



Thursday 24 November



Two new Canons are appointed

Bishop Martin appointed the Revd Eleanor Goodison and the Revd Alan Forsdike as Canons during a moving service at St Edmundsbury Cathedral on Sunday 20 November. Both have offered exceptional dedication and commitment to the life of the Church and making a difference in the county's communities.

Bishop Martin said: *"I am delighted to recognise the commitment of Eleanor and Alan, and I know that their experience and advice to my colleagues and I will be invaluable in the years ahead. Their dedication to God, and to the life of our Church of England in Suffolk, is an example to all of us."*

Read the full story [here](#).

Gavin Bultitude's DS Diary



Bishop Martin has written about the two new Canons but there was a lot more happening at the Cathedral this weekend. On Saturday, the Edmund Lecture was given by David Gauke, former Lord Chancellor and member of Theresa May's cabinet. David spoke passionately and wittily in defence of the rule of law as cornerstone of our society, and a bulwark against populism of left or right. David grounded this in the Magna Carta, first planned at the Abbey of St Edmundsbury, and the first serious attempt to constrain the power of an absolute ruler.

After the talk I saw the amazing illuminations depicting the story of the Abbey, told from the death of St Edmund until the dissolution and destruction under King Henry VIII. This was absolutely stunning. The combination of sound and pictures projected on to the Norman Tower really gave a feel of the age and history of the place and the generations that have lived, prayed, and worshipped there.

This was also in my mind on Sunday, where for the first time I sat in my Diocesan

Secretary stall in the cathedral. To the outsider it may not be much, but to me the formality and ceremony, and the beautiful music sung by the choir, linked me to all those who have served and worshipped in the cathedral and abbey over the last 1,000 years. I really felt a part of the history and tradition.

And each seat is named for a saint, I was sitting in the seat of St Nicholas of Myra. Sounds familiar? He is of course the saint famed for his generosity and support for children, and the origin of Santa Claus. So, as we move into Advent and approach Christmas, what better seat to be sitting in.

As Advent starts this weekend so many of our churches are commencing the big invitation to church this Christmas. Here are a few examples:

Inspiring Angels: Barrow Benefice is working with the local primary school and the local Craft Ladies group to make angels, which herald the good news of the Christ child, they will go into the village shops, schools, churches, homes and businesses nearby. Special angels will be placed outside the two main churches of Risby and Barrow – lit and clearly visible to all those going past and acting as invitations to services such as Christingles, 'soup and study', all age services, crib services and lots more.



Stowmarket Christmas Tree Festival: ITV News Anglia presenter Becky Jago will be switching on the lights at this year's festival starting on Friday 25 November. This will be the 18th Christmas tree festival in Stowmarket with over 1,000 trees bringing an expected 30,000 visitors to the town. The trees are spread across Stowmarket Parish Church, Stowmarket Library, Abbots Hall at the Food Museum, The Walnut, Maxwell Brown Property Agents and in the gardens at Red Gables. Each venue has a key theme; the Church's theme is 'Peace on Earth'. The trees are donated and decorated by schools, individuals, charities and businesses and this year include angels made from shuttlecocks and a tree covered in bible verses. Find out more [here](#). The festival ends on Saturday 31 December 2022.

Ipswich's Christmas Tree Festival: Opening on 1 December visit St Mary le Tower and join the thousands of visitors for its Christmas tree festival. Offering a celebration of the life and community of Ipswich, the festival will include more than 100 real and artificial trees sponsored or bought by a whole variety of businesses, charities, community groups and individuals. This year, money raised will be split between the Mayor of Ipswich's charity Emmaus Suffolk, and the church. For more information visit www.stmaryletower.org.

An evening of Carols and Comedy: Held at St Peter's and St Mary's church in Stowmarket: join Paul Kerensa, comedy writer of BBC's 'Miranda' and 'Not Going Out'. and Paul Tonkinson, a Comedy Club favourite, and get your Christmas season off to a great

start. 3 December 7.30pm, tickets are £12.50 please book online via [Evenbrite](#).

Cathedral Candlelit Advent Procession: You are invited to the Cathedral on Sunday 27 November, 5.00pm - 5.45pm, for the annual *Darkness to Light* Candlelit Advent Procession. It is helpful, for service preparation, if you can let us know if you are planning to attend or to bring a group - just drop an email to: liturgy.admin@stedscathedral.org



For all other Cathedral services and events see the listing on our website [here](#).

Time Lord Advent Service with a difference:

Welcome to an Advent Service with a difference on Sunday 4 December at 9.30am in St Michael's Framlingham IP13 9BJ. Explore advent through the eyes of a Time Lord. With a Tardis in the church, you are invited to come along - and costumes are being encouraged! The children's choir will also be singing the new Ed Sheeran song Celestial.

Image of the Invisible Advent Course: Come along on Monday 28 November to St Mary's Church in Bury St Edmunds and join this Advent Course. Running from 7.00pm you will be doing a deep dive into the imagery used in the Bible to describe God. Presented by Amy Scott Robinson, based on her Bible Reading Fellowship Advent book. The course will continue on Monday evenings on 2, 9 and 19 December and each session will last around an hour. Refreshments included. Free to join.

Seeing Christmas: Join Bishop Mike Harrison on 20 December at 7.00pm at Dove Cottage, Debenham for nibbles and a look at some of the icons associated with Christmas. Discover how faces, pictures and gazing can help us to grow deeper in prayer and loving relationship with Jesus. Contact the Revd Susan Taylor to book on 01728 860222.

Events

Global Day 2022 - Mothers' Union Responds with 16 Days of Activism

Saturday 26 November



The MU Global Day of Action calls for 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence (GBV), one of the most widespread violations of human rights.

Spanning many societies, it can be part of a damaging cultural 'norm' or hidden behind closed doors. It can be very difficult to ask for help. One in three women worldwide have experienced domestic or sexual abuse and Mothers' Union works alongside communities to help stop domestic abuse and GBV, as well as supporting those who have been affected by it.

At 1.03pm Mothers' Union members in Suffolk will be holding one minute of silence, joining with the four million Mothers' Union members here in the UK and around the world – calling for action on an international scale and in the countries where we live. Offer your support and participation using #NoMore1in3 on your social media channels. For more information see; www.musuffolk.org.uk or www.mothersunion.org

The Bury Bible Up Close

Saturday 3 December, 10.30am - 12.00pm, Zoom

St Edmundsbury Cathedral has partnered with the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge to host a virtual seminar focusing on the Bury Bible. The seminar will feature Edward Cheese, Suzanne Reynolds, and Paola Ricciardi as key speakers. To book a place, [please click here](#).

Exploring New Testament

Wednesdays 11, 18 and 25 January and 1 and 8 February and 1 and 15 March 2023 at 7.30 - 9.30pm

Earl Stonham Village Hall, Forward Green IP14 5HJ

Led by the Revd Canon John Parr, Exploring the New Testament takes a story-shaped approach to the heart of Christian faith. This seven-session course is for those on the AOP pathway, licensed ministers such as Lay Elders and LLMs, and anyone else who wants a fresh perspective on the New Testament. The course is an invitation to picture the impact of Jesus as a series of layers, like we see when the soft cliffs at the Suffolk coast are exposed. Each layer tells its own story, with the story of Jesus at the centre. Each layered story belongs to a bigger story that continues into the present and can only be approached through the other layers – which makes interpreting the New Testament an unending, challenging experience.

The course is free of charge for those on the AOP pathway and studying for Permission to Preach. The course is open to all and costs £25, those who are in commissioned or licensed ministry and so eligible for a [CMD grant](#) can make an application via lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org. For further details and to book please [click here](#).

Youth Work Essentials Training Course

Tuesdays January 10, 17, 24, and 31, February 7, 21, and 28, and March 7, 14, 21, 7.30pm - 9.15pm

Earl Stonham Village Hall, Forward Green IP14 5HJ



Join this innovative new 10-session course for volunteer youth leaders that increases your skills and confidence about work alongside young people. It's great for churches looking to start youth work or for those 'already volunteers' looking to gain some more skills and confidence. We can even tailor sessions to suit you and your needs! Please contact Matt on matt.levett@cofesuffolk.org to find out further details or [book here](#). The course costs £20 pp - CMD grants are available for licensed and commissioned ministers. Apply to lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org.

Enhancing Pastoral Ministry - Refreshed!

Wednesdays 11 and 25 January, 1 and 8 February, and 1 and 15 March 2023, 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Earl Stonham Village Hall, Forward Green IP14 5HJ

A six-session course for people who are involved in pastoral care (for example, Readers, Lay Elders, clergy, pastoral visitors) as well as those interested in a deeper understanding of this ministry. Cost is £25 for the whole course, but free to those who undertake this as initial training as an Elder or part of the Auxiliary Ordination Pathway. CMD grants are available to LLMs and clergy, please contact Lesley Steed at lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org. To book your place on this course, please [click here](#).

Living your life with God

Starting 28 February 2023, 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Zoom Lent course

Brother Lawrence wrote about how he lived his Christian life in the 1600s and his very slim work "Practicing the Presence of God" has been massively popular ever since. Through Lent, Bishop Mike (and an occasional guest!) will be offering five Zoom sessions looking at how his insights can be applied in everyday life, with plenty of room for discussion on the way. To book your place [please click here](#).

Preaching Matthew, with Professor George van Kooten

Saturday 25 February 9.30am to 12.30pm

Salvation Army Hall, Violet Hill Road, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

Bishop Martin invites you to a follow-up of the November 2022 study morning 'Preaching on the Gospel of Matthew'. This session includes guest speaker Professor George van Kooten from the Faculty of Divinity at the University of Cambridge. To book your place please visit here: Bishops-preaching-Matthew-2023.eventbrite.co.uk. Please note the other Bishops' study morning dates in 2023 are 17 June and 25 November.

BIG Weekend

Friday 14 April 2023, 6.00pm – Sunday 16 April 4.00pm

Sizewell Hall, Sizewell, Leiston IP16

Matt Levett, Diocesan Youth & Young Adults Officer, invites you to the BIG Weekend. Organised by a team of experienced youth workers it offers young people the opportunity to come together and make new friends. Ask members of your youth group if they would like to come along. The age range is from school years 7-13. Whilst it is Christian in ethos and focus you don't have to call yourself a Christian to be able to attend and have fun! To find out more and to sign up [please click here](#).

Notices

Dwelling in the word: As you may know we have a practice of dwelling in the Word which we utilise at diocesan meetings such as Bishop's Council, Diocesan Synod and Bishop's staff meetings (among others). Each year there is a different text and for 2022-

2023 (ie from Advent) it will be Colossians 1.15-29. We have now exhausted the texts from the original 'Partnership for Missional Church' process from which this practice is taken, so if you have thoughts for texts from 2023-2024 onwards then please feel free to suggest them to Bishop Mike!

Greenest County Awards: Do you know a church, person, organisation or school that's made some amazing steps to be more sustainable this year? Their efforts deserve to be celebrated, so why not enter them into Suffolk's Greenest County Awards? Categories cover waste and recycling, biodiversity, community projects, business, tourism and local food and drink, find out more www.greensuffolk.org/creating-the-greenest.../

Vacancies

[Nominations Committee Member](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral

[Rector and Rural Dean](#) | Claydon and Barham, Great Blakenham and Henley | Closing date 5 December

[Priest in Charge](#) | Alde River Benefice | Closing date: 12 December

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