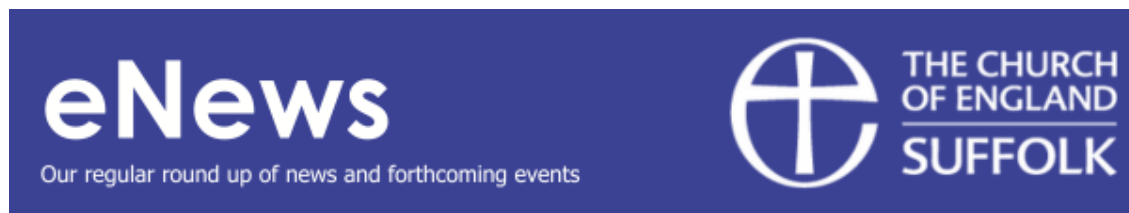


Thursday 13 March 2025



Together We Pray



Prayer is at the heart of our Christian faith, our relationship with God and all the work we do.

We are really excited to be launching 'Together We Pray' focusing on the power of prayer and celebrating and supporting our communities and each other through prayer.

The daily prayers are currently delivered by the team at the Bishop's Office every weekday morning on the Bishops' Facebook page. From 24 March, the prayers will be coming from a different location in the Diocese every week, starting with the Revd Dominic Doble from Waveney and Blyth deanery offering the daily prayers from Monday to Friday. The plan is to feature a different deanery every week, so the Revd Chris Hood in Colneys Deanery will be next, followed by Lavenham and then Ipswich, Sudbury and Loes.

During the week, our Facebook feeds will share stories and parish spotlights from the relevant deanery and we would like to encourage you to 'share and like' the content to celebrate them.

Tim Holder, Director of Engagement, said *"You may have noticed that 'Together we are' is appearing more and more across our communications in Suffolk. At the heart of this is a simple message suggesting that if we work in loving partnership, we will create many more opportunities to spread God's word. An anchor for many is their daily communication with the Lord in prayer. Imagine what we could achieve throughout Suffolk if we joined together to pray. That's what we hope to achieve with our 'Together We Pray' project. How can you help? Firstly, please join us to pray, that really important. This is something we can create together and share with many other people in Suffolk and beyond. Please consider welcoming 'Together We Pray' to your deanery for a week of Morning prayer, and share the social media content on your channels. I'm sure we all want to pray for continued strength, to offer thanks together and pray for further blessings."*

You can tune in at 8.30am on Facebook to watch live or visit the page to watch again later in the day. To join please click [here](#). To follow please use #togetherwepay. We would love your deanery to be our focus for our 'weekly spotlight' and if you would like to be the next deanery to take part please email communications@cofesuffolk.org.



Just before his retirement, Bishop Martin joined Bishop Graeme to film this special video introducing 'Together We Pray'.

New Archdeacon of Ipswich



Bishop Graeme is delighted to announce that the Revd Canon Samantha Brazier-Gibbs has been appointed Archdeacon of Ipswich and Director of Inspiring Ipswich.

Samantha will be Collated on Tuesday 24 June, 6.00pm at Ipswich Minster and Installed at St Edmundsbury Cathedral on Sunday 20 July at 3.30pm.

She is currently parish priest for three rural churches: Blackmore, Stondon Massey, and Fyfield in the Chelmsford

Diocese. She also leads a team of ministers responsible for 14 parishes around the market town of Chipping Ongar. Read the full story on our [website here](#). *This appointment is subject to legal formalities.*

Diocesan Eastertide Confirmation Sunday 4 May at 10.30am

St Edmundsbury Cathedral is hosting a **Diocesan Eastertide Confirmation** with Bishop Graeme leading the service and confirming those present. Benefices and parishes are warmly invited to present candidates by emailing the Revd Canon Mark Haworth with the completed form as soon as possible. Anyone seeking guidance on Confirmation preparation is welcome contact Mark. (Please note there is no Easter Eve Confirmation on Holy Saturday).

[Download the diocesan form for completion here.](#)

[Email the Revd Canon Mark Haworth here.](#)

Bishop's Lent Appeal 'Bright Hope for Tomorrow'

The 2025 Lent Appeal will be for Kagera and this year's theme **Bright Hope for Tomorrow** is taken from the hymn 'Great is thy faithfulness'. You can follow the campaign's fundraising activities on our Facebook page [here](#) or download the full booklet of activities available on our website [here](#). The appeal aims 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. Please give generously in 2025.

Safeguarding

Please be aware that all churches should have safeguarding information on the front page of their parish/benefice/A Church Near You websites. This is a **mandatory** requirement, and websites are being checked nationally for compliance. Please check your websites and update them if required. We have provided some sample text below.

"Our benefice/parish of ----- is committed to safeguarding children, young people, and adults from harm. We follow the House of Bishops' guidance and policies and have our own Safeguarding Officer. Our Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich's safeguarding pages contain vital links and information including contacts for the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer who advises our Safeguarding Officer. If you are concerned that a child or adult has been harmed or may be at risk of harm, please contact our Safeguarding Officer [**add local details**] or the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer, Karen Galloway on 07785 621319 or email safeguarding@cofesuffolk.org. If you have immediate concerns about the safety of someone, please contact the police and your local authority's children or adult social care services. Further information can be found on the diocesan website [Promoting a safer church - Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich](#)".

Events

Grandparents' Day

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

Organised by the Mothers' Union and the Growing Younger team to bring together grandparents and honorary grandparents of faith (from little faith to strong faith) and of any denomination. Key speakers including the Revd Laura Mumford, Diocesan Growing Younger Enabler. [Free tickets available here.](#)

Spring Open Day

Saturday 15 March 11.00am to 1.30pm | St Mary's Church, Market Weston IP22 2NX

Only a few years ago the windows at St Mary's Church were held up by props but since

raising £100,000 with the support of local fundraising, legacies and generous grants from charitable trusts, including the Alfred Williams Charitable Trust and the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust, the project has finally been completed. You are invited to view the new window along with a display of historical records which coincides with the blooming of over 20,000 spring bulbs in the churchyard.

Poetry and Prayer

Saturday 22 March | St John the Baptist, Felixstowe IP11 7PP

Poet and Priest Malcolm Guite will explore the links between poetry and prayer, particularly the ways in which poetry can enrich and deepen our spiritual life. He will focus particularly on George Herbert's poem *Prayer* and how each of the powerful images in that poem can unlock for us different aspects of prayer. £25 pp. There will be refreshments but please bring your own lunch. To book www.larkriseretreats.org or call us 01394 284213.

Scary Suffolk Stories

Saturday 22 March at 6.30pm | St Margaret's Church, Stradishall IP29 4ND

Stradishall Church has recently discovered it needs £120,000 to repair its roof and is actively seeking to raise the necessary funds. Join an evening of storytelling with CB Jackson, a professional storyteller who appears frequently on BBC Radio Suffolk. To book please call 07708 899579. Further events can be found [here](#).

Faith Story with Dean Joe

Monday 24 March, 7.00pm - 8.00pm

Zoom

All are welcome to join us for the next 'Faith Story' in our series as The Very Revd Joe Hawes, Dean of St Edmundsbury Cathedral, shares his faith journey with us. Joe Hawes has been Dean of St Edmundsbury since 2018. 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](#).

The F Word: Stories of Forgiveness

Friday 28 March to Sunday 13 April | St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

The Cathedral's Lent theme in 2025 is 'Unforgivable', exploring the limits of forgiveness. You are invited to the Lent exhibition offering a thought-provoking collection of arresting images and personal narratives exploring forgiveness in the face of atrocity. [More information 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](#)

Estate Church leaders forum

Wednesday 2 April, 12.30pm

Zoom

The Revd Sophie Cowan, Priest in Charge of St Mary Stoke, Ipswich is calling all Estate Church leaders to join this forum. This will be an opportunity to hear Good News stories, share ideas and resources, be there for each other through the struggles, and to pray for one another. If the first meeting goes well, this will become a monthly meeting. Please feel free to invite other estates church leaders (lay and ordained) from across the diocese to come along. [Click here to register](#). Please contact Sophie Cowan on rev.sophiecowan@gmail.com for more information.

Digital Surgery with the Diocesan Parish Resources Team

Join members of the Parish Resources Team at the second 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](mailto:emma.denton@diocese.org) or [Emma Rowlinson](mailto:emma.rowlinson@diocese.org), Diocesan Giving Advisors.

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

The Big Weekend - last chance to book!

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](#). Booking closes on 14 March.

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](#).

A Rocha UK Supporters' Day

Saturday 10 May 10.30am - 3.30pm | Foxearth Meadows Nature Reserve, (what3words: charm.dragonfly.townhouse)

A great time to meet other supporters and encounter wildlife. To include updates on reserve projects, guided walk, a practical activity, finishing with a short time of worship outdoors. Bring a chair and lunch. All welcome. To book please email sarah.leadham@arocha.org

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](#).

Ascension Day Prayer Walk

Thursday 29 May 7.30 pm, bring your own picnic from 6.30pm | Foxearth Meadows Nature Reserve, (what3words: charm.dragonfly.townhouse)

Led by the Revd Ruth Ridge, enjoy a picnic together then walk and pray together as the sun sets. A beautiful, reflective evening for all.

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

Open Air Service

Sunday 22 June at 3.00pm | Foxearth Meadows Nature Reserve, (what3words: charm.dragonfly.townhouse)

An open invitation to join a midsummer worship close to nature. The guest speaker is Dr

Andrew Crowson, moth enthusiast and supporter of A Rocha UK. Refreshments provided. Bring a chair. All welcome.

Other up-coming events:

- **National Rural Mission Conference 2025** | Monday 22 September, 11.30am and Tuesday 23 September, 3.00pm | St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS | [To book please click here.](#)
- **Elders' Training morning** | Saturday 11 October 2025 | St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS | Save the date!
- **CofE NST Spiritual Abuse and Healthy Culture 2025** | Wednesday 11 June, Tuesday 8 July, Thursday 4 September, Wednesday 8 October, Tuesday 4 November. A series of sessions exploring issues of Spiritual Abuse: Coercion and Control within Christian organisations and communities alongside building Healthy Christian Culture. [For more information please click here.](#)

Notices

Evaluation of Listed Place of Worship Grant Scheme: The Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has commissioned research on the repair and maintenance of historic places of worship. The short online survey is to help build understanding of individual places of worship's experience of the [Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme](#). It will play a vital role in understanding the outcomes and impacts of the scheme. Please complete [the survey here](#), it is open until 25 March.

Suffolk Radio Make a Difference Award: These awards are run by the BBC to celebrate the amazing people who make Suffolk a better place. Can you nominate a fellow volunteer or colleague in an individual category? Nominations end on Monday 31 March and the full details are available here: www.bbc.co.uk/makeadifference

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 and electoral roll - Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich](#). 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.

Statistics for Mission: Thank you to all parishes who have completed their Statistics for Mission forms. The National Church deadline has been extended to 14 March 2025. Returns should be submitted via the Online Parish Returns System, which can be accessed here: [Parish Returns Online](#). If you require log-in details or any other assistance with the online portal, please contact statistics@cofesuffolk.org. Further information regarding Parish returns, including videos on how to submit, can be found here: [Parish returns -](#)

[Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich.](#)

CAP Money in Schools: CAP will be working with the MSE Charity to provide financial education across the Suffolk Coastal District Council area, and are looking to recruit a leader for the initiative and to create a Schools Team to deliver *CAP Money Kids* to Year 5 and 6 primary school pupils. *CAP Money Kids* explores the key words: Income, Expenditure and Budgeting. CAP are offering these lessons, free of charge, to every primary school in the catchment area (IP12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 and NR34). To register interest or for more details, please contact Helen Peats at scdcschools@skc.church

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. 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.](#)

Vacancies

[Vicar](#) | St Peter & St Mary's Church, Stowmarket | Closing date: 20 March

[Rector](#) | North Bosmere Benefice | Closing date: 24 March

[Bishop Adviser for the Pastoral Care of Clergy](#) | Closing date: 24 March

[Rector](#) | Haughley with Wetherden and Stowupland | Closing date: 14 May

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

[Rector](#) | Barrow Benefice | Closing date: 5 June

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

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

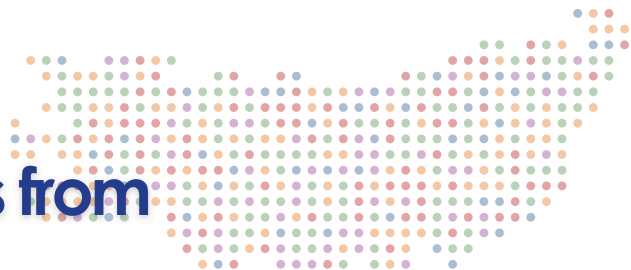
[Volunteer Independent Data Protection Lead](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral

Youth Pastor | St Augustine's church, Ipswich | [More information available here.](#)

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



Watch our stories from around Suffolk



Copyright © 2025 Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, All rights reserved.

This email is generated from the Communications Office at the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

Our mailing address is:

Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, 4 Cutler Street, Ipswich, Suffolk, England IP1 1UQ

[Add us to your address book](#)

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
