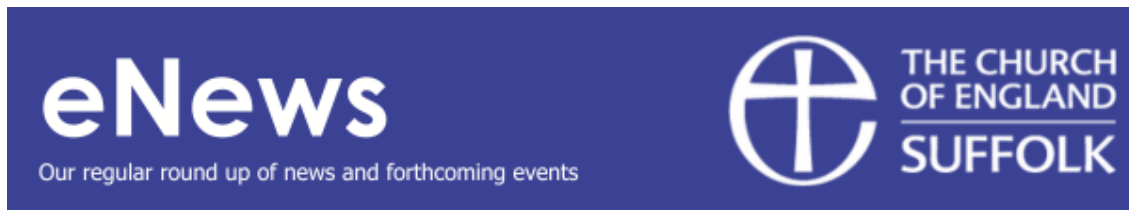


Thursday 29 February 2024



Restoration project protects the future of church bells for another century



The bells in St Peter and St Mary's Church, Stowmarket are finally back in the tower and ringing for service! The bells and frame underwent a major restoration project and were also augmented from eight to 10 bells in a project hampered by the Covid pandemic, which saw a three-year gap between the bells leaving and then returning. However the bells

rang out last Sunday (Sunday 25 February) at a dedication service attended by Bishop Mike Harrison. Bishop Mike said: *"Church bells are a rich part of England's social landscape - ringing out to mark celebrations such as weddings or coronations, sounding dolefully for funerals or national mourning, and more ordinarily simply calling people to worship on a Sunday morning and at other times. So it's a joy to bless the bells at Stowmarket church as they once again begin to sound out after work has been undertaken on them - and a joy too to welcome back that committed group of bellringers who ensure that we hear those bells at their tuneful best."* To read the full story, please visit our website [here](#).

Appointment of Tim Holder as Director of Engagement

"I'm really pleased to welcome a new member of our leadership team with a focus on strengthening communication and growing partnerships with congregations and communities across the county. Tim Holder starts his role as Director of Engagement next week.

During his career to date, Tim has worked for the East Anglian Daily Times, The Times and Sunday Times, within the voluntary sector in international development in Africa, India, Bangladesh and Latin America before returning to Suffolk nine years ago as Director of Development and Communications at Suffolk Community Foundation. Tim is well known across Suffolk to many and brings a wealth of experience and talent to us.

Tim joins us at a time when the diocese is even more focused on supporting our parishes and communities, and his involvement will help us more effectively contribute to the work of our clergy, congregations and partners as they reach out to their communities to meet local needs. This is a part-time, four days a week role, and one that has been vacant for some time, so I'm really excited to appoint Tim and am looking forward to working with

him at this challenging time for so many".

Gary Peverley, Diocesan Secretary

Tim said: "During my recent time with the Foundation, I'd been working with so many dedicated people who wanted to make a difference in Suffolk and I'm really excited to bring my existing knowledge and experience to the diocese."

Bishop Martin said: " I am thrilled that Tim is joining the diocesan staff in this key role. Tim will bring to this post his love of Suffolk and love of the Church, as well as his huge experience with the Suffolk Community Foundation. In this role he will support parishes and congregations in their community outreach, and help the story of our churches' pastoral and community work be more widely known. I am looking forward to working with Tim as we seek to show and share God's love in Suffolk."

Music, Mission and Young People

Music is often a key factor in attracting people to church, and involvement in church music activities can provide an important opportunity to introduce young people to the Christian faith. The Diocese has launched a new project aimed at helping churches to use music as a transformative missional tool to encourage young people to grow in faith. This is being headed up by Richard Hubbard as Project Director, with Andrew Gosden as Project Manager. Richard and Andrew are keen to speak to churches or benefices that have a desire to develop music activities that involve young people. Examples might include:

- A youth choir
- A church choir with choristers
- A music group
- A choir run in partnership with a local C of E school

A key aspect of this project is that all such music activities should include a pathway for exploring and growing in Christian faith. The project plans to set up a network that will provide mutual encouragement and support, with music and faith development resources. Later in the year it is planned to submit a bid to the Strategic Mission and Ministry Board for longer-term funding that will enable local projects to be developed and sustained. If your church is interested in exploring opportunities to reach young people by involving them in music, contact richard.hubbard@cofesuffolk.org as soon as possible.



The Church of England's Lent theme for 2024 is **Watch and Pray: Wisdom and hope for Lent and life**. We are invited to seek God in both familiar and unfamiliar places this Lent: 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. Sign up for daily reflections [here](#). For further Lent resources please visit our website [here](#).

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 which will be opened by 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. 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. For all the details please visit [here](#). ***IMPORTANT NOTICE** - *This is going ahead as planned on 15 March as opposed to the previously advertised date. We do apologise for the mistake and any inconvenience this may have caused.**

Give a Mothers' Day Virtual Gift

This year Mothering Sunday is during Lent, please consider giving a virtual Mothers' Union Gift of Dignity. You might want to buy for your mother, choose to dedicate your gift in memory of a loved one, or help grandchildren surprise mum with these alternative and very special gifts. A gift such as the 'Money Matter gift', a gift that empowers women to learn the skills to run and grow their own business, which makes a real difference in the well being of not only their family, but also their church and local community as the women now have an income that enables them to feed, clothe and educate their children. The women also have resources to donate to their church and they share their knowledge with the community. Starting at £11 there is a gift for everyone. The order deadline is 1 March to ensure delivery in time for 10 March. For full details go to www.mothersunion.org

Maximising giving: Whatever form your Lent and Easter takes, please have a look at the Digital Giving Team's Easter newsletter. With information on how you might optimise digital giving over the coming season, it also takes a fresh look at digital giving processes, thinking about how to maintain trust with givers. Please click [here](#).

Events

Negotiating Change and Changing Culture

Monday 4 March, 7.00pm, Online

We all have to negotiate change once in a while - this course is designed to support you through leading change and finding ways to avoid barriers and reach the vision or goal. This taster course on Zoom allows you to gain insight into why change causes unease and how to manage that. Join the Revd Kathy Wilson who has studied change management in many corporate settings including the NHS, education and within the Church. Sign up [here](#).

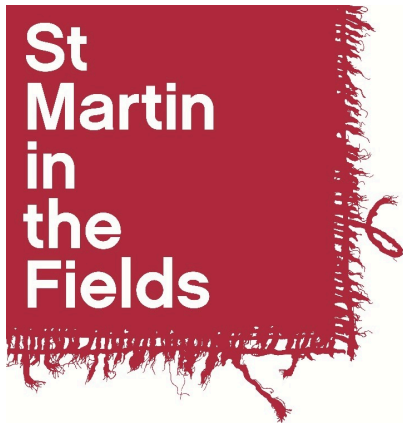
Concert and Workshop

Wednesday 6 March, Workshop 4.00pm to 5.00pm, Concert 6.30pm to 8.00pm

All Saints' Church, Hitcham IP7 7NN

An invitation to join a singing workshop led by the St Martin-in-the-Fields Choral Scholars, directed by Andrew Earis. Suitable for local choirs/singers and anyone who is interested. The concert will include reflections from the Revd Sharon Grenham-Thompson. Tickets cost £7.50 to include refreshments. Please note the church has a toilet and a large car park signed from the B1115 - Sat Nav IP7 7NR. There will be a break from 5.00pm - 6.00pm, please bring your own packed meal, tea and coffee will be available.

Contact RNFCurrie@gmail.com to register your interest and receive more information.



Introduction to Online Giving

Friday 8 March, 3.00pm – 4.00pm

Take the first steps in setting up online giving for your church, including QR codes, web campaigns, accessing reports, and gift aid data. This webinar is helpful for newcomers to online giving, and also provides an opportunity for others to ask questions and think about how to optimise their online giving. Please [book here](#).

Annual Arts Programme

All Saints' Room, All Saints' Church, Newmarket CB8 8ES

Saturday 9 March, 10.00am-12.00pm

See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these'. (Matthew 6:28-29) Jesus tells us: don't worry! It is like a command. Join this art session to be calm and learn from the flowers – creating a mixed-media collage to remind us of the Eden we have lost and the hope of the new Eden in the future. Materials needed: old magazines, PVA, scissors, paper and glue spreaders / brushes. No booking is required for these events, more information is available [here](#).

Motherhood and Ministry: Theology and Spirituality

Online via Zoom

Tuesday 12 March, 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Rev Helen Collins, Vice-principal of Trinity College, Bristol will lead this seminar. She writes: *"Within this session, we will reflect together on some of the theological and spiritual themes which are raised by the intersecting experiences of motherhood and ministry. We will explore the life of Mary, the mother of Jesus, to think about the ways in which she embodied motherhood and ministry."* To book your place, please [click here](#).

Lark Rise Retreat Days 2024

Lark Rise Retreats in Felixstowe provide a space and time for people to relax with God.

Upcoming events include:

- 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.

To book, please visit larkriseretreats.org.uk or call 01394 284213.

Understanding Connectivity

Thursday 14 March, 12.00pm – 1.00pm, [Book here](#) and 13 June, 11.00am – 12.00pm, [Book here](#)

Find out about the connectivity options available to your church - from WiFi to 4G - how to

get your contactless devices connected, and what to do if you have no connectivity at all. We will be going through the connectivity options in relation to digital giving and how it can be optimised to make it easier in your church.

Edmund Lecture | Dame Barbara Woodward DCMG OBE

Friday 15 March, 6.30pm-7.30pm - **NEW DATE**

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Thank you so much for your patience, we are delighted that the Edmund Lecture with Dame Barbara Woodward DCMG OBE has been rebooked. The Ambassador will explore parallels between the Magna Carta, as the 'great charter' which laid the foundation for the modern British values of rule of law and equality before it, of liberty and rights, and the UN Charter, which established the international rules and values that have underpinned relative peace and stability since the second World War. The Lecture will be followed by a special service of Vespers at 7.30pm to which all are welcome. Vespers is a liturgy of evening prayer that, for centuries, was part of the daily rhythm of prayer kept by the monks at the Abbey of St Edmund. To book your place, please click [here](#).

Seeing is Believing

Wednesday 20 March, 1.30pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Join Tracy de Bernhardt-Wood, Suffolk icon painter, as she guides you through the art and significance of icons. This talk takes place in the Week of 'Lady Day' when the Church remembers the Virgin Mary. Tracy's talk will last approximately 30 minutes and attendance is free, please book by emailing ChrisEyden@stedscathedral.org. You can also visit Tracy at work throughout the week commencing Monday 18 March, during which time she will be working on painting an icon of Mary entitled 'Hodegetria, "she who points the way"'.

Deanery Drop in Sessions

We are offering you support to help you achieve your Plan for Growth. The following [drop-ins](#) are around the diocese to give you a chance to get the help you need, this is an exciting opportunity to meet the 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. For a full listing of the drop-in dates please click [here](#). Drop-in sessions coming up are:

St Luke's Church, Beccles NR34 9JQ Thursday 21 March	3.30pm - 5.15pm: book here	6.00pm – 8.00pm: book here
Thomas Clarkson Centre, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3JT Tuesday 23 April	3.00pm - 5.00pm: book here	6.00pm – 8.00pm: book here
St Augustine's Community Hub, Ipswich IP3 8TH Wednesday 15 May	3.00pm - 5.00pm: book here	6.00pm - 8.00pm: book here .

Here I am

Friday 22 March, 9.30 - 4.00pm

Ridley Hall, Cambridge CB3 9HG

A day conference for young women and non-binary people to explore ordination. Come to reflect on God's call, to hear about practicalities, to ask, to meet and to pray. Hosted by Church of England ministers from a range of perspectives and experiences, including the Revd Ali Miller from the Lark Valley and North Bury benefice. All are welcome. More information is available from The Revd Wendy Thomson at wendy@chatteris.org. To book visit [here](#).

Grants and Funding Workshop

Monday 25 March, 12.00pm – Online

Emma Denton (Diocesan Giving Advisor) will be joined by John Bailey from Beccles who has had considerable success in accessing grants and funding for his church. Emma will tell you about the advice and resources the Diocese can offer to support you as you apply for grants and fundraise for your projects, including the Church Grants database. John will share his knowledge and experience of what he has been able to achieve for his church. They will welcome questions at the end of their presentations.

Sign up [here](#).

Vocation Conversations

Monday 8 April, 7.00pm - 8.00pm online



This is the third 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 on Zoom, to hear Bishop Mike as he shares his vocational journey. There will be plenty of time for comments, questions and conversations. Please

book [here](#).

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](#).

Deanery Parish Resources Meeting

Wednesday 17 April 7.00pm

Brandeston Village Hall IP13 7AE

Please join the Parish Resources Team for an interesting talk about the Parish Giving Scheme, Digital Giving, Gifts in Wills, Grants & Funding. This is an open meeting - all are welcome to attend, whether Treasurers, members of PCCs, Churchwardens, or anyone else wishing to learn more about this important aspect of church life. It would be useful to know if you are able to attend the meeting, so please book by emailing stpeterscretingham@gmail.com.

Digital Giving

Tuesday 30 April 1.00pm – Online

Join the Parish Resources Team as they share why digital giving is so important for all churches to enable your generous congregation and wider community to give easily to your church. They will show you how to set up online giving campaigns using 'Give A Little' and 'Sum Up' or 'Stripe' (payment providers) and how to share the online link and QR codes on your A Church Near You Page and/or your website as well as using it on pew sheets, posters and in parish magazines. They will also show you some donation device options for those churches with Wi-Fi, churches that have good mobile SIM coverage inside their church, and for those who need an off-line device, including different pricing options. There will be time to ask questions and to see the CollecTin devices that we can lend out to you on trial. Sign up [here](#)

Doctrine

Tuesdays starting 30 April 2024, 7.00pm to 9.00pm

Venue to be announced

A six-session course led by Bishop Mike 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](#).

Supporting Bereaved Children and Young People

Thursday 16 May, 10.45am to 3.00pm

Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Norfolk

Open to clergy and laity of all denominations and organised by the Guild of All Souls, an Anglican charity whose objects are praying and caring for the sick, dying, departed and bereaved. Visit their website [here](#). Cost of the conference is £20, including welcome coffee/tea and a two-course lunch. To book, please email mihoward@btinternet.com.

Clergy Retreat - Led by Bishop Martin

7 - 11 October 2024

St Andrew's Abbey, Zevenkerken-Brugge, Belgium

The best kept secret in the Diocese! Since 1960 when there was a formal link with Brugge a group of hardy clergy have braved the sea and weather to travel to the Abbey to spend time with the wonderful brothers at St Andrew's Abbey. Speakers in the past have spoken on a range of subjects from World Mission, The Psalms, and more. There are approximately 15 spaces available and you can come with spouses/partners. For more details or to book please contact the Revd David H Messer on 01964 563987 | davidharrymesser93@gmail.com.

Notices

Statistics for Mission: Thank you to all parishes who have already submitted their Statistics for Mission forms. The National Church deadline has been extended to **Sunday 17 March**. 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. Further help can be viewed on our website here: [Stats for Mission Help](#).

St Edmundsbury Cathedral Pews for sale: St Edmundsbury Cathedral is evolving, and part of its change is introducing chairs to the Nave. This means Cathedral pews will be offered for sale to the community and local people in February, both as they are, and as refurbished furniture and useful items. If you are interested in buying a Cathedral pew, or hearing more about their refurbishment project with Rough Stuff, please visit their [website here](#).

Cathedral Kneelers:

New additional collection date: Wednesday 13 March from 1.30 pm – 3.30 pm
With the arrival of new chairs at the Cathedral and the removal of the pews, we now have an opportunity to evolve how we use the kneelers in the Cathedral. We really want to keep the kneelers as they mean so much to our community, but we also enjoy the idea of giving them new life. With this in mind, we will be keeping 500 of the kneelers in the Cathedral, each representing a parish or group. As most kneelers have a twin, we would love to offer it back to you to display in your church as part of the origin story of these items. If you haven't already been in touch but would like to arrange the collection of your kneeler/kneelers, please email visits@stedscathedral.org and let us know. You will be able to collect these on Wednesday 13 March from 1.30 pm – 3.30 pm.

Vacancies

[Associate Leader of Lightwave](#) | Lightwave | Closing date: 3 March
[Diocesan Development Officer for Social Enterprise](#) | Lightwave | Closing date: 3 March
[Rector](#) | [Bacton Benefice](#) | Closing date: 4 March
[Director of Music](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral | Closing date: 5 March
[Voluntary Diocesan Secretary](#) | Mothers' Union | Closing date: 20 March
[Diocesan Treasurer](#) | Mothers' Union | Closing date: 20 March
[River Church Opportunities](#) | Ipswich
[New Opportunities in Ipswich](#) | Inspiring Ipswich

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

**The Bishops
of Suffolk**





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](#)
