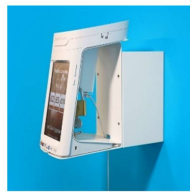


**Thursday 9 September**

# Growing in God

## **30 churches receiving free contactless devices in pilot scheme with National Church**



We were delighted to receive over 70 applications from churches wishing to take part in the Contactless Church [pilot](#) scheme. Applications have now closed and churches have been informed of the outcome of their application. Thirty churches have now been allocated either a Payaz Giving Station or a CollecTin More, some with an activated SIM (if no Wi-fi is available), and some have also been allocated a mobile router. This is an exciting development for those churches involved who will be receiving training and picking up their devices later in the month.

If you would like to find out more about getting a contactless device for your church, there is lots of information available [here](#). We would also encourage you to consider online giving through Parish Buying with 'Sum Up' and 'Give A Little' (costs nothing and takes about an hour to set up). Click [here](#) to set up your SumUp account and click [here](#) to log in to GiveALittle and set up your online giving account (using your SumUp log in details). 'Give A Little' also allows you to generate free QR codes (for more information about QR codes, please visit the Church of England website [here](#)) which can be printed on posters, pew cards, and service sheets, scanning them with a mobile phone takes the giver straight to your online giving page. To set up online giving please follow this [link](#).

Please note: 'Virgin Money Giving' will close from 30 November and Virgin have provided a comprehensive list of [Q&As](#).

## **Exploring and celebrating God's generosity**

Generosity Week: from 26 September 2021

To help us to celebrate the generous love of God, all our churches are invited to hold services, run group sessions, broadcast podcasts and distribute readings on the theme of generosity to their communities. Do have a look at the national resources available for



Generosity Week, the materials enable you to deliver your own Generosity Week at times suitable for you. Materials include: Daily Podcast Reflections, Service Content Packs, Liturgy, Learning Hub, Small Group Study Sessions and 'Generosity Fika' a half day workshop. All the details and links are available on our website [here](#), where you will also find Bishop Mike's full Generosity video available to download and share from YouTube.

There is also a series of webinars with new dates supporting Generosity Week and the schedule is available [here](#). Or visit their website [here](#).

---



**Reflecting with members of the community:** The Revds Susan Bates and Tracey James from the Benefice of Debenham & Helmingham were delighted to be asked to lead a service at the village festival 'Debfest' on 5 September. This led to an excellent opportunity to be an active presence in the village reflecting on the last 18 months together. For the full story please visit [here](#).

**Listening ear:** The Revds Jane Held and Alison Alder, who work in the Blyth Valley Team and Cluster in east Suffolk, have found an innovative way of saying to people 'we are here for you' with their listening service. For the full story please visit [here](#).

---

## The Afghan Refugee Crisis

The recent events in Afghanistan have highlighted what was already a serious issue. Huge numbers of people have been brought out of Afghanistan in a very short space of time. Over the coming months, it is anticipated many more will arrive through other routes. The challenge for the whole nation is to welcome these families and help them build new lives here in the United Kingdom. Do have a look at this toolkit, prepared by the Mission and Public Affairs Division of the Church of England and the Diocese of Canterbury, including details on donations, drop-off points as well as longer term practical help. Please visit [here](#).

As yet we are waiting to hear how many refugees may be coming to Suffolk and where they will be placed. If you want to offer practical help please register here: [www.help-refugees-uk.service.gov.uk](http://www.help-refugees-uk.service.gov.uk). If you wish to get in touch with the team supporting refugees in Suffolk, please email: [afghanrefugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:afghanrefugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk). For local charities please visit: [suffolkrefugee.org.uk](http://suffolkrefugee.org.uk) or [hopeandaiddirect.org.uk](http://hopeandaiddirect.org.uk).

## Lightwave discernment

Lightwave was launched in 2019 as part of a six-year project and this has resulted in



hundreds of people of all ages being involved with over 200 encountering the love of Jesus for the first time. Over the coming months Lightwave leaders are engaging in a programme of prayer and fasting seeking the way ahead. We invite you to be part of the discernment to

discover how the Lightwave Community should explore God's vision for the future.

- Download our discernment pack from our website – which includes small group resources, materials for young families, children and young people
- Meet in your group to discern and pray together – making use of the small group resources, and then let us know how God has been speaking to you through the 'Listening for Mission' feedback form
- Take part in our 'Catch and Chat' setting aside some time to pray as a family or group and share what you have been learning with Lightwave using our Lightwave response form
- Join us for a prayerful discernment afternoon on Saturday 6 November from 2.00pm to 5.00pm at the Salvation Army Hall, Violet Hill Road, Stowmarket. A free lunch will be served at 1.00pm.

You can access all these and find out more – including ways to let us know what you believe God is saying to us as a community at [www.light-wave.org/discernfuture](http://www.light-wave.org/discernfuture) or contact [nina.seaman@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:nina.seaman@cofesuffolk.org) for more information.

## **Safeguarding Sunday**

The Church of England is supporting this year's Safeguarding Sunday on 10 October 2021. If you would like to host a service on this theme, all the resources you need are [here](#). An address for Safeguarding Sunday by Bishop Jonathan Gibbs is available to download [here](#).

## **Climate Change and the COP26**

In the lead up to the global United Nations summit about climate change (COP26) which takes place in Glasgow from 31 October to 12 November, there are a number of resources available to consider:

- This week's Church of England online service will be a Climate Sunday service, led by Revd Canon Giles Goddard please find the service [here](#).
- [Why Faith Matters at COP26](#) is a resource by Green Christian containing insights from leading Christian theologians and climate activists.
- [Subsidised Energy Audits](#) for parishes are now available through Parish Buying, the usual cost of an audit is £445 (+ VAT). Qualifying churches will receive a subsidy of £200. The Energy Audits are part-funded by Parish Buying's green electricity supplier, Total Energies. Full priced audits will still be available after the 100 subsidies have been allocated.
- [Church of England guidance about renewable energy](#) and [guidance about heating](#).
- There are a number of environmental webinars available, please visit [here](#) for all the dates and registration details.

## **At the Heart of Christmas**

## At the heart of Christmas



Unbelievably, Christmas is just round the corner and once again our churches will be welcoming their communities – onsite and online – to celebrate and share the good news of Christ's birth with special services and events. For details about all the Christmas resources, please visit our website [here](#). We will be adding to this page as more resources become available.

### Events

#### **Ride and Stride / Pedal and Drive 2021**

Saturday 11 September



This fabulous event takes place this Saturday. The money raised helps to save our wonderful churches, with half going to the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust to give out as grants for church buildings, and half to the cyclists'/walkers' chosen church. Sponsor forms and full details for Ride and Stride and Pedal and Drive are available in Suffolk churches and from the Trust website. Donations and sponsorship can also be collected via Just Giving. Please visit: [www.shct.org.uk](http://www.shct.org.uk)

#### **Patronal and Harvest and Heritage rolled into one!**

St Mary at the Elms, Ipswich

Saturday 11 September 9.00am to 5.00pm and Sunday 12 September 9.00am to 4.00pm

Like many churches, St Mary at the Elms is supporting Ride and Stride this Saturday and they are combining their celebration with their Patronal Festival, annual harvest and the Heritage Open Days. Do join St Mary at the Elms where various displays will help visitors find out more about this beautiful old church, including: information about the present and past shrines of Our Lady of Grace of Ipswich, a scale model of the Westgate quarter of Ipswich in medieval times, a photographic display featuring the tower clock, the earliest bells cast by a woman and more. On Sunday Eucharist will be held at 10.45am with a Sung Mass celebrating Mary, Mother of the Harvest, and the gifts of food being offered will be passed on to the Ipswich FIND food bank.

#### **Discuss Parish financial issues with the Diocesan Team**

Churchwardens, deanery organisers, incumbents, lay chairs, rural deans and treasurers are invited to join Anna Hughes, Diocesan Secretary and Gary Peverley, Finance Director, to discuss parish financial matters. This is your chance to raise any issues and let us know how it is going in your parish. To join the Zoom meeting please email [lorna.todd@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:lorna.todd@cofesuffolk.org) with your name and parish and include any questions you would like to raise. You will be sent a Zoom invitation prior to the meeting.

- Wednesday 29 September | 2.00pm
- Thursday 21 October | 3.30pm
- Thursday 18 November | 3.30pm
- Tuesday 7 December | 10.30am

## **World Mission Conference**

Saturday 30 October, 9.00am - 3.30pm

The Salvation Army Hall, 3 Violet Hill Road, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

This year's conference focusing on 'Modern Day Slavery' will be opened by Bishop Mike with a time of prayer and reflection followed by three excellent speakers:

1. Ryna Sherazi, from the Antislavery Organisation
2. Emily Kenway, former adviser to the UK's first Anti-Slavery Commissioner and author of 'The Truth About Modern Day Slavery'
3. The Revd Dr Dan Pratt, founder of The Together Free Foundation, and anti-slavery co-ordinator for the Southend Against Modern Slavery Partnership and the Eastern Baptist Association.

NGOs will have stalls for people to look at during the lunch break and there will be plenty of time for discussion. Tea and coffee will be provided, but please bring your own lunch. The conference is open to everybody and costs £5, please book [here](#).

## **Bishops' Teaching Morning - Introducing the Gospel of Luke**

Saturday 6 November 9.00am to 12.30pm

The Salvation Army Hall, 3 Violet Hill Road, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

The gospel readings for 2021-22 follow Luke's Gospel so, in preparation, the bishops will be looking at it and considering its main themes. They will be considering its presentation of Jesus, his teaching and some of the recent scholarly insights into the particular themes which this gospel underlines.

Book early to avoid disappointment! Free of charge, but please register on Eventbrite [here](#).

Enquiries to Lesley Steed on 07485 348889 or [lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org).

## **Envoy journey**

We are seeking to draw together a small community of six people who wish to explore how the Holy Spirit is inviting them to share God's love in the everyday moments of their life. Essentially, transforming the everyday into the extraordinary for those God has placed before us through sharing the Good News of the Gospel message.

Envoy communities listen deeply and respond to each other; we learn to pray with missional intent and we share in the highs and lows, the laughter and the tears of stepping out in faith to share Jesus. We learn how the gift of evangelism in our own lives impacts deeply on our own journey of faith.

Envoy has been the inspiration for our Lightwave group, Pilgrims Together, in finding its own unique way of reaching out with God's love into our local community. It is an initiative from Church Army and is completely free. Intrigued? Interested? Would like to find out more? Please contact Gail Southgate at [pilgrimstogether473@gmail.com](mailto:pilgrimstogether473@gmail.com)



**Please visit the 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.**

---

### **General Synod Hustings**

We are in the process of running elections for General Synod for the next five-year term, 2021-2026. Due to the number of nominations exceeding the number of seats in both houses, there will be an election for the House of Laity and for the House of Clergy. Candidates are:

**House of Clergy:** The Revd Canon Andrew Dotchin, The Ven Sally Gaze, The Revd Leslie Siu, The Revd John Thackray, The Revd Virginia Williams.

**House of Laity:** Tony Allwood, Jeanette Appleton, Andrew Gray, David Lamming, Graham Miles, Barbara Rowe.

There will be a hustings event held over Zoom on Monday 13 September from 7.30pm for full details, including candidates election addresses, please visit our website [here](#). Details of those elected will be displayed on our website and shared via eNews, in the week commencing 11 October.

---

Please note that a new [PF1 form](#) has been uploaded to the Diocesan website [here](#), this form should be used for all services on or after 1 September 2021, until the end of the year.

---

**Ecclesiastical competition:** Has something been done in your church community that made life that little bit better, or easier for others? If yes consider entering your story and you could win £1,500 for your church plus £6,000 if you win the national prize. Full competition details [here](#), closing date 17 September 2021.

**Click here to print and share with others**

---



---

*Copyright © 2021 Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, All rights reserved.*

This email is generated from the Communications Office at the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

**Our mailing address is:**

Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich  
St Nicholas Centre, 4 Cutler Street, Ipswich  
Suffolk, England IP1 1UQ  
United Kingdom

[Add us to your address book](#)

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)