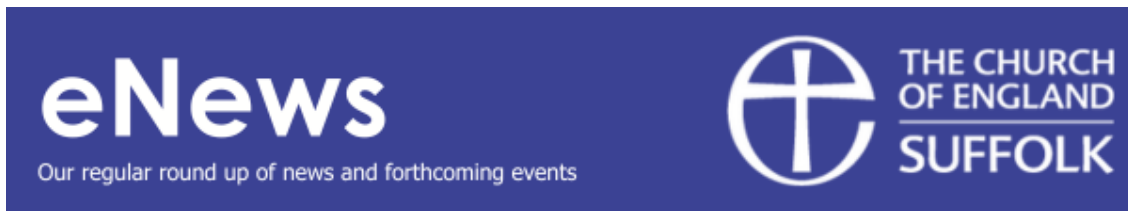


**Thursday 12 June 2025**



### **Diocesan June Synod 2025**

Diocesan Synod met in St Edmundsbury Cathedral on Saturday 7 June. The theme of this Synod was 'Well-being' and Archdeacon David gave the presidential speech:



Archdeacon David's presidential speech.

The topic of 'Well-being' was continued by Archdeacon Rich and this included a time to reflect, and a discussion with the Revd Canon Sharron Coburn about ministry support, the Suffolk Missional Development Programme and the planned changes so that the Diocesan Dispute Advisory Service becomes a Mediation Service.

Archdeacon Sally and the Revd Kathy Wilson introduced a new Clergy Retreat voucher scheme to Synod, If you are a member of clergy and signed into Insight you can view more information and booking dates [here](#).

Gary Peverley, Diocesan Secretary, discussed clergy housing and finally the Revd Peter Goodridge informed about clergy retirement benefits. The Synod members voted in support of the following motion:

*"This Synod welcomes the Church of England press release dated 22 May 2025 to improve pensions, but urges General Synod members to support the Private Members' motion on pensions and clergy retirement benefits tabled by the Revd Canon James Blandford-Baker due to be put to General Synod in July 2025 and as outlined in Appendix 1 of Paper DS(25)P12.5".*

A full copy of the Synod presentation and further video content will be made available on our website [here](#).

**Change of Diocesan Registrar:** At Diocesan Synod, Bishop Graeme welcomed Kevin Wilson as the new Diocesan Registrar. Kevin is a partner and Head of the Ecclesiastical Team at the law firm Birketts LLP, headquartered in Ipswich. Kevin is also Diocesan Registrar for the Guildford Diocese and Deputy Registrar for the London Diocese. He holds a Master's Degree in Canon Law from Cardiff University. Prior to his interest in Ecclesiastical law, Kevin spent more than 20 years as a commercial solicitor. Kevin is a member of the Ecclesiastical Law Society, the Ecclesiastical Law Association and is a school governor and Deputy Churchwarden.



Bishop Graeme also paid tribute to outgoing Registrar James Hall who has served this diocese faithfully for many years. James is continuing to work at Birketts alongside Kevin but, having reached the mandatory retirement age, he is unable to retain the title and post of Registrar. James looks forward to continuing to help and support the Diocese so you are able to contact James or Kevin for assistance. Since James is not in fact

leaving the diocese or Birketts, Bishop Graeme presented him with a card and bottle of bubbly to celebrate his birthday!

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## 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. Winners receive a certificate, trophy and £50 cash prize. The Faith

Award provides recognition to a faith group that has worked for the benefit of the community - Is there a faith group you would like to nominate? Submit your nomination before 13 July at [www.suffolkcommunityawards.co.uk/nominate](http://www.suffolkcommunityawards.co.uk/nominate)

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## 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](mailto:james.rolls@cofesuffolk.org)

### Together We Pray

'Together We Pray' is focusing on the power of prayer and celebrating and supporting our communities and each other through prayer. Join the Revd Jenny Seggar, who will be delivering our morning prayers from Monday 16 June. Tune in at 8.30am on the [Bishop's Facebook page](#) to watch live or visit the page to watch again later in the day.



The Revd Jenny Seggar talks about Together we Pray

### Framlingham Primary School's Work Tackling Global Poverty recognised with Christian Aid Award

From work on the Blue Abyss project, to Fairtrade commitment and a very proactive eco-council, pupils and staff at Framlingham Sir Robert Hitcham's CEVA Primary School have been working hard to take their place as global citizens.

We are delighted that the school is the first in Suffolk to achieve Bronze Award status in Christian Aid's Global Neighbours scheme in recognition of its wide-ranging steps to love their global neighbour. The accreditation scheme celebrates schools that are helping pupils learn about global poverty and the Christian responsibility to tackle it, as well as giving them the tools to play a confident part in creating a fairer world. Find out more [here](#).

## Events

### 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

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 please visit [Ipswich Minster on Facebook here](#).

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### Tower 20

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

St Edmundsbury Cathedral has announced a series of events and activities throughout 2025 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of its iconic Millennium Tower. Completed in 2005, the 150-foot tower stands as a testament to modern craftsmanship and was coined 'a spiritual beacon for the new millennium' by project patron, HRH Prince Charles (now His Majesty King Charles III).

Tower 20 celebrations include: Millennium Tower 20th Anniversary Exhibition, Evensong Service, Cathedral Choirs Summer Concert, Raising the Tower: Behind the Build, To the Top: Climb the Millennium Tower, EACH Charity Cathedral Tower Abseil, Art on the Garth, Tower Tours 2025 and the continuation of the LEGO® Cathedral Project.

All events span from 16 June to 16 August. For more information on all the events listed, visit [www.stedscathedral.org/whats-on](http://www.stedscathedral.org/whats-on)

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## **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.

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## **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.

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## **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](#).

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## **Songs for a Summer Evening**

Saturday 21 June, 6.30pm | All Saints Church, Hitcham, IP7 7NN

The Hadleigh Choral Society's summer concert offers a programme of easy listening music with songs about the sea, water, romance and birds, as well as including items from the ever-popular Bernstein musical 'West Side Story'. Tickets, which are £12/head and include a glass of prosecco, strawberries and cream and shortbread. Tickets can be purchased at Hitcham Shop and Post Office or book by email: [RNFCurrie@gmail.com](mailto:RNFCurrie@gmail.com), (booking is essential for catering purposes). Parking is available at: What3Words expel.materials.magically.

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## **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 the Revd Alison Alder, Diocesan Environment Officer, 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 5PG. To book, [please click here](#).

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## **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.

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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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### **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](http://www.larkriseretreats) or by emailing [larkriseretreats@gmail.com](mailto:larkriseretreats@gmail.com)

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### **Faith Story – with Laura Mumford**

Monday 14 July, 7.00pm, online

All are welcome to join us for the next 'Faith Story' in our series as the Revd Laura Mumford, Diocesan Growing Younger Enabler, shares her faith journey with us. In January 2025, Laura brought her passion and experience to the Mission and Ministry team, taking on the role of Growing Younger Enabler. Before this, she served as a school Chaplain at the Royal Hospital School in Holbrook, where she blended her priestly calling with her background in teaching Religious Studies. Find out more and book [here](#).





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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.](#)

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### 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](mailto:wendyatstmaryschurch@gmail.com). All are welcome.

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### LoveRural - National Rural Mission Conference 2025

Monday 22 September, 11.30am and Tuesday 23 September, 3.00pm | St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS



Join the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich for this 24-hour national gathering to thank God for the ways in which he is making new disciples in rural contexts and reflect on key learning. This event will bring together senior leaders, pioneers, rural resource church leaders and other partners. We will share learnings from rural Strategic Development Funded (SDF) projects, including Suffolk's

"Growing in God in the Countryside" and the national "Rural Resourcing Church Learning Community". There will be opportunities to connect and pray with others and explore developments in rural mission. [To book please click here.](#)

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### Line Management Skills for Incumbents

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

**Please note the new date.**

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.

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**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](http://www.larkriseretreats) or by emailing [larkriseretreats@gmail.com](mailto:larkriseretreats@gmail.com).

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**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.

## Notices

**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 fines 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](mailto: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](#). If you have 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

[Team Vicar](#) | Sole Bay Team | Closing date: TBC

[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

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OF ENGLAND  
SUFFOLK

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THE BIG WEEKEND  
11-13th July 2025

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A SCHOOL GOVERNOR

KAGERA, TANZANIA 2024  
GROWING YOUNGER

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