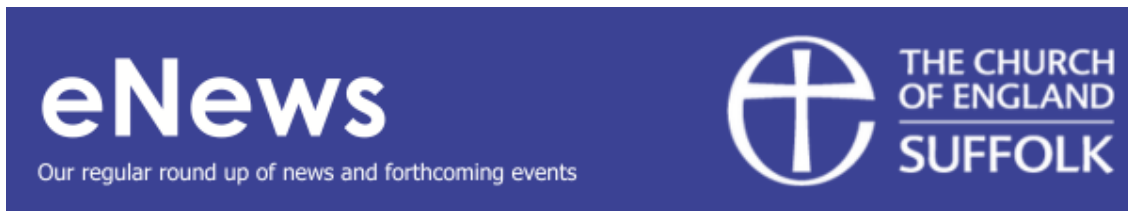


Thursday 8 May 2025



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, this week please join the Revd Simon White from Sudbury deanery.



The Revd Simon White is leading Together we Pray w/c 12 May 2025, watch and find out more about Sudbury deanery.

Vocations Fair

Saturday 10 May, 1.30pm | Inside St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Vocations Sunday | Sunday 11 May

We believe all are called to serve God according to their given gifts, talents and context. Every Christian has a vocation, and it is the task of all those serving in ministry to help identify and nurture the gifts and callings of every member of the Church.

Vocations Sunday is a wonderful time to encourage individuals to consider what God might



Where do you fit in?

be calling them to. Come along to our Vocations Fair on Saturday and visit the stalls representing our many ministries for an informal chat to find the right ministry for you: Chaplaincy, Children and Families, Church Army, Elders, Pioneers, Evangelists, Lightwave Leaders, Mothers' Union, ordained ministers, PCC Officers, Readers, School Foundation Governors, Spiritual Directors and Youth Ministers.

Building a Generous Church conference

Saturday 17 May, 9.30am | Bridge Community Church, 68 Queen's Road, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3EW



Last chance to book, 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 by Friday 9 May please click [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](#).

Events

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 is the first workshop that 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](#).

The Amazing Knitted Bible Exhibition

Sunday 11 May - Thursday 22 May | St Andrew's Church, Rushmere IP5 1DH

During their May Festival St Andrew's is fortunate enough to have on loan 22 knitted scenes from the New Testament displayed in the church. Public viewing opens on Sunday 11 May 12.00pm - 5.00pm with cream teas. For more information about the Knitted Bible and all the May Festival events please visit the [church website here](#).

Stories from a Prison Chaplain

Monday 12 May, 7.30pm | Barham Church Hall, Barham IP6 0PT

Henley Mothers' Union invites everyone to join them at their May meeting to hear more about the important work of a prison chaplain. Mothers' Union is also currently collecting bibles for HMP Highpoint as part of a new initiative to support the prison chaplaincy - bring your bible(s) for collection at the meeting. Refreshments and parking available. For more information please contact henleymothersunion@gmail.com.

Art Exhibition

Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 May, 10.00am to 4.00pm | Old Newton Village Hall, 33-35 Church Road, Old Newton IP14 4ED

The exhibition will feature a wide range of paintings, drawings, photography, collages—and everything in between. The exhibition promises to offer something for every artistic taste showcasing rich creative talent using a myriad of mediums in captivating styles. For further details please email [Libby Brooks](#)

Light of the World Concert

Saturday 17 May, 7.00pm start | St Andrew's Church, Rushmere IP5 1DH

As part of our May Festival, you are warmly invited to this joyful presentation of music

featuring the acclaimed flute and harp duo, Ken and Rachel Bartels, and the Rushmere Concert Choir, directed by Richard Hubbard (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich Music Development Director). The concert is free - just turn up! Full details [Church Website here](#)

Global Food and Pita Festival

Sunday 18 May, 12.00pm-5.00pm, Suffolk New College, Ipswich IP4 1LT

Suffolk Pita Festival is a traditional Bangladeshi Cultural Exhibition that involves a pita competition, traditional food stalls, educational awards, jewellery and accessory stalls, information stalls, children's entertainment, and henna art. With advice on healthy living and eating. Free entry - all are welcomed. For more information please contact info@bscmulticulturalservices.org.uk.

PCC Workshops



You are invited to join topic-based one-hour 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 three workshops:

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](#).

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.

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', a service to give thanks for all that is happening to protect creation and promote climate justice. A warm welcome to all, 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.

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](#).

'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](#).

Flower Festival and Art Show

21 and 22 June, 10.00am to 4.00pm | St Andrew's Church and Barns, Weybread IP21 5TR

Enjoy this grand day out including flowers, art and cake. A real showstopper with art from local talented artists. Proceeds to the church. For more information please email [Frances Brittain](#).

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.

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.

Day Pilgrimage

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

Join a day pilgrimage, beginning and ending at the Cathedral in Bury St Edmunds. This delightful walk takes you along old paths through unspoilt Suffolk countryside, and includes two lesser known and fascinating churches at Nowton and Rushbrooke. The walking will be slow, giving time for you to wonder. 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 3.30 pm. Tickets cost £10 per person. [Book your place here.](#)

River College Applications now open!

River College is now open for applications for the 2025-2026 academic year. 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.](#)

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

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.

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. 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](#). Archdeacon Rich is walking 70k in May in support of the vital work of Christian Aid. You can find more information and sponsor Rich [here](#).

Growth Fund opportunities: The Growing in God Growth fund can provide money to help your church engage creatively in sharing faith in word and deed, and as a result grow the church younger and in number. The exciting thing is you can apply for up to £1,500 in a year to support an outward-facing initiative to develop your church's mission to the wider community. Applying is easy and the application form can be completed in moments. All the information, eligibility and the application form are on our website [here](#).

Vacancies

[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
[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
[Part-time Associate Priest](#) | Carlford Benefice
[Youth Pastor](#) | St Augustine's church, Ipswich
[Verger and Shop Assistant](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral

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Watch our stories from around Suffolk





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