

**Issue date: 21 October 2021**



A prayerful Christian presence  
Shaping outward facing engagement in the community.

### Suffolk churches enjoy the benefits of the staycation tourism boom



The Revd Simon Pitcher of Southwold's St Edmund Church and St Andrew's Church in Walberswick said that "We have seen an increase in the number of tourists both in Southwold and Walberswick, from summer through to now. We have also seen significant increases in donations and souvenir sales. Many people come in for private prayer or to have a look around". The churches are optimistic that trend will continue during the October half-term, with Suffolk's churches proving a popular place for families to visit. Read more [here](#).

Our Angels and Pinnacles [website](#) is designed to reach those who may be looking for churches on the tourist trail. This website has been updated and features up and coming events. If you have an event that you would like to advertise please email: [communications@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:communications@cofesuffolk.org).

### Pet services a huge success



Over the pandemic pets have been a great source of support for many people who are lonely or isolated. Church pet services are a fabulous way to engage with our local communities while celebrating God's Creation. "If dogs and animals were part of our Mission Action Plan, our church-going statistics would double overnight!" said the Revd Nigel Prior following a successful pet service in Woodbridge St Mary with Great Bealings. Meanwhile a pet service in Winston church (pictured), led by the Revd Tracey Allen and the Revd Sarah Du Boulay, was attended by 16 dogs, three horses, a pony and 30 people!

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### Growing in God Growth Fund grants available for your church's Christmas festivities!



The diocesan Growing in God Growth Fund is open again offering grants to help you and your church reach out creatively to encourage sharing of the Christian faith and so grow our church family in number. Last Christmas over £1,850 was given to support five projects including Christmas goodies bags, Christmas boxes, angel crafts, prayer trees and

church displays.

Grants of up to £500 are available, for more information and the application form, see:  
<https://cofesuffolk.org/for-parishes/growing-your-parish/growth-funding-opportunities/>.

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## Elections

There are many ways in which you can support the mission and ministry of the church across our parishes and one of them is to help us to exercise sound governance. We are encouraging a wide and diverse cross section of our members to become involved. If you feel called to work collaboratively, assisting in openness of communication and ensuring clarity of decision making, then please do come forward to offer your time and talents. Current elections include:

**Bishop's Council** - Following the summer elections, there remains one clergy-elected vacancy and five laity-elected vacancies. Therefore, a second election is being run and nominations will be welcome from Thursday 21 October, closing on 18 November. If you would like to know about what the Bishop's Council does and the skills and experience it is looking for, click [here](#).

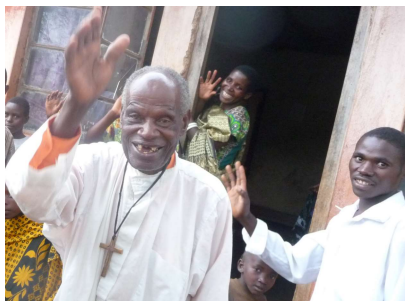
**Vacancy in See (VIS)** - This committee considers the appointment of a new Diocesan Bishop and only meets when a vacancy occurs. The current membership will end on 31 December 2021 and therefore elections need to be held this autumn. There are two clergy-elected posts and four lay-elected posts. Nominations will be welcome from Thursday 21 October, closing on 18 November. Full details are available [here](#).

**The Diocesan Board of Patronage** Is patron to a number of benefices within the diocese acting either solely or jointly with others. There are currently two laity vacancies on the Board. Elections will be held in the new year. Further details will be issued in due course.

**Diocesan Synod** - There are numerous vacancies on Diocesan Synod, both clergy and lay. The membership for this triennium runs from 1 August 2021 to 31 July 2024. Elections take place at deanery synods. If you are interested in representing your deanery at diocesan synod, please speak to your Rural Dean.

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## Bishops' Lent Appeal update



It's over six months since many of you were finding creative ways to raise money for the Bishops' Lent appeal for Kagera, so time for an update. Money has continued to come in and the amount raised has now reached the wonderful total of £43,000. A huge thank you to all the churches, groups and individuals who took part in this amazing achievement. Over half of the money has already been sent to Kagera and your gifts are already paying for doctors' training, refurbishment work at the Kagera Christian Theological College, motorbikes for pastors and the continuing work of Church and Community Mobilisation Process (CCMP).

Asante Sana – thank you. Bwana Asifiwe - Praise the Lord!

Find out more [here](#) or get in touch with Chris and Anji Dawkins at [kagera@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:kagera@cofesuffolk.org) to arrange a talk, Chris and Anji would love to come and tell your church or group more about how your generosity is making a difference in Kagera.

## Events

### Living in Love & Faith Forum

Stowupland Village Hall, 3 Church Road, IP14 4BQ  
Saturday 30 October, 2.00pm

Please join this forum for an open, honest and gracious listening, learning and discussion of what it means to be holy in a society in which understandings and practices of gender, sexuality and marriage continue to change. Presented by Joe Hawes, Dean of St Edmundsbury, and Sally Gaze, Archdeacon for



Rural Mission, who will share their different convictions and hope it will inform your thinking and participation in the discernment of ways forward in our church at this time. Please book by Friday 22 October by emailing: [deanspa@stedscathedral.org](mailto:deanspa@stedscathedral.org) or phone 01284 748720.

### **Bishops' Teaching Morning - Introducing the Gospel of**

#### **Luke**

Saturday 6 November 9.00am to 12.30pm

The Salvation Army Hall, 3 Violet Hill Road, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

The gospel readings for 2021-22 follow Luke's Gospel so, in preparation, the bishops will be looking at it and considering its main themes. Free of charge, but please register on Eventbrite [here](#).

#### **Growing in God in the Countryside Discernment**

Saturday 6 November from 2.00pm to 5.00pm (free lunch will be served at 1.00pm).

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

Join Lightwave for an opportunity to be part of the discernment to discover how the Lightwave Community should explore God's vision for the future. The session will include: Worship, Bible and testimony, Where have we seen God at work? What scriptures have spoken to you in relation to Lightwave? End-visioning and Prayer, worship, collecting cards and sharing in large group. Please book [here](#) or contact [nina.seaman@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:nina.seaman@cofesuffolk.org) for more information. To view the discernment video please click [here](#).

#### **Digital Afterlives: Death, Technology & Pastoral Care**

8 November 2021, 5.00pm – 6.15pm online

This webinar is for clergy, funeral ministers, funeral celebrants and funeral directors - as well as those interested in the intersection between death, technology and pastoral care. The event includes bitesize presentations on: How is technology enabling humans to increase their longevity in a digital realm? What does this mean for funerals and funeral practitioners? How have our grieving processes become separated from the disposal of a body? What sort of memorials are possible and which are desirable? What does 'closure' look like in this technological context? For more information and to book please click [here](#).

#### **Diocesan dispute advisory service**

A small steering group is seeking to establish a dispute advisory service as one way of implementing our Preventing Bullying and Harassment Policy. This dispute service will be based on the model developed in the Diocese of St Albans available [here](#) and will be available to all: lay and clergy, employed and volunteers. We are prayerfully seeking those who might serve as advisors or on a small management group and be advocates for building healthy relationships locally.

With the kind support of Bridge Builders, we have secured a training day from **9.30am – 4.30pm** on **Wednesday 10 November** at the St Nicholas Centre, Ipswich IP1 1UQ, to stimulate our thinking and inform our practice on:

- Understanding difficult behaviour
- Communication in times of tension
- Facilitating difficult conversations
- A systems perspective

There are a limited number of spaces for this training and we are looking for people who are interested in being considered for the training and to potentially join the panel of advisors or the management group. These can be clergy or lay, young or older. Ideally, we want someone from every deanery of the diocese and representative of the diversity of the population we serve. The day is free and will include lunch. It will be followed by an information evening online later in November which will be more widely available. If you are interested, please email [Lesley Steed](mailto:Lesley.Steed) by 1 November. If you have any questions or wish to

clarify what is needed, then do not hesitate to email [Dave Gardner](#) or call 07394 559887. We will let applicants know whether they have secured a place as soon as possible after 1 November.

### Healing in a Pandemic

Saturday 27 November 9.30am – 12.30pm online

This workshop, offered by the Diocesan Healing Group, will have two parts. An introduction to Christian healing by Bishop Mike Harrison. And an opportunity to reflect on our experience of the pandemic and how that enriches our healing ministry. This event is free. The Zoom link will be sent to you during the week before the workshop. Enquiries to Canon Matthew Vernon [canon.pastor@stedscathedral.org](mailto:canon.pastor@stedscathedral.org) or please book [here](#).

## Notices

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

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**Make your vote:** Persimmon Homes are giving away £1m to support children's health, sport and education & arts. Boost is a finalist along with other charities in Suffolk. 'Boost', based at Felixstowe School, provides Chaplaincy and is seeking to provide additional bereavement, counselling and mentoring services for students. To make your vote for 'Boost' or other finalists please click [here](#). You can vote once per day, per device before the deadline 19 November. Please share this link with others.

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## Vacancies

[Youth Worker](#) (Part-Time) | Bridge Church | Closing date 25 October 2021

[Children & Families' Pioneer Worker](#) (Part-Time) | Bridge Church | Closing date 25 October 2021

[Mission Focussed Team Minister](#) with a focus on children, families' and youth ministry | 0.5 | Open to lay and ordained people | Closing date: 5 November.

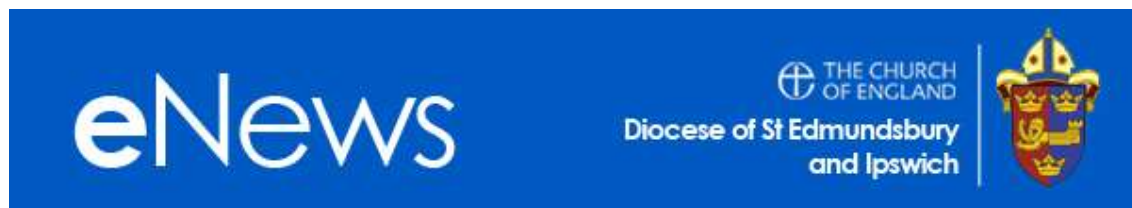
[River Coffee Pastor](#) | River Church | 14 November

[Fundraising Assistant](#) | River Church | 14 November

[Lead Evangelist](#) | [Lightwave Pioneer Evangelist](#) | [Pioneer Evangelist](#) | We are looking for the right candidates to fill positions in the new Suffolk Centre of Mission, a hub for evangelism in our diocese.

Organist and Director of Music | St Mary's Woodbridge & Great Bealings | Please contact [fnprior10@gmail.com](mailto:fnprior10@gmail.com) Tel. 01394 610424.

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