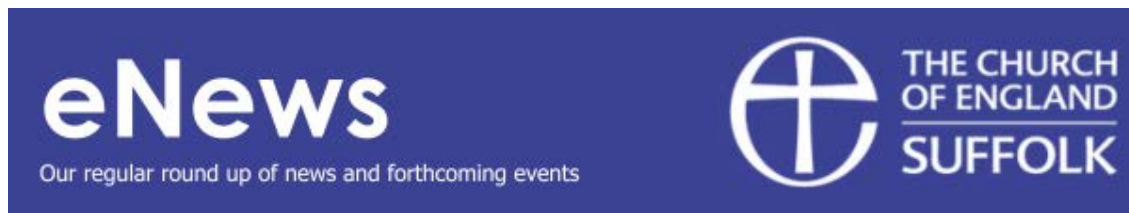


**Thursday 28 September 2023**



### **Serving the community**



Eight lay ministers who cover parishes across the diocese were appointed in a moving service in front of their friends and families at St Edmundsbury Cathedral last Sunday. Bishop Martin Seeley said: *"We are incredibly grateful to lay ministers who alongside so many give their time to help others, making a difference to our Suffolk communities and young people in our county."*

The new Readers are: Kathy Drakes, who will serve Great Barton and Thurston; Jim Sephton, who will serve Elmsett with Aldham, Hintlesham, Chattisham and Kersey; Lizzie Baker, who will serve Suffolk Heights and Deborah Walker, who will serve Bury St Edmunds St Mary with St Peter District Church.

The new Licensed Youth Minister is Kate Cracknell, who will serve in Beccles with Worlingham, North Cove and Barnby.

The new Children's and Families' Ministers, who work alongside their church and community in a variety of ways including toddler groups, children's clubs and Messy Church, are Lyanne Brendt, who will serve Ipswich St Thomas; Sarah Parker-McGee, who will serve Boxford, Edwardstone, Groton, Little Waldingfield and Newton, and Karin Stubbington, who will serve South Hartismere.

### **Suffolk Awards Ceremony - Faith Award**



We are delighted to announce that Lightwave Red Lodge were awarded the first ever Faith Award by Community Action Suffolk, Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Association of Local Councils. Bishop Martin presented the award which provides recognition to a faith group that has worked for the benefit of the community by encouraging people to participate and make a real and lasting positive difference. Read the [full story here](#).

**How do you build a church without a church building? Pop a gazebo up in your front garden of course!**



Lindbergh Road Community Church (LRCC) was formed by the Revd Ian Daniels and his wife Julie with the help of another couple from St Augustine's Church. Located in the Priory Heath Estate in Ipswich, the church is a gazebo in Ian and Julie's front garden, with a regular congregation of 20 – 30 people every Sunday and with many others involved in related activities.

The church vision is a thriving church for the estate - offering an open door to those in the community who want to journey with them in faith. The Revd Ian says, *"It all started with a conversation in the back garden when someone said why don't you just offer teas and coffee in the front garden and see who comes along. It was easy, we just had to get the kettle on and the mugs out!"* To read the full story, please [click here](#).

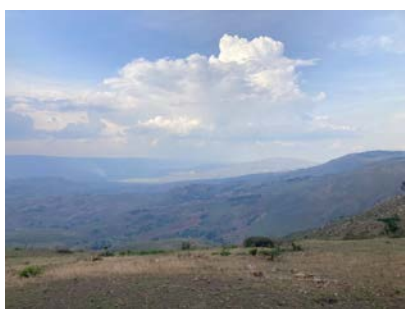
### **Local congregations come together for the dedication of the new stained glass window at Wetheringsett**



Two new beautiful stained glass windows, designed and developed by the award winning stained glass and sculpture artist Helen Whittaker, were dedicated by Bishop Mike at All Saint's Church, Wetheringsett. The windows sit either side of the parish war memorial and the design shines a light on those named and their dedication to service, offering a beacon of hope and inspiring a sense of wonder for voyaging and discovery. The two windows sit either side of the

parish war memorial and the design shines a light on their dedication to service. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

### **Teaching and more in Kagera**



Chris and Anji Dawkins have settled into their first week in Kagera as they begin their teaching responsibilities. Anji's English class has only three students, all very much beginners. After a slow start, there is already some sign of confidence increasing (in the students, if not the teacher). The computer class involves over 12 Diploma students squashed into small room, battling with computers of varying reliability. The more experienced students are very willing to help

others and there is some fun to be had too. Mark and Chris have made a start at tidying up the contents of the various machines, but some are going to need some serious fixing. The five new ones they brought with them will soon be pressed into service. Anji says, *"Sitting on the balcony overlooking the valley towards Rwanda in an evening, we see young primary schoolchildren skipping noisily home. There are no mums at the school gate to meet them – children here wander very freely. The view is huge, with few houses in sight, just a few tin roofs glinting in the sun – it's heaven. And the daily reminders about the background of poverty and resilience make us thankful to God for what we have and long deeply for equality in our world"*.

---

### **Follow the Star: Join the Song**



The Church of England are relaunching the very popular *Follow the Star* branding for 2023. This year's theme – *Follow the Star: Join the Song* – highlights how singing can help draw us closer to God and each other through the journey from Advent to Epiphany.

In the story of the first Christmas, the shepherds are astonished to find the night sky filled with countless voices singing God's praise. Find out more [here](#).

Please join one of their launch webinars outlining the key elements of the Join the Song campaign - to invite choirs and singing groups of all ages to learn and sing the carol.

### **Christmas 2023's digital resources unwrapped**

Wednesday 11 October 3.00pm | [register here](#)

## **Events**

### **FEATURED EVENT:**

#### **Edmund Lecture with Dame Barbara Woodward DCMG OBE**

Friday 20 October, 6.30pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP31 1LS

Dame Barbara Woodward DCMG OBE, the British Permanent Representative (Ambassador) to the United Nations in New York, has been announced as this year's speaker at St Edmundsbury Cathedral's Edmund Lecture. The Ambassador will explore parallels between the Magna Carta, as the 'great charter' which laid the foundation for the modern British values of rule of law and equality, of liberty and rights, and of the UN Charter, which established the international rules and values that have underpinned relative peace and stability since the Second World War. It was at the Abbey of St Edmund that a group of Barons met in 1214 and swore an oath to compel King John to accept the Charter of Liberties, a proclamation of Henry I. This act led directly to the Magna Carta. In a world that feels increasingly uncertain and challenging, Dame Barbara will explore what we can learn from the prescience of these historical written documents, their legacy and relevance today. The Lecture will be followed by a special service of Vespers at 7.30pm. Vespers is a liturgy of evening prayer that, for centuries, was part of the daily rhythm of prayer kept by the monks at the Abbey of St Edmund. The Revd Canon Michael Robinson, Canon Theologian at St Edmundsbury Cathedral, said, "*We're thrilled to welcome Dame Barbara Woodward to the Cathedral to explore these historically significant and highly relevant issues for our society today. Everyone is warmly invited to the Cathedral to hear Dame Barbara's lecture which will undoubtedly be a rich and thought-provoking talk.*" This event is free but please book [here](#).

## **Suffolk Harvest Festival**

Sunday 1 October from 12.00pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS



The Dean of St Edmundsbury invites you to this year's Suffolk Harvest Festival. The Cathedral will be open to visitors with Farming Live! a great, interactive, engaging demonstration from local Suffolk farmers. Static farm machines will be on the Cathedral grounds for the public to get up and close with. There will also be live talks about the machinery, crops and farming in general with plenty of interactive elements and the chance to ask all your burning questions about farming! The Harvest Service will take place from 2.00pm to 3.00pm led by Bishop Martin and joined by Mark Murphy (former

BBC Radio Suffolk presenter) who will interview some very special guests around this year's theme of Living Water. This event is supported by Lightwave, and Graham Miles, the Lightwave Chaplain, will be available on the day.

## **Statistics for Mission and the Online Parish Returns System**

Wednesday 4 October 2.00pm Online | book [here](#),

Wednesday 11 October 7.30pm Online | book [here](#).

This information-based webinar will be presented by Charlotte Hodgson, Paul Sparrow and Nigel Cook to explain the purpose of the Online Parish Returns System. The session is ideal for anyone associated with the Church but especially those involved in completing data returns on behalf of their parish. Areas covered will include registering on the system, Statistics for Mission, Finance Return, and the Energy Footprint Tool kit. There will be an opportunity at the end for you to ask questions.

## **Live launch: The Thrive Collection NEW**

Thursday 5 October, 12.00pm-12.45pm, online

Join this free launch of the collection of resources from CPAS. Pam Macnaughton, creator of The Thrive Collection, and James Lawrence, CPAS Leadership Principal, will host this online lunchtime launch and share how these resources can help your multi-parish benefice to thrive. The Thrive Collection includes a book, a prayer guide, a leader's course and sessions for PCCs. All those who attend will be offered a one-off discount on The Thrive Collection. Book [here](#).

## **World Mission Conference - Ethical Consumerism**

Saturday 7 October, 9.00am-1.00pm

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



Ethical consumerism is the practice of purchasing products and services produced in a way that minimises social and/or environmental damage, while avoiding products and services thought to have a negative impact on society or the environment. The speakers are:

- Sarah Brazier Head of Campaigning and Engagement at the Fairtrade Foundation - Fairtrade and the impact we can have when we shop for food
- Ruth Lindley, Campaigns Lead, Transform Trade - how trade needs to be changed, in particular in the clothing industry
- Andrew Robinson: how to do some good by choosing carefully where we invest

Please book [here](#).

### **Harvest Festival of Talents**

Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 October

All Saints' Church, Kesgrave IP5 1JG

Come along to a Harvest Festival at All Saints' Church, lasting a whole weekend! Events include Harvest displays, activities for children and a talent concert - anyone can participate! Refreshments will be provided. The Talent Concert is from 5.30pm - 7.30pm on Saturday - to sign up to participate please contact Sally Wainman on 07807 984589.

### **Pets Service**

Sunday 8 October, 2.00pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

This service invites 'all creatures great and small', furry, feathered and scaled visitors to come along to the Cathedral for a blessing. Attendees can bring a photograph if they feel they cannot bring their pet. There will also be time to remember the pets we've had loved and lost and to thank God for them, because our pets are our family, and our grief is felt very strongly when our pets die. It is a wonderful opportunity to thank God for the gift of animals and for us to ask God's blessing on all that he has made.

### **Saxophony Concert**

Sunday 8 October, 2.30pm

St Mary's Church, Church Lane, Martlesham IP12 4PQ

You are invited to 'Saxophony', an experienced local saxophone quartet, for a concert. A shared project with Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Free entry, donations in aid of St Mary's church and Martlesham Wilds, the exciting new nature reserve which is right next to the church along Martlesham creek. No need to book, parking available. Come and enjoy great music from Mozart to the Beatles, Queen and Abba and find out more about Martlesham Wilds!

### **Faith in Partnership - East Suffolk Council**

Tuesday 10 October, 9.30am to 3.00pm

East Suffolk House, Riduna Park, Station Road, Melton, Woodbridge IP2 1PT

This is an opportunity for faith community representatives in East Suffolk to meet people from all sectors: the NHS, social care, local government, voluntary sector groups and grant bodies. You'll be able to hear about what the data says about needs in our communities, funding opportunities, volunteering, advice on setting up projects, how to work in partnership with other services, plans for this winter and more - to strengthen partnerships for the benefit of the communities. The day will be a mixture of talks, workshops and a plenary session, plus market stalls and networking. Lunch will be provided. Click [here](#) for details and to book.

## **1000 Years of St Michael's, Beccles**

Saturday 14 October, 7.00pm

St Michael's Church, Beccles NR34 9HE

To mark all that has been achieved in the last five years to conserve the building and improve facilities, Dr Barry Darch will provide an engaging talk on '1000 Years of St Michael's'. Tickets cost £15, and include a glass of wine (or soft drink) and nibbles on arrival, as well as cheeseboard and tea/coffee. To book, please contact John Bailey on 07774 749201.

## **Lay Elder training and social morning**

Saturday 21 October 21, 9.30am - 1.30pm

Salvation Army Stowmarket, Violet Hill Road IP14 1NE

As part of our two-year cycle of training and celebrating, we are inviting all Elders to a training and social morning, with special guest speakers from across the Diocese. We are very pleased that our keynote speaker will be the Venerable Rich Henderson, Archdeacon of Suffolk. For more information and to book please click [here](#).

## **Caring for Creation**

Saturday 21 October, 10.00am - 12.30pm

The Edmund Room, St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Join Mark Prina, Manager at Foxearth Meadows nature reserve along with the Revd Canon Mark Haworth for this talk on Caring for Creation. All welcome for this meeting of the diocesan group of the Society of Catholic Priests. Refreshments available on arrival. To book please email [Michael Wilde](mailto:Michael.Wilde@dioceseofsuffolk.org) or call on 01284 767415. A donation made on the day towards costs would be very much appreciated.

## **Practical Ways to Help Your Church Build a Generous Culture**

24 October, 7.00pm start (arrive at 6.30pm for tea/coffee)

Hoxne Village Hall IP21 5AN

Join the Diocesan Parish Resources Team (Julie Podd and Emma Denton) to find out more about the Parish Giving Scheme, contactless donation devices, online giving with QR codes, and grants and funding. They will be sharing details from the Anglican Giving Survey about why people give (and don't give) and suggest ways to encourage giving from both your congregation and wider community. To book contact Rachel Ball by email [rachelball3@icloud.com](mailto:rachelball3@icloud.com) or telephone: 07876 352796.

## **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](#).

### **Church Recording East Anglia**

Tuesday 7 November, 10.30am to 3.00pm

St Mary's Church, Woolpit IP30 9SQ

Join in and celebrate the work of East Anglia's Church Recorders. This seminar includes talks by Timothy Easton, the well-known artist and architectural historian, with an interest in witchcraft, magic, the occult, and particularly apotropaic marks, and John Vigar, a popular commentator on English history, a broadcaster, writer and accredited lecturer for the Arts Society. For more information email [Sue Medcalf](mailto:Sue.Medcalf).

### **PCC Workshop - Grants & Funding**

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

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

Join Emma Denton, Diocesan Grants Advisor, and guest John Bailey on Zoom for this workshop. Both have considerable success in accessing grants and funding. Learn about the advice and resources available from the Diocese and find out about the Church Grants database. They will welcome questions at the end of their presentations.

### **PCC Workshop - Gifts in Wills**

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

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

Emma Denton will be joined by Eleanor Stead (Head of Giving, Church of England) to help you learn how to set up and promote a parish gifts in wills policy in your parish. Access to free online wills through Farewill.

### **PCC Workshop - Digital Giving**

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

An opportunity to share why digital giving is so important for all churches to enable your generous congregation and wider community to give easily to your church. Includes: setting up online giving campaigns, using payment providers and how to share the online link and QR codes on your A Church Near You Page and/or your website and more. We can show what different donation device options are available. We could also offer you a trial of the 'Collectin' device.

### **Mass in e-flat**

Sunday 19 November, 4.00pm

St Botolph's Chapel, Botesdale IP22 1RG

Come along for a premiere performance from Peter Creswell, and listen to his Mass in E-flat. Featuring top soloists, a small orchestra and chorus. Concert will last approximately one hour, tickets cost £15. To book tickets, please call 01379 890650. [Click here for more information.](#)

### **TRiM 2023 - You are not alone**

Tuesday 21 November - Wednesday 22 November 10.00am to 1.30pm  
High Leigh Conference Centre, Lord Street, Hoddesdon EN11 8SG

Each year the participating churches in the Eastern Region are invited to join together for a short residential conference on Theological Refreshment in Ministry. It is open to ministers, priests, local preachers and Licensed Lay Ministers from all of our participating churches. The TRiM conference provides an opportunity to learn and pray together in a relaxed atmosphere away from church duties. Each year it focuses on one particular theological discipline and in 2023 this will be Pastoral Supervision, led by the Revd Dr Jane Leach. For more information or to book, please [click here](#).

### **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](mailto:lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org).

The series of Bishops' teaching mornings will continue in 2024, the provisional dates are: 3 February 2024, 27 April 2024 and 23 November 2024.

### **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.

### **Results of the Diocesan Board of Patronage by-election**



The results of the by-election for a number of casual vacancies on the Diocesan Board of Patronage can now be announced. The three elected lay members are Michael Wilde, Jacki Maslin and Christine Laverock. The one elected clergy member is the Revd Robert Otule. The Board is now fully constituted and those elected will serve until the end of the current six-year term on 31 December 2024. A formal announcement of the results will be made at Synod on 14 October. Congratulations to all those elected, and thank you to all those who showed an interest in the positions.



### Radio Sounds

Launched on 15 July 2023 this new local radio station aims to meet the needs of radio listeners in Suffolk by playing the best and most iconic music of the 70s, 80s, 90s and the early 00s. The focus is on local events and being at the heart of the Suffolk community.

The morning breakfast show is led by renowned presenter Rob Dunger and we are delighted to announce that the Sunday morning Faith Show will be presented by Lightwave Chaplain, Graham Miles. DJing for the first time, Graham will be interviewing a whole host of people over the next few months. His first guest will be Archdeacon Sally Gaze this Sunday. Available online only, listen in [here](#) on Sundays 7.00am to 9.00am. You can also ask your smart speaker "play Suffolk Sounds on Intune".

### Vacancies

[St Thomas's Community Chaplain \(Part-Time\)](#) | Ipswich | Closing date: 2 October  
[House for Duty Priest](#) | Lakenheath with Santon Downham and Elveden | Closing date: 3 October  
[Rector](#) | Beccles | Closing date: 4 October  
[Priest in Charge 0.8 FTE](#) | Alde River Benefice | Closing date: 4 October  
[House for Duty Priest in Charge](#) | The Wrentham Benefice | Closing date: 9 October  
[Rector Designate](#) | East Bergholt, Brantham, Bentley & Tattingstone | Closing date: 10 October  
[Director of Music](#) | Woodbridge  
[Director of Mission and Ministry](#) | Closing date: 19 October  
[Team Rector](#) | The Forest Heath Team Benefice | Closing date: 24 November  
[Centre Manager of the Sanctuary Day Centre](#) | Ipswich  
River Church, Ipswich are recruiting for Director of Operations, Kids Pastor and Spear Centre Manager/Employability Coach. All details at: [riverchurchipswich.org/vacancies](http://riverchurchipswich.org/vacancies)

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

**The Bishops  
of Suffolk**



---

*Copyright © 2023 Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, All rights reserved.*

This email is generated from the Communications Office at the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

**Our mailing address is:**

Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, 4 Cutler Street, Ipswich. Suffolk, England IP1 1UQ

[Add us to your address book](#)

[unsubscribe from this list](#)   [update subscription preferences](#)

---