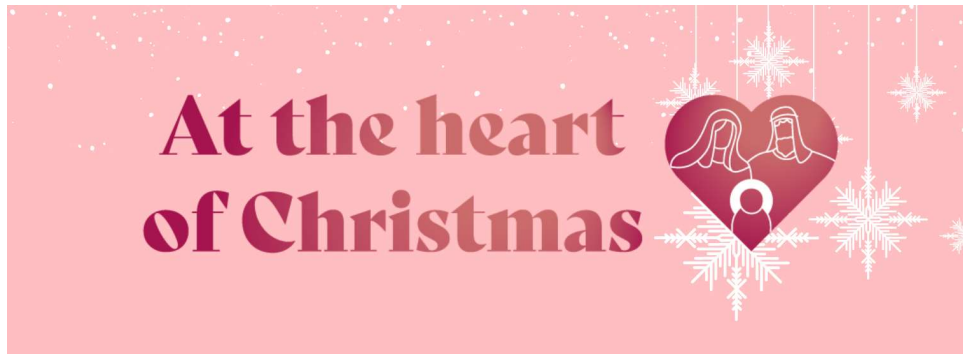


Issue date: 9 December 2021



Christingle Service: Adults and children alike joined the service held at All Saints Church in Thorndon last weekend, attended by over 70 people who made their Christingle and celebrated together. After the service the everyone enjoyed mince pies and mulled wine.. Read more [here](#).



200 Angels knitted – one for each family: Joyce Cocksedge, an amazing knitter from Cockfield, has knitted 200 angels to be given to families in Little Whelnetham and Bradfield St George. The Revd Richard Stainer said: *"Joyce is quite remarkable, others also helped with the knitting but without her we would not have been able to manage it,"* Richard added, *"The angel is a messenger bringing us hope, protection and guidance and of course it was angels that announced the birth of Jesus Christ, the light of the world."* Read more [here](#).



Nativity Live! ! St Mary's Church, Haverhill, with help from Churches Together, held its first Nativity Live! last Saturday. Organised by the Revd Wendy Norris, curate at Haverhill, and Licenced Evangelist, Tracy Sevenoaks, the nativity started indoors at the Methodist Church and then ventured outside to various stops across town with the help of a real donkey. The nativity ended in the church with a camel borrowed from a local theatre company. Over 120 people came along enjoying refreshments afterwards, as well as a 'peep-through' photo board of the stable. Read more [here](#).

Church of England film explores what is at the heart of Christmas

At the heart of Christmas



This Christmas should be a time for sharing, togetherness, faith, and hope in the hardships of the last two years. This four-minute promotional film features powerful personal reflections from people in a wide range of walks of life, speaking about what Christmas means to them. The film's soundtrack is a new version of 'In the Bleak Midwinter' by one of the country's top young composers, Rebecca Dale, which was released as a single earlier this week, already reaching the top of the classical charts.



#AttheheartofChristmas | The Church of England

Church of England's Vision and Strategy

The Church of England's calling is and always has been to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ afresh in each generation to the people of England. The work to develop the new Vision and Strategy is underway as the Church of England adapts and puts its trust in God to become a simpler, humbler, bolder Church. The strategic priorities are:

- To be a church that is younger and more diverse
- To be a church where mixed ecology is the norm – where every person in England has access to an enriching and compelling community of faith by adding new churches and new forms of Church to our parishes, schools and chaplaincies
- To become a church of missionary disciples where all God's people are released to live the Christian life.

The mixed ecology was included as part of General Synod in November where it looked at flourishing church and ministry in parishes. Bishop Mike features in the supporting video, shown below, along with a showcase of projects from across Suffolk.



Video from General Synod - November 2021 - featuring Bishop Mike sharing news about the 'Mixed Ecology' in Suffolk.

Events

Growing Younger Sunday

Sunday 30 January 2022



On this Sunday in January we would love each and every church in our Diocese to take a step in considering children and youth in their services on that day. This could range from praying for them and their leaders; right up to having them plan and lead a service. To support you we have a prayer written for and by children and

young people, a Padlet of resources, posters, music and more. For further information please contact Hilary Wordsworth-Sewell hilary.wordsworth-sewell@cofesuffolk.org (Children's and Families) or Matt Levett matt.levett@cofesuffolk.org (Youth and Young Adults) or visit our website [here](#).

Youth Work Essentials

Diocesan Office, 4 Cutler Street, Ipswich IP1 1UQ

Starting mid January 2022 (dates and timings to be confirmed)



Matt Levett, Diocesan Youth and Young Adults Officer, says "If you are you looking to start a youth group but just need some ideas and guidance then this course is for you. In ten weeks you will have the confidence to give it a go!"

We are offering a ten week course designed by 'YouthScape' aimed at helping equip churches and train people starting out in youth ministry. It does not pre-suppose a great level of knowledge or existing practise. Please contact Matt on matt.levett@cofesuffolk.org to learn

more and book your place.

World Praise Weekend at St Edmundsbury Cathedral



St Edmundsbury Cathedral's InHarmony Project is planning a World Praise Weekend at the Cathedral. There will be three events:

Workshop: Sing World Praise Saturday 26 February 10.00am - 1.00pm

Join world music expert Geoff Weaver on a journey through the music of the world church. Participants who also buy a ticket for the evening concert will be invited

to sing in an ad hoc choir for the first half of the concert, singing some of the songs from the workshop.

Concert: Zimbe! Sunday 27 February 2022

An exciting performance of Alexander L'Estrange's unique cantata Zimbe!, based on African songs. Cantus Firmus Choir will be joined by a five-piece jazz ensemble and a children's choir drawn from local schools, under the direction of Richard Hubbard. During the first

half of the concert, Geoff Weaver will lead a selection of songs from the worldwide church, with audience participation. An evening not to be missed! Cantus Firmus Choir is recruiting singers for this performance. For details visit <https://www.cantusfirmus.org.uk/choir-members/sing-in-zimbe.html>

Service: Kagera Praise Sunday 27 February 5.00pm

Come and join this dynamic celebration of African praise and worship, led by the Bishop of Dunwich and focusing on the Kagera Project - the link between the churches of Suffolk and Kagera, Tanzania.

Music will be in African style, led by Steve Thompson, international worship leader and music producer, with a gospel choir, to be recruited from around Suffolk (separate from the Zimbe choir, though some singers could do both). There'll be a rehearsal on Saturday 12 February, 9.30am - 1.00pm, in the Ipswich area. More details to follow, but meanwhile email music.development@stedscathedral.org if you'd like to take part.

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.

Message from Gary Peverley, Finance Director, on Parish Share end of year payments:

Thank you to all of our parishes for your giving towards parish share so far for this year.

We would like to give you advance notice that we continue to accept payments towards the 2021 parish share **up to and including Monday 31 January 2022. Payments received after that date, unless we know about them in advance, will be treated as 2022 parish share.** This is to enable us to move more quickly to close our own accounts and prepare for our statutory audit. We understand that, for some parishes, it can take time to work through final parish share payments for the year just ending, but would appreciate it if we could all work to the timetable above and understand the cut-off dates.

Our preference is to receive funds via online banking (but please ensure you make clear which year the payment is for in the text field).

Any cheques must be received at the office by 31 January 2022 to be included in your 2021 Parish Share figures. Cheques received after this date will only be accounted for in your 2021 figures if you have told us by 31 January to expect the cheque so that we can accrue for it, allowing us to finalise our own accounts.

Community Restart Grant – Updated Criteria Please note that the criteria for the Community Restart grant has now widened to include following: volunteer and staff training; holding an event to re-engage communities; increasing participation and confidence by subsidising places; increased costs due to Covid impact and infrastructure that supports everyday activity. Grants are available for between £250 and £2500. You can find out more [here](#).

Last call for Growing in God Growth Fund grants 2021 The diocesan Growing in God Growth Fund is still open offering grants up to £500, designed to help you and your church reach out creatively to encourage sharing of the Christian faith and to grow our church family in number. Whether for Christmas projects, Growing Younger Sunday or to support livestreaming look for inspiration and how to apply [here](#).

Vacancies

[Trusts and Foundations Manager](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral

[Youth Project Lead](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral | Closing date 4 January 2022

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

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