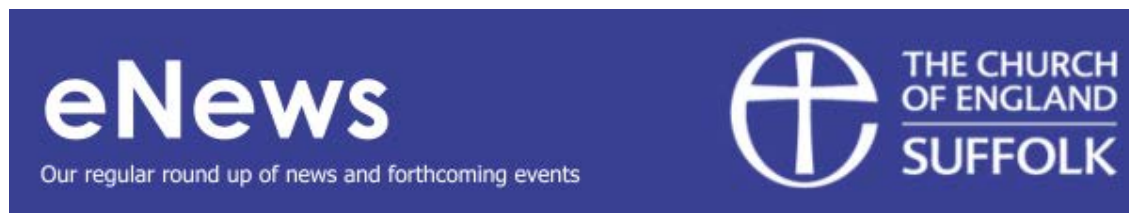


Thursday 5 June 2025



Lavenham to celebrate 500th anniversary of village's 'beacon of hope' church



Lavenham is celebrating its famous church tower which has a rich history spanning centuries. The tower, one of the tallest in the UK at 140 feet, was built in 1525 when the village was among the most wealthy places in the country thanks to its booming trade in woollen cloth. The church community has a host of events taking place over the coming months to mark the anniversary – including inviting surviving family members of

a Lavenham man who helped fund its construction five centuries ago. Read the full story on [our website here](#).

Latitude Festival Pastors

Each summer 40,000 people are welcomed to the ever-popular Latitude Festival. Town Pastors, working under the banner of 'Festival Pastors', will be serving the staff and attendees at the festival. The team patrol, listen, care, help put up tents, find lost property, and deal with a myriad of other interesting situations throughout the weekend. Please would you consider standing in prayer with the Pastors, either for an hour or over the whole festival this year? If you would like some more information or would like to be added to the list of people praying for the ministry of the Festival Pastor team, or be involved as a volunteer this year, please contact coordinator@festivalpastors.org.uk.

The Suffolk Community Awards 2025



It's time again for the annual awards which recognise and celebrate all those who have improved the quality of life for communities across Suffolk. The Suffolk

Community Awards, now in their sixth year, are brought together by Community Action Suffolk, Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Association of Local Councils. The award ceremony is set to be another prestigious, heart-warming event showcasing the excellent work and achievements of individuals and groups across Suffolk. Winners receive a certificate, trophy and £50 cash prize.

The Faith Award: This award provides recognition to a faith group that has worked for the benefit of the community. Do you know a group which has made a real and positive difference by:

- Reaching out to others and strengthening the community.
- Encouraging people to participate and make a real and lasting difference.
- Helping others in a compassionate and respectful way.
- Made a positive impact on the community.

To be eligible to enter The Faith Award the following criteria apply:

- The voluntary community faith group is based in Suffolk, or
- The benefitting community is in Suffolk.

A group is able to nominate themselves.

Submit your nomination before 13 July at www.suffolkcommunityawards.co.uk/nominate

St Edmundsbury Cathedral installed a new Canon Precentor



On Sunday 1 June, the Revd Canon Katy Cunliffe joined the Cathedral team. Katy said of her new appointment, *"I have received such a warm welcome since moving to Bury St Edmunds and am excited to explore this beautiful county of Suffolk. I am grateful to all those who supported me on Sunday as I was officially installed at the Cathedral and look forward to getting to know the whole Cathedral community, and beyond, over the coming weeks and to playing my part in our worship and work together, as well as in the life of the Diocese."* As Precentor, Katy now leads on the planning and direction of the Cathedral's daily round of worship and special services. She also oversees the music department, the Director of Music and choirs as well as working with the vergers team on maintaining the beautiful cathedral buildings and ensuring them for the next generations.



Join Alison Alder for Together we Pray, nestled in the Waveney and Blyth Deanery

Energy Footprint Tool

Did you know that last year over £100,000 of funding was available to parishes that had

completed the Energy Footprint Tool? Numerous parishes have already benefitted from this funding to improve their heating and upgrade their lighting..

We want to say a huge thank you to everyone who has submitted the Energy Footprint Tool for their church. This gives us an understanding of our progress towards net zero carbon and helps us to continue to care for creation. There is still time to submit your entry - the tool closes for submissions on **Monday 30 June**.

If you need any help to complete the tool, then contact our Net Zero Carbon Officer at james.rolls@cofesuffolk.org

Events

Beccles Climate Change Weekend

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

Join 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)

Music at Thornham

Saturday 7 June 4.00pm | St Mary's Magdalene Church, Thornham Parva IP23 8ES

You are welcome to join us for this event at Thornham Parva: John Jenkins Consort, tickets £20. For further information and to book please email mail@musicatthornham.org.uk or call 01379 788130.

Our Common Home Creation and Worship - CANCELLED

Saturday 7 June, 10.00am - 4.00pm | St Mary and St Michael's Church, Grantchester Road, Trumpington CB2 9LH | We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

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 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.eyepengardens.co.uk

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.

Catching the Fire

Sunday 8 June | White House Farm, Great Glemham (what3words: heavy.ambitions.gives)
3.00pm

Join Bishop Graeme and people from Saxmundham Deanery for a wonderful interactive Pentecost gathering. Please bring and share a picnic, refreshments will be available. For information please email rob@alderiver.church.

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](#).

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](#).

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 Abby | 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](#).

'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](#).

Tower 500 Flower Festival & Fayre

St Mary's Church, East Bergholt CO7 6TA | Starting Friday 20 June

The festivities start on 20 June with the East Bergholt Dramatic Society presenting an evening of Tudor mayhem and merriment, transporting the audience into a world of intrigue, revelry and historical drama. On Saturday, visitors can enjoy the floral decorations and refreshments throughout the day, alongside exclusive guided tours of the church. The flower festival will continue during Monday till Wednesday 25 June. On Sunday 22 June from 11.00am There will be a Family Tudor Fayre. For more details, please visit the website [here](#) or contact a churchwarden on 07791 294744.

Jigsaw Festival

St Mary's Church, Newmarket CB8 0HP | 20 - 24 June

Join in with the 14th Jigsaw Festival with hundreds of jigsaws in an ever-changing display in the church. The Gibson Open Jigsaw Championships are also taking place at Newmarket racecourse on 22 June. Entry £2 per person, children free. Refreshments will be available and jigsaw are available for sale.

PCC Workshop - Setting up a Friends Group

Friday 20 June, 12.00pm | Online Teams meeting

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](#).

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](#).

The World We're Passing On | A Service of Reflection

Wednesday 25 June, 10.30am | St Peter and St Paul's Church, Fressingfield IP21 5PE

This gathering is designed to provide a moment of peace and reflection in our busy lives in a service led by Rev Alison Alder Environment Lead focused on the 'World we're Passing On'. Join us as we come together to reflect on our thoughts and feelings in a supportive and welcoming atmosphere. The service is followed by a Ploughman's Lunch at midday in the Sancroft Memorial Hall IP21 5PGH. To book, [please click here](#).

Line Management Skills for Incumbents

Wednesday 15 October, 10.00am | The Sanctuary, Diocesan Office, Ipswich IP1 1UQ

PLEASE NOTE: THE DATE HAS BEEN POSTPONED

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.

Care into Action

Saturday 5 July, 9.15 - 1.00pm | Salvation Army Hall, 3 Violet Hill Road, Stowmarket IP14 1NE



A morning of talks and workshops to support our mission for the environment. Do you need help getting started with an Eco-church award? Do you want to explore how your church could move forward with its mission for the environment and climate justice? Do you need to find out how your church could benefit by addressing environment issues?

Wherever you are with your mission to care for God's creation, the "Care into Action" conference is for you. Book [here](#). For more information, please contact [the Revd Canon Alison Alder](#), the Diocesan Environment Officer.

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.

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. A £10 donation made on the day towards costs would be very much appreciated.

The Secret Garden Quiet Day

Thursday 10 July | Metfield | 10.00am – 4.00pm or
Saturday 12 July | Felixstowe | 10.00am – 4.00pm

We invite you to enjoy a quiet day led by the Revd Jane Pearse exploring Frances Hodgson Burnett's well-loved book *The Secret Garden* featuring the story of awakening from grief and finding sources of hope, renewal and redemption. The day costs £25/person including lunch. Please book via our website – www.larkriseretreats or by emailing larkriseretreats@gmail.com

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.](#)

Eco Day | St Mary's Church Blakenham

Saturday 30 August, 2.00pm | The Parish Room, Great Blakenham IP6 0LN

St Mary's Church, Great Blakenham has recently achieved an Eco Church Silver Award and in the wake of this, church members are organising an Eco information day to inspire others with ideas to help the environment and the planet. There will be stalls with Eco information and products. Details from wendyatstmaryschurch@gmail.com. All are welcome.

Iona Pilgrimage: Lark Rise Retreats are planning a pilgrimage to Iona from 29 May - 5 June 2027. The likely cost is £785/person plus travel and an overnight stop. Iona is a 'thin place' of great natural beauty and has a long history of Christian spirituality. Please speak to Jane, Penny or Catherine for more details and book via www.larkriseretreats or by emailing larkriseretreats@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE This year's Chaplaincy Gathering will take place on Tuesday 21 October 9.30am-3.30pm. Details of venue and programme will be shared in July.



Looking for help using Insight? This new video offers a 20 minute introduction to registering, finding resources and understanding your learning plan.

Notices

70k in May for Christian Aid. Archdeacon Rich completed the challenge by walking 73km in May raising £1250 for Christian Aid. A huge thank you for all the support, encouragement, and generosity from across the Diocese.

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.

Photograph usage: Please do not use imagery taken directly from the internet in your publicity materials. Image libraries do check usage of their photographs and can charge heavy funds for unlicensed use. Please see our advice on royalty free images [here](#).

Fraud: We have been informed of recent scam activity targeting members of the church community for financial gain. Please remain vigilant and do not transfer money to unknown individuals. Any expected scam/phishing emails should be forwarded to the National Cyber Security Centre at the following email address report@phishing.gov.uk.

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

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 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. 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.

50 Years of local Venture Holidays: For over 100 years, CPAS has run [Venture and](#)

[Falcon](#) summer holidays, offering young people the opportunity to meet groups from different churches, spend time going deeper with God and build life-long friendships with one another. As well as wanting local youth groups and young people to sign up, this is a valuable opportunity for anyone passionate about youth ministry and how they can get involved as a volunteer. To find out more, [please click here](#).

Vacancies

[Team Vicar](#) | Sole Bay Team | Closing date: TBC
[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
[Diocesan Youth and Young Adults Enabler](#) | Closing date: 27 June
[Lead for Operations of Lightwave](#) | Closing date: 30 June
[King Edward VI CEVC School Chaplain](#) | Closing date: 4 July
[Part-time Associate Priest](#) | Carlford Benefice
[Verger, Part-time Verger, Events Duty Manager and Shop Assistant](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral

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



TOGETHER WE ARE
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
SUFFOLK

Watch our stories from around Suffolk

SIZEWELL YOUTH GATHERING
THE BIG WEEKEND

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE
A SCHOOL GOVERNOR

KAGERA, TANZANIA 2024
GROWING YOUNGER



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