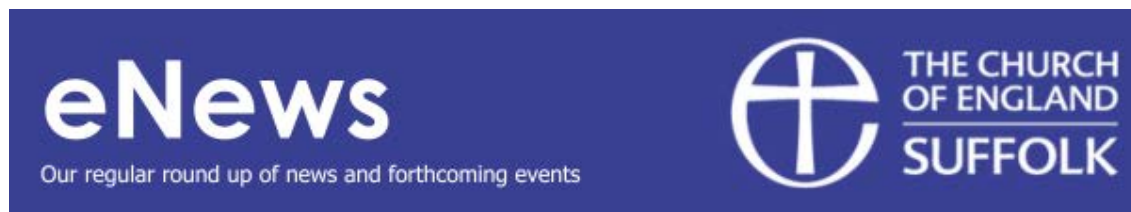


Thursday 9 May 2024



St Mary le Tower redesignated as a Minster



Bishop Martin has announced that the church of St Mary le Tower, Ipswich will be redesignated as a Minster in recognition of its increasingly important role serving the community. The church in Ipswich town centre will become a minster next year, which coincides with the 825th anniversary of Ipswich being granted its Royal Charter by King John, with the election of the first town officials taking place in the churchyard.

The Minster designation recognises St Mary le Tower, which has been at the heart of Ipswich for more than 1,000 years, as a church of key significance to the town and reflects its vital spiritual and community role. The church already has a flourishing ministry and mission in Ipswich and this decision is seen by the parish as recognising its commitment to service.

Bishop Martin made the announcement following months of wide-ranging consultation to assess whether St Mary le Tower should receive this designation, which is rarely granted. Following a request from civic leaders the Bishop consulted with church and community leaders to gather views on making this historic designation. The decision now sets in motion a development plan to strengthen St Mary le Tower's response to the needs of people living in and visiting central Ipswich, as well as celebrations in Ipswich next year.

The building is recognised as the civic church for the town, hosting important services for civic duties. However, the church has a growing reputation as a place that responds to the needs of many requiring support in today's modern world.

Bishop Martin said: *"I am hugely grateful to all those from across Ipswich and the wider county for the many considered contributions I have received to assist me in this decision. Throughout the consultation process, there was a clear sense of the growing vocation of St Mary le Tower to serve the civic and community life of the town and respond to the spiritual and social needs of those living and working in the town centre, as well as those visiting central Ipswich."*

The term Ipswich Minster follows the practice of using this term as an honorific title for churches within a town centre and with a key civic role and does not change the relationship between St Mary le Tower and neighbouring churches.

The Revd Tom Mumford, vicar of St Mary le Tower, said: *"We are delighted that civic leaders made this request and that Bishop Martin granted approval. Our mission is to be a welcoming, inclusive and open church offering peace and sanctuary to the people of Ipswich. Reaching out and serving our local community is central to the life of the church."*



To read the full story please visit our website [here](#).

Picture caption: St Mary le Tower today helping those in need. Credit: Paul Nixon.

Voluntary work of Churchwardens celebrated at St Edmundsbury Cathedral



Hundreds of churchwardens and their supporters attended Choral Evensong at St Edmundsbury Cathedral in a celebration to thank them for their unstinting efforts in this key church role.

Tributes were paid to them by Bishop Martin, who thanked them for their care of our church buildings and the clergy, and all the work they do to support church life across the county. Bishop Martin said: *"So much of the*

work undertaken by churchwardens to support the life and witness of our churches and benefices is often hidden and goes on behind the scenes. Their dedication and hard work in so many facets of a parish's life – from building maintenance and fundraising to clergy support, from pastoral support to smoothing out problems – ensures that the wider mission and ministry of God's church in our county can be released to serve the communities in which they are set." About 500 people in total including about 150 church wardens attended the service during the bank holiday weekend. To read the full story, please visit our [website here](#).

Work out your church's carbon footprint to help care for God's creation!



The Church of England's Energy Footprint Tool is now open for churches to enter fuel and power use from 2023. You can access the tool through the Parish Returns portal

[here](#). The data collected from the tool will help your church understand its carbon footprint and will mean you may be eligible for grants to help kickstart your net zero projects.

If you need any help with the tool, please contact our Net Zero Carbon Officer at james.rolls@cofesuffolk.org - he will be happy to assist you. This work is an essential part of caring for God's Creation, by helping to combat global heating and climate change. Find

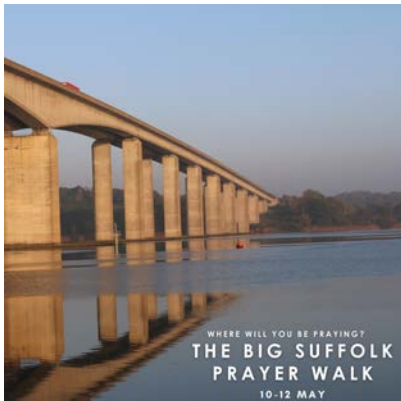
out more about the tool [here](#).



Events

The Big Suffolk Prayer Walk - Thy Kingdom Come

10 – 12 May



Thy Kingdom Come is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. You can get involved in the Big Suffolk Prayer Walk, which is an ecumenical initiative lead by Suffolk in Prayer and Ipswich in Prayer. We are aiming for 48 hours of continuous prayer through our online Big Suffolk Prayer weekend prayer room and lots of prayer walking/cycling/praying for God's blessing and for people in the area come to know Jesus in their lives. To find out more, please go to <https://bit.ly/TBSPW>

T h a n k f u l: a service of remembrance and celebration

Sunday 12 May, 3.30pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS



A special service of remembrance for all who have received care from St Nicholas Hospice during the past 40 years. It is also an opportunity to celebrate those who have made this possible and a unique time to thank everyone involved in building their legacy. Everyone is welcome to attend - if you would like to join us, you must reserve your seat(s) by 26 April. The easiest way to do this is via a form on our website which can be

[found here](#). Alternatively, you can contact Supporter Care on 01284 715566.

The Everlasting Everlys Tribute Band

Sunday 12 May 2.00pm

Bentley Church, Ipswich IP9 2DA

Spend the afternoon in newly refurbished Bentley church listening to the music of the Everly brothers through the tribute band, The Everlasting Everlys. Featuring all the classic hits along with other hits across the 60s to the 90s. A cash-only bar will be available. Tickets are £12 and available from [Peter Day](#).

PCC Workshop – Gifts in Wills

Monday 13 May, 12.00pm online

Emma Denton (Diocesan Giving Advisor) will be joined by Helen Simpkins (Head of Fundraising, Church of England) to help you learn how to set up a Gifts in Wills policy and promote Gifts in Wills in your parish. They will share new resources, explain access to free online wills through Farewill and help you to start the conversation around Gifts in Wills in your parish. This is supported by the Parish Resources Team. Please book [here](#).

Run with Joy: Benedictine Wisdom for Contemporary Living

Starting 14 May, Tuesdays at 5.00pm by Zoom

We have limited spaces available on our new experiential and participatory group Zoom sessions. *Run with Joy: Benedictine Wisdom for Contemporary Living* will be led by The Revd Catherine Forsdike and The Revd Canon Matthew Vernon on Tuesdays at 5.00pm for 90 mins on 14, 21, 28 May and 4, 18, 25 June. If you'd like to join the six-week course, please [book here](#).

Deanery Drop in Sessions

Tuesday 14 May, 3.00pm ***Please note the change of date - we apologise for the inconvenience.**

St Augustine's Community Hub, Ipswich IP3 8TH

This is an exciting opportunity to meet the various teams from the Diocesan office who are there to offer advice on Children's and Families' Ministry, Youth Ministry, Giving, Grants, Discipleship, Communications, Vocations or anything else you'd like to ask – a real opportunity for us to have conversations and help people. Please [book here](#). Further dates will be coming up on Monday 17 June – St John's Church Hall, Saxmundham and Monday 8 July – Church Institute, Brandon.

Safeguarding Drop-in & Mingle

Please see the following link to our events 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 at each venue.

The Thomas Clarkson Centre, Hospital Road, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3JT on Wednesday 15/05/2024, between 11.45am and 1.30pm [Book here](#)

St Francis's Church, 192 Hawthorn Drive, Ipswich IP2 0QQ on Wednesday 19/06/2024, between 11.45am and 1.30pm [Book here](#)

St Luke's Church, Beccles, 61 Rigbourne Hill, Beccles NR34 9JQ on Tuesday 02/07/2024, between 2.00pm and 3.45pm [Book here](#)

Catching the Fire

Sunday 19 May, 3.15pm to 5.30pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS



Catching the Fire is an annual county-wide celebration of God's mission in Suffolk facilitated by the Lightwave Community. It is part of the annual season of prayer 'Thy Kingdom Come' and the Great Suffolk Prayer Walk. It enables prayer and gives encouragement and commissioning for mission across the county. Join us for a rich service of worship at the Cathedral on Pentecost Sunday. It's for all ages and culminates in a live link to youth groups across the country and saying the Lord's Prayer together. Please sign up [here](#).

How to use Canva for your church

Monday 20 May, 3.00 - 4.00pm

In this free webinar, you'll be guided through Canva's essential features, giving you an introduction to the tool and showing you how to create eye-catching content for your church. [Find out more and register here](#).

An evening with Peter Crompton

Saturday 25 May, 7.00pm

St John's Church, Great Wenham CO7 6PL

Peter Crompton is the former Director of Music at The Royal Hospital School, Holbrook and has been the official organist to the Festival of Remembrance at The Royal Albert Hall for 15 years. He will be playing a selection of well-known classics interspersed with personal anecdotes. The recital will last around 70 minutes to be followed by drinks and canapés. Book [here](#).

Mothers' Union Sung Mass

Sunday 26 May, 9.45am

St Mary's Church, Newmarket CB8 0HP

The Newmarket Branch of Mothers' Union is celebrating 100 years of service since its foundation and are hosting a MU-themed sung mass in the church, followed by a Bring & Share style lunch. All are very welcome to attend and celebrate this momentous occasion.

Medieval Church Geometry Workshop

Wednesday 29 May, 10.00am to 12.00pm

St Peter's Church, Monk Soham IP13 7EN

Come along to a workshop that will offer an introduction to the symbolic proportions and geometric constructions employed in Gothic church architecture, by Clarissa Grandi. This is a hands-on session, with no prior experience necessary, and all items required will be

provided for use. Tickets cost £30 each, to purchase please call 01728 685663.

ACHurchNearYou.com: How to use the platform as your free website

Wednesday 29 May, 2.00pm - 3.00pm, Zoom

Come along to this extended live demonstration to gain confidence editing your site at both individual church level and at benefice level. [Find out more and register here.](#)

Corpus Christi Celebration Eucharist

Thursday 30 May, 7.30pm

St John the Evangelist, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1SN

All are invited to attend the Celebration Eucharist with Procession and Benediction, with the Ven David Jenkins and the Revd Alison Miller. The organist at the event will be John Bell. To be followed by a party. Do come along - all are welcome!

Too Much Information?

Wednesday 5 June, 2.00pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

A talk and discussion led by Stephen Dart, keeper of the Ancient Library and Chris Eyden, Teaching and Learning Manager at St Edmundsbury Cathedral. The invention of the printing press brought unforeseen and unthinkable changes. In modern times, the invention of the internet and digital technology has similarly revolutionised the world we live in. Centuries ago, some people asked if there was "too much information". Should we be asking the same questions now? Is there anything to learn from the past? Our ancient library contains some of the earliest books ever printed. During this session, you will have a chance to see some of these books while participating in a conversation about where we feel we have too much information and what we might be able to do about it. This talk is free to attend, please email ChrisEyden@stedscathedral.org to book.

Death and Life Webinar - Why reflecting on mortality is an essential part of healthy living!

Wednesday 5 June, 2.00pm to 4.00pm, Zoom

This webinar will combine theological insights and practical wisdom to enable churches to create spaces for people to discuss mortality and what is sometimes known 'as the last taboo'. Church leaders, bereavement counsellors, chaplains in care homes, hospitals and hospices and those working in pastoral care will benefit from this free webinar. Resources are being made available by BRF Ministries, and participants will receive a discount code for use in BRF's online shop. To register for the webinar please click [here](#).

Lark Rise Retreat Days 2024



Lark Rise Retreats in Felixstowe provide a space and time for people to relax with God. Upcoming events with the Revd Dr John Bell include:

Friday 7 June | Celtic, green and godly

Friday 7 June | Using imagination to unlock scripture

Saturday 8 June | Come and sing workshop

To book, please visit larkriseretreats.org.uk or call 01394 284213.

Rooted in Prayer

Saturday 8 June, 9.00am to 1.00pm

Salvation Army Hall, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

An invitation to all Readers, Licensed Lay Ministers and Lay Elders to explore journeying in prayer to flourish faith and fellowship in communities and congregations. There will be the opportunity to share prayer resources used across the Diocese, join a workshop to create prayer activities for all ages and explore creating a prayer walk. Reserve your free space [here!](#)

Understanding Connectivity

Thursday 13 June, 11.00am – 12.00pm, Zoom

Find out about the connectivity options available to your church - from WiFi to 4G - how to get your contactless devices connected, and what to do if you have no connectivity at all. We will be going through the connectivity options in relation to digital giving and how it can be optimised to make it easier in your church. Please [book here.](#)

Caring for Creation

Friday 14 June, 10.00am

The Barn, Woodbridge IP12 2RR

A Quiet Day with Mark Prina and the Revd Canon Mark Haworth from the diocesan group of the Society of Catholic Priests, starting with a celebration of the Eucharist. Please bring food to share at lunch-time - drinks will be provided. Participants are welcome to stroll in the delightful gardens. The programme ends at 3.30pm with tea. A £10 donation made on the day would be highly appreciated. To book, please contact Michael Wilde on 01284 767415 or email cormack246@gmail.com.

Psalms in Suffolk

Saturday 15 June, 10.00am to 3.00pm

Holy Trinity Church, Bungay NR35 1EH

Join us for an eventful psalm-singing event. All are welcome. For more information and to book [please click here.](#)

'Leading your Church into Growth' (LyCiG for short) is coming to Suffolk!

Friday 5 July 2024, 6.00pm to 9.30pm | Saturday 6 July 2024, 8.30am to 2.00pm

Sunday 7 July 2024, 2.15pm to 5.45pm | Debenham Community Centre IP4 6BL



'Leading your Church into Growth' (LyCiG for short) is coming to Suffolk!



We are excited to let you know about an opportunity coming up this summer. 'Leading your Church into Growth' (LyCiG for short) is coming to Suffolk! A free

conference offering practical help to partner with God to grow your church(es), to inspire church leaders and encourage you to feel that, in your own way, at your own pace, and

with God's help you can do it! LyCiG will equip you with a straightforward and workable strategy to enable you to create (or finesse) and implement a Growing in God plan for growth.

More information has been sent directly to your Incumbent and Churchwardens, booking needs to be made as a group through them so please let them know if you are interested! Further information is available here: <https://lycig-2024.eventbrite.co.uk> or email lycig@cofesuffolk.org

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](#).

Clergy Retreat - Led by Bishop Martin

7 - 11 October 2024

St Andrew's Abbey, Zevenkerken-Brugge, Belgium

The best kept secret in the Diocese! Since 1960 when there was a formal link with Brugge a group of hardy clergy have braved the sea and weather to travel to the Abbey to spend time with the wonderful brothers at St Andrew's Abbey. Speakers in the past have spoken on a range of subjects from World Mission, The Psalms, and more. There are approximately 15 spaces available and you can come with spouses/partners. For more details or to book please contact the Revd David H Messer on 01964 563987 | davidharrymesser93@gmail.com.

Save the dates:

World Mission Conference Refugees and Asylum Seekers, Saturday

12 October, 9.00am - 1.00pm, Salvation Army Hall, Stowmarket IP14 1NE.

Building a Generous Church Conference Saturday 28 September, 9.00am to 4.00pm, Bridge Community Church, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3EW.

Growing Younger Conference Saturday 2 November, 10.00am - 4.00pm, St Michael's Church, Framlingham IP13 9BJ.

Notices

Archdeacons' Articles of Enquiry: This year's Articles of Enquiry is being hosted on the online parish returns system, which may be accessed [here](#). For any help in accessing it, including logins and passwords, please contact statistics@cofesuffolk.org. The deadline for completing this is Friday 30 August. The following is a statement from the archdeacons on this year's Articles, which focus on questions about your church's ministry with children under five years of age and their families.

Our ministry with children under five and their families is vital. Statistics show that 62% of people come to faith in Jesus before the age of 14 and a highly significant 38% before the age of 4. How we minister to these families in our communities really matters. Often, our ministry with the under-fives can be the crucial first step on a child's (and indeed their family's) journey to faith. We are conducting this research to better understand what is already happening with the under-fives in our diocese and how we can use this as a foundation for growth. We want to share learning and best practice and learn how we can help you develop this area of your ministry. The data we collect will help us to know what support and advice and resources you would value and start to develop these. *Talking Jesus report 2022. Evangelical Alliance. [Talking-Jesus-Report.pdf \(eauk.org\)](#)*

Growing Younger Prayer meetings - each Monday



You are invited to join the new Growing Younger prayer group where you would be very welcome to join us in a weekly prayer meeting from 9.15am to 9.45am every Monday (excluding bank holidays) to pray for children, young people, families, paid and volunteer workers, teachers, schools and churches. Please email [here](#) for the Zoom link.

Simple Guide to Planning and Leading Worship

A new 'do it yourself' course from Transforming Worship (formerly Praxis) led by Helen Bent is being offered for lay people who are embarking on planning and leading worship for the first time and want to do it well, particularly those situated in small rural churches. Find out more about the course [here](#).

Growth Fund opportunities: Small grants for up to £1,500 in a year are available from the Growing in God Growth fund to help your church engage creatively in sharing faith in word and deed, and as a result grow the church younger and in number. All the information, eligibility and the application form are on our website [here](#).

Vacancies

[Teacher of Philosophy and Ethics](#) | King Edward VI School, Bury St Edmunds | Closing date: 17 May

[Priest in Charge](#) | [North Hartismere with Redgrave, Botesdale & the Rickinghalls](#) | Closing date: 22 May

[Vicar/Minister & Archdeaconry Mission Enabler](#) | Christ Church Moreton Hall | Closing date: 24 May

[Priest in Charge & Archdeaconry Mission Enabler](#) | Sproughton, Burstall, Copdock with Washbrook, Belstead | Closing date: 28 May

[Rector](#) | Bacton Benefice | Closing date: 17 June

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

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

[Priest in Charge](#) | Upper Alde Benefice

[Rector](#) | Walton and Trimley

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

[New Opportunities in Ipswich](#) | Inspiring Ipswich

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



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