



Thursday 17 November

Diocesan Secretary, Gavin Bultitude Diary

Two weeks ago, I went to St Mary Le Tower in Ipswich for Evensong to celebrate All Souls' Day. It felt the right time, at the turn of year and with darkness falling, to quietly remember the dead, those that we have known and loved and those that we didn't know.

It was a moving experience to sit in that beautiful building and hear the choir sing Faure's Requiem, one of my all-time favourite pieces of music, and they sang it so well. Then to take communion, and hear the names of the departed, each name being a reminder of their life and their passing to someone in the congregation.

Maybe it was the music, it was a piece he loved too, or the church setting, but it really made me think of my departed father who died eight years ago. He described his own faith as a "quiet Anglican", it was deep and deeply rooted in the traditions of the church, but he could never be considered as an evangelical, or even someone who was confident in talking about his faith outside the confines of the church itself. So, I lit a candle for him and spent a few moments remembering.

It's difficult to think about our own mortality, and also difficult to write about it, but services like this make us do it. In remembering the dead, we cannot help but remember that we ourselves are mortal, and one day our time will come. We know that in Christ we have eternal life, but it's still an uncomfortable thought.

Today in this eNews we talk about funerals and leaving a gift to your church in your will. Both of which can help us prepare ourselves, knowing that both the funeral and the legacy can be way of making sure our passing is marked properly and there is something to remember us by.

Thinking of my father again, there is a bench in his memory at his parish church in his small village in Kent, where he worshiped for many years, chaired the PCC, and where his funeral took place. It's a place I go, when I visit to remember him and find peace.

Supporting people through bereavement

Funerals are an opportunity to say a last farewell to a loved one while celebrating everything that made them so special. It is a chance for families to get together and remember, for friends to share memories and to grieve.

The Church of England in Suffolk has conducted services for hundreds of years, giving families the opportunity to reflect and to get some closure. Learn more in this article led by Mary Sokanovic, priest in charge of Whitton and Thurleston with Akenham, Click [here](#).

Gifts in wills are important to your church's future

Generosity is a key part of Christian discipleship and for many of us, leaving a gift in a will is a life-affirming opportunity to ensure our values live on in our church and community. We have prepared a pack of resources to help parishes benefit from the lasting love of their congregations and supporters. Please visit our website for all the resource materials [here](#).

"When we leave a gift to a church in our will, we are saying thank you for all the church has been in our life, and supporting them into the future. I invite you to join me in making the church a beneficiary of your will, as an act of thanksgiving and of hope." Bishop Martin

Sleepover at Fressingfield Church

The Revd Susan Loxton and nine people from Susan Whymark Funeral Directors will be spending Saturday night sleeping in St Peter and St Paul church in Fressingfield. This is the second time they have slept rough in church. They want to raise awareness of the problem of homelessness and are fundraising for Centre Point, a national homeless charity that aims to give homeless young people a future. Susan says *"By creating the real experience of sleeping rough in cold weather we can really feel what it must be like to be living like this. We are taking cardboard boxes and I will be sleeping in my coat! I feel it is important to look beyond ourselves, it is tough for some people in Suffolk, yet homelessness is a national cause that impacts so many"*. To donate, please visit: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sleepoutforcentrepoint

On the same night, Fressingfield Church is partnering with the local Baptist church to host a quiz night in support of Tearfund, a Christian charity tackling extreme poverty and injustice around the world.

This week is Inter Faith Week

This week the diocesan social media accounts have been hosting profiles of people of different faiths in Suffolk, introducing you to members of different local faiths in our communities. We hope that this small initiative will act as a catalyst for the building of relationships between the Church of England and other faith communities locally. To view all the posts from this week please visit our website [here](#).

Grants awarded to Suffolk churches ...and there is still time to apply for a Queen's Jubilee grant

Suffolk Historic Churches Trust has awarded grants to St Mary's, Stonham Aspal; St Mary's, Stoke by Nayland; St Margaret's, Westhorpe; St John's, Ilketshall; St John, St Peters; Fakenham Magna; All Saints, Gt Ashfield, and St Peter's, Copdock.

If you would like to apply for a grant, the details of the Trust, and how to apply for a grant

are on their website www.shct.org.uk

They are also offering a special Queen's Jubilee memorial fund, where churches and chapels can apply for grants of up to £5,000. The closing date for applications is 31 December 2022. Further information and a grant application form can be found on the Trust's website [here](#).

Notice of the preparation of a draft instrument to replace the Cathedral's Constitution and Statutes

On Friday 18 November, St Edmundsbury Cathedral will begin the process of consultation with the public and Cathedral community regarding replacing the Cathedral's Constitution and Statutes to align with the new Cathedral Measure 2021. This period of consultation will conclude on Saturday 17 December 2022. The Measure introduces significant reforms to the governance of cathedrals. Key features of the new Measure are:

- A simplified governance structure
- Registered charity status
- Modernised constitutional arrangements

To prepare for the Measure, St Edmundsbury Cathedral has prepared a draft Constitution and draft Statutes. The Constitution will be the new governing document of the Cathedral, and the Statutes set out further detail on how the Cathedral is to operate. We now offer these drafts for public consultation. You can download the draft documents from www.stedscathedral.org/consultation. Paper copies may also be collected from the Cathedral office. To minimise paper and cost, we encourage you to view the documents online if you can.

Please send any comments on the draft to Sarah-Jane Allison, Chief Operating Officer, by email sarah-janeallison@stedscathedral.org or by post to Cathedral Office, Angel Hill, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS.

Events

Tree to mark 1000 years of the Abbey

Saturday 19 November 2.30pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, in the Garden of Remembrance

Bishop Martin will plant a special tree at St Edmundsbury Cathedral to celebrate St Edmund's Day and 1000 years of the Abbey of St Edmund.

The Holm Oak tree was grown by Bishop Martin, along with many other trees, as part of The Queen's Green Canopy national initiative. The overall aim of The Queen's Green Canopy is to create a network of individual trees, copses and whole woodlands in honour of The Queen's service and her legacy, with benefits for people, wildlife and climate both now and for the future.

Seeing Salvation: Art and the Spirituality of Ministry

Saturday 19 November 2022 9.30am - 3.30pm

Salvation Army Hall, 3 Violet Hill Road, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

St Ignatius of Loyola recommended 'praying with the senses' as a way of going deeper into scripture and into encounter with the living God. With the help of artists Sieger Köder and Stephen Foster, Gemma Simmonds reflects on praying with images and on the spirituality of ministry in an image-conscious age. Open to all Readers, LLMs, Elders and Lay Ministers in training. Although this event is free, [please register here](#) so that we can make provision for refreshments.

Come and Sing

Saturday 19 November

St John's, Cauldwell Hall Road, Ipswich IP4 4QE

Cantus Firmus Choir are holding a Come and Sing day from 10.00am to 4.00pm, led by Richard Hubbard, St Edmundsbury & Ipswich Music Development Director. The day is open to all singers and will explore extracts from two contrasting choral works: Haydn's popular oratorio *The Creation*, with its effervescent and energetic choruses, and Andrew Carter's imaginative *Benedicite*, written in 2001, which combines imaginative settings of the traditional text from the Book of Common Prayer with creative new additions in a variety of styles. Advance booking is essential. Full details can be found [here](#).

PCC webinars:

<p>Wednesday 23 November, 7.30pm</p> <p>Book here</p>	<p>The Venerable Dr David Jenkins.</p>	<p>Focusing on alternative uses for churches in addition to regular worship.</p>
<p>Wednesday 30 November, 7.30pm</p> <p>Book here</p>	<p>Edmund Harris, DAC Secretary.</p>	<p>Presentation on faculties, the DAC and church buildings in general.</p>

Cathedral Candlelit Advent Procession

Sunday 27 November, 5.00pm - 5.45pm



Parishes, benefices and deaneries are, as every year, warmly invited to the Cathedral for the annual *Darkness to Light* Candlelit Advent Procession. The service uses readings, music, prayers and congregational carols, moving around the liturgical space of the cathedral, to mark the start of the season of expectation and preparation for the *adventus* of Christ in his incarnation and to his final advent at the end of time.

It is helpful, for service preparation, if you can let us know if you are planning to attend or to bring a group - just drop an email to: liturgy.admin@stedscathedral.org

Advent Service with a difference - All Age Advent Service

Sunday 4 Dec 2022 9.30am

St Michael's Framlingham IP13 9BJ



Join the Revd Chris Davey as he explores Advent through the eyes of a Time Lord. With a Tardis in the church you are invited to come along - and costumes are being encouraged! The children's choir will also be singing the new Ed Sheeran song Celestial.

The Bury Bible Up Close

Saturday 3 December, 10.30am - 12.00pm, Zoom

St Edmundsbury Cathedral have partnered with the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge to host a virtual seminar focusing on the Bury Bible. The seminar will feature Edward Cheese, Suzanne Reynolds, and Paola Ricciardi as key speakers. To book a place, [please click here](#).

Christmas with the St Edmundsbury Cathedral Choir

Saturday 10 December 2022, 7.00pm - 9.00pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Join St Edmundsbury Cathedral Choir in a special festive evening of much-loved carols, hymns and songs for Christmas! The boy and girl Choristers, together with the adult singers of the choir, will be performing a range of wonderful music for the season, together with plenty of opportunity for you to join in. To purchase tickets [please click here](#).

Youth Work Essentials Training Course

Tuesdays January 10, 17, 24, and 31, February 7, 21, and 28, March 7, 14, 21, 7.30pm - 9.15pm

Earl Stonham Village Hall, Forward Green IP14 5HJ

Course cost: £20 pp - CMD grants are available for licensed and commissioned ministers. Apply to lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org.

Youth Work Essentials is an innovative new course for volunteer youth leaders that increases your skills and confidence about work alongside young people. It's great for churches looking to start youth work or for those 'already volunteers' looking to gain some more skills and confidence. We can even tailor sessions to suit you and your needs! Please contact Matt on matt.levett@cofesuffolk.org to find out further details. To book, [please click here](#).

Enhancing Pastoral Ministry - Refreshed!

Wednesdays 11 and 25 January, 1 and 8 February, and 1 and 15 March 2023, 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Earl Stonham Village Hall, Forward Green IP14 5HJ

A six-session course for people who are involved in pastoral care (for example, Readers, Lay Elders, clergy, pastoral visitors) as well as those interested in a deeper understanding

of this ministry. Cost is £25 for the whole course, but free to those who undertake this as initial training as an Elder or part of the Auxiliary Ordination Pathway. CMD grants are available to LLMs and clergy, please contact Lesley Steed at lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org. To book your place on this course, please [click here](#).

Faith and Science in the Local Church – A Workshop for Christian Leaders

13 - 14 January 2023

Cambridge or Online

How can we reconcile Genesis and evolution? What does it mean to be human in an age of AI? Does science remove the possibility of miracles? How do non-Christians think about science and faith questions? What does God think of IVF? How do we interpret the fall if the earth is billions of years old?

Explore these questions and many others. Open to all church leaders – no scientific background required. Further information and to book please click [here](#).

Living your life with God

Starting 28 February 2023, 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Zoom Lent course

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. To book your place [please click here](#).

Preaching Matthew, with Professor George van Kooten

Saturday 25 February 9.30am to 12.30pm

Salvation Army Stowmarket, Violet Hill Road IP14 1NE

Bishop Mike 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. To book your place please visit here: <https://Bishops-preaching-Matthew-2023.eventbrite.co.uk>. Please note the other Bishop's teaching morning dates in 2023 are 17 June and 25 November.

BIG Weekend

Friday 14 April 2023, 6.00pm – Sunday 16 April 4.00pm

Sizewell Hall, Sizewell, Leiston IP16

Matt Levett, Diocesan Youth & Young Adults Officer, invites you to the BIG Weekend. Organised by a team of experienced youth workers it offers young people the opportunity to come together and make new friends. Ask members of your youth group if they would like to come along. The age range is from school years 7-13. Whilst it is Christian in ethos and focus you don't have to call yourself a Christian to be able to attend and have fun! To find out more and to sign up [please click here](#).

Notices

Update re the potential sale of the Diocesan office: You may be aware that we are currently advertising the office space, church, and café in Cutler Street for sale. We have noticed a change of use in our office space since the Covid-19 pandemic as we have moved towards a 'hybrid' pattern of working. We are therefore, like many other organisations, exploring the opportunities and potential of selling the office site to move to more cost-efficient office accommodation, In doing this we are seeking to use our resources effectively and are always mindful of the need to prioritise spend on front line ministry. The church is not an active church and has not been used regularly as a place of worship for some time, and the café closed over five years ago.

PGS Website Maintenance Advance Notice: Please note that on Tuesday 22 November essential maintenance on the PGS website will be carried out to make preparations for introducing a new One-Off Giving service. Apologies for the inconvenience.

Help available from Citizens Advice Bureau: There will be times when people come to your church for help with problems that you don't have the knowledge or experience to deal with. A good first point of call is Citizens Advice. They give free, confidential advice to everyone, and because they are quality assured you can count on that advice. Citizens Advice work closely with other services in their local areas, including food banks, other charities and statutory services. If they can't help someone themselves then they will be able refer people to another organisation that can.

There is a local Citizens Advice in every district in Suffolk. You can find contact details and the address for your local service at on the [Citizens Advice website](#). Look out for a webinar coming soon when you will be able to get to know them and hear more about what they offer.

Vacancies

[Nominations Committee Member](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral

[Cook/Chef](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral

[Rector and Rural Dean](#) | Claydon and Barham, Great Blakenham and Henley | Closing date 5 December

[Priest in Charge](#) | Alde River Benefice | Closing date: 12 December

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