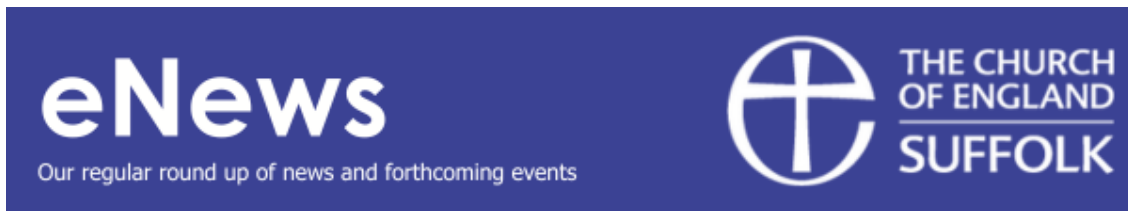


Thursday 20 March 2025



Together We Pray



We are really excited to be launching 'Together We Pray' 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 and from Monday 24 to Friday 28 March, the Revd Dominic Doble from the Waveney and Blyth deanery will be hosting the 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](#).

During the week, our Facebook feeds will share stories from the relevant deanery and we would like to encourage you to 'share and like' the content to celebrate them, please use #togetherwepray.

We would love your deanery to be our focus for our 'weekly spotlight' and if you would like to be the next deanery to take part please email communications@cofesuffolk.org.



Tim Holder, Diocesan Director of Engagement, meets with the Revd Dominic Doble, Rural Dean of Waveney and Blyth, to launch Together we Pray across our Diocese.

Growing in God Growth Fund:

This fund is available to support your church so that it can engage creatively in mission in your context. The exciting thing is you can apply for up to £1,500 to support an outward-facing initiative to develop your church's mission to the wider community. Applying is easy and the application form can be completed in moments. All the information and the application form are on our website [here](#). Apply before 6 May to be included in our next meeting to review applications, this could be ideal to support your summer initiative!

St Mary Magdalene Church in Debenham used their £1175 Growth Fund to support their Corner Café, which was started in 2024 to offer a safe and fun place for young people to meet and relax together. The money funded the purchase of more games, an air hockey table and decoration for their café. Read more [here](#).

Grants to help you kickstart a Net Zero project in your church:



Churches looking to reduce their carbon emissions can now apply for a 'Quick Wins' grant to help launch a small project. Grants of up to £5,000 can be applied for to help fund small-scale decarbonisation projects such as new LED lighting, pew heaters, insulation or updating electricity supplies. Contact our Net Zero Carbon Officer James Rolls at james.rolls@cofesuffolk.org for more details. Apply on our [website 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](#).

Events

Scary Suffolk Stories

Saturday 22 March at 6.30pm | St Margaret's Church, Stradishall IP29 4ND

Stradishall Church has recently discovered it needs £120,000 to repair its roof and is actively seeking to raise the necessary funds. Join an evening of storytelling with CB Jackson, a professional storyteller who appears frequently on BBC Radio Suffolk. To book please call 07708 899579. Further events can be found [here](#).

Faith Story – with Dean Joe

Monday 24 March, 7.00pm | By Zoom



All are welcome to join us for the next 'Faith Story' in our series as The Very Revd Joe Hawes, Dean of St Edmundsbury Cathedral, shares his faith journey with us. There will be lots of time for questions and conversation. Listening to someone else's journey with God is not only interesting but encouraging and helpful for our own spiritual growth and development. [Sign up today.](#)

Solemn Eucharist

Monday 24 March at 7.30pm | St John the Evangelist, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1SN

Everyone is welcome to join us on the eve of the Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary for a Solemn Eucharist, with the Revd Ali Miller and the Revd Julia Mann, followed by a party. For more information please email: adrian.mann@btinternet.com

The F Word: Stories of Forgiveness

Friday 28 March to Sunday 13 April | St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

The Cathedral's Lent theme in 2025 is 'Unforgivable', exploring the limits of forgiveness. You are invited to the Lent exhibition offering a thought-provoking collection of arresting images and personal narratives exploring forgiveness in the face of atrocity. [More information available here.](#)

Resound with Joy! Readers, LLMs and Elders study morning

Saturday 29 March, 9.00am | Salvation Army Hall, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

The Revd Dr Victoria Johnson will take us on an unusual journey to explore how the voice of God has been represented and portrayed in worship, art and culture, leading us to ponder anew how God speaks to us today. The concept of 'voice', whether human or divine, encompasses the spoken, sung and heard. Her musings, through humour and wisdom, will broaden our own theological insight and deepen our spirituality. The morning will encompass both pragmatic responses to how we use our voices and the deeply spiritual. Elders, Readers and LLMs: [Reserve your free space now](#)

Estates Church leaders forum

Wednesday 2 April, 12.30pm | By Zoom

The Revd Sophie Cowan, Priest in Charge of St Mary Stoke, Ipswich is calling all Estates Church leaders to join this forum. *"As part of my role as Estates Focal Lead I want to invite you all to a 45 minute Zoom meeting for Estates Church leaders. This will be an opportunity to hear Good News stories, share ideas and resources, be there for each other through the struggles, and to pray for one another".*

If the first meeting goes well, this will become a monthly meeting. Please feel free to invite other Estates Church leaders (lay and ordained) from across the Diocese to come along.

[Please register here to receive the Zoom link.](#)

Digital Surgery with the Diocesan Parish Resources Team

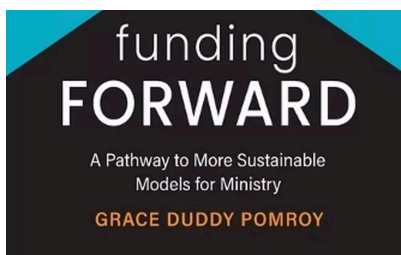
Join members of the Parish Resources Team at the second of a series of surgeries to find out more about enhancing the digital giving presence in your parish. Come along and have a one-to-one session with one of our Giving Advisors to find out about purchasing or borrowing a contactless device, setting up online giving (including QR codes), get your contactless device repaired or updated with new campaigns, and finding 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.

- Wednesday 2 April - St Edmundsbury Cathedral from 10.00am - 12.00pm and 2.00pm - 4.00pm | [Book here](#)
- Wednesday 11 June - Diocesan Office, 4 Cutler Street, Ipswich from 2.00pm - 4.00pm | [Book here](#)

Funding Forward

Saturday 5 April from 10.00am - 3.00pm

The Place by the Water, Shottisham IP12 3HG



Funding Forward is the process of finding more economically sustainable models for ministry that emerge organically from the congregation's mission. *"People often think funding forward is about 'saving the church' or just bringing in more money for money's sake to line the church's pockets. In fact this process is a lot more about mission than it is about money."* Grace

Pomroy, author of '*Funding Forward*' has spent years researching ways in which Christian mission can be funded in the 21st Century, especially using community enterprise as part of the mix, based on the sense of call of small missional groups and congregations.

If you or your parish are engaged in innovative ways to fund Christian mission which bless your community, there is the opportunity to meet with Grace and other practitioners to learn together more about how God is calling us to align our approach to funding with our prayers, ethos and God-given call.

There is the opportunity to join her for sharing stories and wisdom over food, fellowship and prayer. Please register for the event on <https://lightwave.churchsuite.com/events/ovzb5h35> telling us what forms of funding you are involved in or hope to be involved in.

Easter Art Exhibition

Thursday 17 April 12.00pm to 8.00pm, Friday 18 April 9.00am to 8.00pm and Easter Sunday 9.00am to 2.00pm | St Peter's Church, Stoke Park, Ipswich IP2 9TH

Everyone is welcome to enjoy this art exhibition of painting, drawings and Easter gardens. For more information email sue.bridges@cofesuffolk.org

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](#).

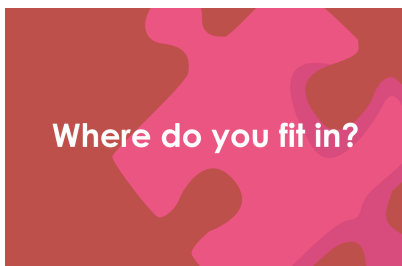
Eco Church Bronze Workshop

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](#).

A Rocha UK Supporters' Day

Saturday 10 May 10.30am - 3.30pm | Foxearth Meadows Nature Reserve, (what3words: charm.dragonfly.townhouse)

A great time to meet other supporters and encounter wildlife. To include updates on reserve projects, guided walk, a practical activity, finishing with a short time of worship outdoors. Bring a chair and lunch. All welcome. To book please email sarah.leedham@arocha.org

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 attend, 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](#).

Ascension Day Prayer Walk

Thursday 29 May 7.30 pm, bring your own picnic from 6.30pm | Foxearth Meadows Nature Reserve,

(what3words: charm.dragonfly.townhouse)

Led by the Revd Ruth Ridge, enjoy a picnic together then walk and pray together as the sun sets.

A beautiful, reflective evening for all.

'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



We invite you to come with a team from your benefice, parish or worshipping community – that could be a team of three or a team of 12, the PCC or a few people keen on mission, or whatever combination works for you. This Suffolk-based LyCiG conference will be led by guest speakers from the National LyCiG Organisation. It will take the form of an open seminar with interactive talks, practical exercises, workshops and time for personal

reflection. This is a free event! Spaces are limited so please ask your Incumbent or Churchwarden to book early. Please [visit here to book](#).

Open Air Service

Sunday 22 June at 3.00pm | Foxearth Meadows Nature Reserve, (what3words: charm.dragonfly.townhouse)

An open invitation to join a midsummer worship close to nature. The guest speaker is Dr Andrew Crowson, moth enthusiast and supporter of A Rocha UK. Refreshments provided. Bring a chair. All welcome.

Other up-coming events:

- **National Rural Mission Conference 2025** | Monday 22 September, 11.30am and Tuesday 23 September, 3.00pm | St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS | [To book please click here](#).
- **Elders' Training morning** | Saturday 11 October 2025, Save the date!

Notices

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.](#)

Evaluation of Listed Place of Worship Grant Scheme: The Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has commissioned research on the scheme. The short online survey is to help build understanding of individual places of worship's experience of the [Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme](#). It will play a vital role in understanding the outcomes and impacts of the scheme. Please complete [the survey here](#), it is open until 25 March.

Suffolk Radio Make a Difference Award: These awards are run by the BBC to celebrate the amazing people who make Suffolk a better place. Can you nominate a fellow volunteer or colleague in an individual category? Nominations end on Monday 31 March and the full details are available here: www.bbc.co.uk/makeadifference

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 and electoral roll - Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich](#). 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.

Statistics for Mission: Thank you to all parishes who have completed their Statistics for Mission forms.

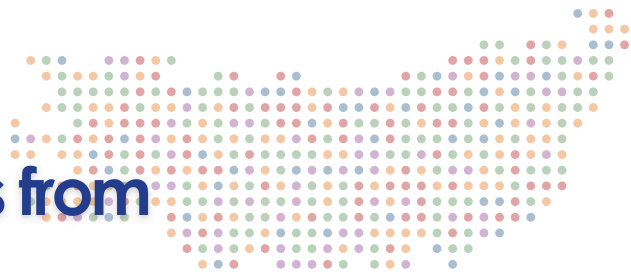
Vacancies

[Rector](#) | North Bosmere Benefice | Closing date: 24 March
[Bishop's Adviser for the Pastoral Care of Clergy](#) | Closing date: 24 March
[Mission Team Administrator](#) | Closing Date: 9 April
[Schools Adviser](#) | Closing date: 22 April
[Assistant to Diocesan Advisory Secretary](#) | Closing Date: 23 April
[Rector](#) | Haughley with Wetherden and Stowupland | Closing date 14 May
[Rector](#) | Woolpit and Drinkstone Benefice | Closing date: 21 May
[Rector](#) | Barrow Benefice | Closing date: 5 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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