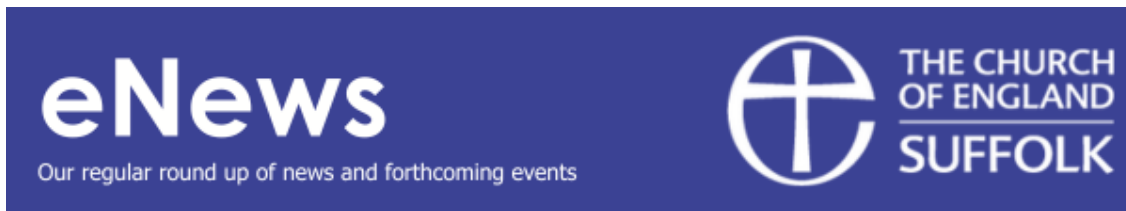


**Thursday 13 February 2025**



### **Church communities in Suffolk celebrate 'Love Your Yew Week'**

We are inviting you to record your historic churchyard trees as part of 'Love Your Yew Week' running from February 8 to 14. The initiative, dedicated to the care and preservation of yew trees, encourages those caring for these living monuments, most of which are within churchyards, to focus on simple but impactful ways to protect them. To mark the week, you can register your ancient yew on the group's national index.

James Rolls, Net Zero Carbon Officer at the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, said: "*Churchyards are important green spaces, enriching a community's biodiversity and providing a home for a wide range of wildlife. Our parish communities have a long history of engaging with the environment and do incredible work maintaining and preserving their churchyards in the communities they serve.*"

For more information on Love your Yew Week and to register a tree in your parish, visit [www.ancient-yew.org](http://www.ancient-yew.org) or watch our video below:



Join us in celebrating 'Love Your Yew Week' from February 8 to 14! This special week, organised by Caring for God's Acre, is dedicated to appreciating and preserving the ancient yew trees that grace our churchyards across the UK.

[To watch all our recent videos please visit here.](#)

We are also sharing our video content on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#), we would love it if you shared our content on your social channels.



## Public consultation for the next Archbishop of Canterbury

The process to nominate the next Archbishop of Canterbury is underway, and you are invited to give your views. Whether you are based in England or anywhere in the Anglican Communion, your views matter. The consultation is an opportunity to gather the views of a wide range of people from across England and the Anglican Communion on the gifts, qualities and skills needed in the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury. Those who take part will also be able to submit names for the Crown Nominations Commission for Canterbury (CNC) to consider. The consultation will run until Friday 28 March and you can submit your views online or by post. [All the information you need is available here.](#)

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## Day of Reflection for the COVID-19 pandemic: Sunday 9 March 2025

This will be the fifth anniversary of the beginning of the pandemic, and this day will be an opportunity to remember those who lost their lives and to stand together with those who are grieving. You can get involved by

1. Including it in your notices and prayers on Sunday 9 March.
2. Toll the church bell just after noon to mark the end of the minute's silence.
3. Find a selection of posters and ready-made images that you can post on social media, and template files for creating your own posts [here](#).
4. Invite people to plant a seed, a bulb, a bush as a sign of hope.
5. Light a special candle at church and say the prayer – record it on your phone or tablet and share the film on social media.

[There are more ideas and resources here.](#)

## LENT 2025



**Bishop's Lent Appeal:** The 2025 Lent Appeal will be for Kagera and this year's theme is taken from the hymn 'Great is thy faithfulness', '**Bright Hope for Tomorrow**'.

Our aim through the appeal is to support farming initiatives and good practice in agriculture, training of evangelists and clergy at Kagera Christian Theological College (KCTC), and resourcing of pastors in their

parishes. We will also continue our support for healthcare in the region through the Diocesan hospital. [For all the resources, to order the printed booklets and to donate please visit our website here.](#)

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## **Unforgivable?** St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 1LS

The Cathedral's Lent theme in 2025 is 'Unforgivable', exploring the limits of forgiveness. Inspired by the book by The Revd Dr Stephen Cherry, Dean of King's College Cambridge, the Cathedral is offering a series of talks, events and addresses during this Lent. You can engage with every step of this exploration, or you can dip into the things that inspire you most. For a PDF of what's happening during Lent, [click here.](#)

### Events

#### **Commissioning of the Acting Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich**

Sunday 2 March, 3.30pm | St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

All are warmly invited to attend the Commissioning of Bishop Graeme Knowles as Acting Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. This is a wonderful opportunity to relay our support for Bishop Graeme as he fulfils his duties throughout the recruitment process. Refreshments will follow the service. For seating and catering purposes, please confirm your attendance by emailing: [erinseligman@stedscathedral.org](mailto:erinseligman@stedscathedral.org) by Monday 24 February.

#### **Discover the music and worship resources of Iona**

Saturday 15 February | Workshop 2.00pm | Service 4.30pm | St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS



A workshop exploring the rich and varied worship resources of the Iona Community. We'll be discovering (and singing) a range of songs produced by the Wild Goose Resource Group, and looking at poems, prayers and reflections that can be used creatively in acts of worship. The workshop will be especially useful for those

involved in planning and leading worship, but is also suitable for anyone who enjoys singing. Workshop leader: Richard Hubbard, St Edmundsbury & Ipswich Music Development Director, with local members of the Iona Community. The workshop will be followed at 4.30pm by a service incorporating Iona resources. Tickets cost £6 and are available [here](#). Admission to the service is free. For more information, email [music.development@stedscathedral.org](mailto:music.development@stedscathedral.org).

#### **Digital Surgery with the Diocesan Parish Resources Team**

Join members of the Parish Resources Team at the first of a series of surgeries to find out more about enhancing the digital giving presence in your parish. Come along and have a one-to-one session with one of our 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.

- Wednesday 19 February, 10.00am | [Book here](#)
- Wednesday 2 April - St Edmundsbury Cathedral from 10.00am - 12.00pm and 2.00pm - 4.00pm | Booking details coming soon
- Wednesday 11 June - Diocesan Office, 4 Cutler Street, Ipswich from 2.00pm - 4.00pm | Booking details coming soon

### **Faith Story with Katie de Bourcier**

Monday 24 February, 7.00pm. By Zoom

In this hour-long conversation, The Revd Katie de Bourcier, who joined the Diocesan Mission and Ministry team as Diocesan Mission Enabler in 2024, will share her faith journey with us, and there will be lots of time for questions and conversation. Listening to someone else's journey with God is not only interesting but encouraging and helpful for our own spiritual growth and development. [Sign up here.](#)

### **East Anglia Rural Mission Hub**

Thursday 27 February 10.00am - 4.00pm | Clare Priory, Clare CO10 8NX

The East Anglia Rural Mission Hub meetings are open to all with an interest in pioneering in the rural context, and consist of a time gathered together in prayer and discernment, sharing experiences and ideas. The event is subsidised by Rural Ministries allowing the ticket price to be held at £10 including lunch and refreshments. If you are interested but would like to know more then please get in touch with Simon Mattholie on 075152 53365 or email [simon@ruralministries.org.uk](mailto:simon@ruralministries.org.uk)

### **Rural Ministry Support and Learning Space**

Thursday 27 February, 2.00pm - 3.30pm | Earl Stonham Village Hall, Stowmarket IP14 5HJ or 7.30pm Wednesday 5 March 7.30pm to 9.00pm | Teams

Following recent feedback, the Diocesan Mission and Ministry team want to explore the value in bringing together incumbents in rural multi-parish settings for mutual support and learning. These meetings offer a chance to share your ideas about what you would find useful, and what a learning community for this purpose might look like. To book, please [click here](#). For more information, please email The Revd [Katie de Bourcier](#), Diocesan Mission Enabler, or call on 07955 273158.

### **Diocesan Growing Younger Conference**

Saturday 8 March 10.00am - 3.30pm | St Michael's Church, Framlingham IP13 9BH



Growing Younger is at the heart of our mission. We seek to support and enable those working with children, young people, families and young adults, and to come alongside young people to help them grow in their faith and become confident disciples of Christ. Archdeacon Rich and the Growing Younger team are hosting a

Growing Younger Conference, and we are delighted that Lucy Moore, founder of Messy Church and who now leads the CofE Growing Faith Foundation, will be the keynote speaker. The day will also include worship, workshops and networking. Come along as

individuals or bring a team, booking is via [Insight here.](#)

### **Grandparents' Day**

Saturday 15 March 10.30am – 2.30pm | St John's Church, Cauldwell Hall Road, Ipswich IP4 4QE

'What does it take to be a Grandparent of Faith?' This event, organised by the Mothers' Union but open to non-members, is designed to bring together grandparents and honorary grandparents of faith (from little faith to strong faith) and of any denomination. Join us to feel supported, encouraged and affirmed as a spiritual influencer to your grandchildren through a programme of worship, key speakers and small group workshops. [Free tickets available here.](#)

### **Resound with Joy! Readers, LLMs and Elders study morning**

Saturday 29 March, 9.00am | Salvation Army Hall, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

Visiting Canon Theologian, The Revd Dr Victoria Johnson, will take us on an unusual journey to explore how the voice of God has been represented and portrayed in worship, art and culture leading us to ponder anew how God speaks to us today. The concept of 'voice', whether human or divine, encompasses the spoken, sung and heard. Her musings, through humour and wisdom, will broaden our own theological insight and deepen our spirituality. The morning will encompass both pragmatic responses to how we use our voices and the deeply spiritual. Elders, Readers and LLMs: [Reserve your free space now!](#)

### **The Big Weekend**

Friday 11 April, 11.00am - Sunday 13 April, 4.00pm | Sizewell Hall, Leiston IP16 4TX

The Big Weekend is a weekend of craziness, worship, games and friendship all focused around learning more about living as a Christian in the C21st. The event is for young people from school years 7-13. Whilst it is Christian in ethos and focus you don't have to call yourself a Christian to be able to attend and have fun! Cost of the weekend is £60 per person. [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.](#)

### **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](#).

### **Being Missional Today: Disruption, Liminality & Reconciliation**

Tuesday 10 June, 9.30am - 5.00pm

Coventry Cathedral, 1 Hill Top, Coventry CV1 5AB

Being Missional Today is a conference that combines a festival of ideas on missional thinking, offered mostly by published authors, developed in conversation with participants. Experiential learning opportunities are woven into the gathering. [Book tickets 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. The aims of the course are to:

- Inspire you as leaders to help lead your church(es) into growth
- Encourage you to feel that in your own way, at your own pace, and with God's help you can do it
- Equip you with a straightforward and workable strategy
- Give you teaching resources so you can share LyCiG with others in your church
- Enable you to create (or update) and implement a Growing in God Plan for Growth.

This is a free event! Spaces are limited so please ask your Incumbent or Churchwarden to book early. Please [visit here to book](#).

### **All Together | Messy Church Conference**

Friday 20 June - Sunday 22 June 2025 | High Leigh Conference Centre, Hertfordshire EN11 8SG

'All Together' is a conference like no other! Join a weekend of inspiring keynote speakers, informative workshops, Messy Church sessions and fun together with the global Messy Church family. [Find out more and secure your place here](#).

**SAVE THE DATE** - Saturday 11 October 2025, Elders' Training morning

Come and listen to some speakers, share worship together and socialise over cake!

Details to be confirmed nearer the time.

## Vacancies

[Personal Assistant to Diocesan Secretary](#) | Closing date: 16 February

[Governance Manager](#) | Closing date: 16 February

[Rector](#) | Woolpit and Drinkstone Benefice | Closing date: 21 May

[Part-time Associate Priest](#) | Carlford Benefice

[Volunteer Independent Chair of Safeguarding Committee](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral

[Volunteer Independent Data Protection Lead](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral

### Could you help the diocese on its Net Zero Carbon journey?

We are looking for a lay member to join the diocese's Net Zero Carbon Steering Group, which is working to coordinate the diocese's ambition to achieve net zero carbon by 2030. We are looking for a passionate and dedicated person with knowledge and/or experience of carbon emissions reduction in buildings and transport. If you are interested and would like to be part of the diocese's net zero carbon journey, please contact [James Rolls](#) with details of the knowledge and skills that you feel you can bring to the team.

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



## Watch our stories from around Suffolk



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