



**Thursday 16 February 2023**

### **Canon Rich Henderson appointed as Archdeacon of Suffolk**



A clergyman with a track record in supporting families in need and communities throughout the pandemic and cost of living crisis has been appointed to one of the most senior roles within the Church of England in Suffolk.

The Rt Revd Martin Seeley, Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, has appointed the Revd Canon Rich Henderson to be the new Archdeacon

of Suffolk. He is currently Rector of Beccles with Worlingham, North Cove and Barnby, as well as Rural Dean of Waveney and Blyth deanery, and an honorary canon at St Edmundsbury Cathedral.

Canon Henderson, who has been in the diocese for 17 years, was one of the first supporters of food banks and he is an honorary canon at St Edmundsbury Cathedral.

He said: *"I'm thrilled to be appointed and looking forward to working with the clergy, churchwardens and people across the archdeaconry. I'm passionate about enabling parishes to grow and I'm looking forward to getting to know people right across the archdeaconry. Beccles has within its DNA service to the community. Throughout the pandemic and the cost of living crisis we have done a huge amount together, including pop-up foodbank shops, uniform banks, providing food to families in the school holidays, practical help for the community we serve. I will really miss the people in the community who I served with in Beccles, they are amazing and so committed."*

To read the rest of this story, please visit [our webpage here](#).

### **Preaching Matthew, with Professor George van Kooten**

Saturday 25 February 9.30am to 12.30pm

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

Bishop Martin invites you to a follow-up of the November 2022 study morning 'Preaching on the Gospel of Matthew'. This session includes guest speaker Professor George van Kooten from the Faculty of Divinity at the University of Cambridge. Prof van Kooten will be asking who the magi were, and why they are so important for understanding the rest of Matthew's Gospel and particularly the Sermon on the Mount, and will look at what we can tell about the Christian community for whom Matthew wrote, and why his is 'the Gospel of the Church.' To book your place please visit here: [Bishops-preaching-Matthew-2023.eventbrite.co.uk](https://2023.eventbrite.co.uk). Please note the other Bishops' study morning dates in 2023 are 17 June and 25 November.

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## Lent 2023

### **Cathedral Lent Series: 'Fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of God: Challenging perceptions to empower change'**

Wednesday evenings in Lent (Wednesday 1 March to 29 March) 7.00pm - 8.00pm

On Zoom, everyone welcome

St Edmundsbury Cathedral's Lent series will host a series of speakers looking at the theme 'Fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of God: Challenging perceptions to empower change'. The interesting line-up of speakers are all people who know something about what it means to be part of the Church where misguided perception, unconscious bias or prejudice has undermined their place in the family of God. Our speakers will talk about how perceptions of sexuality, race, disability and social class have called people to question, 'Am I really welcome here?'. These will be rich, open and theological discussions about how we can challenge perceptions to empower change.

The series starts on Wednesday 1 March with **The Revd Dr Charlie Bell**, curate of St John the Divine, Kennington and author of *Queer Holiness* (May 2022). He is also an academic psychiatrist at King's College London and the Maudsley, as well as being the John Marks Fellow, College Lecturer and Director of Studies in Medicine at Girton College, Cambridge.

Everyone welcome! Join us, on Zoom, for more information and for the Zoom link please email Canon Michael Robinson - [michael.robinson@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:michael.robinson@cofesuffolk.org) You can find out more about these sessions, plus all Lent services [here](#).

### **Dust and Glory:**



This Lent we are all invited to explore how we can live well with the mess of everyday life. Dust and Glory encourages us to take a fresh look at the frustrations and failings that every day brings and, rather than pretending we can always avoid them, seek to learn from them and grow closer to God through them. There is a daily Bible reading, a short reflection and a practical challenge, as well as a prayer linked to the week's theme. Co-written by Bishop Emma Ineson and Abbie Martin, the booklet is designed to be used either in parallel with the Lent Book or independently. An accompanying children's version is also available to help children and their families explore how we can live well together, offering a simple daily activity designed to explore the weekly themes. For more information please visit [here](#).

**Bishops' Lent Appeal for Kagera:** Lent Challenge booklets are flying off the shelf. Have you ordered yours yet? One churchwarden told us that they had so much fun doing the last challenges at her own church that she's suggested it to all those in her group of churches - 150 booklets have gone to them. Another home group has ordered 25 because they enjoyed using it as a basis for discussion during Lent in previous years and want to do it again. And we are really happy that some other churches have come on board for the first time this year. Do order yours now! We also have plenty of posters and bookmarks if you'd like those as well. [Visit our website here.](#)

**Living your life with God:** starting 28 February, 7.00pm - 8.30pm by Zoom. Brother Lawrence wrote about how he lived his Christian life in the 1600s and his very slim work "Practicing the Presence of God" has been massively popular ever since. Through Lent, Bishop Mike (and an occasional guest!) will be offering five Zoom sessions looking at how his insights can be applied in everyday life, with plenty of room for discussion on the way. For more details and to book your place [please click here](#)

**Journeys - Lent course offered by The Clewer Initiative:** The Clewer Initiative has produced a new resource 'Journeys' based on the 'Stations of the Cross'. Through five mini-films and an accompanying devotional resource, it will take churches and individuals on a journey, challenging them to take action against modern slavery and not be a bystander. It can be used in in-person small groups, individual study or online. Sign up [here](#).

**The Archbishops' Big Church Read for Lent 2023:** 'Failure' by The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby: [click here](#) to find out more and 'Godforsaken' by Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell [click here](#) to find out more.

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## Plans for Growth – The Revd Phil Dykes

The Plan for Growth process is simple and straightforward but will transform the mission and ministry of your benefice as you put it in place. Once we know where God is leading you, we will be able to support you as you go forward. If your benefice has already finished yours – please share your plan with us [here](#). If you would like my support to develop your own Plans for Growth, I am here to help – do email our Mission Project Officer [helen.prior-townsend@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:helen.prior-townsend@cofesuffolk.org) to arrange a chat or have a look at the resources available to help you on our website here:

[Growing in God](#) | [Plan for Growth - Incumbent and PCC resources](#) | [Growing in God - Parish resources](#)

## Events

### Engaging All Ages in Worship workshop and service

19 February 2.00pm - 4.00pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS



Join this workshop with Sara and Sam Hargreaves and explore how you can include a range of ages, spiritual styles, learning modes and all the senses in gathered worship. Followed by an hour worship service at 4.30pm, ideal for families, putting into practice ideas from the workshop. Tickets cost £10 - CMD grants are applicable to those who are eligible. Find out

more: <https://stedscathedral.org/events/engaging-all-ages-in-worship>

### **Promises and Prophecies: Mary in Art**

Saturday 25 February, 10.30am (start coffee/tea for talk at 11.00am.

Museum Street Methodist Church, Ipswich IP1 2EF (Entry via Black Horse Lane).

Join this workshop for an illustrated exploration of Our Lady in the visual arts by Fleur Dorrell. This is a free event but there is an opportunity to donate.

### **Safeguarding Volunteer Training**

28 February 7.30-8.30pm and 15 March 3.30-4.30pm, Zoom

As momentum and meeting National Church guidelines for delivering Safeguarding Training across the Diocese continues apace, we are looking to grow our excellent Core Group of Volunteers Trainers to work alongside our two Diocesan Safeguarding Trainers, Lisa Hicks and Mark Bee. As a volunteer trainer we would be asking you to deliver training locally on a one-to-one basis or in small groups. If you are interested in finding out more about being a Volunteer Trainer, Lisa and Mark are hosting two separate information sessions via Zoom, outlining how a Volunteer Safeguarding Trainer can support the drive towards promoting a Safer Church for all. To book your place, [please click here](#).

### **Thanksgiving Service for East Anglian Writer Ronald Blythe**

1 March 2.00pm - 3.00pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Following his death on 14 January, St Edmundsbury Cathedral will hold a Thanksgiving Service for the life of East Anglian writer Ronald Blythe on Wednesday 1 March at 2.00 pm. Bishop Martin will lead the service which is open to the public and will feature a eulogy by Julia Blackburn, Suffolk author and friend of Ronald Blyth. The service will also include music by Benjamin Britten, Suffolk composer and a close friend of Blythe. For those unable to attend in person, the service will be livestreamed at: [facebook.com/stedscathedral](https://facebook.com/stedscathedral).

### **Cost of Living support with Citizens Advice**

Wednesday 1 March 3.00pm, repeated at 7.30pm

By Zoom

Join Gavin Bultitude, Diocesan Secretary and key speakers from the CA to look at the advice and support offered. Support includes assistance with food, heating, debt and more. There will be an opportunity for Q&As. To book please visit Eventbrite [here](#).

### **Sunday Afternoon Concerts at St Andrew's Church, Rushmere**

Sunday 5 March, 3.00pm  
St Andrew's Church, Rushmere IP5 1DH

The spring programme of weekly Sunday afternoon concerts at St Andrew's begins on 5 March. The concerts present a high quality of performance and a wide range of musical styles - solo guitar, big band, wind quintet, organ recital and concert band. There is no charge for admission and everyone is welcome to attend. Refreshments are provided and we invite voluntary contributions after each event in support of the local Air Ambulance Service. For more information, [please click here](#).

### **Ishmael's Praise Party Concert**

Saturday 11 March, 2.00pm  
Christ Church Moreton Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP32 7EW

Come along and celebrate God with this high energy concert, packed with praise, singing and participation, especially tailored for young people and young families. While it is free to all who attend, there will be an offering to support Ishmael's ministry. No booking required. If you would like more information please email the [Revd Jonathan Ford](#).

### **Praxis East - Treasures Old and New**

Thursday 16 March, 7.00 – 9.00 pm, Zoom

Come and explore the tensions between traditional and contemporary expressions of worship. This is another opportunity for liturgy and worship practitioners across the eastern dioceses to come together. Using a peer-led discussion on Zoom, clergy and lay ministers can share experience, ideas and expertise. To book your place please email Helen: [helenbent99@gmail.com](mailto:helenbent99@gmail.com).

### **Finding my way - an Essex ministry**

Wednesday 12 April, 6.00pm-7.30pm  
University of Suffolk, Waterfront Building IP4 1QJ

Ivor Moody, the Vice-Dean of Chelmsford cathedral will be speaking about responding creatively to the challenges of our contemporary world and changing British society, drawing on his past experiences and his present role as Vice Dean and Canon Pastor of Chelmsford Cathedral since 2010. Ivor is Chaplain to Essex County Council, Chair of the Mid-Essex Inter Faith Forum and also Chair of Essex Mind and Spirit, a community voluntary organisation which seeks to promote positive relationships between faith and spirituality and mental health issues. [To book, please click here](#).

### **Candlelit Vigil for Ukraine**

Monday 24 April, 5.30pm  
St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Come along to a special service to hold those in the Ukraine in our thoughts and prayers. The service will feature prayer, moments of reflection and some elements of sung Ukrainian Liturgy. Bishop Martin will lead the vigil with Ukrainian Priest Father Bohdan Chyborak and the Cathedral choir.

**Women Clergy - meeting reminder**

Saturday 29 April, 9.30am - 12.30pm

Salvation Army Hall, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

A reminder for women clergy in the diocese - a gathering featuring guest speaker the Revd Dr Julie Gittoes talking on 'Her bleeding stopped: the embodied borderland of the menopause'. This will be followed by Q and A and discussion. Any questions please email the Revd Ali Miller: on [teamvicarlvnb@btinternet.com](mailto:teamvicarlvnb@btinternet.com) or [DAWM@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:DAWM@cofesuffolk.org)

**Vocations Fair 2023**

Saturday 29 April, 10.00am - 1.00pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Come and visit the many stalls representing our ministries for an informal chat to find the right ministry for you: Chaplaincy, Children's and Families, Church Army, Elders, Pioneers, Evangelists, Lightwave Leaders, Mother's Union, Ordained Ministers, PCC Officers, Readers, Recognised Local Leaders, School Foundation Governors, Spiritual Directors and Youth Ministers. For more information please contact the [Revd Stuart Batten](#).

**Financial Planning During Ministry for Retirement and Beyond**

Wednesday 10 May, 9.30am, Zoom

The aim of this seminar is to help clergy (and their partners) demystify financial matters, and to help you plan for your financial future no matter how far you may be from retirement. Key speakers include those from the Church of England Pensions Board, clergy pension and housing teams; plus independent financial advisers from Ecclesiastical Financial Advisory Services. They will address personal financial planning issues and questions that in their experience face most clergy. To book your place, please email [Lesley-Anne.Marriott@peterborough-diocese.org.uk](mailto:Lesley-Anne.Marriott@peterborough-diocese.org.uk)

**Clergy retreat in Brugge - Belgium**

9-13 October 2023

St Andrews 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. The Revd David Messer has had the privilege of organising the Retreat for about 15 years. A range of speakers talk on a range of subjects from World Mission, The Psalms, Henri Nouwen, not forgetting Canon Matthew Vernon using a Japanese Tea Making Ceremony and its use of meditation. Cost for accommodation and food is 185 euros. For more information or to book, please contact the Revd David H Messer on [davidharrymesser93@gmail.com](mailto:davidharrymesser93@gmail.com)

**Notices**



**Save the Date!**

Bishop Martin and Bishop Mike invite you to the Farewell and Thanksgiving Service for the ministry of Archdeacon Jeanette as she retires from the Archdeaconry of Suffolk. The service will take place on Sunday 23 April at Framlingham Parish Church, Church Street, Framlingham, IP13 9BH. It will start at 3:00pm and will be followed by light refreshments. Everyone is welcome.

**Statistics for Mission:** Thank you to all parishes who have already submitted their Statistics for Mission forms. **The national church deadline has been extended to 31 March 2023.** Returns are to be submitted on the [Online Parish Returns System](#), if you require login details or any other assistance regarding the online portal please contact Alison Barker by [email](#). Further information is available on our website [here](#).

**Vacancies**

[Head of Operations | River Church](#) | Closing date: 19 February

[Growing Younger Project Support](#) | Closing date: 19 February

[Communications and Media Manager | River Church](#) | Closing date: 19 February

[Assistant to DAC Staff \(Part-time 21 hours a week\)](#) | Closing date: 20 February

[Rector | Rougham, Beyton with Hessett and Rushbrooke](#) | Closing date: 21 February

[Priest in Charge 0.5 | Exning St Martin's with Landwade, Exning St Agnes](#) | Closing date: 28 February

[Church Planting Curates - Three opportunities across Ipswich](#) | Closing date: 28 February

[Priest in Charge | Alde River Benefice](#) | Closing date: 28 February

[Rector | Claydon and Barham, Great Blakenham and Henley](#) | Closing date: 28 February

[Giving Advisor, Parish Resources Team \(Grants\)](#) | Closing date: 7 March

[Vicars Choral | St Edmundsbury Cathedral](#) | Closing date: 10 March

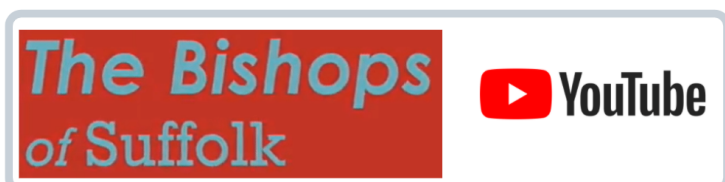
[Priest in Charge | Benefice of Elmsett with Aldham, Hintlesham, Chattisham and Kersey](#) | Closing date: 24 March

[House for Duty Priest in Charge | The Wrentham Benefice](#) | Closing date: 4 April

**Suffolk Clergy Charity - Hon. Secretary Post**

The Suffolk Clergy Charity is a small charity in the diocese which exists to support retired clergy and clergy widows and widowers. It is chaired by the Archdeacon of Suffolk, meets four times a year and currently needs someone to help put the agenda together with the Archdeacon and the Revd Dr Simon Hill, Bishop's Retirement Officer, and to take the Minutes. Any travel expenses will be paid. For more information on the charity, [please download this leaflet](#). Would you be able to help us? If so, please contact Archdeacon Jeanette: [archdeacon.jeanette@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:archdeacon.jeanette@cofesuffolk.org) | 07710 479497

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