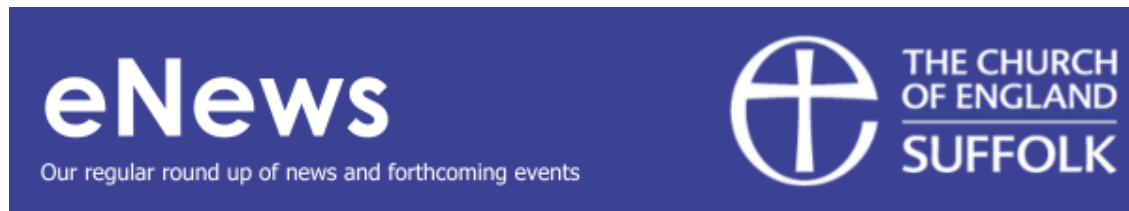


Thursday 24 April 2025



Bishop pays tribute to Pope Francis

Bishop Graeme says, *"It was with a deep sense of sadness that I learned of the death of Pope Francis today.*

The international community will feel the loss of a great agent for peace and unity. His papacy saw him as the champion of those escaping war and hunger, as well as those in poverty. This earned him the justified name, the People's Pope.

Pope Francis lived up to the title held by all popes; 'The Servant of the servants of God'.

He lived a life and ministry centred on Jesus, who came among as one who serves, not as one expecting to be served.

We remember his act of humility and service in 2016 when he washed the feet of refugees from different faiths in an asylum centre outside Rome.

But it must be a great joy to us all that his last public act was to give his blessing to the world on Easter Day, celebrating the triumph of Jesus over death and the grave.

My prayers are with those who knew him and who worked closely with him. We remember particularly our Roman Catholic friends in the county of Suffolk and in the Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia."

Vacancy in See

Next week sees the interview process going ahead to find the next Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. We invite you to pray for our new Bishop of St Edmundsbury.

*Heavenly Father,
send us a bishop
grounded in your love,
a shepherd after your own heart,
a follower of your Way
and a teacher of your Word.*

*Through the wisdom and direction
of your Holy Spirit
enable us so to recognise them;
that we appoint
not the one we think we want,
but the one you are calling.
Through your Son,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ,
Amen.*

Together We Pray

'Together We Pray' is 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 28 April the Revd Susan Taylor 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](#).



Next week Together we pray will be led by the Revd Susan Taylor, Assistant Rural Dean in Loes.

11-17 May Christian Aid Week



Will you help fund vital tools and training, so farmers can support their community to escape hunger? This seven day fundraiser is focused on training, so communities can fight the effects of the climate crisis.

- **£6** could buy the pruning saw that means a farmer can tend to their fruit trees.
- **£30** could help fund the training session that teaches someone how to make valuable organic fertiliser.
- **£100** could fund the metal roofing sheets that shield a market stall holder and their produce from the sun and rain.

For 80 years, Christian Aid has been fighting poverty and injustice. With your support, they have been able to offer hope to communities who need it most. Get involved - everything you need is available on the [Christian Aid website](#).

Events

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 per 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 please email [Emma Rowlinson](#). 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 1DX

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. Tickets for adults cost £10, children cost £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. For more information and to book please click [here](#).

National SSM conference: "Flexible Ministry & Flexible Training"

Thursday 8 May 7.30pm, on Zoom. (finish by 9.00pm)

The national network's annual conference for all SSMs, the main speakers will be Bishop Julie Conalty, the Church of England's Lead Bishop on SSM, and the Revd Dr Marcus Throup from St Miletus College (*to be confirmed*). Although intended for SSMs, it might be of interest to anyone involved with mission and ministry. For further information and the joining link please email the Bishop's SSM adviser, the Revd Tony Redman by email: ssm.advisor@cofesuffolk.org.

Morning has Broken: singing the Psalms in a bruised world

Saturday 10 May, 9.30am - 3.30pm | St Peter's Church and Hall, West Row, Bury St Edmunds IP28 6NY

Join the Revd Dr Naomi Wormald,, Old Testament Lecturer at Wescott House Theological College for Morning has broken: singing the Psalms in a bruised world. For enquiries please contact the Revd Canon Chris Childs on 01638 429212

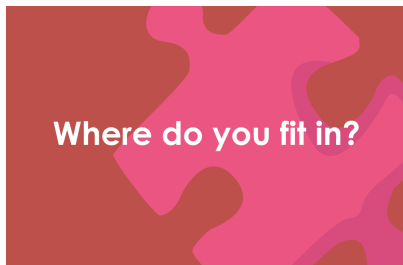
Eco Church Bronze Workshop

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. Plenty of parking available 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](#).

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 go to the Church restoration fund.

The Installation of the new Canon Precentor of St Edmundsbury Cathedral

Sunday 1 June 2025 (Easter 7) at 3.30pm | St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

The Acting Bishop and the Dean of St Edmundsbury are pleased to invite the whole

diocese to the Collation and Institution of the Revd Katherine (Katy) Helen Cunliffe to the office of Residentiary Canon Precentor. All are welcome to this nave service, which will be followed by refreshments.

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](#).

CONNECT Course – Online



The Diocesan CONNECT course covers aspects of Children's and Family Ministry by exploring child development, spirituality and formation, new approaches to Family Ministry and by expanding personal skills to enable participants to be visionary Family Ministry leaders within the parish and across the Diocese. Successful completion of this course may lead to licensing as a Children's and Families' Minister. Join for an inspirational 6-week course. Sessions take place

online via Zoom on Thursdays from 10.30am – 12.00pm starting 12 June 2025. For full details and to book [please visit Insight 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](#).

Pilgrimage to Malta and Gozo

31 October - 6 November 2025

Join the Revd Mark Woodrow for a seven-day journey throughout the Maltese archipelago combining a wonderful wealth of biblical, medieval and cultural history. Full details can be found and booked online at [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.

CMS Audit:


Please note that next week (Thursday 1 May) an email will be sent to all post holders within parishes requesting that contact details for PCCs are updated to ensure they

are correct. Please make sure that following the completion of your APCMs, the audit is completed as soon as possible.

Vacancies





[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
[Team Vicar | Sole Bay Team](#) | Closing date: 4 June
[Rector](#) | Barrow Benefice | Closing date: 5 June
[Team Vicar](#) | Forest Heath Team Ministry | Closing date: 24 June
[Part-time Associate Priest](#) | Carlford Benefice
[Youth Pastor](#) | St Augustine's church, Ipswich




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TOGETHER WE ARE
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
SUFFOLK

Watch our stories from around Suffolk





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