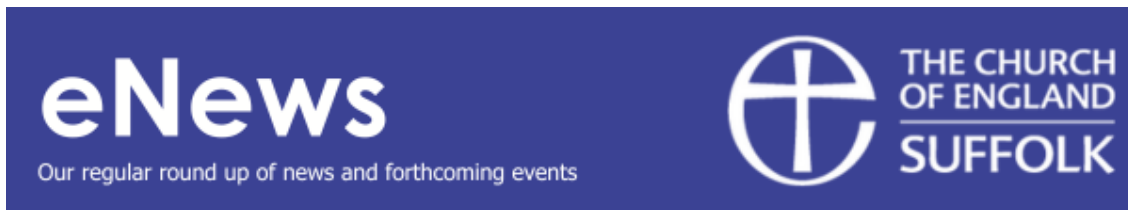


Thursday 13 June 2024



Vacancy in See

With Bishop Martin's retirement planned for the end of February 2025, a discernment process is underway to find the next Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. The process is being overseen by the Vacancy in See Committee, a statutory committee which has a permanent existence but only meets when there is a vacancy in the diocesan bishopric. See is from the Latin term for 'seat' and historically refers to the bishop's throne, i.e. centre of authority and jurisdiction.

The Vacancy in See Committee is in the process of producing a Statement of Needs, which outlines the strengths of the Diocese, the challenges facing it and the qualities the committee believes the new bishop will need. As part of this process they will be holding a public consultation meeting to hear your views on Wednesday 17 July from 7.00pm to 9.00pm. ***SAVE THE DATE* registration details will be available soon.**

Pray your part - general election 2024: The Church of England is launching a campaign known as #PrayYourPart – to promote prayer and participation in the life of our nation and communities, both as voters and as citizens. A series of daily thematic reflections written by bishops, drawn from the Bible and exploring major themes, will be covering the final three weeks up to polling day. They will be available as a booklet, in audio form for smart speakers, as free opt-in emails and through social media. You can access free digital versions of this reflection journey and find out how you can get involved in #PrayYourPart at churchofengland.org/PrayYourPart, sign up for daily election reflections [here](#), and the prayer diary can be bought from Church House Publishing [here](#).

General Election Hustings for Suffolk Coastal Constituency: Sunday 16 June 6.00pm at St John's Church, Saxmundham IP17 1ES | Join SKC Church, Saxmundham Town Council and Churches Together in Saxmundham and Kelsale for the general election hustings for Suffolk Coastal Parliamentary Constituency. Booking information is available [here](#). Live streaming will be available.

Churches Together Felixstowe Election Hustings for Suffolk Coastal

Constituency: Wednesday 19 June 7.00pm at St John's Church, Felixstowe IP11 7PW | If you would like to have your say please email vicar@felixparish.com with any questions you'd like to raise.

St Gile's Church in Risby is now one of just 49 churches across England and Wales to ever receive the Gold Eco Church Award



The Revd Lynda Sebbage, Rector of the Barrow Benefice, said: *"The whole community has come together to work on this project. From the church council and those in the congregation to pupils from the local primary schools and residents who live in the village, I'd like to thank everyone involved for their hard work over the years. The environment is God's gift to everyone, and we have a responsibility to each other to protect it."*

To receive the gold award, the church community had to demonstrate projects promoting biodiversity and wildlife conservation, but more importantly, to engage the church community, village residents and beyond to adopt the ethos of Eco Church. Eco Church is a free online award scheme for churches of all denominations in England and Wales, launched by A Rocha UK in 2016. For more on Eco Church please visit [here](#).

'Give to Go Green': an new exciting national funding opportunity



'Give To Go Green' is a national church match-funding campaign to help you double your locally-raised donations. Applications for funding are open now and will close on Sunday 28 July 2024. All the information you need is on our website [here](#).

Give To Go Green webinar: How it works and how to prepare for your application Wednesday 26 June, 7.30-8.30pm

In this webinar our Net Zero Carbon Officer, James Rolls, and the National Fundraising Advisor, Helen Simpkins, are talking all about Give To Go Green, a match-funding opportunity for net zero carbon projects in church buildings. James and Helen will explain how the scheme works, run through some of the eligibility criteria for the scheme, and explain what kind of support will be on offer to your church if your application is successful. There will also be time at the end of the session to ask any questions you may have, so please join us to hear more about this great opportunity. To book your free place, please [click here](#).

The Church of England's Energy Footprint Tool is now open: You can access the tool through the Parish Returns portal [here](#). The data collected from the tool will help your church understand its carbon footprint and will mean you may be eligible for grants to help kickstart your net zero projects. We hope to run more webinars to help you complete your Energy Footprint Tool soon – watch out for details!

The Woodland Trusts 'free trees' scheme: delivering hundreds of thousands of free trees twice a year for planting in spring and autumn. Free tree packs come in various pack sizes and different varieties of native broadleaf to suit all needs and environments. Applications for free trees close on 26 August for autumn free delivery. The application

form takes just a few short minutes and supply will run out so apply here now to be sure to get yours. [Free Trees for Schools and Communities - Woodland Trust](#)

Caring for Creation - A Quiet Day

Friday 14 June 10.00am

Norton Suite, Abbey House, 30 Angel Hill, Bury St Edmunds IP30 1LS

Join Mark Prina and the Revd Canon Mark Haworth at this meeting of the diocesan group of the Society of Catholic Priests. 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 on 01284 767415 or email cormack246@gmail.com. A £10 donation made on the day towards costs would be very much appreciated.

Diocesan Climate Evensong

Sunday 23 June, 3.30pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 1LS

We are delighted to invite you to this service focused on the Climate crisis. Led by Bishop Martin alongside Bishop Darlington from our link diocese in Kagera. The service will include:

- The Revd Richard Stainer interviewing Thomas Shavu, Kagera's Diocesan Secretary, about the mitigation they are planning for the effects of climate change.
- The Revd Anita Rooney (Cathedral Net Zero and Eco Chair) interviewing the Revd Lynda Sebbage about their recent A Rocha Gold Award
- Music from the Cathedral Youth Choir, who will be joined by the Exeter University Chapel Choir
- Readings and prayers from James Rolls, Diocesan Net Zero Carbon Officer and the Revd Alison Alder, Diocesan Environment Officer.

Care into Action: How to live out our faith by protecting God's Creation

Saturday 20 July, 9.30am

Salvation Army Hall, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

Following an opening address from Bishop Mike, the morning will take the form of presentations and discussions about the practical things we can do to protect nature, live sustainably and work for Climate Justice. To include a talk about the Church of England's commitment to achieving ambitious net zero carbon targets and how this fits into an overall vision of our care for Creation. The morning is aimed at those across the Diocese who are keen to take an active role in promoting our environmental mission in their local areas. To book your place, please [click here](#).

Can we help you re-home your old laptop? The Director of Nursing at the hospital in Kagera needs one. It needs to be in good condition, Windows 10 or above, and not more than 5 years old. We'd love to hear from you if you can help, please email kagera@cofesuffolk.org

St Edmundsbury Cathedral launches three gins: St Edmundsbury Cathedral have partnered with another Suffolk-based company to produce three Cathedral-inspired gins. The three gins they have made are:

- Abbey Gin is a London Dry Gin which reflects the classic surroundings of the Cathedral with orange notes and a signature gin profile.
- Edmund Rose is gin distilled with rose petals to create floral notes on the palate which reflect the Edmund Rose, a very special flower planted in 2005 in commemoration of the completion of St Edmundsbury Cathedral's new Millennium Tower and the visit of HRH, Charles, Prince of Wales and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall.
- Pilgrims' Garden is a London Dry Gin distilled using botanicals, including lemon balm and chamomile, which would have been grown by the monks over 1,000 years ago.

All of these lovely gins are available from the Cathedral shop.



Recognising the Suffolk Women's Land

Army: The Suffolk Women's Land Army Trust held a special fundraising event at Saxham Hall last week, supported by the Barrow Benefice. The trust aims to raise £100,000 to build a statue honouring those who joined the Women's Land Army and Women's Timber Corp in Suffolk. They also look to create an online roll of honour, so those who served are recognised for their efforts. The Revd Lynda Sebbage, Rector of the Barrow Benefice, said: *"It was such a lovely event and very well attended. As soon as I heard their plan I knew we wanted to help, and it fit in perfectly with our aims of bringing the community together on important projects. Without the Women's Land Army turning over the land, taking over when the men*

were off to war, our nation would have starved – it's as simple as that." Picture: Sue Soper from Gt Saxham. Find out more [here](#).

Events

Deanery Drop in Session

Monday 17 June, 3.00pm

St John's Church Hall, Saxmundham IP17 1ES

This is an exciting opportunity to meet the various teams from the Diocesan office who are there to offer advice on Children's and Families' Ministry, Youth Ministry, Giving, Grants, Discipleship, Communications, Vocations or anything else you'd like to ask – a real opportunity for us to have conversations and help people. Please [book here](#). A further date will be coming up on Monday 8 July – Church Institute, Brandon.

Safeguarding Drop-in & Mingle

Please see the following links to our events for Safeguarding Officers/administrators or clergy working with a Safeguarding role. Come and have a chat, ask questions, and get to know people in a similar role. Car parking is available at each venue.

St Francis's Church, 192 Hawthorn Drive, Ipswich IP2 0QQ on Wednesday 19 June, between 11.45am and 1.30pm [Book here](#)

St Luke's Church, Beccles NR34 9JQ on Tuesday 2 July, between 2.00pm and 3.45pm [Book here](#)

North Suffolk Area Mothers' Union Quiet Day

Wednesday 26 June 10.00am -3.00pm

St Peter's Church, Wenhaston IP19 9EG

Led by the Revd Canon Andrew Vessey: finding Prayer through a Window, a Tapestry and a Poem. Please bring a packed lunch, drinks will be provided. Contact Margaret Goldstone to book your place: 01502 478378.

Faith Forum

Thursday 27 June, 7.00pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

With only days to go to the General election, how does our faith inform and influence our social engagement and political thinking? Join us for an evening about faith and engagement with local, national and world political thinking. A balanced debate which will help people to connect their faith to their engagement and participation in our national life and what the Christian Community might have to offer to a divided and fractious political landscape in learning to disagree respectfully and creatively. Limited to 60 spaces. [Book here.](#)

Churchwarden training 2024

This event has been enormously successful in the past. The training session is aimed primarily at new or nearly new Churchwardens, but experienced ones invariably find that there is always something new to learn. The sessions are also open to anyone who might have reason to think that he or she could be a Churchwarden before long! The session covers Churchwardens' tasks and legal responsibilities, issues about building maintenance and faculties and many other related issues. There is always an opportunity for Questions and Answers. Events will be led by the Archdeacon with contributions from the Diocesan Registrar. Book here for:

[Ipswich Archdeaconry](#) | 2 July at 7.00pm at St Helen's, Ipswich IP4 2LS

[Sudbury Archdeaconry](#) | 9 July at 7.00pm at Cockfield Village Hall, Church Lane IP30 0LA

[Suffolk Archdeaconry](#) | 16 July at 7.00pm at St Luke's Church, Rigbourne Hill, Beccles NR34 9JQ

'Leading your Church into Growth' (LyCiG for short) is coming to Suffolk

Friday 5 July 2024, 6.00pm to 9.30pm | Saturday 6 July 2024, 8.30am to 2.00pm

Sunday 7 July 2024, 2.15pm to 5.45pm | Debenham Community Centre IP14 6BL

A free conference offering practical help to partner with God to grow your church(es), to inspire church leaders and encourage you to feel that, in your own way, at your own pace, and with God's help you can do it! LyCiG will equip you with a straightforward and workable strategy to enable you to create (or finesse) and implement a Growing in God plan for growth. Last chance to book here: <https://lycig-2024.eventbrite.co.uk> or email lycig@cofesuffolk.org

Women's Voices event - Preaching the Women of the Bible

Saturday 6 July, 10.30am – 4.00pm,
St John the Evangelist, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1SP

This event is open to all, but those who preach - lay and ordained - will find this invaluable. Liz and Kate are entertaining and enthusiastic speakers. They will deliver a number of sessions throughout the day and will finish with the first book launch of Out of the Shadows Vol 2 which will be available to purchase. Tea and Coffee etc provided throughout. Bring your own lunch. This event is free, please email the Revd Ali Miller for further information: teamvicarlvnb@btinternet.com

American Choir 'Stellarum' Concert

'Stellarum', the leading San Diego-based chamber choir, is to make its first ever international tour; the repertoire ranges from exquisite church music to modern interpretations of traditional songs and pop favourites. Join them at at:

St Nicholas's Church, Denston | Concert | Saturday 6 July 6.30pm
All Saints' Church, Rede (singing at the Morning Prayer service | Sunday 7 July 11.00am
St Mary's Church, Hawkedon (Compline) | Sunday 7 July 6.30pm
St Edmundsbury Cathedral (Evensong) | Monday 8 July 5.30pm
St Edmundsbury Cathedral (Special concert) | Tuesday 9 July 1.00pm.

For further information please contact: Heather Tilbury Phillips on htapr@dircon.co.uk

Zero Hunger | Mary's Meals

Monday 8 July, 6.30pm tea/coffee with film start time at 7.00pm
Museum Street Methodist Church, Black Horse Lane, Ipswich IP1 2EF

All are cordially invited to a showing of this important and challenging film on Monday. Free but there will be an opportunity to donate to Mary's Meals. Please note that this film is unsuitable for children. For further information please email nicholasjardine40@gmail.com

Getting Started with Contactless

Tuesday 9 July, 3.00pm – 4.00pm

Discover the contactless devices and opportunities for your church to make the most of cashless-giving in this free webinar run by the National Giving Team. It will be helpful for newcomers to contactless giving, and an opportunity for all to ask questions. Please [book here](#).

Lark Rise Retreats



Thursday 11 July, 10.00am - 4.00pm and Saturday 13 July, 10.00am - 4.00pm
St Nicholas Church, Felixstowe IP11 9RZ

Exploring Celtic Christian Spirituality through presence poetry and pilgrimage. The event costs £25 per person to include a fish and chips lunch. Led by the Revd Jane Pearse. To book please email on larkriseretreats@gmail.com or phone on 01394 284213.

Clergy Retreat - Led by Bishop Martin

7 - 11 October 2024

St Andrew's Abbey, Zevenkerken-Brugge, Belgium

The best kept secret in the Diocese! Since 1960 when there was a formal link with Brugge a group of hardy clergy have braved the sea and weather to travel to the Abbey to spend time with the wonderful brothers at St Andrew's Abbey. Speakers in the past have spoken on a range of subjects from World Mission, The Psalms, and more. There are approximately 15 spaces available and you can come with spouses/partners. For more details or to book please contact the Revd David H Messer on 01964 563987 or email: davidharrymesser93@gmail.com.

World Mission Conference Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Saturday 12 October, 9.00am - 1.00pm

Salvation Army Hall, Stowmarket IP14 1NE.

As Christians we are called to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it (Hebrews 13.2). How can we best do this? Our speakers will offer an insight into the refugee and asylum seeker issue on a global scale and in our own county, with practical suggestions as to how your church can become involved in welcoming and supporting those from overseas. More information and booking [here](#).

Save the dates:

- Suffolk Churches '**Ride and Stride**' Saturday 14 September
- **Building a Generous Church Conference** Saturday 28 September, 9.00am to 4.00pm, Bridge Community Church, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3EW.
- **Growing Younger Conference** in November will now be held on Saturday 8 March 2025 at St Michael's Church, Framlingham. The keynote speaker will be Lucy Moore, head of the Church of England Growing Faith Foundation and founder of Messy Church. More details will be available later in the year.

Notices

Return of Parish Finance: Many thanks to all parishes who have already 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, if you require login details or any other assistance regarding the online portal, please contact statistics@cofesuffolk.org by email. **The online deadline has been extended to 31 July 2024.** There will be no further extension. Further information is available on our [website here](#).

Making CofE websites easier for you to use: The Church of England Communications team is running a series of exercises to help decide how best to organise online information across the Church of England. They are interested in understanding how users expect content to be organised so that they can make sure their websites are accessible

and helpful. To take part please visit here: cofe.io/CardSort

Electoral Roll Figures: In accordance with Church Representation Rules (CRR) 10, the chair, vice-chair, secretary or electoral roll officer of a PCC must, no later than 1 July each year, give the secretary of the Diocesan Synod written notification of the number of names there are on the roll of the parish as at the date of the APCM. To help us collate this data, please return your electoral roll figures to statistics@cofesuffolk.org or the Diocesan Office following your APCM, as part of your parish returns.

Bubble church: Offering a 30-minute Sunday church service especially for families with young children. Bubble church includes action songs, a Bible story, puppets and a simple activity. Do watch this video of what it looks like [here](#). Find out more [here](#).

Vacancies

[Rector](#) | Bacton Benefice | Closing date: 17 June

[Programme Management Officer](#) | Closing date: 18 June

[Inspiring Ipswich Pioneer](#) | Pinewood/ St Peter's | Closing date: 21 June

[Associate Choral Leader](#) | Closing date: 24 June

[HR Administrator](#) | Closing date: 1 July

[Priest in Charge](#) | Wickham Market & Pettistree | Closing date: 3 July

[Programme Accountant](#) | Closing date: 5 July

[Rector](#) | The Brett Valley Benefice | Closing date: 8 July

[Rector](#) | South Hartismere Benefice | Closing date: 10 July

[Lead Chaplain](#) | Sizewell C | Closing date: 10 July

[House for Duty Priest](#) | Lakenheath with Santon Downham and Elveden | Closing date: 10 July

[Children's and Families' Worker](#) | Stanton Benefice | Closing date: 12 July

[River Church Opportunities](#) | Kids Pastor (full-time), Debt Centre Manager (part-time) and internships | Ipswich

[House for Duty Priest in Charge](#) | The Wrentham Benefice

[New Opportunities in Ipswich](#) | Inspiring Ipswich

[Gap Year opportunities](#) | St Mary's, Haverhill

[Chaplain and Leader of Youth Orientated Congregation](#) | Debenham High School | Closing date: 18 September

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**The Bishops
of Suffolk**





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