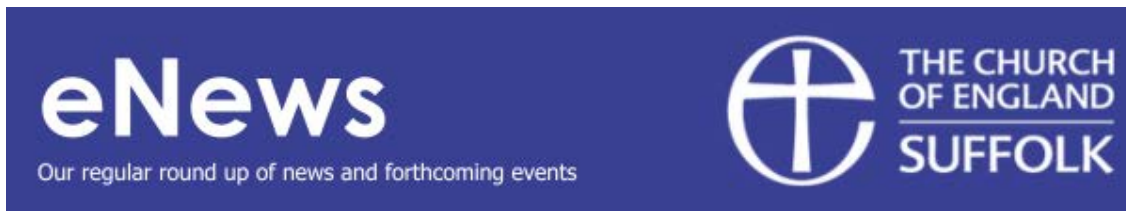


Thursday 26 June 2025



Welcome to the new Archdeacon of Ipswich



The Revd Canon Samantha Brazier-Gibbs has been appointed Archdeacon of Ipswich and Director of Inspiring Ipswich. She was collated on Tuesday at Ipswich Minster, a legal act to confirm her transition from parish priest to archdeacon. She will be installed at St Edmundsbury Cathedral on Sunday 20 July at 3.30pm.

Bishop Graeme said: *"We were delighted to welcome Samantha into the Diocese with a special service at Ipswich Minster. She has not moved far, coming from the Chelmsford Diocese in Essex, however, she will bring with her a wealth of experience in urban and rural settings which will be invaluable to our Diocese. The way in which she has balanced tradition with growth will inspire us to ensure that the Church in Suffolk remains relevant to all age groups."* Read the full story [here](#).

Ordinations

On Saturday 28 June Bishop Graeme will ordain 13 deacons and 12 priests, please join in praying for these candidates, their families and the people they will serve.

To be ordained Deacon at 11.00am

Mrs Catherine Cox | Haverhill with Withersfield

Dr Glenda Hall | Hadleigh, Layham and Shelley

Dr Charlotte Harkness | Chadbrook Benefice

Mrs Ann Hastings-Payne | The Benefice of Hundred River and Wainford; Wrentham, Covehithe with Benacre, Henstead with Hulver and Frostenden

Mrs Karen Lawson | The Benefice of Woodbridge St John and Bredfield

Mrs Teresa Lester | The Benefice of Brett Valley

Mr Andy Little | Combs and Finborough

Mrs Fiona Malby | The Cockfield Benefice

Mr Peter Plummer | The Benefice of Woodbridge St John and Bredfield

Mrs Maria Price | Sancroft Benefice

Dr Andrew Revitt | Ipswich St Matthew with Triangle and All Saints

Mr Edmund Smith | The Blyth Valley Team Benefice

Mrs Emma Steadman | Wickham Market with Pettistree

To be ordained Priest at 2.30pm

The Revd Rob Allinson | Martlesham with Brightwell

The Revd Phillip Allison | The Benefice of Ipswich St Helen, Holy Trinity and St Clement with St Luke

The Revd Raul Diaz de Arkaia | The Benefice of the Forest Heath Team Ministry

The Revd Greg Gooch | The Benefice of the Wilford Peninsula

The Revd Carole Jones | Bacton with Wyverstone, Cotton and Old Newton, and Wickham Skeith

The Revd Helen Prior-Townsend | Ipswich St Margaret

The Revd Gregor Purdie | Ipswich St Mary-le-Tower

The Revd Simon Ramacci | The Benefice of Westerfield and Tuddenham St Martin with Witlesham

The Revd Dr Tony Rich | Sancroft Benefice

The Revd Alison Roberts | Haughley with Wetherden and Stowupland

The Revd Georgina South | The Benefice of Felixstowe St Peter and St Paul with St Andrew and St Nicholas

The Revd Mandy Tucker | Saxmundham with Kelsale cum Carlton

Bishop Martin receives the Suffolk Medal



Five individuals who made a positive and lasting difference to local people and their quality of life were awarded the coveted Suffolk Medal last Saturday. Bishop Martin received the award for inspiring diverse congregations and communities and using his wisdom, humility and good humour to steer the county in matters of faith.

Bishop Martin Seeley said: *"I feel incredibly humbled and honoured to have been awarded the Suffolk Medal. As someone who originates from outside the county, this honour makes me feel I have come home. It has been a huge privilege to serve the people of Suffolk, and I am so*

grateful for the ten years I have spent in this wonderful county."

The other recipients were: Phil Aves, Wilfrid George, Andrew Harston and Mark Pendlington DL. Please read the full story on our [website here](#).

Framlingham College Confirmation Service 2025



27 students (a College record) were confirmed in Framlingham College Chapel on Friday 13 June. The evening proved to be a memorable occasion for all the confirmands and supporting families. The Assistant Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, the Rt Rev Tim Stevens, confirmed the students in a warm and informative manner... and made that bit warmer,

because of the sultry evening and jam-packed chapel! The Revd Canon Brynn Bayman, College Chaplain, said, *"Seeing a chapel full, and the joy of all in our wider Community was a delight. A delight also evident, as each Confirmand received a candle from a loved one in their family"*. The College took a retiring collection in aid of the Bishop's Training Fund and the Motor Neuron Disease Association (MNDA).

Together We Pray: 'Together We Pray' is being led by the Bishop's Chaplains team over the summer. They will be delivering our morning prayers from Monday 30 June. Tune in at 8.30am on the [Bishop's Facebook page](#) to watch live or visit the page to watch again later in the day.

Energy Footprint Tool



Did you know that last year over £100,000 of funding was available to parishes that had completed the Energy Footprint Tool? Numerous parishes have already benefitted from this funding to improve their heating and upgrade their lighting.

We want to say a huge thank you to everyone who has submitted the Energy Footprint Tool for their church. This gives us an understanding of our

progress towards net zero carbon and helps us to continue to care for creation. There is still time to submit your entry - the tool closes for submissions on **Monday 30 June**. If you need any help to complete the tool, then contact our Net Zero Carbon Officer at james.rolls@cofesuffolk.org

Events

Thomas Clarkson week

28 June - 6 July | Kesgrave & Fynn Valley Churches

This year St Mary's church in Playford is offering a whole week of activities to mark Clarkson's remarkable achievements and help visitors realise the extent to which Modern Slavery blights the lives of people living amongst us. Events include a free showing of the film 'Amazing Grace' on Saturday 28 June in Playford Village Hall at 6.30pm, including refreshments. During the week of 28 June to 6 July Playford Church will host an free exhibition of pictures and texts about Clarkson's work along with some modern artefacts from Africa. On Saturday 5 July at 10.00am, the Fynn Valley Walks Group is organising a walk of around four miles in and around Playford and the lands which helped to fund Clarkson's campaign. The week culminates with a service in thanksgiving for Clarkson's fight against slavery which will be held in Playford church at 11.00am on Sunday 6 July to which all are welcome. Refreshments will be served after the service. For further information please email revdotchin@gmail.com or visit Facebook [here](#).

Bats Talk with Cheese and Wine

St Peter & St Paul with St Edmund, Hoxne IP21 5AT

Friday 4 July, 7.45pm

Discover all you need to know about the bats that occupy the church and churchyard. Evening led by Sue Morgan, Anglia Ecology. Tickets cost £10 to include cheese & wine

buffet, £5 for children. Tickets can be purchased in advance by e-mailing cabbott364@gmail.com or calling 01379 668359. Ample parking is available behind the church in the car park.

Care into Action

Saturday 5 July, 9.15 - 1.00pm | Salvation Army Hall, 3 Violet Hill Road, Stowmarket IP14 1NE



A morning of talks and workshops to support our mission for the environment. Do you need help getting started with an Eco Church award? Do you want to explore how your church could move forward with its mission for the environment and climate justice? Do you need to find out how your church could benefit by addressing environment issues?

Wherever you are with your mission to care for God's creation, the "Care into Action" conference is for you. Book [here](#). For more information, please contact [the Revd Canon Alison Alder](#), the Diocesan Environment Officer.

Growing Hope clinic

Monday 7 July, 7.30pm - 9.00pm | Holy Trinity Church Hall, Back Hamlet, Ipswich IP3 8AJ

[Growing Hope](#) is a charity providing free therapy for children and young people with additional needs in partnership with local churches across the UK. It brings hope to children through free therapy such as occupational therapy, physio, speech and language, art therapy, or counselling. Growing Hope shares hope in Jesus, because he brings hope even in the most difficult situations. Join this session to hear from Vicki Smith, Interim CEO, about the story and vision behind Growing Hope and the impact Growing Hope clinics are having on children and families in local communities. Please note that there is free parking on Back Hamlet after 6.00pm. For more questions and to book please email Inspiring Ipswich Pioneer Developer, Bob.Hamilton@cofesuffolk.org.

Facilitation Skills for Church Leaders

Wednesday 9 July, 10.00am | St Felix of Dunwich Church, Rendlesham IP12 2GG

This one-day training is for Rural Deans, Lay Chairs, incumbents, curates, diocesan staff and others in leadership roles requiring skilled, creative facilitation of meetings and events. Led by Nicky McGinty, an experienced leadership trainer and self-supporting priest, it will offer practical tools and approaches for facilitating workshops and discussions, and engaging with a wide range of stakeholders. While applicable to many scenarios, these skills may be particularly helpful for those leading and supporting people through times of change. Only 20 spaces are available, please book [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.

Quiet Day with Bishop Tim Stevens

Thursday 10 July, 10.00am for 10.30am start to 3.30pm | The Barn, The Rookery, Hollesley Road, Eyke IP12 2RR

Starting with a celebration of the Eucharist, this day will be considering the motto of the Carthusian Order - 'The Cross stands firm while the world turns' - exploring Christian living in a profoundly uncertain world. Please bring food to share at lunch-time - drinks will be provided. Participants are welcome to stroll in the delightful gardens. Please book

with Michael Wilde: 01284 767415 or email cormack246@gmail.com. A £10 donation made on the day towards costs would be very much appreciated.

The Secret Garden Quiet Day

Thursday 10 July | Metfield | 10.00am – 4.00pm or

Saturday 12 July | Felixstowe | 10.00am – 4.00pm

We invite you to enjoy a quiet day led by the Revd Jane Pearse exploring Frances Hodgson Burnett's well-loved book *The Secret Garden* featuring the story of awakening from grief and finding sources of hope, renewal and redemption. The day costs £25/person including lunch. Please book via the [Lark Rise Website](#) or by emailing larkriseretreats@gmail.com

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 serve.

Thursday 10 July | The Revd Dr Hannah Malcolm, parish priest and author | Place and the Local

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](#).

A Summer Night's Organ Concert

Saturday 12 July, 7.00pm | St Mary Church, Woodbridge IP12 4LP

Join Director of Music, James Davy, for an super evening of music. Tickets £10 per person, students free. In aid of the Building Project Appeal to modernise and develop St Mary's House, the church and churchyard.

Faith Story – with Laura Mumford

Monday 14 July, 7.00pm, online

All are welcome to join us for the next 'Faith Story' in our series as the Revd Laura Mumford, Diocesan Growing Younger Enabler, shares her faith journey with us. In January 2025, Laura brought her passion and experience to the Mission and Ministry team, taking on the role of Growing Younger Enabler. Before this, she served as a school Chaplain at the



Royal Hospital School in Holbrook, where she blended her priestly calling with her background in teaching Religious Studies. Find out more and book [here](#).

Eco Day | St Mary's Church Blakenham

Saturday 30 August, 2.00pm | The 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 the environment and the planet. There will be stalls with Eco information and products. Details from wendyatstmaryschurch@gmail.com. All are welcome.

A Feast of Music

Friday 19 September, 7.30pm | St Mary and St Peter's Church, Barham IP6 0PU

Join the Mothers' Union as they host a evening of music from local musicians. Be entertained, eat cake and raise money for the MU. Why not bring a friend along?

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](#).

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 | Kesgrave - see Insight for address

We are holding a Chaplains' 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. Karen will cover recognising shame and when we are in it, together with the associated behaviours, emotions and thoughts. This day will give you the opportunity to work individually and together, will help you better support the people you work with and care for and will offer a time for personal development and growth.

This training is face-to-face. Should you require further information please contact Inspire on email contact@inspirecounselling.org.uk.

Understanding and Working with Relationships and Family Dynamics

Friday 28 November 2025, 9.00am - 4.00pm | St. Andrew's Church Hall, Rushmere St. Andrew, Ipswich IP5 1DH

The day 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.
- Working with endings

This training is face-to-face. Should you require further information please contact Inspire or email contact@inspirecounselling.org.uk.

Iona Pilgrimage: Lark Rise Retreats are planning a pilgrimage to Iona from 29 May - 5 June 2027. The likely cost is £785/person plus travel and an overnight stop. Iona is a 'thin place' of great natural beauty and has a long history of Christian spirituality. Please speak to Jane, Penny or Catherine for more details and book via [Larkriseretreats](#) or by emailing larkriseretreats@gmail.com.

Notices

CMS Audit Returns: Following the recent CMS audit sent on 1 May to the main postholders on PCCs, we would like to thank you taking the time to update the records. This will help the Diocesan Office to maintain accurate records and provide support to everyone in their parishes. If you have yet to complete your audit and either require

another link or have a query, then please email cmssupport@cofesuffolk.org and Alison will be happy to help.

The Suffolk Community Awards 2025: It's time again for the annual awards which recognise and celebrate all those who have improved the quality of life for communities across Suffolk. Winners receive a certificate, trophy and £50 cash prize. The Faith Award provides recognition to a faith group that has worked for the benefit of the community - is there a faith group you would like to nominate? Submit your nomination before 13 July at www.suffolkcommunityawards.co.uk/nominate

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 now live for you 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

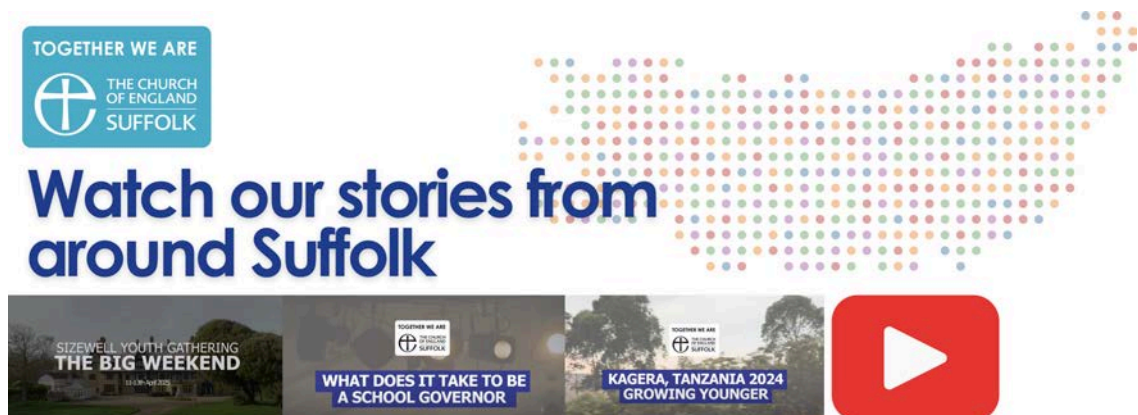
Return of Parish Finance: Many thanks to all parishes who have submitted their form. Completing your Return of Parish Finance provides your benefice and our Diocese with valuable information and data. The results of your efforts are collated by the National Church and used to report key trends and features of parish financial activity. Returns are to be submitted on the Online Parish Returns System: <https://parishreturns.churchofengland.org/>. If you require login details or any other assistance regarding the online portal, please contact statistics@cofesuffolk.org by email. The deadline is now **31 July 2025**. Further information is available on our [website here](#).

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](#). 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.

Vacancies

[Team Vicar](#) | Sole Bay Team | Closing date: TBC
[Diocesan Youth and Young Adults Enabler](#) | Closing date: 27 June
[Lead for Operations of Lightwave](#) | Closing date: 30 June
[Children and Families' Worker](#) | Sudbury | Closing date 3 July
[King Edward VI CEVC School Chaplain](#) | Closing date: 4 July
[Verger, Part-time Verger, Events Duty Manager and Shop Assistant](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral

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