



Thursday 18 November

Growing in God

Recognising service to the Cathedral, Diocese and County of Suffolk

On Sunday 21 November, two special services take place at St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds, to honour 18 men and women for their contributions to the life of the Cathedral, the Diocese and the wider community in Suffolk. At 10.30am, the Eucharist service will include the presentation of the Order of St Edmund, the highest accolade the Cathedral can bestow which is awarded to those who have demonstrated 'exemplary and unusual service'. Four members of the Cathedral community will receive this award: Susan Cockram, Liz Steele, Stewart Alderman and Stephen Dart.

Later, at 3.30pm, six senior clergy and eight lay people will be recognised as canons of the Cathedral. The title of canon is given to individuals, both clergy and lay, who have given particular service to the Diocese. This year new canons are being recognised for their services to education, health services, the media, music and the charity sector and they include: The Revds Susan Bates, Annette Shannon, Tiffer Robinson, Rufin Emmanuel, Christopher Childs and Linda Peall and those becoming Lay Canons include Joanna Gunn, Lesley Dolphin, Jonathan de Bernhardt Wood, Roger Wright, Mark Sheard, Stephen Singleton, Judi Newman and Afrika Green.

Bishop Martin said "I am delighted to be installing so many new canons into the Cathedral this weekend as we celebrate the Feast of St Edmund. The new canons span a rich diversity of experience, skills and backgrounds from across Suffolk and we are greatly encouraged by their readiness to offer their gifts for the Church's service and witness in our county.

More than ever, we need to bring together people with different perspectives and experiences to better understand the challenges faced by people in Suffolk. The new College of Canons is one way the Church can do this and we hope this will better equip us to serve the needs of the whole county in the years ahead."

Both services will be livestreamed via the Cathedral's Facebook page [here](#). Further details and biographies are available [here](#).

Church's swift box donation captures school children's imagination



The Revd Lynda Sebbage (pictured), Priest in charge of the Barrow Benefice, recently visited Barrow Church of England Primary School to speak to the children about Suffolk's swifts and to deliver nesting boxes they hope will become new homes to the magnificent birds. She said: "This is part of our environmental eco-church project, working alongside church schools in the area. I presented the swift boxes to pupils at a special assembly and hopefully they will come to nest next year". Lynda is also donating swift boxes to Risby Church of England Primary School, near Bury St Edmunds.

All five churches in the benefice are working towards their Eco Church awards with the 'A Rocha' scheme, and subsequently they have become champions of the environment. To read the full story visit our website [here](#). As Christians, we are called to be good stewards of the earth which God has entrusted to us and if you want to find out more please visit our website [here](#).

Doreen Savage helps to lead outdoor bereavement service at Suffolk church



Doreen Savage (pictured) who sadly lost two children 30 years ago has helped lead a special service supporting those who have suffered bereavement. An outdoor bereavement service was held at St Mary's Church in Bentley, giving people a chance to contemplate and remember those who had died.

Mrs Savage said she wanted to help people going through a similar traumatic experience. "I can't explain how much it hurt," she said, "even though it was now a long time ago, they are always in my heart and mind. We have a tree of remembrance, and afterwards, we had a fire pit and people gathered to say a prayer and share memories". For the full story please visit

[here](#).

Lives remembered

On Saturday 20 November at 3.30pm a poignant service will take place at St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds, to remember the lives of nine members of the community who died during the pandemic. Each person was homeless and had used the services of the Bury Drop In. While not all died from Covid-19, their deaths were a direct result of lack of services available during the pandemic.

Bury Drop In is a Christian Charity, supported broadly by churches across the town and

sustained by numerous local businesses, volunteers and organisations, including West Suffolk Council, that exists to serve the homeless and vulnerably housed in Bury St. Edmunds. David Bonnett, from Bury Drop In said. "We are determined that these friends should not be forgotten and just become statistics. They were all valued members of our community and they will be missed greatly". The service will include candle lighting in memory of those lost, plus music, readings and prayer. Alongside the nine guests remembered, the service will also remember a volunteer from Bury Drop In who also passed away during this time. The service is open to all. Please RSVP to info@burydropin.org

Events

Healing in a Pandemic

Saturday 27 November 9.30am – 12.30pm online

This workshop, offered by the Diocesan Healing Group, will have two parts. An introduction to Christian healing by Bishop Mike Harrison and an opportunity to reflect on our experience of the pandemic and how that enriches our healing ministry. This event is free. The Zoom link will be sent to you during the week before the workshop. Enquiries to Canon Matthew Vernon canon.pastor@stedscathedral.org or please book [here](#).

An Advent Journey - A service of preparation for the coming of Christ

Sunday 5 December 5.00pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral



St Edmundsbury Cathedral is hosting an Advent service in partnership with the Royal School of Church Music and Cantus Firmus Trust. The service will explore four Advent themes - Hoping, Waiting, Fearing and Preparing - using a blend of words and music. Music will be led by Cantus Firmus Choir and musicians from around the county, under the direction of Richard Hubbard (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Music Development Director). The VivaVoce chamber choir from London School of Theology will also be taking part. There will be a retiring offering for the work of the RSCM in Suffolk. You can find more information, including a poster for display on church noticeboards [here](#).

Helpful practices through Advent

Four Tuesdays starting Tuesday 30 November 7.00pm to 8.30pm

A course through Advent with Bishop Mike, this time taking a look at some spiritual disciplines, habits of mind, heart and body which are seasonally appropriate and offer opportunities for deeper formation in Christ. All very welcome. Enquiries to [Lesley Steed](#) to book please visit Eventbrite: <https://adventcourse-2021.eventbrite.co.uk>

Trees at the Tower

Wednesday 1 December to Wednesday 8 December

St Mary le Tower, Ipswich IP1 3BE

You are warmly invited to the annual Christmas Tree festival at St Mary le Tower to enjoy a Christmas delight. The festival has been running for 12 years and following changes last year due to Covid restrictions it is now back! The Revd Tom Mumford, who has only been Vicar at the church for six weeks says "This is a great opportunity for the Church to spread some Christmas cheer in its county town. If you're looking for that Christmassy feeling, do not miss this!". The festival is organised by a fantastic team of volunteers who are hoping to welcome in huge crowds. In previous years more than 3,000 people have come through the doors across the week. They will also be hosting a café, the choir's new Christmas CD will be on sale, it is free to enter and profits will be donated to charities including the church the Mayor's charity supporting Creative Computing and Medical Detection Dogs.

The church is a large airy building and doors will be open to further improve ventilation, it is likely that at peak times entrance might have to be staggered to maintain a degree of social distancing. Information including opening times are available [here](#).

Take the chance to discuss parish financial issues with the Diocesan Team

Tuesday 7 December 10.30am - 11.30am

You are invited to join Anna Hughes, Diocesan Secretary, and Gary Peverley, Finance Director, at a Zoom meeting for treasurers and clergy to discuss parish and diocesan financial matters – an opportunity to meet one another, let us know how it is going in your parish and discuss any issues. To join the Zoom meeting, please email lorna.todd@cofesuffolk.org with your name and parish and include any questions you would like to raise. You will be sent a Zoom invitation prior to the meeting.

Youth Work Essentials

Diocesan Office, 4 Cutler Street, Ipswich IP1 1UQ

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



Youth Work Essentials is a new course for those interested in volunteering and working with young people. We are offering a ten week course designed by 'YouthScape' 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.

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 10 weeks you will have the confidence to

give it a go!"

The cost of the course is to be confirmed but is likely to be £35 per person to cover materials. Please contact Matt on matt.levett@cofesuffolk.org to learn more and book your place.

Growing Younger Sunday

Sunday 30 January 2022



On this Sunday in January we would love each and every church in our Diocese to take a step in considering children and youth in their services on that day. This could range from praying for them and their leaders; right up to having them plan and lead a service. We are encouraging all churches to do something on this Sunday

to recognise that young people are co-pilgrims on our journey of faith, and can teach and share and reflect in a relevant, reverent and innately spiritual way. To support you in this we have a prayer written for and by children and young people, a Padlet of resources, posters, music and more.

For further information please contact Hilary Wordsworth-Sewell hilary.wordsworth-sewell@cofesuffolk.org (Children's and Families) or Matt Levett matt.levett@cofesuffolk.org (Youth and Young Adults) or visit our website [here](#).

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.

Goodbox: Some churches have experienced difficulties with their Goodbox Core devices. If your device is not working adequately, please contact Goodbox directly Tel: 0808 196 1808 or email: support@goodbox.com. Most churches affected have been offered an improved replacement device. You can also email [Julie Podd](#) who will be able to offer you further advice and guidance.

Insurance is one of the most significant costs for parishes, so it is important to consider your insurance cover carefully when reviewing or renewing your policy. When your church insurance policy is due for renewal, please consider seeking two quotes. We are currently aware of two companies that have developed policies specifically tailored for Church of England parishes. They are: Ecclesiastical Insurance www.ecclesiastical.com/church (tel: 0345 777 3322) and Trinitas www.trinitaschurchinsurance.co.uk (Tel: 01483 462870). Please contact the companies direct to enquire about your church insurance policy.

The National Procurement Group has produced a short Buying Guide for parishes on church insurance, which is available on the Parish Resources website [here](#). There are a number of considerations for example, buildings cover can be less than 100% of the valuation and the level of excess can be altered. And if your church has a significant amount of lead on its roof, check the policy details and level of cover offered.

Does your church have lead roofs unprotected by a roof alarm system?

The scourge of lead theft from churches has not gone away (see news article [here](#)). Any church with a lead roof however small is a target for the highly organised criminal gangs who perpetrate these desecrations. With scaffolding and repairs to damaged stone and timber work, the cost of replacing a stripped nave roof or aisle roofs could be £25,000-

£50,000; or even more if the lead theft lies undiscovered. By comparison, a typical Ecclesiastical/Trinitas approved alarm system would have cost approximately £5,000 plus an annual call centre/service fee of approximately £450 per annum.

The good news is that the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust (SHCT) is running an 'Alarms for Churches II' scheme that is still open for applications: the scheme will cover half the cost of the alarm system (to a maximum of £2,500). The Trust is grateful to the AllChurches Trust and the Lord Belstead Charitable Trust which have funded the scheme. If you know an unprotected church, get in touch with the Trust's Grants Secretary on adrianaugust@btinternet.com. If you are not sure whether there is lead, get someone to check, as the gangs use drones and Google Earth to find out. SHCT has teamed up with E-Bound, which has 11 years of experience in church security and a close working relationship with both Ecclesiastical and Trinitas Insurance. As preferred supplier, E-Bound is giving the SHCT preferential service and terms. The theft of the porch lead at Little Cornard church last year reminded us that even porches, vestries and small aisles are vulnerable, so the SHCT encouraged E-Bound to develop a much lower cost 'One Zone' system for such situations, which they have done. So there are now two E-Bound systems:

- For a Category A church with several roofs to protect, a 'Multi Zone' system which will cost c£5,000 to buy and install plus c£450 pa in following years to keep the system monitored and maintained.
- For a Category B church with just a porch, vestry or small aisle to protect, a 'One Zone system' available either at £999 to buy and install with c£350 pa payable each year to keep the system monitored and maintained; or under a 'One Zone Plus' package, at a fixed £2,544 which covers both the system, installation and five years of monitoring and maintenance thereafter.

The scheme closes in Q1 2022 so please apply quickly.

Vacancies

[Diocesan Director of Communications and External Relations](#) | Closing date 24 November
[Interim priest in charge](#) (3 years full-time) Mid Loes benefice | Closing date 25 November
[Vicar - St John Woodbridge with St Andrew Bredfield](#) | Closing date 25 November
[Team Vicar and Associate Priest | Blyth Valley Team Ministry](#) | Closing date 28 November
[Lead Evangelist](#) | Suffolk Centre of Mission | Closing date 30 November
[Rector 0.5, St Mary Stoke, Ipswich](#) | Closing date 30 November
[Priest in charge at St Francis, Chantry with St Clare, Ipswich](#) | Closing date 30 November
[Parish Resources Manager](#) | Closing date 7 December

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