



**Thursday 23 September 2021**

## Growing in God

### **How are you celebrating Harvest?**

It has not been an easy harvest for farmers this year. "2021 was yet another topsy-turvy year for farmers here in Suffolk, an incredibly wet winter, a cold very dry spring, followed by a wet summer, has, as usual, led to very many weather-related challenges for arable and livestock farmers alike" commented Andrew Blenkiron at the Euston Estate. Graham Miles, Lightwave Rural Chaplain, offers support by visiting many farmers across the region. To find out more do visit our Rural Life website page [here](#) for more details and to read our latest reports.

Many of our churches and schools are currently celebrating harvest and they play a major role in helping replenish food bank supplies. We are thankful that so many support food banks all year round, some offering permanent collection points, providing donations of many non-perishable goods such as long life milk and tinned food, toiletries and the occasional treat too!

So how are we celebrating Harvest? Here are a few recent stories:

"The harvest was a tough one - in East Anglia the weather was against us.... as we prepare for our Harvest Festival I will be making our traditional sheaf-shape loaf out of our own milled flour!!" says Tom McKenny, deanery treasurer in Clare Deanery.

The Revd Carl Melville, Rector at Bacton with Wyverstone, Cotton and Old Newton and Wickham Skeith, is making microwave mug cakes in Harvest Festival services to illustrate all of the ingredients needed to make a good cake, reflecting all the ingredients needed in life too.

Graham Miles, Lightwave Rural Chaplain, is preaching at the Withersfield Harvest evensong celebration alongside the Revd Max Drinkwater.

Jason Busby in St Mary's Halesworth says: "We celebrated harvest as part of the Heritage Open Days and we pulled out all the stops". This service also celebrated the first phase of a regeneration project in the church with an opportunity to show off the 'new look'



lighting, level floor, chairs, upgraded heating and sound system. The weekend event was attended by nearly 300 people and all food contributions were donated to the Halesworth Community Larder.

### **Suffolk's County Harvest Festival**

Sunday 10 October, 12.00pm - 5.00pm  
St Edmundsbury Cathedral

Come along and enjoy the Harvest Festival including; tractors, sheep, stalls, beer tent and family activities. The Songs of Praise service will commence at 2.00pm and this will include Mark Murphy from Radio Suffolk leading interviews with members of the farming community. All non-perishable food donations will be given to the local food bank. The service will also be streamed via the Cathedral's Facebook page [here](#).

### **Generosity Week**

Many churches are also celebrating God's generosity this harvest with new resources provided by the Church of England for Generosity Week. New materials include nine daily podcasts and week-long resources to encourage people to focus on generosity while living out their daily lives. Click [here](#) for more information.

Further harvest resources are available via [Tearfund](#).

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### **Little Amal**

'Hope and Aid Direct' is a charity that works to provide aid to refugees and it's supporting an Arts Festival to bring to light the harsh realities of child refugees and migrants. In collaboration with the Handspring Puppet Company, the world-famous creators of the play 'War Horse', they are presenting The Walk – a travelling festival of art and hope, bringing together artists, cultural institutions, community groups and humanitarian organisations, creating an innovative and adventurous public artwork. At the heart of The Walk is 'Little Amal', a 3.5m tall puppet of a young refugee girl. Little Amal is a nine year old female refugee who has embarked on a remarkable journey, taking her across Turkey and Europe in search of her mother, an education and a new life. To follow the festival or donate please visit [www.walkwithamal.org](http://www.walkwithamal.org)

### **Events**

#### **Art exhibition - Bicentennial of Constable painting the Hay Wain**

St Mary's Church, East Bergholt CO7 6TG

Friday 24 September private viewing 5.00pm, Saturday 25 September 10.00am-5.00pm, Sunday 26 September 11.30am - 5.00pm and Monday 27 September 10.00am - 2.00pm

The exhibition will begin with a private viewing followed by a lecture by Emma Roodhouse, the Art Curator at Ipswich and Colchester Museums. Tickets are available and cost £15 to

include a glass of wine and canapes. On Sunday evening at 6.00pm there will be a bell ringing demonstration followed by a talk from Simon Gallup, a respected local Blue Badge guide and speaker at WI and U3A groups. Tickets cost £10 and include refreshments. Tickets and further information are available from Fiona Trott ([fiona.trott13@gmail.com](mailto:fiona.trott13@gmail.com)) or Liz Digby ([liz.digby@btopenworld.com](mailto:liz.digby@btopenworld.com))

### **Celebrating 90 years of guide dogs for the blind**

St Mary's Church, East Bergholt CO7 6TG

Sunday 10 October 2021, 3.00pm

Join the Revd Canon Stephne van der Toorn and Guide Dog (Canon) Coco for this service celebrating 90 years of guide dogs for the blind. Dogs, guide dogs, puppies, friendly pet dogs and their handlers are all welcome. For further information and to book please email [revstephvd@googlemail.com](mailto:revstephvd@googlemail.com).

### **Suffolk Action Week**

4 – 10 October

Community Action Suffolk are delighted to announce that Suffolk Action Week is returning this year in partnership with Suffolk Community Restart. There is a week of events to promote and celebrate all things community and volunteering including seven Community and Volunteering Fairs across the county. Visit one of our Community and Volunteering Fairs to find out more about local charities/community groups and volunteer opportunities:

Tuesday 5 October | Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre, Stowmarket 10.00am – 1.00pm

Wednesday 6 October | The Kirkley Centre, Lowestoft 12.00pm – 2.00pm

Wednesday 6 October | St Edmundsbury Cathedral 2.30pm – 4.00pm

Thursday 7 October | Sudbury Market, Market Hill 9.00am – 3.00pm

Friday 8 October | Woodbridge Library 10.00am – 12.00pm

Friday 8 October | Red Gables Centre, Stowmarket 1.00pm – 3.30pm

Saturday 9 October | The Hold, Suffolk Archives, Ipswich 12.00pm – 2.00pm

Please do share and tag your roles online, promoting your volunteer opportunities, on: [Volunteer Suffolk | Facebook](#) and [www.volunteersuffolk.org.uk](http://www.volunteersuffolk.org.uk) using the hashtag: #SuffolkActionWeek.

### **Anti-slavery day**

Monday 18 October 2021

If you are planning to organise an anti-slavery day service, the Clewer Initiative has produced a new resource pack for churches containing liturgy, prayers, suggested Bible readings, hymns and a bespoke session for house groups. You can find it [here](#). The resources reflect upon the five senses, considering how in recalling the weak and the oppressed in modern slavery, we stop, see, listen and reach out to touch as we respond to those silent, crying voices.

### **Communion in Fresh Expressions of Church workshop**

21 October 2021, 9.00am

The Sanctuary, St Nicholas Centre, Ipswich, IP1 1UQ

If you want to celebrate communion creatively in your Fresh Expression of Church, this interactive workshop is for you. This morning looks at the heart of holy communion - its biblical and historical roots and how the service continues to be contextualised for new situations and cultures. We will look at your situation and equip you to lead your congregation in designing a celebration which fits your context and community. To book your place please visit [here](#). There is no charge for Lightwave groups, but general admission tickets are £10.00. For more information about booking please contact [nina.seaman@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:nina.seaman@cofesuffolk.org), or tel. 07394 559889.

## 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.**

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### **New Diocesan Chancellor**

The Lord Chancellor has approved the appointment of Justin Gau as the new Chancellor of the Diocese following the resignation of David Etherington QC, who has become the Chancellor of the Diocese of London. Justin is a barrister in Pump Court Chambers and is also a self-supporting priest, serving in the parish of St Paul's, Hackney. He is currently also the Chancellor of the Diocese of Bristol. Justin has a deep love for Suffolk and has family ties with the county. We look forward to welcoming Justin to the diocese, and there will be an opportunity to meet him in due course.

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### **Safeguarding Staffing Update**

We are pleased to announce that Lisa Hicks and Mark Bee will share the role of Safeguarding Trainer, each working part-time. They will prepare and publish a training schedule to include both in-person and zoom sessions. Mark and Lisa will also be working with volunteer trainers to assist in the roll out of in-person Basic and Foundation courses. If anyone is interested in becoming a volunteer trainer or would like more information about that role, please email [safeguarding@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:safeguarding@cofesuffolk.org)

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### **Vacancies**

We are looking for the right candidates to fill positions in the new Suffolk Centre of Mission, a hub for evangelism in our diocese. Please click [here](#) for job specifications and application form:

Lead Evangelist | Closing date: 5 October

Lightwave Pioneer Evangelist | Closing date: 12 October

Pioneer Evangelist | Closing date: 19 October

[Priest in Charge](#) | St Francis and St Clare, Chantry and Pinewood, Ipswich | Closing date:  
[Rector](#) | 0.5 post | St Mary Stoke, Ipswich | Closing date: 3 October

Director of Music | St Mary's Woodbridge | Please phone Nigel Prior, Rector on 01394 610424

Inspire Counselling | Development Manager | Closing date 4 October | To find out more contact: [contact@inspirecounselling.org.uk](mailto:contact@inspirecounselling.org.uk) or phone on 01473 217694.

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