



Thursday 11 November

Growing in God

A message from Bishop Martin

Remembrance is a time for young and old to gather and express our thanks and respect for those who gave their lives in wars and conflicts serving our country. The profound nature of this occasion does not alter even as the years pass. Indeed, the significance seems to intensify as we remember those whose sacrifice has enabled the freedoms we enjoy today.

The Poppy Appeal and the Royal British Legion celebrate their centenary this year. In 1921 the first Poppy Appeal was launched by the newly formed British Legion to support service personnel and their families after the horror of the Great War. A century later the Royal British Legion continues this essential work, helping in the most practical ways through ensuring that care, equipment, and facilities are provided for forces personnel and families in need. Our support is vital to enable the Royal British Legion to continue that care to those who are in need.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads '+ Martin'.



Today is a key opportunity to reflect and give thanks, and also to recognise those that have served, and their family members who are living amongst us. The Remembrance period can bring thoughts of service and sacrifice, the good times and also the more difficult times and we need to be mindful of supporting those

people – the Veterans' Gateway is an online collaboration of services that can help members of the Veterans or Ex-Forces community to find the right support. For more information please visit: veteransgateway.org.uk.

Remembrance Resources

Please download this presentation of five Collective Worships on the theme of Remembrance for November 2021 covering The meaning of the poppy, We must remember, The peace poppy, William Coltman and Walter Tull. These resources for schools are produced by Gemma Taylor, our Diocesan Schools' Adviser, and are suitable to be adapted for youth and family services: Download here: [Remembrance](#).

**At the heart
of Christmas**



**But Mary treasured all these words
and pondered them in her heart.
Luke 2.19**

'At the heart of Christmas' is the Church of England's theme for Advent and Christmas 2021. The theme is deliberately simple and open – one that can be used by local churches to invite their communities to share in celebrating the good news of Christmas in a whole variety of ways. There is a wide range of national resources available including:

Daily Advent reflections: Exploring the Advent Morning Prayer readings from Matthew's Gospel. Available Monday to Saturday via the app with audio. Please sign up [here](#). The Church House Publishing booklet Reflections for Advent 2021 available [here](#).

Christmas Reflections: 12 Stories and Meditations from Archbishops Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell and guests where they share personal stories exploring themes close to the heart of Christmas. Starting on Christmas Eve and continuing daily (Monday to Saturday) until the Epiphany on 6 January 2022. Please sign up [here](#). Also available freely via audio app with accompanying resources for children and families and in the Church House Publishing Booklet available [here](#), along with other shareable print resources such as customisable publicity materials - posters, banners, greetings cards and invitations - which are available to order.

AChurchNearYou.com - this website includes a Resource Hub providing free adaptable content (such as downloadable hymns, customisable videos, images and approaches to online giving). The social media creator on ACNY is really easy to use and download graphics for your social media posts. Please also register and advertise all your Christmas services on the site [here](#).

Last year, [AChurchNearYou.com](#) received 77 million page views, and 80 per cent of visitors were on the site for the first time. To get your A Church Near You page ready for Christmas why not attend an online webinar on Thursday 18 November at 10.00am. Click [here](#) to register.

Online services and events - In collaboration with a range of Christian charities and organisations, the Church of England will produce online services throughout Advent and Christmas. Please share and re-post content on your social media channels where possible [here](#).

For details about all the Christmas resources, please visit our website [here](#). We will be adding to this page as more resources become available.

St Edmundsbury Cathedral

The Cathedral is hosting an array of Festive activities from 25 November; some key highlights are detailed below:

Thursday 25 - Saturday 27 November	Cathedral Christmas Market - shop local for gifts, food and drink Shoppers' Carols- daily, with Haverhill Silver Band on Saturday
Sunday 28 November	Advent Procession - slowly lighting the way through the Cathedral with prayer, hymns and readings
Sunday 5 December	Family Eucharist with Nativity - a uniquely-presented and joyful re-telling of the nativity story
Saturday 11 December	Carols by Candlelight - come along and sing some Christmas favourites
Monday 20 and Tuesday 21 December	Family Christmas Crafts - themed craft activities
Thursday 23 December	Nine Lessons and Carols - a traditional service of carols and readings
Friday 24 December	Crib Service - a 30-minute service for families, telling the Christmas story with carols and candle lighting

A poster of all the events is available to download [here](#). Further details will be advertised on the Cathedral website [here](#) and look out for updates in eNews in the coming weeks.

An Advent Journey - A service of preparation for the coming of Christ

Sunday 5 December 5.00pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral



St Edmundsbury Cathedral is hosting an Advent service in partnership with the Royal School of Church Music and Cantus Firmus Trust. The service will explore four Advent themes - Hoping, Waiting, Fearing and Preparing - using a blend of words and music. Music will be led by Cantus Firmus Choir and musicians from around the county, under the direction of Richard

Hubbard (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Music Development Director). The VivaVoce chamber choir from London School of Theology will also be taking part. There will be a retiring offering for the work of the RSCM in Suffolk.

You can find more information, including a poster for display on church noticeboards [here](#).

Helpful practices through Advent

Four Tuesdays starting Tuesday 30 November 7.00pm to 8.30pm

A course through Advent with Bishop Mike, this time taking a look at some spiritual disciplines, habits of mind, heart and body which are seasonally appropriate and offer opportunities for deeper formation in Christ. All very welcome. Enquiries to [Lesley Steed](#) to book please visit Eventbrite: <https://adventcourse-2021.eventbrite.co.uk>

Doorstep Carols



It's back....sing along carols with Radio Suffolk on 15 December 2021 at 6.00pm. 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. Listen to Archdeacon Sally Gaze talk about Doorstep Carols on Radio Suffolk here:

[Radio Suffolk](#) | weblink

Visit [here](#) to download advice for organisers and a customisable carol sheet and invitation. On the night

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](#).

Inspiring Angels



In December Inspiring Angels are coming to Ipswich! Ipswich will be 'angel-bombed' with images of angels (messengers of good news).

The angels will be a variety of shapes and sizes all over the town - in schools, shops, on public buildings, on the pavements, in bedroom windows, wherever people's imagination takes them! Activities include:

- Angel Bomb Ipswich - help us flood the town with angels...on pavements, trees, railings, your kitchen window, you name it...
- Angel Trail - grab your friends between Saturday 11 December and Thursday 6 January and follow a trail of large-scale angel wings all over the town including on the town hall.
- Carol Singing - join us on Saturday 18 December at 5.00pm on the steps of the town hall to sing 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing'!
- Carol Services - QR codes will take you to our angelic website (coming soon!) advertising all the town's carol services to add a bit of heart and soul to your Christmas.

For more information email: ipswich@inspiringangels.org.uk.

Advent Around the World

Advent Around the World is a collaboration between [Send a Cow](#), [Movement](#) and the Diocese of Bath and Wells. This is a resource for young people that not only journeys through the account of the birth of Jesus found in Luke's gospel, but gives a global perspective too. A flexible resource for use by church youth groups, school groups and households during Advent 2021.

Each week of Advent will begin with a two-minute video along with group session material and a daily social media post. There are also extra information and links giving a spotlight on the life changing work of Send a Cow in Africa based on each of the four themes: Hope, Joy, Peace and Love. Find out more [here](#). Four group sessions are available [here](#) and the videos can also be watched on Send a Cow's YouTube channel [here](#).

LecDeck Year C

LecDeck is a lectionary-based youth discipleship resource which was launched in 2019 as a joint venture between the Diocese of Bristol and the Go Team at the Diocese of Bath and Wells. It is available as a pack of cards and app for Android or Apple devices. The third pack of cards is now available for Lectionary Year C which begins on Advent Sunday 2021.

Buy LecDeck cards from their website shop [here](#) or download the app for Android/Apple iOS from your app store [here](#).

Christingle



Make your Christingle the best ever, whether you celebrate in-person or online, The Children's Society have all the resources you need to help you organise a truly memorable service [here](#).

As with any of your services and other activities, we would love to help you share your photographs via the diocese's Instagram feed. Send your photographs (with suitable permissions to use them) to capturingmyfaith@cofesuffolk.org and we will post them daily.

Celebrating Christmas: Bring in the festive season with the Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF)

Thursday 18 November 2021, 7.00pm - 9.30pm online on Zoom

Advent can be a particularly busy time of year so why not pause just ahead of the season to slow down, unwind and make room to reflect on the season to come. Join Amy Boucher Pye ([Celebrating Christmas](#)) and Jo Swinney ([The Whole Christmas Story](#)) to hear fresh and thoughtful reflections on the Christmas story and how to make the most of our time this year. Find tickets [here](#).

Put generosity at the heart of Christmas

Did you know that charitable giving by cash is on average £3.80, whilst through 'Give A Little' for contactless donations is a little over £11 and for online donations is more than

£41? This confirms the importance of having a variety of easily accessible and outwardly visible ways to give that suit your congregation and visitors. Planning for Christmas is an ideal time to think about setting up your online giving and setting up a Christmas giving campaign. To help you set up online giving in different ways, here are some useful resources:

- Find out how to set up online giving [here](#), which will give you a QR code that takes donors straight to your online giving page via their phone.
- Create an online giving Page with www.AChurchNearYou.com (ACNY). For step-by-step instructions visit [this page](#) on Parish Buying. It's quick, easy to do and free!
- Make sure your ACNY page is up-to-date with all your current information including how to give.

If you'd like some help with online giving please contact Julie Podd, Parish Finance and Resources Advisor [here](#).

Growing in God Growth Fund grants are 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 goody 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/>.

Events

Explore the Cathedral at Night

Friday 19 November 6.30pm to 8.30pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

On the eve of St Edmund's Day, the Cathedral will open its doors for a special late-night experience offering visitors of all ages to explore the building at night time. Visitors will be invited to follow a St Edmund trail and there will be craft activities linked to the story of St Edmund. Throughout the evening knowledgeable guides will be on duty, highlighting key features by torchlight. There will be musical interludes and the evening will conclude with a special service of Compline. 'Edmund' buns, a sticky fruit bun, will be offered free of charge and mulled wine and spicy apple punch will be on sale. This is part of a national initiative called Cathedrals at Night organised by the Association of English Cathedrals.

Take the chance to discuss parish financial issues with the Diocesan Team

Thursday 18 November 3.30pm – 4.30 pm

Tuesday 7 December 10.30am - 11.30am

You are invited to join Anna Hughes, Diocesan Secretary, and Gary Peverley, Finance

Director, at a Zoom meeting for treasurers and clergy to discuss parish and diocesan financial matters – an opportunity to meet one another, let us know how it is going in your parish and discuss any issues. To join the Zoom meeting, please email lorna.todd@cofesuffolk.org with your name and parish and include any questions you would like to raise. You will be sent a Zoom invitation prior to the meeting.

Notices

Please visit the recently updated 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.

Vacancies

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

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

[Diocesan Director of Communications and External Relations](#) | Closing date 24 November

[Lead Evangelist](#) | Suffolk Centre of Mission | Closing date 30 November

[Parish Resources Manager](#) | Closing date 7 December

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