

# Learning Together

Opportunities for learning and development  
for lay people, ministry teams and authorised  
ministers

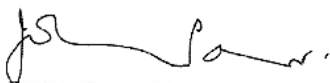
Welcome to the autumn issue of Learning Together, which includes information about the usual wide range of learning opportunities in the Diocese and beyond.

I'm writing this a week after coming back from our summer holiday. We did a lot of travelling, and I feel as if I'm still on the move. That reminds me of some words we often use about our Christian experience. We refer to ourselves as 'pilgrims' and 'disciples'. We speak of 'vocation'. All three are about being on the move, in the company of others. Pilgrims make a spiritual journey, disciples follow a great teacher, vocation is about responding to a call.

There's a sense in which all Christians are following a vocation as pilgrims and disciples. We don't have to move any great physical distance. Simply by being open to becoming more than we are at the moment is enough to leave us feeling that we're on the move, companions on a journey of learning.

I hope you'll agree that there's more than enough food for the journey in these pages.

With all good wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Parr', written in a cursive style.

John Parr (Director of Ministry, Education and Training)

# Conferences and Day Events

## Skills for Personal Confrontation

### A workshop training day for people in church leadership

Organiser	Bridge Builders
When	9 September 2015
Where	The Priory Street Centre, York YO1 6ET
Cost	£60 (£50 for members of the Bridge Builders Network)
Description	Confrontation — the whole idea often has nasty vibes. Yet communicating face to face is surely at the heart of honest relationships. Why, then, when Christians do things face to face, are they liable to find themselves straining relationships rather than building them up? There are times when things do need to be said — to build trust, to clear the air, to ask for co-operation, to rebuke. It means caring enough to confront and to confront carefully. The good news is that we can get better at it with prayer, preparation and practice. This workshop will equip you with insights and skills for confronting others in a loving way. It is designed for people who are part of a church's leadership group especially those with pastoral responsibility.
Information	Book on-line at <a href="http://www.bbministries.org.uk">www.bbministries.org.uk</a> or phone 020 8883 3033.

## Engaging Luke

### Stories, symbols, actions and prayer

Organiser	Ministry, Education and Training Team
When	Thursday 24 September at the St Nicholas Centre, Ipswich <b>or</b> Saturday 17 October at the Hyndman Centre, Bury St Edmunds. Both days 9.30am – 3.30pm
Cost	£7 including refreshments (free with CMD grant)
Description	Engaging Luke is designed to help clergy, lay ministers and anyone else who is interested to make the most of the Year of Luke, which starts on Advent Sunday 2015. It will include the familiar mix of worship, presentations and workshops, and is designed to appeal to a range of learning and spiritual styles. And because Luke is the only



evangelist who wrote a sequel to his gospel, one session will be devoted to exploring the connections between Luke and Acts. Resources available on the day will include material written especially for Living Faith in Suffolk. To find out more and to book your place please email Lesley Steed on [lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org) or phone 01473 298510.

### **Suffolk Theology Forum**

Organiser Suffolk Theology Forum  
When **Thursday 17 September 2015**, 7.30 pm *By the rivers of Babylon: race, religion and immigration, ancient and modern.* Dr William Ackah, Lecturer at Birkbeck College, London  
**Thursday 26 November 2015**, 7.30 pm *Why care for creation? Biblical and theological perspectives on the environment.* Dr Hilary Marlow, Director of the Faraday Institute, Cambridge  
Where The Co-Op Education Centre, 11 Fore Street, Ipswich IP4 1JW. Free on-site parking.  
Cost £20 (£16 concessions) p.a. or £5 (£4) a meeting  
Information Secretary: 01359 230161 or [eymoore@talktalk.net](mailto:eymoore@talktalk.net)

### **soul[food]**

#### **Making the most of your occasional contacts**

Organiser The Revd Dave Gardner  
When Thursday 8 October 2015, 7.00pm for 7.30pm  
Where St Nicholas Centre, 4 Cutler Street, Ipswich IP1 1UQ  
Description A training event for all with the Revd John Kiddle, Director of Mission at the Diocese of St Albans and co-founder of soul[food]. Our festival services and occasional offices attract many people over the year and one way of making the most of these opportunities is to offer each person who attends a link so they can explore the Christian faith via bite sized thoughts. These thoughts are relevant to the service they have attended and are sent straight to their phone or in-box with the option to explore further after a week's worth.  
Information Book places with David Pawson at [david.pawson@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:david.pawson@cofesuffolk.org) or 01473 298550

## **Open the Book Training Day**

Organiser	Di Barker
When	Saturday 10 October 2015, 10.00am – 3pm
Where	St Luke's Church Centre, Beccles NR34 9JQ
Cost	£5 or £10 for a team of three or more
Description	Interested in a highly-successful national project passing on Bible stories to the next generation? Enjoy working in a team, reading stories out loud or creating costumes and props? Want to support your local primary school in a practical, useful way? Come to the training day! Choice of workshops for beginners and experts.
Information	Book places with Di Barker at <a href="mailto:dibarker@keme.co.uk">dibarker@keme.co.uk</a> or Jacqui Studd on 01473 298570.

## **Money Matters Church Urban Fund: 2015 National Conference**

Organiser	Church Urban Fund
When	5 November 2015
Where	Kings House Conference Centre, Manchester M1 7HB
Cost	£12, includes lunch and refreshments
Description	Financial exclusion is one of the most pressing public policy issues of our time. The Archbishop of Canterbury has spoken passionately about the importance of this issue for our national life. His initiative has sparked widespread interest across the Church of England and other denominations to address the issue of financial exclusion at both a local and a national level. Through this conference we want to build understanding of financial exclusion, reflect theologically and explore a variety of projects and efforts to build financial inclusion in local communities.
Information	<a href="http://www.cuf.org.uk/blog/money-matters-conference-2015-1">www.cuf.org.uk/blog/money-matters-conference-2015-1</a> or please contact us on <a href="mailto:hello@cuf.org.uk">hello@cuf.org.uk</a> or 0207 898 1091.

## **Living Faith in Suffolk: Learning and Training Events**

This is a new series of half-day and whole-day sessions to build up our confidence in ministry and mission, and which support Growing in God, the Diocesan Vision for Growth. The following will be offered during 2016 (topics to be confirmed):

- 23 January: Facilitating Groups
- 27 February: Developing Teams – Growing through conflict
- 8 and 19 March: John’s Gospel – preparing for the lectionary Easter season
- 16 April: Developing Faith – using the opportunities of baptism and confirmation
- 14 May: Visiting well – communicating and keeping safe
- 25 June (tbc): Leading prayers in public worship
- 9 July: Loss and bereavement
- 13 and 17 September: Matthew’s Gospel – preparing for the coming lectionary year
- 8 October: Greening the Faith – Christianity and environmental issues
- 22 and 26 November: Lay Ministers’ Day

Further information will be available from the Ministry, Education and Training (MET) office from October; contact Lesley Steed on 01473 298510 or [lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org).

## **Courses**

### **Creative Congregations**

#### **Do you want to be a dementia friendly church?**

Organiser BrightShadow

Description Creative Congregations is a training programme designed for the leaders, staff and members of churches and faith organisations who want to reach out to people affected by dementia in order to maintain community, facilitate the continued expression of faith and serve the wider community. The programme equips churches to understand the challenges associated with dementia and to explore creative ways to meaningfully support people affected by it.



How	Creative Congregations can be delivered as a half or whole day training event, or as part of a larger festival or conference programme.
Cost	See website for prices: <a href="http://brightshadow.org.uk/training/creative-congregations-dementia-friendly-churches">brightshadow.org.uk/training/creative-congregations-dementia-friendly-churches</a> . Special offer: 15% off until the end of August
Information	<a href="mailto:katy@brightshadow.org.uk">katy@brightshadow.org.uk</a> , 07823 697697, <a href="http://www.brightshadow.org.uk">www.brightshadow.org.uk</a> or twitter: BrightShadow_UK

### **CSK-L2 Certificate in Counselling Skills**

Organiser	Inspire Counselling and Training
When	One Saturday/month from 3 October 2015 to 16 July 2016
Where	Greenfinch Church, Greenfinch Avenue, Ipswich IP2 0SQ
Cost	£1050. The course can be paid in instalments with an initial deposit of £300 and the remainder by monthly standing order
Description	This course is for those who wish to learn counselling skills so that they can help people in a voluntary or an employed situation, or for those who wish to begin training as a counsellor. No previous training is required before starting this course. Topics include the difference between caring, helping and counselling, communication, listening skills, structures and frameworks for counselling and models of counselling. Ample opportunity is given to practise skills and there is some coursework to complete
Information	Please contact the office if you have any questions, on Tuesdays 9 - 5 and Thursdays 9am - 9pm. Tel: 01473 217694 or email <a href="mailto:contact@inspirecounselling.org.uk">contact@inspirecounselling.org.uk</a>

### **Courses and Events from Sarum College**

**5 – 8 October 2015** *Foundations and Forms of Christian Spirituality: An introduction to the study of spirituality through different classic spiritual traditions.*

**5 – 8 October 2015** *Christian Faith and Leadership* Explore and analyse how theology and spirituality underpin and challenge an understanding of leadership within and outside faith-based contexts.

**10 October 2015** *Holy Wisdom: A Theology of Imagination* Explore the books collectively known as The Wisdom Tradition in the Old Testament that underpin a contemporary approach to belief and spirituality.

**10 October 2015** *Niblett Memorial Lecture: Troubling Context: Christian Witness in Canada* This lecture with Richard Topping, principal of Vancouver School of Theology, explores the challenges facing Christian witness in Canada. At 5pm. Lecture is free, advance booking required.

**10 October 2015** *Mission & Evangelism: Considering the Church's Participation in the Mission of God* This study day offers an opportunity to sit alongside our ordination and licensed lay ministry candidates to share in their undergraduate learning. It is ideal as a refresher, to stimulate new thinking, or to get a flavour of ordained and lay training at Sarum College.

**12 – 15 October 2015** *Approaches to Liturgical Studies* An introduction to the sources and methods used by liturgical scholars in the evaluation of liturgical history and contemporary worship events.

**16 October 2015** *Day of Spiritual Reflection* The changing sights and sounds of autumn provide the backdrop for this day of reflection.

**12 - 15 October 2015** *Theology and Human Culture* Explore the relationship between theology and culture through creative and critical perspectives.

**16 October 2015** *Stanley Spencer's Memorial Chapel at Burghclere* A day trip to Burghclere, Hampshire to see Spencer's extraordinary visionary murals that memorialise the lives and the dead of World War One.

**Begins 21 - 22 October 2015** *Enriching Ministry: The Practice of Pastoral Supervision* Two-part residential course designed for anyone in pastoral ministry wishing to develop their skills and understanding of pastoral supervision.

To book:

- [courses@sarum.ac.uk](mailto:courses@sarum.ac.uk)
- [www.sarum.ac.uk](http://www.sarum.ac.uk)
- 01722 424800

# Ministries

## Ministries Fair 2016 Discipleship in Focus

**St Edmundsbury Cathedral**  
**23 April 2016, 10.30am - 2.30pm**

Do you ever have a sense that your Christian faith is pushing you towards something new, something particular? There are of course all kinds of circumstances that faith in Jesus Christ might be lived out, whether at home, at your place of work or education, at the pub, at the shop – wherever, and in all kinds of ways!

But sometimes some people have a more definite, more “pointed” sense that God is prodding or calling them towards serving him in a defined role. This might be experienced as a clear vocation to a certain ministry, or a more vague feeling, a prayerful wondering. Maybe it is a welcome feeling; maybe it is not welcome at all. The Bible is full of occasions when God calls people, and they react in all kinds of ways.

The **Ministries Fair** at the Cathedral on **23 April 2016** will provide information, speakers – and people to speak to – from a wide variety of ministries, such as street pastors, Prison Fellowship, spiritual direction, church administration (Churchwardens, Treasurers, Secretaries, Safeguarding Officers, etc.), Volunteering Matters (formerly CSV), ordained ministry, Reader ministry, school teaching, commissioned local ministry (Elders/parish evangelists & pioneers), Church Army, Church Mission Society, Us (formerly USPG), monastic life, children’s ministry (Sunday school, Godly Play, Open the Book), Samaritans, youth ministry, fostering, Church Housing Trust. The Pilgrims’ Kitchen at the Cathedral will make refreshments available for purchase, and there will be space for personal reflection and prayer.

For many people, this will be an opportunity to taste and see the variety of possibilities available, perhaps sparking an idea for some kind of ministry within or beyond the Church community not specifically featured at the Ministries Fair. For others, it will be an opportunity to learn more about something in particular, perhaps something that has been lurking in the background for a while.

Week by week we pray for our church to flourish and grow. Such flourishing happens when we are a people who offer ourselves to God, when we serve God in the countless ways that God makes possible. The



Ministries Fair is an opportunity to discover more about what that might look like in your life. It's an opportunity to think about how you might give your discipleship more focus.

Ministries Fair 2016 is open to the public, but it would be helpful if we had a general idea of how many are coming – please let Lesley Steed know if you intend to be there, alone or bringing a parish group ([lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org)). For more information please contact Tim Jones ([tim.jones@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:tim.jones@cofesuffolk.org)) or Ruth Dennigan ([ruth.dennigan@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:ruth.dennigan@cofesuffolk.org)).

## **Follow 2016 – A Celebration of Christian Discipleship**

Follow 2016 is a day festival, sponsored by the Central Readers Council to celebrate 150 years of Reader Ministry, and is open to everyone of any age or denomination. The event takes place on 16 July 2016 at De Montfort Hall, Leicester. Tickets are £5 and will be available from 1 September from De Montfort Hall by phone (0116 233 3111) or through the website: [www.demontforthall.co.uk/events/index.php?cat\\_id=10&level=1](http://www.demontforthall.co.uk/events/index.php?cat_id=10&level=1).

Speakers include Paula Gooder, writer and lecturer in Biblical studies, Mark Russell, Church Army Chief Executive, Mark Greene, author and speaker from the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity, Debbie Thrower, former broadcaster and champion of BRF's 'The Gift of Years' initiative, and Paul Blakey, founder of the Street Angels movement.

Pete James, full time songwriter will be leading worship throughout the day and Roger Jones from Christian Music Ministries will be forming a scratch choir and performing his brand new musical "Barnabas".

Activities available throughout the day will be a taste of Messy Church from Lucy Moore, children's multi-sensory equipment from Leicester Diocese, 24-7 prayer space, adult and children bouncy castles, entertainment from Christian magician Steve Price, together with resource stalls across the site and world food available all day.





## **Seeking Christians in their 20s willing to train as staff for the 2016 Hineni programme**

'Hineni' is the Hebrew word of obedient response to God, often translated as 'Here I am' – check out Genesis 22.11, Exodus 3.4, 1 Samuel 3.4, Isaiah 6.8. It give its name to a discipleship development programme, already running in the north of England for a few years, led by people in their 20s for people in their 20s, and to be launched in the Diocese of Eds & Ips on the weekend of 26 – 28 February 2016. If you know of anyone in their 20s who might be interested in training to staff the Hineni programme, please contact Lesley Steed ([lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org)) for further details.

The training weekend is scheduled for 20 – 22 November 2015. We need people who have at least one of the following skills: able to speak about the Christian faith to a couple of dozen people; small group leader; musician; IT competence; worship leading (traditional and/or contemporary); catering; organisation/administration. All participants need to have a faith that they want to develop further and a desire to help others to grow in their own discipleship.



Are you not in your 20s? Then please help the Hineni initiative by holding it firmly in your prayers, and alerting anyone you know who is in their 20s, especially if they are one of a very few young adults who participate in the life of their local church.

# Spirituality

## Exploring Prayer

The Exploring Prayer event at the Cathedral this year was much appreciated:

- *Thank you for a very special day*
- *Very helpful day, thank you. All the workshops were splendid.*
- *Refreshing and rejuvenating*

Many people asked for 'More please' so put next year's date in your diary:

**Saturday 23 July 2016, 10.00am - 4.00pm**  
**St Edmundsbury Cathedral**

## Jane Williams: Praying for Others

Another opportunity for exploring prayer: Dr Jane Williams (<http://www.stmellitus.org/academic-staff>) will lead a workshop on Praying for Others on **Wednesday 2 March 2016, 2.00 – 5.00pm, repeated 7.00 – 9.00pm**. More details to follow.

## Training Day on 'Forgiveness'

**with Marian Partington whose sister was one of Fred West's victims**

Organiser	Diocesan Spirituality Group
When	Saturday 10 October 2015, 10.00am – 4.00pm
Where	St Andrew's Church Hall, Rushmere St Andrew, Ipswich, IP5 1DH
Description	Marian Partington from the Forgiveness Project will lead the day. Marian's sister, Lucy, was one of Fred and Rosemary West's victims. Since that trauma Marian has been 'lining myself up with forgiveness', a journey that began with rage ( <a href="http://theforgivenessproject.com/stories/marian-partington-england/">http://theforgivenessproject.com/stories/marian-partington-england/</a> ). These training days are particularly for those involved or interested in the ministry of spiritual accompaniment but are open to anyone.
Cost	£20. The whole fee is due in advance. It is non-refundable.

- Bookings** Caroline Redman, The Cottage, Great Livermere, IP31 1JG or [caroline@theredmans.co.uk](mailto:caroline@theredmans.co.uk) by 28 September, please. Please either respond by email and make an electronic payment to St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocesan Board of Finance, Sort code 16-22-17, Account No 12190090 or send a cheque made payable to "St Edmundsbury & Ipswich DBF" together with your details. Clergy and lay ministers may be able to use their CMD grant to pay for this event. Please confirm with Lesley Steed [lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org) and then let Caroline know.
- Bookstall** Available on the day with copies of relevant books and of other books on spirituality and spiritual accompaniment. NB. Cash payments only on this occasion.

### **Spiritual Direction/ Accompaniment**

This is about taking the time to meet with another person and talk about one's spiritual journey and prayer. If you want to know more see [www.cofesuffolk.org/index.cfm?page=landf.content&cmid=447](http://www.cofesuffolk.org/index.cfm?page=landf.content&cmid=447), and if you want help in finding a spiritual director / companion for yourself, the person to contact is now Mark Booth at [spiritual.direction@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:spiritual.direction@cofesuffolk.org) or 01728 454349.

### **Spirituality Advisor**

Anne is always pleased to hear what is important to you in prayer and spiritual life, and to hear from an individual or church wanting to explore spirituality further. She can be contacted on 01394 610065 or email [anne.spalding@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:anne.spalding@cofesuffolk.org).

## **Retreats**

### **Retreat Days**

- Westminster College, Cambridge on **Saturday 31 October** Come and explore a day of prayer and reflection at the College and find God's presence here. You will be given some guidance as to how to make best use of this personal time with God. These days are open to ministers, elders, members, indeed anyone who wishes to deepen their spiritual life. [www.westminster.cam.ac.uk](http://www.westminster.cam.ac.uk)

- Simeon Centre, Ridley Hall, Cambridge CB3 9HG: 'The Gift of Christ' on Saturday 5 December 2015. £20. Book your place at [www.simeoncentre.co.uk](http://www.simeoncentre.co.uk) or call 01223 746590.
- More information on opportunities for Quiet Days and Retreats can be found via [www.cofesuffolk.org/index.cfm?page=landf.content&cmid=354](http://www.cofesuffolk.org/index.cfm?page=landf.content&cmid=354).

## Otley Hall Retreat Days

Organiser	Otley Hall
Where	Otley Hall, Otley IP6 9PA
Cost	£22, includes refreshments and lunch

- Tuesday 25 August 2015 *How to lead a Retreat/Quiet Day*. Sylvia and Christopher Chapman. A day to explore good practice in the leading of Retreat or Quiet Days. Lots of practical help in selecting subjects, planning the programme, using silence and looking at resources available.
- Friday 11 September 2015 *Betjeman (& Brideshead) revisited*. Jane Hall. A day to enjoy the poetry of John Betjeman and explore the influences of his friendship with Evelyn Waugh.
- Tuesday 20 October 2015 *Mindfulness meditation*. Jnanamitra. Mindfulness meditation it is a means of transforming the mind – yet awareness is not what we think! The methods carry no religious ideology in themselves and can be practiced within the context of any faith.

Information To book a place or for further information please phone 01473 890264 or email [events@otleyhall.co.uk](mailto:events@otleyhall.co.uk). See also [www.otleyhall.co.uk](http://www.otleyhall.co.uk) for more information.

## Resources

### Living Faith in Suffolk (LFiS)

#### Latest resources from Living Faith in Suffolk

**Living Advent 1** is already available on the LFiS page of the diocesan website ([www.cofesuffolk.org](http://www.cofesuffolk.org)) along with Living Confirmation, Living Word 1 and 2, Living Mark 1, Living Prayer 1, Living Vocation, Living Lent 1 and Living Lent with Mark. It contains daily reflections for 1 - 25 December, each day looking at one from a collection of nativity scenes, with a reflection on some of the messages conveyed and some questions to

stimulate personal thought. These aim to enable the reader to think widely around a range of aspects of the Christmas story and to make links between this and the wider story of Jesus and of our faith journey. Each day concludes with a Bible reading for further reflection. Also provided are resources for those wishing to meet each week to discuss their reflections.

Alternatively you may wish to use some of the **latest resources from Living Faith in Suffolk**, launching in mid-September, looking at an overview of Luke's Gospel (**Living Luke 1**), people in Luke's Gospel (**Living Luke 2**) and stories from Luke's Gospel (**Living Luke 3**).

Also due for release in September: **Living Lent 2: Who is this Jesus?** – daily reflections from Ash Wednesday to Easter Day, with questions and audio tracks to stimulate further thought, and supporting resources for those wishing to use these for group study.

For the resources to be useful we need your feedback. Let us know what you think of the material that we are producing and, if there are resources you would like to see created, we need to know that too!

Ruth Dennigan, Discipleship and Ministry Development Officer  
Tel 01473 298503 or [ruth.dennigan@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:ruth.dennigan@cofesuffolk.org)

## **Share your Harvest!** **Tackling Poverty in England**

Our Church Urban Fund Harvest Resources are ready to download!  
Reflect... praise and thank God for his abundant provision using the:

- Preaching Notes and Reflections
- Prayers

This Harvest take action... share with those in our society who have less, by organising an event to fundraise for Church Urban Fund's Together Network that is working locally to transform lives. Can you help organise a fundraising event?

- Harvest Supper
- Coffee Morning
- Afternoon Tea
- Frugal Lunch

Visit the website [www.cuf.org.uk/node/618388](http://www.cuf.org.uk/node/618388) and help transform lives in England!

## Harvest Resources

Links to Harvest Resources from the Church of England's resource hub,  
Going for Growth: [www.going4growth.org.uk](http://www.going4growth.org.uk)

Christian Aid

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/harvest/index.aspx>

Water Aid

<http://www.wateraid.org/uk/audience/community-groups/harvest>

Samaritan's Purse

<http://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/raising-families/>

US (was USPG)

<http://www.weareus.org.uk/harvest/>

Barnabas in Churches

<http://www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk/find/Harvest/ideas/1>

Traidcraft

<http://www.traidcraft.co.uk/traidcraft-big-supper>

The Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals

[http://www.aswa.org.uk/page/youth\\_and\\_children/harvest\\_-\\_activity\\_sheet/](http://www.aswa.org.uk/page/youth_and_children/harvest_-_activity_sheet/)



A reminder about enews, the regular round up of news, information and forthcoming events from the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, sent directly to your inbox. Subscribers will also receive regular emails from Bishop Martin. To subscribe just email [communications@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:communications@cofesuffolk.org) or go to [www.cofesuffolk.org/index.cfm?page=yourchurch.content&cmid=746#enews](http://www.cofesuffolk.org/index.cfm?page=yourchurch.content&cmid=746#enews)

## Contact details

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