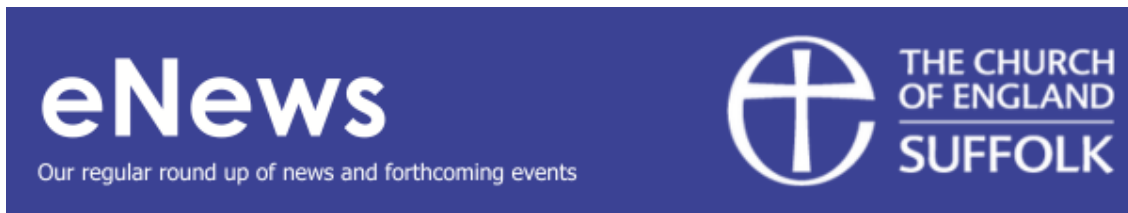


**Thursday 29 May 2025**



## **Church of England steps up a gear with family fun at the Suffolk Show**



Hundreds of families flocked to the church marquee at the Suffolk Show to enjoy a variety of activities that link the church with agriculture.

A family treasure trail with prizes allowed parents and children to discover amazing people, places and stories. There will be promotion of Suffolk Historic Churches Trust sponsored ride and stride fundraiser for

cyclists and walkers on 13 September from 9am to 5pm in aid of the county's churches. Last year £200,000 was raised.

The county has more than 500 church-related buildings and half of the money raised goes to your chosen building, the remaining 50% supports the grant-giving function of the Trust. Read the [full story here](#).



Watch what we've got up to at the Suffolk Show this week

## Grants for Church Bells | Adrian Knights fund



The Suffolk Guild of Ringers, the charity which looks to cherish church bells and ringing in the Diocese, is very fortunate to have received a significant bequest in the will of a late ringer, Adrian Knights, for the purpose of augmenting rings of bells in the Diocese to eight or more. Please see this open letter addressed to all PCCs ([download the letter here](#)). The Guild would like to hear from any churches interested in benefiting from such a generous legacy. Email Tim Hart, [treasurer@suffolkbells.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@suffolkbells.org.uk) or call 07786 656723, to register an interest in this unique and exciting opportunity.

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## Together we Pray



We are delighted that the diocesan Mission and Ministry team are leading 'Together We Pray' for two weeks. Revd Katie de Bourcier, Diocesan Mission Enabler started us off and included prayers from the Suffolk Show, followed by the Revd Canon Stuart Batten, Diocesan Director of Ordinands, and the Revd Laura Mumford, Growing Younger Enabler, who will be including Thy Kingdom Come.

## Thy Kingdom Come



2025 marks the 10<sup>th</sup> 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. They are currently sharing and featuring Thy Kingdom Come

information: do follow their page [here](#).

## Events

### Music at Thornham

St Mary's Magdalene Church, Thornham Parva IP23 8ES

You are welcome to join us for this event at Thornham Parva: John Jenkins Consort on Saturday 7 June at 4.00pm, tickets £20. For further information and to book please email [mail@musicatthornham.org.uk](mailto:mail@musicatthornham.org.uk) or call 01379 788130.

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### 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.

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### **St Edmund's Pilgrimage**

Wednesday 4 June, 9.30am or 8.30am for morning prayer | St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

A one-day pilgrimage walk of around nine miles following the St Edmund's Way from Thetford to St Helen's Holy Well, and on to Brandon, using local buses as required. This route forms part of the London-Walsingham Camino, and pilgrims may wish to extend it in either direction at their own discretion. You can also join the walk at Stand 2 of Bury St Edmunds Bus Station at 9.45am or outside the entrance to The Priory in Thetford at 10.30am. Tickets cost £10 per person. [Please book here.](#)

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### **Finding Inner Peace-practising meditation and mindfulness**

Thursday 5 June, 10.00am – 4.00pm | Metfield, near Halesworth

Led by the Revd Catherine Bond, this retreat will focus on the practice of meditation and offering people the opportunity to be in meditation together. *"When we create space within ourselves by letting go of concerns or worries, we create space for God's peace and healing"*. Lark Rise Retreat days are £25/person which includes refreshments and lunch. More details and bookings on [www.larkriseretreats.org](http://www.larkriseretreats.org) or call us on 01394 284213.

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### **Beccles Climate Change Weekend**

Friday 6 June - Sunday 8 June | St Michael's Church, Beccles NR34 9HE

St Michael's is hosting the first Beccles Climate Change Weekend: Working Together for a More Sustainable Future, opening on the evening of Friday 6 June with a panel of notable speakers, chaired by the Revd Mark Bee. Saturday has a full programme of presentations, beginning at 9.30am with Prof. Peter Hobson on 'Saving Earth: a Universal Ethical Framework'. Information stalls provided by various organisations will be in place around the church. Sunday has a church service at 10.30am, followed by an opportunity at 12.00pm until 1.30 pm to discuss next steps. All events free. No need to book. Full details: [becclestowncouncil.gov.uk/climate\\_change](http://becclestowncouncil.gov.uk/climate_change)

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### **Our Common Home Creation and Worship**

Saturday 7 June, 10.00am - 4.00pm | St Mary and St Michael's Church, Grantchester Road, Trumpington CB2 9LH

This face-to-face event will offer the opportunity to discover fresh liturgical resources and provide opportunities to engage creatively with art and liturgy outdoors, in the beautiful surroundings of Trumpington, on the outskirts of Cambridge. You will explore:

- How can we match our materials with our message, so that our worship is not at odds with the resources we use?
- How can we "tread lightly" in worship?
- How can we pray about climate change?
- What happens when we engage with the creative process ourselves?
- Where can we find musical resources to support environmental worship?

£15 for members of Transforming Worship and £20 for non-members. For more details please visit their website [here](#) or register [here](#).

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### **Eye Open Gardens**

Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 June, 12.00pm – 5.00pm | Eye Parish Church IP23 7BD

This year as part of the Open Gardens, Eye Parish Church will be hosting a display of fine liturgical vestments, alongside with flower arrangements. The vestments have all been worn during services at Eye at some point in history, and range in ages and styles - with the star attraction being a cope designed by Sir Ninian Comper. This is a golden opportunity to get up close to the garments to appreciate the rich fabrics, intricate hand embroidery and exquisite goldwork embellishments. For more details please visit [www.eyeopengardens.co.uk](http://www.eyeopengardens.co.uk)

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### **Climate Sunday**

Sunday 8 June, 3.30pm | St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

This year the Climate Sunday service has a theme of 'Celebrating our Care for God's Creation', this service is being held on Pentecost Sunday and will give thanks for all that is happening to protect creation and promote climate justice. A warm welcome to everyone, but particularly to those in our churches who have achieved an Eco award in the past year, their community partners and those beginning their Eco church journey.

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### **Webinar series for 'Love your burial Ground Week' and 'Churches Count on Nature'**

As part of 'Love your Burial Ground Week' and 'Churches Count on Nature', a series of lunchtime webinars are on offer, topics to be covered are:

Monday 9 June | **People and Nature**, Five Steps to Churchyard Management

Tuesday 10 June | **Eco Churches count on nature**, How Eco Churches are taking action for nature year-round

Wednesday 11 June | **On the ground**, practical conservation management in two churchyards

Thursday 12 June | **Here be dragons**, amphibians and reptiles in burial grounds

Friday 13 June | **Challenges and opportunities for accessibility in churchyards**

All are 12.00pm to 1.00pm and you can find out more and book a spot [here](#).

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### **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](#).

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### **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 12 June | Bishop Graham Usher, Bishop of Norwich | Environment

Bishop Graham began life as an ecologist and was appointed lead bishop on the environment in June 2021. In October 2023 he took his seat in the House of Lords as a Lord Spiritual.

The series will continue with:

Wednesday 18 June | Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani, Bishop of Chelmsford | Housing

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 up to date information please visit [Ipswich Minster on Facebook here](#).

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### **'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](#).

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

Friday 20 June, 12.00pm | TEAMS

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](#).

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### **Events at Foxearth Meadows**

Foxearth Meadows Nature Reserve, Sudbury CM8 3JD

#### **Glory, Gifts, Glee and Gratitude Open Air Service - 3.00pm, 22 June**

Join for an open air service with speaker Dr Andrew Crowson. Refreshments included, bring along a rug for comfort.

#### **Big Bug Day - 10.30am-3.00pm, 28 June**

Come along to a free family event celebrating all creatures tiny - in celebration of Insect Week. [Book here](#).

#### **Dragonflies and Damselflies for Beginners - 10.30am - 12.15pm or 1.15pm - 3.00pm, 26 July**

A guided walk led by David Chandler, author of 'Dragonfly' and 'A Beginner's Guide to Dragonflies and Damselflies of Britain'. [Book here for the morning slot](#). | [Book here for the afternoon slot](#).

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

Wednesday 2 July, 10.00am | The Sanctuary, Diocesan Office, Ipswich IP1 1UQ

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 - a new link has been provided.

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### **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.

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### **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.

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### **Day Pilgrimage**

Saturday 26 July, 10.00am | St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Join a day pilgrimage, a delightful walk along old paths through unspoilt Suffolk countryside, including two lesser known and fascinating churches at Nowton and Rushbrooke. The journey is nine miles in total, and we will aim to have completed it within five hours. Bring food and drink for the journey, and suitable footwear for walking. Toilets available. The pilgrimage returns to Pilgrims' Kitchen via the Abbey Gardens. After refreshment, you are warmly invited to stay for Evensong at 3.30pm. Tickets cost £10 per person. [Book your place here.](#)

### **Notices**

**Diocesan Registry Website:** Birkett's Diocesan Registry teams serve the dioceses of Guildford, London, Norwich and St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. They have launched a new website where you will be able to find answers to many frequently asked questions about the law relating to the Church of England and its clergy, dioceses and parishes. Please find their new website [here](#).

**Completing your Energy Footprint Tool - deadline 30 June:** The Energy Footprint Tool is available for you to fill out and use now - the deadline is 30 June. This work is an essential part of caring for God's Creation, by helping to combat global heating and climate change. The data collected from the tool will help your church understand its carbon footprint and enable you to be more eligible for grants to kickstart net zero projects. [Click here](#) to find out more.

**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](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 28 June 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.

## Vacancies

[Vicar](#) St Peter & St Mary's Church, Stowmarket | Closing date: 1 June  
[Team Vicar](#) | Sole Bay Team | Closing date: 4 June  
[Red Lodge Youth Worker](#) | Lightwave | Closing date: 4 June  
[Rector](#) | Barrow Benefice | Closing date: 5 June  
[Shop Assistant](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral | Closing date: 6 June  
[Verger](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral | Closing date: 11 June  
[Team Vicar](#) | Forest Heath Team Ministry | Closing date: 24 June  
[Rector](#) | North Bosmere Benefice | Closing Date: 25 June  
[Part-time Associate Priest](#) | Carlford Benefice  
[Verger, Part-time Verger, Events Duty Manager and Shop Assistant](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral

**River College:** Over a one-year course, through a mixture of classroom teaching in theology and Biblical studies, training in leadership, mentoring from our senior staff team, and practical experience on one of our internship streams, River College students will discover and develop their God-given gifts, ready to transform their church and beyond.  
[Find out more and apply here.](#)

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



## Watch our stories from around Suffolk







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