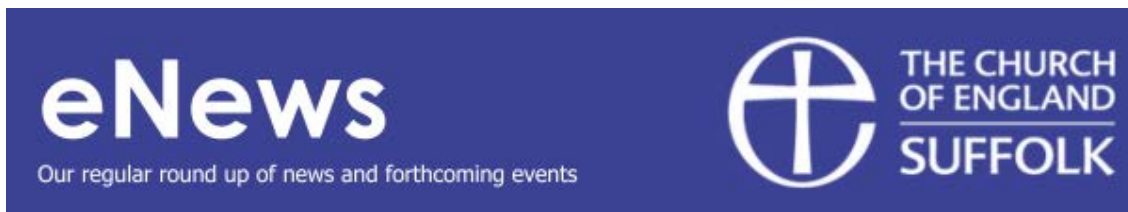


Thursday 23 November 2023



St Edmundsbury Cathedral Honours Service



On Sunday 19 November, a special service took place on Edmund Day Weekend to honour seven men and women, bestowing on them the title of 'Canon'. The title of Canon is given to individuals, both clergy and lay, who have given particular service to our Diocese. Those named are:

- **Honorary Canons:** Charlotte Cook, Simon White, John Thackray and Stuart Batten.
- **Lay Canons:** George Gittus (Farming) and Dr Francis Young (Historiographers).
- **Ecumenical Canon:** Jason Vinyard.

The Cathedral also installed two new members of Chapter, and Gary Peverley was also installed as the Diocesan Secretary. To read the full story, please [click here](#).

Bishop Mike visits Safe Harbour, a project offering food, warmth and hospitality



Volunteers and guests were delighted when Bishop Mike visited Safe Harbour in St Helen's Church, Ipswich. Opened in 2021 it is seen as a community for 'people who have been battered and bruised by the storms of life', offering a refuge for those facing life's challenges.

Bishop Mike said: "*Safe Harbour offers food, warmth and hospitality to those who need it – not least those who are isolated or alone, those struggling with addictions, those navigating physical or mental health challenges, those in economic straits or facing other difficulties. It provides a safe, loving, Christian community accessible to all and is flourishing, making a real difference to those who are involved.*" To read the full story, please [click here](#).

Four young people baptised at St Mary le Tower



A group of four young people were baptised at St Mary le Tower last Sunday, three young men and one of our girl choristers. The Revd Tom Mumford, Vicar at St Mary le Tower, said *"One of the candidates requested a baptism by full immersion. It's never been done at the Tower before but I thought 'why not?!' so we borrowed a pool from another local church. It was absolutely brilliant, and so moving to see what it meant not just to those being baptised, but to the whole community"* All the candidates were supported by families and friends.

Is Clara our youngest fundraiser for Kagera?



Seven year old Clara started her little shop under the lighthouse in Southwold in early 2022. She enjoys selling old books and toys she doesn't need any more. She raised money for Ukraine and then started raising money for Kagera. Clara often hears about Kagera through attending St Edmund's Church in Southwold and she remembers Amon Jackson when he visited the church on his visit from Kagera. Since his visit she has raised over £170. Clara says: *"Raising money for Kagera makes me happy."* If you've got a Kagera story to share, contact Chris and Anji on kagera@cofesuffolk.org

Advent and Christmas Events



Follow the Star: Join the Song: Inviting choirs and singing groups of all ages to learn and sing a new version of The First Nowell. Find out more [here](#).

The 'Follow The Star' Advent calendar is now available from [Church House Publishing](#), and other outlets, priced at £3.99 each or 10 for £35. It has been created by Clare Williams, Head of Schools and Family Learning at

Norwich Cathedral, and Charlotte Cooke, a children's illustrator. Featuring a fold-out, stand up crib scene, stickers for every day of Advent and a rhyming Nativity story sheet, it tells the story of how – and why – Jesus came to be born in Bethlehem. Click for [free accompanying daily activities](#) and a Nativity play script inspired by the calendar.

The latest Digital Giving Newsletter has the latest 'Join the Song' backgrounds for devices and online giving. Find it [here](#) and if you need any help or have queries contact emma.denton@cofesuffolk.org



Advent Vigil – singers needed! St Michael's Church, Framlingham IP13 9BJ is hosting an Advent Vigil on Sunday 10 December. Music will be directed by Christopher Borrett, with the choir of St Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich; Framlingham College Chapel Choir and the Sing Praise! school choir. As well as traditional advent carols there will be anthems by Weir, Warlock, Heyburn and Rutter. Additional singers are invited to join by attending the final rehearsal at 2.00pm on the day. Tea will be provided before the service commences at 5.30pm. If you would like to sing, email musicadmin@stmaryletower.org

The Road to Christmas: Experience the Christmas story - complete with actors, costumes and scenery. Come along to St Mary's Church, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1RT on 25 November. Tours every 20 minutes from 10.00am until 3.00pm. Suitable for all ages. Children to be accompanied by an adult.

Colours of Christmas Flower Festival: A weekend festival of flowers and music in Hitcham Church IP7 7NF. Come along to a Christmas themed Floral Exhibition, Saturday 25 November 10.00am - 4.00pm and Sunday 26 November 2.00 - 4.30pm. There will be floral demonstrations, a floral sundries stall and refreshments. Entry is free, and vote with £1 coins for the People's Best in Show. **The Jubilee Ladies Choir Christmas Concert** is also on Saturday 25 November at 7.00pm. Tickets cost £12, refreshments included. There will also be a raffle in aid of Hitcham Church Funds

Christmas Tree Festival: St Mary le Tower, Ipswich looks forward to welcoming you to its famous free Christmas tree festival opening on 30 November. The festival will include more than 100 real and artificial trees sponsored or bought by a whole variety of businesses, charities, community groups and individuals. For more information visit www.stmaryletower.org.



Suffolk Carols

A joint initiative from Suffolk Sounds Radio and Lightwave to promote carol singing in all sorts of venues, strengthen community and raise funds for local charities. Any community carol-singing event between 4 and 24 December can join in. Please visit 'Suffolk Carols' [here](#), and register your event and the charity you are raising funds for and this will be advertised on Suffolk Sounds radio programmes and via the Suffolk Carols Facebook page.

St Matthew's Church of England Primary School is raising funds for charity with a new Christmas song: The song and video by children from 21 schools is available now - just ask your smart speaker to play 'Children of the World' by Chris Warren to raise funds or visit YouTube [here](#).

Christmas Market at St Edmundsbury Cathedral: starting today (Thursday 23 November) until Saturday 25 November. Doors will open from 10.00am – 4.30pm each day offering over 50 stalls, entertainment from local schools and the Haverhill Silver Band plus

special Tower Tours.

Inspiring Angels: Get creative and join our Christmas campaign. 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. All the resources for this campaign are available on our website [here](#).

Drawing near to God in Advent: prayer, postures and practices: Tuesday 28 November 7.00pm - 8.30pm, online. Bishop Mike will lead four Zoom sessions through Advent looking at aspects of prayer, Christian postures and associated practices to help us grow closer to God over Advent. These will run on Tuesday 28 November | Tuesday 5 December | Thursday 14 December and Tuesday 19 December. There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion. All are very welcome! Book [here](#).

Adventurous Advent: Zoom recording

The Adventurous Advent Zoom meeting was recorded so you can view the ideas discussed and the sharing of resources for individuals, study groups, family activities and [more here](#).

Events

Praxis East - Transforming Worship East

Thursday 23 November 7.00pm to 9.00pm on Zoom

The programme will include short presentations on the following topics: Learning from Lament, Singing the Lord's song in a complex world and troubled times, The Place of Vigils – spontaneous and planned, The Garden of Lament at St John's Hoxton and Out of the depths, I cry – Using Psalms of Lament. After each presentation there will be opportunity for questions and comments. More information and the Zoom link available [here](#).

PCC Workshops

Insurance for Parishes | Wednesday 29 November 7.00pm - 8.00pm | Book [here](#)

Gifts in Wills | Thursday 30 November 12.00pm to 1.00pm | Book [here](#)

The Work of the Bury St Edmunds Cathedral Archaeologist

Thursday 30 November, 7.00pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Come along for the final 'Cathedrals at Night' session with the Cathedral Archaeologist, Alison Dickens BA MCI(A). Alison will talk about what being a cathedral archaeologist entails, looking at the legal setting, responsibilities and how the archaeology of the Cathedral Precinct sits within the broader context of the historic Abbey of St Edmund. Tickets are just £10.00 for the talk, refreshments and a tour. [Book here](#).

Bishops' Teaching morning: The Gospel of Mark, with Professor George van Kooten

Saturday 25 November 9.30am - 12.30pm

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

Bishop Martin and Bishop Mike invite you to a study morning on the Gospel of Mark with guest speaker Professor George van Kooten from the Faculty of Divinity at the University of Cambridge, who will be asking what is the genre of Mark's gospel, what is its wider context and the thrust of its argument? Book early to avoid disappointment! Free of charge, for more information and to book, please click [here](#). Enquiries to Lesley Steed on 07485 348889 or lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org.

Vocation Conversations

Tuesday 5 December 7.00pm - 8.00pm by Zoom



This is the second in a series of evening conversations for anyone who is thinking about the question 'how do I know what God is asking me to do?'. Everyone is welcome to join us on Zoom, this time Archdeacon David will share his vocational journey, with plenty of time for comments, questions and conversations. To book, please

[click here](#).

Deanery Drop-In Sessions



Join various teams from the Diocesan office who are offering their advice on Children's and Families' Ministry, Youth Ministry, Giving, Grants, Discipleship, Communications and Vocations – a real opportunity to have conversations and help people. Do you have a burning question that you need advice about? Tell us in advance and we will be ready for you!

Our next Drop In Sessions are on:

St Mary's Church, Hadleigh IP7 5DT

| Wednesday 6 December | 3.00pm to 5.00pm book [here](#) or 6.00pm – 8.00pm book [here](#)

Zoom | Tuesday 23 January | 3.00pm to 5.00pm book [here](#) or 6.00pm – 8.00pm book [here](#)

Thomas Clarkson Centre, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3JT | Tuesday 6 February
| 3.00pm to 5.00pm book [here](#) or 6.00pm – 8.00pm book [here](#)

St Augustine's Community Hub, Ipswich IP3 8TH | Monday 13 May | 3.00pm to 5.00pm book [here](#) or 6.00pm - 8.00pm book [here](#).

Wellbeing Event

Wednesday 6 December 1.00pm to 3.00pm
Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich, IP4 2BE

Join this free festive event linking over 30 local organisations together who offer support to help others. A fantastic opportunity for networking as well as engagement for people looking to enjoy some festivities as well as some carol singing from 'Music in our bones'. No booking required.

Emergency Services Carol Service

Monday 11 December, 7.00pm
St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

You are invited to the annual carol service for our emergency services – police, fire and ambulance - from across the county. It is an opportunity for you to gather to thank them for all they do to protect people in Suffolk. The address this year will be given by Bishop Mike, there will be traditional carols, and music from the Suffolk Rock Choir, the Stowmarket Salvation Army Band and County High School Chamber choir. Please come along and join in, all are welcome.

Enhancing Pastoral Ministry

Wednesdays starting 10 January 2024, 7.30pm
Earl Stonham Village Hall, Forward Green IP14 5HJ

Enhancing Pastoral Ministry is a six-session course for people who are involved in pastoral care (e.g. Readers, Lay Elders, clergy, pastoral visitors) as well as those interested in a deeper understanding of this ministry. Covering a range of themes including: an introduction to Pastoral Ministry, Safeguarding and Pastoral Ministry, Developing our Listening Skills and more. The course is open to all and free of charge. To book and for more information, [please click 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. This module is commended to those who are seeking Permission to Preach. For course dates, more information and to book 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 New Testament writers passed on the gospel of Jesus Christ not as a collection of facts or doctrines, but as a series of stories that shaped people's lives. What can we learn from them about the challenges we face in doing the same in our day? The course is open to all and free of charge. Please book early [here](#).

Notices

500 Suffolk Reasons: This new initiative is a small local fundraising group seeking to find 500 people to donate £1 a week to give £500 to a person, or a family in need. This could be a front line worker unable to afford a car repairs, someone who hasn't seen family as they can't afford to travel, a family who need particular equipment for a child, a

recently homed person who needs furniture. The aim is to deliver some simple kindness each week. Please visit www.500suffolkreasons.org for more information.

Dwelling in the Word Passage for 2023-2024: At Advent 2023 we will change our Dwelling in the Word passage from Col 1.15-29 to a new passage - please forward suggestions for that passage (which we use at many diocesan meetings and other gatherings through the Church's year) by email to [Bishop Mike](mailto:Mike@dioceseofsuffolk.org).

Vacancies

[Team Rector](#) | The Forest Heath Team Benefice | Closing date: 24 November

[Events and Fundraising Assistant](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral | Closing date: 29 November

[Director of Music](#) | Woodbridge

[Priest in Charge and Archdeaconry Mission Enabler](#) | Sproughton with Burstall, Copdock with Washbrook and Belstead

[Rector](#) | Beccles

River Church, Ipswich are recruiting various posts - all details at:

riverchurchipswich.org/vacancies

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



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