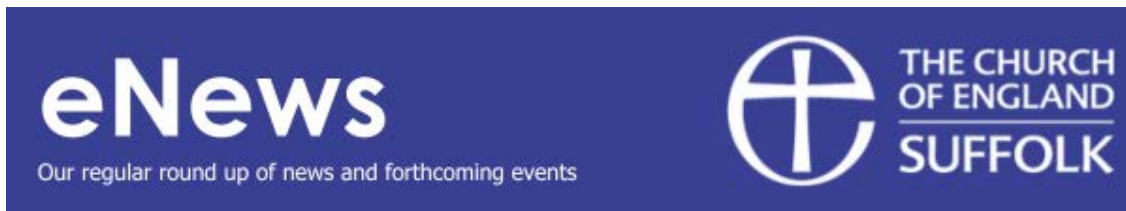


Thursday 23 January 2025



St Mary le Tower becomes Ipswich Minster



The church of St Mary le Tower is now known as Ipswich Minster following a service led by Bishop Martin on Sunday 19 January.

The status of Minster is an honorific title bestowed on major churches of regional significance in the Church of England, to reflect their importance and contribution to the local communities they serve.

Bishop Martin said: *"This was an historic moment not just for the Ipswich community but for the Diocese as a whole in Suffolk and it was the highlight of a weekend of events enjoyed by so many people. They explored this beautiful church, and engaged in a wide variety of events, becoming part of this historic official redesignation of the church. The redesignation strengthens the church's desire to serve the town and play an important role in the lives of all who live, work and visit here. We will serve the people of Ipswich, listen to their needs and help them to face the challenges of daily life in a busy modern world."*

The service rounded off three days of celebration in Ipswich where hundreds of people enjoyed tours of the church, a feature in the town for more than 1000 years. Read the [full story on our website here](#).

A Suffolk high school welcomes a former nurse as chaplain



The Revd Keith Rengert, a former specialist nurse, has become chaplain of Debenham High School and associate priest in the Debenham and Helmingham Benefice. He was licensed by Bishop Martin at a ceremony in the school on Friday 10 January.

Keith spent more than 20 years in a nursing career including seven as a specialist nurse at Ipswich Hospital before becoming ordained in Norwich. He has also had voluntary chaplaincy roles with Norwich International Airport, East of England Ambulance Service Trust and the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

Read the [full story on our website here](#).

The 'Place by the Water': learn more about the importance of well-being

This week we've been reflecting on the importance of well-being. With 'Blue Monday' at the start of the week, it serves as a timely reminder for us all to check in with ourselves, make space for rest, and take steps to recharge. While mental health challenges can affect us year-round—not just in January—moments like this encourage us to prioritise our well-being and take intentional action.

We're excited to share this video featuring The Place by the Water, a Christian retreat centre in Shottisham that offers a peaceful space to step away and take some time out. The Revd Kathy Wilson, who runs the retreat centre, provides prayerful support and is ready to assist you however you may need.

To learn more or get in touch, you can reach out via their social media, email theplacebythewater@gmail.com, or visit their website at www.theplacebythewater.co.uk. For other retreat centres and information about quiet days and spaces, click [here](#).



The important of well-being

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. 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 months before your training expires.

To register for Insight:

- Go to <https://insight.cofesuffolk.org/>
- Click on register on the right hand side and follow the on screen instructions.

To find a Safeguarding Course from the Insight home page once you are logged in:

- Scroll down and click on the Safeguarding umbrella icon, as pictured above
- Select the relevant subcategory for the Safeguarding training you want to do - Basic, Foundation, Leadership and so on. .
- Find the course you want to attend and click enrol. Complete the form, pressing submit at the end.
- Check your details and then once happy click the red box 'Proceed to checkout'. You can amend details here if there is an error.
- Click the red box 'Place order'.
- You will receive an email to confirm your order, and we will also send a reminder email just before the course starts.

Where can you get further support?

Support from Insight 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](#).

Events

Service of Farewell for Bishop Martin

Sunday 2 February, 3.30pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP31 1LS

The Dean warmly invites you to attend a Farewell Service for Bishop Martin Seeley. A reception will follow. RSVPs are required for seating and catering purposes. Please confirm your attendance by way of the attached [Google Form](#) at your earliest convenience. If you have any problems submitting the RSVP form, or have any questions, please contact the Cathedral at 01284 748720.

Sepsis Awareness Talk

Saturday 25 January, 2.00pm for 2.30pm start

King Edward VII Memorial Hall, High Street, Newmarket CB8 8JP

An opportunity to learn more in collaboration with All Saints' Church, Anglian CPR and Newmarket Town Council. Join this free event, open to all, to find out who can be affected, signs and symptoms, accessing support, recovery and more.

AChurchNearYou.com: How to use the platform as your church's free website

Join this extended webinar, covering the features of AChurchNearYou.com that are available for individual churches, and the new benefice functionality that could help those of you who edit multiple churches. Come along to a live demonstration to gain confidence editing your site.

Wednesday 29 January at 2.00pm | Book [here](#)

Wednesday 12 February at 11.00am. | Book [here](#).

Awakenings | Suffolk Chamber Choir with special guests Suffolk Soul Singers

Saturday 1 February, doors open at 7.00pm for a prompt 7.30pm start.

St Margaret's Church, Ipswich IP4 2BE

This inaugural concert of the newly formed semi-professional Suffolk Chamber Choir, led by Dominic Ellis-Peckham with special guests, Suffolk Soul Singers directed by Andi Hopgood. You can expect a packed programme of sacred and secular music from a range of composers. Refreshments and interval drinks will be available. Tickets are [available here](#) or on the door.

Give to Go Green: Match Funding, Fundraising success stories and how your church can get involved!



Great news! Give to Go Green launches second round. In this drop-in session James Rolls and Emma Denton will be talking about Give to Go Green, a match funding, £1 for £1 initiative set up to help churches carry out net zero carbon projects in their buildings. We'll be talking to churches that have already taken part, in the first round giving you a chance to hear about their amazing fundraising successes and the great things they will be

doing with these funds. We'll be running through what funds are on offer, the projects that are eligible for support, how to apply and what support will be available to your church throughout the scheme. There will also be plenty of time for you to ask any questions that you may have. There is up to £10,000 of match funding on offer to each church that applies, so be sure to join us and find out more about this fantastic opportunity. For more information please email: james.rolls@cofesuffolk.org.

Tuesday 4 February, 1.00pm | [Book here](#)

Wednesday 5 February, 7.00pm | [Book here](#)

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

The Alliance Gathering with Jago Wynne

Thursday 6 February, 7.30pm | River Church, Ipswich IP4 1BZ

Join an evening with Jago Wynne, Vicar of Holy Trinity Clapham and Director of The Alliance, hosted by the Suffolk Diocesan Evangelical Network (SDEN). For further information and to book email [the Revd Al Metcalfe](#).

Lower than the Angels: a History of Sex and Christianity.

Thursday 6 February at 7.30pm | St John's Church, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1SN

Join Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch. Advance tickets from [We Got Tickets](#). For further information email [Adrian Mann](#) or call on 01284 753984.

Discover the music and worship resources of Iona - workshop and service

Saturday 15 February | Workshop 2.00pm | Service 4.30pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP31 1LS



A workshop exploring the rich and varied worship resources of the Iona Community. We'll be discovering (and singing) a range of songs produced by the Wild Goose Resource Group, and looking at poems, prayers and reflections that can be used creatively in acts of worship. The workshop will be especially useful for those

involved in planning and leading worship, but is also suitable for anyone who enjoys singing. Workshop leader: Richard Hubbard, St Edmundsbury & Ipswich Music Development Director, with local members of the Iona Community. The workshop will be followed at 4.30pm by a service incorporating Iona resources. Tickets cost £6 and are available [here](#). Admission to the service is free. For more information, email music.development@stedscathedral.org.

Digital Surgery with the Diocesan Parish Resources Team

Wednesday, 19 February, 10.00am

Join 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. Find out about and get help with purchasing or borrowing a contactless device, setting up online giving (including QR codes), get your contactless device repaired or updated with new campaigns, find out how to have an effective online giving presence on your ACNY or website pages. Book half hour 1:1 slots to address your digital giving needs. For more information email [Emma Denton](#) or [Emma Rowlinson](#), Diocesan Giving Advisors. Please note there is no parking available. Please [book here](#).

Faith Story with Katie de Bourcier

Monday 24 February, 7.00pm. By Zoom



Katie de Bourcier joined as Diocesan Mission Enabler in 2024. Prior to that she was Team Rector for a rural market town and several villages in north Essex, having served her curacy in a busy parish in Chelmsford. Before ordination Katie worked for the Ministry of Defence for a number of years as a civil servant, gaining valuable experience of leadership, change management, and organisational development. But she always suspected that God had something else up his sleeve! In this hour-

long conversation, Katie will share her faith journey with us, and 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](#).

Rural Ministry Support and Learning Space

Option 1 – 2.00pm - 3.30pm Thursday February 27, 2025 - Earl Stonham Village Hall, Forward Green, Stowmarket IP14 5HJ

Option 2 – 7.30pm – 9.00pm Wednesday March 5, 2025 - Teams

Following recent feedback the Diocesan Mission and Ministry team want to explore the value in bringing together incumbents in rural multi-parish settings for mutual support and learning. These two meetings offer a chance to share your ideas about what you would find useful, and what a learning community for this purpose might look like. Do come along and share your thoughts; or if you can't make it to either meeting, please get in touch to share your views. For more information, please email the Revd Katie de Bourcier, Diocesan Mission Enabler, or call on 07955 273158.

To book, please [click here](#).

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, who 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](#).

A workshop for all who enjoy singing music for worship

Saturday 8 March 2025, 10.00am – 4.00pm

St Mary's Church, Halesworth IP19 8LL

From Tallis to Townend – an enthralling musical journey through Christian worship music. Explore a wealth of eclectic styles, from the music of the early church to the vibrant sounds of today's worship. Something for everyone, whether you are an experienced choral singer, or simply enjoy singing in church. The workshop will also be ideal for anyone involved in planning worship, demonstrating a range of creative possibilities for churches of all sizes. Workshop leader: Richard Hubbard, St Edmundsbury & Ipswich Music Development Director. Cost: Tickets for the workshop cost £10, and are available by clicking the button. Admission to the service is free. For more information, contact music.development@stedscathedral.org click here to [book](#).

Lark Rise Retreats - Poetry and Prayer

Saturday 22 March, 10.00am - 4.00pm

St John the Baptist, Felixstowe IP11 7PW

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. There will be refreshments but please bring your

own lunch. Everyone welcome. More details and bookings on www.larkriseretreats.org or call 01394 284213.

Autism (ASD) Training Day

Friday 28 March 9.00am - 4.15pm

St Andrew's Church Hall, Rushmere St Andrew IP5 1DH

This workshop offers practical and creative approaches to meet the unique needs of individuals with ASD, including difficulties in communication, sensory processing and social interaction. The workshop will cover the basics of ASD, and explore how some creative activities can provide safe, structured ways for individuals to express feelings and experiences that may be hard to communicate verbally. The standard cost is £90.00 per person, but a discounted rate of £70.00 is available for students, and for those working for the NHS, charities and churches/Diocese. For more information and for details on how to apply please [click here](#).

The Big Weekend

Friday 11 April, 11.00am - Sunday 13 April, 4.00pm

Sizewell Hall, Leiston IP16 4TX

The Big Weekend is organised by the Church of England here in St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, and run by experienced youth workers from around Suffolk. It's a weekend of craziness, worship, games and friendship all focused around learning more about living as a Christian in the 21st. 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](#).

Lark Rise Retreats - Finding Inner Peace - Practising Meditation & Mindfulness

Saturday 26 April, 10.00am - 4.00pm

St Edmund's Church, Felixstowe IP11 2HL

Led by the Revd Catherine Bond who will be teaching the practice of meditation and offering people the opportunity to be in meditation together. When we create space within ourselves by letting go of concerns or worries, we create space for God's peace and healing. Everyone welcome. More details and bookings on www.larkriseretreats.org or call on 01394 284213.

In the beginning was the story... a different kind of introduction to the New Testament

Earl Stonham Village Hall, Stowmarket IP14 5HJ

Wednesdays 30 April, 7 May, 14 May, 28 May, 4 June, 11 June and 18 June, 7.30pm - 9.30pm

In the beginning was the story. 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 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. There will be a choice of 12 workshops to attend to help your church become more informed and better

resourced to grow a generous culture and reach financial sustainability. Bishop Graeme will open the conference. All those who are part of the Church of England Suffolk community are welcome. For more information and to book please click [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](#).

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 24-hour 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.](#)

Notices

Government's Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme will be extended: The scheme gives grants towards VAT paid on repairs and renovations to the nation's listed sites of worship across the UK providing £23 million so that thousands of historical buildings, including churches, synagogues, mosques and temples, can carry out restoration work. Full article [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 \(see here\)](#), 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](#) | North Bosmere Benefice | Closing date: 28 January

[Archdeacon of Ipswich](#) | Closing date: 29 January

[Historic Church Building Support Officer \(HCBSO\)](#) | Closing date: 2 February

[Children and Families Pastor](#) | Beccles | Closing date: 7 February

[Perfect Peace Project Administrator \(Part-time\)](#) | Closing date: 10 February

[Team Rector](#) | Wilford Peninsula Team Ministry | Closing date: 12 February

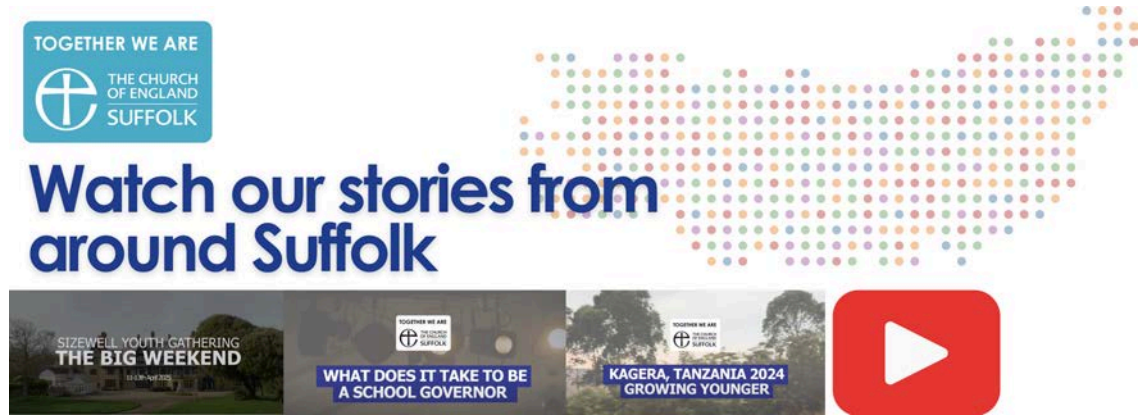
[Learning Development Manager \(Insight\)](#) | Closing date: 12 February

[Personal Assistant to Diocesan Secretary](#) | Closing date: 16 February

[Governance Manager](#) | Closing date: 27 February

Project Coordinator | St Mary's Church East Bergholt, please email stmaryschurcheb@gmail.com | Closing date: 24 January

[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

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE A SCHOOL GOVERNOR

KAGERA, TANZANIA 2024 GROWING YOUNGER



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