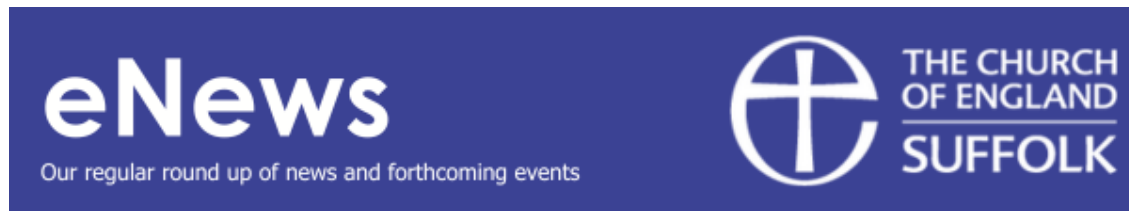


Thursday 5 December 2024



Ukrainian wellbeing café in Ipswich



A Ukrainian wellbeing café in Ipswich is providing a 'therapeutic environment' for people from the war-torn country to talk about their experiences. The café was set up by the Revd Andy Buttress and Alex South of Bridge Communities, in collaboration with Alan Cutting from Together for Ipswich, to reach Ukrainian communities in the town and build relationships.

Bridge Communities is part of the Lightwave Community, which looks to support communities across the county to combat isolation and engage in youth work. Andy said that the weekly event, on Mondays from 4.00pm to 7.00pm at On the Huh Café in St Peter's Street, has been a big success. Read the full story on our [website here](#).

Food bag scheme praised in university research: The Top Up Shops initiative runs in 10 of our churches in Ipswich, and allows those in the community struggling to make ends meet to fill a bag with vital food and supplies in return for a £2 donation without any need for a referral. A report from the University of Suffolk has found significant community benefits beyond just the food supplies. Read the full story and access the [report here](#). Bishop Martin is quoted.

Radio Christmas:



For all those who love Christmas and Christmas music look no further than Radio Christmas! A radio station run by Christian volunteers, with all funds raised through the programming going to support the work of Street

Kids Direct, a great charity supporting street children in Guatemala and surrounding countries. [Click here to listen](#), and find out more about the [charity here](#).

Results of Elections:

As you will be aware, the election process for vacancies to a number of committees, has been taking place over the last few weeks, as follows:

- One vacancy from the House of Laity to Bishop's Council
- Six/seven clergy and/or lay vacancies for the Diocesan Board of Education

- Three clergy and five lay vacancies for the Diocesan Board of Patronage
- Three clergy and seven lay vacancies for the Vacancy in See Committee

For all of these vacancies, with the exception of the clergy vacancies for the Diocesan Board of Patronage, elections were not required, and so I'm pleased to announce the following appointments:

**Bishop's Council
House of Laity**

- Mrs Sabrina Crooks

Diocesan Board of Education

- Mrs Maggie Elder
- Revd Joanna Gunn
- Revd Rachel Revely
- Revd Toby Tate
- Revd Canon Susan Taylor

**Vacancy in See
House of Clergy**

- Revd Canon Andrew Dotchin
- Revd Alix Taylor

House of Laity

- Mrs Sabrina Crooks
- Miss Anna Geileskey
- Mr David Lamming
- Mrs Jacqueline Maslin
- Mrs Katherine Pitchford

**Diocesan Board of Patronage
House of Laity**

- Mr David Lamming
- Ms Christine Laverock
- Mrs Jacqueline Maslin
- Mrs Barbara Rowe

For the House of clergy, there were four nominations for three posts with voting currently taking place by the House of Clergy of Diocesan Synod. The results will be announced on Friday 20 December 2024. Thank you to all of those who stood for election for the 2024-27 triennium. Given there are still 1-2 vacancies on the Diocesan Board of Education, 1 vacancy for a lay member of the Diocesan Board of Patronage and 1 clergy and 2 lay vacancies for the Vacancy in See Committee, we will plan to run further elections in the early part of 2025 – please consider if you, or someone you know, might be willing to contribute to the effective governance of the Diocese by standing for election.

Kind regards,

Gary Peverley

Events

Give to Go Green events

St Peter's Church, Stoke Park, Ipswich IP2 9TH

St Peter's are looking to raise £10,000 to be match funded to replace their church windows. Up until 15 December there will be a number of Christmas-themed events - please do book and join!

Christmas Film Night | Friday 6 December, 6.00pm. £5 per person or £10 for a family including a drink and popcorn. [Book here.](#)

Santa's Grotto – Saturday 14 December, 3.00pm. £5 per child including the visit and a present. [Book here.](#)

Trees in the Tower

St Mary le Tower, Ipswich

Friday 29 November to Sunday 8 December

The Town and Civic Church of Ipswich, St Mary le Tower, due to be redesignated Ipswich Minster in 2025, looks forward to welcoming thousands of visitors to its famous Christmas tree festival. 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. For more information visit www.stmaryletower.org or follow on social media @stmaryletower.

CB Jackson's One-Man Christmas Carol

Sunday 8 December at 6.00pm

St Mary at the Elms, Elm Street, Ipswich IP1 2EF

A spellbinding performance of Dickens' much-loved masterpiece as CB Jackson inhabits the character of Ebenezer Scrooge. £8 for adults, £5 for children (9 - 17 years). Not suitable for under-9s. Pay on the door. Supporting the Samaritans and church funds.

Great Blakenham Christmas Events

Come along to a variety of Christmas events, held by St Mary's Church, Great Blakenham IP6 0LP

Christmas Fayre | Saturday 7 December, 11.00am-2.00pm

Christmas Tree & Cracker Themed Festival | Saturday 7 December - Sunday 8 December, 11.00am -2.00pm

Carol Service | Sunday 15 December, 5.00pm

Village Carol Singing | Friday 20 December, 6.30pm start

Christingle Service | Tuesday 24 December, 4.00pm

Felixstowe Parish Christmas Events

St John's Church IP11 7PW and St Edmund's Church IP11 2HR

Christmas Cracker Fair - Saturday 7 December, 10.00am, St John's Church IP11 7PW

Christmas at Pitstop - Saturday 7 December, 11.00am - 1.00pm, St Edmund's Church IP11 2HR

Get Messy For Christmas - Wednesday 11 December, 3.45pm, St John's Church IP11 7PW

Nine Lessons and Carols with Ipswich Deaf Signing Choir - Sunday 15 December, 4.00pm, St John's Church IP11 7PW

CTF Advent Event - Tuesday 17 December, 12.00pm, St Edmund's Church IP11 2HR

Eucharist with Carols - Thursday 19 December, 10.30am, St Edmund's Church IP11 2HR

Pitstop Carols - Friday 20 December, 6.00pm, St Edmund's Church IP11 2HR

Nativity - Sunday 22 December, 3.00pm, St John's Church IP11 7PW

Midnight Mass - Tuesday 24 December, 11.00pm, St John's Church IP11 7PW

BCP Eucharist and Eucharist with Carols - Wednesday 25 December, 8.00am and 10.00am, St John's Church IP11 7PW

Angel Festival

St Matthew's Church, Leavenheath CO6 4US

Sunday 8 December, 10.30am onwards

Join St Matthew's church for an all-day Angel festival with crafts and refreshments, as well as a Carol sing-song later on in the day at 2.30pm. The church will be decorated with angels and stars made by the community. The festival will then be open each day until Christmas. All are most welcome.

Emergency Services Carol Service

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Monday 9 December, 7.00pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral hosts the annual carol service for our emergency services – police, fire, and ambulance from across the county. It is an opportunity for people to gather to thank them for all they do to protect people in Suffolk. Please come along and join in, all are welcome.

Depden Living Nativity

Wednesday 11 December - Saturday 14 December, 5.30pm and 7.00pm

Depden Care Farm, Bury St Edmunds IP29 4BU

Twice-nightly performances of the Living Nativity at Depden near Bury St Edmunds for the second year running. Experience the magic of the Christmas story as you travel around the farm meeting the animals, with local people taking on the starring roles. Cost is £12 for adults and £6 for under 11s. Full details of the performance and tickets [available here](#).

Christmas tree festival followed by Christingle and crib service

St Mary's Church, Boxford CO10 5DU

Sunday 15 December 10.00am to 3.50pm, service at 4.00pm

A lovely way to begin the build-up to Christmas with crafts, cakes, refreshments and a children's trail. Service includes singing from the Boxford School Choir.

Waking the Women

Tuesday 7 January, 7.00pm - 8.30pm by Zoom

Women over the age of 40 are by far the biggest and the most active demographic in the Church of England. But while a huge proportion of any given congregation will likely have experienced menopause, it still remains largely unacknowledged, unspoken and unaddressed. Join Jayne who will be discussing her book *Waking the Women*, the menopause and the church with the Diocesan Advisor for Women's Ministry, the Revd Ali Miller, on Zoom. All are welcome to come and join the discussion. [Click here to register.](#)

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 and 25 March 2025, 7.30pm - 9.15pm

Youthscape Essentials training is 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, including the course handbook. 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, 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 and 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' 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](#).

The Big Weekend

Friday 11 April, 11.00am - Sunday 13 April, 4.00pm

Sizewell Hall, Leiston IP16 4TX

The Big Weekend is organised by the Church of England here in St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, and run by experienced youth workers from around Suffolk. It's a weekend of craziness, worship, games and friendship all focused around learning more about living as a Christian in the C21st. The event is for young people 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! Cost of the weekend is £60 per person. [Book 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 and 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](#).

Building a Generous Church conference

Saturday 17 May, 9.30am

Bridge Community Church, 68 Queen's Road, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3EW

We invite you to join Archdeacons David and Rich; Gary Peverley, Diocesan Secretary; Diocesan staff and others to be inspired by keynote speakers focusing on compassionate communities and the impact on our society, and how to put generosity at the heart of our lives. There will be a choice of 12 workshops to attend to help your church become more informed and better resourced to grow a generous culture and reach financial sustainability. Bishop Graeme will open the conference. All those who are part of the Church of England Suffolk community are welcome. For more information and to book please click [here](#).

Rural Mission and Ministry Course

Royal Agricultural University, Gloucestershire GL7 6JS

Tuesday 20 May - Wednesday 21 May 2025

The Rural Mission and Ministry Course is designed for lay and ordained church leaders across the denominations entering a rural appointment, and those already in rural ministry who feel the need for a 'refresher'. The two-day programme employs a variety of approaches including practical sessions, group work and workshops led by practitioners, and includes sessions on understanding rural contexts, mission and growth, leadership, farming and work with children and young people in the countryside. The course costs £300. [Book here](#).

Save the Date- Growing in God in the Countryside

22-23 September 2025 | St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Join us for a National Rural Mission Conference to explore and share key learning about this context from the last decade of initiatives. This event will bring together senior leaders, pioneers, rural resource church leaders and other partners. We will share learnings from Suffolk and other Strategic Development Funded (SDF) projects across rural England. There will be opportunities to connect with others and explore new opportunities to make and grow disciples in the countryside. Email [Suzie Wall](#) or phone: 07729 854510

Notices

Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme - Online Tool to contact your local MP

Since 2001 the Listed Places of Worship Grant (LPWGS) has enabled communities which care for our historic churches and other listed places of worship to reclaim VAT on repair works. The grant scheme comes up for renewal in March 2025, and we are calling on people to write to their local MP to alert them to the potential threat of closure of the scheme, and the disastrous impact this would have on historic churches. Without this scheme, many historic and architecturally important buildings will be at risk of closure. **IMPORTANT:** After inserting your details, click 'submit' - despite the name of this button, this doesn't submit the letter, it just takes you to the template letter, and when you're happy with the letter you then submit it. The tool is available to use [here](#).

Vacancies

[Precentor](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral | Closing date: 6 December
[Chief Finance Officer](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral | Closing date: 9 December
[Organ Scholar](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral | Closing date: 14 January
[Part time Associate Priest](#) | Carlford Benefice
[Diocesan Correspondence Secretary](#) | Mothers' Union
[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

[Click here to print and share with others](#)



Watch our stories from around Suffolk



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