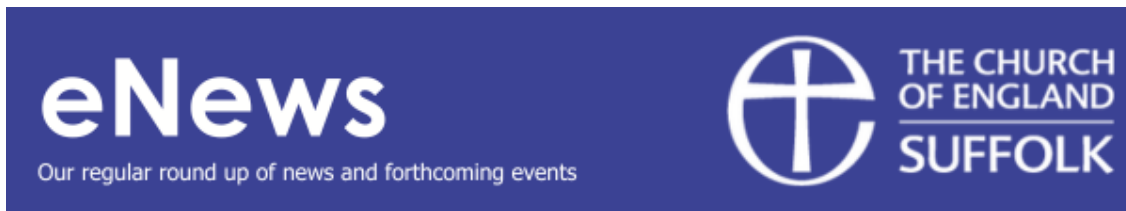


Thursday 31 October 2024



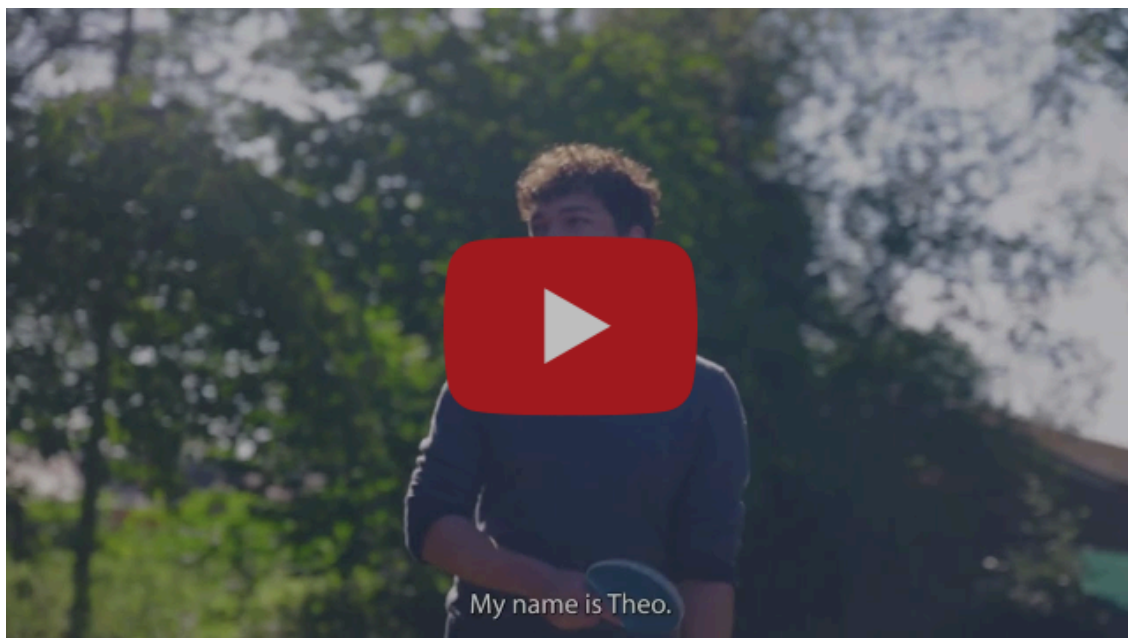
Bishop Martin's Final Presidential Address

October's Synod this year was the first Diocesan Synod of the new triennium and was held in the St Nicholas Centre on Saturday 26 October. Bishop Martin welcomed new members and also thanked re-elected members for their continuing willingness to serve.

The theme of this Synod was "*Looking back, looking forward*". Bishop Martin reflected on the past ten years and the future, particularly on four key themes - strengthening finance, sustaining buildings, supporting ministry and engaging young people; as well as two overarching themes – working together and building trust.

This was Bishop Martin's last Diocesan Synod before his retirement in February 2025.

You can download the full transcript of his speech [here](#). For more details on October's Diocesan Synod please visit our website [here](#).



At Synod, Bishop Martin launched a new film about our link diocese in Kagera connecting with young people from our Diocese.

Give to Go Green: is a national church match-funding campaign to help you double your locally raised donations. Funding is available for churches and church halls/rooms that want to carry out small to medium-sized projects that will reduce their carbon

GIVE TO GO GREEN

footprint. Match funding is available up to £10,000, or 50% of your project costs, whichever is lower. We are now entering phase two of Give to Go Green, and the application pack and how to apply details for Phase Two

were released on 21 October 2024. All the details are on our website [here](#). The campaign team is holding two introduction and information webinars, please click the relevant date to register: [Tuesday 12 November](#) at 7.00pm or [Wednesday 13 November](#) at 12.30pm. If you need further support please email our Net Zero Carbon Officer, James Rolls, at james.rolls@cofesuffolk.org.



This Synod also saw the launch of a film exploring St Mary's Church, Hadleigh on their bronze eco church award.



New visiting Canon Theologian welcomed by St Edmundsbury Cathedral

St Edmundsbury Cathedral is delighted to announce that The Reverend Dr Victoria Johnson, Dean of St John's College Cambridge, is to become visiting Canon Theologian and a non-executive member of the Cathedral Chapter.

Dr Johnson is a previous Canon Precentor of York Minster, overseeing the musical and worshipping life there. Prior to this she was a Residentiary Canon at Ely Cathedral, and a priest in the Diocese of Manchester, having been ordained there in 2007.

Victoria is looking forward to her new role at St Edmundsbury Cathedral and said, *"I'm really delighted to be contributing to the life of the Cathedral in this way. Learning about God and the world is a vital calling of the church and central to its ministry and mission. For me, theological learning and thinking about our faith together is something every Christian can engage with and is more relevant than ever to twenty-first century living."*

Farewell to the Aldeburgh All-weather Lifeboat Freddie Cooper



Last Sunday Aldeburgh said goodbye to RNLI all-weather lifeboat, Freddie Cooper. This is the boat that Bishop Martin preached from earlier this year to mark the 200th Anniversary of the RNLI. The event honoured the lifeboat's legacy over the past three decades and the brave volunteer crew members who launched 271 times, helping 351 people, and saving 35 lives.

As part of the event the Revd Mary Brown led a short service of thanks. The service made space for rejoicing in all the blessings God has given through this boat, and the community was offered the support of God and the church in this time of change.

After the service, the crew launched the Freddie Cooper from the beach one final time. The two Aldeburgh inshore lifeboats were also launched, escorting the Freddie Cooper to Sizewell, where they handed over the escort to Southwold RNLI's inshore lifeboat which had come out to join them.

Grant opportunities for Parish Churches

The Ouseley Church Music Trust's grants range from the smallest parish churches to the biggest cathedrals to support the Anglican choral tradition. Applicants must clearly demonstrate how they will advance choral excellence in worship. For more information on the grant, please visit their [website here](#). After checking the Procedures and Guidelines document on the website, a pre-application telephone call with their Clerk, Neil Parsons, is encouraged on 07912 696852 or email clerk@ouseleytrust.org.uk.

Events

Give to Go Green events

St Peter & St Paul Church, Pettistree IP13 0HR

Pettistree Church has a separate building in its grounds, built as a Church Room in 1891 and used as the Sunday School. It had some restoration work done in 1982 and in 2023 the roof was re-felted and laid. The Give to Go Green project is to create a dry, warm and welcoming space for the use of the whole village as a meeting and social space. The building requires floor, wall and ceiling insulation, the windows repaired, efficient heating, a new kitchen and improved disabled access. The church and village community welcome you to attend these fundraising events

Life, Glamour and Art | Sunday 10 November 4.00pm: An illustrated talk on the life of Doris and Anna Zinkeisen. These talented, vivacious, stylish and sassy women were the toast of London's society during the 1920s and 30s.

Wildlife Talk | Wednesday 13 November 7.30pm: A talk on wildlife by Darren Tansley from Essex Wildlife Trust - to be held in Pettistree Village Hall IP13 0FA

Vice-Consul, Customs, Cannabis and Cocaine | Saturday 16 November 4.00pm: a humorous talk titled 'Vice-Consul, Customs, Cannabis and Cocaine' with Mr Jim Jarvie OBE, retired Head of Operations of the Central UK Border Force, also to be held

at Pettistree Village Hall IP13 0FA.

Big Issues: The Edmund Lectures 2024

20 November, 7.00pm - 8.30pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

A series of lectures by internationally-renowned experts on big issues that challenge our lives as we continue to navigate the 21st century. Lectures are free to attend; all information and booking is available [here](#).

Stats for Mission: How and why to complete the form

Wednesday 6 November 12.00pm by Zoom

Are you responsible for filling out your church's annual Stats for Mission form? Have you ever wondered why you need to do this, or how to answer some of the questions? Join Dr Ken Eames, Senior Statistical Research Officer, and Emma Buchan, Head of Churches and Networks Support, for insights on the following:

- Recommendations on the best way to approach the questions.
- Who uses the data collected?
- What is data used for?
- Why is it important to both the national Church and churches across the country?

This webinar will include a Q&A session. [Register by clicking on this link](#). If you can't attend live you can submit your question in advance using this form [here](#).

Digital Giving at Advent and Christmas – National Church Webinar

Wednesday 6 November, 2.00pm

Online

How can you make the most of Digital Giving this Christmas? This webinar will dive into Digital Giving and how it can help your church, whether it's online donations, contactless or in-person. We'll look at templates for promoting donation QR codes, and how to edit them on Canva. We'll also show you how you can maximise opportunities for giving over the Advent and Christmas period. [Register here](#).

Download our [Digital Giving Checklist here](#), and our [Guide to Celebrating a Generous Christmas here](#), for parishes to make the most of their digital devices and online GAL accounts to set up Christmas Campaigns. For further help and assistance please contact Emma Denton at emma.denton@cofesuffolk.org or call 01473 298556.

Clergy, lay ministers and ministers in training day - *FULLY BOOKED*

Saturday 9 November, 9.00am, sessions begin at 9.30am

Framlingham College, Framlingham IP13 9EY

We are grateful for the popularity in booking this event - the day is now fully booked and only those that have registered via the Insight link will be able to attend the event. Enquiries about the day to Sarah Brown on 01473 252829 or sarah.brown@cofesuffolk.org.

PCC Workshops



You are invited to join us for a series of topic-based Zoom meetings by Diocesan staff and parish experts. Suitable for Treasurers, Churchwardens, PCC members and administrators, as well as clergy and LLMs. Each session will involve sharing information and knowledge with a short presentation and will include plenty of time for you to ask questions. If you have any questions, please

contact [Julie Podd](#).

- Parochial Visitations led by Archdeacon David | Tuesday, 12 November 2024 at 7.30pm | [Book here](#)
- Maintenance work and the importance of engaging appropriate contractors led by Pat Forero, The Architect Studio | Wednesday 20 November at 7.30pm | [Book here](#)
- Church boundary disputes, faculty jurisdiction and uses of churches and churchyards for commercial purposes led by Kevin Wilson, Diocesan Registrar | Wednesday 27 November at 7.30pm | [Book here](#)

Flooded!

Friday 15 November, 6.00pm and repeated on Saturday 15 November 1.00pm and 6.00pm.
St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Flooded! is a theatre, opera and song extravaganza combining The Fools' Flood by Neil Clayton, a new play about an historic flood in Bury St Edmunds, and Benjamin Britten's family opera, Noye's Fludde. Supported by Arts Council England and partnering St Edmundsbury Cathedral, 15 local schools, Britten Pears Arts, Suffolk Music Service and multiple community groups. Flooded! will allow us to reflect on our world today with the climate emergency and migration so often making headlines. Tickets and more information are available [here](#).

An Introduction to Small Missional Groups

Saturday 16 November, 9.30am - 1.30pm
Freston Village Hall, Freston, Ipswich IP9 1AH

Come along to an event held by Lightwave to learn more about Small Missional Groups. Pray, discuss and share lunch with Lightwave members and learn more about what God is doing. [Sign up here](#).

Stories and Chips

Saturday 16 November, 3.30pm - 6.30pm
Earl Stonham Village Hall, Stowmarket IP14 5HJ

Come along and celebrate with a fish and chip meal and listen to stories of what God is doing across the Lightwave Community, and worship together. Hot and cold drinks will be provided. Please [sign up here](#).

Faith Story – with Archdeacon Rich

Monday 18 November, 7.00pm - 8.00pm
Zoom

All are welcome to join us for the next 'Faith Story' in our series as Archdeacon Rich shares

his faith journey with us. There will be lots of time for questions and conversation. Listening to someone else's journey with God is not only interesting but encouraging and helpful for our own spiritual growth and development. [Sign up here.](#)

Light Up a Life

Starting 24 November, 3.00pm

You are invited to have the names of your loved ones read out at an event. The Light Up a Life events are free and open to all, not just those whose loved ones were cared for by St Nic's. They offer a meaningful way to come together as a community during the festive season and enjoy a moment of reflection, with music and readings. To submit a name please visit their [website here](#), and to view the full list of dates and locations for these events please [click here](#).

Chaplaincy Gathering

Tuesday 26 November, 10.00am - 3.30pm

St Nicholas Centre, Ipswich IP1 1UQ

This day is for chaplains across all sectors and is an opportunity to network with others. There will be input from Ceri Bryant, Occupational Health and Wellbeing manager for Sizewell C, and some of our diocesan team. A sandwich lunch will be included. No parking is available at St Nicholas Centre - please use local car parks. To register, please [click here](#).

Eco Church Support

Tuesday 26 November 6.00pm - 7.00pm by Zoom

Join Robert Skelton (Ely Cathedral - Eco Church Gold Award), and Polly Eaton (A Rocha Eco Church - Eco Diocese Officer) for an informal session for people to chat about Eco Church Awards. Share success, obstacles and challenges you may be experiencing, seek support and support others. Please register [here](#) to receive a Zoom link (this will be emailed out prior to the session).

Advent for All

Tuesdays 26 November, 3 December, 10 December, 17 December at 7.00pm

Zoom

The Diocesan Spirituality Group invites you to a 4 session Advent series delving into the riches of John 1 vs 1-18. Come and reflect on how the eternal Word made flesh makes all the difference to our lives. Each session will include prayer, some input and some discussion. To join online, please email elmswellrector@gmail.com to receive the Zoom link.

Theological Refreshment in Ministry: Spirituality and Art

High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, Herts

25 – 26 November

Join this short residential retreat, open to lay, commissioned and ordained ministers: priests, local pastors, preachers, Elders, Readers and LLMs from the Eastern region. This year the Revd Canon Sharron Coburn and the Revd Mother Ali Miller will

lead on the theme of Spirituality and Art: *Connecting with our Creator God and our creative selves*. These couple of days will be a chance to reflect theologically on how art – in all the ways we understand that term - helps us connect with God; to explore our reactions to various artistic media and the notion of what art is; and perhaps to have a go ourselves at some form of creative endeavour. The cost of the conference is £120 per person, which will cover all conference costs, including an en-suite room and all meals. CMD grants can be used to cover the cost. To register for a place, [please click on this link](#). For more information, please contact Lesley Steed at lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org or telephone 01473 298510.

Active Imagination and the Mystical Life Webinar

Saturday 30 November, 2.00pm to 5.30pm

Online

The talk will be given by the Revd Canon Dr Earl Collins, CMD Officer, Diocese of Chichester. Based on lectures on Ignatius' *Spiritual Exercises* given by Jung in 1939-40, Earl Collins' talk explores the fundamental importance, for both Ignatius and Jung, of the experiential aspects of religion.

This talk will be of interest to clergy and lay people, and particularly perhaps to those involved in spiritual direction and accompanying.

For further information and to book please [click here](#).

Youthscape Essentials

Earl Stonham Village Hall, Stowmarket IP14 5HJ

Tuesdays 14 January, 21 January, 28 January, 4 February, 11 February, 25 February, 4 March, 11 March, 18 March, 25 March 2025, 7.30pm - 9.15pm

YouthScape Essentials training for all youth workers, youth ministers and youth helpers! Led by skilled practitioners using discussion, videos, skills practice, young people's insights and much more, to gain a foundational understanding into the lives of young people and how we can disciple them to know and love Jesus. Cost of the course is £10. To sign up and find out more, please [click here](#).

Connect Family Ministry Course

The Woolpit Institute, Woolpit IP30 9QH

Saturdays 18 January, 22 February, 29 March, 24 May, 21 June and 19 July

In this course, over six Saturdays, we look at what families look like in the Bible and how the early church ministered to families. We then look at child development, learning and spiritual styles, discipleship, intergenerational worship, schools ministry and how we walk with families through life's key transitions. This course is perfect for anyone already doing some children or family ministry who wishes to consolidate their learning, access new resources and join a network of like-minded people who share their enthusiasm for this ministry. Please sign up [here](#).

The Only Way is Ethics

Earl Stonham Village Hall, Stowmarket IP14 5HJ

Tuesdays 21 January, 28 January, 4 February 2025, 11 February 2025, 25 February 2025, 4

March 2025, 7.30pm - 9.30pm

The Christian Ethics module is a six-session course which explores the history of ethical thought and also everyday issues and moral questions from capitalism to the environment. Led by the Revd Rachel Revely, the course aims to further develop moral thinking, appreciation and judgment that is appropriate within the context of Christian teaching and pastoral ministry, and Christian living. [Book here.](#)

Enhancing Pastoral Ministry

Earl Stonham Village Hall, Stowmarket IP14 5HJ

Wednesdays 22 January, 29 January, 5 February, 12 February, 26 February and 5 March 2025. Registration and coffee at 7.00pm, sessions 7.30 – 9.30pm

Enhancing Pastoral Ministry is a six-session course for people who are involved in anyway in pastoral care (for example, Readers, Lay Elders, clergy, pastoral visitors) as well as those interested in a deeper understanding of this ministry. The course is open to all and is free of charge. For more information on the course, please contact Lesley Steed at lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org, and to book onto the course please [click here.](#)

Exploring the Old Testament

Earl Stonham Village Hall, Stowmarket IP14 5HJ

Wednesdays 22 January, 22 January, 29 January, 5 February, 12 February, 26 February, 5 March and 12 March 2025. Registration and coffee at 7.00pm, sessions 7.30 – 9.30pm

In many of our churches, where the weekly service may be some form of the Eucharist, the Old Testament nowadays is never read. And even where it is, it is often ignored. But it is the larger part of the Bible and has far more to say than the New Testament about things like the life cycle (birth, marriage, death), sickness and health, daily work, the environment, social justice, and so on. In other words, it relates to life as we know it on a day-by-day basis. Of course, there are some challenging bits which need also to be confronted in an honest manner, but they should not deflect us from the riches of what was, after all, Jesus's Bible. (Where did he get the first and great commandment ... and the second is like, namely this...?) In this short course, Hugh Williamson will try to open our eyes to some of this wealth by surveying in an engaging manner all the different types of material in the Old Testament, very much with an eye on how we can apply it in our own times in both church and society. To book your place on this course please [click here.](#)

In the beginning was the story... Approaching the New Testament

Earl Stonham Village Hall, Stowmarket IP14 5HJ

Wednesdays 30 April, 7 May, 14 May, 28 May, 4 June, 11 June, 18 June, 7.30pm - 9.30pm

This course looks at the beginnings of what became Christianity, in the writings of the New Testament, and explores their narrative features. Led by the Revd Canon John Parr, Approaching the New Testament takes a story-shaped approach to the heart of Christian faith. To book your place please [click here.](#)



Follow the Star: Calm and Bright

The Church of England's theme for Advent and Christmas 2024, Follow the Star: Calm and Bright, draws on the world-famous carol, Silent Night: "Silent Night! Holy Night! All is calm, all is bright..." Resources include: booklets, prayer cards, family resources, logos and design guidelines, regular webinars, blogs, how-to videos, and a digital planner to help you create and

organise your church's digital content. Find out all you need [here](#).

Vacancies

[Liturgy and Music Administrator](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral | Closing date: 4 November

[Rector](#) | Bungay Benefice | Closing date: 6 November

[Children and Families Missional Worker](#) | Holy Trinity Ipswich | Closing date: 7 November

[Children's and Families' Worker](#) | Sudbury | Closing date: 8 November

[Associate Leader of the Lightwave Community](#) | Closing date: 17 November

[Team Rector](#) | Wilford Peninsula Team Ministry | Closing date: 25 November

[Part time Associate Priest](#) | Carlford Benefice | Closing date: TBC

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

[Part-time Youth Worker](#) | Brandon | Please email enquiry@stpetersbrandon.co.uk

Police Chaplain for Bury St Edmunds We are seeking one or two ministers, lay or ordained to serve as volunteer chaplains at Bury St Edmunds police station. The post involves being a pastoral presence and support to officers and staff. Training and induction is provided by Suffolk police and you will be part of a team that serves across the constabulary. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Archdeacon Rich archdeacon.rich@cofesuffolk.org

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



**The Bishops
of Suffolk**





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