

The last Diocesan Synod of the triennium met in St Edmundsbury Cathedral on Saturday 22 June. Bishop Martin thanked members of Synod for their diligence and engagement in Synod over the last three years, and he also thanked those standing again for election in the next triennium for their continuing willingness to serve.

The theme of this Synod was 'Church Buildings and the Environment' and Bishop Martin led with this in his Presidential speech, detailing three very different church buildings: the magnificent St Mary's Church in Haverhill, St Mary's Church Blyford and its conservation churchyard, and finally Blythburgh church, recognised as the Cathedral of the Marshes.

Bishop Martin highlighted that this is the last St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocesan Synod with Bishop Mike before his departure to the Diocese of Exeter, and he thanked him for his support. All videos and the Synod presentation is available on our website [here](#).

At the Synod we launched 'Let's Hear', a new video focusing on the environment, using the Energy Footprint Tool and the features of Eco Church.



Let's Hear about our parish approach to Climate Change, Nature and Net Zero

Please note that the deadline for completing the Energy Footprint Tool is 31 July 2024 and the deadline for 'Give to Go Green' is 28 July 2024. If you require assistance, please do

praying for these candidates, their families and the people they will serve. We are delighted that the Revd Dr Katherine Grieb is to be the retreat conductor and preacher. Katherine is the Director of the Centre for Anglican Communion Studies at Virginia Theological Seminary, USA.

To be ordained deacon: Robert Allinson, Phillip Allison, Raul Arkaia, Gregory Gooch, Carole Jones, Helen Prior-Townsend, Gregor Purdie, Simon Ramacci, Alison Roberts, Georgina South, Mandy Tucker.

To be ordained priest: Mary Brown, Jo Gunn, Sarah Hall, Sarah Lock, Doreen Page, Edith Peck, Lorna Penaluna, Karen Smith, Alix Taylor, Katherine Wilson.

Vacancy in See

With Bishop Martin's retirement planned for the end of February 2025, a discernment process is underway to find the next Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. The Vacancy in See Committee is in the process of producing a Statement of Needs, which outlines the strengths of the Diocese, the challenges facing it and the qualities the committee believes the new bishop will need. As part of this process they will be holding a public meeting to hear your views.

Vacancy in See - Public Meeting

By Zoom, Wednesday 17 July, 7.00pm to 9.00pm

This online public meeting will be chaired by Bishop Mike. The Appointment Secretaries of both the Prime Minister and the Archbishop of Canterbury will be present to provide a short introduction, outline the process and give details of the appointment timetable. This will be followed by a period of listening, during which attendees are invited to comment on the needs of the Diocese and the characteristics and qualities needed in the next Bishop. This is a great opportunity to be part of the discernment process. The meeting is open to all, please share this link with others in the diocese and encourage them to get involved. To register, click [HERE](#).

Holy Listening Course - Laude Abbey

Holy Listening is a training course run by Launde Abbey, designed for those who feel called to accompany others in their spiritual journey and to help them deepen their life with God.

The two year course (beginning in January each year) provides a comprehensive program of study and experiential learning in the field of spiritual direction. It offers a unique opportunity for participants to deepen their spiritual lives and develop skills in the art of holy listening. Through in-person retreats, workshops, and practical experience, participants gain the knowledge, skills, and spiritual depth needed to serve as spiritual directors. The Abbey is seeking interested applicants to form their cohort for 2025 and

General Election Hustings

Friday 28 June, 7.30pm to 9.00pm

St Mary le Tower, Ipswich

St Mary le Tower, in partnership with Together for Ipswich, is pleased to host a hustings for the general election for the Ipswich parliamentary constituency. Come and meet the candidates and hear them make their case for your vote in response to real life stories from across the town. Please register for a free ticket here: bit.ly/4bUIUNC or watch on our live-stream.

Safeguarding Drop-in & Mingle

Tuesday 2 July, between 2.00pm and 3.45pm

St Luke's Church, Beccles NR34 9QJ

Come along to our event for Safeguarding Officers/administrators or clergy working with a Safeguarding role. Come and have a chat, ask questions, and get to know people in a similar role. Car parking is available, please [book here](#).

Churchwarden training 2024

This event has been enormously successful in the past. The training session is aimed primarily at new or nearly new Churchwardens, but experienced ones invariably find that there is always something new to learn. The sessions are also open to anyone who might have reason to think that he or she could be a Churchwarden before long! The session covers Churchwardens' tasks and legal responsibilities, issues about building maintenance and faculties and many other related issues. There is always an opportunity for Questions and Answers. Events will be led by the Archdeacon with contributions from the Diocesan Registrar. Book here for:

[Ipswich Archdeaconry](#) | 2 July at 7.00pm at St Helen's, Ipswich IP4 2LS

[Sudbury Archdeaconry](#) | 9 July at 7.00pm at Cockfield Village Hall, Church Lane IP30 0LA

[Suffolk Archdeaconry](#) | 16 July at 7.00pm at St Luke's Church, Rigbourne Hill, Beccles NR34 9JQ

Women's Voices event - Preaching the Women of the Bible

Saturday 6 July, 10.30am – 4.00pm

St John the Evangelist, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1SP

Led by The Revd Canon Dr Liz Shercliff and The Revd Dr Kate Bruce, this event is open to all, but those who preach - lay and ordained - will find this invaluable. Liz and Kate are entertaining and enthusiastic speakers. They will deliver a number of sessions throughout the day and will finish with the first book launch of Out of the Shadows Vol 2 which will be available to purchase. Tea and coffee etc provided throughout. Bring your own lunch. This



Doggy Day: Saturday 6 July, 11.00am-2.00pm
Pet Celebration Service: Sunday 7 July,

11.00am

St Mary's Church Parish Room, Blakenham IP6 0LP

You are invited to a 'Doggy Day' celebration with lots of stalls and activities for dogs. And come along to a very special pet service on Sunday celebrating the importance of our pets, for all furry, feathered or scaly friends of all sizes! Refreshments available for all. For more details please contact Wendy Hooper on: 01473 846642 or wendydhoooper@gmail.com.

Choral Evensong

Monday 8 July, 5.00pm

St Paul's Cathedral

The St Mary-le-Tower Girls Choir will be singing Choral Evensong as part of celebrating their 10th anniversary. You are most welcome to attend.

Zero Hunger | Mary's Meals

Monday 8 July, 6.30pm tea/coffee with film start time at 7.00pm

Museum Street Methodist Church, Black Horse Lane, Ipswich IP1 2EF

All are cordially invited to a showing of this important and challenging film. Free but there will be an opportunity to donate to Mary's Meals. Please note that this film is unsuitable for children. For further information please email nicholasjardine40@gmail.com

Getting Started with Contactless

Tuesday 9 July, 3.00pm – 4.00pm

Discover the contactless devices and opportunities for your church to make the most of cashless-giving in this free webinar run by the National Giving Team. It will be helpful for newcomers to contactless giving, and an opportunity for all to ask questions. Please [book here](#).

Lark Rise Retreats



Thursday 11 July, 10.00am - 4.00pm and Saturday 13 July, 10.00am - 4.00pm

St Nicholas' Church, Felixstowe IP11 9RZ

Exploring Celtic Christian Spirituality through presence, poetry and pilgrimage. The event costs £25 per person to include a fish and chips lunch. Led by the Revd Jane Pearse. To book please email on larkriseretreats@gmail.com or phone on 01394 284213.

Care into Action: How to live out our faith by protecting God's Creation

Saturday 20 July, 9.30am

commitment to achieving ambitious net zero carbon targets and how this fits into an overall vision of our care for Creation. The morning is aimed at those across the Diocese who are keen to take an active role in promoting our environmental mission in their local areas. To book your place, please [click here](#).

"Churches Under the Sea" Flower Festival and Service

Festival takes place from Saturday 3 August - Monday 5 August, Festival Service takes place on Sunday 4 August at 10.00am

St James Church, Saxmundham IP17 3DX

Come and enjoy a wonderful display of flowers in church, visit the cake, plant and book stalls, and relax over tea and cake. There will also be a Festival Service on the Sunday at 10.00am. All are welcome, do come along!

Living Hope

13 - 15 September

St Augustine's Church, Ipswich IP3 8TH

Three days focused on sharing God's living hope with our local community. You are invited to this missional weekend including a Youth night, Men's breakfast, Women's brunch, Mission on the Streets, Saturday Night Live and Festival of Celebration Service. Join us to hear Simon Guillebaud, previously a missionary in Burundi, listen to his daring stories of faith, risk and sacrifice that have inspired people all over the world. Please click [here](#) for more information.

World Mission Conference Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Saturday 12 October, 9.00am - 1.00pm

Salvation Army Hall, Stowmarket IP14 1NE.

As Christians we are called to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it (Hebrews 13.2). How can we best do this? Our speakers will offer an insight into the refugee and asylum seeker issue on a global scale and in our own county, with practical suggestions as to how your church can become involved in welcoming and supporting those from overseas. More information and booking [here](#).

Notices

Churchyard rules: Please be advised that the Chancellor has authorised a revision of these rules and they have been updated on the Diocesan website [here](#), a printed copy will be distributed in due course.

Return of Parish Finance: Many thanks to all parishes who have already submitted their form. Completing your Return of Parish Finance provides your benefice and our Diocese

further extension. Further information is available on our [website here](#).

Electoral Roll Figures: In accordance with Church Representation Rules (CRR) 10, the chair, vice-chair, secretary or electoral roll officer of a PCC must, no later than 1 July each year, give the secretary of the Diocesan Synod written notification of the number of names there are on the roll of the parish as at the date of the APCM. To help us collate this data, please return your electoral roll figures to statistics@cofesuffolk.org or the Diocesan Office following your APCM, as part of your parish returns.

Suffolk Community Awards: This is your chance to get your community building nominated for one of Suffolk's Community Awards. There has been an additional category added this year - Community Building of the Year, in recognition of the positive contribution made by a building that is at the heart of its community, providing a vital service accessible to all members of the community and having a positive impact on the lives of the people living in that community. For more information please click [here](#).

Lost Property: The Bishop's Office has a collection of lost property including: a moleskin coat, a zip up hoodie, a gilet, a pink fluffy scarf, a English Standard soft back Bible with Growing in God bookmark possibly left at a Stowmarket Spirituality Morning. Please phone 01473 252829 to claim.

Vacancies

[Priest in Charge](#) | Wickham Market & Pettistree | Closing date: 3 July

[Programme Accountant](#) | Closing date: 5 July

[Administration Assistant](#) | Mission and Ministry team | Closing date: 5 July

[Rector](#) | The Brett Valley Benefice | Closing date: 8 July

[BISHOP'S CHAPLAIN \(Interim, fixed term 18 months\)](#) | Closing date: 8 July

[Programme Management Officer](#) | Closing date: 9 July

[Rector](#) | South Hartismere Benefice | Closing date: 10 July

[Lead Chaplain](#) | Sizewell C | Closing date: 10 July

[House for Duty Priest](#) | Lakenheath with Santon Downham and Elveden | Closing date: 10 July

[Children's and Families' Worker](#) | Stanton Benefice | Closing date: 12 July

[Giving Advisor](#) | Parish Resources Team | Closing date: 15 July

[Associate Minister for Mission with Children, Families and Young People](#) | 9 August

[River Church Opportunities](#) | Kids Pastor (full-time), Debt Centre Manager (part-time) and internships | Ipswich

[House for Duty Priest in Charge](#) | The Wrentham Benefice

[Gap Year opportunities](#) | St Mary's, Haverhill

[Associate Priest with responsibility for Chaplaincy](#) | Debenham High School

Click here to view our new film:
Let's hear from young
voices in Suffolk



**The Bishops
of Suffolk**



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