

TOGETHER WE ARE



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
SUFFOLK



# Diocesan Synod

Saturday 22 March 2025, 9.30am



TOGETHER WE ARE



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
SUFFOLK

# Welcome

 Growing in God



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OF ENGLAND  
SUFFOLK

# Worship

Growing in God

# O Breath Of Life

1. O Breath of life, come sweeping through us,  
revive your church with life and pow'r;  
O Breath of Life, come, cleanse, renew us,  
and fit your church to meet this hour.

# O Breath Of Life

2. O Breath of love, come breathe within us,  
renewing thought and will and heart;  
come, Love of Christ, afresh to win us,  
revive your church in ev'ry part.

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# O Breath Of Life

3. O Wind of God, come bend us, break us,  
till humbly we confess our need;  
then in your tenderness remake us,  
revive, restore, for this we plead.

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# O Breath Of Life

4. Revive us, Lord! Is zeal abating  
while harvest fields are vast and white?  
Revive us, Lord, the world is waiting,  
equip your church to spread the light.

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# Ministry of the Word

Archdeacon David



# Philippians 3:13-21

13. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14. I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. 15. Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind; and if you think differently about anything, this too God will reveal to you. 16. Only let us hold fast to what we have attained.

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# Philippians 3:13-21

17. Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. 18. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. 19. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. 20. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

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# Philippians 3:13-21

21. He will transform the body of our humiliation so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

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Loving God,  
Though our destination is not yet clear,  
May we trust in Your graceful promises;  
Though we are uncertain of ourselves,  
May we be rooted in Your loving regard;  
Though our attention is inclined to wander,  
May we hear the things You are saying;  
Though we often neglect Your influence,  
May we be convicted of Your power to change,  
In Jesus Christ our Lord,  
**Amen.**





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# 25.01 Welcome & Presidential Address

Bishop Graeme

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# 25.02 General Synod Report

February 2025



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# 25.03 Growing in God

## Parish Revitalisation and Funding

Stuart Batten and Laura Mumford

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# Together we are – making big dreams a reality

## **Impact from the Suffolk Ministry Development Programme**

- Supporting our leaders with a 10-month programme that includes residentials, study days and ongoing support through a learning community
- Offering time for reflection, opportunities to connect with others and dream big ideas
- Training our leaders to have the skills so they are well-equipped to realise the plans for growth in their benefice.





# Making big dreams a reality

## **The Revd Toby Tate: Martlesham with Brightwell Benefice**

- The Revd Rob Allinson was appointed as a Curate to develop ministry on a new housing estate
- Emma Allinson was appointed Children's and Families' Minister to help the benefice to grow younger with the help of Growing in God funding
- The parish team attended 'Leading your Church into Growth' (LyCiG)
- The team has started 'Youthscape' training.



Martlesham  
Benefice

*St Michael's*

*St Mary's*

*St John's*









Toddler Group



Christmas Day!  
The Christ Candle

Love

Peace

Joy

Hope





# FIELD OF DREAMS



If you build it, they will come Ray Kinsella

Psalm 127:1

Unless the Lord builds the house,  
those who build it labour in vain.



# Making big dreams a reality

## **The Revd Cathy Bladen: The United Benefice of Stanton**

- Hilary Wordsworth-Sewell was appointed as Children's and Families' Minister to help the benefice to grow younger
- Appointed a Benefice administrator.

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THE CHURCH  
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understanding how  
**Growing**

# Together we are – making big dreams a reality

## **Growing Younger Beacon Programme**

- There are four geographical areas where we are targeting Growing Younger:
  - Sudbury
  - Forest Heath
  - Beccles
  - Felixstowe

# Making big dreams a reality

## **The Revd Dimitri Theulings, Beccles Parish**

Beccles is one of our beacon areas and has:

- Developed the work of their employed Youth Worker, Kate Cracknell
- Is about to employ a Children's and Families worker.
- Developing new projects with their Curate, the Revd Alix Taylor.

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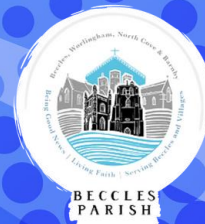
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# Beccles: Beacon Area Plan





# Steppingstones of Faith



# Stepping Stones of Faith

Retired	Coffee Mornings Concerts Link Lunch Club Parish Pantry	Wild Church Alpha (As appropriate) Feast/Gather services	Church Services Small/House Groups Confirmation	PCC Church warden Lay Elders Leading Gather/Feast services or small groups
Working Age Adults	Coffee Mornings Concerts Parish Pantry School Uniform Bank	Wild Church Alpha etc (As appropriate) Feast/Gather services	Church Services including Ignite/Feast/ Gather Small/House Groups	PCC Church warden Lay Elders Gather/Feast services
Young Adults 17-21	TGI Fridays	Wild Church Alpha etc (As appropriate) TGI Fridays	Ignite Feast/Gather Services Small/House Groups	PCC Verging Tech Team Gather/Feast services
Youth 11-16	Youth Hub Cakes'n'Ladders Holiday Hang Out	TGI Fridays Wild Church Youth Alpha etc (from September)	Ignite Service (Lightwave Discipling group?) Christian Union	Young Leaders (Messy Church, Youth Hub (13+), Cakes'n'Ladders, Junior Church) Tech Team
Children 5-10	Cakes'n'Ladders Food in School Holidays (FISH)	Messy Church Wild Church Messy Events Assemblies in school	Junior Church	Feast (Junior Church led all age)
Pre-school 0-4	Toddlers (St Michaels and St Luke's) Starting Rite	Messy Church Wild Church Messy Events	Junior Church	
	Invitational and Welcoming	Exploring Faith	Discipling	Leadership

# Steppingstones of Faith



# Ages



Coffee /  
Con  
Link Lu  
Parish

**Retired**

Coffee /  
Cont  
Parish  
School Ba

**Working Age  
Adults**

TGI Fi

**Young Adults  
17-21**

Youth  
Cakes'n'  
Hollida  
O

**Youth  
11-16**

Cakes'n'  
Food Ir  
Holiday

**Children  
5-10**

Todd  
St. Micha  
Lu  
Startin

**Pre-school  
0-4**

Invitatio  
Welco

August 2024



**Retired**

**Working Age  
Adults 40+**

**Working Age  
Adults 21-40**

**Young Adults  
17-21**

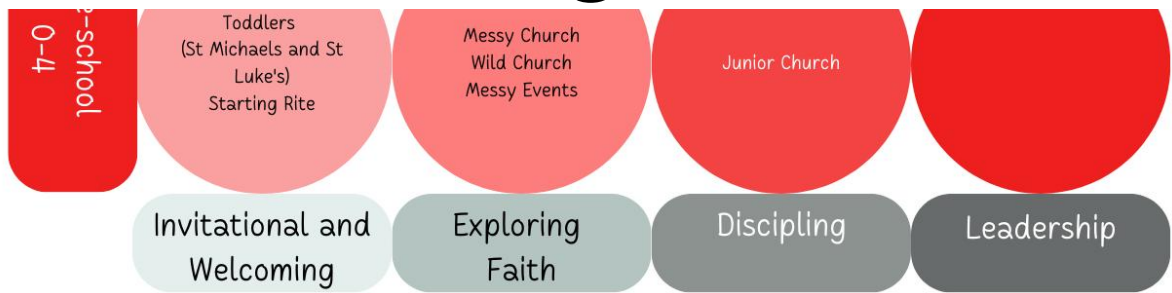
**Youth  
11-16**

**Children  
5-10**

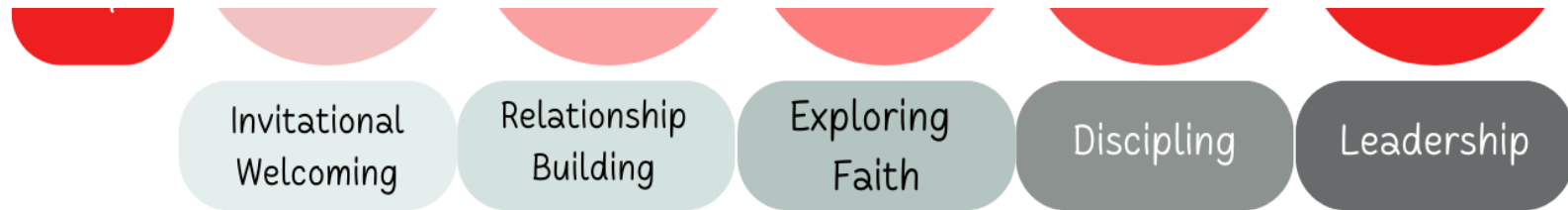
**Pre-school  
0-4**

Aspirational

# Stages



August 2024



Aspirational



# Stepping Stones of Faith

Retired	Coffee Mornings Concerts Link Lunch Club Parish Pantry	Coffee Mornings Concerts Link Lunch Club Parish Pantry	Wild Church Alpha (As appropriate) Feast/Gather services	Church Services Small/House Groups Confirmation	PCC Church warden Lay Ministry Leading services or small groups
Working Age Adults 40+	Coffee Mornings Concerts Parish Pantry School Uniform Bank	Parish Pantry Coffee and Chat Toddlers	Wild Church Alpha etc (As appropriate) Feast/Gather services	Church Services including Ignite/Feast/ Gather Small/House Groups	PCC Church warden Lay Ministry Leading services or small groups
Working Age Adults 21-40	Events, e.g. Assembly Bangers Parish Pantry School Uniform Bank	Parish Pantry Coffee and Chat Toddlers	Wild Church Alpha etc Feast/Gather services	Church Services including Ignite/Feast/ Gather Small/House Groups	PCC Church warden Lay Ministry Leading services or small groups
Young Adults 17-21	Events, e.g. Glow stick party, pancake party	TGI Fridays	Wild Church Alpha etc (As appropriate) TGI Fridays	Ignite Feast/Gather Services Small/House Groups	PCC Verging Tech Team Small Group Gather/Feast services
Youth 11-16	Cakes'n'Ladders Holiday Hang out	Youth Hub TGI Fridays	TGI Fridays Wild Church Youth Alpha etc (from September)	Junior Church Ignite Service Christian Union	Young Leaders (Messy Church, Youth Hub (13+), Cakes'n'Ladders, Junior Church) Tech Team
Children 5-10	Cakes'n'Ladders Food in School Holidays (FISH) Shimmer and Shine	Get a Life Gang	Messy Church Wild Church Messy Events Assemblies in school	Junior Church	Feast (Junior Church led all age)
Pre-school 0-4	Starting Rite	Toddlers (St Michaels and St Luke's)	Messy Church Wild Church Messy Events	Junior Church	
	Invitational Welcoming	Relationship Building	Exploring Faith	Discipling	Leadership

# NEW Steppingstones of Faith





# Priorities?



1

To ensure provision at each age and stage of the stepping stones for faith, particularly children, youth and young adults.





2

To develop the provision for children and families, enabling participation in church and development of faith.

3

To develop the provision for  
discipleship of youth and young  
adults.

3

To develop the provision for  
discipleship of youth and young  
adults.

4

To enhance worship opportunities for all age ranges and to broaden the worship styles currently available in order to engage with different types of congregations.



4

To enhance worship opportunities for all age ranges and to broaden the worship styles currently available in order to engage with different types of congregations.

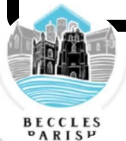
5

To build on existing links with all primary and high schools in the parish, developing materials to support collective worship and the curriculum.



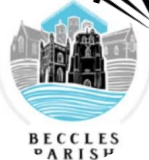
6

To build on provision for school holidays, such as clubs, FISH etc., to enable more children, families, youth and young people to connect with Church and build meaningful relationships.



7

To build, support and develop the team of volunteer helpers and young leaders, to ensure long term sustainability of growth.





8

To provide support  
enable other local parishes  
in the deanery in their children and youth  
ministry by building a network of children  
and family ministers and youth ministers  
and modelling good practice.

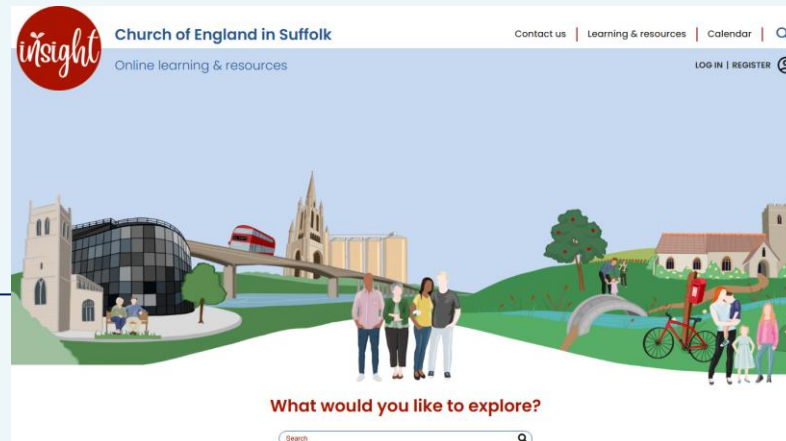
How can you  
find out more?



# Together we are – making big dreams a reality

## Further support for our leaders

- Piloting SMDP for Self-Supporting ministers and Lay Licensed Ministers
- Growing and evolving our networks
- Developing a vocational culture
- Developing Insight to promote learning and engagement.



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# Together we are – making big dreams a reality

## Questions for the group discussions

1. What are you dreaming about?
2. What could encourage your dreams?
3. What are the blocks and enablers?
4. How can the Mission and Ministry team help you?

# REFRESHMENTS



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# Together we are – making big dreams a reality

## Questions for the group discussions

1. What are you dreaming about?
2. What could encourage your dreams?
3. What are the blocks and enablers?
4. How can the Mission and Ministry team help you?



# 25.04 Safeguarding Standards and Culture from the Diocese

Karen Galloway

# Together we are – promoting a safer church

## On the sofa hosted by Tim Holder:

<b>The role of the safeguarding Officer</b>	Sarah Cooledge, Parish Safeguarding Officer
<b>Embedding safeguarding into parish</b>	The Revd Sarah Geileskey
<b>The national audit</b>	Karen Galloway, Diocesan Safeguarding Officer
<b>Engagement with survivors</b>	The Revd Jenny Seggar

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## Motion

### Bishop Graeme to move that:

Mindful of all those who have suffered abuse in our church in the past, this Synod affirms that we are led by the gospel to place safeguarding at the heart of everything that we do and are.





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# 25.05 Update on Archdeaconry of Ipswich

Archdeacon Rich



# 25.06 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Draft meetings 26 October 2024, DS(24)P06\_M3



# 25.07 Minutes of the Bishop's Council

28 November 2024, ref DS(25)P07.1\_BC(24)M6  
16 January 2025, ref DS(25)P07.2\_BC(25)M1(draft)



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## 25.08 Matters Arising



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## 25.09 Questions

## **The Revd Ali Miller (Thingoe Deanery) to the Diocesan Secretary:**

How many churches in the diocese are placing limitations on how their parish share contributions are being used, by withholding parish share, donating through the Ephesian Fund or similar third party, or through a special arrangement with their diocese, such that their contributions cannot be used to support all churches and clergy in the diocese?

## **Reply from Gary Peverley, Diocesan Secretary:**

We currently have no parishes who are placing limitations on how their parish share contributions are being used, by withholding parish share, donating through the Ephesian Fund or another third party or through any other arrangement with us. The principle of supporting all parishes and clergy in the diocese is important and we hope that this will continue to be accepted across the Diocese as we all, together, support the work of serving each other and our communities across Suffolk.

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## **The Revd Ali Miller (Thingoe Deanery) to the Diocesan Secretary:**

How much money is affected by these arrangements?

### **Reply from Gary Peverley, Diocesan Secretary:**

Given there are currently no such arrangements, the financial impact is £zero.

## **Sally Wainman, (Colneys Deanery) to the Diocesan Secretary:**

Is the Diocese aware that the Houses of Parliament are themselves going to backtrack on upgrading to a heat pump system because the trial has shown that:

- a) heat pumps would be very, very expensive to install
- b) would be far more expensive to run than their current system
- c) won't produce enough heat to keep the place warm
- d) are incredibly noisy and distracting?

## Reply from Gary Peverley, Diocesan Secretary:

Each situation is unique, however the DBF experience is that heat pumps are an effective technology for decarbonising heating, being far more efficient than boilers that rely on combustion and reducing the primary energy required for space heating. They are one of many technologies that can effectively decarbonise heating in our churches, and we continue to be committed in working towards net zero carbon.

Whilst single projects might not always prove successful where the potential risks of noise and electricity supply are too high, a quick search shows that 69 heat pumps have been installed across the Parliamentary estate since 2022, including 18 heat pumps installed in 2024.

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## **Sally Wainman, (Colneys Deanery) to the Diocesan Secretary:**

Given that many churches would be likely to experience the same drawbacks as they attempt to retrofit a heat pump system, should we not stay with the tried and tested boilers that have stood the test of time, and have engineers to service and repair them?

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## Reply from Gary Peverley, Diocesan Secretary:

- Heat pumps are just one of many alternatives to boilers that churches can use to heat their buildings. Just like any technology, a heat pump may not be the right solution in every case, but other technologies like pew heaters, infrared heaters, electric boilers, and direct electric heaters are all alternatives that are already being used by many churches in England.
- The successful implementation of heat pumps in many churches across the country and the large numbers installed around the world in a variety of different climates, means they are a tried, tested, and proven technology.
- The most tried and tested heating technology across the diocese is electric heating, with almost three quarters of our church buildings already being heated by electricity. The data we have also suggests these churches use less energy and spend less money on heating than churches that have boilers powered by oil and gas.
- The DBF will continue to work with all parishes that are currently using fossil fuels for heating, offering advice, support and access to the shared learning that is happening across the Eastern region.

You can contact our Net Zero Carbon Officer, James Rolls, for more information at [james.rolls@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:james.rolls@cofesuffolk.org).

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## 25.10 Notices



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# 25.10.1 Notices

2026 Budget Timetable – Gary Peverley



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## 25.10.2 Notices

Suffolk Show – Archdeacon Rich

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# THE SUFFOLK SHOW

**RIDE + STRIDES**  
for Churches



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# 25.10.3 Notices

Vocations Fair – Stuart Batten

9 DAYS OF *prayer*  
FOR VOCATIONS



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Vocations Fair 2025  
Where do you fit in?

Sunday 10 May 2025

1.30pm - 3.00pm

Inside St Edmundsbury Cathedral

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# 25.10.4 Notices

LYCIG – Stuart Batten



Leading your Church  
into Growth

# 'Leading your Church into Growth LyCiG is back for 2025!



Friday 13 June 2025, 5.00pm to 9.00pm  
Saturday 14 June 2025, 9.00am to 6.00pm  
Debenham Community Centre IP14 6BL

**Find out more here**



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# 25.10.5 Notices

Elections – Gary Peverley

# Elections

Thank you to those who are working with us through Diocesan and Deanery synods and on our Committees

There are still a number of vacancies on **Diocesan Synod**

**Please encourage new people to join in!**

**Results for elections:**

**Bishop's Council for one lay vacancy - Mrs Sabrina Crooks appointed**

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# Elections – results announced on 5 December 2024

## Vacancy in See committee

3 clergy and 7 lay posts

Further elections In February have lead to clergy posts being filled

2 lay vacancies to fill

\*Announced today

House of Clergy	House of Laity	Date appointed
Revd Canon Andrew Dotchin	Mrs Sabrina Crooks	December 2024
Revd Alix Taylor	Miss Anna Geileskey	December 2024
	Mr David Lamming	December 2024
	Mrs Jacqueline Maslin	December 2024
	Mrs Katherine Pitchford	December 2024
Rev. Nic Stuchfield		March 2025*
	Vacancy	TBC
	Vacancy	TBC

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# Elections – results announced on 5 December 2024

## Diocesan Board of Education

6/7 clergy and/or lay posts

2 vacancies to fill

Nominated	Date appointed
Mrs Maggi Elder	December 2024
The Revd Joanna Gunn	December 2024
The Revd Rachel Revely	December 2024
The Revd Toby Tate	December 2024
The Revd Canon Susan Taylor	December 2024
Vacancy	TBC
Vacancy	TBC

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# Elections – results announced on 5 December 2024

## Diocesan Board of Patronage

3 clergy and 5 lay posts

1 lay vacancy to fill

House of Clergy	House of Laity	Date appointed
The Very Revd Jo Delfgou	Mr David Lamming	December 2024
The Revd Emily Swinerd	Ms Christine Laverock	December 2024
The Revd Mark Woodrow	Mrs Jacqueline Maslin	December 2024
	Mrs Barbara Rowe	December 2024
	Vacancy	TBC

Will carry out a further round of elections now if there are sufficient nominations – some have come forward but please consider if you or someone you know, would be interested in standing

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# 25.10.6 Notices

Generous Giving Conference – Archdeacon Rich

# BUILDING A GENEROUS CHURCH CONFERENCE



Saturday 17 May 2025 | 9.30am to 3.45pm

Bridge Community Church, 68 Queens Road, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3EW



We invite you to join Bishop Graeme; Archdeacons David and Rich; Gary Peverley, Diocesan Secretary; and Diocesan staff to be inspired by keynote speakers focusing on compassionate communities and the impact on our society, and how to put generosity at the heart of our lives. Help your church become more informed and better resourced to grow a generous culture and reach financial sustainability.

**BOOK NOW:** [insight.cofesuffolk.org/building-a-generous-church-conference-2](https://insight.cofesuffolk.org/building-a-generous-church-conference-2)



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## 25.10.6 Notices

Together we pray – Tim Holder

# Together we pray

Please share our social media content across to your channels to encourage engagement and prayer across Suffolk.  
[Click here to find out more](#)



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# Close & Final Blessing

Bishop Graeme

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