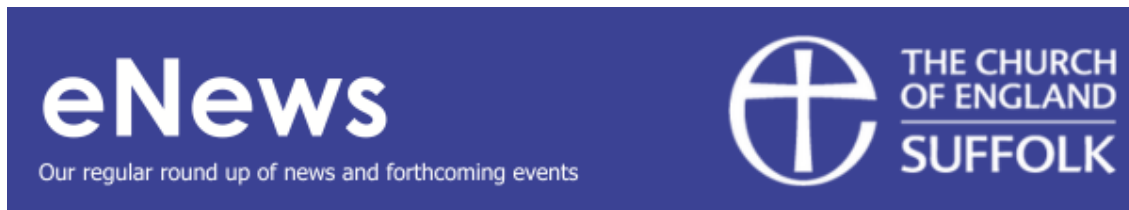


Thursday 18 April 2024



The Abbey of St Edmund Project Awarded £730k Grant



St Edmundsbury Cathedral, along with partners West Suffolk Council and English Heritage, has received initial support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for *The Abbey of St Edmund: A Millennium of History in West Suffolk*. The project aims to strengthen the connectivity between the Abbey ruins, the Cathedral and the town by conserving and protecting the ruins; building a visitor centre and a west cloister; developing a network of footpaths; and using digital technology to provide exciting interpretation for all ages and interests.

There will be a huge range of learning and volunteering activities built around events, programmes and exhibitions. The project will link up with other heritage attractions nearby and further afield, giving communities and visitors more opportunities to access the rich heritage of town and county. To read more on this story, please visit our [website here](#).

Last Call for Kneelers

To all those who have not yet contacted the Cathedral about their parish kneeler – on Sunday 5 May at 3.30pm there is a Celebration and Thanksgiving for the Ministry of Churchwardens' service at St Edmundsbury Cathedral. We would love to reunite you with your kneeler after this service, if this is of interest. This is our last call for kneelers. Following this date, we will begin to assign kneelers to churches who have made a request for additional hassocks. If you would like to collect your kneeler on 5 May, or organise collection at an alternative time, please email visits@stedscathedral.org.

Work out your church's carbon footprint to help care for God's creation!



The Church of England's Energy Footprint Tool is now open for churches to enter fuel and power use from 2023. You can access the tool through the Parish Returns portal [here](#). The data collected from the tool will help your church understand its carbon footprint and will mean you may be eligible for grants to help kickstart your net zero projects.

If you need any help with the tool, please contact our Net Zero Carbon Officer at james.rolls@cofesuffolk.org who will be happy to assist you. This work is an essential part of caring for God's Creation, by helping to combat global heating and climate change. Find out more about the tool [here](#).

Growth Fund opportunities

The Growing in God Growth fund can provide money to help your church engage creatively in sharing faith in word and deed, and as a result grow the church younger and in number. The exciting thing is that you can apply for up to £1,500 in a year to support an outward-facing initiative to develop your church's mission to the wider community. Applying is easy and the application form can be completed in moments. All the information, eligibility and the application form are on our website [here](#).

Last year, St Peter and St Paul Church in Lavenham benefitted from £500 towards their summer holiday club. A gallant team of volunteers led the Scripture Union Ancorra Treasure Seekers Holiday Club for local children, taking place from 10.00am until 1.30pm each day. A group of 23 primary school-aged children were in attendance and each day consisted of a bible story, crafts, songs, parachute games, ball games, a relay race bucket and water games in the park, and finally lunch was served to all the children before they left. Find out more [here](#).

Thy Kingdom Come



Thy Kingdom Come is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. You can get involved in Thy Kingdom Come through The Big Suffolk Prayer Walk (10 – 12 May 2024), which is an ecumenical initiative lead by Suffolk in Prayer and Ipswich in Prayer. We are aiming for 48 hours of continuous prayer through our online Big Suffolk Prayer weekend prayer room and lots of prayer walking/cycling/ praying for God's blessing and for people in the area come to know Jesus in their lives. To find out more,

please go to <https://bit.ly/TBSPW>

Thy Kingdom Come in Suffolk culminates on Pentecost Sunday with a fabulous afternoon of worship and prayer at the Cathedral, celebrating all that God is doing in mission in our beautiful county. The Catching the Fire service starts at 3.45pm and incorporates a rich variety of worship styles from many traditions. There will be activities for all ages and the event will be followed by pizza and prayer for youth with a live link for teens across the UK to say the Lord's Prayer together. Find out more here: <https://bit.ly/CTF-24>

Please email archdeacon.sally@cofesuffolk.org if you would like to find out more about how children and young adults can get involved and have a role to play in Catching the Fire.

Events

'Leading your Church into Growth' (LyCiG for short) is coming to Suffolk!

Friday 5 July 2024, 6.00pm to 9.30pm | Saturday 6 July 2024, 8.30am to 2.00pm

Sunday 7 July 2024, 2.15pm to 5.45pm

Debenham Community Centre IP4 6BL



The poster for 'Leading your Church into Growth' (LyCiG) features the Church of England Suffolk logo at the top right. A central banner reads 'SAVE THE DATES'. Below this, the dates and times are listed: Friday 5 July 2024 (6.00pm to 9.30pm), Saturday 6 July 2024 (8.30am to 2.00pm), and Sunday 7 July 2024 (2.15pm to 5.45pm). The location is Debenham Community Centre IP4 6BL. A quote from the LyCiG team states: 'We are excited to let you know 'Leading your Church into Growth' (LyCiG for short) is coming to Suffolk! LyCiG has been blessing the wider Church for over 25 years and we know from many other dioceses that participating can make a real difference to local churches. We, your Archdeacons and the LyCiG team look forward to seeing you there!'. The names 'Martin + Mike' are written in a stylized font. At the bottom, there is a colorful illustration of a diverse group of people.

We are excited to let you know about an opportunity coming up this summer. 'Leading your Church into Growth' (LyCiG for short) is coming to Suffolk! A free conference offering practical help to partner with God to grow your church(es), to inspire church leaders and encourage you to feel that, in your own way, at your own pace, and with God's help you can do it! LyCiG will equip you with a straightforward and workable strategy to enable you to create (or finesse) and implement a

Growing in God plan for growth.

More information has been sent directly to your Incumbent and Churchwarden. Further information is available here: <https://lycig-2024.eventbrite.co.uk> or email lycig@cofesuffolk.org

Celebration and Thanksgiving for the Ministry of Churchwardens

Sunday 5 May, 3.30pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS



A service of celebration and thanksgiving for the ministry of churchwardens. Bishop Martin writes;

"I am delighted we are able to hold a service of celebration and thanksgiving for churchwardens, recognising the vital role they play in the life and ministry of the Church throughout the Diocese. I am conscious that so much of the work undertaken by churchwardens often goes on behind the scenes so this will be a wonderful opportunity to express our gratitude on behalf of the people and parishes of Suffolk. I really hope everyone will be able to join us at the

Cathedral." Further information will be sent to churchwardens and clergy in due course.

Vocations Sunday | Vocations Fair

Sunday 21 April, 1.30 – 3.00pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

We believe all are called to serve God according to their given gifts, talents and context. Every Christian has a vocation, and it is the task of all those serving in ministry to help identify and nurture the gifts and callings of every member of the Church. Vocations Sunday is a wonderful time to encourage individuals to consider what God might be calling them to. There is a bank of resources available [here](#), or come along to our Vocations Fair and visit the many stalls representing our ministries for an informal chat to find the

right ministry for you: Chaplaincy, Children and Families, Church Army, Elders, Pioneers, Evangelists, Lightwave Leaders, Mothers' Union, ordained ministers, PCC Officers, Readers, Recognised Local Leaders, School Foundation Governors, Spiritual Directors and Youth Ministers are all included!

Virtute et Valor - The Bohemian Choir

Monday 22 April, 7.00pm

St Mary's Church, Halesworth IP19 8LL

Come along to a concert celebrating stories and music from the ancient kings of Bohemia. Prepared by Jana Konvalinková and Christopher Muffett. Jana writes: *"Dear friends and supporters in England, We look forward to seeing you at Halesworth Church. It seems very interesting to us and we were surprised by how strong and dramatic the stories we found. We never thought we would be treated to such powerful, such bold stories. Stories of bravery and patriotism that do not stop in the face of persecution, humiliate and still defend the Czech land. We are working diligently on the entire programme, and we believe that our programme will interest you and touch your hearts."*

Bishops' Teaching Morning: Priesthood in the Church of England

Saturday 27 April, 9.30am - 12.30pm

Salvation Army Hall, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

Bishop Martin and Bishop Mike will be joined by the Very Revd Mandy Ford, Dean of Bristol Cathedral, as they discuss the history and understanding of the church over the past 30 years and how women and men can flourish. This morning will also celebrate and reflect on 30 years of women in priesthood in our own diocese and the CofE more widely. For more information and to book, please [click here](#).

Digital Giving

Tuesday 30 April 1.00pm: online



Join the Parish Resources Team as they share why digital giving is so important for all churches to enable your generous congregation and wider community to give easily to your church. They will show you how to set up online giving campaigns using 'Give A Little' and 'Sum Up' or 'Stripe' (payment providers) and how to share the online link and QR codes on your A Church Near You Page and/or your website as well as using it on pew sheets, posters and in parish magazines. They will also

show you some donation device options for those churches with WiFi, churches that have good mobile SIM coverage inside their church, and for those who need an off-line device, including different pricing options. There will be time to ask questions and to see the Collectin devices that we can lend out to you on trial. Sign up [here](#)

Doctrine

Tuesdays starting 30 April 2024, 7.00pm to 9.00pm

Bishop's House, 4 Park Road, Ipswich IP1 3ST

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](#).

Music for a Cathedral Year: Choral Concert

Thursday 2 May, 6.30pm

St Mary Magdalene Church, Bildeston IP7 7EE

Join the St Edmundsbury Cathedral Girl Choristers and Adult Choir for an evening of uplifting music celebrating the Cathedral Year. This will be a memorable event, with music from the Tudor period up to the present day, including special arrangements by the Cathedral Director of Music, Timothy Parsons. Followed by canapés and champagne prepared by The Bildeston Crown, sponsored by Mauldons Brewery. Book [here](#).

Now I See: Exploring Prayer and creativity

Saturday 4 May, 9.30am - 12.30pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

How do we broaden our vision to find deeper awareness and richer prayer? Join us for workshops on icons, photography and art with contributors: Sr Annette Lawrence, the Revd Wendy Gourlay, Canon John Parr, Canon Andrew Vessey and Bishop John Roundhill. For more information and to book, please [click here](#).

Hope for Creation: Community Concert

Saturday 4 May 7.00pm

St Andrew's Church, Rushmere, Ipswich IP5 1DH

In conjunction with Richard Hubbard and the SATB choir, St Andrew's youth team offer a lively presentation of musical items, dramatic interludes and readings on the theme of creation. Expect some audience participation. No charge and no need to book, just come and enjoy. For more information, please [click here](#)

Introduction to Online Giving

Friday 8 May, 3.00pm – 4.00pm

Take the first steps in setting up online giving for your church, including QR codes, web campaigns, accessing reports, and gift aid data. This webinar is helpful for newcomers to online giving, and also provides an opportunity for others to ask questions and think about how to optimise their online giving. Please [book here](#).

T h a n k f u l ! : a service of remembrance and celebration

Sunday 12 May, 3.30pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

A special service of remembrance for all who have received care from St Nicholas Hospice during the past 40 years. It is also an opportunity to celebrate those who have made this possible and a unique time to thank everyone involved in building their legacy. Everyone is welcome to attend - if you would like to join us, you must reserve your seat(s) by 26 April. The easiest way to do this is via a form on our website which can be [found here](#). Alternatively, you can contact Supporter Care on 01284 715566.



Run with Joy: Benedictine Wisdom for Contemporary Living

Starting May 14, Tuesdays at 5.00pm by Zoom

We have limited spaces available on our new experiential and participatory group Zoom sessions. Run with Joy: Benedictine Wisdom for Contemporary Living will be led by The Revd Catherine Forsdike and The Revd Canon Matthew Vernon on Tuesdays at 5.00pm for 90 mins on

14, 21, 28 May and 4, 18, 25 June. If you'd like to join the six-week course, please [book here](#).

Deanery Drop in Sessions

Tuesday 23 April – Thomas Clarkson Centre, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3JT

Wednesday 15 May - St Augustine's Community Hub, Ipswich IP3 8TH

And others!



We are offering you support to help you achieve your Plan for Growth. The [drop-in sessions](#) are located 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 all: 3.00pm - 5.00pm: book [here](#) or 6.00pm - 8.00pm: book [here](#).

PCC Workshop – Gifts in Wills

15 May, 12.00pm online

Emma Denton (Diocesan Giving Advisor) will be joined by Helen Simpkins (Head of Fundraising, Church of England) to help you learn how to set up a Gifts in Wills policy and promote Gifts in Wills in your parish. They will share new resources, explain access to free online wills through Farewill and help you to start the conversation around Gifts in Wills in your parish. This is supported by the Parish Resources Team. Please book [here](#).

Sacred Goddess: Concert of English Choral Music

Saturday 18 May, 7.30pm

Holy Trinity Church, Long Melford CO10 9DT

Excalibur Voices, under the direction of Duncan Aspden, will perform classical choral music, alternating songs of religious allegory with songs of deities and mythical figures, by some of the finest English composers of their time. Music by Vaughan Williams, Elgar, Howells, Holst, Stanford and more. Tickets £15, £10 or £8 and are free for under-18s, available at bit.ly/ExV-May24

Catching the Fire

Sunday 19 May, 3.15pm to 5.30pm
St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Catching the Fire is an annual county-wide celebration of God's mission in Suffolk facilitated by the Lightwave Community. It is part of the annual season of prayer 'Thy Kingdom Come' and the Great Suffolk Prayer Walk. It enables prayer and gives encouragement and commissioning for mission across the county. Join us for a rich service of worship at the Cathedral on Pentecost Sunday. It's for all ages and culminates in a live link to youth groups across the country and saying the Lord's prayer together. Please sign up [here](#).

Lark Rise Retreat Days 2024

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

- 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.

Rooted in Prayer

Saturday 8 June, 9.00am to 1.00pm
Salvation Army Hall, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

An invitation to all Readers, Licensed Lay Ministers and Lay Elders to explore journeying in prayer to flourish faith and fellowship in communities and congregations. There will be the opportunity to share prayer resources used across the Diocese, join a workshop to create prayer activities for all ages and explore creating a prayer walk. Reserve your free space [here!](#)

Understanding Connectivity

Thursday 13 June, 11.00am – 12.00pm, Zoom, [book here](#).

Find out about the connectivity options available to your church - from WiFi to 4G - how to get your contactless devices connected, and what to do if you have no connectivity at all. We will be going through the connectivity options in relation to digital giving and how it can be optimised to make it easier in your church.

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

Archdeacons' Articles of Enquiry: This year's Articles of Enquiry is being hosted on the online parish returns' system, which may be accessed here:

<https://parishreturns.churchofengland.org>. For any help in accessing it, including logins and passwords, please contact statistics@cofesuffolk.org.

The following is a statement from the archdeacons on this year's Articles, which focus on questions about your church's ministry with children under five years of age and their families. The deadline for completing this is Friday 30 August.

Our ministry with children under five and their families is vital. Statistics show that 62% of people come to faith in Jesus before the age of 14 and a highly significant 38% before the age of 4. How we minister to these families in our communities really matters. Often, our ministry with the under-fives can be the crucial first step on a child's (and indeed their family's) journey to faith. We are conducting this research to better understand what is already happening with the under-fives in our diocese and how we can use this as a foundation for growth. We want to share learning and best practice and learn how we can help you develop this area of your ministry. The data we collect will help us to know what support and advice and resources you would value and start to develop these.*

*Talking Jesus report 2022. Evangelical Alliance. [Talking-Jesus-Report.pdf \(eauk.org\)](#)

Invitation to Christian Aid Week prayer moment: Christian Aid invites supporters to join them for a 30-minute prayer and reflection moment to help launch Christian Aid Week. Staff, supporters and volunteers will be getting together via Zoom on Monday, May 13 at 12.30pm, for prayer and thanksgiving, led by Chief Executive Officer Patrick Watt. For more information please [click here](#).

ACAT Training and Membership: ACAT (Association of Church Accountants and Treasurers) are hosting online training at a cost of £10:
[The Church Treasurer: Insights into the role and responsibilities](#) | Tuesday 7 May on Zoom
[Introduction to being a Church Trustee: Some things to think about](#) | Tuesday 14 May on Zoom

If you are a Suffolk Treasurer you can access free membership of ACAT by contacting julie.podd@cofesuffolk.org or any member of the Parish Resources Team who will provide you with the block membership details.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP): we are delighted to announce that Stewart McCulloch has been appointed CEO of CAP and is coming to Suffolk on Wednesday 1 May. Suffolk Coastal Debt Centre is hosting a dinner for him to share his vision for this important national charity that evening at St John's Church, Saxmundham. The dinner is free (though donations to help meet the cost would be welcome). Tickets are available [here](#) or via Doug Fletcher at dougfletcher@capuk.org.

Perfect Peace: Bishop Martin is delighted to announce that the Revd Joy French will be

taking up a new role as the Director of Perfect Peace in the diocese as of this September. This is a new post funded by the Estates Evangelism Task Group, based initially in Ipswich, and will involve Joy in what we hope will become a national project to care for the spiritual and mental health of under-fives and their carers.

Vacancies

Teaching Opportunity at King Edward VI Church of England Voluntary School, Bury St Edmunds

King Edward VI Church of England Voluntary School is one of the oldest church schools in the country. It is also one of only two state schools attached to a cathedral. With a highly diverse and comprehensive intake, this job provides a unique opportunity for someone with a passion for excellence in the classroom and a commitment to Christian life, to bring this important subject alive to young people. Such an individual could make a big difference to the lives of the children within our school (many from deprived backgrounds) and the wider Bury St Edmunds Christian Community. They would be expected to teach within the context of liberal Church of England values. The school has four Foundation governors appointed by the Cathedral, including the Dean. For full information and how to apply for this role please [click here](#).

[Church Buildings Support Officer](#) | Closing date: 29 April

[Diocesan Schools' Adviser](#) | Closing date: 29 April

[Priest in Charge | North Hartismere with Redgrave, Botesdale & the Rickinghalls](#) | Closing date: 22 May

[Vicar/Minister & Archdeaconry Mission Enabler](#) | Christ Church Moreton Hall | Closing date: 24 May

[Priest in Charge & Archdeaconry Mission Enabler](#) | Sproughton, Burstall, Copdock with Washbrook, Belstead | Closing date: 28 May

[Rector](#) | Bacton Benefice | Closing date: 17 June

[Priest in Charge](#) | Upper Alde Benefice

[Rector](#) | Walton and Trimley

[River Church Opportunities](#) | Head of Operations (full-time), Kids Pastor (full-time), Debt Centre Manager (part-time) | Ipswich

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

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

**The Bishops
of Suffolk**





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