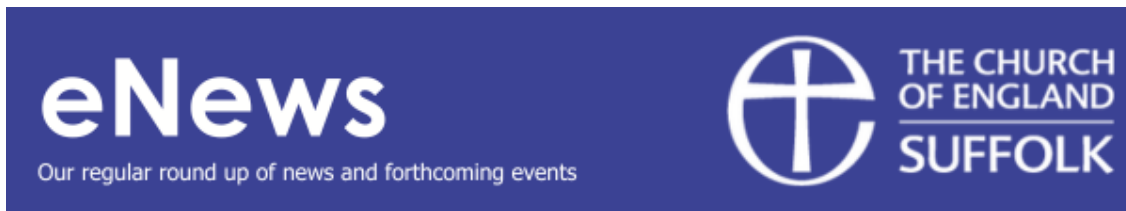


Thursday 1 May 2025



Completing your Energy Footprint Tool - deadline 30 June

The Energy Footprint Tool is available for you to fill out and use now - the deadline is 30 June. This work is an essential part of caring for God's Creation, by helping to combat global heating and climate change. The data collected from the tool will help your church understand its carbon footprint and enable you to be more eligible for grants to kickstart net zero projects. [Click here](#) to find out more.



Watch our video, filmed in January, featuring Diocesan Net Zero Carbon Officer, James Rolls to find out a little more about how important and useful the tool can be.

Churches Count on Nature 2025



This year, Churches Count on Nature takes place from Saturday 7 June to Sunday 15 June. During this week hundreds of church communities across the country take part in a week-long nature count to monitor and celebrate the incredible biodiversity in churchyards. In 2024 there were 6,354 records of nature spotted that were submitted by nearly 6,000 participants. This initiative is jointly run by the conservation charities Caring for God's Acre and A Rocha UK.. We would love for your church to take part in this initiative - to register and get involved [please click](#)

[here.](#)

11-17 May Christian Aid Week



Will you help fund vital tools and training, so farmers can support their community to escape hunger? This seven day fundraiser is focused on training, so communities can fight the effects of the climate crisis. For 80 years, Christian Aid has been fighting poverty and injustice. With your support, they have been able to offer hope to communities who need it most. Get involved - everything you need is available on the [Christian Aid website](#).

Archdeacon Rich is walking 70k in May in support of the vital work of Christian Aid. You can find more information and sponsor Rich [here](#).

Together We Pray



'Together We Pray' is focusing on the power of prayer and celebrating and supporting our communities and each other through prayer. Each week a different deanery will be delivering our morning prayers. Please join us by tuning in at 8.30am on the [Bishop's Facebook page](#) to watch live or visit the page to watch again later in the day, please click [here](#). The next to take part will be the Revd Simon White w.c 12 May and the Revd Dennis Coburn w/c 19 May. Then, the following two weeks will feature the diocesan mission and ministry team covering Thy Kingdom Come.

Thy Kingdom Come



2025 marks the 10th anniversary of the global wave of prayer for evangelism, Thy Kingdom Come, which will take place from 29 May to 8 June this year. This is a wonderful opportunity to encourage our congregations to renew their prayers for mission and growth. Thy Kingdom Come resources are available [here](#).

Commemorate the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day

On 8 May 2025, the nation will unite to remember the end of the Second World War in Europe and mark the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE Day). You can find out more about the commemorations taking place for both the anniversary of VE Day and also the 80th anniversary of VJ Day on 15 August 2025 [on the government's dedicated website](#). Find out how your church can take part with bell ringing, praying and holding special services on our website [here](#).

Grants of £52,000 awarded to Suffolk Churches



Nine grants, totalling £52,000, were awarded to Suffolk churches by the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust at their April Grants Committee Meeting. The successful parish churches are in Beck Row, Bedingfield, Dalham, Finningham, Layham, Lidgate, Moulton, Old Newton, and Sudbourne. The work that will be undertaken in the churches include repairs to woodwork, windows, porches and walls, and improved lighting and heating.

The grant money is raised by the annual Suffolk Churches Ride and Stride Day and the Suffolk Churches vintage and classic car rally Pedal and Drive held on the same day. In 2024 £196,158 was raised. This year it will be held on Saturday 13 September - please save the date!

Pioneer and Evangelist Community (PEC)

May 2025 heralds the formation of our Diocesan-wide Pioneer and Evangelism Community (PEC), a hub for networking, sharing, learning, and praying together. Pioneer and evangelism ministries are diverse across our Diocese and the PEC seeks to embrace, celebrate and grow such ministries through drawing together lay licensed pioneers and evangelists. Pioneering and evangelism takes many forms; such ministries can be unique to a specific context and location and / or follow the patterns and rhythms already established as good practice such as Messy Church. Discerning and stepping into God's mission lies at the heart of each individual initiative. We aim to meet in a variety of ways both online and in person, as a whole community and in smaller groups matched to context. If you are already involved in pioneering and evangelism within your setting and are interested in exploring licensed ministry, please email Gail Southgate, Diocesan Lead Evangelist Gail.southgate@cofesuffolk.org.

Events

London Community Gospel Choir

From Saturday 3 May, 7.30pm – 9.45pm | St Andrew's Church, Rushmere St Andrew, Ipswich IP4 1DX

Launching the 2025 May Festival, St Andrew's is delighted to welcome back this internationally renowned group for 90 minutes of joyous and infectious music. Tickets £20/adult, £10/child, please follow the Festival Link on the church website [here](#) to book.

Open Arms Retreat Day - with Archdeacon Rich

Saturday 3 May, 10.00am to 4.00pm | St Edmund's Church, Langer Road, Felixstowe IP11 2HL

Join Archdeacon Rich Henderson for a retreat day all about coming home to the 'open arms' of God. We will explore the characters in the story of the prodigal son and reflect on themes of forgiveness and love. The day costs £25 per person and includes refreshments, cake, and a fish and chips lunch (or vegetarian alternative). For more details and to book please visit: www.larkriseretreats.org or call 01394 284213.

The Force All Age Eucharist

Sunday 4 May, 9.30am | St Michael's Church, Framlingham IP13 9BJ

Join the Revd Chris Davey as he leads this lively all age service themed on Star Wars. With opportunities to dress up and release your inner Jedi. For more information please email [Chris](#).

VE Day Songs of Praise

Sunday 4 May, 11.00am | St Mary's Church, Great Blakenham IP6 0LP

Come along and rejoice in the VE Day Songs of Praise at St Mary's. To promptly start at 11.00am with refreshments afterwards.

Fenland 'Bog' Oak Violin Concert

Sunday 4 May, 2.00pm | St Mary the Virgin Church, Wortham, near Diss IP22 1PP

When a particularly large piece of black oak was unearthed in the Norfolk fens some years ago, this rare and precious find was celebrated by the construction of the Table for the Nation, which has been on display in Lincoln Cathedral. Some of the wood was also used to make a violin which we will have the privilege of hearing at this concert in aid of the church Nave Roof Appeal. Mathew Lee will be playing the violin with piano accompaniment by Andrew Wheeler and music by Dvorak, Mozart, Toselli and Ten Have. Tickets for adults cost £10, children cost £5. Tea and cakes will be served after the concert for which donations are invited. If you have any queries please contact 07747 620003 or 01379 650321.

PCC Workshops



You are invited to join topic-based one-hour Zoom meetings led by Diocesan staff and parish experts. Suitable for Treasurers, Churchwardens, PCC members and administrators, as well as clergy and LLMs. Each session will involve sharing information and a short presentation. For more information please email [Emma Rowlinson](mailto:emma.rowlinson@dioceseofsuffolk.org). Here are the details of the four workshops:

Gifts in Wills with the Diocesan Parish Resources Team |

Thursday 8 May, 12.00pm | [Book here](#)

Benefits of Joining the Parish Giving Scheme, join Steph Hartley from PGS and Emma Rowlinson, Diocesan Giving Advisor | Wednesday 21 May, 1.00pm | [Book here](#)

Find out about Digital Giving | Thursday 22 May, 1.00pm | [Book here](#)

Setting up a Friends Group | Friday 20 June, 12.00pm | [Book here](#).

National SSM conference: 'Flexible Ministry & Flexible Training'

Thursday 8 May 7.30pm, on Zoom. (finish by 9.00pm)

The national network's annual conference for all SSMs, the main speakers will be Bishop Julie Conalty, the Church of England's Lead Bishop on SSM, and the Revd Dr Marcus Throup from St Miletus College (*to be confirmed*). Although intended for SSMs, it might be of interest to anyone involved with mission and ministry. For further information and the joining link please email the Bishop's SSM adviser, the Revd Tony Redman by email: ssm.advisor@cofesuffolk.org.

Morning has Broken: singing the Psalms in a bruised world

Saturday 10 May, 9.30am - 3.30pm | St Peter's Church and Hall, West Row, Bury St Edmunds IP28 6NY

Join the Revd Dr Naomi Wormald,, Old Testament Lecturer at Wescott House Theological College for Morning has broken: singing the Psalms in a bruised world. For enquiries please contact the Revd Canon Chris Childs on 01638 429212

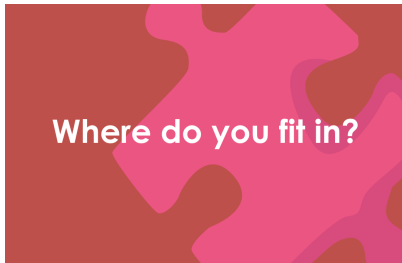
Eco Church Bronze Workshop

Saturday 10 May, 9.30am - 12.00pm | All Saints' Church, Mendham, nr Harleston IP20 0NH

The Eco Church Support Group are offering workshops that will help churches make a start on the new Eco Church survey towards their Bronze medal and this the first workshop will concentrate on the Worship and Land Sections. If you have started your survey, you may want to print it off to show us for feedback. Come along and bring a packed lunch, light refreshments will be provided. More information available [here](#).

Vocations Fair

Saturday 10 May, 1.30pm | Inside St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS



We believe all are called to serve God according to their given gifts, talents and context. Vocations Sunday, the day after our Vocations Fair, is a wonderful time to encourage individuals to consider what God might be calling them to. Come along to our Vocations Fair and visit the many stalls representing our ministries for an informal chat to find the right ministry for you. More information [here](#).

The Amazing Knitted Bible Exhibition

Sunday 11 May - Thursday 22 May | St Andrew's Church, Rushmere IP5 1DH

During their May Festival St Andrew's is fortunate enough to have on loan 22 knitted scenes from the New Testament displayed in the church. Public viewing opens on Sun 11 May 12.00pm - 5.00pm with cream teas. For more information about the Knitted Bible and all the May Festival events please visit the [church website here](#).

Organ and Piano Spectacular

Sunday 11 May, 4.00pm | St Mary's Church, Woodbridge IP12 4LP

Brothers Jonathan and Tom present a special concert of virtuosic duos for organ and piano, including Elgar Pomp & Circumstance March No. 1 and Warsaw Concerto to celebrate the VE Day weekend. The Scott Brothers are a UK classical keyboard duo who perform internationally in combinations of piano, organ & harmonium, and are the winners of the ECHO (European Cities of Historical Organs) Introducing Children to Organ Music Competition 2019. There will be a donation bar and a retiring collection in aid of [St Mary's Building Project Appeal](#). Thanks to [EB Button & Sons Ltd](#) for sponsoring this event. To book please visit [here](#).

Stories from a Prison Chaplain

Monday 12 May, 7.30pm | Barham Church Hall, Barham IP6 0PT

Henley Mothers' Union invites everyone to join them at their May meeting to hear more about the important work of a prison chaplain. Mothers' Union is also currently collecting bibles for HMP Highpoint as part of a new initiative to support the prison chaplaincy - collection will be held at the meeting. Refreshments and parking available. For more information please contact henleymothersunion@gmail.com.

Building a Generous Church conference

Saturday 17 May, 9.30am | Bridge Community Church, 68 Queen's Road, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3EW



We invite you to join Bishop Graeme; Archdeacons David and Rich; Gary Peverley, Diocesan Secretary; Diocesan staff and others to be inspired by three keynote speakers focusing on compassionate communities and the impact on our society, and how to put generosity at the heart of our lives. You can choose three workshops from a wide range of subjects, to help your church become more

informed and better resourced to grow a generous culture and reach financial sustainability. For more information and to book please click [here](#).

Global Food and Pita Festival

Sunday 18 May, 12.00pm-5.00pm, Suffolk New College, Ipswich IP4 1LT

Suffolk Pita Festival is a traditional Bangladeshi Cultural Exhibition that involves a pita competition, traditional food stalls, educational awards, jewellery and accessory stalls, information stalls, children's entertainment, and henna art. With advice on healthy living and eating. Free entry - all are welcomed. For more information please contact info@bscmulticulturalservices.org.uk.

Phoenix Jazz Concert

Friday 30 May, 7.30pm | All Saints' Church, Church Hill, Holbrook IP9 2PQ

Join this jazz evening in aid of the church, where the band moves seamlessly through a variety of popular musical genres and styles with an overriding 'jazzy' feel. Tickets are £12 and include finger buffet, raffle and refreshments. To reserve your ticket please email friendsofash0@gmail.com.

The Montségur Quartet

Saturday 31 May, 7.30pm | Church of St Michael and St Felix, Rumburgh IP19 0NJ

Join this group of young professional singers studying at London conservatoires, who will be presenting a programme of a cappella choral and consort music.. Classics from Byrd to the Beatles will be featured alongside many more works in a wonderful springtime concert. Tickets £15 on the door. Interval refreshments included. Proceeds to go to the Church restoration fund.

The Installation of the new Canon Precentor of St Edmundsbury Cathedral

Sunday 1 June 2025 (Easter 7) at 3.30pm | St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

The Acting Bishop and the Dean of St Edmundsbury are pleased to invite the whole diocese to the Collation and Institution of the Revd Katherine (Katy) Helen Cunliffe to the office of Residentiary Canon Precentor. All are welcome to this nave service, which will be followed by refreshments.

Digital Surgeries with the Diocesan Parish Resources Team

Wednesday 11 June, 2.00pm - 4.00pm | Diocesan Office, 4 Cutler Street, Ipswich IP1 1UQ

Come along and have a personal one-to-one session with our Diocesan Giving Advisors to find out about purchasing or borrowing a contactless device, setting up online giving (including QR codes), get your contactless device repaired or updated with new campaigns, and find out how to have an effective online giving presence on your ACNY or website pages. For more information email [Emma Denton](#) or [Emma Rowlinson](#), Diocesan Giving Advisors. [Book here](#).

'Leading your Church into Growth': LyCiG is back for 2025!

Friday 13 June, 5.00pm to 9.00pm and Saturday 14 June, 9.00am to 6.00pm | Debenham Sports & Leisure Centre IP14 6BL



There's still time to book onto this year's conference! Designed for parish or benefice teams, the conference offers inspiration, tried and tested approaches, and practical suggestions for mission and growth in your context. We'll share a hot meal together on the Friday evening followed by the first talks and discussions, and will then spend Saturday delving deeper into the wisdom that LYCIG has to offer. Offered free of charge to

benefices, there will also be follow-up support throughout the following next year. For more information, email [Katie de Bourcier](#), Diocesan Mission Enabler. Please [visit here to book](#). Watch our short video [here](#).

CONNECT Course – Online



The Diocesan CONNECT course covers aspects of Children's and Family Ministry by exploring child development, spirituality and formation, new approaches to Family Ministry and by expanding personal skills to enable participants to be visionary Family Ministry leaders within the parish and across the Diocese. Successful completion of this course may lead to licensing as a Children's and Families' Minister. Join for an inspirational 6-week course. Sessions take place

online via Zoom on Thursdays from 10.30am – 12.00pm starting 12 June 2025. For full details and to book [please visit Insight here](#).

Women's Voices, Women's Bodies

Saturday 21 June, 10.30am – 4.00pm | St John the Evangelist Church, St John's Street, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1SP

This is a Women's Voices event with Liz Shercliff and Kate Bruce who will deliver a number of sessions throughout the day, including: The Abused Body: Bathsheba; The Disabled Body: the stooped woman; The Aged Body: Anna; The Nurturing Body: Mary; The Suffering Body: woman with the issue of blood.

This event is free and open to all. Refreshments will be provided, please bring your own lunch or there are plenty of places in town for lunch. For further information, please email the [Revd Ali Miller](#) to book please visit [here](#).

Flower Festival and Art Show

21 and 22 June, 10.00am to 4.00pm | St Andrews Church and Barns, Weybread IP21 5TR

Enjoy this grand day out including flowers, art and cake. A real showstopper with art from local talented artists. Proceeds for the church. For more information email [Frances Brittain](mailto:Frances.Brittain@st-andrews-weybread.org).

Day Pilgrimage

Saturday 26 July, 10.00am | St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Join a day pilgrimage, beginning and ending at the Cathedral in Bury St Edmunds. This delightful walk takes you along old paths through unspoilt Suffolk countryside, and includes two lesser known and fascinating churches at Nowton and Rushbrooke. The walking will be slow, giving time for you to wonder. The journey is nine miles in total, and we will aim to have completed it within 5 hours. Bring food and drink for the journey, and suitable footwear for walking. Toilets available. The pilgrimage returns to Pilgrims' Kitchen via the Abbey Gardens. After refreshment, you are warmly invited to stay for Evensong at 3.30 pm. Tickets cost £10 per person. [Book your place here.](#)

Oxford Muslim Christian Summer School | 13 - 20 August | Centre for Muslim Christian Studies, Oxford

The programme is a great opportunity to contribute to the continuing professional development of clergy, as Christians and Muslims share an intensive residential week learning about one another's faith and building enduring relationships which benefit them in their parish ministry. For further information please contact the [Revd Tom Mumford](#), Diocesan Interfaith Adviser or view the booklet [here](#).

Pilgrimage to Malta and Gozo | 31 October - 6 November 2025

Join the Revd Mark Woodrow for a seven-day journey throughout the Maltese archipelago combining a wonderful wealth of biblical, medieval and cultural history. Full details can be found and booked online at [here](#).

Notices

The Meal for Life: We are delighted to offer you this new resource written by the Revd Christopher Gonin to describe the Eucharist. It aims to introduce its simplicity and profundity, support early discipleship to Christ and make all parts of your life reflect your discipleship and most of all, know and live in Christ. The booklet is available at £2 a copy + 75p for postage. Please order from the Revd Chris Gonin, 24 Booth Court, Handford Road, Ipswich IP1 2GD with a cheque made payable to the Revd C. W. Gonin. Or email communications@cofesuffolk.org for more information.

Photograph Permissions Forms: Taking photos of people for your communications is a great way to build community and show people what your church is doing - and it is of utmost importance the necessary permission is acquired when sharing these photos. As Safeguarding is at the heart of what we do, we ask that written permission is provided. We

have a couple of template forms for you to use on [Insight here](#).

Articles of Enquiry: Each year we ask churchwardens to fill in a short survey about their Church and Parish. The responses are used by the Archdeacons and Diocesan team to help shape our strategic planning and support for churches. The survey also provides a useful insight into current church life across Suffolk. The survey is now live for you to complete on the Online Parish Return System (OPRS) and can be accessed [here](#). For any queries completing the survey, please email statistics@cofesuffolk.org

New Electoral Roll: The current electoral rolls (created in 2019) will be replaced with brand-new rolls this year (2025). Everything you need to help you with this is on our website: [APCMs](#). In accordance with the [Church Representation Rules](#), following your APCM and no later than 1 July in each year, parishes should give the Diocesan Secretary written notification of the number of names there are on the roll of the parish as at the date of the annual parochial church meeting. To facilitate this requirement, please return your completed Electoral Roll Certificates by email to diocesan.secretary@cofesuffolk.org. We ask that wherever possible forms are returned electronically, however if you have no means to do this, they can be returned by post at the address: Diocesan Electoral Roll Officer, The Diocesan Office, 4 Cutler Street, Ipswich IP1 1UQ.

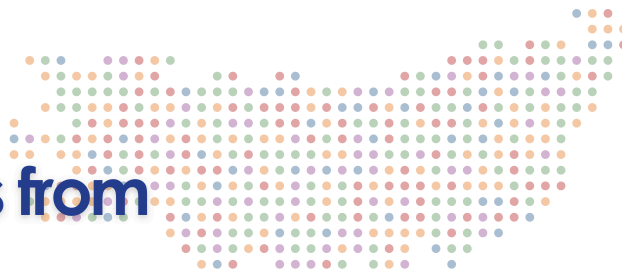
Vacancies

[Rector](#) | Haughley with Wetherden and Stowupland | Closing date: 14 May
[Lead for Operations](#) | The Lightwave Community and the Lightwave Forest Heath Hub | Closing date: 19 May
[Rector](#) | Woolpit and Drinkstone Benefice | Closing date: 21 May
[House for Duty Team Vicar](#) | Lark Valley and North Bury Team | Closing date: 21 May
[Team Vicar](#) | [Sole Bay Team](#) | Closing date: 4 June
[Rector](#) | Barrow Benefice | Closing date: 5 June
[Team Vicar](#) | Forest Heath Team Ministry | Closing date: 24 June
[Part-time Associate Priest](#) | Carlford Benefice
[Youth Pastor](#) | St Augustine's church, Ipswich

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