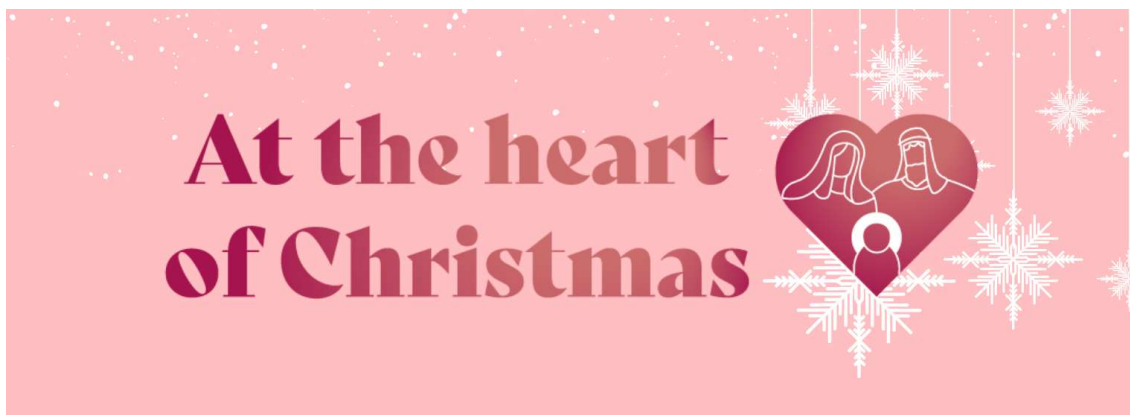


Issue date: 2 December 2021



Doorstep Carols is back for 2021

Wednesday 15 December at 6.00pm



Many of you spread some much needed cheer last year asking neighbours to sing carols together from their doorsteps and raise some money for local charities. It's a great opportunity to make new friends in your local community and we hope you will join in again!

Alternatively, you can sing along with Radio Suffolk by tuning in to Ipswich 103.9 FM; West Suffolk 104.6 FM; Lowestoft 95.5 FM; Aldeburgh 95.5 FM, and also on DAB and BBC Sounds

at www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/live:bbc_radio_suffolk

Downloads available include a general information [sheet](#), customisable [carols](#) and our information for [organisers](#) or visit www.light-wave.org/doorstep-carols.

Inspiring Angels



Edward Creasey, the High Sheriff of Suffolk, showed his support this week for the Inspiring Angels project in Ipswich. He is hoping to add his voice to the carol singing on Saturday 18 December on the steps of the town hall and would love you to join him at 5.00pm to sing 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing'!

You could also grab your friends between Saturday 11 December and Thursday 6 January and follow the Angel trail across Ipswich to look for the large-scale angel wings, including the one on the town hall.

In Westerfield church, a local artist Theronda Hoffman is coming along on 8 and 15 December between 10.00am and 2.00pm to paint angels and welcomes anyone who would like to come along to create angels with her.

Finally don't forget the Trees at the Tower at St Mary le Tower, Ipswich IP1 3BE which started yesterday and continues to Wednesday 8 December. The Revd Tom Mumford says *"This is a great opportunity for the Church to spread some Christmas cheer in its county town. If you're looking for that Christmassy feeling, do not miss this!"*. Information including opening times are available [here](#).

Do watch out for Inspiring Angels being featured on ITV news - filming in Ipswich today! More details about Inspiring Angels and how you can get involved can be found [here](#).

A Generous Advent



The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is launching a special podcast series for Advent. 'A Generous Advent with PGS' will offer readings, reflections and moments of peace and wonder as we take time to consider our personal generosity, the generosity of God, and the joy of Jesus's birth.

Each day the PGS will explore a different part of the well-known tale of the nativity, looking through the lens of generosity at the many encounters Mary and Joseph had with God's generosity in the days preceding Jesus's birth, and after. From the innkeeper, the shepherds and Mary herself, what can we learn from their acts and experiences of generosity?

Click the PGS website link [here](#) for easy access to the podcast on your favourite platform to listen and subscribe. You can also find and follow the PGS on Instagram and LinkedIn to share their posts.

Christmas resources for your church

Christmas is a time when we normally see more people attending church services, perhaps for the first time. Parish Buying have put together a list of festive resources to help you grow giving this Christmas including customisable giving posters, customisable Christmas giving animation, At the Heart of Christmas branded templates and top tips on getting the most out of your contactless card reader this Christmas. Please find the resources [here](#).

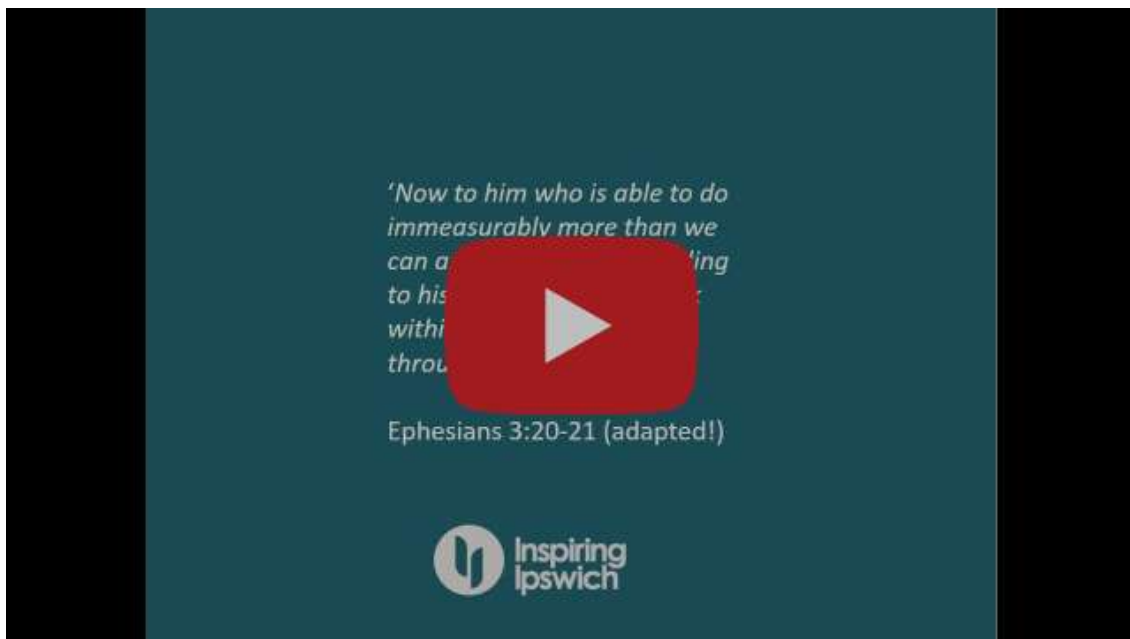
'Immeasurably More' Conference

On 16 October Inspiring Ipswich held their Ipswich Deanery Conference 'Immeasurably More'. As part of this they celebrated all that is good in Ipswich.



The resources from the conference have been collected into a Padlet which showcases all that has been going on in the deanery, recordings of the keynote speakers – the Revd Canon Gordon Dey (Jesus Shaped People) and Lucy Moore (Messy Church) and resources from most workshops. There are also links to recordings of three people from Ipswich who have shared how their lives have changed after getting involved with churches in the town. This is a great resource and we are pleased to share this with you - to access all the resources please click here: [Immeasurably More 16 Oct 2021 \(padlet.org\)](#).

To catch up on what Inspiring Ipswich have been up to lately please do watch their latest video release:



Inspiring Ipswich 2021

Events

Star Trail Experience

12.00 - 4.00pm

Saturday 4 December at St Mary's Church, Old Newton IP14 4PH

Saturday 11 December, St Mary's Church, Bacton IP14 4LN

Let the Wise Men take you on a magical journey following the star to Bethlehem. Along the way meet Saint Nicholas, the Angel Gabriel, and Mary and Joseph in a stable. The journey lasts about 40 minutes and is multi-sensory. Adults must wear masks and children must be accompanied by an adult. This event is free, donations welcome. For more information please visit their A Church Near You page [here](#).

J.S. Bach's Advent Cantata 'Nun komm der Heiden Heiland'

Sunday 5 December 5.30pm

St Mary le Tower, Ipswich IP1 3BE

The Choir of St Mary le Tower Ipswich will perform J.S. Bach's Advent cantata 'Nun komm der Heiden Heiland'. The music is accompanied by a string orchestra of local musicians and their pupils, mirroring vocal opportunities afforded to the young people in church choir. The cantata - lasting about 20 minutes - includes uplifting choruses and arias, the latter will be undertaken by the choristers. The cantata will be surrounded by the liturgy of evening prayer and will conclude with a motet by Mendelssohn.

In addition a new CD of carols from the Choir of St Mary le Tower Ipswich is now available. Made in July 2021 this recording includes both traditional carols and recently composed works by Suffolk-based musicians. Go to www.stmaryletower.org.uk/choir/cds to purchase online or for further details.

An Advent Journey - A service of preparation for the coming of Christ

Sunday 5 December 5.00pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

St Edmundsbury Cathedral is hosting an Advent service in partnership with the Royal School of Church Music and Cantus Firmus Trust. The service will explore four Advent themes - Hoping, Waiting, Fearing and Preparing - using a blend of words and music. Music will be led by Cantus Firmus Choir and musicians from around the county, under the direction of Richard Hubbard (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Music Development Director). The VivaVoce chamber choir from London School of Theology will also be taking part. There will be a retiring offering for the work of the RSCM in Suffolk.

You can find more information, including a poster for display on church noticeboards, [here](#).

Churches as Community Business Venues: Hubs Working Together

7 December 12.30pm to 1.30pm online

Join this free event which aims to inspire community groups and places of worship to explore co-location. Offered by the Plunkett Foundation (a national charity that supports rural communities across the UK to tackle the issues they face through community business) you can hear from two community groups already up and running within active places of worship talking on the impact of their business on both community and church. More information can be found on the [Plunkett website](#). To book please visit [Eventbrite here](#).

Leading with Vulnerability | Online

27 January 2022 (9.15am-12.30pm)

Training from CPAS exploring the importance of being vulnerable, especially among Millennials. Book at www.cpas.org.uk/belowthesurface.

PCC Tonight Training Evening | Online

15 February 2022 (7.00pm-9.20pm)

Join CPAS to look at the purpose and place of PCCs, to explore materials you can use to shape its life. Book at www.cpas.org.uk/pccevents.

Notices

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

Message from Gary Peverley, Finance Director on Parish Share end of year payments:

Thank you to all of our parishes for your giving towards parish share so far for this year.

We would like to give you advance notice that we continue to accept payments towards the 2021 parish share **up to and including Monday 31 January 2022. Payments received after that date, unless we know about them in advance, will be treated as 2022 parish share.** This is to enable us to move more quickly to close our own accounts and prepare for our statutory audit. We understand that, for some parishes, it can take time to work through final parish share payments for the year just ending, but would appreciate it if we could all work to the timetable above and understand the cut-off dates.

Our preference is to receive funds via online banking (but please ensure you make clear which year the payment is for in the text field).

Any cheques must be received at the office by 31 January 2022 to be included in your 2021 Parish Share figures. Cheques received after this date will only be accounted for in your 2021 figures if you have told us by 31 January to expect the cheque so that we can accrue for it, allowing us to finalise our own accounts.

Vacancies

[Parish Resources Manager](#) | Closing date 7 December

[Trusts and Foundations Manager](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral

[Youth Project Lead](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral | Closing date 4 January 2022

Organist and Director of Music | St Mary's Woodbridge & Great Bealings | Please contact fnprior10@gmail.com Tel. 01394 610424.

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