



Thursday 4 June

[Printable version](#)

Growing in God

Updated Guidance - reducing the risk of infection from coronavirus (COVID-19)

The news regarding COVID-19 is constantly evolving. The main point of contact for information from the Church of England is on their dedicated website page [here](#).

Music video brings Ipswich churches together



Dozens of people from churches across Ipswich have come together to sing a song about unity and hope.

Members of 43 Christian church denominations have recorded themselves singing along to the song *The Blessing* by Elevation Worship. Performers involved included members of Hope Church Ipswich, Rushmere Baptist Church, Trinity Praise Centre, Waterfront Churches and Holly Lodge Baptist Church, among many more.

The project was organised by the Revd Amy Key and her husband Matt, of St Augustine's Church in Ipswich, and aims to bring hope and

comfort to the community during the coronavirus lockdown. Matt, who previously worked in music production, said: *"We were hugely inspired by The UK Blessing which quickly went viral. It has had more than three million views. There was lots of talk about churches working together and being there for their community, so we thought it would be wonderful to replicate it in Ipswich as a message of hope to our town's residents."*

The pair contacted more than 60 church leaders, representing 75 churches of all denominations across Ipswich, to put forward a representative to sing a part of the song which was then edited into one single video. Bishop Mike said: *"It's entirely right, good and proper that as churches we come together to bless Ipswich, truly seeking the good of Ipswich and its people in God's strength."*

The Ipswich Blessing video will go live on Saturday 6 June at 5.00pm on [YouTube](#). For full details of the story please click [here](#).

Volunteers' Week 2020

Our churches and our volunteers have been playing a vital role in helping vulnerable members of society through the lockdown and are continuing to find innovative ways to provide support. From fundraising for the county's hospitals to knitting mask extenders and providing essential items to those in need, the Diocese's churches have come together to spread community spirit. We would like to say a massive thank you for all that you do. Below are just a couple of examples of the wonderful things our volunteers do throughout our Diocese:



Hearts for the Hospice - What better way to spread hope than by spreading love – quite literally! Coming in all sorts of colours and patterns, Gillian Bennet has been keeping her hands busy by knitting lots of colourful hearts to be given to people in the St Nicholas Hospice, hoping they will provide comfort and consolation to those in need. Not to mention, they make a beautiful reminder that love and hope is indeed more common than you may think!

If you would like to help you can make knitted hearts for St Nicholas Hospice to share among families and loved ones. Please contact the Revd Sarah for instructions: curate@stedscathedral.org. If you or someone

you care for would like either a heart or cross, please get in touch by emailing: spiritualcare@stnh.org.uk.



A lunch club goes mobile - Volunteers at the Link Lunch Club at St Luke's Church in Beccles has been delivering meals to vulnerable members of the community, including those who are shielding or self-isolating during the coronavirus lockdown.

The team, led by churchwarden Fran Tuck, is busy getting in touch with people in need of the service. She said: *"It is a real privilege for us to be able to provide the lunches during this period when people cannot access our*

building. We aim to prepare, cook and deliver around 50 meals weekly for the foreseeable future." The full story is available [here](#).

In conversation with Pioneers

Has lockdown during the Covid-19 pandemic prompted you to ask questions about the focus of your ministry and vocation? Are you noticing a need to do things differently within your own church tradition and would you benefit from hearing about the experiences of pioneers to support you in exploring this? (e.g. how to innovate, live with uncertainty, take risks, adapt, co-create with your community etc). Or maybe you are feeling a nudge to think about Pioneer ministry in some way and would value finding out more from people who are doing this already?

The National Anglican Community of Pioneers is hosting a series of 'in conversation with...' seminars aimed at lay and ordained Anglican Church leaders who would like to find out more. It will be an opportunity to meet with experienced pioneer practitioners and through breakout groups to be part of the conversation and to ask questions. Book now via Eventbrite as places will be limited to ensure an interactive experience.

Thursday 9 July 10.30am-12pm <https://july9conversation.eventbrite.co.uk>

Tuesday 14 July 7.45pm-9.15pm <https://july14conversation.eventbrite.co.uk>

For more information email pioneers@churchofengland.org

Leadership in Lockdown Webinar (2) - Rhythms, Rest and Focus

Wednesday 17 June 10.00am

Our immediate response to lockdown is done, but what now as we face ongoing uncertainties? It is increasingly likely that we are going to be in some form of lockdown for a long time. The constantly changing nature of our situation means it is hard work to keep pivoting as new scenarios unfold, and we may struggle with energy and motivation. In this interactive webinar we will explore how to find new rhythms, embrace rest (including what to do about holidays) and identify three things we can do to keep going and keep focused for the long haul. Our speaker is James Lawrence, Leadership Principal at CPAS, who is conducting a series of webinars around the country. He teaches and trains on issues of leadership and mission. And just like you, he is finding this season a heady-mix of challenge and opportunity.

The webinar will last for one hour, but James and diocesan staff will stay online afterwards for those who would like to chat further about the issues raised. There are limited spaces available, so don't forget to sign up. Joining instructions will be sent out the day before.

To book please visit Eventbrite: <https://st-eds-ips-leadership-in-lockdown.eventbrite.co.uk>

*If you are interested in Adaptive Leadership I would be delighted to share the insights from the first webinar in this series with you. Just contact the Revd Canon [Dave Gardner](#) directly.

Telling a better story – why Faith and Science belong together"

Faith and science are often seen as uncomfortable bed-fellows. However, this has not always been so. Join this series of webinars to examine the ways in which Faith and Science speak to each other in contemporary society and explore the theological and ethical issues which this dialogue raises. Each day, from Monday 29 June to Friday 3 July, The Faraday Institute is hosting two or three webinars each day given by an array of international speakers highly qualified in their individual fields. There will also be some opportunity for on-line discussion.

For more information and booking details please visit: www.faraday.cam.ac.uk/event/telling-a-better-story-why-faith-and-science-belong-together/

Virtual Tourism Training for Churches

ExploreChurches are holding four free bitesize workshops on Zoom in June exploring how your place of worship can benefit from attracting visitors.

These are being delivered as part of the Experiencing Sacred Wales project supporting historic places of worship but all courses are open to all churches in the UK. They will prepare you to be ready to welcome visitors when churches re-open their doors once again. Further details and to register on Eventbrite to book please visit: www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/explorechurches-18493555000

Notices:

2019 Return of Parish Finance and Annual Accounts Thank you to everyone who has completed their return, either directly into the online portal or by email. However, the return rate has been significantly affected by COVID-19 restrictions, and to date the national church have only received 27% of all returns compared with 47% at this time last year. As such the deadline has now been extended to 31 July 2020. Please could you ensure that your parishes submit their returns as soon as figures are ready via <https://parishreturns.churchofengland.org> (the preferred method) or by email to dbf@cofesuffolk.org.

Copies of annual accounts and reports should also be emailed to dbf@cofesuffolk.org at the earliest opportunity please.

Your Return of Parish Finance should agree with the figures in your accounts, and the accounts should be independently examined. However, if the returns and accounts have both been prepared, and the accounts are ready to be examined, please submit the returns before the deadline if independent examination is likely to be significantly delayed. There is also no need to wait for the APCM before submitting the returns. The PCC should approve the accounts on which the returns are based. However, to avoid delay caused by the lockdown, the accounts can be approved at an online meeting of the PCC or be recommended for approval by the Finance or Standing Committee.

If you have any further queries, please contact Lorna Todd in the first instance, who will either assist or direct your enquiry to the most appropriate member of the diocesan office team to respond: lorna.todd@cofesuffolk.org.

Parish Giving Scheme If you currently access your monthly PGS statements online, via their website – please take note of the following information: The PGS are currently in the process of developing a new website – which will offer improved functionality, as well as a fresh and modern design, for both donors and statement receivers.

The next step in the development process is for statement receivers to begin accessing their monthly statements via the new site. It is important to note that any monthly statements held on the existing website (i.e. prior to June 2020) WILL NOT be carried over to the new site. Therefore, if you have not yet downloaded your monthly statements from December 2019 – May 2020 (inclusive), you will need to do so no later than Friday 5 June 2020. If you need a reminder on how to do this, or have any other questions about online statements, please contact PGS on 0333 002 1260 or email info@parishgiving.org.uk

Fundraising support for your church Ecclesiastical understand that now more than ever, there is an immediate need for funding to help you to meet the day-to-day needs of your church and your community. They have produced an online fundraising hub to support you with advice on keeping your fundraising going during COVID-19 and guidance on applying for grants. Please click [here](#) to reach the fundraising hub which will be regularly updated and will shortly offer webinars to support your church, so please keep checking the website for further news.

A dedicated helpline has also been set up to help support churches with the fundraising hub. If you would like help with our online resources, please request a call back via the church fundraising helpline on 03456 019 959 and you will receive a call back from one of our Church Insurance Consultants.

Daily Hope prayer hotline The Archbishop of Canterbury has launched a 24-hour free phone line for Christian worship and prayer, aimed at those who have no or limited access to the internet. People calling the free number will hear a greeting from the Archbishop and can then choose from a range of options including hymns, prayers, reflections and advice on Covid-19. The phone number which is available 24 hours a day is 0800 804 8044.

Church bells Our church bells have not been rung for many months so it is very important that ringers arrange to undertake appropriate maintenance checks and any necessary remedial work before we start to ring in every tower once churches are opened up again. Visit this [website](#) for everything you will need to know.

A Church Near You There are lots of new resources including an animated video on giving which can be personalised for your church as well as downloadable hymns every week to use in your live streaming services. You can also update your parish page and add in your live stream service details. Do visit www.achurchnearyou.com soon.

#Capturingmyfaith We are still busy posting our capturing my faith photographs daily on Instagram. If you would like one of your photographs featured do email them to capturingmyfaith@cofesuffolk.org. With a huge range of photographs supplied from nature shots, views from my window, craft projects and new hobbies it is worth having a look and following our feed [here](#).

Vacancy

[Lightwave Rural Hub Pioneer](#) - does rural mission make your heart sing? Lightwave are looking for a prayerful entrepreneur or couple to pioneer the Lightwave Rural Hub (Rural Resourcing Church) in the area around Otley, Suffolk. Could God be calling you?

Potential applicants are warmly encouraged to seek an informal conversation to find out more about this asap. Please contact: Sally Gaze, Archdeacon for Rural Mission: 01473 890404 or 07446 933129 or email archdeacon.sally@cofesuffolk.org. Closing date: Wednesday 17June, 5pm.



Copyright © 2020 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](#)