

Thursday 29th July 2021



Diocesan Synod and Cathedral Chapter approved a motion to act to achieve net zero carbon by 2030. A presentation by the Revd Richard Stainer, representing the Net Zero Carbon Group, emphasised the crisis for God’s Creation and the fundamental injustice that results.

National Trust provide church with logs to create churchyard ‘reflection spaces’



St Leonard’s Church in Horringer is developing six ‘reflection spaces’ in its churchyard, so people can enjoy the abundance of wildlife and reflect on creation. The National Trust Ickworth Park team delivered logs following the church’s 'World of Wonder' project last month when people were encouraged to record different species of wildlife living in the area. The idea is to create spaces where people can sit and enjoy a different aspect of creation – from bees and insects to trees and wildflowers.

The church is planning two family activity days, on August 12 and 19, which will include projects to enhance these reflection spaces. Helen Woodroffe, Community and Children's and Families' Minister, said: *“We had walked around the churchyard and identified six places that had particular views of the area. What we are working towards is for each of the six areas to have its own theme. One will have an emphasis on wildflowers, another bees, another birds – each a different look at creation.”*

For further details please visit our website [here](#). If you would like to join the family activity days, contact Helen at helen.woodroffe@icloud.com

Contactless Donations Pilot Scheme



We are excited to announce that we have launched our contactless donation pilot this week. The use of cash continues to decline in society, it’s important that churches are able to receive gifts using a range of different mechanisms.

The pilot has a focus on facilitating internet connectivity alongside contactless giving. Successful applicants will receive a free contactless donation unit (chosen by The National Giving team), support for mobile broadband (if you opt for mobile data contract), training and ongoing support for a year from both the National and Diocesan Giving teams. To take part in the pilot, your church will need to have Wi-Fi installed, being installed soon, or a mobile phone signal in their building.

Please note the deadline for applications is 18 August 2021. For further information and to apply please visit our website [here](#).

EVENTS

Here am I: send me!

Wednesday 25 September, 10.00am to 4.30pm
St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

After the wilderness of the Covid-19 months we hope to celebrate the blooming of our ministries with an exciting array of speaker-led workshops and dialogues to inspire our collective mission and ministry to widen the Kingdom of God in our respective communities. Alongside Bishop Mike and the diocesan Mission and Ministry team members, we welcome:

- Carrie Myers, Lay Ministries Officer for the Church of England – ‘Flourishing Lay Ministry’
- The Revd Canon Michael Robinson, Canon Theologian and Bishop’s Chaplain – ‘Kingdom calling: enabling the vocation of the whole people of God’
- Richard Hubbard, St Edmundsbury, and Ipswich Music Development Director, and of InHarmony - ‘Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord’ - workshop to facilitate music in worship.

The day will conclude with a Eucharist to bring healing and renewal in our ministerial vocation to go and share Christ’s love with all.

This day is restricted to Licensed Lay Ministers (Licensed Evangelists, Lay Pioneers, Children's and Families' Ministers, Licensed Youth Ministers and Lay Pastors) and Readers in the diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich only. To book please visit [here](#).

Take the chance to discuss parish financial issues with the Diocesan Team

You are invited to join Anna Hughes, Diocesan Secretary, and Gary Peverley, Finance Director, at a Zoom meeting for treasurers, clergy, and other interested parties 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 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.

- Tuesday 17 August | 10.00am
- Wednesday 29 September | 2.00pm
- Thursday 21 October | 3.30pm
- Thursday 18 November | 3.30pm
- Tuesday 7 December | 10.30am

Family fun at the Cathedral this summer

Wednesday 4 August, 10.00am to 12 noon
St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

St Edmundsbury Cathedral is offering a Climate and Conservation family fun day where there will be trails and craft activities themed on our natural world. No pre-booking is required. Admission is free but a donation to the Cathedral is appreciated, if possible.

“Cathedrals are great spaces for creativity, and we hope that our young visitors will be inspired by the beautiful surroundings,” comments Sarah Friswell, Visitor Experience Manager at the Cathedral. Throughout the summer, families can also enjoy helping to add bricks to the Cathedral’s LEGO model. By donating £1, another brick is added. Volunteers, who are on duty each day from 10.30am to 12.30pm (Sundays 12.30 pm to 2.30 pm), have been building the model for the past five years and it is currently nearing the halfway stage, with over 86,000 bricks added.

Notices

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.

Return of Parish Finance and Annual Accounts Thank you to everyone who has completed their return. The deadline has been extended to 31 July 2021 so please ensure that your parishes submit their returns as soon as figures are ready via <https://parishreturns.churchofengland.org>. Copies of annual accounts and reports should also be emailed to statistics@cofesuffolk.org at the earliest opportunity.

Electoral Roll: A polite reminder to also send your Electoral Roll figure to the diocesan office, by email to alison.barker@cofesuffolk.org.

General Synod Elections: Becoming a General Synod representative is an opportunity to represent the concerns of your community and your diocese at a national level. If you are interested in standing for General Synod, please discuss this with your priest, deanery synod lay chair, Tony Allwood (Chair of the House of Laity, Diocesan Synod) or email [Lorna Todd](mailto:Lorna.Todd). Further information is also available on our website [here](#).

Update on cut to international aid: The cut in the international aid budget has been passed by Parliament. All Suffolk MPs voted in favour of the cut, which is disappointing since many of us, including Bishop Martin, had written to ask them to vote in favour of maintaining international aid at 0.7% of GDP. The government has promised to restore the cut when economic conditions allow i.e. when the UK is not borrowing to finance day-to-day spending and underlying debt is falling. The head of UK Advocacy and Campaigns at Christian Aid, Pete Moorey, said, "*It beggars belief that, in the middle of a global pandemic, with extreme poverty rising, we are turning our backs on the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world.*" Please pray for a restoration of the cut in aid as soon as possible and, of course, for those who will suffer as a result of the decrease in help and support in desperate situations across the world. The Revd Richard Stainer, World Development Adviser.

VACANCIES

Cathedral Vacancies: There are several vacancies at the Cathedral including Marketing Manager, Maintenance Person and Development Manager. Full details can be found <https://stedscathedral.org/news/vacancies>

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