



Thursday 3 November

Growing in God



Barrow benefice supporting their community

Working as a partnership with local schools, the Good Neighbours' Scheme, Parish Councils, Village Hall Committees, the local pub and other groups, the Revd Lynda Sebbage has been able to set up a programme that includes a community pantry, warm rooms, hardship fund and a microwave and slow cooker project.

Funding for the hardship fund is raised through the Breakfast Club and a Praise and Play group and Lynda is able to offer small amounts of money to anyone in the benefice who has an emergency, to help tide them over. Some people need help with food and the community pantry serves to help out. A local business has provided £1,000 towards the purchase of slow cookers and microwaves enabling the team to offering people help and advice with producing nutritious food at an affordable price. The pub in Barrow is offering a 'warm room' with a cup of tea, and Risby Village Hall is setting up a regular warm room called the Cozy Coffee Club. Towards Christmas, with the help of the Good Neighbours Scheme, boxes of food will be distributed around the villages.

The Revd Lynda Sebbage says *"We can respond quickly in an emergency. As the church, we feel a responsibility to lead these initiatives and show the love and compassion of Christ. We do love our neighbour and I hope it shows"*.

[Read full story here.](#)

52 Days until Christmas - Here are lots of resources to help you invite people to church this Christmas:

Doorstep Carols 2022: Sing along with Radio Suffolk on 14 December from 6.00pm -



day!



bedroom windows, wherever people's imagination takes them! This is a great opportunity to fill Suffolk with joy this Christmas! To find out more visit our website [here](#).



posts. Please also register all your Christmas services on the site [here](#).

Growing in God Growth Fund grants: The diocesan Growing in God Growth Fund is open again offering grants to help you and your church reach out creatively to encourage sharing of the Christian faith and so grow our church family in number. Last Christmas over £1,850 was given to support five projects including Christmas goody bags, Christmas boxes, angel crafts, prayer trees and church displays. Grants of up to £1,500 are available, for more information and the application form please visit our page [here](#).

Christmas Tree Festival

10 December - 7 January

Church Road, Great Barton, IP31 2QS

7.00pm. We are delighted that Radio Suffolk are again partnering with us to organise carol singing on doorsteps across the county to spread some much-needed cheer and raise funds for local charities. Do deliver carol sheets in your area and encourage everyone to join in. You could even combine this with Inspiring Angels (see below) by donning wings and halos for the occasion!

You will find invitations/carol sheets which you can customise by adding your own local Christmas information at www.lightwave.community/doorstep-carols-1. We look forward to singing with you on the

Inspiring Angels: 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

Follow the Star - The Great Invitation: The Church of England has launched their annual Christmas campaign. 2022 offers a chance to welcome people back to services and events that haven't been possible in recent years. Discover resources to invite your community back to church this Christmas. Find out more on the national website [here](#). The 'A Church Near You' website includes a Resource Hub providing free adaptable content and a social media creator is really easy to use to download graphics for your social media

The Christmas Tree Festival at Holy Innocents Church, Great Barton will be 'A Quiet Place for Christmas' to encourage people to visit the church over the whole Christmas season with no obligation. For many, Christmas is a manic time of business, rushing about, spending, spending, spending. Holy Innocents will be a refuge from all the bustle and noise; a place to sit quietly, to pray, to be with God in stillness.

Together Family Church

The Benefice of Holy Innocents, Great Barton and St Peter's, Thurston introduce Together Family Church - a new, inclusive church service for families old and new. Running every third Sunday of the month at 10.00am from Thurston Primary Academy and every fourth Sunday from Great Barton Primary School, each service is a blend of breakfast, song, activities and prayer – and sometimes even magic! For more information click [here](#).

Events

DOCTRINE

16, 23 and 30 November and 8, 14 and 21 December 2022, by Zoom

Join this six-session online course unpacking the Apostles' Creed so we can apply this to our own lives and draw others into a deeper experience of God. Bishop Mike has a unique way of expressing deep truths in memorable ways that make us both chuckle and think! Be prepared to be stretched! Subjects include God, Jesus, The Cross, Resurrection, Holy Spirit and Eternal Life. £25 for the whole course (free to those who undertake this as initial training on our Auxiliary Ordination Pathway). For more information and to book please click [here](#).

Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking

14 November 2022, 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Christ Church, Grange Farm Avenue, Felixstowe, IP11 2XD

Felixstowe Town Pastors bring you information evenings to share a better understanding of topical subjects to support people in our community or those with whom we may come into contact. This particular session is by Mark English – Modern Slavery Group Coordinator for Norfolk & Suffolk Constabularies. Victims of Modern Slavery are referred to a support network and you may be surprised to know that for Suffolk, there were 109 referrals in 2020, 144 in 2021 and 92 within the first six months of this year. Modern Slavery is very much a hidden crime, so it is likely the numbers are higher. This evening is open to anyone to attend and is free of charge. Please register your place by emailing Clare at coordinator@felixstowetownpastors.org.uk

Seeing Salvation: Art and the Spirituality of Ministry

Saturday 19 November 2022 9.30am - 3.30pm

Salvation Army Hall, 3 Violet Hill Road, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

The saying goes: a picture is worth a thousand words. St Ignatius of Loyola recommended 'praying with the senses' as a way of going deeper into scripture and into encounter with the living God. With the help of artists Sieger Köder and Stephen Foster, Gemma Simmonds reflects on praying with images and on the spirituality of ministry in an image-conscious age. Open to all Readers, LLMs, Elders and Lay Ministers in training. Although this event is free, [please register here](#) so that we can make provision for refreshments.

Come and Sing

Saturday 19 November

St John's, Cauldwell Hall Road, Ipswich IP4 4QE

Cantus Firmus Choir are holding a Come and Sing day from 10.00am to 4.00pm, led by Richard Hubbard, St Edmundsbury & Ipswich Music Development Director. The day is open to all singers, and will explore extracts from two contrasting choral works: Haydn's popular oratorio *The Creation*, with its effervescent and energetic choruses, and Andrew Carter's imaginative *Benedicite*, written in 2001, which combines imaginative settings of the traditional text from the Book of Common Prayer with creative new additions in a variety of styles. Advance booking is essential. Full details can be found at www.cantusfirmus.org.uk/events/come-and-sing.html

Safeguarding Sunday

Sunday 20 November

Safeguarding Sunday is an annual awareness-raising campaign coordinated by the charity Thirtyone:eight to give churches an opportunity to show their communities that they take their safeguarding responsibility seriously and to explore together as a church what safer places look like. The theme of the campaign this year is: "One Church, One Day, One message: Protecting Vulnerable People. Together." A prayer video will be released and includes a contribution from the Bishop of Bristol, Viv Faull, one of the Church of England's deputy lead safeguarding bishops. Churches can download the video and all the resources for free at thirtyoneeight.org/safeguardingsunday

Digital Church Summit

Thursday 24 November

King's House, 242 Pentonville Road, London N1 9YJ

We are in the midst of a digital communications revolution and how the Church in the UK responds to this will shape our nation for generations to come. The Digital Church Summit wants to help you, and hundreds of other Church leaders, staff members and volunteers, gain effective strategies for advancing the Gospel in 2022 and beyond. This event will help you identify what you should be prioritising, make managing your church's digital presence easier, and teach you the strategies you need to make it fruitful. If you are interested, you can watch online for free or join in person for only £65. To register, please [click the link here](#)

PCC webinars:

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| Wednesday 9 November 10.00am - 11.30am | Gary Peverley, Diocesan Director of Finance, and Colin Firth, Deanery Organiser for Thingoe | Find out more about Parish Share and have the chance to ask questions. |
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| Book here . | | |
| Wednesday 16 November, 7.30pm Book here | Diana Spencer, Eastern Region Engagement Officer, Church of England's Bats in Churches team. | Offering advice on bats in churches. |
| Wednesday 23 November, 7.30pm Book here | The Venerable Dr David Jenkins. | Focusing on alternative uses for churches in addition to regular worship. |
| Wednesday 30 November, 7.30pm Book here | Edmund Harris, DAC Secretary. | Presentation on faculties, the DAC and church buildings in general. |

Enhancing Pastoral Ministry - Refreshed!

Wednesdays 11 and 25 January, 1 and 8 February, and 1 and 15 March 2023, 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Earl Stonham Village Hall, Forward Green IP14 5HJ

Enhancing Pastoral Ministry is a six-session course for people who are involved in pastoral care (for example, Readers, Lay Elders, clergy, pastoral visitors) as well as those interested in a deeper understanding of this ministry. The sessions cover a range of themes. Cost is £25 for the whole course, but free to those who undertake this as initial training as an Elder or part of the Auxiliary Ordination Pathway. CMD grants are available to LLMs and clergy, please contact Lesley Steed at lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org. To book your place on this course, please [click here](#).

BIG Weekend

Friday 14 April 2023, 6.00pm – Sunday 16 April 4.00pm

Sizewell Hall, Sizewell, Leiston IP16

Matt Levett, Diocesan Youth & Young Adults Officer, invites you to the BIG Weekend - a weekend of craziness, worship, games and friendship all focused around learning more about living as a Christian in the C21st. Organised by a team of experienced youth workers from around Suffolk it offers young people the opportunity to come together and make new friends.

Ask members of your youth group if they would like to come along. The age range is from school years 7-13. Whilst it is Christian in ethos and focus you don't have to call yourself a Christian to be able to attend and have fun! To find out more and to sign up please visit here: <https://gather-the-big-weekend.eventbrite.co.uk>

Notices

The Queen's Green Canopy: The Chancellor has granted a Section 78 Order for the

planting of one of Bishop Martin's tree saplings in contribution to the Queen's Green Canopy. A copy of the order is available [here](#). The Order is 'blanket permission' for parishes to proceed with the planting without further ado from yourselves or the DAC. The planting of trees usually requires List B approval, and still does for any trees not planted in line with the Order.

Please note that Bishop Martin is arranging to deliver trees to deaneries, and Lorna Todd will be contacting Clergy to make arrangements over the coming months.

Vacancies

[Cook/Chef](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral

[Data Analyst](#) | Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Board of Finance | Closing date 7 November

[Priest in Charge](#) | Orebeck Benefice (south of Framlingham) | part-time | Closing date 10 November

[Rector](#) | Glem Valley United Benefice | Closing date 11 November

[Priest in Charge](#) | St Margaret's Church, Ipswich | Closing date 15 November

[Rector and Rural Dean](#) | Claydon and Barham, Great Blakenham and Henley | Closing date 5 December

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