



# Diocesan Synod

## Saturday 18 March 2023



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  

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SUFFOLK



**Welcome**  
Growing in God



THE CHURCH  
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# Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
forgive our foolish ways;  
re clothe us in our rightful mind,  
in purer lives thy service find,  
in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard  
beside the Syrian sea  
the gracious calling of the Lord,  
let us, like them, without a word  
rise up and follow thee.

Drop thy still dews of quietness,  
till all our strivings cease;  
take from our souls the strain and stress,  
and let our ordered lives confess  
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire  
Thy coolness and thy balm;  
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,  
O still, small voice of calm!



# Ministry of the Word

Bishop Mike and signed by the  
Revd Penny Brinkley



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## Colossians 1.15-29

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; 16 for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. 17 He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.



## Colossians 1.15-29

18 He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

## Colossians 1.15-29

21 And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him— 23 provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

## Colossians 1.15-29

24 I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. 25 I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known,

## Colossians 1.15-29

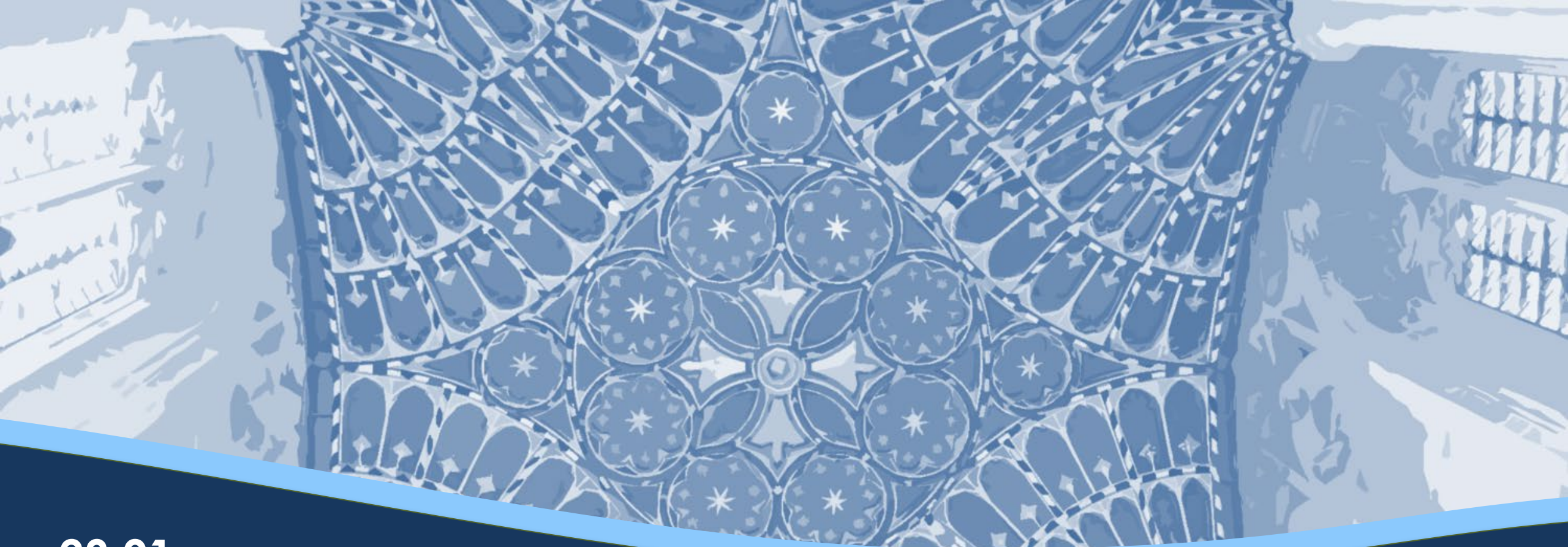
26 the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. 27 To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

## Colossians 1.15-29

28 It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. 29 For this I toil and struggle with all the energy that he powerfully inspires within me.

**Loving God,**

Though our destination is not yet clear,  
May we trust in Your graceful promises;  
Though we are uncertain of ourselves,  
May we be rooted in Your loving regard;  
Though our attention is inclined to wander,  
May we hear the things You are saying;  
Though we often neglect Your influence,  
May we be convicted of Your power to change,  
In Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**



23.01

# Presidential Address

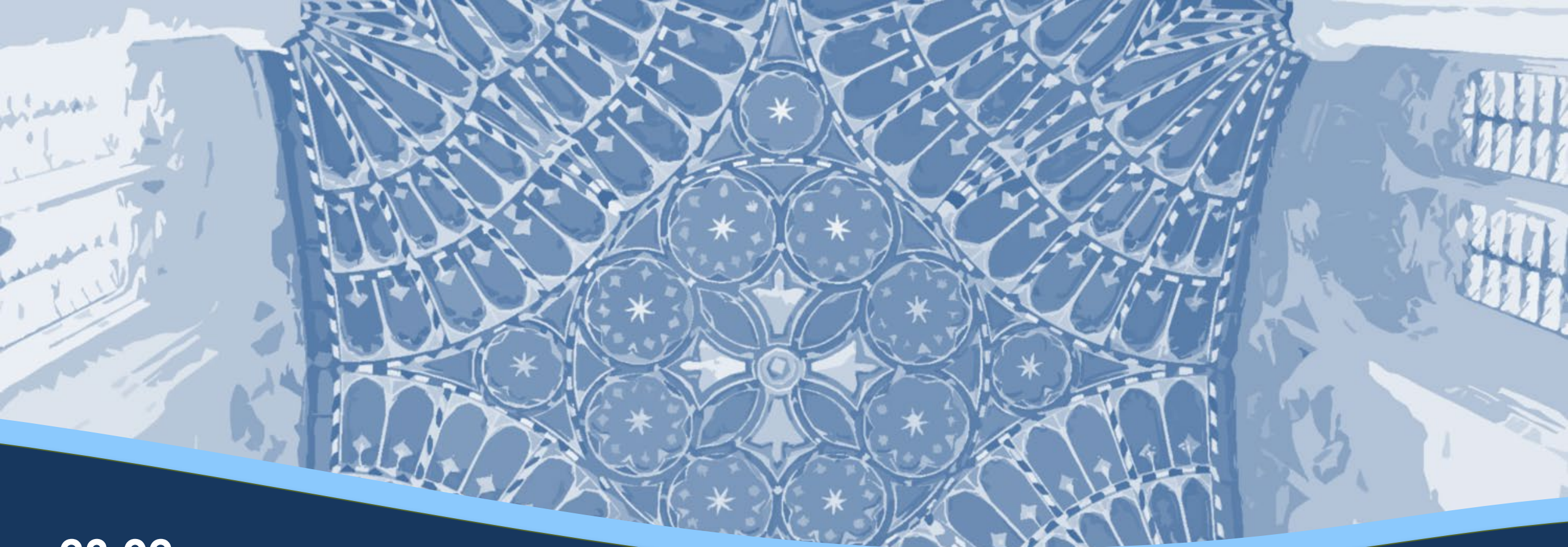
## Bishop Martin



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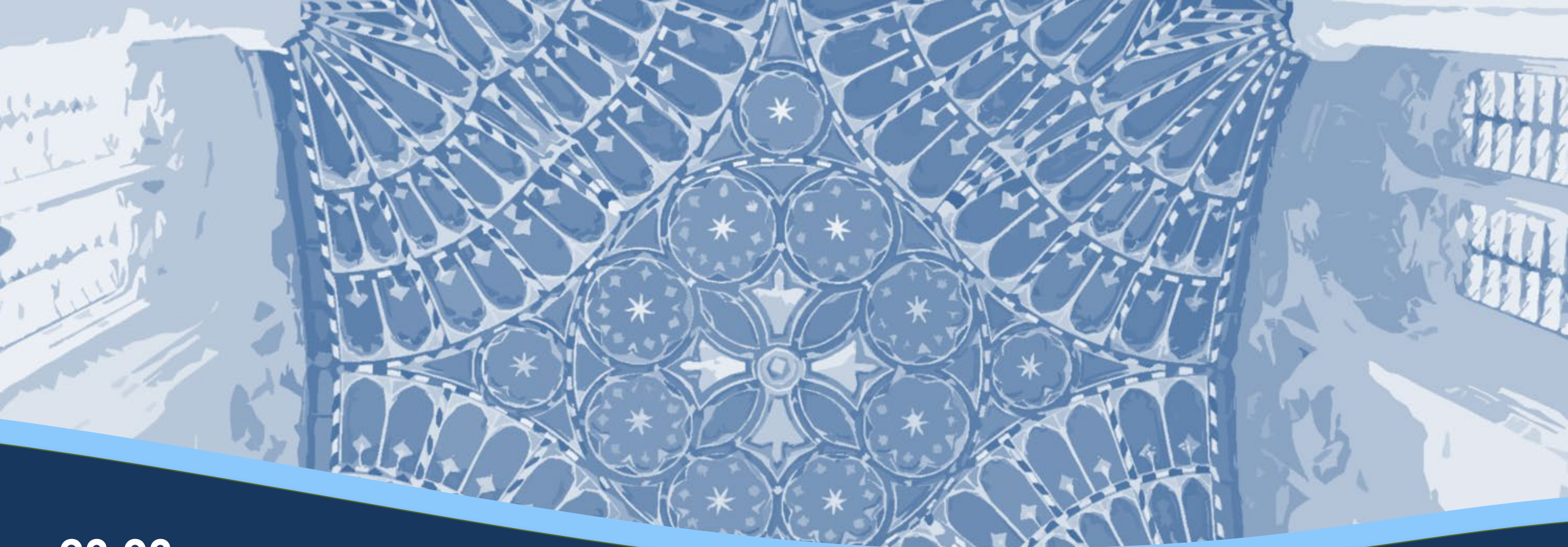
23.02

# Annual Review of Inspiring Ipswich Archdeacon Rhiannon



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23.03

# Cost of Living

Gary Peverley



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# Cost of living

“We are seeing in Suffolk a dramatic increase in the numbers of people, and strikingly, working people, coming to top-up shops. People who would never have imagined they would be facing food poverty. We see children coming to school hungry. And the cap on energy prices has done little for those who have little, who are simply unable to pay their fuel bills.”

# Cost of living

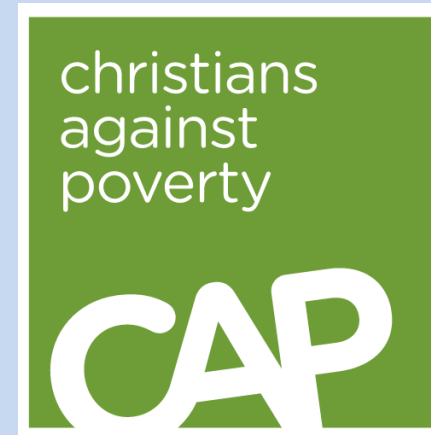
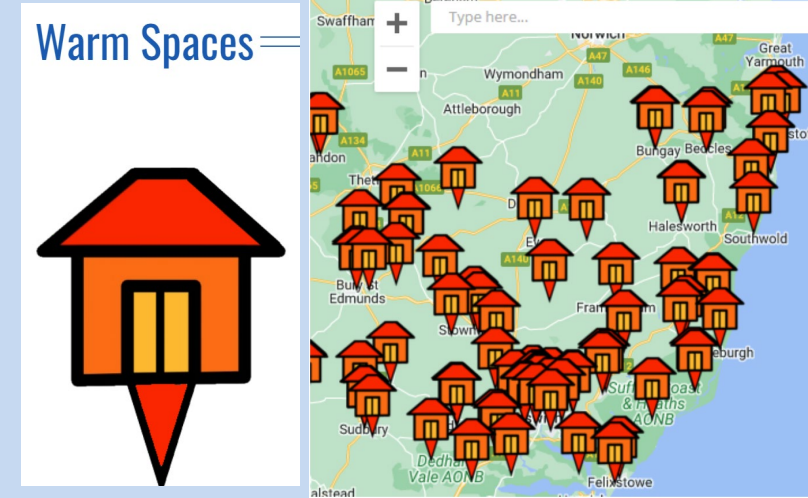
Clergy and churches in Suffolk are at the front line of helping people in Suffolk:

- We have been sharing our stories in the media, eNews and on our website
- We are using our website to provide signposting to different sources of support.

# Cost of living

Clergy and churches in Suffolk are at the front line of helping people in Suffolk:

- Warm rooms
- Food poverty – top up shop, porch pantry
- Pushchair pit stop
- CAP
- Citizens Advice.



# The Barrow Benefice

## Five strands to our Food, warmth and funding programme:

1. Community Pantry in Barrow & Risby offering food and warm (new) clothing
2. Warm rooms in Barrow & Risby
3. A hearty breakfast once a month!  
(The Barrow Big Breakfast)
4. Microwave and Slow Cooker Project
5. Hardship Fund.

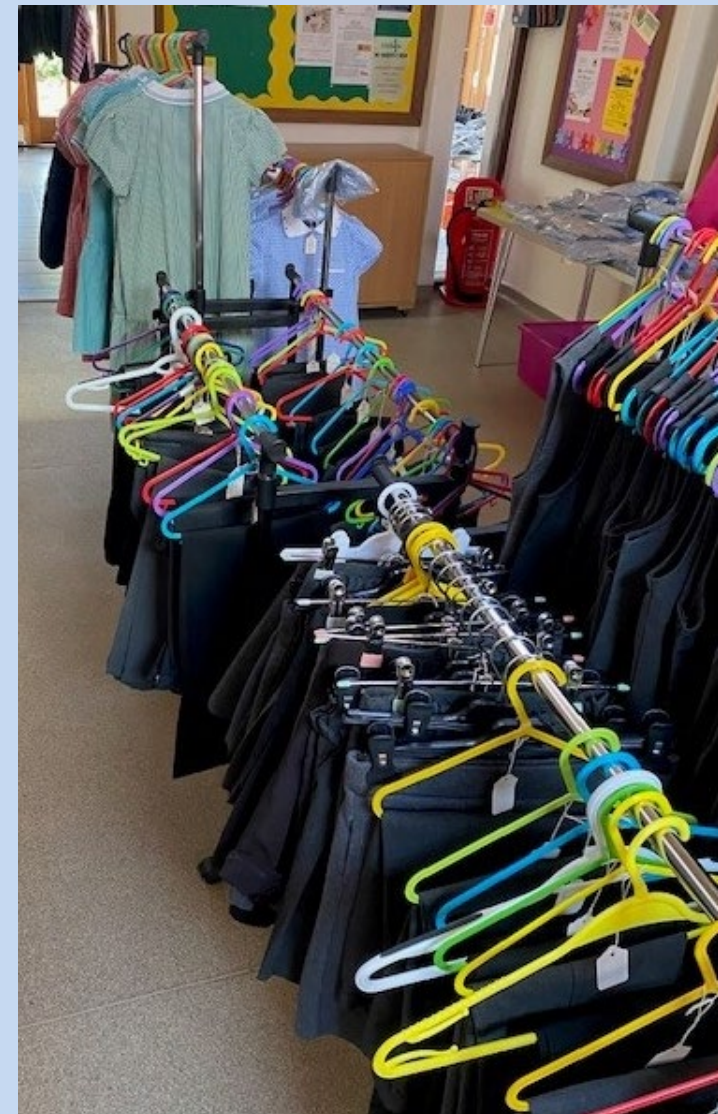


# Beccles Parish

(Beccles, Worlingham, North Cove & Barnby)

The following are run to support families:

- Foodbanks
- Parish Pantry pop up shop
- Community café
- Food in school holidays
- Sourcing and sharing furniture and white goods
- Form filling
- Uniform Bank
- Warm rooms
- Form filling.



# Beccles Parish

(Beccles, Worlingham, North Cove & Barnby)

Our outward looking mission and support reach between 150-200 individuals weekly with help from:

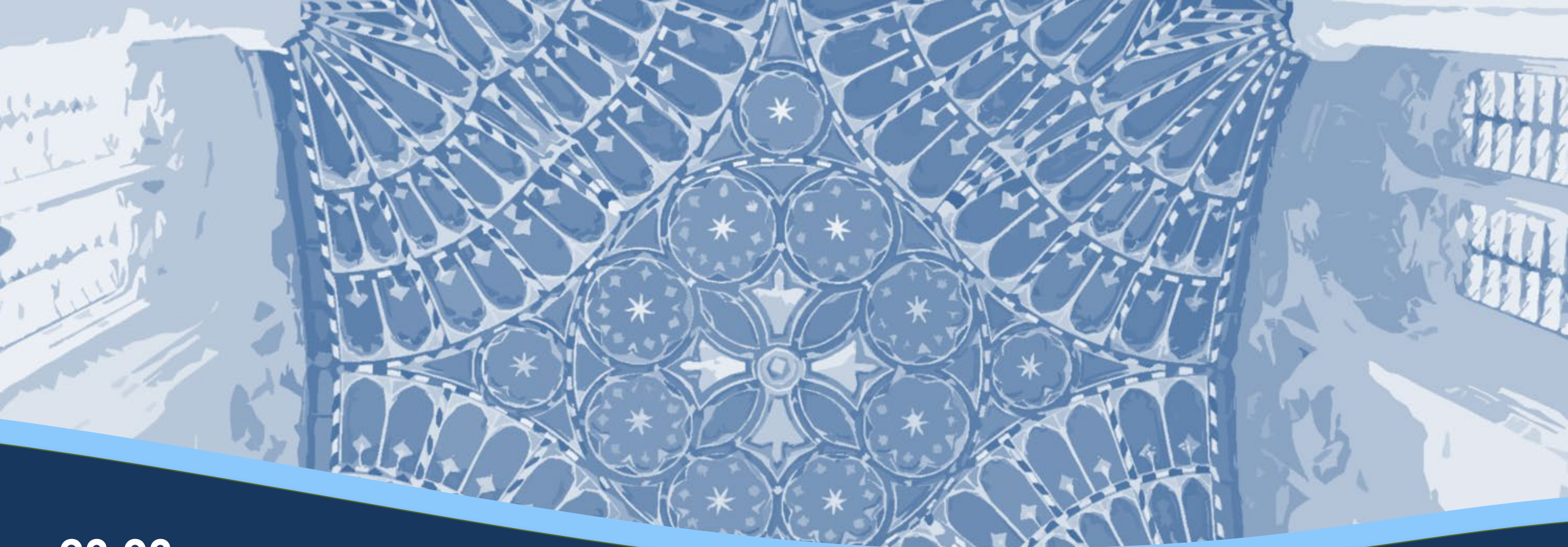
- Partnering with District Council staff
- Partnering with funders
- Support from individuals
- Support from supermarkets and local businesses.



# Ipswich Top up shops







23.03

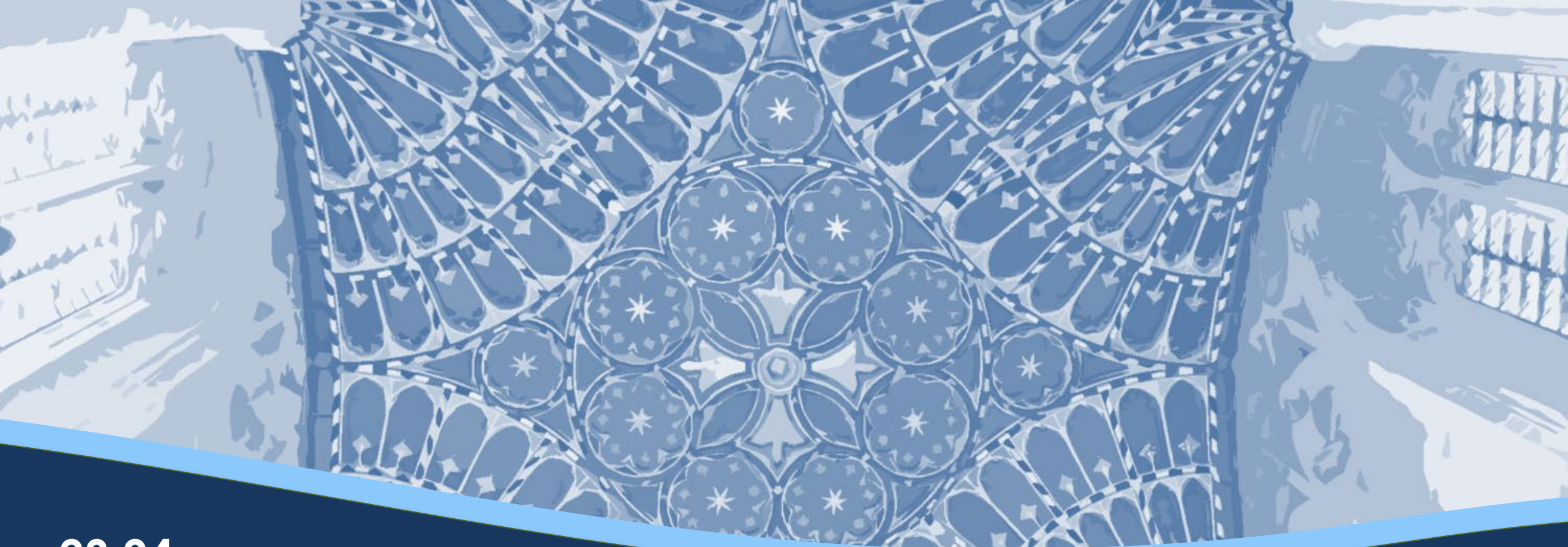
# Cost of Living - discussion

Gary Peverley



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# Refreshment Break



23.04

# General Synod Report

Andrew Gray



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# Living in Love and Faith

23.05



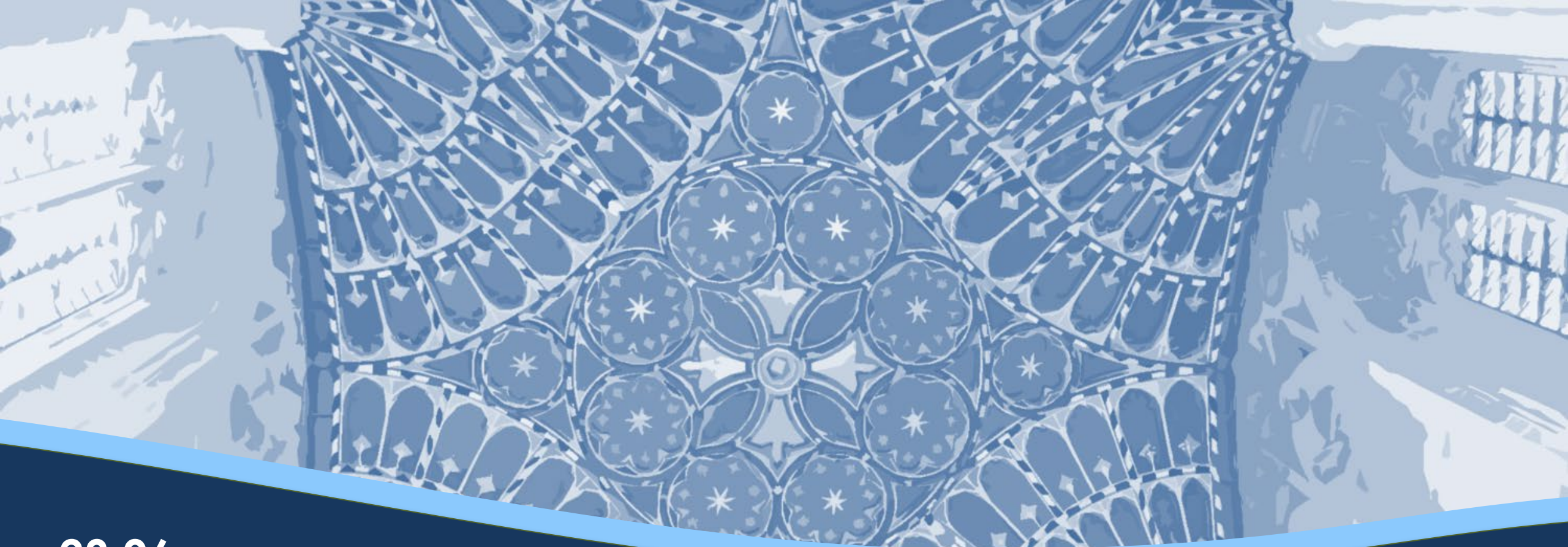
LIVING  
IN LOVE  
& FAITH

**Bishop Martin**

**Growing in God**



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23.06

# Preventing Bullying and Harassment Policy and Procedures

The Revd Canon Dave Gardner



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# Minutes of the Previous Meeting

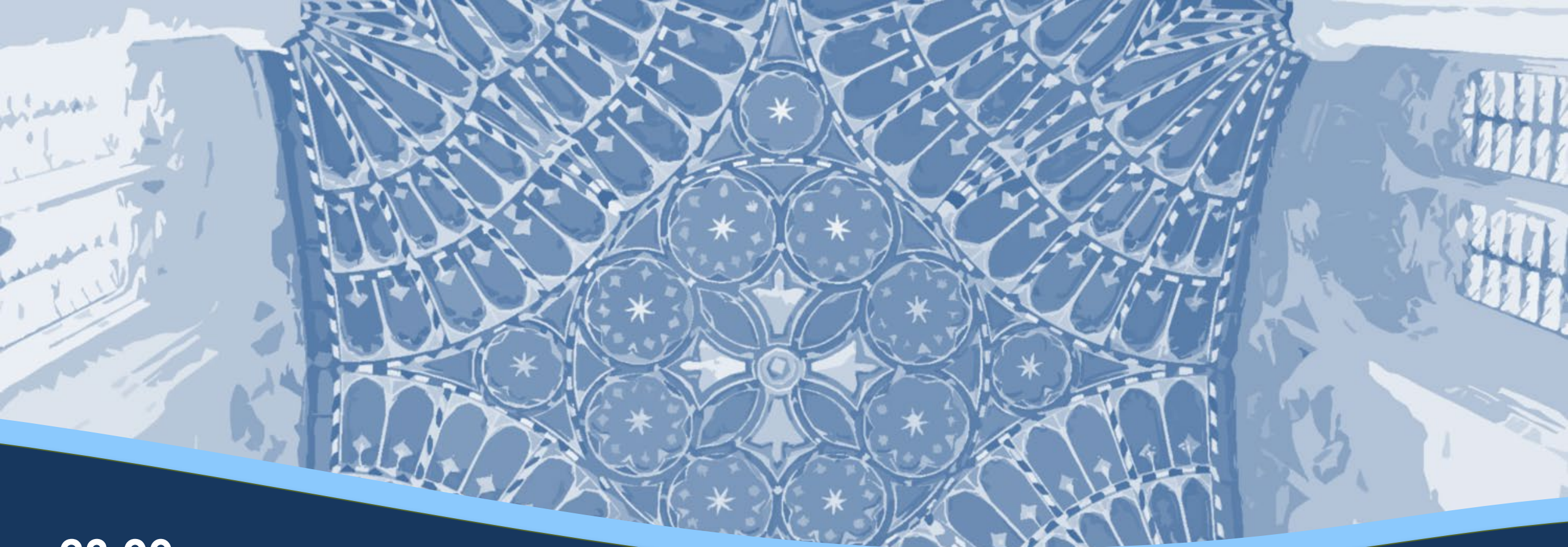
23.07

1 October 2022 (draft) Paper DS(23)P07\_M3

# Minutes of the Bishop's Council

23.08

10 November 2022, ref DS(23)P08.1\_BC(22)M5  
26 January 2023, ref DS(23)P08.2\_BC(23)M1  
DS(23)P08.2\_BC(23)M1\_Annex\_STP\_Update



23.09

# Matters arising

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23.10

# Questions

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# Question – The Revd Leslie Siu (Loes Deanery), to Bishop Martin

The Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich has had a formal link with the Diocese of Kagera in the Anglican Church of Tanzania (ACT) for over 20 years. What ongoing practical connection does this partnership involve? On the 27th February 2023, the ACT put out a statement that says it is 'deeply disappointed' by the CofE decision at General Synod and that its relationship with the Church of England is 'severely impaired'.

Will the Bishop of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich be having a conversation with the Bishop of Kagera as to how the partnership between our two Dioceses may best (or not) continue?

# Answer – Bishop Martin

Parishes across our Diocese are engaged in raising funds for the Bishops' Lent Appeal which is, as every alternate year, for the Diocese of Kagera and particularly to support sustainable farming in the face of climate change, training for doctors, and support for clergy. After the hiatus of the Pandemic, visits are being resumed, with Rev Amon Jackson Kabyesiza, the Principal of Kagera Christian Theological College, coming to Suffolk at the end of June 2023; Bishop Martin and Jutta leading a group to Kagera in July, and then on to Biharamulo and Lweru; members of the Kagera Link group visiting Kagera in the autumn and assisting with teaching in the Diocese; and two prospective study trips involving curates and young people in 2024. We hosted all three bishops prior to the Lambeth Conference and during the Conference stayed in constant mutually supportive contact. Bishops Martin and Mike are in regular contact with Bishop Darlington in particular, as well as Bishops Vithalis and Godfrey, and all five bishops are committed to sustaining our partnership with Kagera and strengthening our relationships with Biharamulo and Lweru.

# Question – The Revd Leslie Siu (Loes Deanery), to Bishop Martin

What consideration has been given to the impact the use of *Prayers of Love and Faith* might have on those who in good conscience consider their use to be a departure from the teaching of the Church of England - particularly, the relationship between clergy and the Diocesan Bishop, and also between both lay and ordained worshippers at the Cathedral Church?

# Answer – Bishop Martin

This question is out of scope for this Diocesan Synod and concerns matters that will first need to be considered by the House of Bishops and then General Synod.

# Question – Sally Wainman (Colney's Deanery)

Is there any recognition in the higher echelons of the Church of England that the burden of the Parish Share is becoming increasingly unsustainable, given that we are also expected to maintain our churches to a level that meets current health & safety standards and DAC approval, become more energy efficient, give pastoral support in line with the recent Care and Support Re-imagined Report and also hold the occasional church service?

# Answer – Gary Peverley

Following clarification of what is meant by “the higher echelons” the question refers to the Church Commissioners and/or Archbishops. It is therefore not possible for us to provide an answer or to provide insights into their thinking directly.

There is a huge sense of gratitude for the work which all of our PCCs do in every aspect of mission and ministry and understanding of the challenges this presents. The Bishops and the DBF take every opportunity to feed in our experience and perspective to the National Church Institutions around the ongoing challenges of funding, and we will continue to do so.

# Question – Sally Wainman (Colney's Deanery)

In light of the fact that the Church Commissioners have £100 million for apologising and over 1 billion for Mission and Ministry, is there any recognition that parishes are being starved of funding in the midst of plenty, simply because Mission doesn't necessarily come with a capital "M" i.e. that the trend for heavily ring-fenced funding doesn't help the patient day-to-day, hard-working, creative efforts of the grass roots?

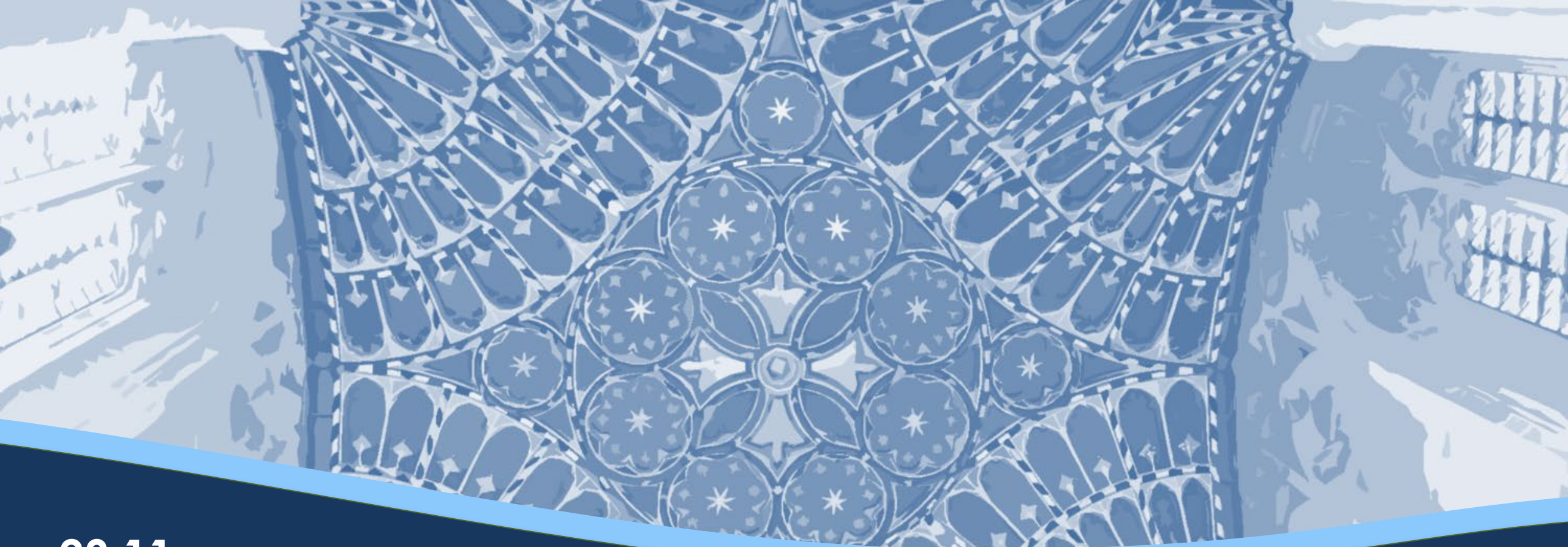


# Answer – Gary Peverley

In May 2022 the Church Commissioners announced their intention to distribute £1.2 billion between 2023 and 2025, up 30% from £930 million in the current three-year period, and plan to maintain this level of funding in the subsequent six years.

In line with the Church's Vision and Strategy for the 2020s, funds will also be used to support parish churches and dioceses. This will include increasing the number of clergy in front-line ministry in parishes and chaplaincies, with the intent that the Church's clergy better reflects the diversity of the nation that we serve. Enabling local churches to thrive across the county is an explicit aim of the additional funding. That funding is particularly directed towards engaging those who currently are not engaged with Christian communities and/or have little if any awareness of the nature of the Christian faith.

The diocese will take every opportunity to access any additional funding available in order to support the life of the Church of England in Suffolk.



23.11

# Notices

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# Deanery Synod Elections

James Hall

23.11.01

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# 2024 Budget Timetable

Gary Peverley

23.11.02

# Notice – Diversity and Inclusion

**23.11.03**

- We celebrate inclusion and acknowledge that the church community is only complete when all are welcome.
- We aim to support all congregations to ensure that our buildings, activities, and services are welcoming to all.
- New resources available on our website here:

**[www.cofesuffolk.org/inclusion-and-diversity](http://www.cofesuffolk.org/inclusion-and-diversity)**



# Notice – Coronation

**23.11.04**

- A historic moment in the life of our nation and an opportunity to bring communities together.
- Themes of community, faith and service.
- a chance to share an invitational message about the Christian faith and show the church as a dynamic Christian presence at the heart of community life in 21st Century Britain.

**[www.cofesuffolk.org/the-kings-coronation](http://www.cofesuffolk.org/the-kings-coronation)**



# Notice – Coronation dates

Key dates	Event
Sunday 9 April – Saturday 6 May	28 days of prayer
Friday 5 May	Vigil services
Saturday 6 May	The Coronation
Sunday 7 May	The Coronation Big Lunch
Monday 8 May	The Big Help Out
Post coronation	Thy Kingdom Come

# Notice – Suffolk Show

23.11.05

[www.cofesuffolk.org/suffolk-show](http://www.cofesuffolk.org/suffolk-show)

**THE  
SUFFOLK  
SHOW**



**FREE  
PARKING** **P**

**A FUN FAMILY DAY OUT!**

**WEDNESDAY  
31 MAY & THURSDAY  
1 JUNE 2023**





# Close and Final Blessing

Bishop Martin



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# Date of next meeting:

Saturday 24 June

St Edmundsbury Cathedral



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