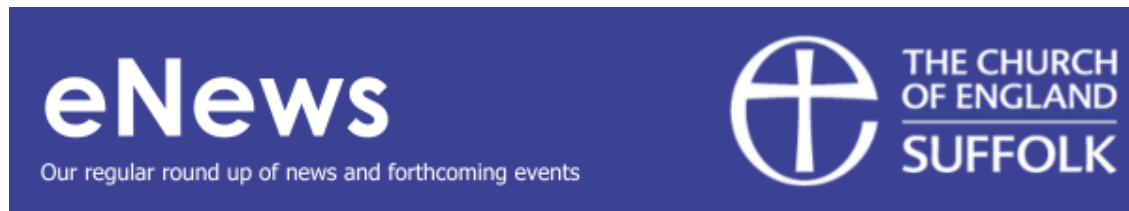


Thursday 10 April 2025



Big Sing



Over 500 pupils and adults from 15 church primary schools filled St Edmundsbury Cathedral last Tuesday for a Big Sing. This special service, with a theme of 'Easter hope', was organised by the Diocesan Education team in partnership with Christian Aid.

The children sang songs specially commissioned by Christian Aid to raise awareness of issues of global justice.

Pupils from six of the schools spoke

about how they are taking action to tackle injustice, some leading prayers and some singing a special rap! Alex Cassidy from Christian Aid spoke about the charity's vital work in creating a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty. Founded 80 years ago in the aftermath of the Second World War, Christian Aid continues to provide long term development support as well as emergency relief across the world.

Christian Aid has recognised the Diocesan Board of Education's outstanding commitment to Global Citizenship Education and Alex presented Jane Sheat, Diocesan Director of Education, with a certificate celebrating our status as a Global Neighbours partner diocese. Jane says *"It is a pleasure to work with Christian Aid. We commend their Global Neighbours scheme to all our schools. It supports children to learn about how they can help to make the world a better place. Congratulations to Sir Robert Hitcham's CEVAP School in Framlingham which is the first school in Suffolk to win a Bronze award. The Big Sing is a joyful celebration of children's voices. We are already looking forward to next year!"*

Together We Pray



This week the Revd Kiran Lotay from Ipswich Deanery will be hosting 'Together we pray' from Monday 14 April to Friday 18 April. 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](#). In addition to morning prayer, St Edmundsbury Cathedral offers livestreamed services on their [YouTube channel](#) including:

- Tuesday to Friday 5.30pm Choral Evensong/Evening Prayer
- Saturday 3.30pm Evening Prayer or Choral Evensong if there is a visiting choir
- Sunday 3.30pm Choral Evensong



Tim Holder, Diocesan Director of Engagement, meets with the Revd Kiran Lotay, Assistant Rural Dean of Ipswich Deanery, for 'Together we pray'.

Nearly £200k grant fund awarded to East Bergholt Church

St Mary the Virgin Church in East Bergholt has received development funding of £199,460 from the Heritage Fund. Restoration plans include restoring the church roof and adapting and modifying the interior of a church to better suit the needs of the congregation and the church's mission. Read the full story [here](#).

New Mini Bus in Beccles



Archdeacon Rich attended Beccles Parish last week to bless a brand new minibus. This is the result of a great partnership with £17k in donations from individuals, the Beccles Townlands Trust, Beccles Lions and the National Lottery. The minibus plays a vital role in the mission and ministry of the parish, by helping to make worship accessible and collecting individuals for their weekly lunch club and more. Read more [here](#).

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 wonderful opportunity to encourage our congregations to renew their prayers for



mission and growth. As in previous years, we will be making Thy Kingdom Come prayer resources available for collection by clergy at the Chrism Eucharist on 17 April 2025 at St Edmundsbury Cathedral. These will be on the large table outside the Edmund Room, providing interested benefices with a small number of the Novena booklets and the Prayer Journals free of charge. For larger numbers of these and other Thy Kingdom Come resources, benefices will need to place their own orders [here](#). A variety of resources are also available to

download free of charge. The Facebook group 'Suffolk in Prayer' is an ecumenical space for sharing insights as you pray and prayer opportunities and events across Suffolk and they are currently sharing and featuring Thy Kingdom Come information: do follow their page [here](#).

If you would like to find out more about The Lord's Prayer may we refer you to [this BBC documentary](#). 'Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus' from Londonderry, a Songs of Praise programme released in March with a powerful Testimonial towards the end.

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](#).

Events

How to use Canva for your church

Wednesday 16 April, 6.00pm - 7.00pm | Zoom

Canva is a free design tool which offers a number of great features to help you create logos, flyers, social media posts and more. In this free webinar, you will be guided through Canva's essential features, giving you an introduction to the tool and showing you how to create eye-catching content for your church. [Register here](#).

Narnia Family Day

Saturday 19 April, 10.00am to 3.00pm,
Place by the Water, The Rectory, Shottisham IP12 3HG

You are warmly invited to this CS Lewis book, 'The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe' themed event where there will be opportunities to visit areas of Narnia in the garden, dress up and use some of the props, take part in themed crafts or a quiz, with snacks available all day. To find out more please email: theplacebythewater@gmail.com.

Finding Inner Peace- practising meditation and mindfulness

Saturday 26 April, 10.00am – 4.00pm
St Edmund's Church, Langer Road, Felixstowe IP11 2HR.

You are invited to join this day retreat which costs £25/person including refreshments and lunch. For more details and to book please visit: www.larkriseretreats.org or call 01394 284213.

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 knowledge with a short presentation and will include plenty of time for you to ask questions. For more information please email [Julie Podd](mailto:Julie.Podd). Here are the details of the five workshops:

Grants and Funding, with Diocesan Giving Advisor, Emma Denton and volunteer John Bailey from Beccles | Wednesday 30 April, 12.00pm | [Book here](#)

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 (contactless and online, including QR codes) | Thursday 22 May, 1.00pm | [Book here](#)

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

In the beginning was the story... a different kind of introduction to the New Testament

Wednesdays 30 April, 7 May, 14 May, 28 May, 4 June, 11 June and 18 June, 7.30pm - 9.30pm | Earl Stonham Village Hall, Stowmarket IP14 5HJ

This course looks at the beginnings of what became Christianity, by examining the New Testament as a series of 'stories we live by' rather than as the foundations of the doctrines that emerged much later. It explores some of the pressures faced by multi-cultural churches in an uncertain and sometimes hostile world, to help us learn about ways of living with similar-but-different pressures in our own day. To book your place please [click here](#).

Annual May festival

From Saturday 3 May

St Andrew's Church, Rushmere St Andrew, Ipswich IP4 5HF

Opening with the London Community Gospel Choir concert on Saturday 3 May, the festival will feature talks from Arthur White, former World Champion Powerlifter and more. The festival will close with a pilgrimage walk across the Fynn Valley and lunch at the Pavilion, Woodbridge. The Knitted Bible will be on show from Sunday 11 to Friday 23 May. On loan from St George's URC, Hartlepool, the bible consists of 22 knitted scenes from the New Testament, with knitted characters, animals, buildings and backdrops. Refreshments will be available throughout the festival with Ploughman's lunches and cream teas served on

Sundays 11 May, 2.00pm - 5.00pm and 18 May, 12.30pm - 5.00pm. Full details of events are listed [here](#) just open the tab marked 'May Festival'.

Open Arms

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. Our spiritual journey is all about coming home to the 'open arms' of God. On this day retreat 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.

Learning review on strategy for rural mission

Wednesday 7 May, 11.00am, Online

Join this free webinar with the Revd Dr Richard Tiplady from Brendan Research, who will share research analysis from a set of 10 rural projects that dioceses developed with their parishes, supported by strategic national funding. These projects have recently completed or are ongoing, focused on making disciples in rural areas. Offering key insights into developing your rural mission strategies at diocesan or deanery level, this is also likely be of interest to leaders in rural churches and benefices. More information and to book click [here](#).

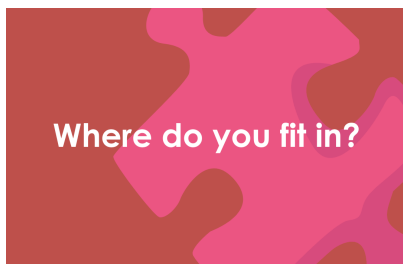
Eco Church Bronze Workshop

Saturday 10 May, 9.30am - 12.00pm | All Saints' Church, Mendham, nr Harleston IP20 0NH [Google map](#).

The Eco Church Support Group are planning to provide workshops that will help churches make a start on the new Eco Church survey towards their Bronze medal. The first Eco Church Bronze 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](#).

Estates Church leaders forum

After the success of the first forum for Estates Church leaders, The Revd Sophie Cowan, Priest in Charge of St Mary Stoke, Ipswich, would like to invite others to join the monthly gatherings. This forum offers a wonderful opportunity to share stories of God at work,



pray and encourage and support one another. The Zoom meetings are all 12.30pm – 1.15pm on Wednesdays: 14 May, 18 June, 16 July, 27 August, 17 September, 15 October, 19 November. **SAVE THE DATE** - Booking information coming soon.

Art Exhibition

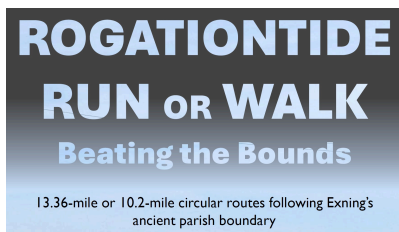
Saturday 17 May to Sunday 18 May 10.00am to 4.00pm
Old Newton Village Hall, Stowmarket IP14 4ED

The exhibition will feature a wide range of paintings, drawings, photography, collages—and everything in between. The exhibition promises to offer something for every artistic taste, showcasing rich creative talent using a myriad of mediums in captivating styles. Purchases will directly benefit the maintenance and upkeep of St Mary's Church, Old Newton. There's plenty of parking and a playground nearby for the kids. Teas, coffees and an assortment of baked and luncheon delicacies will be on offer. Email [Libby Brooks](#) for information.

Beating the Bounds - Rogationtide Run or Walk

Saturday 17 May, 10.00am

St Martin's Church, Exning CB8 7HF



Join the Revd Canon Mark Haworth on a circular 13.4 or 10.2 mile run/walk following Exning's ancient parish boundary. Refreshments will be available for a small donation. Email Mark to register: mhaworth50@hotmail.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](#).

Brave Moves - United Christian Music Festival

Monday 26 May, 12.00pm to 10.00pm

Wattisfield Recreation Ground, near Diss IP22 1NS

Join the Revd Jay Price and Wattisfield Community Council for a music festival featuring brass bands, choirs, pop and rock guitar and Songs of Praise in the church, alongside craft and book stalls, entertainment for children as well as refreshments. Watch out for updates on Facebook [here](#).

Phoenix Jazz Concert

Friday 30 May, 7.30pm

All Saints' Church, Church Hill, Holbrook IP9 2PQ

Join this jazz evening in aid of All Saints' 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.

Digital Surgeries with the Diocesan Parish Resources Team

Wednesday 11 June, 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Diocesan Office, 4 Cutler Street, Ipswich IP1 1UQ

Join a series of surgeries to find out more about enhancing the digital giving presence in your parish. 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](mailto:Emma.Denton@diocese-oxford.org) or [Emma Rowlinson](mailto:Emma.Rowlinson@diocese-oxford.org), 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](mailto:Katie.deBourcier@diocese-oxford.org), Diocesan Mission Enabler. Please [visit here to book](#).



Feedback from benefices that participated in LyCiG last year has been very positive, as you can see from this short video.

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. To book or for further information, please email the Rev Ali Miller.

Notices

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

Diocesan Eastertide Confirmation. Sunday 4 May at 10.30am: St Edmundsbury

Cathedral is hosting a Diocesan Eastertide Confirmation with Bishop Graeme leading the service and confirming those present. Benefices and parishes are warmly invited to present candidates by emailing the Revd Canon Mark Haworth with the completed form as soon as possible. Anyone seeking guidance on Confirmation preparation is welcome contact Mark. (Please note there is no Easter Eve Confirmation on Holy Saturday) [Download the diocesan form for completion here.](#) [Email the Revd Canon Mark Haworth here.](#)

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

[Schools Adviser](#) | Closing date: 22 April

[Assistant to Diocesan Advisory Committee Secretary](#) | Closing date: 23 April

[Rector](#) | Haughley with Wetherden and Stowupland | Closing date: 14 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

[Rector](#) | Barrow Benefice | Closing date: 5 June

[Team Vicar](#) | Forest Heath Team Ministry | Closing date: 24 June

[Part-time Associate Priest](#) | Carlford Benefice

[Volunteer Independent Chair of Safeguarding Committee](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral

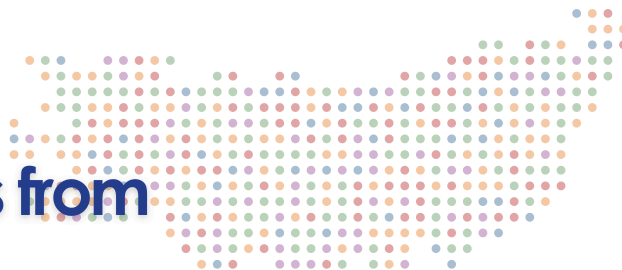
[Volunteer Independent Data Protection Lead](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral

Youth Pastor | St Augustine's church, Ipswich | [More information available here.](#)

[Click here to print and share with others](#)



Watch our stories from around Suffolk



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