



**Thursday 28 April 2022**

### **Responding to the crisis in Ukraine**

As part of the UK Government's 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme, over 700 people have already registered to come to Suffolk. It is thought that so far about 50 have arrived. As churches we are keen to help every single one of them get the best possible welcome by offering welcome boxes, Ukrainian hubs and meeting places and other practical support mechanisms which are being organised across the diocese. If you would like to be part of a Suffolk-wide response team or if churches would like ideas as to what to do next, please email Archdeacon Rhiannon ([archdeacon.rhiannon@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:archdeacon.rhiannon@cofesuffolk.org)).

Many of our churches have already raised significant sums of money for Ukraine Disaster Relief Funds and we'd encourage people to please keep giving and keep raising funds.

We'd also urge churches to keep prayer for Ukraine as a top priority. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Visit our webpage [here](#) for up to date information on donations and supporting refugees, as well as links to Suffolk County Council and support for schools.

## **Growing in God**

### **Hip new Ipswich church tackles student loneliness**



River Church, in Key Street, Ipswich has become a hub for young people looking to explore their faith since it opened its doors in September last year. The church has become a popular hangout spot for students at nearby University of Suffolk, helping young people by offering a contemporary approach to service, with live bands, smoke machines and light displays all a part of weekly worship. Run by husband and wife team Matt and Amy Key, Amy says "*We always wanted to make River Church safe and homely – a place where people can build relationships and meet new people*".

The pair hope to ensure young people are more represented in the Church of England, with two thirds of its congregation is aged under 35 – many being students.

- To read the full story please visit our website [here](#).
- For more information on River Church visit their website: [riverchurchipswich.org](http://riverchurchipswich.org).
- River Church has been launched as part of Inspiring Ipswich which focuses on growing local Anglican church communities in Ipswich. For information on Inspiring Ipswich please visit [here](#).

## Queen's Platinum Jubilee



Our nation will come together over a four-day Bank Holiday weekend to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee, starting on Thursday 2 June. Bishop Martin invites everyone in our parishes to celebrate together. *"As the Church of England in Suffolk, we are ready to play our part in bringing communities together for these national celebrations, joining in with #suffolkblessing and the Festival of Suffolk, initiatives to celebrate our Queen and our County"*.

All the resources you need are on our website

[here](#) including links to:

- National Liturgical resources: special prayers and an outline Service of Thanksgiving
- The Suffolk Jubilee prayer
- #suffolkblessing
- 'Rise up and serve, thanking God for Her Majesty...' details of a new anthem commissioned by HOPE Together
- How to apply for Jubilee grants
- Jubilee prayer spaces
- Ecumenical activities
- Jubilee Torch Relay

The torch relays begins on 13 May as it travels from Brandon to the Suffolk Show in Ipswich. The team is made up of volunteers who are carrying the torch through Suffolk over the coming weeks and we are delighted the first batch includes:

Nina Davis, who has volunteered at the Trimley churches for years; flower arranging, serving refreshments at the weekly community Café 10, a multitude of essential tasks as well as an incredible 37 years as secretary. She is also leader of the annual hanging basket fundraising project which raises several hundred pounds for the church.

Angela Ramsden, who is also actively involved with Trimley church where she is one of the flower arranging team and a volunteer for Café 10 where between 20 and 30 people get together weekly to enjoy a cuppa and the company of others. Whenever there is a church project, such as the recent Christmas Trail in the churchyard over Christmas, she will be in the thick of it!

## Suffolk Show - 31 May and 1 June

The Suffolk Show is back!!! We are so excited to be hosting a stand at the show in 2022.

After two years of cancellations due to the pandemic this show should be the best yet. The show has the added benefit of being the two days before the Jubilee weekend which is sure to increase its profile. Our stand at the Suffolk Show will feature the Jubilee as we launch #suffolkblessing as our key theme alongside our Jubilee prayer. The marquee will be focused around café church offering:

- Complimentary tea, coffee and cakes
- Seating, cushions and sofas!
- Puppet shows
- Face painting
- Singing at 2.30pm each day
- Creative activities for children of all ages!

**Do come along and see us.**

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## Events

### **Global Leadership Conference from Alpha International**

Monday 2 May 11.30am - 2.00pm. Repeated on Tuesday 3 May 9.00am - 11.30am (online)

Christians around the world are being offered the opportunity to gather in unity and hope at this time of unprecedented instability. The Leadership Conference from Alpha is for everyone, everywhere – and tens of thousands of people from all around the world have already signed up to attend the online event, which will be aired in four different time slots and different languages to allow every time zone the chance to participate.

The conference will be hosted by pioneer of Alpha, Nicky Gumbel, and his wife Pippa. The event is designed to share hope. The key themes will focus on encouraging the church to unite around our shared mission of reaching the nations with the gospel, revitalising the church and transforming society. To book your free place go to <https://www.leadershipconference.org.uk/register>

### **Vocations Sunday and Vocations Fair**

Sunday 8 May 2022, 2.00pm - 4.00pm

The Cloisters, St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Our common vocation is to grow in our relationship with God, to love and serve God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. We have drawn together some helpful resources on a Padlet (an electronic noticeboard) to support you for Vocations Sunday, available [here](#).

Come and visit the Vocations Fair at the Cathedral where the Revd Stuart Batten is preaching at the 10.30am service on 8 May, and will then be available for informal chats. Afterwards visit the many stalls representing our ministries for an informal chat to find the right ministry for you, for example: Licensed Youth Ministers, Anna Chaplaincy, Children's

and Families Ministers, Church Army, Elders, Pioneers, Evangelists, Lightwave Leaders, Ordained Ministers, PCC Officers, Readers, School Foundation Governors and Spiritual Directors.

If there is anything else that we can do to support and encourage vocations in your parish, please do email the Revd Stuart Batten, Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Vocations, at [stuart.batten@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:stuart.batten@cofesuffolk.org) or tel: 07468 474065.

### **Get started with legacies**

Wednesday 11 May 12.00pm to 1.00pm (online)

Join Julie Podd (Parish Resources Manager) and Helen Simpkins (Deputy National Giving Advisor) to learn more about how to get started with setting up and promoting a legacy policy in your parish including how to qualify for free wills. This session will help set up and promote a parish legacy policy, with the chance to opt into a free wills scheme for your parish. Book [here](#).

### **Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) - Who, What, Why?**

Tuesday 17 May 11.00am to 12.00pm (online)

Julie Podd (Diocesan Parish Resources Manager) invites you to hear from Catia Oldrey (PGS Regional Advisor) and Grant Forrest (PGS CEO). The PGS is a simple, secure and time efficient way for churches to receive direct debit donations and is designed to support churches to fund their mission and ministry from those generous regular givers within the church and those in the wider community. This session will outline everything you need to know to help you make an informed decision about using the PGS. Book [here](#).

### **Taking photographs at your Jubilee events**

Tuesday 17 May 2.00pm to 3.00pm (online)

Led by Becky Luetchford, Lightwave Comms Story Telling and Leonie Ryle, Diocesan Communications Manager. This workshop will cover the basics in taking good photographs, using them for PR and permissions/safeguarding issues. Book [here](#).

### **Using the Parish Giving Scheme as a catalyst for generosity**

Tuesday 17 May 2.00pm to 3.00pm (online)

Join Julie Podd (Diocesan Parish Resources Manager), Catia Oldrey (PGS Regional Advisor) and Grant Forrest (PGS CEO) to share ideas about how you can incorporate a generosity campaign with the launch of PGS in your parish and see how the two combined can be a catalyst for generosity. Covering the power of vision in creating a generous culture, ideas on how to promote the scheme and examples of how using PGS in a shared ministry of giving has transformed parish finances. Book [here](#).

### **Rogationtide Walk**

Saturday 21 May 2022 10.30am - 4.30pm

St Martin's, Exning

For the second year running the churches of Exning and North Newmarket are 'Beating the Bounds' of the three parishes, with 13 mile walk which we hope will spark the interest of the wider community. We hope participants might be willing to be sponsored for the work

of Christian Aid, adding to the annual house-to-house envelope delivery. Our friends at St Peter's, Snailwell in the diocese of Ely are providing hospitality around lunchtime, and there are 'facilities' open enroute. Please contact the Revd Canon Mark Haworth for more information, and to register your interest by email: [mhaworth50@hotmail.com](mailto:mhaworth50@hotmail.com) or tel: 07932 160 009.

### **Eco Churches conference**

18 June 2022 10.00am until 1.00pm (online)

Six cathedrals in the east of England are joining forces to host an Eco Church Conference to help churches to play their part in achieving the Church of England's goal of 'net carbon zero by 2030'.

Everyone is welcome to attend but clergy, churchwardens, parochial church council members and churchgoers are particularly welcome. This is the second annual conference as part of the Sustaining God's Creation initiative, which aims to support individuals and churches in finding ways to live more sustainably. Keynote speakers and workshop leaders will be representatives of [A Rocha Eco Church](#), [Caring for God's Acre](#), [Christian Aid](#), [Climate Stewards](#), a conservation architect and others involved in aspects of the Church's environmental engagement. Attendance at the conference is free of charge but registration in advance is essential. Full details and registration links are available on the Sustainable Living Conference website here: [www.sustaininggodscreation.org](http://www.sustaininggodscreation.org).

### **God Calling?**

18 June 2022 10.00am to 12.00pm  
Assington Hall, 75 Further Street CO10 5LE

Sometimes life can seem so full on and fast paced that we don't feel that there is any time to stop and listen to God. God Calling? is an opportunity to press the pause button in our busy lives for a couple of hours and tune into God's still small voice. Join us at the beautiful surroundings of Assington Hall for a morning of quiet reflection on theme of God's call on our lives. To book your place please visit: <https://2022-god-calling.eventbrite.co.uk>

### **Notices**

**Covid-19: Please visit the recently updated Church of England page [here](#) and the Diocesan guidance page [here](#) for the most up to date information and guidance for churches.**

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### **Vacancies**

[Priest-in-Charge](#) | Waterfront Parishes, Ipswich | 0.5 | Closing date 29 April  
Youth & Young Adults Pastor | Beccles Parish | Closing date: 1 May - please contact [richhenderson@btinternet.com](mailto:richhenderson@btinternet.com)

[Vicar](#) | All Saints', Newmarket | Closing date: 4 May

[Mission Project Officer \(Mission & Ministry Team\)](#) | Closing date 9 May

[Team Vicar](#) | Wilford Benefice | Closing date: 10 May

[Vicar](#) | St Mary with St Peter, Bury St Edmunds | Closing date: 17 May

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