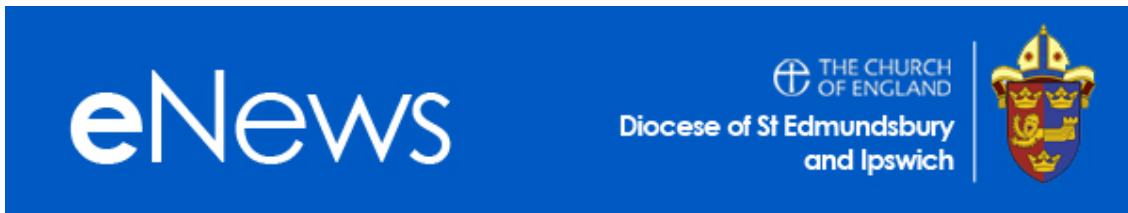


Our regular round up of news and forthcoming events from our diocese [View this email in your browser](#)



Thursday 8 December 2022

DS Diary from Gavin Bultitude

If I'm in London I try to fit in a quick visit to the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square. It may sound strange but for me it's a place to find quietness and encounter God. While the crowds may flock towards Monet, Turner or Van Gogh, I head to the Sainsbury's wing, and the medieval and renaissance art. The paintings are stylised and formal, and many were painted before perspective had been perfected, so they often have a rather lifeless two dimensional quality, but look closely at the faces and they show a real depth of emotion; love, fear, hope, suffering. All the fullness of life, the good and the bad, is visible.

I'm drawn to Piero della Francesca's Baptism of Christ, John pours water over Jesus's head, and Jesus's face shows understanding of the suffering he faces in future, and an acceptance of God's will, as the dove hovers over his head and God speaks "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased" (Matthew 3: 16). And of course, there are angels in this picture, standing slightly to the side, witnessing the event.

Many of these paintings have angels. To the artists, angels were part of their world, part of their faith, messengers of God, connecting him with the world and bringing his message to all. So as Christmas approaches, look out for angels across Suffolk.



The style of art may be different, but angels and angel wings are appearing in many of our churches to remind us of the presence of God, that he still connects with us, and that he still has a message for us. Surely a messenger from God is better than chocolate?

Look out for the angels on our Inspiring Angels advent calendar by clicking [here](#).

How are you inviting people to Christmas Services?

Hundreds of angels appeared at the St Mary's Mildenhall Angel Festival on 28 November and are due to stay until 22 December. Each angel is uniquely handmade by members of

local communities, and vary in size from a mere inch to a sizeable five feet! See full story [here](#)



St Michael's Church in Framlingham was transformed into the world of Dr Who at the weekend in an interstellar celebration of Advent. Churchgoers were encouraged to come in costume to mark the occasion, which saw the Christian story told through the medium of the much-loved BBC television classic. The children's choir, Sing Praise!, also put on an out-of-this world performance by singing hometown hero Ed Sheeran's latest single Celestial. Full story [here](#).

Don't forget to sing along with Radio Suffolk on 14 December from 6.00pm - 7.00pm. Tune in to Radio Suffolk at Ipswich - 103.9 FM | West Suffolk - 104.6 FM | Lowestoft - 95.5 FM | Aldeburgh - 95.5 FM. This is also on DAB

and on [BBC Sounds](#). All resources are available on www.lightwave.community/doorstep-carols-1. Please post your photos on our [Facebook page here](#).

Join the Ipswich Christmas Concert of Handel's famous festive 'Messiah' performed by the choir of St Mary le Tower and the Tower Sinfonia in Ipswich on Friday 10 December at 6.00pm. Tickets cost £15 and can be bought from www.stmaryletower.org.

Finally, on Monday 12 December at 7.00pm, St Edmundsbury Cathedral hosts its annual carol service for our emergency services – police, fire and ambulance. It is an opportunity for people to gather to thank them for all they do to protect people in Suffolk. The address this year will be given by Dean Joe, and apart from traditional carols, there will also be music from the Suffolk Rock Choir, the Stowmarket Salvation Army Band and County Upper Chamber choir. Please come along and join in.

Events

PCC Workshop - Parish Banking

10 January 2023 10.00am to 11.00am - online

Join Philip Keeble, Diocesan Senior Finance Manager, to find out more about parish banking and software packages that might suit your parish. To book please click [here](#).

The Church of England's Carbon Footprint

17 January 2023 12.00pm - 1.00pm

This webinar will give you the key findings from the Church of England's Carbon Emissions Report for 2021. It will also explain what is in- and out-of-scope of the Church of England's Net Zero Carbon target, and how we approach measurement using the Energy Footprint Tool for churches and the wider Energy Toolkit for other buildings and travel. Speakers include: Tom Wood from the national Research and Statistics Team, who developed the Energy Toolkit, and Catherine Ross, who works on Net Zero Carbon as part of the CofE Environment Programme. Click [here](#) to book.

Measuring your church's carbon footprint with the Energy Footprint Tool

24 January 2023, 12.00pm

Does your church want to know its carbon footprint? Join this webinar to find out how and why it's important. Click [here](#) to book.

Exploring the New Testament

Wednesdays 11, 18 and 25 January and 1 and 8 February and 1 and 15 March 2023 at 7.30 - 9.30pm

Earl Stonham Village Hall, Forward Green IP14 5HJ

Led by the Revd Canon John Parr, Exploring the New Testament takes a story-shaped approach to the heart of Christian faith. This seven-session course is for those on the AOP pathway, licensed ministers such as Lay Elders and LLMs, and anyone else who wants a fresh perspective on the New Testament. The course is an invitation to picture the impact of Jesus as a series of layers. Each layer tells its own story, with the story of Jesus at the centre. Each layered story belongs to a bigger story that continues into the present and can only be approached through the other layers – which makes interpreting the New Testament an unending, challenging experience.

The course is free of charge for those on the AOP pathway and studying for Permission to Preach. The course is open to all and costs £25, but those who are in commissioned or licensed ministry and so eligible for a [CMD grant](#) can make an application via lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org. For further details and to book please click [here](#).

Youth Work Essentials Training Course

Tuesdays January 10, 17, 24, and 31, February 7, 21, and 28, and March 7, 14, 21, 7.30pm - 9.15pm

Earl Stonham Village Hall, Forward Green IP14 5HJ



Join this innovative new 10-session course for volunteer youth leaders that increases your skills and confidence about work alongside young people. It's great for churches looking to start youth work or for those 'already volunteers' looking to gain some more skills and confidence. We can even tailor sessions to suit you and your needs! Please contact Matt on matt.levett@cofesuffolk.org to find out further details or book [here](#). The course costs £20 pp - CMD grants are available for licensed and commissioned ministers. Apply to lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org.

Enhancing Pastoral Ministry - Refreshed!

Wednesdays 11 and 25 January, 1 and 8 February, and 1 and 15 March 2023, 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Earl Stonham Village Hall, Forward Green IP14 5HJ

A six-session course led by the Revd Stuart Batten and guests for people who are involved in pastoral care (for example, Readers, Lay Elders, clergy, pastoral visitors) as well as those interested in a deeper understanding of this ministry. Cost is £25 for the whole course, but free to those who undertake this as initial training as an Elder or part of the Auxiliary Ordination Pathway. CMD grants are available to LLMs and clergy, please contact Lesley Steed at lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org. To book your place on this course, please [click here](#).

Engaging All Ages in Worship workshop and service

19 February 2023

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP1 1LS

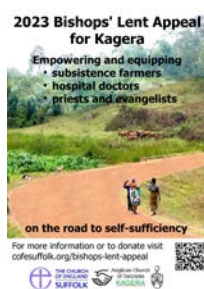


Join the Engaging All Ages in Worship workshop from InHarmony. The workshop with Sara and Sam Hargreaves runs from 2.00pm - 4.00pm and is open to any adults or teens involved or interested in leading services and worship for a range of ages. Explore how you can include a range of ages, spiritual styles, learning modes and all the senses in gathered worship. Followed

by an hour worship service at 4.30pm, ideal for families, putting into practice ideas from the workshop. Tickets cost £10 - CMD grants are applicable to those who are eligible. Find out more: <https://steds cathedral.org/events/engaging-all-ages-in-worship>

2023 Bishops' Lent Appeal for Kagera

22 February 2023



During Lent 2023 we are asking you and your churches to join our Bishops' Lent Appeal for Kagera. We realise that in many churches throughout our Diocese wonderful work is being done to support local communities in the very difficult cost of living crisis. Through food banks, warm spaces and many more creative ways you are truly loving your neighbours. And our global neighbours need our support too. In Kagera the cost of staples like maize, beans and cooking oil has doubled in the past year. And of course these price rises come on top of the impact of the climate crisis.

Churches across Kagera work hard to empower communities to seek their own solutions to problems. In Lent 2023 the theme of our Appeal is 'Empowering and equipping farmers, doctors, priests and evangelists on the road to self-sufficiency.'

If you want to know more or to hear about how the money from the last appeal was used, invite a speaker to your church or group. Contact Chris and Anji Dawkins at kagera@cofesuffolk.org

Living your life with God

Starting 28 February 2023, 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Zoom Lent course

Brother Lawrence wrote about how he lived his Christian life in the 1600s and his very slim work "Practicing the Presence of God" has been massively popular ever since. Through Lent, Bishop Mike (and an occasional guest!) will be offering five Zoom sessions looking at how his insights can be applied in everyday life, with plenty of room for discussion on the way. For more details and to book your place [please click here](#).

Preaching Matthew, with Professor George van Kooten

Saturday 25 February 9.30am to 12.30pm

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

Bishop Martin invites you to a follow-up of the November 2022 study morning 'Preaching on the Gospel of Matthew'. This session includes guest speaker Professor George van Kooten from the Faculty of Divinity at the University of Cambridge. To book your place please visit here: Bishops-preaching-Matthew-2023.eventbrite.co.uk. Please note the other Bishops' study morning dates in 2023 are 17 June and 25 November.

BIG Weekend

Friday 14 April 2023, 6.00pm – Sunday 16 April 4.00pm

Sizewell Hall, Sizewell, Leiston IP16 4TX

Matt Levett, Diocesan Youth & Young Adults Officer, invites you to the BIG Weekend. Organised by a team of experienced youth workers it offers young people the opportunity to come together and make new friends. Ask members of your youth group if they would like to come along. The age range is from school years 7-13. Whilst it is Christian in ethos and focus you don't have to call yourself a Christian to be able to attend and have fun! To find out more and to sign up [please click here](#).

Notices**Notices**

The Venerable Dr Jane Mainwaring has been appointed as the Suffragan Bishop of Hertford. Dr Mainwaring is currently the Archdeacon of St Albans and she was educated at Leeds University and Trinity College, University of Wales, and trained for ministry on the East Anglian Ministerial Training Course. She served her title at St Gregory's Sudbury, and in 2001 she was ordained Priest.

Vacancies

[Priest in Charge](#) | Alde River Benefice | Closing date: 12 December

[Youth and Schools Worker](#) | Newmarket and District Youth for Christ | Closing date: 23 December

[House for Duty Priest in Charge](#) | Wrentham Benefice | Closing date: 16 January 2023

[Archdeacon of Suffolk](#) | Closing date: 19 January 2023

[Priest in Charge](#) | [Orebeck Benefice](#) | Closing date 31 January 2023

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