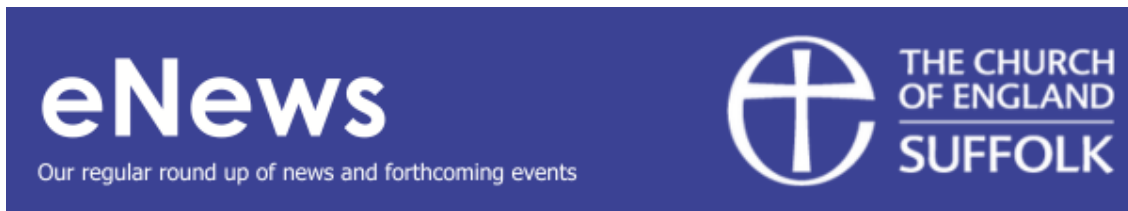


Thursday 14 August 2025



80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War

The 80th anniversary of Victory over Japan Day (VJ Day) will be on this Friday 15 August 2025. This is the day in 1945 that Imperial Japan surrendered, in effect bringing World War Two to an end. You can find out more about the commemorations taking place for the anniversary of VJ Day [on the government's dedicated website](#).

Your church can take part by holding a special service to commemorate the day, [Light a candle online](#) to remember loved ones who fought in the war and ring the bells, echoing the sounds that marked the end of the war in 1945. There is also a national two-minute silence at 12 noon on Friday. These collective acts of thanksgiving aims to foster a spirit of unity and remembrance.

You can promote your activities on [AChurchNearYou.com](#), using the '80th Anniversary of VJ Day' tag to any services and events you may be holding on your church or benefice sites.

We invite you to explore and celebrate God's generosity

Generosity Week - Sunday 28 September to Sunday 05 October



To help us to celebrate the generous love of God all our churches are invited to hold services, run group sessions, broadcast podcasts and distribute readings on the theme of generosity to their communities. Generosity can be shown in many ways, through everyday acts of kindness to those in your community, helping and serving in your church, as well as financial giving.

We would like to encourage you to have a look at the [national resources available for Generosity Week](#) - the purpose is to encourage a generous culture within churches, so that churches can grow their ministry for generations to come. The materials enable you to deliver your own Generosity Week at times suitable for you. Further resources are available on our Insight [here](#).

New for this year, Cheeky Pandas™ will explore the idea of 'Godly Generosity', looking at how children can use their 'Time, Talents and Treasure' to grow the kingdom of God here

on earth. There are videos, craft ideas, silly games and a new worship song. Watch the video trailer [here](#) and make sure you're [signed up for emails](#) to be the first to hear when the final shows and song video are ready to share.

Safeguarding News

Audit: We are very grateful to everyone who took part in the recent Safeguarding Audit survey. Your views are important and will help shape the future of Safeguarding in the diocese, ensuring it remains our top priority. The next steps include a visit by the auditors gathering further information, and some people will be invited to take part in one to one and group interviews. We expect the final report to be with us by the end of the year.

Training: We would also like to thank Rick Peat our Safeguarding Trainer for all his hard work during his time with us. Rick is moving on to pursue his music career. We are in the process of recruiting for a new trainer and hope to have someone in place as we go into the autumn.

Domestic Abuse: If you're a survivor of domestic abuse with a secret or secondary phone, the government's Emergency Alerts could reveal your phone even if it's on Silent. There will be another test of the emergency alerts on Sunday 7 September. If you're concerned about this test and any other future alerts could reveal your phone, watch Refuge's guide to disable them: Android: <https://brnw.ch/21wUCqB> | Iphone: <https://brnw.ch/21wUCqA>

Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme

£16 million is still up for grabs from a budget for the 2025/26 financial year of £23 million – that's nearly 70% of the total! But hurry, because it won't be there for ever.

The LPoW scheme allows religious organisations to claim back VAT paid on eligible fabric repairs and conservation work at listed churches in regular use for worship. Every listed church can claim up to £25,000 per year, which can be spread across multiple applications. [To apply please access the scheme on line here](#). It should be made within 12 months of paying the invoice.

"If you're entitled to the money, then make sure you claim it", says Edmund Harris, DAC Secretary. "While certain works at churches, like level access for disabled people, will always be zero-rated, the current version of LPoW comes to an end in March 2026 and we don't yet know whether it will be extended. You can check whether you're eligible to claim via the link, but if you're still not sure then feel free to get in touch".

Churches could benefit from 0% VAT on installation of eligible energy-saving materials and heating equipment

We're letting all of our churches know that they might be able to benefit from 0% VAT on a wide variety of energy-saving measures. The installation of certain materials and equipment in residential accommodation and charitable buildings can benefit, including insulation and improved controls for your central heating and hot water systems, through to solar panels and air source heat pumps. So, before you get started on an energy saving project, be sure to check out whether your church is eligible by looking at the [HMRC](#)

[guidance here](#). If you believe you could receive VAT relief on your project, then be sure to discuss it with your contractor before your project begins.

Events

Trash & Treasures Flower Festival

23 24 and 25 August 10.00am - 5.00pm | St Bartholomew's Groton, near Boxford CO10 5ED

Enjoy stalls, flowers, and a walk and a history talk. Includes the Winthrop's, 'Madrigalia singer's' on Sunday afternoon 2.00pm til 4.00pm, Refreshments available all weekend.

Eco Day

Saturday 30 August, 2.00pm | St Mary's Church, 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 We are St. Bartholomew's Groton. Nr Boxford Sudbury. and are Holding a Flower Festival titled "Trash & Treasures" 23rd 24th & 25th August 10am til 5pm, Stalls, Flowers, Walk & Talk on History inc Winthrop's, Madrigalia singing Sunday afternoon 2pm til 4pm, Refreshments available all week end.

the environment and the planet. There will be stalls with Eco information and products.

Details from wendyatstmaryschurch@gmail.com. All are welcome.

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 serves.

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 Abby | 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](#).

Grandparents' Day - 'What does it take to be a Grandparent of Faith?'

Saturday 6 September, doors open 10.00am for a 10.30am start – 2.30pm | Fressingfield Baptist Church, Fressingfield IP21 5RU

This event is organised by the Mothers' Union with the diocesan Growing Younger team and is open to everyone. The day is designed to bring together grandparents and honorary grandparents of faith (from little faith to strong faith) and of any denomination. The programme includes worship, key speakers and small group workshops, and participants will feel supported, encouraged and affirmed as a spiritual influencer to their grandchildren. Tickets are free and available [here](#).

Digital Surgeries

Join members of the Parish Resources Team 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.

Thursday 11 September – Beccles, St Michael's from 10.00am - 12.00pm and 2.00pm - 4.00pm | [Book here](#)

Wednesday 5 November - Diocesan Office, 4 Cutler Street, Ipswich from 2.00pm - 4.00pm | [Book here](#)

Tuesday 18 November – St Edmundsbury Cathedral from 10.00am - 12.00pm and 2.00pm - 4.00pm | [Book here](#)

Suffolk Churches Ride and Stride - Saturday 13 September



Walkers, cyclists, runners and vintage or classic car owners are invited to sign up to join others who love Suffolk and history at the annual September event, organised by Suffolk Historic Churches Trust

(SHCT). Last year, the day's fundraising raised £200,000 and, from the proceeds, the SHCT gave grants to Suffolk's historic churches, chapels and meeting houses who need to make urgent repairs or improvements to their buildings. Sponsor forms are now available in Suffolk churches and from the Trust. Full details are available on their website: www.shct.org.uk. Car owners should email pedalanddrive@gmail.com. Donations and sponsorship can also be collected via Just Giving. We look forward to a great day of fundraising!

Being Anglican

Starting Monday 15 September, 7.00pm | Teams & various locations

Join the Revd Canon Charlotte Cook to explore the essential aspects of Anglicanism together in an informal learning style. This course will be particularly valuable if you would like to explore your rich Anglican heritage. It is free of charge and all are welcome. The course is a mix of online teaching by Teams and also in-person sessions (Teams is an alternative to Zoom).

The 6-session course runs on the following dates: 15 September, 11 October, 5 January, 17 January, 20 April, 2 May and across varying locations. For more details and to book, please [click here](#).

PCC Workshops | Zoom



You are invited to join topic-based one-hour meetings led by Diocesan staff and parish experts on Zoom. Suitable for Treasurers, Churchwardens, PCC members and administrators, as well as clergy and LLMs. Each session will involve sharing information and a short presentation. For more information please email [Emma Rowlinson](#). Here are the details of the workshops:

Grants and Funding | 1.00pm, Thursday 18 September | [Book here](#)

Getting the most out of the Parish Giving Scheme | 1.00pm, Thursday 16 October | [Book here](#)

Gifts in Wills | 12.00pm, Thursday 23 October | [Book here](#)

Digital Giving | 12.00pm, Wednesday 12 November | [Book here](#)

Friends | 1.00pm, Thursday 13 November | [Book here](#)

Annual Remembering Service

Saturday 20 September, 3.00pm | St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

This special service will take place for all who have experienced the death of a child, whatever their age and whatever the cause. This is an annual service of readings, music and prayer. All are welcome, from all faiths of none. Space is given to remember, grieve and find connection with others who have experienced a similar loss. If you have experienced the death of a child, help and support is available via organisations such as: West Suffolk Sands: www.sands.org.uk and Cruse Bereavement Support: www.cruse.org.uk.

Village Haymaking

Saturday 20 September, 10.00am-12.00pm | St Mary's Church, Stoke by Nayland IP2 8BX

The morning will include haymaking, a family scavenger hunt in the churchyard, Colchester Morris dancers, and a presentation by the Dedham Vale National Landscape team. Rakes and other equipment provided but feel free to bring your own! Light refreshments are available.

Study Day on the Book of Esther from the Old Testament

Saturday 20 September, 10.00am to 4.00pm | St Nicholas Church, Felixstowe IP11 9RZ

This study day, led by the Revd Penny Brinkley, will be an opportunity to look at the book of Esther with modern day eyes. It is a short book of just 10 chapters sandwiched between the books of Nehemiah and Job. It never mentions God but has a sense of God running throughout it. Cost £25 to include all refreshments, fish and chips lunch (or vegetarian alternative) and cake. To book please visit www.larkriseretreats.org or call Lark Rise Retreats on 01394 284213. Please download this [flyer](#) for all the retreat dates this Autumn.

Living the Story- Exploring Our Vocation Together

Tuesday 23 September, 7.00pm - 8.30pm | Earl Stonham Village Hall, Stowmarket IP14 5HJ



The first of four free in-person sessions exploring God's call on our lives to love and serve him. Each session will be rooted in the scriptures and some of the topics we'll be thinking about are: How does God call? Who does God call? How does God speak to us? and How do we listen to God? The course will be led by the Ven Vanessa Herrick and our Diocesan Director of Ordinands, the Revd Canon Stuart Batten, and is intended for everyone

– whatever stage of the vocation journey you are at.

The sessions are all on Tuesdays from 7.00 – 8.30pm on 23 September, 30 September, 14 October and 4 November. To book please visit Insight [here](#).

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 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](#).

Come & Sing Choral Evensong

Sunday 28 September, 2.00pm | St Michael's Framlingham, IP13 9BH

St Michael's is holding a Come and Sing Workshop and Traditional Choral Evensong, where you will be learning and practising music by Stanford, Batten, John Reading and Victoria, copies of the music (for this event only) are available in advance, together with links to YouTube examples to help you practice at home before the day. For more details and a registration form, please email framparish@gmail.com.

Enhancing Worship

Starting 1 October, 7.30pm | Earl Stonham Village Hall, Earl Stonham IP14 5HJ

An exploration of the nature of worship and varieties of worship in the Church of England. This 6-week module provides an opportunity to explore the nature of worship, varieties of worship in the Church of England, and the practical skills needed to both design and lead acts of worship. These acts of worship may be in parish churches or new worshipping communities, seek to be inclusive of all ages and backgrounds and enable all to live confidently as disciples in everyday life. Different speakers with expertise in various types of worship will deliver teaching, and each session begins with a different style of worship. Sessions take place on 1 October, 8 October, 15 October, 22 October, 5 November and 12 November respectively. [Book here](#).

Line Management Skills for Incumbents

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

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. For further information please contact Vanessa Kidd, vanessa.kidd@cofesuffolk.org or call 07394 568406.

Chaplaincy Day

Tuesday 21 October, 9.30am to 3.30pm | All Saints' Church, Kesgrave IP5 1AA



We are holding a Chaplaincy Gathering for chaplains in service across Suffolk in all sectors – a fantastic opportunity to network with others. The keynote speaker will be The Revd Canon (Sqn Ldr) Matt Buchan, Station Chaplain at RAF Marham. Other chaplains and diocesan staff will also be providing input.

Registration begins at 9.30am when you will be welcomed with coffee, then the first session will begin at 10.00am. A light lunch will be provided. Please sign up

[here](#) and share this link with your chaplaincy team so they can register and join us too.

Understanding Shame Workshop

Friday 3 October 2025, 9.00am - 4.00pm | St Andrew's Church Hall, Rushmere St Andrew, Ipswich IP5 1DH

This workshop will offer a safe and confidential space to explore and learn about the subject of shame and will give you the opportunity to build resilience against this powerful emotion. Giving you the opportunity to work individually and together, this workshop will help you better support the people you work with and care for and will offer a time for personal development and growth. Should you require further information please email Inspire on contact@inspirecounselling.org.uk.

Theological Refreshment in Ministry (TRiM) 2025

Monday 24 November, 10.00am | The House of Retreat, Chelmsford CM3 1HA

Immerse yourself in stillness, community, and spiritual insight. This retreat offers space to explore life lessons drawn from the spiritual writings of Charles de Foucauld, Carlo Caretto, and the Desert Fathers, reflecting deeply on how their wisdom speaks to our journey of faith today. You'll experience time for personal reflection rooted in desert spirituality and sacred themes, with quiet times to allow for rest or solitude or to walk and spend time in nature. There will be time in community; time to talk and share, to pray, eat and contemplate. [Book here.](#)

Understanding and Working with Relationships and Family Dynamics

Friday 28 November, 9.00am - 4.00pm | St Andrew's Church Hall, Rushmere St Andrew, Ipswich IP5 1DH

This day, offered by Inspire Counselling, will be interactive and experiential, exploring approaches to understanding the human need for relationships and the powerful unconscious dynamics that occur within families, working with divorce/separation and working with endings. Should you require further information please email Inspire on contact@inspirecounselling.org.uk.

Save the date: Annual Harvest Festival Service, St Edmundsbury Cathedral on Sunday 5 October.

Notices

Growth Fund Opportunities: The Diocesan Growth Fund offers grants of up to £1,500 to churches to support them in implementing their Plans for Growth. Parishes are using this funding in all sorts of creative ways to take forward mission in their local communities. We'd love to receive applications from more churches, especially those who haven't applied before. To find out more about the Growth Fund visit our website [here](#).

Articles of Enquiry: Each year we ask churchwardens to fill in a short survey about their church and parish. The survey provides a useful insight into current church life across Suffolk. The survey is available now until the end of September 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

Please note: there will be no editions of eNews on 21 or 28 August.

Vacancies

[Safeguarding Trainer and Training Coordinator](#) | Diocesan Office | Closing date: 15 August
[Finance Administrator](#) | Inspire Counselling and Training | Closing date: 26 August
[Fundraising Manager](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral | Closing date: 26 August
[Children and Families' Worker](#) | Alde Sandlings Benefice | Closing date: 31 August
[Team Vicar](#) | Sole Bay Team | Closing date: 1 September
[Benefice Coordinator & Communications](#) | The Benefice of Walton and Trimley | Closing date: 5 September
[Risk, Audit and Review Committee Chair](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral
[Associate Chaplain](#) | Sizewell C

Part-time Youth Worker | All Saints' Church, Ipswich | Please [email here](#) for more information

Treasurer | All Saints' Church, Thorndon | Closing date: 30 November | Please [email here](#)

for more information.

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