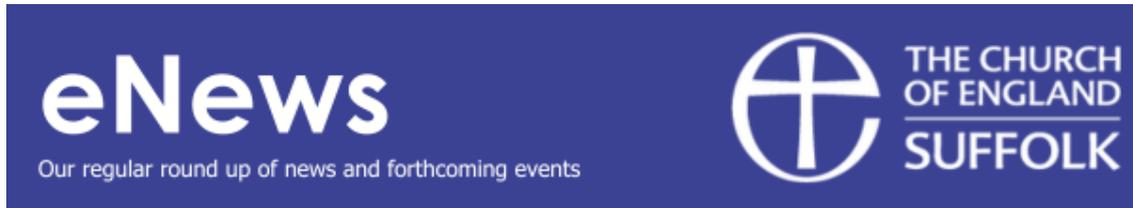


Thursday 26 October 2023



Welcoming Gary Peverley as Diocesan Secretary



Suffolk's most senior Church of England Bishop has appointed a new leader to a key role in the county supporting churches and their communities.

Gary Peverley, formerly Finance Director with the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, now takes up a senior role with one of Suffolk's largest voluntary organisations, as the Diocesan Secretary.

He was acting Diocesan Secretary before being appointed by the Rt Revd Martin Seeley, Bishop of the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocese which covers almost all of Suffolk.

Bishop Martin said: *"I am delighted to appoint Gary to this key role. Gary has a real passion for Suffolk and all that churches do to support their communities. He has a proven track record in providing excellent support to parishes and going forward, I know he will continue to make a strong and positive difference for the churches in the diocese."*

Mr Peverley, who grew up in Easton near Framlingham and lives with his family in Felixstowe, is tasked with providing support for clergy and parishes to ensure they work effectively in the communities they serve.

He has overall responsibility for the governance of the diocese and this includes helping the Bishop's senior management team to lead on strategic planning, shaping policy as well as managing the Diocesan Office in Ipswich.

To read more, please visit [our website here](#).

Making your Deanery Synod work - Phil Dykes

I was glad to be able to attend a Deanery Synod in Hartismere and Hoxne recently. It was a meeting well attended, full of life and hope for the work of the Kingdom of God across the Deanery, celebrating what was good and then focusing on a specific area of interest, in this case Anna Chaplaincy.

It made me wonder what key principles might guide us to make Synods work really well.



Here are some suggestions from what I observed that night – if you have others to add, please email me and we can add them in:

Have someone welcoming people as they arrive. This is more than getting them to sign in, but recognising and including people as they come after a day's work.

Begin with prayer, appropriate to the time and place. In this case Psalm 122 was used as we prayed for the situation in Israel.

3. Celebrate what's good. Members were invited to tell stories of new initiatives and progress in mission of all kinds across the deanery. It's easy to rush this, but the chair led us quietly and patiently, drawing out lots of good news.

4. Have a focus for the meeting. What might the people want to know about? What would help enlarge their vision for the Deanery?
5. Recognise that there is much wisdom in the room, so give time for people to contribute. Don't just speak from the front.
6. Break for refreshments in the middle. This gives a chance for people to catch up and engage with the main focus for the evening.
7. Keep the business part of the meeting focused and moving. It's necessary but it need not dominate the whole evening.
8. Finish promptly. People are more likely to come to something they know will keep to time.

I was really encouraged by what I saw and experienced. I hope your synods provide the same sort of encouragement and enabling for your week by week work in the parishes.

The Revd Phil Dykes, Diocesan Mission Enabler

News from Kagera from Chris and Anji Dawkins - Kagera Link Co-ordinators



"On Thursday we were delighted to visit the Diocesan Hospital to deliver 60 pairs of reading glasses kindly donated by people across Suffolk. They were very gratefully received. Murgwanza hospital has some 200 beds and is a vital resource for the area. Our Diocese is supporting the training of an ophthalmologist, having already supported a general surgeon. An Australian charity has supported others too. The first three specialists are already in post, but there's no money for the specialist equipment they need. Last year, the Kagera Link managed to buy a new operating table and a haematology analyser, but we really haven't the funds to do any more. The hospital are working hard to upgrade their services - they've already employed a

physio, an anaesthetist and a biomedical engineer and are pleased with the difference that they are making. However, five months ago the only Xray machine broke and £10,000 is needed to repair it. We and others in Suffolk are exploring every avenue we can to find a way to help – any assistance would be very gratefully received.

On Tuesday we visited a government-run special residential unit for children with special needs including blind and deaf children, those with physical and mental disabilities, and also albinism, a total of 94 children. This kind of unit is very rare in Tanzania, and it is a shining example. Government funding is poor so they are struggling to provide even basic necessities and they need a proper covered dining hall, more dormitories (many children have to share beds) and more classrooms. We were able to pass on a little money given by friends in the UK, but much more is needed.

On Friday, we were taken to see a water tank building project being organised by the Church and Community Mobilisation Process (CCMP - our diocesan fund aimed at helping young people to have the courage and skills to start small businesses) . A team of three, trained by CCMP, were working on erecting a frame on the concrete slab which had been laid a few days ago. The frame is supplied by CCMP and acts as a mould for the concrete and wire tank to be built around. When the tank is complete, the frame can be extracted and taken to the next location".

If you wish to get involved with the Kagera Link or donate to the funds please visit our website page [here](#).

Events

An Adventurous Advent

Saturday 28 October, 9.00am - 12.30pm

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

An invitation to all Readers, Licensed Lay Ministers, Elders and those in training - do join us as Mark Oakley leads us in preparation for An Adventurous Advent. The language of hope, promise and waiting is not evident in today's culture and our communities embrace Christmas at the beginning of December with the switching on of town lights and Christmas carol services throughout the month. The season of Advent, with its four weeks of waiting, is counter-cultural. To find out more and book your place on this event, please click [here](#).

Praise and Music Service at St Mary's Worlingworth

Saturday 28 October, 4.00pm

St Mary's Worlingworth IP13 7PF

Organ music will include our guest organist, John Alley, formerly principal keyboard player of The London Symphony Orchestra, playing a rare performance of *The Sonata for Organ* by Sir Frederick Bridge which the composer played at the original dedication service in 1899. All are very welcome. For more information, please contact Graham Bentley on 07932 104226 or bentley.graham@yahoo.co.uk

2023 Tower Talks: Wolsey Church and State: Faith in the Public Realm

St Mary le Tower, Ipswich IP1 3BE

Sunday 29 October. Follows 3.30pm Choral Evensong at approximately 4.30pm.

The Rt Revd Tim Stevens, Former Convenor, Lords Spiritual: *Meddling Bishops? The Church in Politics Now.*

Please find more information [here](#).

PCC Workshops

Grants and Funding | Wednesday 1 November 12.00pm to 1.00pm | Book [here](#)

Grants and Funding | Wednesday 8 November 1.00pm to 2.00pm | Book [here](#)

Gifts in Wills | Wednesday 8 November 12.00pm to 1.00pm | Book [here](#)

Digital Giving | Tuesday 14 November 12.00pm to 1.00pm | Book [here](#)

Gifts in Wills | Thursday 30 November 12.00pm to 1.00pm | Book [here](#)

All Souls' Day - Solemn Requiem Mass

Thursday 2 November, 7.30pm

St John the Evangelist, St John's Street, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1SP

You are invited to join The Revd Ali Miller and The Revd Canon Sharon Potter for this service organised by Affirming Catholicism. This a movement of inspiration and hope in the Anglican Communion, bringing together and strengthening lay and ordained people who recognise the positive, inclusive and joyful currents in the catholic tradition of Christianity. To add names to the list of those to be remembered at the mass, please contact 07771 593403 or email [Adrian Mann](mailto:Adrian.Mann).

Deanery Drop-in Sessions

Monday 13 November | Salvation Army, Violet Hill Road, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

Wednesday 6 December | St Mary's Church, Hadleigh IP7 5DT



We will be offering a number of drop-ins around the diocese to give you a chance to meet with us and tell us what you need to deliver your Plan for Growth. Each drop-in will run from 3.00pm-5.00pm, and then 6.00pm to 8.00pm. Come when you like and talk to us. If you have a specific question you can email us in advance so we know what you need – please send your emails to helen.prior-townsend@cofesuffolk.org. There will be resources available for you to take away, as well as members of different teams present on the day: finance, DAC, buildings, giving, parish support, mission and ministry and so on. Do come along, we are really looking forward to seeing you.

TRiM 2023 - You are not alone - POSTPONED UNTIL 2024

With regret, we have had to postpone this year's TRiM until November 2024. We will advertise the dates next spring. With apologies to all those who had booked.

Christmas Market at St Edmundsbury Cathedral

Thursday 23 to Saturday 25 November. Doors will open from 10.00am – 4.30pm each day.

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

A variety of stallholders from Suffolk and beyond will join to showcase their products, with

some familiar faces as well as new businesses. There will be over 50 stalls and this year the market will also flow through the Cathedral Cloisters to provide an even larger shopping experience. In addition to the shopping experience, there will be daily entertainment for visitors from local schools, and the Haverhill Silver Band will join the festivities on Saturday 25 November.

Bishops' Teaching morning: The Gospel of Mark, with Professor George van Kooten

Saturday 25 November 9.30am - 12.30pm

Salvation Army, Violet Hill Road, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

Bishop Martin and Bishop Mike invite you to a study morning on the Gospel of Mark with guest speaker Professor George van Kooten from the Faculty of Divinity at the University of Cambridge, who will be asking what is the genre of Mark's gospel, what is its wider context and the thrust of its argument? Book early to avoid disappointment! Free of charge, please book [here](#). Enquiries to Lesley Steed on 07485 348889 or lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org.

Drawing near to God in Advent: prayer, postures and practices

Tuesday 28 November 7.00pm - 8.30pm, online

Bishop Mike will lead four Zoom sessions through Advent looking at aspects of prayer (e.g. praise, intercession...), Christian postures (e.g. peace, joy...) and associated practices to help us grow closer to God over Advent. These will run on Tuesday 28 November | Tuesday 5 December | Thursday 14 December and Tuesday 19 December. There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion. All are very welcome! Book [here](#).

Notices

Avocado plant looking for a new home: Bishop Martin is looking for a warm home for the 2.5m potted avocado tree from Kagera that he has nurtured the past four years. It no longer fits in his house and over the Winter it mustn't fall below 10 degrees at night, so he is looking for a tall warm greenhouse or similar space, or else he will have to cut the top off. If anyone can help, please get in touch with the Bishop's Office on 01473 252829.

Growth Fund

The Growth Fund is there to support your church engage creatively in mission. If your benefice has a Plan for Growth in place we can offer grants up to £1500 to support you in outward-looking projects to develop your local mission to the wider community.

We are keen to support projects that focus on Growing Younger or Growing in Number, with a clear missional objective that would not happen without the support of this grant.

For more information and the application form do visit the Diocesan website [here](#) or email fund administrator: helen.prior-townsend@cofesuffolk.org

The Growth Fund committee's next meeting is on Tuesday 7 November so there's time to put your application together and send it in!

Vacancies

[Net Zero Carbon Officer](#) | Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich | Closing date 2

November

[Priest in Charge](#) | Wickham Market & Pettistree | Closing date: 13 November

[Team Rector](#) | The Forest Heath Team Benefice | Closing date: 24 November

[Director of Music](#) | Woodbridge

[Priest in Charge and Archdeaconry Mission Enabler](#) | Sproughton with Burstall, Copdock with Washbrook and Belstead, and Bentley with Tattingstone

[Rector](#) | Beccles

River Church, Ipswich are recruiting various posts - all details at:

riverchurchipswich.org/vacancies

[Click here to print and share with others](#)



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