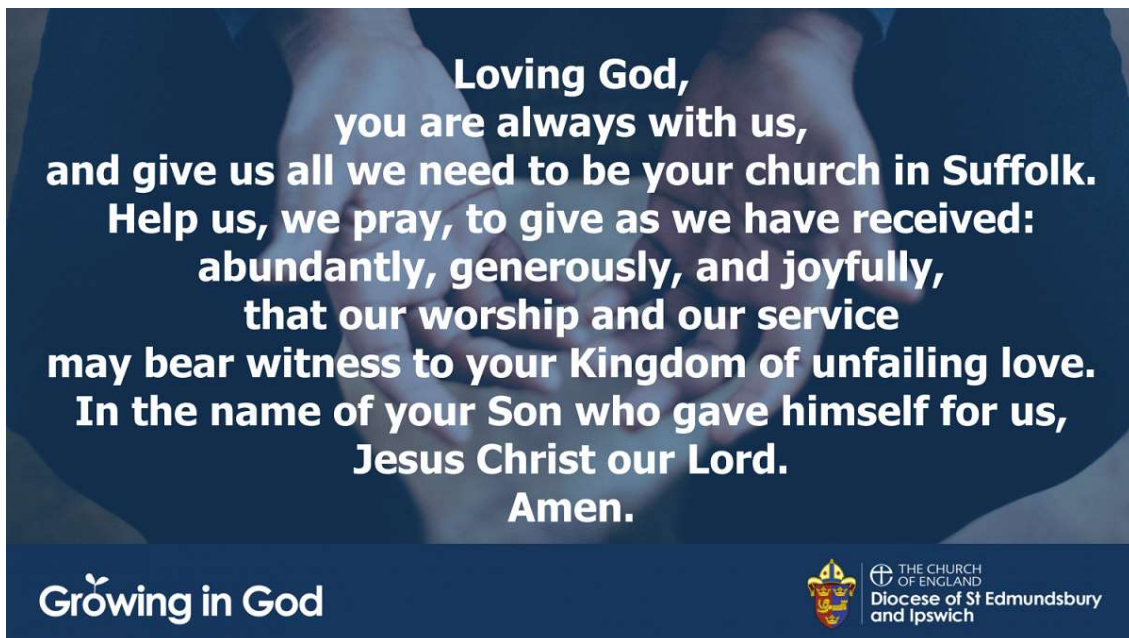


Thursday 15 October

[Printable version](#)

Growing in God



Since Wednesday 14 October 14, a new three-tier risk alert system for COVID-19 has been in place in England. There is an at-a-glance guide to the restrictions for churches available [here](#).

Please visit the Church of England page [here](#) which includes updates for weddings and the Diocesan guidance page [here](#) for the most up to date information.

A day of prayer for healing

Sunday 18 October
St Edmundsbury Cathedral

Along with all English cathedrals, we will mark a special day of prayer for healing. There will be a particular focus at the Cathedral 11.00am Eucharist, when Bishop Martin will preach. During the service, prayers will be offered for the healing of the nation as the pandemic continues to impact on all our lives. The service will also include prayers for those oppressed by modern slavery, as 18 October also marks Anti-Slavery Day.

A special candle will be lit at each service in the Cathedral to remember all those working in the provision of healthcare and for all those affected by COVID-19. A prayer has been released by the Association of English Cathedrals as the whole nation faces renewed restrictions in the fight against the spread of coronavirus and in order to help save lives

and protect the NHS.

The Very Revd Joe Hawes, Dean of St Edmundsbury, comments: "Prayer is a vital part of our ministry. This Sunday is the Feast of St Luke, the patron saint of medicine and healing, so we pray especially for those who continue to support us all through their tireless work for the NHS and through social care provision."

Prayers can be left on the Cathedral's virtual prayer wall which will be prayed each day by the Cathedral clergy. Cathedral services are livestreamed via the Cathedral's Facebook page [here](#).

Remembering and Remembrance



The Church of England team has produced a series of resources to help clergy and lay leaders prepare for All Saints' Day, All Souls' Day and Remembrance in 2020. This includes downloadable and printable resources, liturgies and prayers, and digital plans. Please click [here](#) for details.

Comfort and Joy



This year the Advent and Christmas theme reflects the current Covid context and we hope that Comfort and Joy will better enable us to reflect where the country is and will be by the end of this year.

Comfort and Joy holds together the hope that Christmas will bring joy and celebration after a uniquely difficult year with an acknowledgement that, for those who have lost loved ones or livelihoods, or who are potentially still not able to be together with loved ones – it may be the Church's role, both nationally and locally, to provide consolation rather than assume everyone will be ready to join in jubilation. A full suite of materials is now available, please click [here](#).

Looking for different ideas this year? There are a lot of resources available to support your Christmas planning and the Inspiring Ipswich team has produced a resource pack highlighting a few ideas to get your creative juices running. Download this [pdf presentation](#) today.

CPAS has also produced simple guides, full of ideas, that are free and accessible to all leaders, covering topics such as making the most of Advent and drive-in Christmas services. For details please click [here](#).



InHarmony Christmas 2020 Music videos for your Christmas services. The InHarmony project is pressing ahead with plans to record a series of videos of music for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, featuring local musicians and singers. The videos will be available via the InHarmony [website](#) where you can find a list of what will be available and you can download a pdf flyer [here](#).

Several churches and individuals are involved in preparing this resource, in partnership with Cantus Firmus Trust. The videos will be free, but in most cases, churches will need the appropriate video streaming licence from [onelicense.net](#) and/or [uk.ccli.com](#). Some of the carols are also being recorded for the project by the Buriensi Consort, under the direction of William Saunders. They can also offer bespoke video production and editing services at reasonable prices. Details can be found at [www.buriensiconsort.co.uk](#)

Celebrating Christingle The Children's Society has a selection of new resources this year for celebrating Christingle. Bearing in mind that Christingle may take place virtually, in a socially distanced way, or a combination of both, they have provided a virtual Christingle guide, informal arts and crafts ideas and Christingle at Home paper bags. The full selection of resources is available to download or order online [here](#).



Small grants available for your church's Christmas festivities!

Growing in God

The Diocesan Growing in God Growth Fund has a small amount of money remaining to help your church reach out creatively to its community this Christmas time.

Grants of £200-400 are available and any applications will be assessed on a weekly rolling basis until all remaining grant money is awarded. More details such as eligibility requirements and the application form are available at: <https://cofesuffolk.org/for-parishes/growing-your-parish/growth-funding-opportunities/>

Anti-Slavery Day Sunday 18 October 2020



This Sunday is Anti-Slavery Day and provides an important opportunity for us to remember the many victims of modern slavery and join in the fight against it. The Church of England's Clewer Initiative encourages us that everyone has a role to play in taking action against modern slavery and has some useful resources available.

People become victims of modern slavery when they are forced to do something against their will in order to gain money, food or shelter. They become trapped in situations where they continue to be exploited and are often powerless to escape. They may be homeless people, or migrants whose documents have been taken away. They may be children who have

become involved in drug running.

The Clewer Initiative suggests some practical things you can do to join the fight against modern slavery:

1. **Become a champion** start talking to family, friends and colleagues about modern slavery and take the lead in raising awareness of national campaigns like Anti Slavery Day.
2. **Start a poster campaign** download some Clewer posters to display.
3. **Start a book club** read Louise Hulland's recently published book 'Stolen Lives'.
4. **Download an App** with the Safe Car Wash or Farm Work Welfare app always at hand you will be able to report any suspicious signs if you see them.
5. **Discover your slavery footprint** use this as an innovative tool from slaveryfootprint.org which will help you understand more about your slavery footprint.
6. **Spread the word.** use the hashtag #weseeyou.

To find all the resources please visit the Clewer website: www.theclewerinitiative.org. If we all get involved we can make a difference.

Do listen in to Radio Suffolk this Sunday as the Revd Carol Mansell will be featured outlining the role of the Modern Slavery Working Group set up in 2019, what it's achieved over the past year as well as advice on what to look for and what to do.

Cancel the Debt Campaign - Christian Aid



Christian Aid is running a campaign to help to cancel the debt of the world's poorest countries in this time of crisis. The coronavirus pandemic has left people who were already struggling without a way to feed their families and survive this crisis.

Over the coming days the World Bank, the IMP and the G20 Finance Ministers are meeting and Christian Aid is campaigning to encourage them to drop the debts owed by the least developed countries. Debt re-payments are taking away resources that are vital for coping with the health, social and economic crises resulting from the pandemic.

You can get involved and help prevent people from suffering and dying by supporting calls to cancel the debt, and to ask our Chancellor, Rishi Sunak, to broker a more ambitious debt relief deal for the poorest countries. To get involved please click [here](#).

The Children's Society – Young People's Well-being and Mental Health

Thursday 22 October 2020, 11.00am – 12.00pm

This event is a follow-up to the launch of the Good Childhood Report and will be promoting the new church youth group resources on well-being and mental health. The Children's Society's most recent Good Childhood Report found that children's well-being is at a 10-year low, and this has worsened as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. What can churches and schools do to better support the well-being of children and young people and to respond well when mental health concerns arise?

Hosted by Tracey Messenger, Church Engagement Manager (Resources), at The Children's Society who will be joined by Richard Crellin, Policy and Research Manager The Children's Society, Pete Maidment, Chaplain at Lord Wandsworth College, Canon Susie Mapledoram, Youth Officer for the Diocese of Manchester and Amy Sixsmith, Mental Well-being Youth Worker for the Diocese of Manchester.

To book please visit [Eventbrite](#) for a link to a Microsoft Teams webinar and download a flyer [here](#).

The Faraday Institute Research seminar series

27 October | Prof. Robin Dunbar [Oxford University] | Religion, Evolution and the Social Brain

10 November | Dr Jonathan Jong [Oxford University] | Experimental Psychology of Religion

24 November | Prof. Christian List [London School of Economics] | The Naturalistic Case for Free Will

These seminars will be held via Zoom Webinars at 1.00pm. They are free and open to all. For more information visit faraday.institute/seminars

Conference on Climate Change and Religion: Politics, Perceptions and Radical Potentials

The Woolf Institute and the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion are partnering in two live webinars in November. These events will bring together academics, religious leaders and grassroots activists to discuss the present and future of religious groups' action to combat the climate crisis.

For up to date information visit faraday.institute/climatechange.

Faith and Science Workshop

8/9 January 2021

This workshop is offered by the Faraday Institute and is designed for church leaders, both lay and ordained, and those in training. In this workshop you will explore a wide range of science and faith issues and think about their relevance in the context of the local church.

Delivered by Zoom it will cost £50 (£30 for those training for ministry). For more details please visit: faraday.institute/churchleadersworkshop

Celebrating chaplaincy in care homes

In case you missed it, there is an opportunity to re-watch this online service celebrating chaplaincy in care homes. Debbie Thrower, founder of Anna Chaplaincy, leads the service, with contributions from care home chaplains and residents, as well as a poetry reading from the late Bob Weighton, once the oldest man in the world. To watch please click [here](#).

A Church Near You - ACNY

ACNY is a major signpost to your church. The website hits are massive so it is an amazing opportunity for you to reach out to people in their community and welcome them to the church.



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

To promote your services Please remember to add your church's services and events to www.AChurchNearYou.com. Use the 'Remembrance' or Christmas tag, and if your service will be online, use the 'Live stream' and 'Recorded service' options.

On the tourist trail You can also use ACNY to help you encourage tourist visitors to return to your churches in a safe way. We encourage you to post on ACNY as much information as you can as well as posting on social media, so it is easy for people to

- understand the hours you are open,
- what sort of measures they will be expected to take to stay safe,
- what facilities such as toilets, accessible changing places, cafés etc. are open.

The Church of England has also signed up to the 'Visit Britain Good to Go' standard for the tourism industry. If you sign up you can demonstrate that you are adhering to the respective Government and public health guidance, have carried out a COVID-19 risk assessment and checked you have the required processes in place. If you welcome a lot of tourist visitors we recommend completing the simple online questionnaire, selecting 'Church of England' as your industry body, and getting the accredited mark, meaning you can use the Good to Go logo on social media, your website and in other marketing. This is a free service being used across the UK by organisations both big and small.

Resources hub You can use the site to download editable videos, music, photographs and more. You can even turn your entry into your own website. There are new resources to generate personalised videos to encourage giving.

At the moment 23% of our Diocesan churches have unread messages on their accounts and 35% have not been logged into lately. This is such a missed opportunity. If you are the vicar who leads a church you have automatically been given a log-in to your churches on ACNY. You can administrate ACNY automatically so long as:

- You have listed an email address on your Crockford's entry
- You have not requested to have your Crockford entry contact details restricted
- The email address you've used for your ACNY account matches the email address on your Crockford's entry.

As administrator you can approve or decline requests from other people to edit that church, and can remove existing editors from that church. Click [here](#) to visit an ACNY help page to get started.

Notices

Lead theft

Lead theft from church roofs has returned to the diocese with Preston St Mary losing part of its south aisle roof in recent days. A roof alarm sensor was damaged in the theft but others may have detected the thieves, sounded and prevented further damage. The police have visited the scene and evidence left behind by the thieves retrieved.

Please be vigilant and if you see a crime taking place ring 999. On no account approach the thieves. If you notice a lead theft after the event then report it to the police via 101 or preferably the website <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/contact-us/report-something/report-crime>. Mention your church is a heritage building as this increases the importance of the crime and lengthens the sentence should someone be convicted of the offence.

The Suffolk Historic Churches Trust are offering financial help towards the installation of roof alarms. Please look out for an email from them via their [website](#) or email [James Halsall](#).

Sunday's Bible readings The Revd Canon Tim Jones has produced a series of Bible readings in a word search for you to use. These will be available weekly, please [download](#) this word search suitable for Sunday 18 October.

Vacancies

[Director of Music, St Edmundsbury Cathedral](#) | Closing date 29 October 2020



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