



**Thursday 1 October 2020**

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# Growing in God

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

## The Big Thank You Service

Sunday 4 October Gates open 1.00pm for refreshments, service starts 3.00pm  
Trinity Park showground



Bishop Mike and the Dean of St Edmundsbury, Joe Hawes, will be leading the 'Big Thank You' Harvest service. A socially-distanced band will replace the choir while a combine harvester is set to provide a pulpit, and Suffolk Young Farmers are managing the 'track-and-trace'. It is hoped to continue the agricultural theme with a plough, a drill and an assortment of tractors. There will be the usual collection of food and cash to help food banks across Suffolk, with gifts being presented to the altar on a tractor and trailer. If you would like to book tickets please email Graham Miles: [graham.miles.lightwave@gmail.com](mailto:graham.miles.lightwave@gmail.com).

## Cathedral Harvest Services

Sunday 4 October  
St Edmundsbury Cathedral

With services at 8.00am and 11.00am (Family Eucharist) in the Cathedral. Please note that you must pre-book to attend these services. Please book by Friday lunchtime at [cathedralinvitations@stedscathedral.org](mailto:cathedralinvitations@stedscathedral.org). Harvest gifts for Gatehouse Foodbank will be

gratefully received. Tins or packets will a shelf life of 3 months+, no fresh produce, please.

At 3.30pm a special Harvest Festival with music will be livestreamed via the Cathedral's Facebook page. This includes contributions from the farming community, rural chaplain Canon Sally Fogden, Gatehouse Foodbank and the Coffee Caravan.

## The North Samford Benefice drive-in service

Sunday 4 October 10.00am  
Street Farm in The Street, Belstead

A drive-in service is offered in Belstead where members of the congregation will sit in their own cars. Activity packs will be given to the children attending. Entry is free but there is a recommended donation of £5 per person. Donation buckets and contactless options for those who wish to donate will be available and all funds will be split between Families in Need, which provides food parcels to help people through a crisis, as well as the ministry and North Samford Benefice. You can book your ticket via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/drive-in-harvest-tickets-117750096709>

## New resources for harvest to encourage giving and generosity

To coincide with harvest, the national stewardship team have prepared a harvest themed giving and generosity campaign. 'Generosity Week: Harvest' offers eight days of service and worship materials for churches to use during Harvest to encourage people to live generously. To find out more including social media resources please visit [here](#).

## News from our Diocese:

**Stonham Aspal Harvest** - last Sunday 80 vehicles with around 150 people inside them, drove into a field for their first Drive-in Harvest Service. The church band led the singing beautifully from the back of a lorry. The Revd Philip Payne led the service from a trailer decorated with the elements of creation and harvest. The collection raised over £680 for Farming Community Network; and 98 kilos of goods and £40 cash were delivered to the Stowmarket Food Bank, who were delighted.

**All Hallows, Ipswich** have been offering a Pop-Up Shop every Tuesday morning in the church building in partnership with the [Basic Life Charity](#), based in Felixstowe. A large supply of non-perishable foods from Fare Share is delivered by the Basic Life driver on Mondays and a team of volunteers from All Hallows receives the food and makes final preparations ready for the church to open at 11.00am. Those who come to the shop are provided with a large reusable hessian bag and for £2 they fill their bag with their own choice of goods, progressing in one direction around the tables.

Over August the number of bags given out has steadily increased from 18 in week one to 67. This initiative complements the work of Food-banks in the area. The difference is that the recipients of food banks need to be referred whereas the pop up shop is open to all who come.

**St Gregory's Primary School** in Sudbury has looked at Harvest a little differently this year, if they can't share God's gift of food then they can share something else that he gave us instead - hope. Each class discussed what makes them hopeful and the children produced prayers, pictures, poems and posters around those ideas for our 'Harvest of Hope'. They are going to use them to make cards to send out to friends, family and the local community. Please view this [video](#) of the school choir singing with particular gusto!

## Online service from prisons broadcast by the Church of England

The Revd Helen Dearnley, Anglican chaplaincy adviser for HM Prison and Probation Service, led a service earlier this year bringing prisoners, their families and prison staff together during lockdown she said: *"We wanted different prisons to take part and the service was broadcast from HMP Stocken in Rutland, HMP Low Newton in Durham – all women - and HMP Pentonville in London, a men's prison. We wanted the voices of the people who work in prison to be heard and for people to be given some idea of their largely hidden ministry. Prison staff, including chaplains, are Hidden Heroes and we must take every chance to celebrate them, like through this service"*. When the service was being broadcast, the chaplains in Low Newton were walking on the wings and as the hymns were being played, they could hear the sound of the women singing in their cells. There were 50,000 views of the service on Facebook and YouTube.

There are around 200 Church of England chaplains in the prison service but not all are full time and we would like to recruit more. It is very important to emphasise that not all are ordained. People can be prison chaplains if they are priests, deacons, readers or Church Army evangelists.

## Working together to be Zero Carbon

Saturday 10 October, 10.00am - 4.00pm  
Online

A day of inspirational speakers and workshops exploring the topic of Net Zero. Hosted by the Diocese of St Albans, together we will learn how to overcome challenges faced by

churches in responding to the climate crisis, through sessions exploring in detail the problem of defining 'net zero' and how our buildings and lifestyles can be adapted towards developing a more sustainable future. This event is supported by A Rocha UK.

[Register now](#) via Eventbrite, there will also be a virtual cafe and online book shop specially created for this event.

### **We would love you to get involved with us: tastelife UK - helping those who struggle with eating disorders and their supporters**

Friday 9 - Sunday 11 October  
By Zoom

As we ride the roller coaster of Covid restrictions, eating disorder sufferers and carers face even greater challenges. Could you bring hope back to many by training as a tastelife Volunteer Course Leader, sponsored by your church? The training is ideal for volunteers in churches wishing to enhance their community and ministry outreach to suffering individuals of all ages and backgrounds. Tastelifeuk.org is a Christian charity providing education and tools for recovery from all forms of eating disorders for sufferers and those who care. Accredited by the University of Brighton. More details are on their website [here](#).

### **Change Management Workshop**

Thursday 15 October 2020 – 10.00am – 3.00pm  
By Zoom

An introduction to managing change within a church context, with a focus on cultural change and business change. The workshop will explore the importance of vision combined with the practical process of bringing that change about, while praying and seeking God's will throughout.

We are currently in a society where everything is changing rapidly around us, including the way in which we have fellowship and worship. The process of change can cause unease and anxiety and this workshop will give a prayerful and practical introduction about how to manage culture and process change effectively, in a way to maximise a positive outcome.

There will be regular breaks built into the day, including a time for lunch. All bookings for this workshop are through Eventbrite and you will be emailed the Zoom link to the email address you register with. To book go to; <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/change-management-workshop-tickets-117501457021> or for further enquiries please contact [Nina.Seaman@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:Nina.Seaman@cofesuffolk.org).

### **Opening the Doors: Making the most of our opportunities**

Thursday 15 October 2.00-3.00pm  
By Zoom

Join the Revd Canon Dr Sandra Millar, Head of Life Events and Welcome, in a webinar with Michael Harvey and Stephen Hance on how we continue to make the most of every opportunity for welcome, pastoral care, and evangelism, in our new hybrid on-line and off-line world. Please register [here](#).

### **Why seven sacred spaces – and one in particular – are key to Christian discipleship**

Facebook video session

George Lings talks to Tim Lea and Lizzie Lowrie about his new book Seven Sacred Spaces: Portals to deeper community life in Christ. (BRF, 2020). Extensive personal experience, research and reflection have convinced George that the cell, chapel, chapter, cloister, garden, refectory and scriptorium all have a distinctive and important contribution to make in the creation of vibrant Christian discipleship and community. Watch the video [here](#).

### **Bishops' teaching morning**

Saturday 28 November 10.00am - 12.30pm  
By Zoom

Mark's Gospel - the earliest, punchiest, shortest of the gospels and the one which has centre stage for the Sunday readings for the Church's year from Advent 2020 to 2021. Bishop Martin and Bishop Mike will be taking a look at the distinctive nature of this gospel, considering how Mark portrays Jesus and highlighting some of the major themes and characters Mark emphasises ... all from the comfort of your own house, by Zoom. Free of charge, but please register on Eventbrite: <https://bishops-teaching->

[morning-nov-2020.eventbrite.co.uk](http://morning-nov-2020.eventbrite.co.uk)

## **The Last Things – Tuesday evening advent series with Bishop Mike**

Tuesdays 7.30 – 9.00pm  
By Zoom

This four-part Advent series will take place over Zoom and will look at themes of death, judgement, heaven and hell. Advent has traditionally been a season associated with awaiting Jesus Christ's coming again "in glory to judge the living and the dead". While the traditional scripture readings have preserved this emphasis and with it a focus on the 'last things' - death, judgement, heaven and hell - there has in recent times been little reflection on such themes, with the ever increasing stress on Christmas and preparations for Christmas tending to overshadow Advent. These sessions are an opportunity to look again at these major themes of the Christian and so better appreciate the riches, promise and hope that lie at the heart of Christian faith.

Ideal for individuals or Advent study groups. Free of charge, but please register for each session on Eventbrite:

[Tuesday 1 December - Death](#)

[Tuesday 8 December - Hell](#)

[Tuesday 15 December - Judgement](#)

[Tuesday 22 December - Heaven](#)

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## **Notices:**

### **Safeguarding Updates**

Sadly, Taiwo Ajayi, our Diocesan Safeguarding Trainer, has resigned to take up a new post working with social services supporting young people and their families. We wish him well in his new endeavours.

From Monday 5 October, Claire Coles will be joining the Safeguarding team on a part time basis to focus on delivering C2 Leadership courses over the next six months. Claire has recently been delivering training with the Diocese of Chichester as part of her role as Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser. We look forward to welcoming her to our team.

**Safeguarding Leadership training** - Due to the ongoing restrictions imposed in response to Covid 19, we are currently unable to deliver face-to-face safeguarding training.

The National Safeguarding Team has developed a new Leadership training course to be delivered via Zoom. The new course has a new format and details of the course can be found on the Safeguarding training page of the diocesan website available [here](#).

Each course is limited to 12 participants, and with considerable demand for places, the national team will be offering places to Clergy in the first instance. Course dates will be advertised shortly on Eventbrite.

It is recognised that you may be required to complete Safeguarding Leadership training in order to continue with your duties within the Church. Currently you are able to continue to work without the training. However, Clergy need to book a place as soon as possible and all other posts will be expected to attend a training event as soon as they become available for your role.

Please email any questions or concerns you have in relation to the new training to [safeguarding.training@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:safeguarding.training@cofesuffolk.org)

**Safe Spaces** - Safe Spaces provides vital support for survivors of church-related abuse. The service commissioned by the Anglican and Catholic Churches in England and Wales, will be run by Victim Support, a national charity with a track record of providing survivor support.

Safe Spaces is a free and independent support service, providing a confidential, personal and safe space for anyone who has been abused through their relationship with the Church of England, Church in Wales or the Catholic Church of England and Wales.

Safe Spaces comprises a team of trained support advocates who have undergone specialist training in supporting survivors of sexual violence and who have received additional specific training in how the churches respond to abuse cases, the way in which faith and



church-related settings have been used to carry out abuse, and the particular issues affecting people who have had or still have, a relationship with the church.

The service is for those who may have experienced any form of abuse, including sexual abuse, physical abuse, financial abuse, psychological abuse (including spiritual abuse), domestic abuse, coercive and controlling behaviour. For further information please visit: [Safe Spaces](#) or you can contact the Safe Spaces team by phoning 0300 303 1056 (answerphone available outside of opening times) or email: [safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk](mailto:safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk)

**The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE)** is conducting an external, independent audit of Bishopthorpe Palace's safeguarding arrangements in November 2020, having postponed it in March because of restrictions in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If you feel you would like to contribute to this audit, as a survivor or as someone who may have raised a safeguarding concern, please email the auditors directly at: [learningtogether@scie.org.uk](mailto:learningtogether@scie.org.uk). Alternatively you can contact Anna Flower, Provincial Safeguarding Officer at email: [anna.flower@churchofengland.org](mailto:anna.flower@churchofengland.org)

## APCMs

The deadline for holding APCMs has been extended to 31 October 2020. Our Diocesan updates are available [here](#). This is the latest guidance from the National Church:

"You can now meet physically in a church or a church hall if the guidance for the safe opening of these buildings is followed and good physical distancing and hygiene measures are employed. If, exceptionally, that is not possible, another option is for the bishop to make provision modifying the procedure for annual meetings so that they can be held remotely using video conferencing software. If you think you think you will need to meet remotely for your parish annual meetings you should contact your archdeacon.

Diocesan registries have received advice from the Legal Office of the National Church Institutions about remote meetings and will be able to assist in meeting particular needs that arise in their dioceses."

## New Allchurches Trust fund - Hope Beyond

Hope Beyond is aimed at enabling churches and Christian charities to meet changing need within their communities as the longer term impact of Covid-19 becomes clearer, funding projects that will enable people, organisations and communities to flourish in life after lockdown. Grants of up to £50,000 are available, and the amount you receive will depend upon the cost of your project and level of need in your community, ranging from 10% of project cost through to 80%. The deadline is 30 October to find out more please read the research report and apply online, head to [www.allchurches.co.uk/hopebeyond](http://www.allchurches.co.uk/hopebeyond).



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