



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

**Diocese of St Edmundsbury
and Ipswich**

SUDBURY DEANERY

Newsletter –

Easter 2021

*Joining the congregations of Acton, Alpheton, Assington, Boxford,
Boxted, Bures, Edwardstone, Glemsford, Great Cornard,
Great Waldingfield, Groton, Hartest, Little Cornard,
Little Waldingfield, Long Melford, Newton Green,
Shimpling, Stanstead, Somerton and Sudbury*



Dear Friends

I hope you all had a joyful Easter. It seemed to me that the Easter themes of new life and redemption were present in a very immediate way this year. Maybe our worship on Easter Sunday this year had an extra dimension of hope and optimism as we began to look forward to life being a little less restricted in the coming months.

So welcome to our Deanery Newsletter for the Easter season which has an emphasis on the environment and our responsibilities as stewards of God's good creation. One of our medium-term goals in our Deanery Plan is substantially to increase our engagement with the Eco-church scheme, so if your church isn't yet signed up to the scheme, perhaps I can encourage you to do so? I hope you will find some information and inspiration when you read on!

As I write this, we are all coming to terms with the sad loss of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, who was, of course, in his own way a strong campaigner for the environment in his former role as President of the World Wildlife Fund. As we thank God for his life and work, we continue to pray for the Queen and other members of the Royal Family.

With very best wishes

Steve

Revd. Steve Morley, Rural Dean

Welcome to the latest edition of the Deanery Newsletter. With the **environment** moving up the agenda both nationally and internationally, this edition primarily focusses on the church's response and the part we can play in caring for God's creation. But there's also room for some Deanery and Parish news. I'm indebted to the Revd. Richard Stainer for introducing our theme.

The Climate Crisis and the Easter Bunny



Did the Easter bunny skip through your churchyard this year, pausing to sniff the cowslips, oxslips and violets, while tucking in to a dandelion leaf and depositing its eggs beneath a bunch of primroses? If not, could

it be that your church- yard is being mowed to within an inch of its life - literally?

OK, you might not want rabbits digging holes, but surely the sight of wildflowers gladdens the heart and lifts the spirit. The chance to spot a hare, a stoat or a vole or listen to a chorus of birdsong makes us feel very much at one with God's creation and surely our Church should be at the centre of that. We are all called to love our God and that means loving his creation in all its wonderful diversity. That is why the Diocese has been promoting the **A Rocha Eco-church** scheme, a simple and fun way to help us make our church communities more sustainable.

Eco-church is a great scheme because it brings together all sorts of things that protect God's creation and promote justice and well-being. What is more, some of the initiatives actually save churches money.

For example, if you change your light bulbs

to LEDs then you will see your electricity bill drop. You can save money on having your churchyard grass cut by having a wildlife



area which can also be a great community asset. If your church hasn't already switched to Fairtrade tea and coffee for refreshments (remember those? ...they will return!)

then now might be the time to do it so that when we are back to normal you are serving great tasting coffee and giving the chance for farmers in developing countries to earn a decent wage. The Eco-church scheme also helps us to engage with young people who see the environment as a high priority amongst their many concerns.

The climate crisis is already having a serious impact on our weather patterns in the UK, but in other parts of the world, such as in our link Diocese of Kagera, the effects can



Maize flattened by floods in Kagera

be devastating.

Increased flooding is washing away crops and drought is drying the land to dust.

People are going

hungry and migrating to find food in countries like

Ethiopia. We truly stand on the brink of a disaster and I believe we are called as Christians to take serious action which will mean changing the way we live.

Oh, and by the way, I do know that the Easter bunny doesn't exist. Of course it doesn't - my neighbour says he shot it in his garden last year. I am a bit worried that lockdown might be getting to him.

Revd. Richard Stainer Joint World Development Adviser Net Zero Carbon Lead

Mike Turton, communications manager for the **Diocesan Environment Group**, explains how the Diocese is responding to the Climate and Ecological Emergency.

We are challenged by the biggest threat that the planet has faced in millennia and most of the problems have been caused by the actions of humankind. As a Church we really do need to be taking serious action on reducing our carbon footprint so that we honour God's creation and set an example which encourages others to do the same.

The Church of England has set a target to reach "net zero carbon" by 2030. Net zero carbon is where we balance the amount of carbon we release into the atmosphere (by our actions) with the amount that we extract from the air through a mix of energy reduction and carbon offsetting - investing in activities that remove carbon from the atmosphere.

Locally, the Diocese believes that it is a fundamental part of our mission as Christians to care for God's creation and has adopted an environmental policy to underpin this which aims to encourage action at parish level.

The Diocese is keen to promote the **Ecochurch** scheme, has itself earned a bronze award and is very keen to be the first Diocese to achieve silver. Currently 103 churches in the Diocese are already registered with the Eco Church scheme, with 29 bronze awards and 13 silver. But we need more!

All churches are encouraged to sign up to Ecochurch, carry out the survey and then see where they can improve the way that they operate. As you go through the scheme you can collect points (and we all know what points mean....yes, prizes!). The Diocesan Environment Group would love to have some

stories from churches which are already using the Eco Church scheme to share around and inspire others.

What is the Diocesan Environment Group I hear you say? Led by the Diocesan Environment Officer, **Canon Mark Haworth**, the group works with Diocesan staff to ensure that environmental considerations underpin the work of the Diocese, particularly in the care and management of buildings, land and finances, encouraging parishes to do the same. A group has also recently been set up to help parishes address the specific task of achieving net zero carbon by 2030.



For more information or advice, go to:
Canon Mark Haworth mhaworth50@hotmail.com.

Diocesan environmental website:
<https://www.cofesuffolk.org/for-parishes/growing-your-parish/your-church-and-the-environment/>
and / or
Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich
Environment group
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/378798395940456>

Eco Church: <https://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk/>

There is a scheme similar to Eco Church called Creation Care. <https://creationcare.org.uk/>

Possible Pointers for PCCs

- Discuss signing up to Ecochurch and fix a date for 'Climate Sunday'
- Nominate a PCC 'champion' to provide a lead on environmental matters
- Link up with other 'green' organisations in your parish/benefice to create a profile
- Publicise your efforts!



Well actually, we have already been planning! Each parish and benefice in the Deanery produced a plan in 2019/20 for the future, using the 'Growing in God' framework of Growing in Depth, in Influence, in Number and Growing Younger.

The pandemic may well have caused a hiatus with their timescale, but the plans are meant to be regularly reviewed and updated. If you haven't seen your Parish Plan, now is the time to ask about it!

These individual plans have been gathered together and distilled into some priorities for the Deanery, which were approved at the Synod's meeting last November. The Summary, for action in the next 1-2 years, proposes:

Growing in Depth

- Deanery Study Days and /or Retreats
- Sharing resources to encourage increased giving and stewardship
- Encouragement of lay ministries

Growing in Influence

- Improving communication and IT capabilities for mission and online worship
- Establish a Parish Nursing Scheme in Sudbury
- Publically promote the environment, with a target of 50% of churches achieving Ecochurch bronze status within 2 years

Growing In Number

- Encourage Home Groups and courses e.g. Alpha, Christianity Explored
- More use of digital platforms to share worship and teaching

- More regular joint worship events to be held in the Deanery

Growing Younger

- Seek grant funding for children/ families/ youth work
- Establish children and families initiatives where possible, sharing needs and experience
- Encourage engagement with young families and singles of all age groups.



Last issue's quiz

1. How many clergy are there in the Sudbury Deanery? **Answer: 19 - how many did you count? This is one for each parish in the Deanery - though it has to be admitted that the number includes those who are retired! We thank them all for their service and ministry among us.**
2. What is God calling you to do? More of the same or something different?
3. Could you support someone else in discerning their gift or vocation?

We don't know your answers to these questions, but have you spotted gifts in someone which aren't being fully used, or which should be encouraged? Could they be a PCC member, a Treasurer, Lay Elder or lead Pastoral visits, for example? And what about your own gifts? Please don't be shy, God can use them.



ITS ELECTION YEAR!

With elections for both Diocesan and General Synod due later this year, it's important that we have a full representation of laity at Deanery level. If your church hasn't its allocated number of representatives, please make every effort to fill any vacancies, which can be done either at your Annual Church Meeting or by appointing at regular PCC meetings.

GROWING IN NUMBER (see above!)

The next **Joint Deanery service** is planned for **10.30am on Sunday 25th July**. It will be held at Holy Trinity, Long Melford. Ministers have been asked to suspend their usual morning service and encourage all who can to come together for a joint service of worship and witness.

SUPER ZOOM

I don't think I have any need to promote the use of Zoom. It is now part of our lockdown life, both as a boon to business and a comfort to the community. Zoom was certainly an important part of Bures village life when the Baptist church joined with St Mary's for an ecumenical first Sunday of Lent. The Service lasted just over half an hour with prayers, readings and a shared sermon from the pastor and the vicar. The joint service concluded with the final hymn, that rousing favourite, Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer. Oh when will we be allowed to re-enter our places of worship and take up our hymn books again? *(OK now if outside! - Ed)*

Shortly after the service ended Zoom came into one of its other applications. The Chat

room. To be very honest I found the chat meeting initially a little strange. This was a chat meeting between two congregations who knew each other but mixed infrequently. We have lived in Bures for many years and for at least two, or is it three lockdowns, enjoyed walking around the village as part of our regular exercise. We have spoken to people, nodded to them as they pass on the other side of the road or waved as they maintained their speed levels whilst cycling or driving through the village. But chat Zoom has brought a personal touch to our contacts with each other. From the safety of our keyboard we have shared a small but joint part of our village life and with God's help we shall continue when this disease is no more than a horrid memory.

Derek Wolsten-Croft

PARISH NURSE

The Sudbury group of churches has pushed forward with its plan to appoint a part-time Parish Nurse in partnership with parish Nursing Ministries UK. Advertisements for the post were circulated in March.

BACK TO CHURCH



Although some churches continued to hold services in their building after Christmas, many have had to make

alternative arrangements, with streamed services on Facebook or Zoom. Provision for those without internet access has been more challenging, so it has been a joy to see our churches opening up as the vaccine programme has given congregations more confidence and ways of working effectively with current regulations have been devised. Many churches re-opened for Mothering Sunday or Easter. The general experience

seems to be that those attending services were delighted to be back, although at Groton it was evident that some were happier to join a service outside rather than within the building. At All Saints, Sudbury, the congregation could take in the full impact of their restored stained glass. And joy of joys, some hymn singing is now possible again, even if it has to be outside for the moment!

And what of the future, the 'new normal'? As our churches settle into what for many will be a re-jigged pattern of services, how can we incorporate the positives that we have learned during the past year into our worship and witness? The subject of a future newsletter, perhaps.

Any Other Business

Hot air recirculation system commissioned

Diocesan House has been leading the way towards a lower carbon footprint, with its recent commissioning of a novel system for reducing the amount of hot air emanating from the building.

"It's something we've been wanting to do for a long time", explained a spokesperson. "It took some doing, but we tracked down the main source of hot air to Committee Room A. As this has the most frequent meetings, it gave the greatest potential for savings".

Diocesan Recycling Officer **Ne'er Chuckit** takes up the story "Following an appraisal, a consultation, referral to the Ways and Means Committee and the House Working Group, we have arranged for some large diameter piping to be installed linking Committee Rooms A and B.

Reversible flow fans operate automatically so that anyone speaking for more than five minutes finds themselves sucked down the tubes and expelled into the other room".

The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world and those who live in it

"This has shortened meetings, introduced a 'wild card' element into meetings as the most garrulous speakers find themselves addressing a different committee to the one expected and has drastically reduced the amount of hot air leaking into other parts of the building and beyond".

1 April 2021



Foot Note - A true story

The scene - the parish office of a busy town church in Maidstone, Kent. The 'phone rings.

"Hello. Is that St. XXXX? It's the Archbishop of Canterbury here"

Parish Administrator (suspecting a legpull):
"Yes, this is St XXXX. And I'm the Pope"

(Almost) needless to say, it did indeed prove to be Justin Welby, who had found himself with a free Sunday and was trying to organise a drop-in on a local church!

Please don't forget that Deanery Service
10.30am on Sunday 25th July

Now where was it being held?



Psalm 24, v1