



Thursday 2 September

Growing in God

We invite you to explore and celebrate God's generosity

Generosity week: from 26 September 2021



To help us to celebrate the generous love of God all our churches are invited to hold services, run group sessions, broadcast podcasts and distribute readings on the theme of generosity to their communities.

Generosity can be shown in many ways, through everyday acts of kindness to those in your community, helping and serving in your church, as well as financial

giving.

We would like to encourage you to have a look at the national resources available for Generosity Week - the purpose is to encourage a generous culture within churches, so that churches can grow their ministry for generations to come. They have produced a new series of week-long resources (Sunday to Sunday) to encourage people to live generously. The materials enable you to deliver your own Generosity Week at times suitable for you.

All the details are available on our website [here](#) with links to the free national resources.



Bishop Mike launching Generosity Week 2021.

Climate Sunday

Sunday 5 September 2021, 3.00pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral is joining 1600 churches across the country to mark Climate Sunday. A model of the earth will be suspended in the centre of the building, representing a world groaning in pain, tortured by our lack of care and crying out for our help. The service will be led by the Dean, the Very Revd Joe Hawes, and ordinand Anita Rooney. It will be reflective, hopeful, and joyful and you can join on livestream via the Cathedral's Facebook page [here](#).

Safeguarding Sunday

10 October 2021

The Church of England is supporting this year's Safeguarding Sunday on 10 October 2021, encouraging local churches to use their regular Sunday service to explore together what safer places look like, and to thank all those working behind the scenes to make our churches safer for all. If you would like to host a service on this theme all the resources you need are [here](#).

At the Heart of Christmas



services and events.

Unbelievably, Christmas is just round the corner and once again our churches will be welcoming their communities – onsite and online – to celebrate and share the good news of Christ's birth with special

'At the heart of Christmas' is the Church of England's theme for Advent and Christmas 2021. The theme is deliberately simple and open – one that can be used by local churches to invite their communities to share in celebrating the good news of Christmas in a whole variety of ways, whatever the prevailing circumstances. There is a wide range of national resources available including printed materials, apps, reflections, videos and more - all suitable to fit in with your local plans.

For details about all the Christmas resources please visit our website [here](#). We will be adding to this page as more resources become available.

'Greening the community'



The Revd Diane Ekins has been working towards All Saints' church in Mendham becoming a silver Eco Church, with the aim to engage with wider audiences in its mission. As Diane started to train as a priest she wanted to incorporate the environment into her mission. Diane says; "Holding a 'Greening the Community' exhibition just before lockdown gave everyone a boost. It helped the whole village focus on being green." As Diane and the team develop their knowledge of what is possible, they are also sharing their ideas with other churches in their and nearby benefices. Read the full story [here](#).

Exciting news: St Mary's Church, Mildenhall announce that they have recently received their silver Eco Church Award. They are now looking forward to starting work to achieve the gold award! Information on becoming an Eco Church is available [here](#).

Net Zero Carbon: As you may be aware a motion was passed by Diocesan Synod in June approving a motion to achieve net zero carbon by 2030. Please read the first of our leaflets helping your church towards achieving our goal. Download our first leaflet [here](#).

Training opportunities

Taster sessions - Faith Empowered

Tuesday 14 September 6.00pm

Wednesday 15 September 10.00am

Faith Empowered is a course from Church Army to equip you to lead your local church in mission and evangelism. Over 10 sessions the content covers building relationships, listening to your context, enabling others and so much more. The training will run mainly on Zoom with a few of the sessions being in person, at a church in Bury St Edmunds. We will be running this in the autumn, starting in October 2021. If you think this might be you please sign up for a Taster Sessions [here](#). If you want to know more visit our website

[here](#) or please contact the [Revd Phil Dykes](#), Diocesan Mission Enabler, telephone 07917 385843.

Taster sessions - Anna Chaplaincy: training for work with the older generations

Thursday 16 September at 7.00pm



The Anna Chaplaincy vision is for pioneering, targeted ministry among people in their later years, bringing spiritual care and support. As western society grows ever older with the advent of better healthcare and diet, this offers a way of engaging with people in this age bracket in a godly and loving way. Full information including an introductory video is available on our website [here](#). If you're interested in hearing more, why not come along to a Taster Session, booking

details [here](#). Please contact the [Revd Phil Dykes](#), Diocesan Mission Enabler or telephone 07917 385843 for details.

Leading with Courage

Six session course, starting Wednesday 6 October 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Want to develop skill sets that could help you to continue to be a courageous leader? Why not register for this six-session interactive online course based on 'Dare to Lead' by Brené Brown, bestselling author, researcher and committed Christian. This course is facilitated by Dave Gardner, Director of Mission and Ministry (Dare to Lead trained) and Karen Gardner (Brave Conversations, Certified Daring Way Facilitator). It will help you develop skill sets that build Vulnerability, Values, Trust and Resilience, and may increase your collaborative skills, give greater awareness and practice of emotional intelligence and offer tools to address conflict resolution. This course has been adapted for a church context. The six sessions are Wednesdays 6, 13, 20 and 27 October plus 3 and 10 November.

Cost: £30 per person (discounted price as this is the pilot version) which includes the workbook and unique access to materials. Please register [here](#) soon as only 12 spaces! For more information contact Dave Gardner on 07394 559887

'Being With' - training for Clergy

St Martin in the Fields has developed some training to reach out to people on the edge, especially those who have been disaffected by the church. The course runs over 10 weekly sessions of 90 minutes with 10-15 people in each group. They are offering the chance for clergy to train to deliver this course in their own parish/benefice. This will involve three morning sessions in a week in December 2021.

Click [here](#) for a video about the idea behind 'Being With'. If you want to know more, please contact the [Revd Phil Dykes](#), Diocesan Mission Enabler or telephone 07917 385843.

Events

Sung Holy Communion

10 October 2021, 11.00am
St Andrew's, Wingfield IP21 5RA

You would be most welcome to join St Andrew's, Wingfield as they mark the return of church music with some that has truly stood the test of time. This special service will have a choir singing a setting of the Eucharist composed by Josquin des Prez who died 500 years ago. Adrian Knott, who directed the Amici choir for many years, has brought together a group of singers for this occasion. They will be singing Josquin's Missa Pange Lingua. The starting point is the music of a medieval hymn, which itself is thought to be based on a Roman marching song. This is an opportunity to experience some of the most famous Renaissance church music in its liturgical context.

Series of Talks in Barrow Benefice

Online by Zoom

Join Barrow Benefice who are offering a series of talks on the first Monday of each month, from September to December.

Monday 6 September - Caroline Holmes 'Around the World in three years: James Cook and Joseph Banks'

Monday 4 October - Professor Mark Bailey 'Global Climate Change and the creation of the modern Suffolk coastline: Orford Ness to the River Deben 1100 - 1600'

Monday 1 November - Catherine Buchanan 'Inspirational Women of Bury St Edmunds'

Monday 6 December - Bob Jones 'John Eldred of Great Saxham, 16th Century nutmeg merchant'

Tickets are £20 per person for all four talks, or £6 per talk or £30 per household for all four talks, or £10 per talk. For full details, booking and payment, please email contact [Sue Soper](#) or [Caroline Holmes](#).

Notices

Please visit the 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.

The Afghan Refugee Crisis: Many individuals and churches have been looking for ways of helping the refugees from Afghanistan. In case you have not yet decided on where to donate or offer help here are some useful websites to visit:

www.help-refugees-uk.service.gov.uk

www.roomforrefugees.com

www.refugeesathome.org

www.redcross.org.uk

If you are looking for other tangible ways to support refugees and small refugee charities at the moment, Suffolk Refugee Support recommend [this piece](#), which has some brilliant suggestions.

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



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