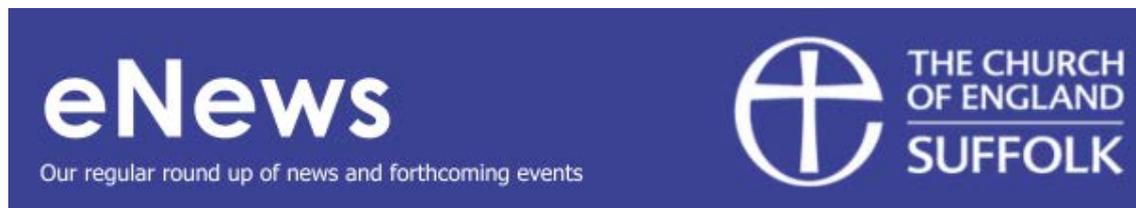


Thursday 15 February 2024



Bishops' Lent Appeal



Communities throughout Suffolk have been urged to raise funds during Lent for farmers in Tanzania struggling with the impact of the climate crisis.

The Bishops' Lent appeal has been launched following visits by the bishops to Kagera in Tanzania, Africa, where the Diocese has had a link for nearly 30 years. Bishop Martin visited Kagera last year and Bishop Mike is returning from the region soon.

Bishop Martin says his presidency of the Suffolk Show this year further connects the Diocese to farmers abroad suffering from the impact of the climate crisis, and particularly the unpredictability of the seasons. *"The challenge of changing climate, which we are experiencing in this country, is biting hard in impoverished rural areas like Kagera. The church there pays a key role in helping people adapt their farming methods to feed their families and communities. We can help by giving them funds to buy equipment and support agricultural projects as well as support the clergy and their villages with bikes and health care. Therefore the bishops are focusing our Lent appeal on raising funds for the agriculture, health and church sectors in Kagera,"* said Bishop Martin.

He added, *"This partnership is two way – we learn a huge amount from our friends in Kagera about how to live as Christians in the midst of the world's challenges."*

The appeal comes as churches in Suffolk help in so many ways in the county, from Top-up shops and food banks for those struggling with the cost of living crisis to fundraising for local charities and activities to support others in their local communities.

Bishop Mike said his trip, accompanied by curates, inspired the Diocese to strengthen ties – *"I realised just how the global economic downturn compounding the climate crisis is affecting farmers, pastors and doctors in terms of costs and basic material needs. Lent is a time traditionally when we turn outwards in generosity towards others and even small amounts in UK terms go a long way to alleviate suffering in this area of the world."*

The Diocese is urging churches, benefices, deaneries and other groups to decorate places of worship in African style, cook African food and have talks about Kagera. Sunday Schools and youth groups are asked to set themselves fundraising challenges for specific items, such as buying parts for a rainwater harvesting tank. Previous appeals for

Kagera helped to teach new farming methods, supplied seeds and tree saplings and trained villagers to build rainwater tanks with local materials. Motorbikes were bought for priests to cut travel time too.

If you would like to raise funds for Kagera please visit our website [here](#). You can order fundraising booklets from kageralink@gmail.com

The Revd Susan Taylor is organising a 'Coffee Morning with Cake Stall and Raffle' on Saturday 2 March, 10.00am - 12.00pm to raise money for Kagera. Susan went to Kagera last June with Bishop Martin - do come along to Dove Cottage, High Street, Debenham IP14 6QW.



Watch and Pray Lent Resources: The Church of England's Lent theme for 2024 is Watch and Pray: Wisdom and hope for Lent and life. On the night he was betrayed, Jesus kneels in darkness in the Garden of Gethsemane. Though he pleads with his disciples, "*Stay here with me ... Watch and pray.*" they all fall asleep, leaving him alone in his hour of deepest suffering. This Lent, we are all encouraged to draw on the wisdom of

Black Spirituality, particularly the practice of "tarrying" (waiting) as a community to draw closer to Jesus and to each other. Combining exuberant singing, fervent prayer and quiet lament, such services typically take place at night and last somewhat longer than the "one hour" Jesus asked of those first followers. For further Lent resources please visit our website [here](#).

Come and See Lent Course

In person: Thursdays starting 15 February, 1.30pm-3.00pm

Online: Wednesdays starting 21 February, 7.00-8.00pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral/Zoom

Join either virtually or in-person for 'Come and see', a five-session Lent course at St Edmundsbury Cathedral. Using new material from his forthcoming book "Meeting God in John", David Ford, Professor of Divinity Emeritus at the University of Cambridge, invites you to reflect upon how John's Gospel draws us into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ who is 'The beginning and the end' and 'in whom all things were made'. To join online, please email chriseyden@stedscathedral.org to receive the Zoom link. To join in person, please [book here](#) and choose either the free-to-attend Lent course, or the Lent course with lunch (£5.00 per session). Spaces are limited.

Walk the Way of the Cross with the Blyth Valley Churches this Easter!

This spring the churches of the Blyth Valley are giving you the opportunity to visit the Holy Land without leaving Suffolk! Across their 14 churches they are presenting an exhibition of original paintings by nationally acclaimed, local religious artist Iain McKillop which will be opened by Bishop Mike leading a full set of reflections for a seated congregation at All Saints', Blyford, at 7.30pm on Friday 9 March. The Queen's Head, Blyford, will be open afterwards so people may stay and buy refreshments. On Saturday 23 March, Team Rector Dominic Doble and colleagues will lead a pilgrimage presenting a short contemplation at each parish church in the benefices. All churches will be open during daylight hours. For all the details please visit [here](#). ***IMPORTANT NOTICE - the date has changed to 9 March as opposed to 15 March***

Bread of Life course: Each Saturday in Lent beginning 17 February and ending on 23 March. Starting 10.00am at St John the Evangelist, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3QW. This course will help you explore faith through the lens of the Eucharist. All welcome. For more details contact the Revd Ali Miller on 01284 728714.



Fair Trade Shop in Ipswich: As we enter Lent we think not only of what we can give up, but also what we can do for others. Buying Fairtrade items helps those in developing countries get a fairer price for what they produce. The Fairtrade standards mean better environmental protection and protection against slavery. We are reminded of Amos 5:24 'let justice roll

down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream'. The Fair Trade Shop is situated in Upper Brook Street, Ipswich, offering a wide range of products and currently this includes Fairtrade Easter Eggs. To find out more about the shop, visit our [webpage here](#).

Maximising giving: Do join this webinar on Tuesday 27 February at 3.00pm. Offered by the Church of England, looking at ways to maximise your digital giving over the Easter and Spring period. Please register [here](#).

Events

Big Weekend of Prayer for Farming

16-18 February



We would love for you to pray for our farming community in whatever way which is appropriate to you, in your location/context. Please share any thoughts/reflections from your time of prayer on the Facebook page [@suffolkinprayer](#), or email them to Suffolkinprayer@gmail.com.

St Edmundsbury Cathedral to welcome prehistoric visitors

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 1LS

February half-term 19 - 23 February

The dinosaurs are from Teach Rex, who provide creative workshops that ignite young minds and imaginations. On Wednesday 21 February, the dinosaur animatronics will be teaching and entertaining audiences at two sessions, one at 10.00am to 11.30am and the second from 2.00pm to 3.30pm. Tickets are on sale and are £8.00 each. As well as Teach Rex, there will be additional free-to-attend prehistoric-themed activities for families. These arts and crafts sessions will be on Tuesday 20 February at 10.00am and Thursday 22



February at 2.00pm. Both sessions are two hours in duration and the whole family is welcome.

Concert of Hope

Friday 23 February, 7.00pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

A charitable concert for Hospices of Hope to mark the date of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Featuring Eleanora and Tap, Alina Rybina, The Buskerteers Choir and more. Money raised from the concert will go to First Children's Hospice in Nadvirna, Ukraine which is supported by UK-based Hospices of Hope. Tickets and more information from [here](#).

Major Donor Training

Monday 19 February, 7.30pm or Tuesday 20 February, 10.30am

Join this webinar by ChurchGrant on major donor fundraising for church appeals. You will learn how to identify major donors already within your networks, how to find new major donors and know how best to approach these and gain the confidence in how to 'present the ask' and 'close the ask' [Book here](#). Don't forget to use CHURCH10 to get 10% off the full ticket price of £9.99!

Churchwardens' Gathering for Sudbury and Suffolk Archdeaonries

Saturday 24 February at 10.00am-3.30pm

Sizewell Hall Christian Conference Centre, Leiston IP16 4TX

Archdeacon David and Archdeacon Rich invite churchwardens to gather for a day of fellowship, worship and reflection. The keynote speaker will be Bishop Graeme Knowles. Offering a space to be with others to share ideas, support and encourage. Bring your own lunch, drinks are provided. **Places are still available** please book via Eventbrite [here](#).

How to make your toddler group more missional

Saturday 24 February, 2.00pm

Salvation Army Hall, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

An opportunity for anyone involved in toddler group ministry to explore ways to make your sessions more intentionally missional. You'll hear from those who are already doing this well and also explore resources and strategies which can help you. Refreshments provided. [Book here](#).

Deanery Drop in Sessions



We have looked at your Plans for Growth to see if there were any common themes or areas that you need help with. To support you we are offering a number of [drop-ins](#) around the diocese to give you a chance to get the help you need, this is an exciting opportunity to meet the various teams from the Diocesan office who are there to offer advice on Children's and Families' Ministry,

Youth Ministry, Giving, Grants, Discipleship, Communications, Vocations or anything else

you'd like to ask – a real opportunity for us to have conversations and help people. For a full listing of the drop-in dates please click [here](#). Drop-in sessions coming up are:

Zoom Wednesday 27 February	3.00pm - 5.00pm: book here	6.00pm – 8.00pm: book here
St Luke's Church, Beccles NR34 9JQ Thursday 21 March	3.30pm - 5.00pm: book here	6.00pm – 8.00pm: book here
Thomas Clarkson Centre, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3JT Tuesday 23 April	3.00pm - 5.00pm: book here	6.00pm – 8.00pm: book here
St Augustine's Community Hub, Ipswich IP3 8TH Wednesday 15 May	3.00pm - 5.00pm: book here	6.00pm - 8.00pm: book here .

Church Army Discovery Days

Monday 26 February, 7.00pm to 9.30pm, online

or Saturday 13 April, 10.00am to 3.00pm, Wilson Carlile Centre, Sheffield.

If you have a heart to see people reached with the Good News of Jesus Christ, then you're invited to attend this event and discover how you can train as a Church Army Evangelist. Free to all. Further information is available [here](#).

Christian Ethics

Starting Tuesday 27 February, 7.30pm-9.30pm

Earl Stonham Village Hall, Forward Green IP14 5HJ

This module explores the history of ethical thought and also everyday issues and moral questions from capitalism to the environment. The module aims to further develop moral thinking, appreciation and judgment that is appropriate within the context of Christian teaching and pastoral ministry, and Christian living. The sessions are on Tuesdays for 6 weeks, starting 27 February 2024 and finishing 16 April (no meetings during Easter). Refreshments will be served from 7.00pm for a prompt 7.30pm start and finish by 9.30pm. This module is open to all but a requirement for locally deployable curates. To book, please [click here](#).

Explore - Parish Nursing Ministries

Thursday 29 February, 10.00am - 11.00am and 7.00pm - 8.00pm, Zoom

Discover what parish nursing could offer for your community. Join on Zoom for a free information session with regional nurse coordinator, Dawn Stephens. To book, please email enquiries@parishnursing.org.uk

Lark Rise Retreat Days 2024

Lark Rise Retreats in Felixstowe provide a space and time for people to relax with God.

Upcoming events include:

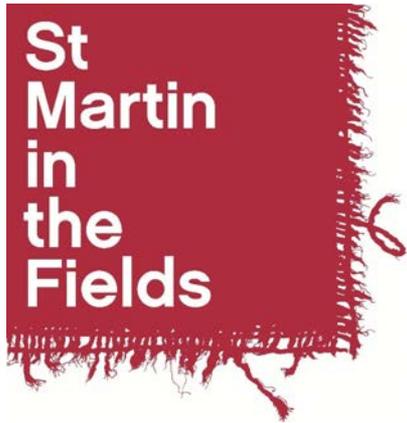
- Thursday 29 February | An Introduction to Franciscan spirituality | The Revd Canon Andrew Dotchin.
- Thursday 14 or alternatively Saturday 16 March | The women who sat at Jesus' feet | The Revd Catherine Bond.

- Thursday 4 or alternatively Saturday 6 April | Exploring the resurrection appearances of Jesus | The Revd Penny Brinkley.
- Friday 7 June | Celtic, green and godly | The Revd Dr John Bell.
- Friday 7 June | Using imagination to unlock scripture | The Revd Dr John Bell.
- Saturday 8 June | Come and sing workshop | The Revd Dr John Bell.

To book, please visit larkriseretreats.org.uk or call 01394 284213.

Concert and Workshop

Wednesday 6 March, Workshop 4.00pm to 5.00pm, Concert 6.30pm to 8.00pm
All Saints' Church, Hitcham IP7 7NN



An invitation to join a singing workshop led by the St Martin-in-the-Fields Choral Scholars, directed by Andrew Earis. Suitable for local choirs/singers and anyone who is interested. The concert will include reflections from the Revd Sharon Grenham-Thompson. Tickets cost £7.50 to include refreshments. Please note the church has a toilet and a large car park signed from the B1115 - Sat Nav IP7 7NR. There will be a break from 5.00pm - 6.00pm, please bring your own packed meal, tea and coffee will be available.

Contact RNFCurrie@gmail.com to register your interest

and receive more information.

Edmund Lecture | Dame Barbara Woodward DCMG OBE

Friday 15 March, 6.30pm-7.30pm - **NEW DATE**

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Thank you so much for your patience, we are delighted that the Edmund Lecture with Dame Barbara Woodward DCMG OBE has been rebooked. The Ambassador will explore parallels between the Magna Carta, as the 'great charter' which laid the foundation for the modern British values of rule of law and equality before it, of liberty and rights, and the UN Charter, which established the international rules and values that have underpinned relative peace and stability since the second World War. The Lecture will be followed by a special service of Vespers at 7.30pm to which all are welcome. Vespers is a liturgy of evening prayer that, for centuries, was part of the daily rhythm of prayer kept by the monks at the Abbey of St Edmund. To book your place, please click [here](#).

What is an Anaerobic Digester?

Saturday 16 March, 10.00am

Meet at St Nicholas Church, Little Saxham IP29 5LD

George Gittus is kindly offering to take a group round his digester, showing us what happens and how it all works. Tickets cost £10, and money raised will go Little Saxham church funds. For further information and to make a booking please ring Gillian Schorer-Nixon on 07557101564 or email gillianschorer@me.com

Seeing is Believing

Wednesday 20 March, 1.30pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Join Tracy de Bernhardt-Wood, Suffolk icon painter, as she guides you through the art and significance of icons. This talk takes place in the Week of 'Lady Day' when the Church remembers the Virgin Mary. Tracy's talk will last approximately 30 minutes and attendance is free, please by emailing ChrisEyden@stedscathedral.org. You can also visit Tracy at work throughout the week commencing Monday 18 March, during which time she will be working on painting an icon of Mary entitled 'Hodegetria, "she who points the way"'.

Here I am

Friday 22 March, 9.30 - 4.00pm
Ridley Hall, Cambridge CB3 9HG

A day conference for young women and non-binary people to explore ordination. Come to reflect on God's call, to hear about practicalities, to ask, to meet and to pray. Hosted by Church of England ministers from a range of perspectives and experiences, including the Revd Ali Miller from the Lark Valley and North Bury benefice. All are welcome. More information is available from The Revd Wendy Thomson at wendy@chatteris.org. To book visit [here](#).

Gather: The Big Weekend 2024

Friday 12 April 2024 6.00pm to Sunday 14 April 4.00pm
Sizewell Hall, Leiston IP16 4TX



A weekend of craziness, worship, games and friendship all focused around learning more about living as a Christian in the C21st. The Big Weekend is organised by the Church of England in St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, and run by experienced youth workers from around Suffolk. Offering young people from school years 7-13 the chance to explore

faith and have fun! Book [here](#).

Deanery Parish Resources Meeting

Wednesday 17 April 7.00pm
Brandeston Village Hall IP13 7AE

Please join the Parish Resources Team for an interesting talk about the Parish Giving Scheme, Digital Giving, Gifts in Wills, Grants & Funding. This is an open meeting - all are welcome to attend, whether Treasurers, members of PCCs, Churchwardens, or anyone else wishing to learn more about this important aspect of church life. It would be useful to know if you are able to attend the meeting, so please book by emailing stpeterscretingham@gmail.com.

Doctrine

Tuesdays starting 30 April 2024, 7.00pm to 9.00pm
Venue to be announced

A six-session course led by Bishop Mike unpacking the Apostles' Creed so we can apply this to our own lives, understand our faith better and be able to articulate the faith to others helpfully. Subjects include God (including as the Trinity); Jesus; The Cross; Resurrection; Holy Spirit and Eternal Life. Bishop Mike will provide notes beforehand so most of the sessions can be spent in conversation, Q & A and going more deeply into areas participants want to explore further. For more information please [click here](#)

Supporting Bereaved Children and Young People

Thursday 16 May, 10.45am to 3.00pm

Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Norfolk

Open to clergy and laity of all denominations and organised by the Guild of All Souls, an Anglican charity whose objects are praying and caring for the sick, dying, departed and bereaved. Visit their website [here](#).

Cost of the conference is £20, including welcome coffee/tea and a two-course lunch. To book, please email mihoward@btinternet.com.

Clergy Retreat - Led by Bishop Martin

7 - 11 October 2024

St Andrew's Abbey, Zevenkerken-Brugge, Belgium

The best kept secret in the Diocese! Since 1960 when there was a formal link with Brugge a group of hardy clergy have braved the sea and weather to travel to the Abbey to spend time with the wonderful brothers at St Andrew's Abbey. Speakers in the past have spoken on a range of subjects from World Mission, The Psalms, and more. There are approximately 15 spaces available and you can come with spouses/partners. For more details or to book please contact the Revd David H Messer on 01964 563987 | davidharrymesser93@gmail.com.

Notices

St Edmundsbury Cathedral Pews for sale: St Edmundsbury Cathedral is evolving, and part of its change is introducing chairs to the Nave. This means Cathedral pews will be offered for sale to the community and local people in February, both as they are, and as refurbished furniture and useful items. If you are interested in buying a Cathedral pew, or hearing more about their refurbishment project with Rough Stuff, please visit their [website here](#).

Annual Diocesan Confirmation Service: A reminder that you are again warmly invited to bring candidates to this year's annual Diocesan Confirmation Service led by Bishop Martin at St Edmundsbury Cathedral: 10.30am on Sunday 5 May 2024. If you plan to bring candidates on that day, please get in touch with Canon Philip Banks in good time to make arrangements: precentor@stedscathedral.org.

National Lottery Heritage Grants is open: The new National Lottery funding programme is launched including the new Heritage 2033 guidance for grants from £10,000 up to £10m. Applications have been simplified and requirements are more proportionate

to the amount of money you're applying for. Find out more [here](#).

Vacancies

[Rector](#) | The Benefice of Badwell Ash & Walsham-le-Willows | Closing date: 19 February

[Diocesan Mission Enabler](#) | Closing date: 19 February

[Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Officer](#) | Closing date: 26 February

[Welcome Assistant](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral | Closing date: 27 February

[Director of Perfect Peace | Inspiring Ipswich](#) | Closing date: 29 February

[Associate Leader of Lightwave](#) | Lightwave | Closing date: 3 March

[Diocesan Development Officer for Social Enterprise](#) | Lightwave | Closing date: 3 March

[Rector | Bacton Benefice](#) | Closing date: 4 March

[Director of Music](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral | Closing date: 5 March

[River Church Opportunities](#) | Ipswich

[New Opportunities in Ipswich](#) | Inspiring Ipswich

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