

Thursday 22 October

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# Growing in God



**Information and guidance for churches during the Covid-19 pandemic is being updated. Please visit the Church of England page [here](#) and the Diocesan guidance page [here](#) for the most up to date information.**

## A message from Bishop Martin

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) Report on the Anglican Church was published on Tuesday 6 October, and I know many of you will have read it, if not, I urge all of you to do so.

I have written to all clergy, churchwardens and lay ministers in response to the report and outline how the recommendations will be taken forward. The full text of my letter is available on the diocesan website by clicking [HERE](#).

Reading the Report is painful, but nothing to the pain suffered by those who are victims and survivors of abuse perpetrated by clergy and lay church officials which has been ignored, covered up, and not addressed. I welcome the Report and the mirror it holds up to the Church of England.

On Monday the House of Bishops met and unanimously endorsed a motion fully accepting

the IICSA report, unreservedly apologising to victims and survivors for the harm done by the Church and committing itself to urgently implementing the recommendations.

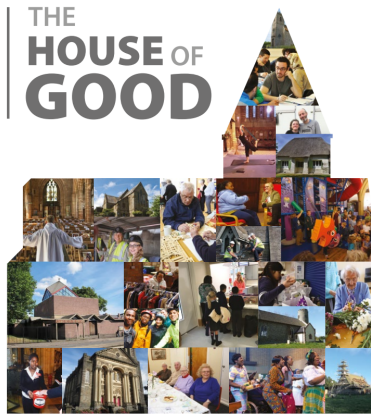
I strongly urge you to read and consider the whole of this Report, and most especially I ask your prayers for all victims and survivors of abuse as the Church works quickly to produce just practices of support and redress and a thoroughgoing change in culture.

With every blessing,



Link to the [Letter](#)  
Link to [Report](#)

## The House of Good



The House of Good report from the National Churches Trust, the UK's leading church buildings support charity, has branded the nation's church buildings a 'National Help Service' after finding they provided £12.4 billion worth of essential social and support to local communities during the 12 months up until May 2020.

The report found that church buildings are a ready-made network of responsive hubs providing increasing levels of care and well-being to local communities throughout the UK. The majority of churches found a way to provide community support during the COVID-19 pandemic, however the report warns that many of their buildings are under threat, especially in towns and cities where they deliver the most value, as support for essential maintenance and repair from

government and other funding bodies dries up.

This report, commissioned by the National Churches Trust and written by State of Life, examines the economic value of four services found in church buildings: food banks; counselling and mental health services; youth groups; and addiction services. It offers a detailed economic study measuring the extent of the social and economic value the UK's 40,300 church buildings provide to the nation and local communities. It examined church buildings open to the public and being used for Christian worship. This includes churches, chapels, meeting houses and church halls but excludes cathedrals.

In the UK, the total social value of church buildings calculated so far is at least £12.4 billion: roughly equal to the total NHS spending in England on mental health in 2018.

To download the report please click below:  
[www.houseofgood.nationalchurchestrust.org](http://www.houseofgood.nationalchurchestrust.org)  
Download the short report [here](#)

## The BASIC Life Charity

A couple of weeks ago we included a short piece about **All Hallows, Ipswich** who are offering a Pop-Up Shop every Tuesday morning in the church building in partnership with the [Basic Life Charity](#). The Basic Life Charity is an independent Christian charity which was founded over 20 years ago by Graham Denny - with the ethos to work in a Christian manner without preaching so that actions may be seen as the work of Christ in the communities. BASIC is an acronym of Business And Service In Christ.

- They have two traditional charity shops in Felixstowe and nearby Walton and have assisted innumerable groups and individuals with grants, donations of stock and more.
- For over six years they have paid for the breakfasts for children at two local schools.
- They developed the idea for 'Boost' (and found the initial funding) for a youth worker in Felixstowe.

- They were the first charity to work within the local schools to combat Period Poverty and this initiative was gifted to the school which was then rolled it out across Suffolk.
- In 2013 they opened food banks at each of their shops and these developed into BASIC Community Pop-up Shops.
- During the pandemic they were open every day and provided free food to thousands of local people.

The Pop-up shops are unique in their concept in that anybody at all can come. There are no means tests or referrals. Everybody is fed and the system is fair. They run four (sometimes five) a week in Felixstowe and pass on food collected via links with Tesco, Morrisons, Marks and Spencer, Waitrose, Aldi, Lidl and more. The vision for the next year is to completely cover Ipswich with new Pop-ups including those at St Francis, Chantry and All Hallows. They are delighted to join forces with local churches and other organisations to combat food insecurity and food waste. Pop-up shops are due to open at The Triangle church, Dickens Road on 4 November, at St Matthews on 5 November and Whitton church on 18 November.

For more information please visit their website [www.basic.org.uk](http://www.basic.org.uk).

## Power of Prayer week - Praying through a pandemic

2 - 15 November 2020

Through the pandemic the numbers of people searching for information on prayer on the internet has been enormous. If you are curious about prayer and would like to learn more about praying then the 'Power of Prayer week' could be for you!

Multi-denominational church leaders in Suffolk will be offering a short daily video clip on teaching and reflection on a line from the Lord's Prayer. There will be at least one prayer event also taking place each day – why not join in?

For more information head over to the Suffolk in Prayer [Facebook group](#), where the videos will be posted, along with prayer resources and details of prayer events taking place. If you would like to be involved in leading a prayer event during the week please get in contact with Kathy Wilson at [thefarmbythewater@gmail.com](mailto:thefarmbythewater@gmail.com).

The week will end with a county-wide Ecumenical celebration at the St Edmundsbury Cathedral at 3.30pm on Sunday 22 November 2020, which will be livestreamed from the Cathedral Facebook page [here](#).

## Service of Remembrance

All Saint's Church, Barrow  
Sunday 1 November 3.00pm

This service is for anyone who has lost a loved one, but particularly in the last year, to share their memories and grief. There will be paper leaves that can be hung on a 'memory tree' that will be lit up with candles. This service will be led by the Revd Lynda Sebbage who knows exactly what it means to put grief on hold because of the coronavirus pandemic, to read Lynda's personal story please click [here](#). Lynda will also feature on Radio Suffolk this Sunday morning.

If you plan to attend the service please email [revlyndasebbage@gmail.com](mailto:revlyndasebbage@gmail.com) to reserve your place and enable social distancing to be observed. The church will be open until 5.00pm for those wishing to pop by and write a prayer leaf. In addition you can join the service online on their Facebook page [here](#).

## Christmas in your Community: Bringing Comfort and Joy

Thursday 12 November 9.30am-10.30am

Sandra Millar (Life Events and Welcome) and Emma Buchan (Thy Kingdom Come) will share creative and practical ideas about how to make Christmas memorable in and beyond the church, with a focus on the possible, working alongside the national digital campaign and resources. There will be space to share your ideas too. To find out more about this and other Evangelism and Discipleship webinars, please [click here](#).

## Notices

**APCMs** - Please note that the deadline for holding APCMs is 31 October 2020.

**Annual Report and Accounts** - We would be very grateful if you could submit your Annual Report and Accounts for 2019 as soon as possible to [julie.podd@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:julie.podd@cofesuffolk.org) or post them to: Julie Podd, Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich, 4 Cutler Street, Ipswich IP1 1UQ.

**Electoral Roll Certificate** - We would be grateful if parishes could complete the Electoral Roll certificate by 31 October 2020 and return by email to [Alison Barker](mailto:Alison.Barker@cofesuffolk.org) or by post to Alison Barker, Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich, 4 Cutler Street, Ipswich IP1 1UQ.

**Invitation to all Safeguarding Officers** - The Safeguarding Team is holding eight Safeguarding Officer Forums throughout November and December and you are all invited to join them at one of the meetings of your choice. The one hour Zoom sessions will be an opportunity to meet with other Safeguarding Officers and members of the Safeguarding Team to discuss and share any queries, fears, ideas that you have about Safeguarding in your parish/benefice. For further information contact: [sally.fitch@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:sally.fitch@cofesuffolk.org) To book your place please visit: Eventbrite: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/diocese-of-st-edmundsbury-and-ipswich-11874263047](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/diocese-of-st-edmundsbury-and-ipswich-11874263047)

**Sunday's Bible readings** The Revd Canon Tim Jones has produced a series of Bible readings in a word search for you to use. These will be available weekly, please download [this word search](#) suitable for Sunday 25 October.

## Vacancies

[Parish funding and grants advisor](#) | Closing date 4 November 2020  
[Part-time Mission Assistant \(Helping Hands\)](#) | Closing date 2 November 2020  
[Part-time Mission Assistant \(Administration\)](#) | Closing date 2 November 2020  
[Director of Music, St Edmundsbury Cathedral](#) | Closing date 29 October 2020



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