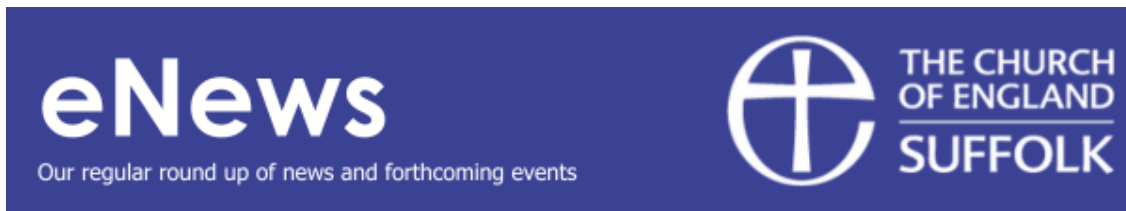


Thursday 20 February 2025



Growing Younger Conference 2025

One of our key diocesan aims is to *Grow Younger*, and to really hone in and find out about what that might mean we are holding a Growing Younger Conference this year on at St Michael's Church, Framlingham At 10.00am on 8 March. Come along for worship, important input, workshops and network with like-minded people who all want to Grow Younger.

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 to come alongside young people to grow in their faith and become confident disciples of Christ.

Laura Mumford, our Diocesan Growing Younger Enabler has highlighted three reasons on why you should attend the conference - watch our video below to find out more.



Laura Mumford, Diocesan Growing Younger Enabler

[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.

Elections to Committees

As you are aware, we held elections in November 2024 to a number of committees. There are still some vacancies, detailed below, and so we are currently holding a further round of elections this month.

Thank you to all those who stood and considered standing in supporting us in exercising sound governance across the Diocese. I hope that we can encourage more of you to become involved. If you feel called to work collaboratively, assisting in openness of communication and ensuring clarity of decision making, then please do come forward to offer your time and talents.

Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) election: The Board is particularly concerned with the promotion of education, church schools, RE and Collective Worship. The DBE, through its team of staff, provides a range of support services for schools, supports collaboration between schools, advises on headteacher appointments and admissions, and provides training for governors.

There are **2 vacancies** elected from Diocesan Synod who can be **either clergy or lay** and do not need to be members of Synod themselves.

Diocesan Board of Patronage: Is patron to a number of benefices within the diocese acting either solely or jointly with others. There is **one lay vacancy** on the Board, with a six year term running from 1st January 2025.

Vacancy in See: This committee considers the appointment of the new Diocesan Bishop when a vacancy occurs. The new membership takes up their office from 1 January 2025 for three years, until 31 December 2027. There is **one clergy** elected post, and **two laity** elected posts. Please note that the current Vacancy in See membership remains in place during the current and ongoing process to discern the next Diocesan Bishop after Bishop Martin retires in February 2025.

The deadline for nominations is at midday on **Monday 24 February 2025**.

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**'.

Coffee mornings, Kagera services, African doughnuts, children's crafts – there are some exciting plans to support this year's Lent appeal for Kagera. By popular demand the Challenge booklet is back to its original format with daily thoughts and challenges. Are you ready to count your saucepans? How many wheels help you get about? A local Lay Reader says, 'It's great to have a picture to pray on each day'. To get free copies for yourself or your church, email kagera@cofesuffolk.org. To see how your donations are helping, visit our [website here](#).

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 by Monday 24 February.

Lent Course - Christian Ethics

Sundays 9 March - 13 April, 4.00pm - 5.30pm | Darsham Village Hall, IP17 3FA

Discussing: principles of Christian ethical thinking, going to war, medical ethics, justice, money & human rights. Led by Revd Tim Rogers, with guest speakers: Major General (Retd) John Sutherland, David Burgess, Jill Stuchfield, Revd Nic Stuchfield, Prof. Lara Coleman. No cost, but donations toward the expenses welcome. Refreshments will be provided. All are welcome.

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](#).

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!](#)

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 2 April - St Edmundsbury Cathedral from 10.00am - 12.00pm and 2.00pm - 4.00pm | Book coming soon
- Wednesday 11 June - Diocesan Office, 4 Cutler Street, Ipswich from 2.00pm - 4.00pm | Book coming soon

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](#).

Christians and Assisted Dying - Day Conference

Thursday 22 May 2025, 10.45am - 2.45pm | The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham | Walsingham NR22 6EE

Listen to a range of speakers on the topics of Incarnation, Attitudes to Death and Assisted Dying. Open to clergy, ordinands and laity of all denominations. Cost is £25, and includes coffee/tea and lunch. Further details are [available here](#). To book your place, please email mihoward@btinternet.com.

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.

Notices

Grants for historic church interiors and churchyard structures: Offering grants for the conservation of our historic church interiors and churchyard structures in partnership with the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Pilgrim Trust, the Radcliffe Trust, the Oswald Allen Bequest, the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths, the Gunnis Fund, and the Anglican Parish Churches Fund. Full information available [here](#).

Safeguarding is now on Insight: We are delighted to announce that all our Safeguarding courses are listed on Insight, which makes finding a course even easier. You will need an Insight account to book your safeguarding course - please remember you will need to log in. This is so that completion of a course can be automatically recorded on our database and you will receive a reminder to book your next course three to six months before your training expires. Support from Insight (how to register, how to find your course, for example) is available from insight@cofesuffolk.org. For support regarding your Diocesan safeguarding training please email safeguarding.training@cofesuffolk.org. If you are uncertain about which Safeguarding course you need to attend please have a look at our website [here](#) or download [the tick list here](#).

New Electoral Roll: The Electoral Roll is a list of names and addresses of every person who can vote in the annual parochial church meeting. It is revised annually but replaced in its entirety every six years. 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](#).

Vacancies

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

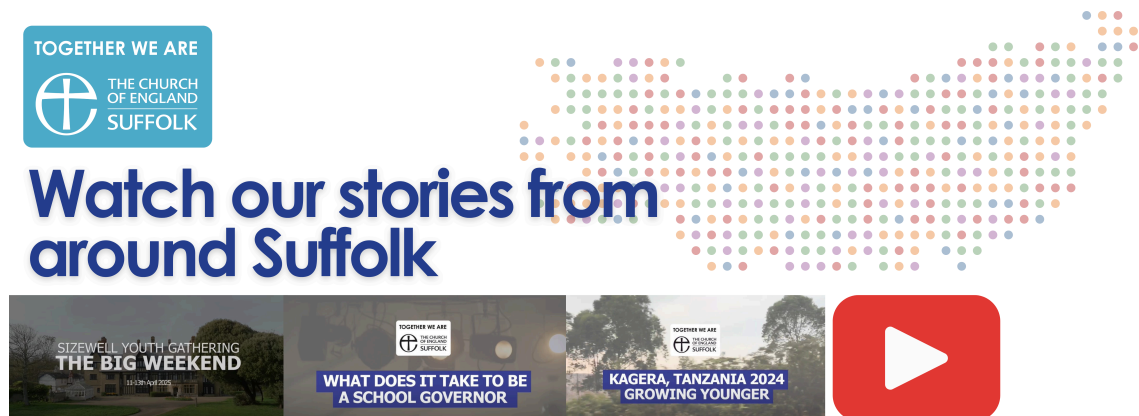
[Rector](#) | Woolpit and Drinkstone Benefice | Closing date: 21 May

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

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

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

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




TOGETHER WE ARE
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
SUFFOLK

Watch our stories from around Suffolk

SIZEWELL YOUTH GATHERING
THE BIG WEEKEND
11-13th April 2025

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE
A SCHOOL GOVERNOR

KAGERA, TANZANIA 2024
GROWING YOUNGER



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