



Thursday 18 February 2021

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# Growing in God

**Information and guidance for churches during the Covid-19 pandemic is being updated. Please visit the Church of England page [here](#) and the Diocesan guidance page [here](#) for the most up to date information.**

## **Give Hope - A call to action for the church to bring good news and hope for the fight against Covid-19**



As churches we have the opportunity to help protect those we care for. We hope to encourage everyone to take their Covid-19 vaccination when their invitation comes.

The Give Hope campaign aims to encourage people to consider and take the Covid-19 vaccine; dispel myths, by supportively sharing the evidence about the vaccine; equip UK church leaders and their congregations with the knowledge, skills and confidence to have positive and kind conversations and provide a range of tools that churches can easily adopt and use to reach out to their communities.

The social media campaign will launch tonight at 7.00pm and there is a free introductory webinar live tonight or available to watch on a recorded copy. Please visit this website [here](#) to book your space.

Bishop Martin's article on the Covid-19 vaccination, first published in the Bury Free Press, is available to read [here](#).



Give Hope - Bishop Mike

### **Canon Professor Lawrence Smith RIP**

It is with great sadness that I write to inform you of the recent death of Canon Professor Lawrence Smith.

Lawrence made a significant contribution to the life of the Diocese as Member of Bishop's Council, Lay Canon of St Edmundsbury Cathedral and as the Deanery Organiser for Stowmarket for over twenty years. He had many gifts and talents, especially his commanding grasp of finances which he generously shared in the support of parishes across the Diocese. Lawrence was also a much valued and respected Elder and PCC member at St Mary's Combs, particularly exercising a ministry of welcome and care. Through his skills, kindness and passion for the life of the Church, Lawrence was a blessing to so many people, and he will be greatly missed.

His funeral will take place on Friday 26 February. Please join me in praying for Lawrence's wife, Mavis, and their children Andrew, Sara and Helen.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

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### **Love hasn't been cancelled - 40 Days of Kindness**



Lightwave is launching its campaign of kindness. Archdeacon Sally Gaze, leader of the Lightwave Community, said: "Lent has long been marked by people wanting to help and support each other and going the extra mile. This year it has been a bit more difficult for us to get together and see one another. The idea of 40 Days of Kindness is to show that love hasn't been cancelled."

The campaign is asking the public to show their support by putting up a heart in their window throughout Lent as a sign of love and kindness in the community. The Diocese has also set up a Facebook group and is asking people to let them know what kind deeds they will be doing this Lent – socially distanced of course. The campaign's successes will then be

showcased every week on BBC Radio Suffolk.

Full details of the campaign are available on our website [here](#).

### **Radical Faith: Inspirational Christians Lives for Challenging Times**

24 February 7.00pm to 8.00pm

Dorothy Day - Anarchist, Grandma and Patron Saint of Activists by Liz Dodd the home news editor at The Tablet and a postulant with the Sisters of St Joseph of Peace, a vocation that she largely blames on the intercession of Dorothy Day. This is the first of a series of five Zoom talks each introduced by Michael Robinson, Canon Theologian. To book each session please email [michael.robinson@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:michael.robinson@cofesuffolk.org). For a full biography please download this [pdf](#). To download the poster please click [here](#).

### **Have you explored the #LiveLent resources on the A Church Near You Resource Hub?**



This Lent a new set of resources is available for churches to use on the Resource Hub within [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com). #LiveLent resources include customisable social graphics and logos, orders of service for the Lent Sunday services, more than 100 hymns and songs for you to use for free with a CCLI (plus streaming) license and a customisable video for you to use in your services.

Don't forget to advertise your events on A Church Near You and tag your events, live streaming or Lent to help people find you.

If you are looking for Lent resources to support your church please our website: [Lent resources and training materials](#). For details of Lent events please visit: [Lent events and explainers](#).

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### **Fairtrade Fortnight 22 February to 7 March 2021**

Fairtrade Fortnight 2021 is focussing on the growing challenges that climate change brings to farmers and workers in the communities Fairtrade works with. The climate crisis is an immediate and ever-increasing threat and those in climate-vulnerable countries are already seeing its impacts from droughts and crop disease to floods, heatwaves and shrinking harvests. With the emergence of the global Covid-19 pandemic, the challenges that farmers face now are bigger than ever before with falling commodity prices and widespread shocks reverberating along our global supply chains. On-going poverty in farming communities makes it increasingly hard to cope with the effects of climate change.

Bishop Mike sums up the situation like this: "In this time of global pandemic, it is important that we do not forget those who rely on the stable prices and social premium that Fairtrade offers. Many of our brothers and sisters in developing countries struggle to sell their products at a decent price but Fairtrade offers hope to 1.7million farmers, farm workers and their families around the world. Consumer choice is one of the concrete ways we can serve the poor with relatively little cost to ourselves. The more Fairtrade goods we can buy, the greater their chances of being lifted out of poverty and providing a brighter future for their children."

There are some wonderful videos, activities and games which are all free to download [here](#), to help your church support Fair trade, and we hope you will consider using this prayer in your services during Fairtrade Fortnight:

Heavenly Father,  
We pray for the work of Fairtrade around the world.  
Thank you for the talents of the farmers and craftspeople who grow and make the products that we enjoy.  
May we continue to support them through the purchases we make,  
so that we may make a difference in your world  
by helping them to help themselves.  
Amen

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## Events

### **Former Cabinet minister Jonathan Aitken to talk about the importance of truth in the media**

The former Cabinet minister, the Revd Jonathan Aitken, who is now a prison chaplain at HMP Pentonville and an assistant minister at St Matthew's, Westminster, will be discussing the question, 'In a world of fake news, who can we trust?' in the first of a conversational webinar series which starts on 23 February. There will be five free-to-view webinars, which open up the challenges of fake news, Covid-19, race inequality, climate emergency and unanswered prayer. The webinars conclude on 23 March with crossbench peer and former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams addressing prayer and spirituality under the title, 'Is God really listening?' Limited free tickets for the events are available through Eventbrite: <http://christian-evidence.eventbrite.com> Full details are available on the Christian Evidence website: <https://christianevidence.org>

**Digital in a rural parish and Digital evangelism on TikTok** - Looking at different ways your church can use digital communications to keep connected with those who attend your services and events. All bookings and download links are available here: [www.churchofengland.org/resources/digital-labs/digital-labs-webinars](http://www.churchofengland.org/resources/digital-labs/digital-labs-webinars)

### **Healthy fabric of our churches**

The Ecclesiastical Architects and Surveyors Association (EASA) Spring Conference has been postponed until September 2021 due to Covid-19. They are now offering a series of three meetings, each with a speaker(s) followed by a Question and Answer session afterwards.

4 March 2021 5.00pm to 6.00pm - The naked and the knackered - the state of church fabric. Key speaker: Ashley Courtney RIBA AABC, church architect based in Cambridge

11 March 2021 5.00pm to 6.00pm - How Traditional Lime Finishes Work. Key speaker: David Wiggins BSc (Hons) PhD IEng MICE CARE of Clach Conservation Engineering Ltd.

18 March 2021: 5.00pm to 6.30pm - Putting matters right: a case study and panel discussion. Key speaker: Ashley Courtney giving an account of his work at St Andrew's Church, West Wrating

For further information and to book your place please visit their website [here](#).

### **Resources:**

**Leading Through the Recovery Phase of the Pandemic:** To help church leaders lead their congregations and communities through the next phase of Covid-19, CPAS has launched a wide range of new resources covering guides to distribute to help people process their experience of the pandemic for families, adults and young people; service outline for helping people remember, reflect and recuperate; a guide to using your premises (when we can) as a place of recovery for anyone and everyone, and a recording of a talk for church leaders from the Leading Through the Recovery Phase webinar. Please visit [www.cpas.org.uk/recoveryphase](http://www.cpas.org.uk/recoveryphase) for all the information.

**Home for Good in Suffolk:** The Suffolk branch of Home for Good is here to support all families in Suffolk who foster, adopt or have special guardianship. They aim to share knowledge, events and more - working together to make a difference to the lives of vulnerable children. For more information please visit: [suffolk@homeforgood.org.uk](mailto:suffolk@homeforgood.org.uk).

**Are you interested in learning more about Fostering and Adoption?** Christian Charity 'Home for Good: Suffolk' are hosting their next Foundation course offering an excellent way to equip you to learn about the needs of vulnerable children. This is a six week course starting Tuesday 23 February, meeting online alternate Tuesdays until 4 May 8.00 to 9.30pm. Each of the six sessions includes a combination of bible study and reflection, practical information, real-life stories, and opportunities for discussions, questions and prayer. Interested in joining us? complete the form [here](#).

**Free Mothers' Day resources:** To help churches navigate this day sensitively with films, sermon outlines and prayers. They are also aimed to consider all mothering roles and raise awareness of the needs of vulnerable children and inspire people to consider fostering and adoption. Sign up with the following Home for Good link: [www.homeforgood.org.uk/resource/mothers-day-2021](http://www.homeforgood.org.uk/resource/mothers-day-2021)

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## Notices:

**Statistics for Mission:** Thank you so much to the 73% of churches throughout the diocese who have submitted their Statistics for Mission for 2020. This is a great achievement so far. The online system for submitting this data will close on **Friday 26 February** so you have just one more week to submit your responses. The online parish return system can be accessed here: <https://parishreturns.churchofengland.org/>. For more information or help, please contact Alison Barker at the Diocesan Office in the first instance [statistics@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:statistics@cofesuffolk.org).

## Vacancies

[Pioneer Evangelist for Ipswich Centre of Mission](#) | Closing date 21 March 2021



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