

**Thursday 1 December 2022**

**Several churches are getting busy inviting people to Christmas.**



Join Stanton church and 'Follow The Star' on Friday 2 December which includes the Village Christmas Tree lights and outdoor Nativity Lights switch on. This is followed by a free evening of family crafts ... why not make a sheep, candy-cane shepherds' crook, crown, jewelled stained glass window star, an angel or star decorations, or add a star to a garland of stars across the altar rail. This event is open to everyone. The church will be giving away the book 'Amazing Days' from the Bible Society to families and the local schools and

this has been funded by the Diocesan Growth Fund.

Also funded by the Growth Fund, Cockfield Benefice is holding a Messy Church Christingle and are also giving age-appropriate books telling the story of the real meaning of Christmas, along with a Christmas card, to all the children at both of the local primary schools and pre-school.



St Edmundsbury Cathedral will launch a season of angel-themed activities.

You can collect an Angel Trail leaflet when visiting and see if you can spot all the angels and cherubs in the Cathedral. This year a pair of angel wings have been painted by a member of the Cathedral community so you can have your photo taken "wearing" the wings! Visitors can also pop into the Treasury for a mini-exhibition from the Ancient Library of angels in print. Before they leave, guests can also grab an angel cookie from Pilgrims'

Kitchen and check out all the angels in the Cathedral Shop.

On 19 and 20 December the Cathedral will be hosting family activity days. There will be a best dressed angel fancy dress competition and children can make a wish and pop it on the rainbow tree!

Dean Joe Hawes said, *"Angels have taken flight in popular imagination to the extent that many who have trouble believing in God or Jesus have no problem believing in angels. We encourage everyone to visit us during Advent and while having a look at our angels, perhaps think about the angels in their own life. Or perhaps consider that you might be an angel to someone else!"*

Other churches in Bury St Edmunds and the surrounding villages are also taking part in Inspiring Angels.

St John's Church in St John's Street, Bury St Edmunds, has a wealth of angels in carvings and stained glass. St Mary's Church on Honey Hill has the largest number of carved and stained-glass angels in the diocese. You can also visit their 2.5m tall Angel Gabriel!

Holy Innocents' Church in Great Barton is running a competition to name their "Lonely Angel", the one angel in the rafters that still has a head - the others were sawn off during the Reformation!

Finally, Horringer Church is holding an Angel Festival, involving church members, Ickworth Park Primary School, Pre-School, 1st Horringer Cubs and Scouts, the WI and Horringer Gardening Club, where everyone is making angels! The exhibition will feature a 3m sculpture of the Angel Gabriel suspended from the Chancel Arch!



Don't forget to sing along with Radio Suffolk on 14 December from 6.00pm - 7.00pm. Parishes are warmly invited to organise carol singing on doorsteps across the county this Christmas to spread some much-needed cheer and raise funds for local charities with the help of Radio Suffolk. Tune in to Radio Suffolk at Ipswich - 103.9 FM | West Suffolk - 104.6 FM | Lowestoft - 95.5 FM | Aldeburgh - 95.5 FM. This is also on DAB and on [BBC Sounds](#).

All resources are available

on [www.lightwave.community/doorstep-carols-1](http://www.lightwave.community/doorstep-carols-1).

## Events

### **Ukrainian Prayer Breakfast**

Saturday 10 December at 9.30am

Christ Church, Grange Farm Avenue, Felixstowe IP11 2XD

Refreshments provided from 9.15am. Worship and prayer led by local Ukrainian Christians, including live link to Ukrainian Military Chaplain.

### **PCC Workshop - Parish Banking**

10 January 2023 10.00am to 11.00am - online

Join Philip Keeble, diocesan Senior Finance Manager, to find out more about parish banking and software packages that might suit your parish. To book please click [here](#).

### **Exploring the New Testament**

Wednesdays 11, 18 and 25 January and 1 and 8 February and 1 and 15 March 2023 at 7.30 - 9.30pm

Earl Stonham Village Hall, Forward Green IP14 5HJ

Led by the Revd Canon John Parr, Exploring the New Testament takes a story-shaped approach to the heart of Christian faith. This seven-session course is for those on the AOP pathway, licensed ministers such as Lay Elders and LLMS, and anyone else who wants a fresh perspective on the New Testament. The course is an invitation to picture the impact of Jesus as a series of layers. Each layer tells its own story, with the story of Jesus at the centre. Each layered story belongs to a bigger story that continues into the present and can only be approached through the other layers – which makes interpreting the New Testament an unending, challenging experience.

The course is free of charge for those on the AOP pathway and studying for Permission to Preach. The course is open to all and costs £25, but those who are in commissioned or licensed ministry and so eligible for a [CMD grant](#) can make an application via [lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org). For further details and to book please click [here](#).

### **Youth Work Essentials Training Course**

Tuesdays January 10, 17, 24, and 31, February 7, 21, and 28, and March 7, 14, 21, 7.30pm - 9.15pm

Earl Stonham Village Hall, Forward Green IP14 5HJ



Join this innovative new 10-session course for volunteer youth leaders that increases your skills and confidence about work alongside young people. It's great for churches looking to start youth work or for those 'already volunteers' looking to gain some more skills and confidence. We can even tailor sessions to suit you and your needs! Please contact Matt on [matt.levett@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:matt.levett@cofesuffolk.org) to find out further details or book [here](#). The course costs £20 pp - CMD grants are available for licensed and commissioned ministers. Apply to [lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org).

### **Enhancing Pastoral Ministry - Refreshed!**

Wednesdays 11 and 25 January, 1 and 8 February, and 1 and 15 March 2023, 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Earl Stonham Village Hall, Forward Green IP14 5HJ

A six-session course for people who are involved in pastoral care (for example, Readers, Lay Elders, clergy, pastoral visitors) as well as those interested in a deeper understanding of this ministry. Cost is £25 for the whole course, but free to those who undertake this as

initial training as an Elder or part of the Auxiliary Ordination Pathway. CMD grants are available to LLMs and clergy, please contact Lesley Steed at [lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org). To book your place on this course, please [click here](#).

### **Living your life with God**

Starting 28 February 2023, 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Zoom Lent course

Brother Lawrence wrote about how he lived his Christian life in the 1600s and his very slim work "Practicing the Presence of God" has been massively popular ever since. Through Lent, Bishop Mike (and an occasional guest!) will be offering five Zoom sessions looking at how his insights can be applied in everyday life, with plenty of room for discussion on the way. For more details and to book your place [please click here](#).

### **Preaching Matthew, with Professor George van Kooten**

Saturday 25 February 9.30am to 12.30pm

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

Bishop Martin invites you to a follow-up of the November 2022 study morning 'Preaching on the Gospel of Matthew'. This session includes guest speaker Professor George van Kooten from the Faculty of Divinity at the University of Cambridge. To book your place please visit here: [Bishops-preaching-Matthew-2023.eventbrite.co.uk](https://Bishops-preaching-Matthew-2023.eventbrite.co.uk). Please note the other Bishops' study morning dates in 2023 are 17 June and 25 November.

### **BIG Weekend**

Friday 14 April 2023, 6.00pm – Sunday 16 April 4.00pm

Sizewell Hall, Sizewell, Leiston IP16

Matt Levett, Diocesan Youth & Young Adults Officer, invites you to the BIG Weekend. Organised by a team of experienced youth workers it offers young people the opportunity to come together and make new friends. Ask members of your youth group if they would like to come along. The age range is from school years 7-13. Whilst it is Christian in ethos and focus you don't have to call yourself a Christian to be able to attend and have fun! To find out more and to sign up [please click here](#).

### **Notices**

**Suffolk Cost of Living Surviving Winter Appeal:** With many people already facing problems due to rapid increases in the cost of living, the 'Suffolk Cost of Living Surviving Winter Appeal' is here to help, grants are available with a focus on 'fuel, food and support'.

- If you or anyone you know would like to receive individual support, please contact Citizen's Advice Ipswich on 01473 298634.
- To donate to the Appeal, visit [www.suffolkcf.org.uk](http://www.suffolkcf.org.uk), telephone 01473 602 602 (during office hours), or visit any branch of Suffolk Building Society to make a payment over the counter.

**Study Leave:** Each year a limited number of opportunities exist for anyone in ordained ministry to undertake 12 weeks of study leave (sabbatical). It is a great gift to be able to

get away from the phones and emails and partake of the three "R"s of refreshment, retreat and research. There are still a few opportunities for 2023 and if you would be interested in taking this up, please look at the criteria on the diocesan website, and if you think you qualify, fill in an initial application form available [here](#). All applications require the Bishop's approval, which will be sought once the application has been received. For further information and to submit an application please email the Revd Tony Redman at [tony@theredmans.co.uk](mailto:tony@theredmans.co.uk).

**Safe Spaces - new provider:** The Safe Spaces pilot ended in September this year. Since then the service has continued, provided by Victim Support and FearLess (formerly Splitz) on an interim basis until a new service provider could be procured. Please note that the procurement process has been completed and the new service provider will be First Light from 9 January 2023. Read the full announcement [here](#).

## Vacancies

[Nominations Committee Member](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral

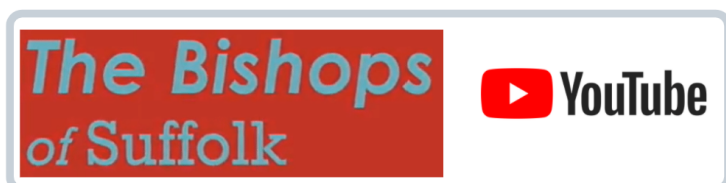
[Rector and Rural Dean](#) | Claydon and Barham, Great Blakenham and Henley | Closing date 5 December

[Priest in Charge](#) | Alde River Benefice | Closing date: 12 December

[Youth and Schools Worker](#) | Newmarket and District Youth for Christ | Closing date: 23 December

[House for Duty Priest in Charge](#) | Wrentham Benefice | Closing date: 16 January 2023

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