



Thursday 18 August 2022

The DS Diary... Hello from the new Diocesan Secretary - Gavin Baltitude

Hello, I'm your new Diocesan Secretary! I started on 1 August, and my first job has been to get to know the team in the diocesan office and gather information as I find out about the role – it is a steep learning curve! I am really looking forward to getting out and about visiting our wonderful churches and meeting you all. As I travel throughout the diocese, I want to be able to share my reflections on my visits and my role and hope to update you in an occasional DS Diary post via e-news.

My early travels have started in Ipswich and my first stop was St Mary at the Elms. I wanted to visit this church as it offers an Anglo-Catholic tradition and is probably the most different from what I'm used to. I grew up in an Anglican family, but like many I moved away from faith and only returned in my 40s. I'm now part of Ipswich International Church, this is evangelical and one of 'Elim' Pentecostal churches. As expected, St Mary offered a very different worship, but one that was full of beauty and joy.



I followed this with a visit to St Matthews, and this service was more similar to those I attend, I even knew a few of the songs! The liturgy was still familiar from my youth and it's amazing how much I have remembered. Finally, I went to River Church, this was interesting as it is a new church plant located in central Ipswich, offering a very evangelical style. I enjoyed the service which was led by young people for a young congregation that was probably 50 strong.

First impressions count and at each church, I was met at the door with a smile and a welcome - this goes a long way. I remember from my faith journey just how difficult it is going back to a church after many years absence. This warm welcome is a big help and the ice cream at River Church on the hottest day of the year was just above and beyond!

My main reflection, and in saying this I really don't want to underplay the challenges we face, is that we have some real strengths to build on. Over three weeks I have seen different congregations, all within a few miles of one another, all worshipping God and being an active presence in their communities. This has shown me church growth and makes our 'Growing in God' vision real.

I do appreciate this is all rather Ipswich centered, so I will be visiting more churches and Lightwave groups soon and will report back in my next DS diary post.

All Saints Chelsworth - Church Buildings Case Study



Grade 1 listed All Saints Church in Chelsworth has completed an amazing £330,000 project to make it a valuable community centre while retaining its important role as a place of worship. The project included the entire re-wiring of the church with a new heating system of chandelier mounted infrared heaters, a new kitchen and WC, a sound system, and the complete restoration of the organ by Boggis & Co of Diss and its repositioning on a new mezzanine floor, which itself is a restoration of an original nineteenth century gallery.

Extensive fundraising and 19 grant applications later, meant that Phase 1 of the project started in 2019 involving the entire rewiring of the church with new chandelier heaters. The final piece of funding was achieved in June 2020 with very generous donations from the Babergh Council Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Community funds and the final phase was completed by June 2021, with the return of its newly refurbished organ.

The church is now actively being used by the village for committee meetings and more. The restored organ is played by several visiting organists in the area. The community has really benefitted from a better equipped church building, cool in the summer while warm in the winter and the addition of the kitchen and WC (configured for disabled visitors) has added to its appeal.

Download the PDF of the case study here: [All Saints Chelsworth Case study](#) or visit our website [here](#).

Growing Rural



The Growing Rural programme, has been developed specifically to help churches to see and grasp the opportunities for mission in their context. A total of 27 people from 20 different parishes and benefices have attended our Growing Rural taster sessions over the past few weeks.

Now is the time to start thinking about whether you want to join the Growing Rural journey and register for the programme. The first residential takes place on the weekend 7/8 October and you can book [here](#)

This programme is offered to support you as you explore, develop and implement a shared vision for mission and growth in your context. Full information is available on our website

[here](#). For any questions or for further information please contact helen.prior-townsend@cofesuffolk.org.

Events

Global Church week @ MIE

St. Andrew's, Britannia Road. IP4 5HP

Join MIE who are welcoming Dan Gower, Open Doors Church Relationship Manager to their Global Church weekend. Friday 9 September @ 7.30pm is Prayer evening, Saturday 10 September Dan will be at Messy Church, while at 7.30pm you can come along and experience 'Secret' Church. On Sunday 11 September Dan will be sharing at evening service. For further information please contact John Gillett on 07867 645707.

Ride and Stride / Pedal and Drive 2022

Saturday 10 September 2022



Organised by Suffolk Historic Churches Trust (SHCT), Suffolk Churches Ride & Stride and Pedal & Drive sees several thousand cyclists and walkers of all ages (and drivers of vintage and classic cars) taking part in the annual fundraising event for the repair and upkeep of Suffolk churches. The money they raise helps to save this wonderful part of our history, with half going to the Trust to give out as grants for church buildings, and half to the cyclist's/walker's chosen church. More details are available from www.shct.org.uk.

Leadership Programme at River College, River Church, Ipswich IP4 1BZ

Monday 12 September 2022

Join a brilliant cohort of other young adults to go deeper in your discipleship, grow in your leadership, and gain first-hand experience of ministry.

Over a one-year course, through a mixture of classroom teaching in theology and Biblical studies, training in leadership, mentoring from our senior staff team and practical experience on one of our internship streams, River College students will discover and develop their God-given gifts, ready to transform their church, town, nation and beyond. More details are [available here](#).

Choral Festival

Sunday 9 October 2022

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 1LS

St Edmundsbury Cathedral is delighted to be hosting the 2022 Choral Festival, organised by the Suffolk branch of the Royal School of Church Music. This the first such festival to take place in Suffolk for some years, so the RSCM and cathedral music teams are particularly excited to relaunch this annual gathering of singers from across the county and



beyond, for an uplifting and exciting afternoon of music-making in glorious surroundings!

RSCM warmly encourages choirs who would like to attend as groups, but also invites individual singers who might not be regular members of a choir to become involved. You can book a place

for an individual or choir at: <http://tinyurl.com/vxvujnnn>

Rushmere St Andrew Sunday afternoon concerts

St Andrew's Church, The Street, Rushmere St Andrew, Ipswich IP5 1DH

This year's Autumn Concert programme will be held in support of East Anglia's Children's Hospice in Ipswich. There is no charge for admission and everyone is welcome to attend. Concerts start at 3.00pm with refreshments provided afterwards, and you are invited to give a voluntary contributions after each event. This year's programme is:

18 September: Rachel Godsill (soprano) & Marie-Noelle Kendall (piano)

25 September: Paul Dewhurst (Phyllis Dawson Organ Recital)

2 October: Chanter's Jigge (European 'roots' & folk-style music)

9 October: Octave (vocal ensemble)

16 October: Phantom Wind Quintet (with piano accompaniment)

Further details <https://standrewschurchrushmere.onesuffolk.net/music/concerts/>

PCC workshops on stewardship:

Tuesday 27 September, 11.00am Book here	Julie Podd (Parish Resources Manager), Grant Forrest and Catia Oldrey from the Parish Giving Scheme.	Parish Giving Scheme: Who, What, Why?
Tuesday 27 September, 2.00pm Book here	Julie Podd (Parish Resources Manager), Grant Forrest and Catia Oldrey from the Parish Giving Scheme.	Using the Parish Giving Scheme as a catalyst for generosity
Tuesday 11 October, 12.00pm Book here	Beccy Hills (Parish Funding & Grants Advisor) with John Bailey.	Learn more about how to get started with grants & funding

World Mission Conference: Modern Day Slavery - a global issue

Saturday 22 October 2022, 10.00am to 4.00pm

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

Join the World Mission Conference and hear from speakers from Anti-slavery International who will give us a global perspective:

- Caroline Virgo from the Clewer Initiative will be speaking about slavery in the United Kingdom today, and the Clewer Initiative
- The Revd Dr Dan Pratt, founder of The Together Free Foundation, will look at what our response as Christians should be and particularly in our local area

- John French from Suffolk Police will talk about modern day slavery in Suffolk

The conference is open to everybody. The cost of the day is £5. Please book here: <https://2022-world-mission-conference.eventbrite.co.uk>

Notices

Responding to the crisis in Ukraine, please visit our website [here](#).

Vacancies

[Children & Families' Worker](#) | Bridge Church

[Mission-focussed Priest in Charge](#) | Four Rivers Benefice | Closing date: 1 September

[Part-Time Social Action Pastor](#) | River Church, Ipswich | Closing date: 4 September

[Youth Minister](#) | The Haven at St Thomas, Ipswich | Closing date: 30 September

[Priest in Charge](#) | Waterfront Parishes, Ipswich

[Youth Project Support Worker](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral

[Part-Time Verger](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral

[Choir Director](#) | Woodbridge

[Director of Music](#) | Eye

Click here to print and share with others



Copyright © 2022 Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, All rights reserved.

This email is generated from the Communications Office at the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

Our mailing address is:

Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich
St Nicholas Centre, 4 Cutler Street, Ipswich
Suffolk, England IP1 1UQ
United Kingdom

[Add us to your address book](#)

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

