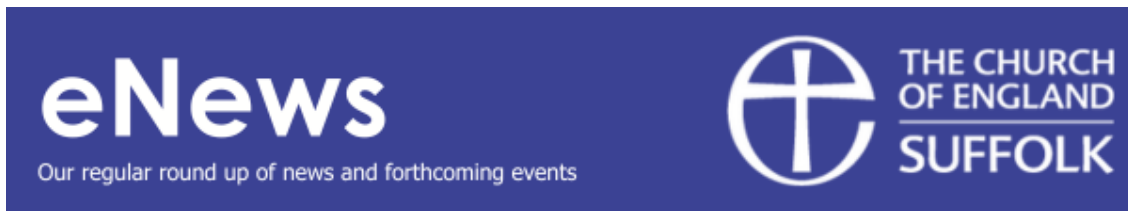


Thursday 3 April



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 7 April to Friday 11 April, the Revd Canon Sharon Potter from Lavenham 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 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 Canon Sharon Potter, Rural Dean of Lavenham Deanery, for 'Together we pray'.

News from St Edmundsbury Cathedral

'The F Word' is live: 'The F Word' an exhibition on stories on forgiveness has arrived and it is open to the public until Sunday 13 April. Offering a thought-provoking collection of arresting images and personal narratives, 'The F Word' explores restorative justice and forgiveness in the face of atrocity. It has been kindly sponsored by Greene & Greene Solicitors. The exhibition examines forgiveness as a healing process, a path out of victimhood and, ultimately, a journey of hope. Read the full story on the [Cathedral's website here](#).

Bury St Edmunds Town Council has pledged £50,000 to the Abbey of St Edmund: Bury St Edmunds Town Council has pledged £50,000 to the Abbey of St Edmund, Reborn heritage project. Made possible by National Lottery players, the project will conserve and protect the Abbey ruins, build a visitor centre facing onto Angel Hill, expand and improve the footpaths around the site, and provide exciting interpretation and activities for all ages and interests. It will be a magnet for cultural tourists and an important gathering place for local residents. Read the full story on the [Cathedral's website here](#).

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](#).

Living Hope: Digital Giving at Easter and more Living Hope resources are available from the Church of England's website [here](#). The Digital Giving team have produced various resources and ideas to help you make the most of giving opportunities in the Lent and Easter period. [Find out more in this blog](#) and other Easter topics blogs are [available here](#).

Thy Kingdom Come



2025 marks the 10th anniversary of the global wave of prayer for evangelism Thy Kingdom Come, which will take place from 29 May to 8 June this year. The theme is the Lord's Prayer, the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray, and which continues to unite Christians across generations, denominations and nations.

All resources - for children, young people and adults, will be based on the Lord's Prayer.

- **The Novena** - '10 lessons and one hope', written by Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell
- **The Prayer Journal** with ecumenical contributions
- **Digital Detox devotional** – 11 days of reflections on the Lord's Prayer, technology free
- **Children's resources** – 4 brand new episodes of the Cheeky Pandas
- **Youth resources** - including the Digital Detox Youth Prayer Journal and accompanying study guides

- **Films** for the 11 days.

All this year's content will be housed on an App, which will be available to download in a few weeks. All information is available [here](#) or watch the [Thy Kingdom Come 2025 webinar](#)

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](#).



Good news from The Place by the Water: We are delighted to announce that The Place by the Water is to receive grant funding from Rural Ministries and The Henry Smith Charity that will allow them to continue their ministry, mission and retreats. The Place by the Water offers a welcoming space for retreat, rest, fellowship, teaching, training and discipleship, all fuelled by the warmth of a log fire and plenty of homemade cake. Open to individuals, families, church communities and leadership teams, events can be tailored to meet your needs wherever you are in life. Everyone is truly welcome to connect, worship and explore more about our Heavenly Father and His plans

for each of us!

You are warmly invited to their next event '**Narnia Family Day**' on Saturday 19 April, 10.00am to 3.00pm, themed around the CS Lewis book, 'The Lion, The Witch and the wardrobe'. There will be opportunities to visit areas of Narnia in the garden, dress up and use some of the props, take part in themed crafts or a quiz, with snacks available all day. This will be held at The Rectory, Shottisham IP12 3HG to find out more please email: theplacebythewater@gmail.com.

Retreats with Lark Rise: Lark Rise Retreats aims to help deepen your spirituality by providing you with space and time to relax with God. Their retreat days are an opportunity to step away from busyness and rest quietly. Their next event will be led by the Revd Catherine Bond. Catherine ran the retreat day programme at Otley Hall for many years and is an experienced retreat day leader and spiritual director. She teaches Christian meditation and has recently completed the Ignatian exercises in ordinary life and the Ignatian Spiritual Conversation course.

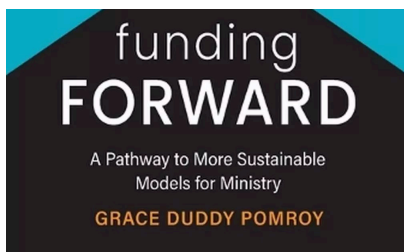
You are invited to join Catherine at '**Finding Inner Peace- practising meditation and mindfulness**' on Saturday 26 April at St Edmund's Church, Langer Road, Felixstowe IP11 2HR. This day retreat runs from 10.00am – 4.00pm and costs £25/person including refreshments and lunch. For more details and to book please visit: www.larkriseretreats.org or call 01394 284213.

Events

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 blesses your community, here is an 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 will be an 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.

ACHurchNearYou.com: How to use the platform as your church's free website

Wednesday 9 April, 2.00pm - 3.30pm | Zoom

Are you a new church editor on AChurchNearYou.com? This extended webinar will cover the features available for individual churches, and after a short break you will hear about the new benefice functionality that could help those of you who edit multiple churches. [Register here](#).

How to use Canva for your church

Wednesday 16 April, 6.00pm - 7.00pm | Zoom

Canva is a free design tool which offers a number of great features to help you create logos, flyers, social media posts and more. In this free webinar, you will be guided through Canva's essential features, giving you an introduction to the tool and showing you how to create eye-catching content for your church. [Register here](#).

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 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 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.](#)

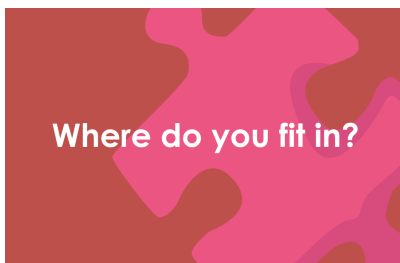
Eco Church Bronze Workshop

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)

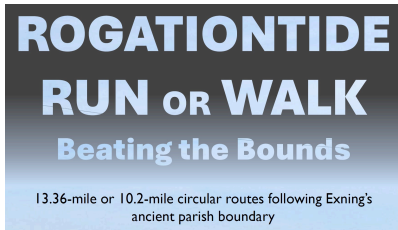
A great time to meet other supporters and encounter wildlife. To include updates on

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.leedham@arocha.org

Beating the Bounds - Rogationtide Run or Walk

Saturday 17 May, 10.00am

St Martin's Church, Exning CB8 7 HF



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: mhaworth50@hotmail.com.

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](#).

Brave Moves - United Christian Music Festival

Monday 26 May, 12.00pm to 10.00pm

Wattisfield Recreation Ground, near Diss IP22 1NS

Join the Revd Jay Price and Wattisfield Community Council for a music festival featuring brass bands, choirs, pop and rock guitar, Songs of Praise in the church alongside craft and book stalls, entertainment for children as well as refreshments. Watch out for updates on Facebook [here](#).

Digital Surgery with the Diocesan Parish Resources Team

Wednesday 11 June, 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Diocesan Office, 4 Cutler Street, Ipswich IP1 1UQ

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. [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



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

Living alongside bats in churches – small grant scheme: This small grant is aimed at supporting places of worship who need help with their bat roost; for example, the roost might be causing an increased cleaning burden and purchasing some new cleaning equipment would help manage the issue. The current round of applications closes on 28 April. Application form and guidance [here](#).

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

Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme: Thank you for all that you have done to support PCCs following the news of change to the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme. Updated guidance for the change in arrangements detailing how claims will be handled up from 1 April onwards is available here: [Changes to the Scheme from 1 April 2025 - Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme](#)

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.

Fraudulent letters targeting charities: The Charity Commission has issued a warning about fraudsters targeting charities with fake letters. These letters may request actions such as removing trustees or executives, releasing funds, or providing personal documents like passports or utility bills. They may appear to come from the Commission, its chief executive or its directors. It is important that your PCC, as a charity, is aware of the risk of fraud. For more information see: [Charity regulator warns about fraudulent letters sent on its behalf – GOV.UK](#)

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.](#)

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



Watch our stories from around Suffolk



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