



22 April 2021

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Growing in God

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.

Bishop Martin has welcomed The Archbishops' Anti-Racism Taskforce report 'From Lament to Action'

Bishop Martin has welcomed the Anti-Racism Taskforce Report, commissioned by the Church of England's House of Bishops. The report, 'From Lament to Action' calls for urgent changes to the culture of the Church of England. The Anti-Racism Taskforce reviewed many reports seeking to address racism, published by the Church of England over the last 40 years. The report notes little has changed over that time.

Responding to the report, Bishop Martin said,

"Racism in the church must be exposed and called out, and so I welcome the report published by the Archbishops' Anti-Racism Taskforce, I do so recognising how deeply it challenges me, but I hear the plea of the report that we have been talking about racism in the Church of England for over 40 years, and little has changed.

"The report focusses on concrete actions looking at participation, education and the governance structures of the Church as an institution; the Archbishops have identified five recommendations to implement immediately which will help the Church to implement further recommendations.

"This report is published on the anniversary of the murder of Stephen Lawrence, serving as a poignant reminder of the devastating impact of institutional racism and how more progress needs to be made in the Church and wider society."

"The Church is poorer and less equipped for its mission without the full gifts of all its people being present in its leadership and all levels of its life together. Acting on these recommendations must be a priority."

To read the Church of England statement please click [here](#), where you will also find a link to the full report.

Thy Kingdom Come

Thy Kingdom Come is a global wave of prayer calling all Christians to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus Christ. This is an opportunity to pray together between 13 to 23 May 2021.

As part of this global movement, people and churches of all kinds in Suffolk are praying to see people come to know the love of Christ in our county. We would love you to join in!



You can find simple ideas and resources for prayer to help you get involved on the Suffolk in Prayer Facebook group or our webpage <https://www.light-wave.org/thy-kingdom-come>. Prayer events will be scheduled each evening throughout the week for you to join, hosted by many different denominations. If you can't find what you need please email Nina Seaman at lightwave.community@cofesuffolk.org or ring 07446 933129.

Our 24/7 prayer marathon is another great way to spend a dedicated and focused amount of time in God's presence and connect with a large group of Christians across Suffolk doing the same thing. If you would like to sign up for a time of prayer with the Lord, we are running an online prayer marathon, 11 days of prayer, 24 hours a day: Please sign up for your prayer slot by going to <https://www.24-7prayer.com/signup/6a2f18/>

All the details for this year's Thy Kingdom Come are on our website [here](#).

Growing in God Growth Fund grants available for your church mission



From 1 May 2021 the Diocesan Growing in God Growth Fund will be open again offering grants to help you and your church reach out creatively to encourage sharing of the Christian faith and so grow our church family in number. Grants of up to £500 are available,

for more information and the application form, see: <https://cofesuffolk.org/for-parishes/growing-your-parish/growth-funding-opportunities/>.

Post lockdown boost for St Mary's church, Nettlestead

A £17,500 National Churches Trust Cornerstone Grant will help to pay for urgent repairs to the historic church of St Mary in Nettlestead and allow the church to continue to serve the local community. The church also receives a £7,500 Wolfson Fabric Repair Grant from the Wolfson Foundation on the recommendation of the National Churches Trust.

Mrs Jeanna McCarthy, Churchwarden, said: "We have been fundraising for more than three years to carry out desperately needed basic repairs to our lovely little church. These generous grants have brought us so close to completing the funding. We can now plan for work which will literally save the church from early dereliction and keep it in use for future generations. After so much time and effort, it is wonderful to be in this position and we are truly grateful."

Buy a Bishop - cakes and ale! (or gin)



Bishop Mike had a busy day last Friday responding to the Buy a Bishop auction in the Bishops' Lent Appeal for Kagera. There was a bottle of blackberry gin to deliver, and two signature coffee and walnut cakes. One of these was to celebrate a 94th birthday, and was received with surprised joy, 'A bishop! On my birthday!' Next week he's down to take a turn on a local church cleaning rota – not quite so glamorous, but very much welcomed, nonetheless. Many thanks to all who bid to Buy a Bishop, and to everyone who has contributed to the Lent appeal in any way. We'd love to hear what you did for Kagera in Lent – email your pictures and stories to kagera@cofesuffolk.org.

Events

Community Engagement in Recovery - 8 May 2021, repeated on Monday 10 May

Through the pandemic we have seen a surge of community spirit, as we begin to recover

how do we continue to build on this in a way which opens the door to discipleship and all the blessings of the Kingdom of God? This session is based on the popular unit from the Mission Shaped Ministry (MSM) course. The cost to attend a Saturday Zoom session is £10 but free to those already on the MSM Flexi course. Sign up here: [Saturday 8 May 2021](#) or [Monday 10 May 2021](#). For more information contact the Course Administrator, [Nina Seaman](#), or visit our MSM website page [here](#).

Faraday Institute

For the details of all the Faraday Institute courses and events please visit their website: [The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion \(cam.ac.uk\)](#). Courses include:
23-24 April 'Engaging with Science'
9 June 'Wonder, Wisdom and Worship'
16 June 'Preaching workshop'
As well as regular Tuesdays Research seminars.

CPAS Webinars

For the details of all the CPAS webinars please visit their website: [Browse Everything - Info | CPAS - Making Mission Possible](#) Courses include:

11 May 'Leading Change in a Covid-19 World'
26 May 'PCC Tonight' Training Evening
30 June 'Shaping a Missional Culture'

Webinar: CofE vision for the 2020s – a church where mixed ecology is the norm Monday 26 April 12.30 – 1.30pm

Join Archbishop Stephen Cottrell and panel members to find out more about the emerging vision and strategic priorities for the Church for the next decade. This is the second in a series of webinars that will explore what it means to be a church that is centred on Jesus Christ and shaped by Jesus Christ – a church that is simpler, humbler, bolder. Register here: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/9316158277192/WN_S6SO75TfTPuetMswalF4nA If you missed the first webinar from 25 March watch here: [Introducing the vision and strategic priorities](#) or read: [Stephen Cottrell's address to General Synod, February 2021](#).

Parish Giving Scheme - 'Managing existing donations'

From 12 April, it will be possible for existing donors to manage their regular giving online. Having registered for an online account, they will be able to adjust the amount of their current donation, or change their options for Gift Aid, inflationary increase, or anonymous status. Visit the PGS website [here](#). If you have any PGS queries or want to find out more contact pgs@cofesuffolk.org or visit the diocesan website [here](#). The following Webinars are also available:

An introduction to PGS - Wednesday 28 April, 1.00pm - 1.45pm, this webinar is for PCCs considering setting up Parish Giving Scheme in their church [book a place here](#).

The PGS Digital Service - Wednesday 12 May, 2.00pm - 2.45pm, this webinar is for churches who already use Parish Giving Scheme [book a place here](#)

What Next? - Conversations on discerning Christian vocation

Saturday 22 May 10.00am

Are you thinking, What does God want me to do next? Or do you know younger people trying to work out how to think about their next steps in ministry, in a church changed and still changing as a result of the turbulent events of the last year? If you are aged 16-32, you are invited to join the conversation. For further information and to book please visit: <https://what-next-2021.eventbrite.co.uk>



Next Sunday 25 April is Vocation Sunday and this video is perfect for sharing in your services.

Notices

The Diocesan film 'Flourishing Congregations' is available on our website [here](#) and is perfect to include in your services and add to your websites including your entry on A Church Near You. Video link available here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wh1rb7lhZB4

Quiet Waters Christian Retreat House in Bungay are looking for a live-in married couple to join the team and a part-time housekeeper to help with cleaning, laundry and making up rooms. Please contact: [01986 893201](tel:01986893201) or mail@quietwaters.org.uk for more information.

The National Register of Clergy is going live on 11 May, clergy will be able to check their information by logging into the People System www.churchofengland.org/resources/clergy-resources/national-register-clergy. The system support email address for all queries is peoplesystemsupport@churchofengland.org.

Parish share and its context: The Diocese has produced a short booklet to answer some of the questions we are most frequently asked about Parish Share, including: What does parish share pay for? How is parish share calculated? Who is who at the Bishop's and Diocesan offices? and What is the relationship between a diocese and the national church? This document is particularly useful for Parish/Benefice Treasurers and PCCs. To download your copy please visit [here](#).

Vacancies

[Political Enabler - Volunteer](#) | Expressions of interest: 30 April 2021

[Strategic Programme Manager](#) | Closing date: 6 May 2021

[Senior Property Team Administrator including Pastoral Secretary](#) | Closing date: 5 May 2021



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