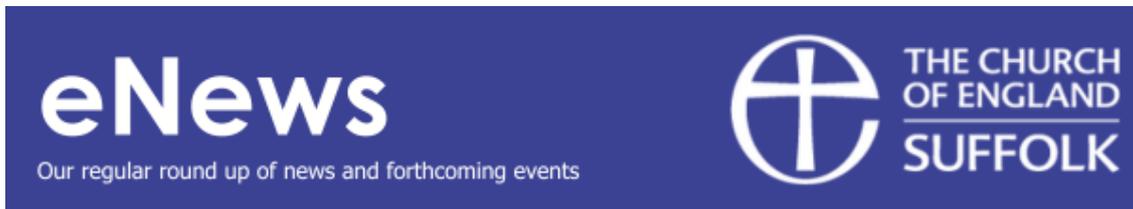


Thursday 12 February 2026



Suffolk teenagers joined Bishop Joanne to visit House of Lords

Bishop Joanne

invited students from Felixstowe School, to join her as she took her place in Parliament on Thursday 5 February.

Her position in the House of Lords enables Bishop Joanne to campaign on Suffolk issues and represent county communities.

Among the early commitments she has made has been a promise to those in the local farming and fisheries communities that she will hear and represent their personal concerns.

Read the full story on [our website here](#).

Together we pray: We are delighted that the Revd Judy Miller of Sole Bay Benefice is leading 'Together we Pray' from Monday 16 February. Tune in at 8.30am on the [Bishop's Facebook page](#) to watch live or visit the page to watch again later in the day.



The Revd Judy Miller will be leading next week's Together we Pray.

DRAW NEAR LIFE-GIVING HABITS FOR LENT

Draw Near: Life-giving habits for Lent: The Church of England's theme for Lent 2026 is Draw Near: Life-giving habits for Lent. This year's resources have at their heart the theme of a 'rhythm of life' – habits and patterns which help us grow as disciples of Christ day by day, especially as we prepare to celebrate the great mystery of God's saving love at Easter. All resources are

listed on the Church of England website here: [Draw Near: Life-giving habits for Lent](#)

Online Lent Course: Framing the Future, Wednesdays during Lent at 7.00pm

Each week, beginning on 25 February, this year's Lent course at St Edmundsbury Cathedral will explore 'visions of a future church', responding to a lecture in the Cathedral given by Abbott Christopher Jamison on Shrove Tuesday titled 'Framing the Future. Find out more about our speakers, and register [here](#).

Generosity and Giving at Easter: The Diocesan Parish Resources Team have contactless giving devices available for loan allowing you to 'try before you buy'. Or you could borrow a device for a specific event you have planned. Join this webinar 'Digital Giving at Lent and Easter' on Tuesday 17 February at 12.00pm for a dive into Digital Giving and how it can help your church, whether it's online donations or contactless and in-person.

Medieval Psalter Returns | Service on Thursday 5 March at 5.30pm.

The Bury Psalter, a beautifully illuminated book of Psalms which dates from around 1400, and which was made for and used at the ancient Abbey of St Edmund, will find a new home at St Edmundsbury Cathedral following the closure of the Suffolk Archives site in Bury St Edmunds. Its arrival will be celebrated with a special Evensong service at the Cathedral on Thursday 5 March at 5.30pm.

The Bury Psalter is a Latin manuscript written for, and used by, the Abbey of St Edmund. It includes the Psalms (150 religious songs from the Old Testament), a list of Saints, and

hymns. It is one of only two books from the vast medieval library of the Abbey of St Edmund known to remain in the town. Available to view Monday – Saturday 10.00am – 4.00pm and Sunday 12.30pm – 3.00pm.

Full story [here](#).

Mission and Ministry Events

Benedict Lecture | Tuesday 17 February at 6.30pm | St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

In this provocative talk, Abbot Christopher will look at how people have framed their future in the past and how we frame it now. Pessimism is the frame of the future for many people in Britain today. Why? What frame does Christian faith generate? More information and to book click [here](#).

Conservation of Wooden War Memorials | Thursday 24 February | Online
Historic England's Technical Conservation Team, provide free webinars, offering an in-depth look at a range of technical conservation topics. This particular webinar will explore the conservation of external timber war memorials across England, focusing on their material and technical aspects. Join to gain insights into common deterioration issues and learn about appropriate conservation techniques, including timber repair, protective treatments and maintenance. [Book here](#).

Fieldwork: Celebrating Rural Mission and Ministry in Suffolk | 28 February 2026, 9.30am to 4.00pm | Wingfield Barns, Nr Diss IP21 5RA



Join this Diocesan day conference for church members, PCC members, those in our church schools, lay ministers and clergy from our rural parishes. We will hear from a great keynote speaker, the Revd Jo Neary – Tutor in Rural Ministry and Mission (part-time) at Sarum College, Salisbury, alongside her part-time post as team vicar and pioneer priest in the Beaminster Area Team in Wiltshire, who will encourage us to think about the distinctive identity, calling and potential of the rural church.

There will be time to share our stories of joy and challenge, and be encouraged and inspired. It is being organised by rural ministers with the help of Diocesan staff and is free to attend. Last chance to book please [register here](#) bookings close on Saturday.

Interested in Reader Ministry? Saturday 21 March, 10.00am to 12.00pm | Best Western Brome Grange Hotel, Norwich Road, Nr Eye, IP23 8AP

Come along to our informal Coffee Morning - an opportunity to find out more about Readers (Licensed Lay Ministers). Led by Diocesan staff and those currently serving as and training to be Readers. Even better, there will be cake! Please email [Lauren Moore](#) to express your interest, ask any further questions and to enable us to arrange catering.

Lark Rise Retreats

'The Pilgrim's Progress - exploring the themes of John Bunyan's novel' a study day led by Jane Jennison on Saturday 28 March at St Nicholas Church, The Ferry, Felixstowe

'The resurrection appearances of Jesus', a quiet day led by the Revd Penny Brinkley on Saturday 11 April at St Nicholas Church, The Ferry, Felixstowe

'Faith on the edge - Jesus heals at the margins', a retreat day based on Luke 8.40 to 56, led by the Revd Helen Rengert on Saturday 9 May at St Edmunds Church, Langer Rd, Felixstowe

Days run from 10.00am – 4.00pm and cost £27/person including refreshments and lunch. A bursary fund is available. More details and bookings are on www.larkriseretreats.org or call Catherine Bond & Jane Pearse on 01394 284213.

In the beginning was the story. A different approach to the New Testament |

Starts Wednesday 29 April 2026 for seven weeks at Earl Stonham Village Hall
Led by the Revd Canon John Parr, Approaching the New Testament takes a story-shaped approach to the heart of Christian faith. This course looks at the beginnings of what became Christianity, in the writings of the New Testament, and explores their narrative features. The New Testament writers passed on the gospel of Jesus Christ not as a collection of facts or doctrines, but as a series of stories that shaped people's lives. What can we learn from them about the challenges we face in doing the same in our day?

[Please book here.](#)

The Gathering | Friday 24 April 6.00pm - Sunday 26 April 2.00pm | Vauxhall Farm, Great Wenham CO7 6QQ



The Gathering is a residential weekend organised in partnership with Ipswich CYM and youth leaders from across Ipswich. The excellent Tim Alford will be joining for the Friday night who will do a great job in delivering a Gospel talk. The cost for this weekend is £110 per young person. Bookings are managed by CYM Ipswich using the online *Ticket Taylor* system. If you have

questions, please don't hesitate to email [Jamie Swinerd](mailto:jamie.swinerd@ipswichcym.org). To find out more and book please visit our website [here](#).

Flourish | Saturday 2 May 2026, 9.30am for 10.00am – 3.00pm | The Salvation Army Hall, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

An invitation to all Readers, Licensed Lay Ministers and Lay Elders to join us for our annual study day. The guest speaker this year is the Revd Dr Thomas Sharp from St Augustine's College of Theology. A core part of Thomas's teaching focuses on human flourishing, especially how Christians care for others in times of hardship. The morning session focuses on Pastoral Care in a Broken World and the afternoon session is on the Theology of Safeguarding – what does it mean to care? Reserve your free space now! Click here: [Flourish - Insight CofE Suffolk](#).

Youthscape Essentials

Youthscape Essentials is all-round training for every youth leader. This course is free and includes an extensive training manual which will be given to you before the first

session. We are delighted that there are two learning streams available, online and in person.

Face to Face: 28 March, 9 May, 6 June with an online top-up session organised with delegates | venue will depend on the location of the delegates. To sign up to the face-to-face stream please click [here](#) and use course code "2201492"

Online by TEAMS: (Weds 7.00pm - 9.00pm): 16 September, 7 October, 11 November, 9 December, 13 January 2027, 10 February 2027, 10 March 2027, 14 April 2027, 12 May 2027 and 9 June 2027. To sign up to the online stream, please click [here](#) and use course code "2201540"

If you are interested in Youthscape Essentials but cannot make some/any of the above dates, then please do email [Jamie Swinerd](mailto:Jamie.Swinerd@diocesan.org), Diocesan Youth & Young Adults Enabler.

Preaching Hope in Troubled Times | Saturday 20 June, 10.30am – 4.00pm, St John the Evangelist Church, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 1SP

Women's Voices is back in Bury! With Liz Shercliff and Kate Bruce who will share their wisdom and learning, insights and enthusiasm with us. The theme this year will include Preaching Hope into Despair - Discipleship as Trauma - The Hope of Incarnation - Preaching Hope into Trauma. The event is open to all, women and men, but preachers and those in ministry - lay and ordained - will find this invaluable. Refreshments are provided but please bring your own lunch; alternatively enjoy lunch in the town. Save the date or email Mother Ali, Diocesan Adviser for Women's Ministry, for further information: teamvicarlynb@btinternet.com

Church Community Services and Events

Concert | Saturday 14 February, 4.00pm | St Margaret's Church, Soane Street, Ipswich, IP4 2BT

A late afternoon concert featuring members of Trianon Symphony Orchestra, Ipswich Choral Society and the Ipswich Gilbert and Sullivan Society. Warm welcome and warm drinks. Retiring donations. Parking available in St Margaret's School car park.

Open Table Eucharist | Saturday 14 February, 5.00pm | St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Join us for our Open Table Eucharist. This service is for LGBTQIA+ people, their friends, families and allies. We welcome those of any faith or background, every gender identity and sexual orientation. All are welcome, but please respect that this service is created to be a safe, sacred space for those who need it.

Strictly St Mary's | Saturday 14 February, 7.30pm - 11.00pm | St Mary's Stoke, Ipswich IP2 8BX

Come along to an evening of ballroom and latin dancing at St Mary's Church, with a raffle also available on the night! Bring your own refreshments. Tickets cost just £5 and [are available here](#).

Also on this day at St Peter's Church Stoke Park, why not come along and enjoy a table top sale from 3.00pm to 5.00pm - pick up a bargain and enjoy some refreshments too.

Jubilate Choir Choral Evening Song, All Saints Church, Easton IP13 0EE. What3Words: finer.worth.cracking | Sunday 15 February, 6.00pm

Orebeck Benefice is delighted to invite you to join the Jubilate Choir when they will sing Choral Evensong according to the order of the Book of Common Prayer. Jubilate consists of between 12 and 16 experienced singers including a cantor. It makes no charge for its services and exists to promote and preserve the service of Choral Evensong and its inclusion in traditional parish worship. You will be very welcome to join this moving traditional service.

Teach Rex | Monday 16 and Tuesday 17 February 10.30am & 2.00pm | St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Join us this half term for everything dinosaur! 🦖 Come along and experience an audience with a T-Rex! Tickets on [sale here](#).

Benedict Lecture with Abbot Christopher Jamison | Tuesday 17 February 6.30pm | St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

In our inaugural Benedict lecture, Abbot Christopher Jamison explores how we might frame the future. Pessimism is the frame of the future for many people in Britain today. Why? What frame does Christian faith generate? Tickets cost £5 and [are available here](#).

Society of Catholic Priests (SCP) | Thursday 26 February, 11.00am, St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

The St Edmundsbury and Ipswich chapter of the SCP meet four times a year for a Eucharist, talk, lunch and conversation. The society is inclusive - for ordained men and women - and it celebrates humanity in all God-given diversity with respect to ethnicity, gender and sexuality. It is in the catholic tradition found within the Anglican communion and is centred on the Eucharist. Join the next meeting by the Revd Canon Stuart Batten on Desert Spirituality. For more information please email [Mother Ali](#).

PsalmScope | Saturday 28 February 2026, 11.00am to 4.30pm, All Hallows Church, Ipswich IP3 0EN

Join the Cantus Firmus Choir for a day to explore the Psalms through music. You will sing a variety of music inspired by the Psalms, in a broad range of musical styles. There will be reflections on the Psalms, led by Revd Emma Steadman. The day will end with a short act of worship, incorporating some of the music learned during the day. The event is suitable for all who enjoy choral singing. Details and booking at [cantusfirmus.org.uk](#)

Suffolk witch trials 'pop up' exhibition | February | St Mary's Church, Tattingstone, Ipswich, IP9 2NA

This touring exhibition (in association with Babergh District Council and Suffolk Archives) uncovers the lives of those accused during the witch trials, giving voice to the people whose stories are often forgotten.

Living Christ's Mercy, Justice and Hope | Tuesday 10 March, 10.30am - 3.30pm | The Abbey Centre, London SW1P 3BU

Join the Rt Revd Rachel Treweek, Lord Bishop of Gloucester and Anglican Bishop for HM

Prisons in England and Wales, and friends including the Welcome Directory, Prison Fellowship and Spring Harvest for a day of encouragement, mutual learning and reflection. [Register here.](#)

Grandparent Day | Saturday 14 March, 10.30am - 2.30pm | Thomas Clarkson Centre Hospital Rd Bury St Edmunds IP33 3JT

What does it take to be a Grandparent of Faith? Come to be affirmed, supported and encouraged. The day will start with worship, and will include key speakers and workshops. Free tickets are [available here.](#)

St Michael's Illuminated | Saturday 14 March, 6.30pm-8.30pm | St Michael's Church, Beccles NR34 9HE

St Michael's Church will host a spectacular light show designed by visual artist William Lindley, a former chorister at the church. His installations have been commissioned for historic buildings, festivals and public areas across the country. No booking needed. Visitors will be able to come and go throughout the evening. They will be invited to make a donation. Refreshments will be for sale.

Considering ordination in the Church of England? | Thursday 26 March, 1.00pm or 7.30pm, Zoom

Oak Hill College is running a one-hour online event designed to help you explore whether God may be calling you to ordained ministry in the Church of England. Join on Zoom for an hour of biblical reflection, honest insight and practical guidance. You'll hear from experienced church leaders who have each walked this path and now serve in significant roles within the Church as well as from some current ordinands. For more info and to sign up click [here.](#)

Cursillo Retreat | Friday 17 April 10.00am Saturday 18 April 4.00pm, at Sizewell Hall IP16 4TX

Join this retreat with the theme 'Fishers of men', to look at how God has called us to serve him.

Cost £145.00 per person. For more details and to book before 7 March please email bev.frost@ntlworld.com.

Clergy Women Sailing Retreat | 6 June

Join this Clergy Women Sailing Retreat with Morning Star Trust (MST). Offered for £25 each, and bring your own lunch and snacks. MST's mission on the East Coast is, of course, youth work afloat and they run taster days for local church/youth leaders as well as a week for a local women's refuge too. The MST office team can provide further information about bookings, please contact bookings@mst.org.uk

Please note, you can apply for CMD Grant or SMDP funding (if you've done the SMDP leadership programme). So please make use of this if you can. You'll need to book and pay for yourself first so that you can secure your place.

Icon Workshop with Sr Annette Lawrence DMJ | September 7 -11 2026 | St Mary and St Botolph Church Whitton, Ipswich IP1 6LT

A rare opportunity to attend a non residential icon workshop for just £250. Residential workshops cost between £800 and £1000 plus. Sr Annette is an extremely experienced and talented teacher and guide with many years of experience running these workshops. No experience or artistic ability needed - suitable for complete novice or experienced

iconographers! The blessing of your own icon to take away at the end of the week. You will need to be a to attend fully every day. Numbers are limited to 12 maximum so early booking advised. For more information and a booking form email The Revd Mary Sokanovic Rector Whitton with Thurleston and Akenham or call 07824323073

Summer Biblical Study in Cambridge | Westminster College, Cambridge

Each week's conference may be of interest to Clergy, and Readers and other lay members, who are serving parishes; especially those in training. Each week offers two five-hour courses, and their three related 'Readings' in a Biblical language, which explore exegetical and translation issues. Participants can be resident or non resident at the conference. There are also Bursaries available to help towards costs. Further information can be found on the VTBS website www.vtbs.org.uk.

Notices

Energy Footprint Tool launched on 12 January 2026: The Energy Footprint Tool (EFT) is now open for churches to enter energy use from 2025. Recording your energy use is an unseen but essential act of caring for people and the planet. Complete your EFT on the Parish Returns Portal [here](#). If you require log-in details or any other assistance with the online portal, please email statistics@cofesuffolk.org If you need help with the EFT please email James Rolls, our Net Zero Carbon Officer.

Statistics for Mission: Thank you to all parishes who have completed their Statistics for Mission forms - the data you provide helps to offer insights into trends such as attendance and electoral roll. The National Church deadline is 13 March 2026. Returns should be submitted via the Online Parish Returns System, which can be accessed here: [Parish Returns Online](#) If you require log-in details or any other assistance with the online portal, please email statistics@cofesuffolk.org Further information regarding Parish returns, including videos on how to submit, can be found here: [Stats for Mission - Insight CofE Suffolk](#).

Marriage Preparation Grants: Do you need financial support for your parish, benefice or deanery marriage preparation events? You can now apply to the Mothers' Union for a grant to cover the costs of aspects such as printing, refreshments or room hire. For further information and a grant application form please contact enquiry@musuffolk.org.uk

Faith Security Training: The Home Office is launching Faith Security Training (FST) – a free scheme designed to help faith communities in England and Wales strengthen their security awareness and preparedness. The event is targeted at faith leaders, trustees, volunteers, and anyone responsible for, or interested, in security at places of worship. Please register for a virtual or face-to-face session with security experts [please visit the FST webpage](#), or email contact@cdssupport.uk

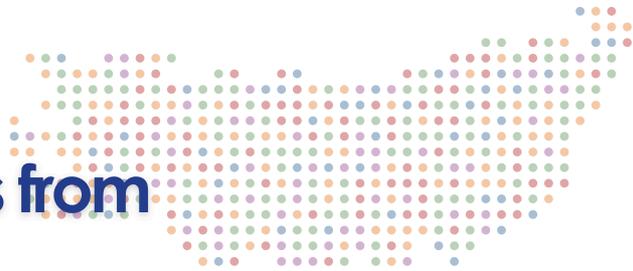
Vacancies

[HR Administration Assistant](#) | Closing date: 12 February
[Church Administrator](#) | Christ Church Felixstowe | Closing date: 20 February
[Rector](#) | North Bosmere Benefice | Closing date: 23 February
[Youth Minister](#) | St John's Woodbridge | Closing date: 27 February
[Lightwave Pioneer Leader](#) | Bridge Communities, Suffolk
[Team Vicar](#) | Sole Bay Team
[Team Vicar](#) | Forest Heath Team Ministry
[Non-Executive Safeguarding Chapter Member](#) | [Cathedral Volunteers](#) | [Risk, Audit and Review Committee Member](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral
[Associate Chaplain](#) | Sizewell C
Royal Naval Chaplaincy | email the Chaplain Recruiter, the Revd [Alastair Blaine](#) RN.
[Children's and Families Minister](#) | Parish of Whitton

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Watch our stories from around Suffolk



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