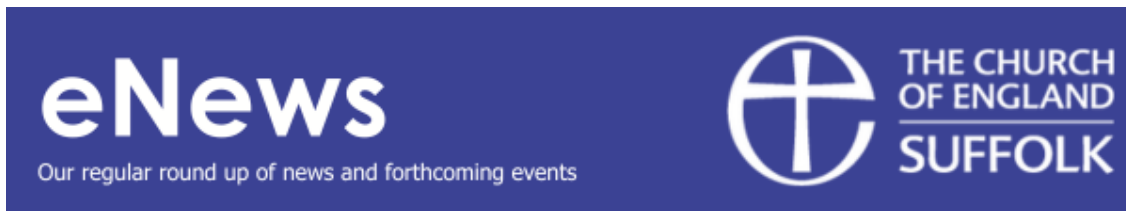


**Thursday 19 June 2025**



### **Popular chaplaincy centre is a 'positive expression of Community'**



The Revd Linda Pepper, Chaplain at the University of Suffolk, says she sees her role as helping students to 'navigate the waves of life'. Since starting at the university six years ago, Linda has helped develop a thriving community of international students at the university's chaplaincy centre, describing it as a 'cultural exchange'. Open to anyone of any faith

or none, Linda says the space is a great place to meet new people from across the globe, discover different cultures and make connections.

Three years ago the chaplaincy started an International Café event for the 35 international students at the university at that time. This year there are 300 international students so it has become an 'Open House' event between lectures now. Students come to meet each other and to chat with the Chaplaincy Team.

Among those who regularly attends events at the the chaplaincy centre is International Business Management student Muhammad Bilal, 25, from Pakistan. *"I love the culture here at the university, it's so diverse," he said. "I come here because we can meet different groups of people from different countries and areas. We also love Linda – she is great."*

Linda said being a university chaplain is a vitally important, but somewhat unusual role. She said: *"So much in university life is programmed and timetabled – there are not very many people whose job it is to hang around with people and offer them the gift of time. It's about being there for them, creating open and comfortable spaces for people to meet and share ideas and allowing people to open up about any worries they may have".*

Read the full story [here](#).



The Revd Linda Pepper, Chaplain at the University of Suffolk

### National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast 2025

Over 600 people, including parliamentarians and church leaders from across the UK, will be meeting in Westminster Hall for a prayer breakfast on Tuesday 24 June. The event will be livestreamed to allow even more people to take part. The Breakfast is a great opportunity to pray for our parliament, government and politics and to reflect upon the relevance of the Christian faith to our public life. Please join the livestream from 7.45 - 9.00am. For more information and to register click [here](#).

### Energy Footprint Tool



Did you know that last year over £100,000 of funding was available to parishes that had completed the Energy Footprint Tool? Numerous parishes have already benefitted from this funding to improve their heating and upgrade their lighting.

We want to say a huge thank you to everyone who has submitted the Energy Footprint Tool for their church. This gives us an understanding of our

progress towards net zero carbon and helps us to continue to care for creation. There is still time to submit your entry - the tool closes for submissions on **Monday 30 June**. If you need any help to complete the tool, then contact our Net Zero Carbon Officer at [james.rolls@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:james.rolls@cofesuffolk.org)

### Together We Pray

'Together We Pray' is focusing on the power of prayer and celebrating and supporting our communities and each other through prayer. Join the Revd Tom Mumford, who will be

delivering our morning prayers from Monday 23 June. 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 Tom Mumford is representing Ipswich Deanery this week for Together We Pray

### Audio Tour a huge success



St Margaret's Church in Westhorpe recently launched an audio tour as part of their project to restore the church bells, which was funded significantly by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The grant bid included the requirement to open the church and its history to a wider audience, and the audio tour did just the job!

The audio tour spans the centuries through six personalities who were influential to the village

including for example Mary Tudor, Queen of France and sister to Henry VIII who lived in the village during the 16th century with her husband, the Duke of Suffolk, and Lady Elizabeth Elmham who left money for the completion of the tower and for the bells.

West Suffolk College was approached and they were happy for six of their media students to be involved with the recording of our characters. Each character has an interpretation board outlining a short written piece, images and the QR code for the audio link. The church are grateful to G Signs and Designs Limited for providing the signs. There is also a bag of hats and accessories for each character for children to dress up in.

The project is an amazing example of what can be achieved if the local community are inspired and engaged. The church is grateful to all the volunteers who have supported the project and hope that the audio tour makes the church relevant to today and will inspire others to enjoy and value the beautiful space.

## Events

### **Kirbye Voices: Music for a Summer Evening**

Tonight, Thursday 19 June at 7.30pm | St Peter's Church, Hepworth IP22 2PW

Includes music by Lauridsen, Barber, Whitacre, Stanford and Saint-Saëns. There will be refreshments and all are welcome! Tickets are not required, but we are raising funds for vital church restoration and choir funds through a retiring collection.

---

### **500 Flower Festival & Fayre**

St Mary's Church, East Bergholt CO7 6TA | Starting Friday 20 June

The festivities start on 20 June with the East Bergholt Dramatic Society presenting an evening of Tudor mayhem and merriment, transporting the audience into a world of intrigue, revelry and historical drama. On Saturday, visitors can enjoy the floral decorations and refreshments throughout the day, alongside exclusive guided tours of the church. The flower festival will continue during Monday till Wednesday 25 June. On Sunday 22 June from 11.00am there will be a Family Tudor Fayre. For more details, please visit the website [here](#) or contact a churchwarden on 07791 294744.

---

### **Jigsaw Festival**

St Mary's Church, Newmarket CB8 0HP | 20 - 24 June

Join in with the 14th Jigsaw Festival with hundreds of jigsaws in an ever-changing display in the church. Entry £2 per person, children free. Refreshments will be available and jigsaw are available for sale.

The Gibson Open Jigsaw Championships are also taking place at Newmarket racecourse on 22 June.

---

### **PCC Workshop - Setting up a Friends Group**

Friday 20 June, 12.00pm | Online Teams meeting

You are invited to join this topic-based one-hour meeting led by Diocesan staff and parish experts. Suitable for Treasurers, Churchwardens, PCC members and administrators, as well as clergy and LLMs. This session will involve sharing information and a short presentation. For more information please email [Emma Rowlinson](#). [Book 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](#) and to book please visit [here](#).

---

### **Songs for a Summer Evening**

Saturday 21 June, 6.30pm | All Saints Church, Hitcham IP7 7NN

The Hadleigh Choral Society's summer concert offers a programme of easy listening music with songs about the sea, water, romance and birds, as well as including items from the ever-popular Bernstein musical 'West Side Story'. Tickets, which are £12/head and include a glass of prosecco, strawberries and cream and shortbread. Tickets can be purchased at Hitcham Shop and Post Office or book by email: [RNFCurrie@gmail.com](mailto:RNFCurrie@gmail.com), (booking is essential for catering purposes). Parking is available at: What3Words expel.materials.magically.

---

### **The World We're Passing On | A Service of Reflection**

Wednesday 25 June, 10.30am | St Peter and St Paul's Church, Fressingfield IP21 5PE

This gathering is designed to provide a moment of peace and reflection in our busy lives in a service led by the Revd Canon Alison Alder, Diocesan Environment Officer, focused on the 'World we're Passing On'. Join us as we come together to reflect on our thoughts and feelings in a supportive and welcoming atmosphere. The service is followed by a Ploughman's Lunch at midday in the Sancroft Memorial Hall IP21 5PG. To book, [please click here](#).

---

### **Thomas Clarkson week**

28 June - 6 July | Kesgrave & Fynn Valley Churches

This year St Mary's church in Playford is offering a whole week of activities to mark Clarkson's remarkable achievements and help visitors realise the extent to which Modern Slavery blights the lives of people living amongst us. Events include a free showing of the film 'Amazing Grace' on Saturday 28 June in Playford Village Hall at 6.30pm, including refreshments. During the week of 28 June to 6 July Playford Church will host an free exhibition of pictures and texts about Clarkson's work along with some modern artefacts from Africa. On Saturday 5 July at 10.00am, the Fynn Valley Walks Group **is** organising a walk of around four miles, in and around Playford and the lands which helped to fund Clarkson's campaign. The week culminates with a service in thanksgiving for Clarkson's fight against slavery which will be held in Playford church at 11.00am on Sunday 6 July to which all are welcome. Refreshments will be served after the service. For further information please email [revdotchin@gmail.com](mailto:revdotchin@gmail.com) or visit Facebook [here](#).

---

### **Care into Action**

Saturday 5 July, 9.15 - 1.00pm | Salvation Army Hall, 3 Violet Hill Road, Stowmarket IP14 1NE



A morning of talks and workshops to support our mission for the environment. Do you need help getting started with an Eco Church award? Do you want to explore how your church could move forward with its mission for the environment and climate justice? Do you need to find out how your church could benefit by addressing environment issues?

Wherever you are with your mission to care for God's creation, the "Care into Action" conference is for you. Book [here](#). For more information, please contact [the Revd Canon Alison Alder](#), the Diocesan Environment Officer.

---

### **Growing Hope clinic**

Monday 7 July, 7.30pm - 9.00pm | Holy Trinity Church Hall, Back Hamlet, Ipswich IP3 8AJ

[Growing Hope](#) is a charity providing free therapy for children and young people with additional needs in partnership with local churches across the UK. It brings hope to children through free therapy such as occupational therapy, physio, speech and language, art therapy, or counselling. Growing Hope shares hope in Jesus, because he brings hope even in the most difficult situations. Join this session to hear from Vicki Smith, Interim CEO, about the story and vision behind Growing Hope and the impact Growing Hope clinics are having on children and families in local communities. Please note that there is free parking on Back Hamlet after 6.00pm. For more questions and to book please email Diocesan Pioneer Developer, [Bob.Hamilton@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:Bob.Hamilton@cofesuffolk.org).

---

### **Facilitation Skills for Church Leaders**

Wednesday 9 July, 10.00am | St Felix of Dunwich Church, Rendlesham IP12 2GG

This one-day training is for Rural Deans, Lay Chairs, incumbents, diocesan staff and others in leadership roles requiring skilled, creative facilitation of meetings and events. Led by Nicky McGinty, an experienced leadership trainer and self-supporting priest, it will offer practical tools and approaches for facilitating workshops and discussions, and engaging with a wide range of stakeholders. While applicable to many scenarios, these skills may be particularly helpful for those leading and supporting people through times of change. Only 20 spaces are available, please book [here](#). Please ensure you are logged into Insight to book this session.

---

### **Quiet Day with Bishop Tim Stevens**

Thursday 10 July, 10.00am for 10.30am start to 3.30pm | The Barn, The Rookery, Hollesley Road, Eyke IP12 2RR

Starting with a celebration of the Eucharist, this day will be considering the motto of the Carthusian Order - 'The Cross stands firm while the world turns' - exploring Christian living in a profoundly uncertain world. Please bring food to share at lunch-time - drinks will be provided. Participants are welcome to stroll in the delightful gardens. Please book with Michael Wilde: 01284 767415 or email [cormack246@gmail.com](mailto:cormack246@gmail.com). A £10 donation made on the day towards costs would be very much appreciated.

---

### **The Secret Garden Quiet Day**

Thursday 10 July | Metfield | 10.00am – 4.00pm or  
Saturday 12 July | Felixstowe | 10.00am – 4.00pm

We invite you to enjoy a quiet day led by the Revd Jane Pearse exploring Frances Hodgson Burnett's well-loved book *The Secret Garden* featuring the story of awakening from grief and finding sources of hope, renewal and redemption. The day costs £25/person including lunch. Please book via our website – [Larkriseretreats](#) or by emailing [larkriseretreats@gmail.com](mailto:larkriseretreats@gmail.com)

---

## Church of England Talk Series

All starting at 7.30pm | Ipswich Minster IP1 3BN or on YouTube [here](#)

Join this new talk series offering a blend of established and emerging theologians, writers and commentators, all exploring what a good Church of England should look like for the nation it seeks to serve.

Thursday 10 July | The Revd Dr Hannah Malcolm, parish priest and author | Place and the Local

Wednesday 3 September | The Revd Canon Prof James Walters, London School of Economics | A Nation in Crisis

Thursday 11 September | The Revd Dr Kirsty Northwick, University of Oxford | The Academy and the Pursuit of Knowledge

Thursday 25 September | Fr Dragos Herescu, Cambridge Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies | Ecumenism: a perspective from the Orthodox Church

Wednesday 15 October | The Revd Dr James Hawkey, Canon Theologian of Westminster Abbey | The English Constitution

Wednesday 12 November | Miriam Lorie, Rabbi of Kehillat Nashira | A perspective from Judaism

Wednesday 26 November | The Revd Kiran Lotay, Mission Priest | Urban Estates

There will be a Q&A session after the talk and for those attending the Minster refreshments will be served. All welcome, no booking required. To find out more please visit [Ipswich Minster on Facebook here](#).

---

## A Summer Night's Organ Concert

Saturday 12 July, 7.00pm | St Mary Church, Woodbridge IP12 4LP

Join Director of Music, James Davy, for an super evening of music. Tickets £10 per person, students free. In aid of the Building Project Appeal to modernise and develop St Mary's House, the church and churchyard.

---

## Faith Story – with Laura Mumford

Monday 14 July, 7.00pm, online



All are welcome to join us for the next 'Faith Story' in our series as the Revd Laura Mumford, Diocesan Growing Younger Enabler, shares her faith journey with us. In January 2025, Laura brought her passion and experience to the Mission and Ministry team, taking on the role of Growing Younger Enabler. Before this, she served as a school Chaplain at the Royal Hospital School in Holbrook, where she blended her priestly calling with her background in teaching Religious Studies. Find out more and book [here](#).

---

## Eco Day | St Mary's Church Blakenham

Saturday 30 August, 2.00pm | The Parish Room, Great Blakenham IP6 0LN

St Mary's Church, Great Blakenham has recently achieved an Eco Church Silver Award and in the wake of this, church members are organising an Eco information day to inspire

others with ideas to help the environment and the planet. There will be stalls with Eco information and products. Details from [wendyatstmaryschurch@gmail.com](mailto:wendyatstmaryschurch@gmail.com). All are welcome.

---

### **A Feast of Music**

Friday 19 September, 7.30pm | St Mary and St Peter's Church, Barham P6 0PU

Join the Mothers' Union as they host a evening of music from local musicians. Be entertained, eat cake and raise money for the MU. Why not bring a friend along?

---

### **LoveRural - National Rural Mission Conference 2025**

Monday 22 September, 11.30am and Tuesday 23 September, 3.00pm | St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS



Join the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich for this 24-hour national gathering to thank God for the ways in which he is making new disciples in rural contexts and reflect on key learning. This event will bring together senior leaders, pioneers, rural resource church leaders and other partners. We will share learnings from rural Strategic Development Funded (SDF) projects, including Suffolk's

"Growing in God in the Countryside" and the national "Rural Resourcing Church Learning Community". There will be opportunities to connect and pray with others and explore developments in rural mission. [To book please click here.](#)

---

### **Line Management Skills for Incumbents**

Wednesday 15 October, 10.00am | The Sanctuary, Diocesan Office, Ipswich IP1 1UQ

**Please note the new date.**

A training day exploring good people management practice for incumbents who manage employees such as administrators, children's and families' workers, youth workers, and others. Led by the Diocese's People Director, Penny Longford, and Diocesan Mission Enabler, the Revd Katie de Bourcier, it will explore good practice and employment law to help you manage people well so that they flourish in their roles and contribute to the life and growth of their parish(es). Only 20 spaces are available, to book click [here](#). Please ensure you are logged into Insight to book this session.

---

**Iona Pilgrimage:** Lark Rise Retreats are planning a pilgrimage to Iona from 29 May - 5 June 2027. The likely cost is £785/person plus travel and an overnight stop. Iona is a 'thin place' of great natural beauty and has a long history of Christian spirituality. Please speak to Jane, Penny or Catherine for more details and book via [Larkriseretreats](#) or by emailing [larkriseretreats@gmail.com](mailto:larkriseretreats@gmail.com).

---

**SAVE THE DATE** This year's Chaplaincy Gathering will take place on Tuesday 21 October 9.30am-3.30pm. Details of venue and programme will be shared in July.

### **Notices**

**Electronic versions of faculties:** In line with many dioceses, our new Registrar, Kevin Wilson from Birketts, has suggested we move to the system of sending electronic versions

of faculties. This will result in a more efficient system particularly as most parishes must scan them for the faculty to store them electronically anyway. Birketts will continue to offer to produce a paper copy and send it in the post for those parishes that need it.

**The Suffolk Community Awards 2025:** It's time again for the annual awards which recognise and celebrate all those who have improved the quality of life for communities across Suffolk. Winners receive a certificate, trophy and £50 cash prize. The Faith Award provides recognition to a faith group that has worked for the benefit of the community - is there a faith group you would like to nominate? Submit your nomination before 13 July at [www.suffolkcommunityawards.co.uk/nominate](http://www.suffolkcommunityawards.co.uk/nominate)

**Articles of Enquiry:** Each year we ask churchwardens to fill in a short survey about their church and parish. The survey 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](#). If you have any queries completing the survey, please email [statistics@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:statistics@cofesuffolk.org)

**Return of Parish Finance:** Many thanks to all parishes who have submitted their form. Completing your Return of Parish Finance provides your benefice and our Diocese with valuable information and data. The results of your efforts are collated by the National Church and used to report key trends and features of parish financial activity. Returns are to be submitted on the Online Parish Returns System: <https://parishreturns.churchofengland.org/>. If you require login details or any other assistance regarding the online portal, please contact [statistics@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:statistics@cofesuffolk.org) by email. The deadline is now **31 July 2025**. Further information is available on our [website 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](mailto: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.

**Renovations at the Bishop's House, Park Road, Ipswich:** Please note that the Bishop's House is currently clad in scaffolding to enable contractors to carry out essential work to the building. The work is due to complete in early October. Regrettably there can be no Garden Parties this year and scheduled meetings are being located elsewhere. The Bishop's Office continues to function but parking is severely restricted. If you do need to visit by car, be aware that the only access from the road is via the 'out' entrance as the contractors have secured the 'in'.

## Vacancies

[Team Vicar](#) | Sole Bay Team | Closing date: TBC

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

[Rector](#) | North Bosmere Benefice | Closing date: 25 June

[Diocesan Youth and Young Adults Enabler](#) | Closing date: 27 June

[Lead for Operations of Lightwave](#) | Closing date: 30 June

[Children and Families' Worker](#) | Sudbury | Closing date 3 July

[King Edward VI CEVC School Chaplain](#) | Closing date: 4 July

[Verger, Part-time Verger, Events Duty Manager and Shop Assistant](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral

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



TOGETHER WE ARE  
THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
SUFFOLK

## Watch our stories from around Suffolk





*Copyright © 2025 Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, All rights reserved.*

This email is generated from the Communications Office at the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

**Our mailing address is:**

Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, 4 Cutler Street, Ipswich, Suffolk, England IP1 1UQ

[Add us to your address book](#)

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

---

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich · St Nicholas Centre, 4 Cutler Street · Ipswich · Suffolk, England IP1 1UQ · United Kingdom