Thursday 17 February 2022

Growing in God

Helping you become Net Zero Carbon

As the Diocese has committed to becoming net zero carbon by 2030 the Diocesan Environment Group will be publishing leaflets to help churches meet this target. These are the first two with more to follow in the next few months:

- Net Zero Carbon Poster | JPEG
- Net Zero Carbon Booklet | PDF

The national ‘Routemap to Net Zero Carbon’ consultation closes 28 February and there is still time to have your say and join the conversation. Find the full document and all the details of how you can respond on the Net Zero Consultation webpage.

The national environmental programme exists to help the whole Church take action to care for and renew creation. The Environment News Bulletin will keep you informed about news and events to help you do this, and you can sign up here. The latest webinars on offer include:

- The Wayfinders Project | 4 March 12.00pm - 1.00pm | Book here
- Environmental Fundraising | 8 March 12.00pm - 1.30pm | Book here
- Start your environmental fundraising | 15 March 12.00pm - 1.30pm | Book here
- Embodied Carbon | 18 April 12.00pm | Book here
- An introduction to Eco Church and getting started | 25 April 12.00pm | Book here
- Eco Church and Net Zero Carbon | 28 April 12.00pm | Book here
- Net Zero Carbon Schools | 9 May 4.00pm - 5.30pm | Book here

Finally, the Live Lent theme for 2022 is Embracing Justice. It invites us to examine our own lives truthfully, to see the world more deeply and to pray for the church and the world far and near – that ‘justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream’ (Amos 4:24). The series opens with the theme of Justice in Creation. There is a Bible reading, a short reflection and a prayer, as well as a practical challenge for each day of Lent. Click here to find out more.

Fairtrade Fortnight is coming!

Fairtrade Fortnight starts on 21 February and there are lots of resources on the Fairtrade Foundation Website to help you celebrate and campaign, at: www.fairtrade.org.uk/resources-library/current-campaigns/fairtrade-and-the-climate-crisis/

The theme this year ties in well with the Church of England Lent theme on Justice. Fairtrade Fortnight is focusing on climate justice following the rather frustrating end to COP26. There are resources for church and schools. The Suffolk Association of Fairtrade Towns has produced leaflets and posters and individual towns will be holding events. Fairtrade is all about justice for producers in developing countries who are often paid very little for their hard work. This Lent may be an appropriate time for your church to become
Church in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

If your church is in the Stour Valley, Dedham Vale or Coasts and Heath AONBs and you are looking to making your churchyard or other church land more biodiverse then there are grants available. For further information please email Oka Last or click the links below as follows:

For the Stour Valley / Dedham Vale area please click here.
For Coasts and Heaths please click here.

There are also grants available for swift boxes in these areas but only until the end of March. Please email Alex Moore at Alex.MooreDaLuz@suffolk.gov.uk, but be aware and please hurry as time is short.

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Events

World Praise Day
26 February 2022 1.30pm workshop and 4.30pm service
St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 1LS

Places are still available for the workshop with Geoff Weaver (1.30 - 3.30pm). Price £10 (under 18s free). This is open to all who enjoy singing, whether that be in choirs, congregations or in the bath! Geoff will explore a wide range of songs from across the world, with stories of how came to collect them in his travels, and showing how they could be used in a service. Ideal also for those who plan services. The service at 4.30pm will be led by Bishop Mike, with the Cantus Firmus Choir and musicians, with songs from 11 countries.

Full details and booking for the workshop at https://stedscathedral.org/music/inharmony/

Christian Presence and Witness in new housing
Thursday 3 March 7.30pm to 8.30pm, online

New housing developments are springing up across Suffolk and these provide an opportunity to offer a welcome to new residents to our towns and villages. As a diocese we already have a significant amount of experience of demonstrating the love of Christ both to those who are new and those most affected by the building process. Join the Revd Canon Dave Gardner at this open forum to hear how others are addressing this and also to share your insights. To register please click here.

Preaching Luke through Lent and Easter time - Bishops’ teaching morning
Saturday 5 March, 9.30am - 12.30pm
Salvation Army Stowmarket, Violet Hill Road, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

‘The lectionary giveth, and the lectionary taketh away,’ said one wag facing yet another cycle of Year C texts for Lent and Easter. So much that is so familiar - temptation, Thomas, Cleopas and his 'companion' (wife?), etc. What’s a preacher to do? Can gospel be found anew in the midst of such familiar narratives? YES! Join the Bishops and their guest lecturer Dr Bill Brosend as we ask 'What does the Holy Spirit want the people of God to hear from these texts on this occasion?'. Free of charge, but please register here. Enquiries to Lesley Steed on 07485 348889 or lesley.steed@cafesuffolk.org. Please note: the next Bishops’ teaching morning will be on 28 May 2022 held in Christ Church Moreton Hall, Bury St Edmunds.
Radical Living: St Edmundsbury Lent Series
Starting Wednesday 16 March, 7.00pm – 8.00pm throughout Lent by Zoom
Following the success of the Cathedral’s 2021 Lent series ‘Radical Faith, extraordinary lives for challenging times’, the Cathedral will be holding another series of Lent Talks ‘Radical Living, Christians and the Environmental Crisis.’ The talks will be held on Zoom and each week a new speaker will look at the environmental challenges of today from a different perspective. If you would like more information please email Canon Michael Robinson at michael.robinson@cofesuffolk.org.

Discovery Day
Saturday 26 March 10.00am – 3.00pm
Wilson Carille Centre, Sheffield
If you have a heart to see people reached with the Good News of Jesus Christ, then you’re invited to attend this free event and discover how you can train as a Church Army Evangelist. A light lunch will be provided. If you have any questions about this event, please contact Gaynor.Baker@churcharmy.org To register please visit here.

Notices

Covid-19: 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.

Vacancies

Priest-in-Charge | Mid Loes benefice | Closing date: 20 February
Diocesan Mission Administrator (Mission and Ministry) | Closing date 21 February
Vicar | Bures with Assington and Little Cornard | Closing date: 25 February
Vicar Choral | St Edmundsbury Cathedral Choir three posts / Closing date: 25 February
Parish Administrator | Woodbridge St Mary, with Great Bealings | Closing date: 31 February
Diocesan Temporary Parish Finance & Resources Advisor | Closing date: 7 March
GenR8 Director | Closing date: 7 March
Priest in Charge | Alde Sandlings (Aldeburgh) Benefice | Closing date: 16 March
Rector 0.5 | St Mary Stoke, Ipswich
Children and Families' Worker | Bridge Church, Ipswich

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