

Issue date: 16 December 2021



**Have you heard it? Classic FM Album of the week:** The choir of St Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich are featuring each day on Classic FM at 6.15pm as their Christmas CD is John Brunning's festive album of the week. The Revd Tom Mumford says *"It's such great recognition of all the youngsters' hard work and resilience through the pandemic. Most of the rehearsals begun during lockdown this year and took place online. It's an album filled with local talent"*. The album is streaming on Spotify and Apple music too.



**Experience Advent:** On Monday 29 November, Debenham church welcomed children from Sir Robert Hitcham Primary School to their 'Experience Advent'. Nearly 60 children were split into small groups and invited to listen and respond to the stories of Mary, Joseph, the angels and the shepherds. The children were also able to see the sheep they had been making at school decorating the church.

**Christmas tree festival:** Boxford Christmas tree and Festive Fayre were held in St Mary's Church and Boxford Village Hall. The Christmas market had over 25 stalls of food, art and craft on offer while the church had another 10 art and craft stalls, selling festive gifts and art. The whole event culminated in the church with a family advent carol service. Read more and see the pictures click [here](#).

**Singing in St Paul's Cathedral** Congratulations to the senior choir at St Gregory CEVCP School, Sudbury who were the first school choir ever to perform in a lunchtime Eucharist at St Paul's Cathedral in London. The choir is conducted by Mr Cogan, supported by Mrs Moroney. Mr Woodrow, Headteacher, said: *"It was a tremendous honour and privilege and a wonderful experience for the children"*. To watch the video, please click [here](#).

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**Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year from all at the**

## Diocesan office

*"2021, with all its difficulties and uncertainties, has flown by. As some of you will have experienced, we have been operating at reduced capacity in some areas and have sometimes struggled to keep up with demand. So, on behalf of my colleagues, may I thank you all, across our wider diocesan family, for the patience, kindness and support you have shown us this year. Next year, we want to improve our services to parishes and are planning some adjustments to how we work and will be in touch with more details in the new year. Until then, may I wish everyone a very happy Christmas, with my prayers and hopes for a more certain 2022."* Anna Hughes, Diocesan Secretary.

## Diocesan Office Christmas Hours

The office team will be available until Friday 24 December at 5.00pm. The office will re-open on Tuesday 4 January 2022 at 9.00am. Over the Christmas break you may leave a message or call one of the emergency numbers below:

**For safeguarding matters:** Please refer any immediate concerns for the welfare of a child or adult at risk to the Police. For advice/support please contact Thirtyone:eight using the usual helpline number—**0303 003 1111**. Thirtyone:eight is a professional safeguarding organisation which provides out of hours and leave cover for diocesan safeguarding teams across the country. A Service Level Agreement is in place which allows the exchange of information between the diocese and Thirtyone:eight. If contacting Thirtyone:eight please state that you are ringing from the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich.

**Press enquiries:** If you need media assistance or you are contacted by any representative of the press or media please provide them with the contact details for Prominent PR - 07403 401387 - who will be happy to manage their enquiry.

**Clergy property emergencies:** If you have an urgent repair/issue which cannot wait until the office re-opens, you can contact the following contractors who have agreed to provide emergency cover:

Electrical, heating (gas and oil) and plumbing: EPPH – 01473 559071

Burglary issues: Ipswich Glass and Glazing – Steve Adams on 07790 201045

Please note this cover is strictly for emergencies only. Additional information can be found in your clergy handbook. If the matter is of a serious nature and you need further assistance that cannot wait until 4 January 2022, please call Dawn Gillett, Head of Property, on 07469 149744

Please note: Edmund Harris will be starting as the new DAC Secretary on 4 January 2022. Charlotte Hodgson will continue to offer support and the contact details are [charlotte.hodgson@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:charlotte.hodgson@cofesuffolk.org)

## Events

### Longest Night Service

St Edmundsbury Cathedral

Sunday 19 December 5.00 pm

This service is a quiet one of refuge, comfort and hope for all facing a difficult Christmas. The Revd Sarah Geileskey, Cathedral Curate, reflects that, *"the traditional image of the Christmas period is of a happy time, full of love and laughter, yet the truths at the heart of the nativity story include painful challenges arising from issues of migration, homelessness, political power and the pressure of cultural norms. These truths resonate in our world today as we deal with bereavement, divorce or separation, cope with the loss of a job, face financial problems or live with a long term illness."* The service is always held on the Sunday closest to Winter Solstice, the shortest day of the year. It will be followed by five nights of prayer, livestreamed daily on the Cathedral's Facebook page at 9.00pm: a Christmas Vigil, keeping watch with and over all those for whom Christmas will be a particularly challenging time this year.



The poster features a dark blue header with the Church of England Suffolk logo and the text 'Growing Younger Sunday 30 January 2022'. Below the header is a row of colorful watercolor illustrations of diverse people: a woman in a blue hood, a person in a wheelchair, a person in a green hoodie, a person in a purple hoodie, a person jumping rope, and a person in a pink hoodie. The main text is on a light blue background.

On Sunday 30 January we are encouraging churches to recognise that young people are co-pilgrims on our journey of faith and they can teach, share and reflect in a relevant, reverent and innately spiritual way.

Join children, young people and their families as we share in the planning, leading and serving in worship on this or every Sunday.

Any enquiries? Please contact:  
hilary.wordsworth-sewell@cofesuffolk.org (Children and Families)  
or matt.levett@cofesuffolk.org (Youth and Young Adults).  
[www.cofesuffolk.org](http://www.cofesuffolk.org)

- 1 Include the Growing Younger Prayer in your worship - written by young people and commissioned by our Bishops.
- 2 Use our short YouTube video in your worship or in mailings to your communities and school.
- 3 Look out for our online resource bank of ideas and experiences - Liturgy, Music, Prayer, Talk and Listen.

**Growing younger**

### Youth Work Essentials

Diocesan Office, 4 Cutler Street, Ipswich IP1 1UQ

Starting mid January 2022 (dates and timings to be confirmed)

Matt Levett, Diocesan Youth and Young Adults Officer, says "If you are you looking to start a youth group but just need some ideas and guidance then this course is for you. In ten weeks you will have the confidence to give it a go!" This course, designed by 'YouthScape' is aimed at helping equip churches and train people starting out in youth ministry. It does not pre-suppose a great level of knowledge or existing practise. Please email [matt.levett@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:matt.levett@cofesuffolk.org) to learn more and book your place.



## 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.

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## Vacancies

[Lightwave Community Choir Director | Bungay](#) | Closing Date 31 December 2021

[Youth Project Lead](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral | Closing date 4 January 2022

[Lead Evangelist](#) | Closing date 5 January 2022

[Priest in Charge | Alde Sandlings Benefice](#) | Closing date 6 January 2022

[Rector | St Gregory's Sudbury and All Saints' Sudbury](#) | Closing date: 10 January 2022

[Chief Finance Officer](#) | Diocesan Multi-Academy-Trust | Closing date 24 January 2022

[Vicar All Saints' | Newmarket](#) | Closing date: 9 February 2022

[Interim Priest in Charge \(3 years full-time\) | Mid Loes benefice](#) | Closing date: 20 February 2022

[Rector 0.5 | St Mary Stoke, Ipswich](#)

[Team Vicar and Associate Priest | Blyth Valley Team Ministry](#)

[Trusts and Foundations Manager](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral

Organist and Director of Music | St Mary's Woodbridge & Great Bealings | Please contact [fnprior10@gmail.com](mailto:fnprior10@gmail.com) Tel. 01394 610424.

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