



Thursday 17 December 2020

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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.



Christmas message from our Archdeacons.

Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year from all at the Diocesan office.

"On behalf of all my colleagues, may I thank you all, across our wider diocesan family, for the patience, kindness and support you have shown us this year. It has undoubtedly been one of new and often tricky challenges as well as personal difficulties and sadness.

We have shown that in adversity, working together is even more important. Virtual meetings have been one of the silver linings (to a point!) of Covid-19. A personal highlight has been the ability to connect visually and virtually with so many of you, right across the diocese. This can only get better.

Wishing everyone a peaceful Christmas, with prayers and hopes for a healthier and more sociable 2021." Anna Hughes, Diocesan Secretary.

Diocesan Office Christmas Hours

The office will be closed from Wednesday 23 December at 12.00pm. The office will be open on Thursday 31 December 2020 9.00am to 5.00pm and closed on Friday 1 January 2021. The office will be open from Monday 4 January 2021 at 9.00am.

For safeguarding matters:

Please refer any immediate concerns for the welfare of a child or adult at risk to the Police. For advice/support please contact Customer First, 0808 800 4005 (including out of hours) in the first instance.

Press enquiries:

If you need media assistance or you are contacted by any representative of the press or media:

- Please do not make any personal comment or response.
- Record their name, details of who they represent, their contact details and the issue that they would like to discuss if they offer it, no need to investigate.
- Provide them with the contact details for Prominent PR - 01473 276127 - who will be happy to manage their enquiry.

Clergy property emergencies:

If you have an urgent repair/issue which cannot wait until the office re-opens, you can contact the following contractors who have agreed to provide emergency cover:

Electrical, Heating (gas and oil) and plumbing

- EPPH – 01473 559071

Burglary issues

- Ipswich Glass and Glazing – Steve Adams on 07790 201045

Please note this cover is strictly for emergencies only. Additional information can be found in your clergy handbook.

Find a Christmas Service

To find a service near you please visit www.achurchnearyou.com



Join **Lightwave** at their Christmas Carol café - 3.00-4.00pm Saturday 19 December in Stonham Barns - with live Christmas music and the Christmas story. Lightwave are also hosting **Walk-in Carols** at Debenham Community Centre on Sunday 20 December 2020 3.30pm to 5.00pm.

At 5.00pm on Monday 21 December the Mothers' Union is holding a **Blue Christmas Service** in St Edmundsbury Cathedral - a reflective service for those for whom Christmas is not going to be a happy and joyous time - in the midst of the darkness, and especially all that we have experienced in 2020, this

Longest Night Service seeks to create a safe and sacred space in which together we acknowledge painful and lonely truths. Please visit their website [here](#). To book a place please email cathedralinvitations@stedscathedral.org.

Cathedral Services of Lessons and Carols on 22 December and 23 December, both starting at 7.00pm, will include readers representing front line workers - from shops, schools, travel, police, council services, foodbanks and health care. The Revd Canon Philip Banks invites you to "Come with thanksgiving to hear the Christmas story and to listen to beautiful voices of the choir singing those well-known carols, we come full of gratitude for those who have kept us and our communities going this year."

All Cathedral services are detailed on their website please visit: [Christmas 2020 - St Edmundsbury Cathedral](#). There will also be a sung Eucharist for Epiphany – Sunday 3 January at 11.00 am. Cathedral Services will be livestreamed on Facebook [here](#).

Notices:

Safeguarding training - a new training schedule is now available for January to March 2021, please visit [Eventbrite](#) for all the dates and booking information.

Central Council of Church Bell Ringers: it has been agreed with the House of Bishops Covid-19 recovery team that an exception should be made to the current ringing guidance across all Tiers in England for those bands that wish to ring for services over Christmas, in the period where the household restrictions are also being lifted. This will allow bells to be rung for key services including those on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and also for the 6.00pm Christmas Eve ringing which has been widely suggested. The five day overall relaxation includes Sunday 27 December. For further information please visit their website [here](#).

Vacancies:

[Pioneer Evangelist for Ipswich Centre of Mission](#) | Closing date: 14 January 2021
[Church Buildings Adviser \(DAC Secretary\)](#) | Closing date: 11 January 2021

The next edition of eNews will be Thursday 7 January 2021.



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