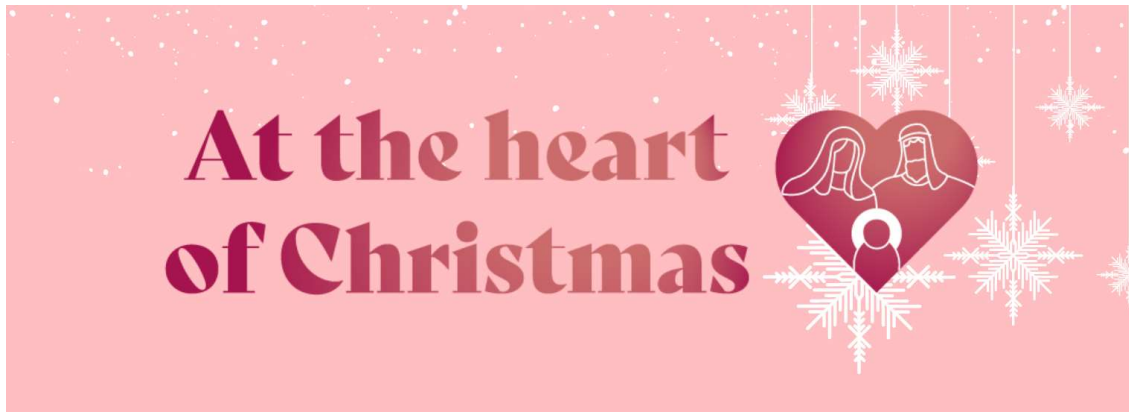


**Issue date:**



## Inspiring Angels



Bishop Martin has shown his support for the Inspiring Angels project by making his own angel, pictured here. Bishop Martin's angel will join hundreds, perhaps thousands, of other angels adorning Ipswich this December.

Bishop Martin said: *"It has been a difficult year for many people and it is wonderful to be able to spread a bit of extra joy this December. Every time I see one of the inspiring angels, I can't help but smile. I hope lots of people get involved in the project in all sorts of creative ways - it would be lovely to see angels all over Ipswich this Christmas."*

Inspiring Angels invites the people of Ipswich to create their own angels, large and small, and hang them up all over the town. The idea came from the new vicar at St Thomas' Church, the Revd Rachel Revely. She said: *"Angels are a symbol of hope, joy and the good news of Christmas. They appear and say to us not to be afraid"*.

For more information about Inspiring Angels, upcoming carol services and how to get involved, visit [www.inspiringangels.org.uk](http://www.inspiringangels.org.uk)

## Doorstep Carols is back for 2021

Wednesday 15 December at 6.00pm

Many of you spread some much needed cheer last year asking neighbours to sing carols together from their doorsteps and raise some money for local charities. It's a great opportunity to make new friends in your local community and we hope you will join in again! Alternatively, you can sing along with Radio Suffolk by tuning in at: Ipswich 103.9 FM; West Suffolk 104.6 FM; Lowestoft - 95.5 FM; Aldeburgh - 95.5 FM, and also on DAB and BBC Sounds at [www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/live:bbc radio suffolk](http://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/live:bbc_radio_suffolk)



Downloads available include a general Information [sheet](#), customisable [carols](#) and our information for [organisers](#) or visit: [www.light-wave.org/doorstep-carols](http://www.light-wave.org/doorstep-carols).

### Launching 'At the Heart of Christmas'

Thursday 25 November 6.30pm

**At the heart  
of Christmas**



At the Heart of Christmas will be launched tonight on social media as the

Church of England premieres a new Christmas film to launch the theme and the [national resources available](#). Please join in from 6.45pm by sharing posts on social media channels and/or sharing an invite to your services and events on social media. Use the hashtag [#AtTheHeartOfChristmas](#) and tag [@TheChurchOfEngland](#) in your posts. Your posts will be re-shared on their social media channels from 6.45pm. As we join together on this night, we pray that communities across the nation will be inspired.

This weekend, you can also start exploring the Advent Morning Prayer readings from Matthew's Gospel. Available Monday to Saturday via the app with audio. Please sign up [here](#).

All the Christmas campaign materials for At the Heart of Christmas are now available on the [www.achurchnearlyou.com](http://www.achurchnearlyou.com) website including free hymns, customisable videos, social media posts, images and more. You can also create a customised Christmas giving animation using the [video generator](#) that encourages people to give to your church this Christmas.

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### Growing in God Growth Fund grants are still available

**Growing in God**

The diocesan Growing in God Growth Fund is still open offering grants to help you and your church reach out creatively to encourage sharing of the Christian faith and to grow our church family in number.

If you have plans for a Christmas project or want to engage in the Growing Younger Sunday on 30 January 2022 and just need a bit of money to finance your ideas we have grants of up to £500 available. For inspiration, look at: <https://cofesuffolk.org/for-parishes/growing-your-parish/growth-funding-opportunities/> where you will see case studies of other funded projects, an overview of how the fund has been invested over the last three years and details of application information.

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## Events

## **Christmas Market**

Thursday 25 - Saturday 27 November

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 1LS

Stallholders from Suffolk and beyond will showcase their products, from micro-brewery beer and oak gifts to hand made soaps and chocolates. Visitors will get the chance to browse stalls while also taking in the beautiful setting of the Cathedral. In addition to the shopping experience, carol singing will take place daily at 3pm, with the Haverhill Silver Band joining on Saturday 27 November.

In addition to the Christmas Market, Tower Tours can be pre-booked via [stedscathedral.org](https://stedscathedral.org) and are available each day at 10.30am and 1.30pm. These tours are a special experience offering a unique look behind the walls of the Cathedral.

## **J.S. Bach's Advent Cantata 'Nun komm der Heiden Heiland'**

Sunday 5 December 5.30pm

St Mary le Tower, Ipswich IP1 3BE

The choir of St Mary le Tower Ipswich will perform J.S. Bach's Advent Cantata 'Nun komm der Heiden Heiland'. The music is accompanied by a string orchestra of local musicians and their pupils, mirroring vocal opportunities afforded to the young people in church choir. The cantata - lasting about 20 mins - includes uplifting choruses and arias, the latter will be undertaken by the choristers. The cantata will be surrounded by the liturgy of evening prayer and will conclude with a motet by Mendelssohn.

In addition the Choir of St Mary le Tower Ipswich's new carol CD is now available. Made in July 2021 this recording includes both traditional carols and recently composed works by Suffolk-based musicians. The CD is now available for purchase; online orders or further details of how to get a copy can be found at [www.stmaryletower.org.uk/choir/cds](http://www.stmaryletower.org.uk/choir/cds)

## **An Advent Journey - A service of preparation for the coming of Christ**

Sunday 5 December 5.00pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral. Bury St Edmunds, IP33 1LS

St Edmundsbury Cathedral is hosting an Advent service in partnership with the Royal School of Church Music and Cantus Firmus Trust. The service will explore four Advent themes - Hoping, Waiting, Fearing and Preparing - using a blend of words and music. Music will be led by Cantus Firmus Choir and musicians from around the county, under the direction of Richard Hubbard (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Music Development Director). The VivaVoce chamber choir from London School of Theology will also be taking part. There will be a retiring offering for the work of the RSCM in Suffolk.

You can find more information, including a poster for display on church noticeboards [here](#).

## **Helpful practices through Advent**

Four Tuesdays starting Tuesday 30 November 7.00pm to 8.30pm

A course through Advent with Bishop Mike, this time taking a look at some spiritual disciplines, habits of mind, heart and body which are seasonally appropriate and offer

opportunities for deeper formation in Christ. All are welcome. Enquiries to [Lesley Steed](#).  
To book please visit Eventbrite: <https://adventcourse-2021.eventbrite.co.uk>

## Notices

**Please visit the recently updated 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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**Dwelling in the Word:** Each year a different text is chosen for Dwelling in the Word. This text is used at various diocesan gatherings and frequently in many benefices and parishes which follow this practice. For the new Church Year starting at Advent the text is Romans 12. Bishop Mike comments "*Romans 12 is a wonderfully practical passage where Paul expounds what the Christian life looks like day by day - challenging, inspiring and strengthening by turns*". Please download the text [here](#).

**Church Magazine competition:** The Association for Church Editors organises an annual national competition for church magazine editors and for 2022 they are asking for A5 magazines printed in colour (even just on the cover). All entry details can be found on the website [here](#), closing date is 7 February 2022. Please submit entries to Sally Churchus, 103 Gravel Road, Bromley Common, Kent BR2 8PW.

**Giant Christmas card:** Christian Aid and Tearfund are sending a giant 3m tall Christmas card to the Prime Minister which and calls on the government to: ensure countries deliver stronger national plans to keep 1.5C alive; secure more ambitious climate finance commitments; press for finance for climate-related loss and damage and lead on drawing the fossil fuel era to a close and a just transition to renewables. If you would like to sign then please go to: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/proof-in-pudding>. This is a simple action we could all take to help save God's creation.

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## Vacancies

[Team Vicar and Associate Priest | Blyth Valley Team Ministry](#) | Closing date 28 November  
[Lead Evangelist](#) | Suffolk Centre of Mission | Closing date 30 November  
[Rector 0.5, St Mary Stoke, Ipswich](#) | Closing date 30 November  
[Priest in charge at St Francis, Chantry with St Clare, Ipswich](#) | Closing date 30 November  
[Parish Resources Manager](#) | Closing date 7 December  
[Trusts and Foundations Manager](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral

Organist and Director of Music | St Mary's Woodbridge & Great Bealings | Please contact [fnprior10@gmail.com](mailto:fnprior10@gmail.com) Tel. 01394 610424.

**Please click here to print and share with others**

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# eNews

THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of St Edmundsbury  
and Ipswich



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