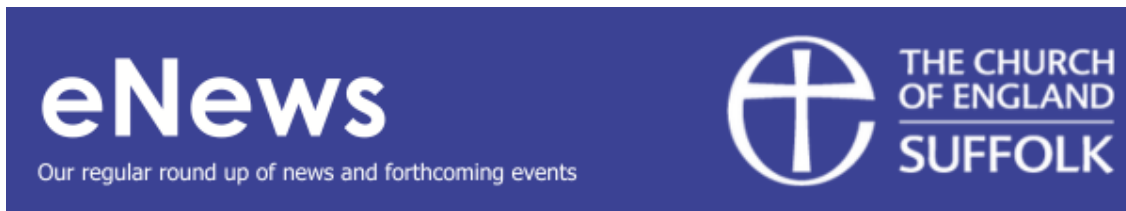


**Thursday 22 January 2026**



## **The Welcome and Enthronement of the Right Revd Dr Joanne Woolway Grenfell as the 12<sup>th</sup> Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich**

We are delighted that Bishop Joanne will receive her official welcome to our diocese this Saturday. This very special service for our diocese will be live-streamed to [the Cathedral's YouTube Channel](#) and we would be delighted if you can join us to celebrate together.

Please keep Bishop Joanne in your prayers as she prepares for this special day.

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### **Planning for Growth**



As a diocese, we have been encouraging the use of Plans for Growth for a number of years. During 2025, we reviewed our processes for Plans for Growth at both deanery and benefice level and we are thrilled to be offering a new package to support our parishes to make it easier. Advice, support and practical help is available from the Mission and Ministry Team, Diocesan Mission Enabler, the Revd [Katie de Bourcier](#). All the resources

are available on Insight [here](#).

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### **Envoy Spaces, Suffolk**



Envoy Spaces is the new home of Pioneering and Evangelism within our Mission and Ministry Team. Through different gatherings and small groups, we explore together what it means to live and share our faith well, within a mixed ecology of church; honouring and blessing the unique gifts that long-established and newly-pioneered ways both bring. Envoy Spaces, Suffolk is a partnership with Church Army. To contact the Envoy Spaces, Suffolk team please email [Gail Southgate](#), Lead

Pioneering and Evangelism Enabler, or [Bob Hamilton](#), Pioneering and Evangelism Enabler. Or visit our Insight page [here](#).

## Mission and Ministry Events

**Church of England Talk Series:** Archdeacon Rich Henderson - The Rural Church | 29 January, 7.30pm | Ipswich Minster IP1 3BN or on YouTube [here](#)

Join this talk, there will be a Q&A session after each talk and refreshments will be served for those attending the Minster. All welcome, no booking required. To find out more please visit [Ipswich Minster on Facebook here](#).

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**Enhancing Pastoral Ministry** | 28 January; 4, 11, 25 February; and 4, 11 March | 7.30pm - 9.30pm | Earl Stonham Village Hall IP14 5HJ

Enhancing Pastoral Ministry is a six-session course for people who are involved in pastoral care (for example, Readers, Lay Elders, clergy, pastoral visitors) as well as those interested in a deeper understanding. Guest speakers will include: Karen Galloway and members of the Diocesan Safeguarding team; Annabel Turner, member of the Diocesan counselling team, and the Diocesan Growing Younger team. [Book here](#).

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**Being a Treasurer: The Basics** | Thursday 29 January, 5 and 12 February, 7.00pm - 9.00pm | Online

Offered by ACAT, these sessions will help Treasurers navigate the complexities of being a church treasurer. Learn with confidence through this comprehensive three-session course covering legal duties, financial processes, budgeting, gift aid, and more – all presented by experienced trainers in a live Zoom webinar setting tailored for both new and seasoned treasurers. Click to book [here](#).

All our PCC treasurers are entitled to free membership of ACAT (Association of Church Accountants & Treasurers) through our diocesan block membership. If you would like to become a member please email [Julie Podd](#), Parish Resources Manager. Once you have joined ACAT you have access to their online training (at a small cost), their latest courses are listed on their website. We also encourage you to join our diocesan online **Treasurer Forum** which is a great place to network with other treasurers, and we regularly post useful information and resources for treasurers. Please email [Emma Denton](#) to receive your invitation to join.

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**Bubble Church: Grow your families ministry** | Thursday 29 January 2026, 12.00-1.00pm

You may have seen our Bubble Church advent calendar over the Christmas period. Now you can learn how Bubble Church has brought new worship to 76 churches across the UK through this online webinar. Find out about what this Sunday service of worship looks like, and hear from clergy who will share their experiences of how the service has brought in new families from their communities, 75% of whom are not from church backgrounds. Book [here](#) (Registration with Church Support Hub required),

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**PCC Workshop on Planning for Growth – what, why, who, how?** Thursday 12 February, 7.30-8.30pm | Online

Come and join this TEAMS webinar, led by Revd Katie de Bourcier, Diocesan Mission



Enabler to find out more about Planning for Growth in benefices and deaneries. Planning for Growth is one of the ways in which we seek to fulfil our vision to be a diocese that is Growing in God. Plans for Growth encourage us to work prayerfully, collaboratively, and creatively as we seek to share God's love in word and action. At this webinar, we will introduce the revised Plan for Growth templates and resources, talk about why Planning for Growth matters and how a Plan for Growth can be developed, and explain the help and support on offer from the Mission and Ministry Team. There will be a chance to ask your questions too. To book, please email [mission@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:mission@cofesuffolk.org).

**Fieldwork: Celebrating Rural Mission and Ministry in Suffolk** | 28 February 2026, 9.30am to 4.00pm | Wingfield Barns, Nr Diss IP21 5RA



Join this Diocesan day conference for church members, PCC members, those in our church schools, lay ministers and clergy from our rural parishes. We will hear from a great keynote speaker, the Revd Jo Neary – Tutor in Rural Ministry and Mission (part-time) at Sarum College, Salisbury, alongside her part-time post as team vicar and pioneer priest in the Beaminster Area Team in Wiltshire, who will encourage us to think about the distinctive identity, calling and potential of the rural church.

There will be time to share our stories of joy and challenge, and be encouraged and inspired. It is being organised by rural ministers with the help of Diocesan staff and is free to attend. [To register please book here.](#)

### **In the beginning was the story. A different approach to the New Testament |**

Starts Wednesday 29 April 2026 for seven weeks at Earl Stonham Village Hall  
Led by the Revd Canon John Parr, Approaching the New Testament takes a story-shaped approach to the heart of Christian faith. This course looks at the beginnings of what became Christianity, in the writings of the New Testament, and explores their narrative features. The New Testament writers passed on the gospel of Jesus Christ not as a collection of facts or doctrines, but as a series of stories that shaped people's lives. What can we learn from them about the challenges we face in doing the same in our day?  
[Please book here.](#)

**The Gathering** | Friday 24 April 6.00pm - Sunday 26 April 2.00pm | Vauxhall Farm, Great Wenham CO7 6QQ



The Gathering is a residential weekend organised in partnership with Ipswich CYM and youth leaders from across Ipswich. The excellent Tim Alford will be joining for the Friday night who will do a great job in delivering a Gospel talk. The cost for this weekend is £110 per young person. Bookings are managed by CYM Ipswich using the online *Ticket Taylor* system. If you have

questions, please don't hesitate to email [Jamie Swinerd](mailto:Jamie.Swinerd). To find out more and book please visit our website [here](#).

**Flourish** | Saturday 2 May 2026, , 9.30am for 10.00am – 3.00pm | The Salvation Army Hall, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

An invitation to all Readers, Licensed Lay Ministers and Lay Elders to join us for our annual study day. The guest speaker this year is the Revd Dr Thomas Sharp from St Augustine's College of Theology. A core part of Thomas's teaching focuses on human flourishing, especially how Christians care for others in times of hardship. The morning session focuses on Pastoral Care in a Broken World and the afternoon session is on the Theology of Safeguarding – what does it mean to care? Reserve your free space now! Click here: [Flourish - Insight CofE Suffolk](#).

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### **Youthscape Essentials**

Youthscape Essentials is all-round training for every youth leader. The course covers 30 different topics; including insights into youth culture, practical skills to build confidence and the development of leadership characteristics. This course is free and includes an extensive training manual which will be given to you before the first session. We are delighted that there are two learning streams available, online and in person.

Face to Face: 28 March, 9 May, 6 June with an online top-up session organised with delegates | venue will depend on the location of the delegates. To sign up to the face-to-face stream please click [here](#) and use course code "2201492"

Online by TEAMS: (Weds 7.00pm - 9.00pm): 16 September, 7 October, 11 November, 9 December, 13 January 2027, 10 February 2027, 10 March 2027, 14 April 2027, 12 May 2027 and 9 June 2027. To sign up to the online stream, please click [here](#) and use course code "2201540"

If you are interested in Youthscape Essentials but cannot make some/any of the above dates, then please do email [Jamie Swinerd](#), Diocesan Youth & Young Adults Enabler.

### **Church Community Services and Events**

**Holocaust Memorial Day Service** | Abbey Gardens, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS | Tuesday 27 January, 10.30am

The annual Holocaust Memorial Day Service will take place in the Peace Garden during this National Day of Remembrance, all victims of genocide are remembered, including more recent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. Joining the service will be school students, local councillors and the MP who will contribute to the service. St Edmundsbury Cathedral will be open throughout the day for reflection and contemplation. All are welcome.

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### **United in Solace and Grace**

Saturday 7 February, 11.00am | St Edmundsbury Cathedral including an exhibition by local artists and survivors organisations and Sunday 8 February, 4.00pm | All Saints Holbrook 'United in Solace and Grace' is a series of reflective church services which are designed to reach out to survivors of abuse of all kinds, families, supporters and professionals. You are invited to join the above services to mark 'It's Not OK Week'. For more information about United in Solace and Grace please visit [www.solaceandgrace.co.uk](http://www.solaceandgrace.co.uk) or email the Revd [Jenny Seggar](#).

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**Concert** | Saturday 14 February, 4.00pm | St Margaret's Church, Soane Street, Ipswich, IP4 2BT

A late afternoon concert featuring members of Trianon Symphony Orchestra, Ipswich Choral Society and the Ipswich Gilbert and Sullivan Society. Warm welcome and warm drinks. Retiring donations. Parking available in St Margaret's School car park.

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**Open Table Eucharist** | Saturday 14 February, 5.00pm | St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Join us for our Open Table Eucharist. This service is for LGBTQIA+ people, their friends, families and allies. We welcome those of any faith or background, every gender identity and sexual orientation. All are welcome, but please respect that this service is created to be a safe, sacred space for those who need it.

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**Teach Rex** | Monday 16 and Tuesday 17 February 10.30am & 2.00pm | St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Join us this half term for everything dinosaur! 🦖 Come along and experience an audience with a T-Rex! Teach Rex returns to the Cathedral on Monday 16 and Tuesday 17 February with sessions at 10.30 am and 2.00 pm. Tickets on [sale here](#).

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**Benedict Lecture with Abbot Christopher Jamison** | Tuesday 17 February 6.30pm | St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

In our inaugural Benedict lecture, Abbot Christopher Jamison explores how we might frame the future. Pessimism is the frame of the future for many people in Britain today. Why? What frame does Christian faith generate? Tickets cost £5 and [are available here](#).

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**Jubilate Choir Choral Evening Song**, All Saints Church, Easton IP13 0EE. What3Words: finer.worth.cracking | Sunday 15 February, 6.00pm

Orebeck Benefice is delighted to invite you to join the Jubilate Choir when they will sing Choral Evensong according to the order of the Book of Common Prayer. Jubilate has been active in Suffolk since 2016 and is known for its traditional service of Choral Evensong, which includes a selection of well-loved music from the English choral tradition. Jubilate consists of between 12 and 16 experienced singers including a cantor. It makes no charge for its services and exists to promote and preserve the service of Choral Evensong and its inclusion in traditional parish worship. You will be very welcome to join this moving traditional service.

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**Society of Catholic Priests (SCP)** | Thursday 26 February, 11.00am, St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

The St Edmundsbury and Ipswich chapter of the SCP meet four times a year for a Eucharist, talk, lunch and conversation. The society is inclusive - for ordained men and women - and it celebrates humanity in all God-given diversity with respect to ethnicity, gender and sexuality. It is in the catholic tradition found within the Anglican communion and is centred on the Eucharist. Join the next meeting by the Revd Canon Stuart Batten on Desert Spirituality. For more information please email [Mother Ali](#).

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**Psalmscape** | Saturday 28 February 2026, 11.00am to 4.30pm, All Hallows Church, Ipswich IP3 0EN

Join the Cantus Firmus Choir for a day to explore the Psalms through music. You will sing a variety of music inspired by the Psalms, in a broad range of musical styles. There will be reflections on the Psalms, led by Revd Emma Steadman. The day will end with a short act

of worship, incorporating some of the music learned during the day. The event is suitable for all who enjoy choral singing. Details and booking at [cantusfirmus.org.uk](http://cantusfirmus.org.uk)

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**Grandparent Day** | Saturday 14 March, 10.30am - 2.30pm | Thomas Clarkson Centre Hospital Rd Bury St Edmunds IP33 3JT

What does it take to be a Grandparent of Faith? Come to be affirmed, supported and encouraged. The day will start with worship, and will include key speakers and workshops. Free tickets are [available here](#).

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**Parish/Benefice/Deanery visits to St Edmundsbury Cathedral:** There is an opportunity to come together to the cathedral during this year on the following Sunday afternoons: 19 April, 10 May, 14 June, 5 July, 18 October. The established pattern is to arrive in good time for a Reflective Pilgrimage at 2.00pm; Choral Evensong at 3.30pm where visiting clergy/LLMs are invited to robe and for the first lesson to be read, the group remembered in prayers, followed by tea and cake in Pilgrims' Kitchen afterwards, departure is usually by 5.00pm. Please email the Revd Canon [Mark Haworth](#), Cathedral Chaplain to book a date and for any further information.

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**Icon Workshop with Sr Annette Lawrence DMJ** | September 7 -11 2026 | St Mary and St Botolph Church Whitton, Ipswich IP1 6LT

A rare opportunity to attend a non residential icon workshop for just £250. Residential workshops cost between £800 and £1000 plus. Sr Annette is an extremely experienced and talented teacher and guide with many years of experience running these workshops. No experience or artistic ability needed - suitable for complete novice or experienced iconographers! The blessing of your own icon to take away at the end of the week. You will need to be a to attend fully every day. Numbers are limited to 12 maximum so early booking advised. For more information and a booking form email The Revd [Mary Sokanovic](#) Rector Whitton with Thurleston and Akenham or call 07824323073

## Notices

**Energy Footprint Tool launched on 12 January 2026:** The Energy Footprint Tool (EFT) is now open for churches to enter energy use from 2025. Every footprint we leave behind shapes God's creation. Recording your energy use is an unseen but essential act of caring for people and the planet. Completing the EFT is a simple but powerful way to support the Church of England's shared journey to net zero. Each year's data builds a clearer picture of our carbon footprint and helps us act more strategically together. Complete your EFT on the Parish Returns Portal [here](#). If you require log-in details or any other assistance with the online portal, please email [statistics@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:statistics@cofesuffolk.org). If you need help with the EFT please email [James Rolls](#), our Net Zero Carbon Officer.

**Statistics for Mission:** Thank you to all parishes who have completed their Statistics for Mission forms - the data you provide helps to offer insights into trends such as attendance and electoral roll. The National Church deadline is 31 January 2026. 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 email [statistics@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:statistics@cofesuffolk.org). Further information regarding Parish returns, including videos on how to submit, can be found here: [Stats for Mission - Insight CofE](#)



[Suffolk.](#)

**Generosity and Giving at Easter:** The Diocesan Parish Resources Team have contactless giving devices available for loan allowing you to 'try before you buy'. There is still time to get a device in place before your Easter services and events. Or you could borrow a device for a specific event you have planned. If a device is not for you, what about online giving? Online giving is right for everyone. Does your [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com) page have a link to your Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) page (for those in the PGS) or to your Give a Little donation page? We can help you setting up Give a Little accounts, joining the PGS, please email [Emma Denton](#) or [Trudie Harkin](#) for PGS questions, account set up, borrowing or buying devices.

**Raffle for Free Collectin More Contactless Device:** The Parish Resources Team have a Collectin More device which we would like to offer to a parish **FOR FREE!** Churches must have Wi-Fi installed in the church for the device to work. Please apply by emailing [Julie Podd](#), Parish Resources Manager by 30 January 2026 if you would like to go into the draw. Churches will be notified by the middle of February if they have been successful and will need to send us a picture of the installed device to use in our promotion materials.

**Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme:** The Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme (LPWGS) closes on the 31 March this year (or earlier if the remaining £6m is claimed, whichever is sooner). If you can, claim now! The scheme allows listed places of worship of all faiths across the UK to reclaim the full amount of VAT they pay on repairs over £1,000. A good way to keep this in the forefront of the government's mind is for churches to thank their MP and invite them to see the works they have completed. The LPWG Scheme has attracted strong parliamentary interest and churches need the certainty of funding available from 1 April 2026.

**George van Kooten's book: "Reverberations of Good News: The Gospels in Context, Then and Now":** Based on the sessions George van Kooten led in the Bishops' Teaching Mornings, his new book has just been published by [SCM here](#).

## Vacancies

[Kids Pastor](#) | [Worship Pastor](#) | [Executive Assistant](#) | River Church | Closing date: 31 January

[Choir Director](#) | All Hallows Church, Ipswich | Closing date: 31 January

[Rector](#) | Box River Benefice | Closing date: 4 February

[Diocesan Director of Education](#) | Diocesan Office | Closing date: 9 February

[Team Vicar & Associate Priest](#) | Blyth Valley Team Ministry | Closing date: 11 February

[HR Administration Assistant](#) | Closing date: 12 February

[Church Administrator](#) | Christ Church Felixstowe | Closing date: 20 February

[Youth Minister](#) | St John's Woodbridge | Closing date: 27 February


[Lightwave Pioneer Leader](#) | Bridge Communities, Suffolk

[Team Vicar](#) | Sole Bay Team

[Team Vicar](#) | Forest Heath Team Ministry





[Non-Executive Safeguarding Chapter Member](#) | [Cathedral Volunteers](#) | [Risk, Audit and Review Committee Member](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral  
[Associate Chaplain](#) | Sizewell C  
Royal Naval Chaplaincy | email the Chaplain Recruiter, the Revd [Alastair Blaine](#) RN.




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TOGETHER WE ARE  
THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
SUFFOLK

## Watch our stories from around Suffolk





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