



**Thursday 28 January 2021**

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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.**

## Prayers for the Nation

In response to reaching the terrible milestone of 100,000 deaths from COVID-19, the Archbishops invite all to call on God in Prayer. Click [here](#) to read the Archbishops letter.

Starting on 1 February we invite you to set aside time every evening to pray, particularly at 6.00pm each day. More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other. Prayer is an expression of love.

St Edmundsbury Cathedral will include 'Prayers for the Nation' in its service of Evening Prayer, Monday to Friday, which starts at 5.30pm. The service will conclude with the tolling of a bell at 6.00pm. To join this service online please visit their Facebook page [here](#).

## EVENTS

### Growing Young Sunday, Afternoon Tea with the Bishops

Sunday 31 January 2021 at 3.00pm



Is there anything you've always wanted to ask a Bishop? Well here's your chance! A laidback Q&A session about children, youth and everything in between. So sign up, bring your own tea and cakes and be ready for a Q&A with Bishops Martin and Mike. To book this Zoom session please visit: <https://gys-2021.eventbrite.co.uk>

### Service of Light and Hope

St Edmundsbury Cathedral at 5.30pm

In solidarity with The Children's Society and the Diocesan initiative, 'Growing Younger', young people from the Cathedral community and local schools lead us in prayer, readings and musical contemplation alongside Hannah Ratcliffe, East of England Relationship Manager at The Children's Society, who will be leading a reflection. Join the broadcast through the Cathedral's Facebook page [here](#).

### Mission Shaped Ministry Flexi

Discipleship in Recovery 30 January and repeated on 1 February 2021

How do we share the love of God with the whole community when our church buildings are closed? During the first Lockdown 20% of the population engaged with some form of online service, or daily office, or Christian spiritual input. What does that say about the



longing there is in the hearts of many, especially when facing difficulty, about the need for guidance beyond themselves?

To sign up and book please click:

[Saturday 30 January 2021 10.00am to 12.30pm](#)  
[Monday 1 February 2021 7.30pm to 9.30pm](#)

## Church Mission Society - How change comes to your church

Tuesday 2 February 2.00pm - 5.30pm

Zoom link will be sent once you have booked



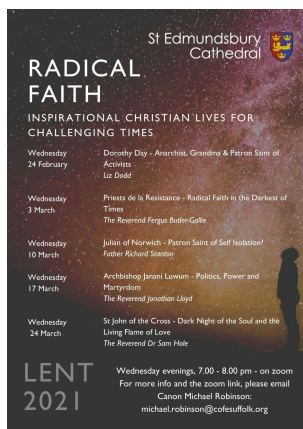
The Covid-19 pandemic has given us no choice but to change. While we may have known, pre-pandemic, that we need to adapt we now have no choice about it. Take this opportunity to ask questions about what new things God might be calling us to be and to do for 2021 and beyond?

- How might we lean into the adaptive challenge of the Covid-19 pandemic?
- How might we learn practices that move us into sustainable missional leadership and change both personally and corporately?
- How can church leaders stay present, mentally healthy, and spiritually grounded?

Bishop Mike says; "Interested in culture change in your Christian community towards a more mission-minded approach? You might want to consider this webinar which comes out of something called Partnership for Missional Church - an approach to mission which begins with discerning what God is up to in ourselves, our church and our community and, energised out of that, proceeds via experiments to gain a keen missional focus, developing various missional "habits" on the way - a webinar definitely worth your time!"

For more details and to book please visit [here](#)

## Radical Faith - Inspirational Christian Lives for Challenging Times



A series of five Zoom talks each introduced by Michael Robinson Canon Theologian. To book each session please email [michael.robinson@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:michael.robinson@cofesuffolk.org). For a full biography please download this [pdf](#). To download the poster please click [here](#).

### 24 February | Dorothy Day - Anarchist, Grandma & Patron Saint of Activists

by Liz Dodd the home news editor at The Tablet and a postulant with the Sisters of St Joseph of Peace, a vocation that she largely blames on the intercession of Dorothy Day

### 3 March | Priests de la Resistance - Radical Faith in the Darkest of Times

by The Revd Fergus Butler-Gallie a clergyman and author who has served in parishes in Liverpool and London. He has written books, articles, reviews and, of course, innumerable sermons.

### 10 March | Julian of Norwich - Patron Saint of Self Isolation?

by Fr. Richard Stanton the parish priest of St John the Baptist, Timberhill and Priest Director of the Julian Shrine, the campus surrounding St Julian's Church, Norwich, where Julian lived and prayed.

### 17 March | Archbishop Janani Luwum - 'Politics, Power and Martyrdom'

by the Rev'd Jonathan Lloyd previously Precentor of St Albans Cathedral since July 2019. Alongside several family ties to the country, he has maintained a keen interest in Uganda and its people since living there in 2006. He was ordained in Durham Cathedral and served his curacy in Jarrow and South Shields.

### 24 March | St John of the Cross - The Dark Night of the Soul and the Living Flame of Love

by the Rev'd Dr Sam Hole, Associate Vicar of St Luke's and Christ Church, Chelsea. He recently published John of the Cross: Desire, Transformation and Selfhood, (Oxford University Press, 2020).

## Free webinars to help your church encourage giving and grow generosity

The National Giving Team are offering a series of free webinars:

- Ways to encourage giving through online, contactless and legacy giving as well as webinars on gift aid, giving reviews, buying smarter and discipleship resources which are suitable for all.
- Revd Martha Weatherill, National Generous Giving Training Manager is leading webinars to help equip clergy and laity with the necessary tools and knowledge to build a generous church.

For all dates and booking details please

visit: [www.churchofengland.org/resources/building-generous-church/webinars-and-training](http://www.churchofengland.org/resources/building-generous-church/webinars-and-training)

## National Churches Trust webinars

National Churches Trust are offering a range of training for grants support, maintenance issues and tourism. The first workshop will be on 10 February and will explore the benefits of tourism, focusing on the post COVID-19 landscape for tourism and how churches could financially benefit from welcoming visitors. To book this webinar please click [here](#). Or visit their website [here](#).

## What Next? - Conversations on discerning Christian vocation

Save the date - Saturday 22 May

**What does God want me to do next?** If you are aged between 16 - 30, you are invited to join the conversation on discernment on the morning of Saturday 22 May via Zoom. This will include a variety of guest speakers reflecting together on discernment.

**Do you know younger people trying to work out their next steps in ministry?** The Diocesan Young Vocations team are encouraging ordained and lay ministers to promote conversations about vocation. Look out for video resources for use in your churches and groups encouraging us to think about vocation; to be released ahead of Vocations Sunday on the 25 April. And join the session above with your young people.

For more information please contact [youngvocations@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:youngvocations@cofesuffolk.org).

## Notices

**Statistics for Mission:** Thank you to the 54% of churches throughout the diocese who have submitted their Statistics for Mission for 2020. The online system for submitting this data was due to close on Friday 31 January, but has been extended until **Friday 26 February 2021**. The online parish return system can be accessed here: <https://parishreturns.churchofengland.org/>. For more information and guidance contact Alison Barker at the Diocesan Office in the first instance [statistics@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:statistics@cofesuffolk.org).

**A request from the Safeguarding Team:** A reminder to all Parishes that when you appoint a new Parish Safeguarding Officer, the person will need to have an up to date DBS check covering both children and adult workforce. They are also required to have completed Basic, Foundation and Leadership Safeguarding Training Modules. Please let the Safeguarding team know of the change so that we can keep our records up to date. Any queries please contact [Karen.galloway@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:Karen.galloway@cofesuffolk.org)

**Smaller PCCs' charity exemption extended to 2031:** PCCs with an annual income under £100k are currently exempt from the requirement to register with the Charity Commission and to submit annual reports to them. The exception was due to expire on 31 March 2021. The Government has extended the exception for a further 10 years, to 31 March 2031. Exempt churches can download a charity certificate as proof of charity status for online donations from their entry on [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com).

**COVID-19 and your Ecclesiastical Church Insurance policy:** In light of current uncertainty caused by the outbreak of COVID-19 Ecclesiastical understand that there will inevitably be an impact on your insurance needs. Please click [here](#) to see the automatic enhancements applied to all policies during this period to provide additional peace of mind.

**Cyber risks and online church:** Ecclesiastical recognise many are asking about the insurance implications of using digital technology. They have identified some common examples of how digital technology is being used in churches along with the related

insurance and risk management considerations please download the pdf [here](#).

## Vacancies

[Funding and Grants Adviser](#) | Closing date: 31 January 2021

[Church Building Advisor \(DAC Secretary\)](#) | Closing date: 4 February 2021

[Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Vocations](#) | Closing date: 8 February 2021



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