



Thursday 24 September 2020

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Growing in God

A message from Bishop Martin

Bishop Richard Lewis

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is with great sadness that I write to say that Bishop Richard Lewis died last Saturday following a short illness.

Bishop Richard was Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich from 1997-2007, and I know many people in Suffolk fondly remember him. Before coming to Suffolk, Bishop Richard served as Bishop of Taunton from 1992-1997 and before that he served in Hereford, Durham and Newcastle.

I first got to know Richard in the 1990s when he was Bishop of Taunton and I was grateful then and ever since for his graciousness, wisdom, kindness and gentle humour.

During Bishop Richard's time in the Diocese, he served as President of the Suffolk Agricultural Association and is well remembered for the work he did to support farmers, especially during the swine flu outbreak. He is also remembered for his sensitive leadership following the murder of five women in Ipswich in 2006, particularly when he was asked to lead prayers before a match at Ipswich Town Football Club. It was during his time as Bishop that work on the cathedral's Millennium Tower was completed, something he took great pride in seeing achieved.

We also remember at this time Richard's son, Peter, who died not long after Richard came to Suffolk, and remember the weight of grief his tragic death laid upon Richard and his wife, Sara.

I have sent condolences from the Diocese to Sara, their children Nick and Mike together with their families. Please join me in praying for Richard and his family.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Martin', with a small cross symbol above the first letter.

If you have messages of condolence or memories you would like us to share with Bishop Richard's family; please email communications@cofesuffolk.org.

Following the announcement by the Prime Minister on 22 September 2020, the Church of

England is continuing to engage with Government departments to review advice to churches. The Church of England page will continue to be updated, particularly regarding the change limiting the numbers attending weddings to a maximum of 15 from Monday 28 September.

Please visit the Church of England page [here](#) and the Diocesan guidance page [here](#) for the most up to date information.

Called Together: Celebrating Licensed Lay Ministry in Suffolk

This weekend, on Sunday 27 September, St Edmundsbury Cathedral hosts the celebration of Readers, Children's and Families' Ministers, Licensed Evangelists Licensed Youth Ministers, Lay Pastors and Pioneers as 14 people are licensed into our diocese.

Those being licensed are committing to serve communities throughout Suffolk as they voluntarily become members of our ministry. Although each kind of ministry is celebrated in its distinctiveness, there is the over-arching theme that those licensed are empowered and strengthened for the work God has called them to do.

Bishop Mike says:

"It's wonderful to see 14 people coming forward for licensed lay ministry this Sunday at the Cathedral - four Readers, four Children's & Families' Ministers, four Lay Evangelists and two Pioneers. Thanks not only to the candidates for their commitment but also to all those who have contributed to their training and development to this point.

Their response to God's calling reminds us that it is not a question of whether we are called, the fact is all of us are called in one way or another, but the question is to what each of us is being called to as a follower of Jesus. It's also a reminder for us to keep our eyes peeled and ears pricked up to notice giftings among our brothers and sisters in Christ and sometimes to perhaps gently suggest "have you ever considered.... you would be great at that" or something similar. Meanwhile please keep the candidates in prayer as they are licensed by Bishop Martin this weekend."

Because of Covid-19 restrictions the congregation will be limited to invited guests only but you are all invited to join those being licensed in a livestreamed video link via Facebook at 2.00pm, 4.00pm and 6.00pm this Sunday. Please join them on the Cathedral Facebook page [here](#). Details of who is being licensed for each time is available on our website [here](#).

Please pray for those being licensed over the course of the afternoon and for the parishes they serve, that they may grow in the knowledge and love of God, and that, guided by the Holy Spirit, their ministry may be richly blessed.

Readers

Mike Bryer: The Benefice of Kesgrave

Ruth Bull: The Benefice of East Bergholt and Brantham

Doreen Page: The Benefice of Beccles, St Michael and St Luke

Reader to be welcomed and licensed from another diocese:

Rachel Clarke: The Benefice of Walton and Trimley

Children's and Families' Ministers

Sandra Cresswell: The Benefice of Carlford

Charlotte Gooch: The Benefice of Woodbridge, St Mary the Virgin

Christine Stainer: The Benefice of Bradfield St Clare, Bradfield St George with Little Whelnetham, Cockfield, Felsham and Gedding

Helen Woodroffe: The Benefice of Horringer

Licensed Evangelists

Rob Collett: The Benefice of Ipswich, St Matthew, All Saints and Triangle

Malcolm Gibbs: The Benefice of Ipswich, St Thomas

Hannah Ponting: The Benefice of Ipswich, St Matthew, All Saints and Triangle

Mark Stancombe-Duhm: The Benefice of Saxmundham with Kelsale-cum-Carlton

Pioneers

Karen Nelson: The Benefice of Ipswich, St Matthew, All Saints and Triangle

Kathy Wilson: The Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

Activities across our Diocese

St Peter and St Paul Lavenham are hosting a 'Harvest with Tools' on Sunday 4 October: this supports the charity TWAM, a Christian charity that collects unwanted usable tools, refurbishes them, sorts them into trade tool kits and sends them to the developing world for livelihood creation. For more information on TWAM please visit [here](#).

For the last ten weeks, Aldringham church has been holding all of its services outside in the churchyard. Last week was Battle of Britain Sunday and the service was very well supported with 44 people present. For pictures of various events please visit their Facebook [page](#).

In case you missed 'Journey with the Maker' a service broadcast by St Edmundsbury Cathedral, you can watch a recording [here](#). The service was themed around creation and used words and music from the Iona Community, performances by Cantus Firmus singers and musicians and contributions from the Pilgrims Together Lightwave group in Thorpeness.

St Edmundsbury Cathedral was delighted to welcome back various choirs after such a long break and livestreamed its first Choral Evensong last week. Choral Evensong is livestreamed via the Cathedral's Facebook page www.facebook.com/stedscathedral. The Cathedral is currently recruiting choristers, who receive free singing, piano and musicianship lessons as well as getting the experience of singing in the wonderful surroundings of the Cathedral.

Christianity in the Public Space

Saturday 10 October, 10.00am - 12.30pm
By Zoom



Join us online for this year's Diocesan World Mission Conference. Key speakers include Andrew Bradstock speaking on how Christians can engage in world issues at all levels. He will be joined by Luke Harman from Christian Aid who will talk about a successful campaign using a range of activities to raise awareness of an issue in the public space. There will be opportunities for questions and discussion.

Book your free place: [MissionConference.eventbrite.co.uk](https://missionconference.eventbrite.co.uk) and for more info please email: richard.stainer14@gmail.com

Don't forget **Freedom Week** from Monday 12 October. This is a time to remember those trapped in modern day slavery, and people – professionals and volunteers – who try to tackle this abhorrent crime. It culminates with

Anti-slavery Day on Sunday 18 October.

Let's talk about Finances – Connecting with us

By Zoom
Wednesday 30 September, 11.00am-12.00pm
Monday 19 October, 2.00pm-3.00pm
Thursday 5 November, 3.00pm-4.00pm

Earlier in the summer we held a number of Zoom sessions with Treasurers to provide a financial update, and offer an opportunity to share their own parish's financial and current situation and for us all to support each other around new resources and initiatives. These sessions were attended by Julie Podd, our Parish Giving Adviser; Mark Pendlington, DBF Chair; Anna Hughes, Diocesan Secretary, and Gary Peverley, Diocesan Finance Director.

We are aiming to hold further sessions throughout the autumn for those Treasurers who have not as yet had the opportunity to attend. We would also like to extend this invitation to Church Wardens and clergy if they would like to take part. Each session lasts about one hour and is limited to 12 – 15 participants to enable all to contribute and ask questions!

If you are interested in attending, and haven't already attended a session, please contact Lorna Todd at lorna.todd@cofesuffolk.org to book a slot.

Experiences by 'ExploreChurches'

Thursday 15 October, 10.30am by Zoom

COVID19 is re-shaping tourism. Although many things have changed, church tourism continues to have great potential. VisitEngland says that 55% of day trips include a visit to church or cathedral and 83% of people in the UK believe churches are an important part of the UK's history and heritage. And we want churches to be ready in 2021 when hopefully the tourism industry will be able to open up fully once again, able to welcome more and more visitors.

The National Churches Trust will deliver its 'Experiences by ExploreChurches' project through its tourism website www.explorechurches.org, which will include how to make your church visit an 'Experience', from hands-on activities, guided cycle rides to afternoon tea parties with live music: there are many ways to explore a church.

This training workshop will teach you all you need to know about creating your unique experience, including coming up with the idea, working with groups, identifying your audience, health and safety, costing the day and so much more. For more details and to reserve a place please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/raising-income-from-bookable-experiences-church-tourism-workshop-tickets-122015075375>

InHarmony Christmas 2020 Project



Faced with the prospect of a Christmas like no other, many churches will be looking to produce online Christmas services this year. To help with this, St Edmundsbury Cathedral is working with Cantus Firmus Trust to launch a project to create music and worship video resources for churches to use throughout the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany season, using music performed by Suffolk musicians and singers.

We want to involve singers and instrumentalists from across the county, who are able to learn a part and record it at home using a smartphone. Singers will need to be able to read music (or have someone who can teach them their part); instrumentalists will need to be Grade 5 and above.

We hope to film some material in local churches, subject to current restrictions (no congregational singing, and only one or two musicians at a time). The resulting videos will be made available via YouTube.

If you or your church would like to be involved, please contact Richard Hubbard, music.development@stedscathedral.org or richard.hubbard@cantusfirmus.org.uk as soon as possible.

Notices:

Allchurches Trust has recently launched a helpful hub of resources to support churches in a number of ways, from project planning and publicity to impact measurement and connecting with young people. The advice and resources hub will help churches to develop, implement and sustain successful projects and give them the best chance of success when applying for funding. Please click [here](#).

Covid-19 Information for Village Halls and Community Buildings. The ACRE information sheet v.6 has been updated following the change in government guidelines and the 'Rule of Six' this is now uploaded to the Community Action Suffolk [website](#).

Diocesan Growing in God Growth fund - grant applications now open. Grants of £200 - £1,000 are available to encourage churches' mission and evangelism activities. For further information please visit our website [here](#). The deadline for applications is 7 October 2020.

Vacancies

[Parish Funding and Grants Adviser](#) | Closing Date: 30 September
[Parish Finance and Resource Adviser](#) | Closing Date: 30 September

Part time Youth & Young Adults Pastor in Beccles Parish. (Two year fixed term contract).
Further details available from the Revd Rich Henderson richhenderson@btinternet.com tel.
01502 349143.



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