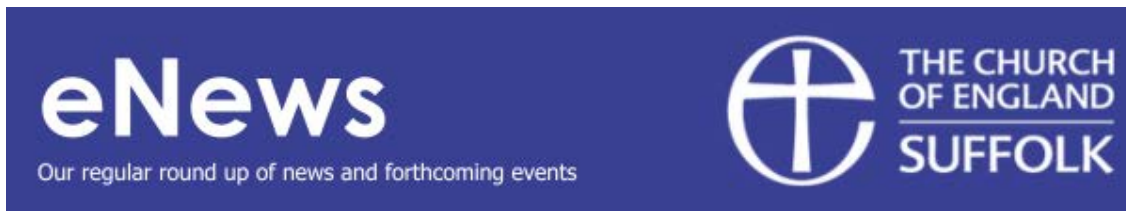


Thursday 3 July 2025



Bishop Graeme welcomes new priests and deacons



A total of 13 deacons and 12 priests were ordained during services at St Edmundsbury Cathedral in Bury St Edmunds in front of their families, friends and parishioners on Saturday 28 June.

The services were conducted by Bishop Graeme. Bishop Graeme said: "*The high number of people being ordained by the Church of England in Suffolk reflects a*

growing interest in people across the county seeking to serve in this demanding and rewarding ministry, making a difference to others' lives. They come from a wide range of backgrounds and this means that their experiences and skill sets will appeal to people of different ages and different backgrounds. They bring with them an exciting mixture of varying outlooks on life supported by a strong foundation in the church, a blend of youth and experience, and I look forward to seeing them settle in their new roles." Read the full story [here](#).

Together We Pray: 'Together We Pray' is being led by the Bishop's Chaplains team over the summer. 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.

Rushmere St Andrew Church achieves Gold Eco Award



We are delighted that Rushmere St Andrew church has achieved the Gold Eco Award from A Rocha. The team, consisting of Eco Lead Ruth Silburn, the Revd Alan Comfort, the Revd Marion Walker, Tim Oxbrow, Kevin Brazier, Jim Ainslie and David Yaraslaw, worked with Rushmere Parish Council and Suffolk Wildlife Trust alongside other churches in the community to achieve the award.

Ruth Silburn says; "*Our advice would be to partner with others, seek advice on writing the Land Management Plan, look at the A Rocha website for other examples of award winners, examine your church's carbon*

footprint to see where savings could be made and ask one of the Gold Award churches to come and visit. It really helped us when we visited other churches such as Mendham."

Family Fun Day

St Andrew's Church, Rushmere IP5 1DH

Saturday 12 July, 10.30am - 4.00pm

The church is holding their annual Family Fun Day, this year the theme will be Caring for the Environment, with stalls provided by Ipswich RSPB group, Waste Management, Fairtrade as well as traditional crafts and games plus the launch of their wildlife trail leaflet. Do come along and take part in the fun!

Eco ideas for July

What three things can you do in July to take your first steps (or more!) as a church on your eco journey?

1. Thank you to everyone who has completed their Energy Footprint Tool. Did you know it is [Net Zero Week](#) from 5-11 July, the UK's official national awareness week and the biggest net zero conference. Get involved in the online conference and take part in webinars from a wide range of experts.
 2. [The Big Butterfly Count](#) begins on Friday 18 July and will run until Sunday 10 August. Butterfly Conservation have declared a butterfly emergency - by taking part you can help assess the health of our environment simply by counting butterflies.
 3. Join millions of people reducing their plastic waste during [Plastic Free July](#). Take their 'Pesky Plastics' Quiz, and find some ideas and solutions to reducing plastic waste.
-

The Abbey of St Edmund, Reborn has been awarded a grant of £120,000 by Benefact Trust.

The Abbey of St Edmund, Reborn project will conserve and protect the Abbey ruins, build a visitor centre facing onto Angel Hill, expand and improve the footpaths around the site, and provide exciting interpretation and activities for all ages and interests. The grant from Benefact Trust will help equip a learning discovery centre and a flexible community space, support an ambitious programme of community events and activities, and help create more opportunities for volunteers to become involved. To find out more about the project listen to Dean Joe [here](#) talking at Synod in June.

St Mary's Church, Tattingstone awarded £232,000 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund

St Mary's Church, Tattingstone is delighted to announce it has been awarded a grant of £232,000 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund towards its project of making the church more accessible to all. This funding will allow the PCC to embark upon their long wished for project of installing a toilet and kitchenette, levelling the floors for easy access and complete redecoration. St Mary's will become much more welcoming and accessible, benefitting worshippers, visitors, the local school and heritage groups. The building works are planned to be completed around December 2025. This project will continue into 2026

with various Local Heritage events including exhibitions, 'Have a Go' workshops, research into local history, local heritage walks and wildlife tours. Visit [here](#) for more information.

Growth Fund Opportunities



The diocesan Growth Fund offers grants of up to £1500 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. Saxmundham applied for funding for 100 jute Tote Bags to welcome new residents to the town and parish, this application was granted funding of £673 for the bags, printing and leaflets. The Tote Bags are given free of charge to new residents via estate agents, with lots of local information in them, including a church leaflet, pen and town guide. They are now also being sold via several local businesses including an art gallery and the church's coffee/book shop. Several other businesses are interested and have offered support to sell the bags. The funds raised will go towards future orders of bags (along with a contribution from the local council). Saxmundham is a growing town with plans for an additional 800 homes over the next few years, this is a great way to welcome all to the church and town in a quick and easy way, also who doesn't love a new tote bag! To find out more about the growth fund visit our website [here](#).

RECOGNISE (7-13 July)



RECOGNISE is a national week of recognition for everyone involved in ministry with children, young people and their families (CYPF). Across the country, churches will be celebrating everyone involved in this vital ministry - so make sure your church is involved!

There are so many individuals giving tirelessly to nurture the faith of the emerging generations and through RECOGNISE they will be thanked, celebrated and hopefully given lots of cake! National church is organising RECOGNISE and has produced two short films that can be played in services, including the Blessing film where young people from across the country speak words of blessing over our CYPF ministers. There is also a RECOGNISE prayer that can be downloaded and used in services. For more information, please [click here](#) or email [Charlotte Gooch](mailto:Charlotte.Gooch).

Events

Talk on Bats, 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 churches and churchyards. Evening led by Sue Morgan from 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 Abbey | 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's Church, Woodbridge IP12 4LP

Join Director of Music, James Davy, for a 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.

Zac Musical | The Combined Churches Choir

Sunday 13 July, 4.00pm | St Peter and St Mary's Church, Stowmarket IP14 1ES

Come along to the musical Zacchaeus by Roger Jones which tells the story of Zacchaeus the taxman who wanted to meet Jesus and hear more of the message that he brought to the world and how it changed his life. Roger Jones himself is coming to conduct the musical presentation. Entry is free, with a collection going to St Nicholas Hospice.

Choir Evensong

Sunday 13 July 5.30pm (and rehearsal at 2.30pm) | St Mary's Church, Woodbridge IP12 4LP

An opportunity to join St Mary's, Woodbridge, Choir and friends to sing Evensong in celebration of the sea and all who go on it. There is no charge to take part; music and refreshments are provided. You are also very welcome to join the service as part of the congregation. For more information and to book places, please contact: directorofmusic@stmaryswoodbridge.org or tel 01394 388820. We look forward to welcoming you to St Mary's!

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.

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](mailto:Emma.Denton@dioceseofipswich.org) or [Emma Rowlinson](mailto:Emma.Rowlinson@dioceseofipswich.org), 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](#)
-

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. 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 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 and working with endings. Should you require further information please contact Inspire or email contact@inspirecounselling.org.uk.

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](#).

Vacancies

[Team Vicar](#) | Sole Bay Team | Closing date: TBC

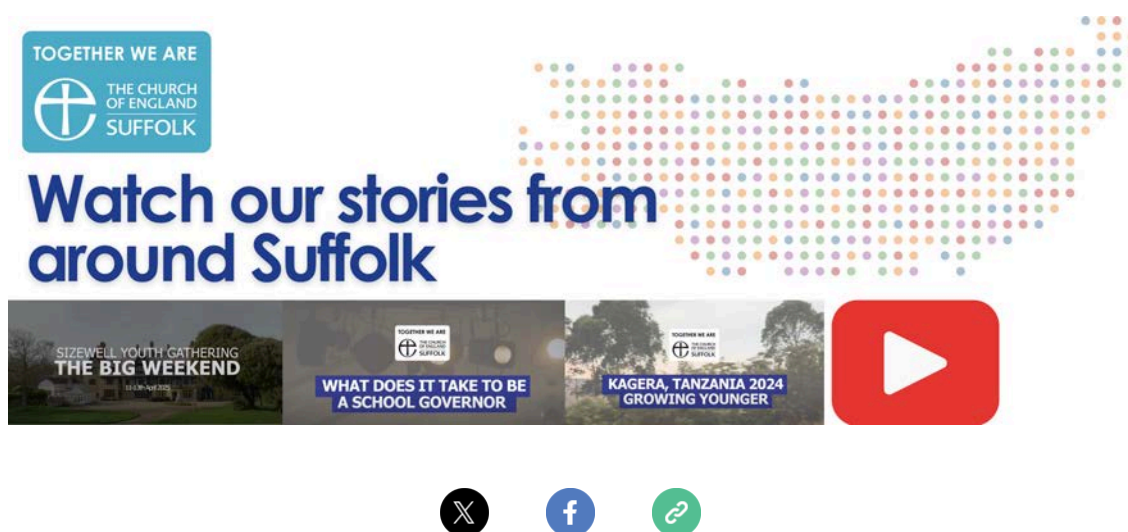
[Children and Families' Worker](#) | Sudbury | Closing date 3 July

[King Edward VI CEVC School Chaplain](#) | Closing date: 4 July

[Lead Parish Nurse](#) | Closing date: 25 July

[Visitor Experience Manager, Risk, Audit and Review Committee Chair](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral

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