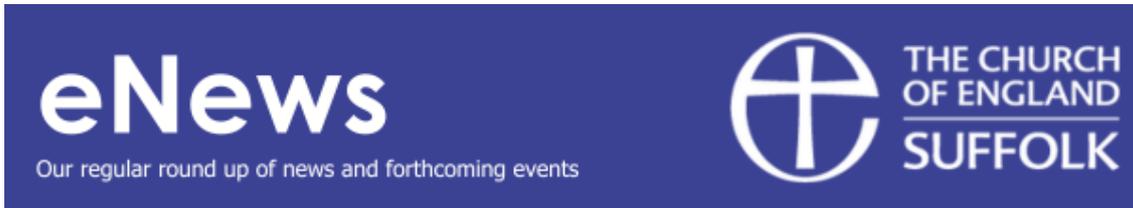


**Thursday 14 September 2023**



**National Generosity Week**

24 September to 1 October 2023

We are delighted to share with you all of the resources and materials available for this year's Generosity Week. To get you started, we have updated our website with the resources you need. There are service outlines, sermon starters, prayers and a quiz - all generosity-themed - which you can find [here](#). You might choose to do this during the designated week, as part of your harvest services, or at any time of year as the resources are not time sensitive. This is also an ideal time to say thank you to those in your congregation and community for their continued support, you can also find template thank you letters in the resources section of our Parish Resources page [here](#). The Parish Resources team is happy to help you: contact: Julie Podd, Parish Resources Manager, [julie.podd@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:julie.podd@cofesuffolk.org).



Listen to Bishop Mike as he shared his thoughts on generosity.

**Suffolk Harvest Festival**

Sunday 1 October from 12.00pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS



The Dean of St Edmundsbury invites you to this year's Suffolk Harvest Festival. Starting at 12.00pm, the Cathedral will be open to visitors with Farming Live! a great, interactive, engaging demonstration from local Suffolk farmers. Perfect for children and adults alike, static farm machines will be on the Cathedral grounds for the public to get up and close with. There will also be live talks about the machinery, crops and farming in general with plenty of interactive elements and the chance to ask all your burning questions about farming! The Harvest Service will take place from

2.00pm to 3.00pm led by Bishop Martin and joined by Mark Murphy (former BBC Radio Suffolk presenter) who will interview some very special guests around this year's theme of Living Water.

### **A Harvest Concert**

Saturday 16 September

St Peter and Paul's Church, Bardwell IP31 1AH

Come along to a lively Harvest event raising funds for the Church Fabric Fund. Starting off with tea and Pimms, enjoy a talk by Clive Paine on the history of the church, followed by the concert. There is also a raffle to be drawn at the event. Tickets cost £10, and are available by calling 07710 798178 or [clicking here](#) to visit the website.

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### **Prisons Week**

St Edmundsbury Cathedral will hold a special service at 10.30am on Sunday 15 October to mark Prisons Week. Prisons Week encourages communities to pray for, and raise awareness of, the needs of all those connected with prisons; prisoners and their families, many of whom come from disadvantaged and debilitating backgrounds, together with victims of offenders, prison staff, contractors, chaplains, and volunteers who work in an intense and often difficult atmosphere. Prisons Week has been running for almost 50 years. Led by Bishop Martin the service will include prayers for prisoners, victims and staff. A number of serving prisoners from HMP Hollesley Bay, Suffolk's open prison, will take part in and join the service. This year, the address will be given by the Anglican chaplain at HMP Highpoint, the Revd Mark Osbourne. After the service, there will be an opportunity for engagement - with prisoners, prison staff and others - with current issues in prisons, and discussion and reflection. Refreshments will be provided.

### **Advent and Christmas 2023**

#### **Follow the Star: Join the Song**

The Church of England are relaunching the very popular *Follow the Star* branding for 2023. This year's theme – *Follow the Star: Join the Song* – highlights how singing can help draw us closer to God and each other through the journey from Advent to Epiphany.

In the story of the first Christmas, the shepherds are astonished to find the night sky filled with countless voices singing God's praise. Find out more [here](#).



Please join one of their launch webinars outlining the key elements of the Join the Song campaign - to invite choirs and singing groups of all ages to learn and sing the carol.

**Explore Join the Song resources to support your church**

Tuesday 19 September, 11.00am | [register here](#)

**Using Join the Song with under-18s**

Wednesday 27 September 10.00am | [register here](#)

**Christmas 2023's digital resources unwrapped**

Wednesday 11 October 3.00pm | [register here](#)

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**Inspiring Angels**



After last year's successful launch, the resources for Inspiring Angels are again available on our website. Angels are a symbol of love, of presence, pointing the way to the moment it all changed, when God came in the person of Jesus to be with us in the world, to share in love and pain alongside us. Angels appeared to tell us about the birth of a baby in a manger. Angels sang, bursting with joy, to some shepherds, and told them, "Go and see!" For more information please visit our webpage [here](#).

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**Christingle**

Christingle services usually take place between Advent and Candlemas, with Christmas Eve the most popular time to celebrate. If you are thinking about how you're going to fundraise see how you can join in with The Children's Society [here](#).

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**Drawing near to God in Advent: prayer, postures and practices**

Tuesday 28 November 7.00pm - 8.30pm, online

Bishop Mike will lead four Zoom sessions through Advent looking at aspects of prayer (e.g. praise, intercession...), Christian postures (e.g. peace, joy...) and associated practices to help us grow closer to God over Advent. These will run on Tuesday 28 November | Tuesday 5 December | Thursday 14 December and Tuesday 19 December. There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion. All are very welcome! Book [here](#).

**Vocations**

**Mission Shaped Ministry Course – Growing in God's Mission**

Tuesday 26 September, 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Earl Stonham Village Hall, Forward Green IP14 5HJ



Join our new MSM Course – Growing in God’s Mission!  
The course will help equip you for Mission in the 2020s in parish churches and new Worshipping Communities. This six-session interactive and dynamic course is devised to help us reach out beyond our regular congregations, with experience in mission

learning from many, both in our diocese and nationally. We will be introducing practices to enable you to engage in God’s mission in your context that will go beyond the course itself in whatever context. All dates, and booking details are available [here](#).

### **Vocation Conversations**

Thursday 28 September, 7.00pm-8.00pm on Zoom



This is the first in a series of evening conversations for anyone who is thinking about the question 'how do I know what God is asking me to do?'. For the first conversation we will be joined by Bishop Martin, who is going to share his vocation journey with us. Open to all interested in hearing Bishop Martin’s story. Come and

join the conversations with others about their vocational journeys. Sign up [here](#).

### **Faith Empowered - training for Evangelists**

Saturday 30 September, 12.00pm

The Rectory, Grundisburgh IP13 6UF



Faith Empowered is a one-year course (September 2023 to July 2024) exploring the ministry of Evangelists, using materials developed with the Church Army. Participants come together in person and online to discuss key subjects such as how to get to know your context, what evangelism is, how to plan a missional activity and what to say when people ask big questions. If you are interested in exploring this ministry come along to our welcome BBQ . For more information please visit our

website [here](#) or download our course leaflet [here](#).

### **Lay Elder training and social morning**

Saturday 21 October 21, 9.30am - 1.30pm

Salvation Army Stowmarket, Violet Hill Road IP14 1NE

As part of our two-year cycle of training and celebrating, we are holding an Elders training and social morning with special guest speakers from across the Diocese. We are also very pleased that our keynote speaker will be the Venerable Rich Henderson, Archdeacon of Suffolk. For more information and to book please click [here](#).

### **Connect - training for Children's and Families' Ministers**

Connect is a one-year course starting in September 2023, exploring child development, spirituality and formation, new approaches to Family Ministry and personal skills to enable



participants to be visionary Family Ministry leaders within the parish and across the Diocese. For more information please visit our website [here](#) or download our course leaflet [here](#).

### **Youth Essentials - training for youth workers**

Tuesdays starting 16 January and finishing 26 March (no meeting on 20 February) 7.15pm to 9.15pm

Earl Stonham Village Hall, Forward Green IP14 5HJ.



Join this innovative course which will increase your skills and build confidence in your role working alongside young people. You may be looking to start youth work or you could already be volunteering - we can tailor sessions to suit you and your needs! Volunteers from all over the Diocese will join the course so we can learn from each other's situations and experiences. This is a 10-session basic level course designed by Youthscape and topics include Insights into Young People; Skills for Youth Work and Developing Character. [Click here](#) to download

the leaflet for more information. Any enquiries to: [Matt Levett](#), Youth and Young Adults Enabler, 07736 941654 and to book onto the course please click [here](#).

### **An Adventurous Advent**

Saturday 28 October, 9.00am - 12.30pm

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

An invitation to all Readers, Licensed Lay Ministers, Elders and those in training - do join us as Mark Oakley leads us in preparation for An Adventurous Advent. The language of hope, promise and waiting is not evident in today's culture and our communities embrace Christmas at the beginning of December with the switching on of town lights and Christmas carol services throughout the month. The season of Advent, with its four weeks of waiting, is counter-cultural. To find out more and book your place on this event, please click [here](#).

## **Events**

### **Fundraising at Holy Trinity Church, Long Melford**

Friday 15 September, 6.00pm: Pimms & Hymns. Music performed by Nigel Brown, Organist, in conjunction with the Rossignol Choir and Holy Trinity's own singers. Tickets £10pp – please contact [Cheryl](#) on 07943 811030

Saturday 16 September, 10.00am: Tower Tours, firing the cannon on the green, organ recitals, brass rubbing; on-screen drone video footage, Punch and Judy show, treasure hunt, plus a pop-up café serving delicious cakes and refreshments. Booking for tower tours essential, please contact [Judi Moss](#) on 07748 038074 - adults £10 and children £5 (up to 15 yrs) and children must be accompanied by an adult.

### **Mary and Choral Music - Christopher Borrett and singers**

Saturday 16 September, 11.00am

St Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich IP1 3BE

Join this lecture on the subject of Marian devotional music, which will include musical illustrations (spanning six centuries) sung by members of the St Mary-le-Tower's choir. The lecture will last an hour and will consider different styles of music and Marian texts from around Europe and how they enrich prayer. More information [here](#).

### **Margery Kempe's Journeys in Sound**

Saturday 16 September, 5.30pm

St Mary's Church, Buxhall IP14 3DJ

Margery Kempe, born around 1373, was a visionary and mystic from Kings Lynn. She was an enthusiastic pilgrim and in this concert, Leah Stuttard will evoke some of her journeys and meetings with music from the places she visited as far afield as Gdansk, Santiago de Compostela, Rome and Jerusalem. Tickets £10 each including wine and nibbles after the concert and are available [here](#) or on the door. Free parking is available at the church. In aid of church funds. Call 07840 862364 for more information.

### **Suffolk Historic Churches Trust 50th Anniversary Service**

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Sunday 17 September

Celebrate with the SHCT, who over 50 years has raised the equivalent of around £10 million in today's money, from the membership fees of its 'Friends' organisation, from donations, grants, legacies, and, in particular, from the annual Suffolk Churches Ride and Stride sponsored event and, more recently, the Pedal and Drive Vintage and Classic Car rally. Churches, chapels and Meeting Houses who wish to send representatives to the special service should contact [shctcathedral@gmail.com](mailto:shctcathedral@gmail.com) for an invitation.

### **Teachers' Evensong**

Sunday 17 September, refreshments from 3.30pm, service at 4.30pm

St Mary's, Honey Hill, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1RT

Please come and join the Revd Sarah Gull and Helen Matter, formerly Diocesan Schools' Adviser, at this most traditional of services. Enjoy the quiet, the music and choir and pray for all those involved in education as we give thanks for the special role of teachers and teaching. All welcome.

### **Working Towards an Award and Maintaining Momentum - Eco Church Webinar**

Tuesday 19 September, 12.00pm-1.00pm on Zoom

This webinar is aimed at people in churches who have registered for Eco Church and taken their first steps, but need a little help to get things going and work towards their Bronze or Silver award. It will cover typical barriers, and give you tips on how to get around them and maintain your momentum. The webinar will contain practical examples of churches who have achieved an award and how they got there. To book, please [click here](#).

### **The Bible, Bugs and Insect Decline**

Sunday 24 September 3.00pm

Foxearth Meadows CO10 7HZ

The Revd Mike Perry is key speaker for this open air service, having worked as a research biologist before becoming an Anglican priest. For comfort, do bring along a chair or rug to sit on. We invite people to come along early to enjoy the reserve or stay afterwards for a guided walk. On-site car parking is available. More information is available [here](#).

### **Haverhill Heritage Days 2023**

Saturday 30 September 10.30am

St Mary's Church, Haverhill CB9 8AX

The friends of St Mary's invite you to join them to find out about Stained Glass and Conservation - featuring Derek Hunt, an expert in the conservation of stained glass and leaded glass windows. The event is free and refreshments will be provided.

### **Statistics for Mission and the Online Parish Returns System**

Wednesday 4 October 2.00pm Online

Wednesday 11 October 7.30pm Online

This information-based webinar will be presented by Charlotte Hodgson, Paul Sparrow and Nigel Cook to explain the purpose of the Online Parish Returns System. The session is ideal for anyone associated with the Church but especially those involved in completing data returns on behalf of their parish. Areas covered will include registering on the system, Statistics for Mission, Finance Return, and the Energy Footprint Tool kit. There will be an opportunity at the end for you to ask questions.

For the 4 October session please book [here](#), or for the 11 October session please book [here](#).

### **Live Launch: The Thrive Collection NEW**

Thursday 5 October, 12.00pm-12.45pm, online

Join this free launch of the collection of resources from CPAS. Pam Macnaughton, creator of The Thrive Collection, and James Lawrence, CPAS Leadership Principal, will host this online lunchtime launch and share how these resources can help your multi-parish benefice to thrive. The Thrive Collection includes a book, a prayer guide, a leaders course and sessions for PCCs. All those who attend will be offered a one-off discount on The Thrive Collection. Book [here](#).

### **World Mission Conference - Ethical Consumerism**

Saturday 7 October, 9.00am-1.00pm

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

Ethical consumerism is the practice of purchasing products and services produced in a way that minimises social and/or environmental damage, while avoiding products and services thought to have a negative impact on society or the environment. Key speakers include Mike Gidney, CEO of the Fairtrade Foundation and Ruth Lindley, Campaigns Lead,



Transform Trade, with more to be announced soon.  
Please book [here](#).

### **Pets Service**

Sunday 8 October, 2.00am

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

This service invites 'all creatures great and small', furry, feathered and scaled visitors to come along to the Cathedral for a blessing. Attendees can bring a photograph if they feel they cannot bring their pet. There will also be time to remember the pets we've had loved and lost and to thank God for them, because our pets are our family, and our grief is felt very strongly when our pets die. It is a wonderful opportunity to thank God for the gift of animals and for us to ask God's blessing on all that he has made.

### **Inspire Counselling, Training Celebration and Thanksgiving Service**

Sunday 8 October, 10.00am

St Matthew's Church, Portman Road, Ipswich IP1 2EX

Celebrating 25 years of providing a counselling service and 30 years of providing training. Bishop Martin will be in attendance and will re-commission Inspire and the team. Refreshments and cake will be provided. This is an open invitation - no need to respond, just turn up!

### **Rolling Down Justice: Disability, Intersectionality & God**

Saturday 14 October, 10.00am to 4.30pm

On Zoom, with BSL and captions

Intersectionality is a way of describing how social categories (eg disability, race, gender) combine to create overlapping systems of discrimination or disadvantage. In this online conference you will explore intersectional experience and how we can help the waters of justice flow in church and the world around us. Through art, story and theology; in talks, small groups, workshops and worship. Book [here](#).

### **Holy Trinity Church Scaffolding Tours**

Thursday 26 October, 10.00am - 4.00pm

Holy Trinity Church, Long Melford CO10 9DT

Following a successful event in August, this is another opportunity to view Holy Trinity Church, Long Melford from the highest interior point of the church to view the ongoing repairs; look at areas usually completely inaccessible to people, and take in panoramic views through the windows. Cost is £15 and includes coffee/cake. Booking essential, please contact [Judi Moss](#) on 07748 038074.

### **PCC Workshop - Grants & Funding**

Wednesday 1 November 12.00pm to 1.00pm | Book [here](#)

Wednesday 8 November 1.00pm to 2.00pm | Book [here](#)

Join Emma Denton, Diocesan Grants Advisor and John Bailey from Beccles on Zoom for this workshop. Both have considerable success in accessing grants and funding. Learn about the advice and resources available from the Diocese and find out about the Church

Grants database. They will welcome questions at the end of their presentations.

### **PCC Workshop - Gifts in Wills**

Wednesday 8 November 12.00pm to 1.00pm | Book [here](#)

Thursday 30 November 12.00pm to 1.00pm | Book [here](#)

Emma Denton will be joined by Eleanor Stead (Head of Giving, Church of England) to help you learn how to set up and promote a parish gifts in wills policy in your parish. Access to free online wills through Farewill.

### **PCC Workshop - Digital Giving**

Tuesday 14 November 12.00pm to 1.00pm | Book [here](#)

An opportunity to share why digital giving is so important for all churches to enable your generous congregation and wider community to give easily to your church. Includes: setting up online giving campaigns, using payment providers and how to share the online link and QR codes on your A Church Near You Page and/or your website and more. We can show what different donation device options are available. We could also offer you a trial of the 'CollecTin' device.

### **Bishops' Teaching morning: The Gospel of Mark, with Professor George van Kooten**

Saturday 25 November 9.30am - 12.30pm

Salvation Army. Violet Hill Road, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

Bishop Martin and Bishop Mike invite you to a study morning on 'the Gospel of Mark' with guest speaker Professor George van Kooten from the Faculty of Divinity at the University of Cambridge, who will be asking what is the genre of Mark's gospel, what is its wider context and the thrust of its argument? Book early to avoid disappointment! Free of charge, please book [here](#). Enquiries to Lesley Steed on 07485 348889 or [lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org).

The series of Bishops' teaching mornings will continue in 2024, the provisional dates are: 3 February 2024, 27 April 2024 and 23 November 2024.

## **Notices**

### **Vacancies**

[Assistant to the Archdeacon of Ipswich](#) | Closing date: 20 September

[Rector | Claydon and Barham, Great Blakenham and Henley](#) | Closing date: 22 September

[Priest \(0.5\)](#) | Sproughton, Burstall, Copdock with Washbrook & Belstead | Closing date: 26 September

[Part time Fundraiser and Bid-writer](#) | Lightwave | Closing date: 27 September

[Chaplain and Leader of Youth Orientated Congregation](#) | Debenham High School | Closing date: 28 September

[Rector](#) | Beccles | Closing date: 4 October

[Priest in Charge 0.8 FTE](#) | Alde River Benefice | Closing date: 4 October

[House for Duty Priest in Charge](#) | The Wrentham Benefice | Closing date: 9 October

[Rector Designate](#) | East Bergholt, Brantham, Bentley & Tattingstone | Closing date: 10 October

[Director of Music](#) | Woodbridge

[Director of Mission and Ministry](#) | Closing date: 19 October

[Centre Manager of the Sanctuary Day Centre](#) | Ipswich

River Church, Ipswich are recruiting for Director of Operations, Kids Pastor and Spear Centre Manager/Employability Coach. All details at: [riverchurchipswich.org/vacancies](http://riverchurchipswich.org/vacancies)

[Click here to print and share with others](#)



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