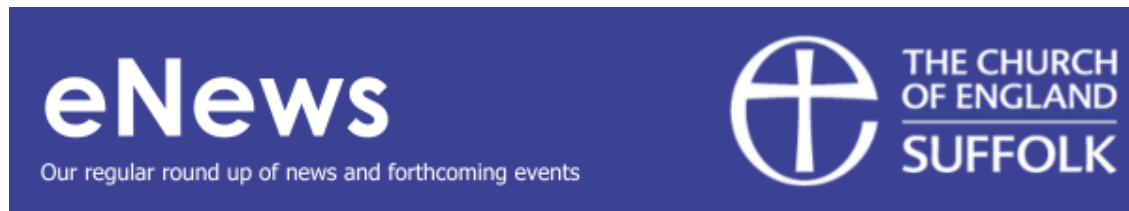


Thursday 17 April 2025



Easter message from Bishop Graeme



Our world at the present time sometimes seems to be more dark than light, more ruled by sadness than joy. Conflict and want appear to be insuperable problems. We stand apparently helpless before them.

God's promise, though, is that with Jesus' resurrection, his overcoming of death and all the fear that accompanies it, we have it in our power as human beings to bring light where there is darkness. Our task is to confront the darkness wherever we find it; to banish fear, knowing that God's love in Jesus will hold us safe.

There is a tradition in the Church that during the season of Lent, the six weeks before Easter, you cannot say or sing the word "alleluia!". It is often referred to, humourously, as the "A Word"! Come Easter Day though, things change!

*Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once, upon the Cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!*

Alleluia is simply an expression of joy and praise. It's a shout. And come Easter Day, we have a lot to shout about.

At the service called the Easter Vigil, held on the Saturday night before Easter Day, a huge candle is carried into the darkened church. It is a single light penetrating the darkness. As it moves deeper into the church the words "The Light of Christ" are sung three times. From it the candles held by the congregation are slowly lit, the light spreading. It represents the victory over death and darkness won by Jesus in his resurrection. It is a journey from darkness and fear to light and joy.

The Christian way of life is often described as being a pilgrimage. It is a journey through our earthly existence, with Jesus as our guide and companion. In Jesus we find new insights into love, into truth and into life itself. It is a transformational journey that never ceases to surprise and challenge.

So be brave. Be ready with your shout of Alleluia! Rejoice that Jesus is indeed risen from the dead and indeed brings new life, and hope for the future of our world.

£2.7m funding announced to support Growing in God across Suffolk

The Church of England's Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board (SMMIB) has recently announced its latest grant awards to dioceses for their programmes of support to parishes. SMMIB invest in low-income communities and seek to promote diversity in congregations and church leadership.

The Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich has received £2.7 million funding to build and expand on successful mission in Ipswich and rural areas of the Diocese. The funding will support new congregations in rural areas, invest in supporting and training our clergy and leaders, see investment in youth leaders, enable mission to people on newly built estates, and promote outreach through music.

Gary Peverley, Diocesan Secretary says, *"We are delighted to receive further funding in support of our 'Growing in God' strategy. As we await the appointment of our next Diocesan Bishop, we are especially grateful for the Board's support, which enables us to continue with our existing plans through to 2027. There are many inspiring and ground-breaking projects already delivering positive results across our parishes. Important too, is that we are now able to continue with our focus on supporting our clergy, encouraging an increase in vocations and the vital work with our parishes to grow younger - including an exciting new project around mission and music. Underpinning all of this, is our ongoing focus on the completion of Strategic Development Funding (SDF) projects to further strengthen our financial sustainability. As a Diocese, this essential funding has arrived at a time when we have an excellent opportunity to build on the significant progress we have already made together, with renewed determination and optimism. We are experiencing real growth and positive change across the parishes which we have the privilege of working closely with and are here to serve."*

Read the full story [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 a wonderful opportunity to encourage our congregations to renew their prayers for mission and growth.

Thy Kingdom Come resources are available [here](#). 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](#).

Ipswich Minster launches new album

The release of *Eternal Source of Light Divine* marks a special time in the history of Ipswich Minster. The choir, trained and conducted by Christopher Borrett, Ipswich Minster's Director of Music, is built around the talents of local young people aged 8-18, all recruited from over 15 schools in Ipswich and East Suffolk. And this year they have come together to record and create a new album including many famous choral works, such as Handel's stunning *Eternal Source of Light Divine* (including his famous Hallelujah chorus). The album was released for streaming on Spotify on Sunday 13 April and is available for purchase as a commemorative copy CD at Ipswich Minster.

The Vicar of Ipswich Minster, the Revd Tom Mumford, said: *"A core strand of mission of service to Ipswich and Suffolk is through our support of the arts, and particularly music education for young people. The Minster is determined to continue its music outreach in schools, not least in the most underprivileged areas of our town and county. We believe in the power of music to unite, inspire, and enable all, both singers and audiences, to flourish. I am so proud of what our young people have achieved in this album. Rave reviews will follow!"*

Read the full story [here](#).



Watch Matt Levett, Diocesan Youth & Young Adults Officer as he joins young people at 'The Big Weekend'.

Events

Narnia Family Day

Saturday 19 April, 10.00am to 3.00pm | The 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 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 a short presentation. For more information email [Emma Rowlinson](mailto:Emma.Rowlinson@diocese.suffolk.org). 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 | 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 please [click here](#).

London Community Gospel Choir

From Saturday 3 May, 7.30pm – 9.45pm | St Andrew's Church, Rushmere St Andrew, Ipswich IP4 5HF

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](#) or phone the booking site on: 0333 666 3366

Open Arms Retreat Day

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.

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.

Do not miss this opportunity to hear this unique instrument and also learn a little about the pre-history of East Anglia from geological specialist Tim Holt-Wilson and how the violin was built from luthier Philip Taylor. Tickets are adults £10, and children £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.

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. Offering key insights into developing your rural mission strategies at diocesan or deanery level, this is also likely to be of interest to leaders in rural churches and benefices. More information and to book click [here](#).

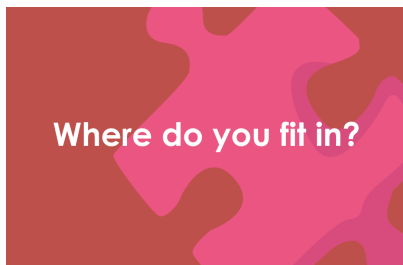
Eco Church Bronze Workshop

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

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](#).

Organ and Piano Spectacular

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

Come along to this concert with the Scott Brothers Duo which will include Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1 and Addinsell's Warsaw Concerto, to celebrate the VE Day weekend. The concert is in aid of St Mary's building project appeal. To book please visit [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. Book [here](#).

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. 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. Refreshments available. 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.

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.

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 from the 15th to the 20th centuries. 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 the Church restoration fund.

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](#).

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](#).

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

[Committee Co-Ordinator](#) | Diocesan office | Closing date: 28 April

[IT Systems Manager](#) | Diocesan office | Closing date: 28 April

[Vicar](#) | St John the Baptist with St Edmund | Closing date: 30 April

[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

[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

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