interactive Easter story for children of all ages. If your little ones have ever wondered what Easter is all about - here's their chance to learn and engage with the real story and reflect on its meaning. P.S - There are Easter eggs too!

Choral Evensong with the King's Voices Choir

Sunday 26 March 6.00pm

Hepworth Parish Church IP22 2PU

Join the King's Voices Choir and Dr Stephen Cherry, Dean of King's College Cambridge, for an evening of Choral Evensong.

J S Bach, St John Passion

Saturday 1 April, 5.30pm

Clare Parish Church

Join the Choir of St Mary Le Tower, Ipswich, with orchestra, soloist Daniel Joy and conductor Christopher Borrett for a performance of J S Bach's magnificent St John Passion. A fantastically fitting way to begin Passion Week. Admission is free and it isn't necessary to pre-book a seat. Refreshments will be available - donations towards Clare Church are gratefully received.

Good Friday Walk of Witness and Children's Trail

Friday 7 April, 10.00am

Holy Innocents' Church, Great Barton IP31 2QS

Join Holy Innocents' Church and Freedom Church, Great Barton for a 'Walk of Witness'. The walk will be from Holy Innocents' to Freedom Church, or you can join at any area of

the walk. During the walk there will be eight Stations of the Cross, depicting Christ's journey. At each station there will be activities for children and reflections for older folk. If you would like lunch please [click here to book](#).

Suffolk Wildlife Trust - Churchyard Management

Wednesday 19 April, 7.00pm - 8.30pm

The grassland in churchyards has mostly gone untouched for decades, if not centuries, with no fertilising nor reseeding. It is therefore often rich in wildflowers, which are now so scarce elsewhere. Careful management of all or part of the churchyard to favour these wildflowers offers a unique opportunity to safeguard this valuable habitat in a place where it can be enjoyed by parishioners and visitors alike. Suffolk Wildlife Trust's conservation advisers Cathy Smith and Graham Hart will reveal some of the many hidden gems you might find in churchyards and how to optimise the habitat for wildlife, whilst supporting its value for the wider community. [Sign up here](#).

Church solar panels

19 April, 4.00pm - 5.00pm [Book here](#)

20 June, 4.00pm - 5.00pm [Book here](#)

This webinar will give you an introduction to solar PV panel technology, its applications, usage and on-going benefits that accrue to system owners. This webinar is a full update of the same webinar last run two years ago. The key speaker is Guy Hewitt from Treadlighter, who has 13 years' experience of designing and installing solar PV systems across all property types, including many projects for churches and listed buildings.

Godly Play Taster Day

Thursday 20 April, 10.00am – 4.00pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP31 1LS

An introduction to Godly Play – discover how Godly Play could be used in your church and community.

Come along to this Taster Day to explore the subject of spirituality as well as stories from the Old and New Testaments and experience a full Godly Play session. Find out what resources and support are available. Book [here](#).

Vocations Fair 2023

Saturday 29 April, 10.00am - 1.00pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS



Come and visit the many stalls representing our ministries for an informal chat to find the right ministry for you: Chaplaincy, Children's and Families, Church Army, Elders, Pioneers, Evangelists, Lightwave Leaders, Mothers' Union, Ordained ministers, PCC Officers, Readers, Recognised Local Leaders, School Foundation Governors, Spiritual Directors and Youth Ministers. For more information please contact the [Revd Stuart Batten](#). [Download this poster to advertise in your church](#).

Her bleeding stopped...

Saturday 29 April 9.30am – 12.30pm

Salvation Army Stowmarket Violet Hill Road Stowmarket IP14 1NE

This event, for women clergy and women LLMs only, to join our guest speaker, the Revd Dr Julie Gittoes who will be delivering a presentation based on her own paper entitled 'Her bleeding stopped: the embodied borderland of the menopause'. This will be followed by Q and A and discussion. To book please visit: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/her-bleeding-stopped-tickets-590455988757

Exploring the Old Testament

Seven Wednesdays starting from 3 May, 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Earl Stonham Village Hall, Forward Green IP14 5HJ

In many of our churches the Old Testament nowadays is never read. And even where it is, it is often ignored. But it is the larger part of the Bible and has far more to say than the New Testament about things like the life cycle (birth, marriage, death), sickness and health, daily work, the environment, social justice, and so on. Of course, there are some challenging bits which need also to be confronted in an honest manner, but they should not deflect us from the riches of what was, after all, Jesus's Bible.

In this short course, Hugh Williamson will try to open our eyes to some of this wealth by surveying in an engaging manner all the different types of material in the Old Testament, very much with an eye on how we can apply it in our own times in both church and society. This seven-session course is open to all and is free of charge. It is commended to those who are seeking Permission to Preach, Lay Elders and LLMs, and anyone else who wants a fresh perspective on the Old Testament. This module is required for those on the Auxiliary Ordination Pathway, unless exempted through prior learning. To sign up, please [click here](#).

Celebrating the Coronation weekend**6 - 8 May 2023**

This is a historic moment in the life of our nation and an opportunity to bring communities together. Building on common themes of community, faith and service, it will be a celebratory moment, and a chance to share an invitational message about the Christian faith and show the church as a dynamic Christian presence at the heart of community life in 21st Century Britain. To access the resources please visit the website [here](#). This page, along

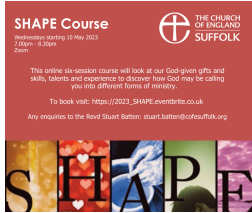
with our own Coronation website page with local details available [here](#), will be updated regularly.

Church of England recorded webinar 'Celebrating the Coronation Weekend at your church': to find out how your church can get involved, click [here](#).

SHAPE

Wednesdays starting 10 May 2023, 7.00pm - 8.30pm

By Zoom



This online six-session course will look at our God-given gifts and skills, talents and experience and discover how God may be calling you into different forms of ministry. Your SHAPE for God's Service aims to enable church members to understand the unique SHAPE God has made them, the gifts he has given them and how he might want to use them. Hopefully this will enable participants to live and serve with more joy, satisfaction and fruitfulness. The core topics look at your: Spiritual Gifts, Heart's Desire, Abilities, Personality and Experience. For more information and to book please visit: 2023_SHAPE.eventbrite.co.uk. [Download this poster to advertise in your church.](#)

Financial Planning During Ministry for Retirement and Beyond

Wednesday 10 May, 9.30am, Zoom

The aim of this seminar is to help clergy (and their partners) demystify financial matters, and to help you plan for your financial future no matter how far you may be from retirement. Key speakers include those from the Church of England Pensions Board, clergy pension and housing teams; plus independent financial advisers from Ecclesiastical Financial Advisory Services. To book your place, please email Lesley-Anne.Marriott@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Save the Dates:

Farewell and Thanksgiving Service: For Archdeacon Jeanette as she retires from the Archdeaconry of Suffolk. Sunday 23 April at Framlingham Parish Church, Church Street, Framlingham IP13 9BH. Starting at 3.00pm. Everyone is welcome.

The Big Suffolk Prayer Walk 2023

19-21 May All are welcome and we'll be sharing more information about ways you can get involved very soon.

Improving your Parish Finances conference - building a generous church

10 June. Please [download this poster here](#) to share in your parish.

Notices

Statistics for Mission: Thank you to those that have completed their Statistics for Mission. Completing your Statistics for Mission will provide your benefice and our diocese valuable information and data. The results of your efforts are collated by the national Church and used to produce your parish dashboard. These are available on our website [here](#). These dashboards can be really useful to help you produce your Parish Profile or your Benefice [Plan for Growth](#). Obviously, the more accurate the information you can provide now, the better data analysis available later on! Returns are to be submitted on the [Online Parish Returns System](#), if you require login details or any other assistance regarding the online portal, please contact Alison Barker by [email](#). The deadline is 31 March 2023. Further information is available on our website [here](#).

Bunting for St Nicholas Hospice: To mark King Charles's Coronation St Nicholas

Hospice Care is asking crafters to knit or crochet bunting, which will be used to decorate their stores in Haverhill and St John's Street in Bury St Edmunds, as well as the Hospice building in Hardwick Lane, Bury St Edmunds. Bunting can be of any size and colour, and we encourage people to be as creative as they can. Bunting can be dropped off at any of their shops, and there will also be a drop box outside the charity's Hospice building in Hardwick Lane. Bunting can also be posted to: The Spiritual Care and Chaplaincy Team, St Nicholas Hospice Care, Hardwick Lane, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 2QY. To ensure the displays can be up in plenty of time, they need bunting to be with them before Friday 21 April.

Vacancies

[Priest in Charge | Benefice of Elmsett, Aldham, Hintlesham with Chattisham and Kersey](#) |

Closing date: 24 March

[Safeguarding Administrator - Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich](#) | Closing date: 27

March

[House for Duty Priest in Charge | The Wrentham Benefice](#) | Closing date: 17 April

[Vicar | Kesgrave with Little Bealings and Playford](#) | Closing date: 17 April

[Chapter Member | St Edmundsbury Cathedral](#) | Closing date: 18 April

[Rector, Benefice of Rattlesden, Brettenham, Hitcham and Thorpe Morieux](#) | Closing date:

25 April

[Rector | Orwell and Deben](#) | Closing date: 25 April

[Rector | Claydon and Barham, Great Blakenham and Henley](#) | Closing date: 26 May

[Priest 0.5 Exning w Landwade/Assistant Curate \(in charge\) of Exning St Agnes](#) | Closing

date: 5 June

[Diocesan Treasurer | Mother's Union](#)

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



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