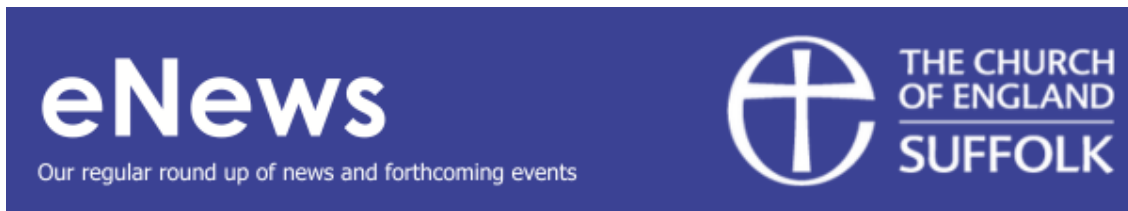


Thursday 27 March 2025



Diocesan Synod 22 March

Bishop Graeme led Diocesan Synod, which was held in the Salvation Army Hall in Stowmarket, on Saturday 22 March. Bishop Graeme reflected on his recent experiences since accepting the role of Acting Diocesan Bishop, including a confirmation, a parish lunch, licensing a school chaplain, and induction ceremonies. He expressed gratitude to Gary Peverley, Diocesan Secretary, for his exemplary leadership during challenging times, and commended the work of the Crown Nominations Commission and the Diocesan Representatives and encouraged all to hold them in their prayers as they carry out the task committed to them.

Graeme concluded with a heartfelt thank you and highlighted the importance of celebrating local successes, and in particular he encouraged everyone to think about the good news stories they want to share with the new bishop when they arrive.



Bishop Graeme leads Diocesan Synod with his presidential speech.

Together We Pray

'Together We Pray' is focusing on the power of prayer and celebrating and supporting our communities and each other through prayer. We were really encouraged when over 550 people joined the Revd Dominic Doble this week for his first live daily prayers on the Bishop's Facebook page and this increased to 694 on day two. We really do hope this

Together we pray

continues as we continue to pray together.

Each week a different deanery will be delivering our morning prayers and from

Monday 31 March to Friday 4 April, the Revd Chris Hood from Colneys 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](#).

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.

In addition to morning prayer, St Edmundsbury Cathedral offers livestreamed services available on their [YouTube channel](#) including:.

- Tuesday to Friday 5.30pm Choral Evensong/Evening Prayer
- Saturday 3.30pm Evening Prayer or Choral Evensong if there is a visiting choir
- Sunday 3.30pm Choral Evensong



Tim Holder, Diocesan Director of Engagement, meets with the Revd Chris Hood, Rural Dean of Colneys deanery, for 'Together we Pray'.

Bishop's Lent Appeal 'Bright Hope for Tomorrow'

The Bishop's Lent Appeal is in full swing and you can follow the campaign's fundraising activities on our Facebook page [here](#) or download the full booklet of activities available on our website [here](#).

The appeal aims to support farming initiatives and good practice in agriculture, training of evangelists and clergy at Kagera Christian Theological College (KCTC), and resourcing of pastors in their parishes. We will also continue our support for healthcare in the region through the Diocesan hospital. Please give generously in 2025.

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

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 registration for 9.30am start | 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 a series of surgeries to find out more about enhancing the digital giving presence in

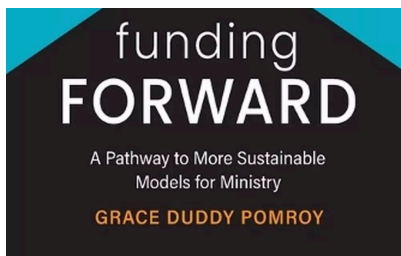
your parish. Come along and have a personal one-to-one session with our Diocesan Giving Advisors to find out about purchasing or borrowing a contactless device, setting up online giving (including QR codes), get your contactless device repaired or updated with new campaigns, and finding out how to have 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. 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 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 share stories and wisdom over food, fellowship and prayer. Please register for the event [here](#) 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 | 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

PCC Workshops



You are invited to join topic-based one-hour Zoom meetings 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 knowledge with a short presentation and will include plenty of time for you to ask questions. For more information please email [Julie Podd](#). 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 (contactless and online, including QR codes) | 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 your place please [click here.](#)

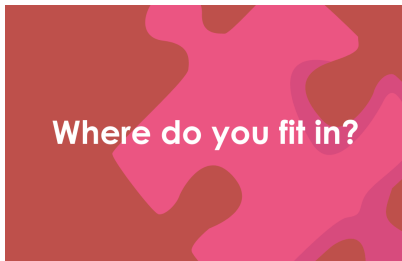
Eco Church Bronze Workshop

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.leadham@arocha.org

Preparing for Retirement conference

13-15 May 2025 | High Leigh Christian Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, Herts

All clergy within 10 years of state-pension age are invited to this annual Eastern Region residential conference.

Many people look forward to retirement as a time when they can at last be in charge of their diaries. Some dread the thought of moving away from activities and relationships that have given their lives a sense of purpose for decades. The conference blends discussion with times of quiet and is designed for clergy who are thinking of retiring within the foreseeable future. Although there will be the opportunity to raise questions of a practical nature concerning retirement, this residential conference is mainly an opportunity to reflect on your transitioning into ministry in retirement by asking yourself: 'What am I looking for in retirement?'

It is free of charge, click here for [more information and to book](#) – you will need to be registered for Insight and logged in to see the page. **CLOSING DATE FOR BOOKINGS: 31 MARCH 2025**

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](#).

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 to 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.](#)

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.

Vacancies

[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

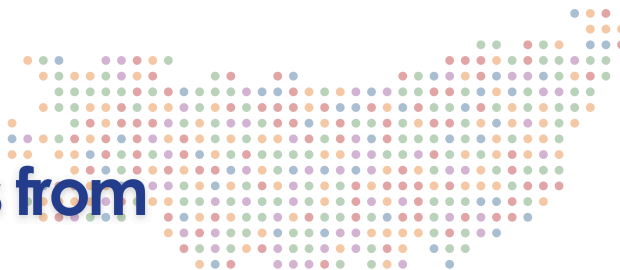
[Volunteer Independent Data Protection Lead](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral

Youth Pastor | St Augustine's church, Ipswich | [More information available here.](#)

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Watch our stories from around Suffolk



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