



Thursday 6 October 2022

Growing in God

Synod October 2022

Bishop Martin addressed Synod last Saturday in a reflective mood. There are two basic ways in which humans relate to the world, through the eyes of love and fear. Love in terms of the things that bring us joy and a focus on things we treasure, and fear whether it be as a response to the news or the impact of climate change. All of us respond to love and fear in varying ways. As Christians we are called to be agents of hope. We live in challenging times, and in these times our congregations aspire to dispel fear and connect with love - offering communities love and truth.

[You can see the full presidential speech on our website here.](#)

We pray that for the time ahead we will be able to care for those in great need in our communities and make the necessary provision for those who lead us in our worship and our service. We are therefore asking, as we have done once before, to pray this prayer in every service in your places of worship from this Sunday, 2 October until All Saints' Sunday, 30 October.

Loving God,
you are always with us,
and give us all we need to be your church in Suffolk.
In these challenging times, as we respond in loving
action to those in great need,
help us, we pray, to give as we have received:
abundantly, generously, and joyfully,
that our worship and our service
may bear witness to your Kingdom of unfailing love.
In the name of your Son who gave himself for us,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Plan for Growth

As a diocese we want to be Growing in God: in depth, influence, number and younger. We want to see "**flourishing congregations making a difference**" across Suffolk in all aspects of our county's life and among the people who live here. To help you achieve this we have produced a series of resources to help you Plan for Growth, now available digitally here:

[Growing in God](#)

[Plan for Growth - Incumbent and PCC resources](#)

[Growing in God - Parish resources](#)

In the video below Bishop Mike explores ways in which you can do your Plan for Growth following three simple steps: listen, choose and plan.



How can a small church create a Plan for Growth?

Bishop Martin sows hundreds of tree seeds



More than 400 trees grown from seed by Bishop Martin will be a memorial to the late Queen Elizabeth. The hornbeam trees will be planted in nearly all of the parishes of the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocese.

Bishop Martin said: *"I wanted to do something that would be a lasting celebration of Her Majesty's reign, which now also, sadly, becomes a memorial. I am hugely grateful to the network of Suffolk Tree Nurses who have guided me in the art and science of growing trees from seed"*.

For the full story please click [here](#).

Photography by Paul Nixon.

Events

Why Christianity still makes sense in the modern world - Tower Talks

St Mary Le Tower, Ipswich IP1 3BE

Join St Mary Le Tower as they offer a series of talks, each starting after Choral Evensong at 4.00pm. The talks will conclude with refreshments and an opportunity for questions.

Francis Spufford, Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature - 9 October

Helen Langton, Vice Chancellor, University of Suffolk, 23 October.

Plan for Growth check-in sessions

7.00pm to 8.00pm online

To help you as you go through the development of your **Plan for Growth** we are offering a number of online check-ins in October (as below) and November (dates to be released shortly). Please book to come and tell us how you are getting on and what you need to help you go forward – churchwardens, clergy or whoever is best suited to represent your benefice are all very welcome. If you have a quick question, you can always



email phil.dykes@cofesuffolk.org.

October check-in dates - please click to book:

Monday 10 October | [Book here](#)

Thursday 13 October | [Book here](#)

Tuesday 18 October | [Book here](#)

Wednesday 19 October | [Book here](#)

Celebration of Lay Elder Ministry

Sunday 9 October, refreshments from 2.30pm, service at 4.00pm
St Edmundsbury Cathedral

We are delighted to be able to invite all Elders and their family and friends to a Celebration of Elder Ministry taking place at St Edmundsbury Cathedral on Sunday 9 October 2022 at 4.00pm. You are warmly invited to join us for refreshments from 2.30pm in Pilgrim's Kitchen before we gather for Choral Evensong. This promises to be a beautiful service with a variety of choral and instrumental worship. Bishop Martin will be leading the service and Bishop Mike will be preaching. Please confirm that you would like to join us by registering by contacting Lesley Steed on lesley.steed@cofesuffolk by 12 noon on Friday 7 October so we can finalise arrangements with the Cathedral. If you know anyone who would like to explore the possibility of Elder ministry, why not invite them to come along too. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

Celebrating the work of Guide Dogs for the Blind

Sunday 9 October 2022
St Mary's Church, East Bergholt CO7 6TG

You are invited to join guide dog 'Canon' Coco and the Revd Canon Stephne van der Toorn, Rector of East Bergholt and Brantham at this service celebrating guide dogs. All guide dogs, dogs in training, retired guide dogs, friendly pet dogs and their handlers are welcome. For further information please email Stephne.

Prisons Week service

Sunday 16 October, 10.30am
St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Prisons Week encourages communities to pray for, and raise awareness of, the needs of all those connected with prisons; prisoners and their families, many of whom come from disadvantaged and debilitating backgrounds, together with victims of offenders, prison staff, contractors, chaplains and volunteers who work in an intense and often difficult atmosphere. This service will include prayers for prisoners, victims and staff, and hopes to

involve prison governors, chaplains and others from HMP Highpoint, HMP Warren Hill and HMP/YOI Hollesley Bay as well as some prisoners from Hollesley Bay Open Prison. Bishop Mike will lead this service of Holy Communion. This year, the address will be given by HMP Highpoint Lead Chaplain, the Revd Alan McMahon. After the service, there will be an opportunity for discussion and reflection with the Bishop, Dean, prison chaplains and serving prisoners, with refreshments provided. After the discussion, there will be a light lunch for which you are warmly invited to stay.

Torchlight Tour and More

Friday 21 October, 6.30pm to 9.00pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmund IP33 ILS

Visitors will get a very special chance to explore St Edmundsbury Cathedral at night. The Cathedral will be open, free of charge, for visitors of all ages to explore the building and specifically, the creative and artistic inspiration that permeates the building. There will be the opportunity to join torchlight tours from knowledgeable guides highlighting the artwork and architecture of the Cathedral, or to follow an art trail to discover new treasures. Family activities will be available and those who are feeling artistic can contribute to an art project that will be displayed following the event. Free tickets can be booked now, from this link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/st-edmundsbury-cathedral-at-night-tickets-425655646497>

World Mission Conference: Modern Day Slavery - a global issue

Saturday 22 October 2022, 10.00am to 4.00pm

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

Join the World Mission Conference and hear from:

- Speakers from Anti-slavery International who will give us a global perspective
- Caroline Virgo from the Clewer Initiative will be speaking about slavery in the United Kingdom today, and the Clewer Initiative
- The Revd Dr Dan Pratt, founder of The Together Free Foundation, will look at what our response as Christians should be and particularly in our local area
- John French from Suffolk Police will talk about modern day slavery in Suffolk

The conference is open to everybody. The cost of the day is £5. Please book here: <https://2022-world-mission-conference.eventbrite.co.uk>

Faith Empowered

Starting November 2022

This is a one-year course exploring evangelism, with participants coming together to discuss key subjects such as how to get to know your context, what evangelism is, how to plan a missional activity and what to say when people ask big questions. Please contact the Revd Will Abbott, Lead Evangelist, Suffolk Centre of Mission, on will.abbott@cofesuffolk.org. For further information please click [here](#).

Preaching on the Gospel of Matthew - Bishop's Teaching Morning

Saturday 5 November 2022

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

What are some of the recent insights on Matthew's Gospel? How does Jesus' person and work come across in this gospel? What about the parables, the sermon on the Mount and

Jesus' relation to Judaism? These are just a few of the questions the bishops will address as they look at the gospel which will be used through the lectionary year 2022-2023. For more information and to book please click [here](#).

PCC stewardship workshops:

Grants and funding with Beccy Hills (Parish Funding & Grants Advisor) with John Bailey | Tuesday 11 October, 12.00pm | Book [here](#)

Parish Share with Gary Peverley (and Colin Firth, Deanery Organiser for Thingoe) | Tuesday 18 October, 2.00pm - 3.30pm | Book [here](#). Repeated on 9 November 10.00am - 11.30am | Book [here](#).

For webinars focusing on Caring for Church Buildings:

Wednesday 2 November, 7.30pm Book here	Catherine Ross, Open & Sustainable Churches Officer at the Church of England.	Focusing on environmental sustainability
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.

Notices

Past Case Review 2: The purpose of the national PCR2 was to identify both good practice and institutional failings in relation to how allegations of abuse have been handled, assess any identified risks and respond to these where appropriate, and to provide recommendations to the Church that will lead to improvements in its safeguarding work. The National Report which contains the findings from all 42 dioceses is now available: [National PCR2 Report](#) and we have published a redacted copy of the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich diocesan report [here](#). The diocese accepts all the recommendations and is already moving to implement them.

Safeguarding Sunday: Protecting vulnerable people is at the heart of the Christian message of justice and hope. Safeguarding Sunday on 20 November 2022 is an opportunity for your church to show your community that you take this responsibility seriously. Please visit: thirtyoneeight.org/SafeguardingSunday

Independent Chair for Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel (DSAP) -

Voluntary: We are seeking expressions of interest for this role. You will be asked to chair panel meetings and provide an independent challenge on safeguarding matters within the diocese. Further information is available [here](#). If you are interested please apply with your expressions of interest to hr@cofesuffolk.org.

Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) election

The DBE is looking to elect new Board members. The new DBE Measure has meant that anyone elected to this Board will be for two years only (as opposed to the normal three years), starting from 1 January 2023. This is so that by the next election, it will fall in line with the other triennial synodical elections. The other change following the new DBE Measure means that both clergy and lay can be nominated/elected and there is no specific allocations of each house, or allocation per archdeaconry. Electors will be members of the Diocesan Synod. If you have relevant knowledge, skills or experience in education, please stand for election. The deadline is midday Monday 10 October 2022.

[Nomination form](#) | DOCX

Diocesan Office: We have experienced a change of use at the Diocesan office over recent years particularly regarding how our staff use the office space and changes in our event needs. We are currently exploring the opportunities and potential of selling the site and moving elsewhere, you may notice some sales marketing materials appearing around the site. Please be re-assured that we will always have an accessible Diocesan office for our administration teams as this is an important and valuable part of our support to parishes.

Government Energy Relief Scheme: Information regarding this scheme is available on [our website here](#) and this page will be kept up to date as further information becomes available.

Vacancies

[Children & Families' Worker](#) | Bridge Church

[Temporary Assistant Manager to the Archdeacon for Rural Mission](#) | Closing Date: 7 October

[Governance Manager \(Part-time\)](#) | Closing Date: 10 October

[Lightwave Red Lodge Café Manager](#) | Closing date 14 October

[Archdeacon of Suffolk](#) | Closing date 26 October 2022

[Rector, Lavenham Benefice](#) | Closing date 28 October

[Youth Minister](#) | The Haven at St Thomas's, Ipswich | Closing date: 31 October

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**The Bishops
of Suffolk**



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