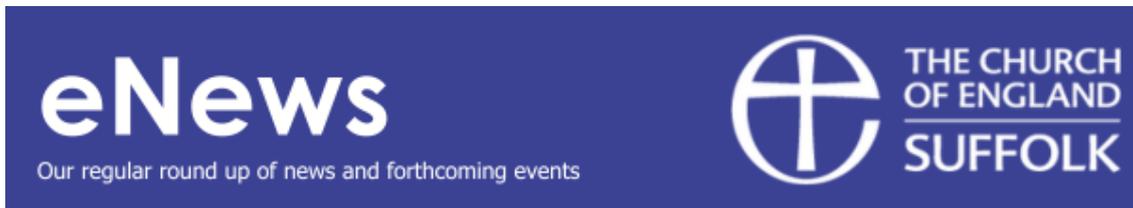
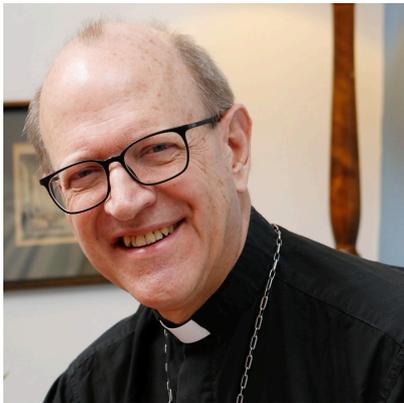


Thursday 2 May 2024



Bishop Martin writes...



I am immensely grateful and honoured to be serving as President of the Suffolk Agricultural Association this year, and so of the Suffolk Show, which takes place on Wednesday 29 and Thursday 30 May.

The Suffolk Show of 2015 was my induction into Suffolk life, coming just two weeks after my consecration as bishop. It was the perfect way to learn not just about farming in Suffolk, but about a whole range of organisations, activities, and institutions and people -

that make this such a fabulous county.

County shows like the Suffolk Show, which was first held in 1832, started out as occasions for farmers to exchange information and experiences of innovative farming practices. The Suffolk Show continues to do that, going from strength to strength, providing the opportunity for farmers to share knowledge and experience on the latest farming techniques as well as bring their livestock to show. But like shows across our county and country, the Suffolk Show has during the decades become much more than that, and crucially carries out an educational purpose for non-farmers like me, helping us understand the complexities and challenges of farming, and crucially, helping us better understand where our food comes from. The show achieves this through a whole array of displays, stands, activities, events and performances, as well as the central events involving the judging of livestock and horse-riding displays.

Like so much of our life in Suffolk, none of this would happen without dedicated staff and an army of volunteers, and their work for the show and the Suffolk School Farm and Country Fair has justifiably earned them the extraordinary honour of the King's Award for Voluntary Service. And it will be a special privilege and honour to welcome the Duke of Gloucester to the show and we are very grateful that he has chosen to attend this year, underlining once again the importance of this event for our county and beyond.

It is a fabulous day out for families and individuals, with far more on offer than you can possibly see or experience in a day or even two days – so do please come along!

To read the full story, [please click here](#).

Sharing God's love



At the heart of the
community

Come along and see us
at the
Suffolk Show!
Stand number 602

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

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

ENERGY FOOTPRINT TOOL



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 - he 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](#).

Spring Concert at St John the Divine, Elmswell



The Song Circle community choir performed outstandingly at their Spring Concert, complete with special lighting effects, at St John the Divine, Elmswell on Sunday 28 April. The concert included many popular pieces and some moving solo numbers. Choir leader Anna Winton Mills commented on Tuesday, "*Still coming down from this wonderful event. What a treat to*

combine my love of music and colour, and to share it with all of these gorgeous women who have become my friends."

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



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

Mendlesham Heritage Fair

Monday 6 May 12.00pm to 5.00pm

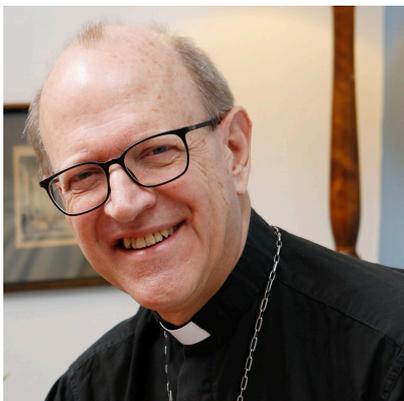
Mendlesham IP14 5SF, with parking at IP14 5RT

Following the exciting grant of £9,993 awarded by the Heritage Fund, Mendlesham Church members are delighted to invite you to their Heritage Fair this Bank Holiday Monday. Offering an amazing array of demonstrations, talks, re-enactments of Tudor rural life, Parish Militia training with muskets, bows, bills and halberds, children's crafts, and many more heritage activities to help the whole community re-engage with its unique Tudor heritage in a way not possible without the grant. Tickets costs £10 with under 16s free.

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. Friends and family are welcome. 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."*

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](#).

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](#).

"Still He Loves the Earth He Leaves" Prayer Walk

Thursday 9 May, 6.30pm

Foxearth Meadows, CO10 7HZ

Come along to a relaxing prayer walk, led by the Revd Ruth Ridge, offered by Churches Together as part of *Suffolk in Prayer* and *Thy Kingdom Come*. Bring your own picnic. All are very welcome, no booking required.

T h a n k f u ! : 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.

The Everlasting Everlys Tribute Band

Sunday 12 May 2.00pm

Bentley Church, Ipswich IP9 2DA

Spend the afternoon in newly refurbished Bentley church listening to the music of the Everly brothers through the tribute band, The Everlasting Everlys. Featuring all the classic hits along with other hits across the 60s to the 90s. A cash only bar will be available. Tickets are £12 and available from [Peter Day](#).

PCC Workshop – Gifts in Wills

Monday 13 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](#).

Run with Joy: Benedictine Wisdom for Contemporary Living

Starting 14 May, 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 14 May, 3.00pm - *PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN DATE - WE APOLOGISE FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE CAUSED*

St Augustine's Community Hub, Ipswich IP3 8TH

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. Please [book here](#). Further dates will be coming up on Monday 17 June – St John's Church Hall, Saxmundham and Monday 8 July – Church Institute, Brandon.

The Big Suffolk Prayer Walk - Thy Kingdom Come

10 – 12 May



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 the Big Suffolk Prayer Walk, 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>

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](#).

How to use Canva for your church

Monday 20 May, 3.00 - 4.00pm

In this free webinar, we'll guide you through Canva's essential features, giving you an introduction to the tool and showing you how to create eye-catching content for your church. [Find out more and register here](#).

Mothers' Union Sung Mass

Sunday 26 May, 9.45am

St Mary's Church, Newmarket CB8 0HP

The Newmarket Branch of Mothers' Union is celebrating 100 years of service since its foundation and are hosting a MU-themed sung mass in the church, followed by a Bring & Share style lunch. All are very welcome to attend and celebrate this momentous occasion.

Medieval Church Geometry Workshop

Wednesday 29 May, 10.00am to 12.00pm

St Peter's Church, Monk Soham IP13 7EN

Come along to a workshop that will offer an introduction to the symbolic proportions and geometric constructions employed in Gothic church architecture, by Clarissa Grandi. This is a hands-on session, with no prior experience necessary, and all items required will be provided for use. Tickets cost £30 each, to purchase please call 01728 685663.

AChurchNearYou.com: How to use the platform as your free website

Wednesday 29 May, 2.00pm - 3.00pm

Come along to this extended live demonstration to gain confidence editing your site at both individual church level and at benefice level. [Find out more and register here](#).

Corpus Christi Celebration Eucharist

Thursday 30 May, 7.30pm

St John the Evangelist, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1SN

All are invited to attend the Celebration Eucharist with Procession and Benediction, with the Ven David Jenkins and the Revd Alison Miller. The organist at the event will be John Bell. To be followed by a party. Do come along - all are welcome!

Death and Life Webinar - Why reflecting on mortality is an essential part of healthy living!

Wednesday 5 June, 2.00pm to 4.00pm

This webinar will combine theological insights and practical wisdom to enable churches to create spaces for people to discuss mortality and what is sometimes known 'as the last taboo'. Church leaders, bereavement counsellors, chaplains in care homes, hospitals and

hospices and those working in pastoral care will benefit from this free webinar. Resources are being made available by BRF Ministries, and participants will receive a discount code for use in BRF's online shop. To register for the webinar please click [here](#).

Lark Rise Retreat Days 2024



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

Friday 7 June | Celtic, green and godly

Friday 7 June | Using imagination to unlock scripture

Saturday 8 June | Come and sing workshop

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

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. Please [book here](#).

Caring for Creation

Friday 14 June, 10.00am

The Barn, Woodbridge IP12 2RR

A Quiet Day with Mark Prina and the Revd Canon Mark Haworth from the diocesan group of the Society of Catholic Priests. Starting with a celebration of the Eucharist. Please bring food to share at lunch-time - drinks will be provided. Participants are welcome to stroll in the delightful gardens. The programme ends at 3.30pm with tea. A £10 donation made on the day would be highly appreciated. To book, please contact Michael Wilde on 01284 767415 or email cormack246@gmail.com.

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](#): For any help in accessing it, including logins and passwords, please contact statistics@cofesuffolk.org. The deadline for completing this is Friday 30 August. 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.

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](#).

Growing Younger Prayer meetings - each Monday

You are invited to join the new Growing Younger prayer group where you would be very welcome to join us in a weekly prayer meeting from 9.15am to 9.45am each Monday to pray for children, young people, families, paid and volunteer workers, teachers, schools and churches. Please email [here](#) for the Zoom link.

Simple Guide to Planning and Leading Worship

A new 'do it yourself' course from Transforming Worship (formerly Praxis) led by Helen Bent is being offered for lay people who are embarking on planning and leading worship for the first time and want to do it well, particularly those situated in small rural churches. Find out more about the course [here](#).

Growth Fund opportunities: Small grants for up to £1,500 in a year are available from the Growing in God Growth fund to help your church engage creatively in sharing faith in word and deed, and as a result grow the church younger and in number. All the information, eligibility and the application form are on our website [here](#).

Vacancies

[Detached Youth Worker and Assistant Chaplain](#) | Closing date: 2 May

[Diocesan Growing Younger Enabler](#) | Closing date: 9 May

[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](#) | Wickham Market & Pettistree | Closing date: 3 July

[House for Duty Priest](#) | Lakenheath with Santon Downham and Elveden | Closing date: 10 July

[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

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