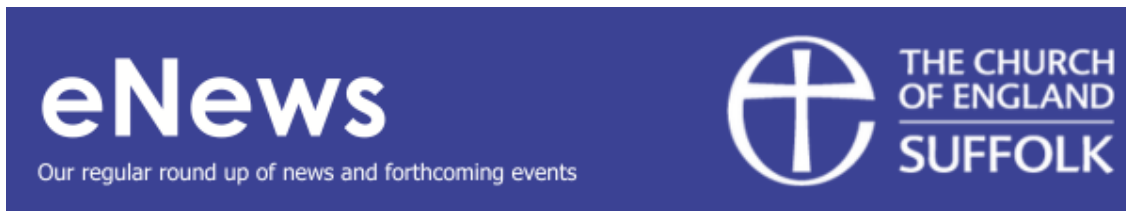


Thursday 30 January 2025



St Edmundsbury Cathedral appoints a new Canon Precentor



The Revd Canon Katy Cunliffe is presently Incumbent of Holy Trinity, Shaw; Incumbent of St Mary High Crompton and St James, Thornham; Assistant Priest of East Crompton St James with St Saviour and an Honorary Canon of Manchester Cathedral in the diocese of Manchester. Katy says of her new appointment, "*I am delighted to have been appointed as Canon Precentor at St Edmundsbury Cathedral. I have*

been inspired by the Cathedral's commitment to welcome, inclusion and hospitality, to justice and sustainability, and by the impressive work of the music department. Whilst I will be sad to leave my parishes behind, I am excited to be joining the team at St Edmundsbury Cathedral and look forward to playing my part in providing opportunities for everyone to participate in the worship of God in such a wonderful place."

Katy will be licensed and installed by Bishop Graeme Knowles (Acting Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich from 1 March), at St Edmundsbury Cathedral on Sunday 1 June 2025.



Bishop's Lent Appeal



Inspired by his trip to Tanzania last year, Bishop Martin saw the importance of our continuing relationship with Kagera, all that it offers and how important it is for us to strengthen the link. Bishop Graeme has therefore agreed that the 2025 Lent Appeal will be for Kagera. Taken from the hymn 'Great is thy faithfulness' this

year the theme of the appeal is '**Bright Hope for Tomorrow**'.

You can support this appeal in various ways, of which praying for Kagera is of course the most important. We ask you to think of ways within your parish of making a collection or holding a fundraising event during Lent, as many of you have done before. By popular demand the Challenge booklet is back to its original format with daily thoughts and challenges.

Our aim through the appeal is to support farming initiatives and good practice in agriculture, training of evangelists and clergy at Kagera Christian Theological College (KCTC), and resourcing of pastors in their parishes. We will also continue our support for healthcare in the region through the Diocesan hospital.

[For all the resources, to order the printed booklets and to donate please 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](#).

Solemn Eucharist and Ashing | Wednesday 5 March at 7.00pm | The Revd Dr Stephen Cherry, Dean of King's College Cambridge, will introduce the Lent theme at the Ash Wednesday service.

Online Lent Course: Unforgivable? | Wednesdays 12 March to 9 April, 7.00pm – 8.15pm | Each week, experts in their subjects are welcomed to talk about and explore the limits of forgiveness. Hosted by the Canon Theologian, The Revd Dr Victoria Johnson, [book your place here](#).

Lunchtimes in Lent | Thursdays 13 March to 10 April, 1.00pm – 2.30pm | An opportunity to discuss the week's online speakers story and relate it to the Lent book

'Unforgivable'. You are invited to bring a packed lunch and meet in the Learning Hub in the Cathedral Centre.

Holy Week Compline Addresses | Monday 14 to Wednesday 16 April at 7.00pm | Continuing the exploration of 'Unforgivable', focusing on three characters from the Passion narratives: Pilot, Caiaphas and Judas.

The F Word: Stories of Forgiveness | Friday 28 March to Sunday 13 April | Lent exhibition offering a thought-provoking collection of arresting images and personal narratives exploring forgiveness in the face of atrocity.

Living Hope - Church of England national resources for Lent 2025



The Church of England's Lent theme for 2025 is **Living Hope**. Living Hope offers you the opportunity to deepen your hope in God and be part of what God is doing to bring hope in the world. The readings and reflections explore how we can have hope in times of frustration or uncertainty; the hope found in joining with others; the invitation to notice signs of hope around us; the courage to face reality and

pursue a hopeful future; and the ways God transforms death into life at Easter. The reflections have been written by Cathrine Fungai Ngangira and Belle Tindall – both contributors to [Wild Bright Hope: The Big Church Read Lent Book 2025](#) (SPCK) – together with Victoria Mason, 'Everyday Faith,' Editor for the Church of England. [For more information, resources and webinars please click here.](#)

Events

Service of Farewell for Bishop Martin

Sunday 2 February, 3.30pm | St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 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 on 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.

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. 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.

For further information and to book email [the Revd Al Metcalfe](mailto:the.Revd.Al.Metcalf@riverchurch.org).

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.

For further information email [Adrian Mann](mailto:Adrian.Mann@stjohnsbury.org) or call on 01284 753984.

United in Solace and Grace

Sunday 9 February, 4.00pm | All Saints Church, Holbrook IP9 2QP

A reflective service to mark the end of 'It's Not OK Week'. The service has been thoughtfully and prayerfully put together by a team with wide and eclectic experience. There will be time for reflection and prayer, and to simply light a candle for those we know who are in need of our thoughts and prayers. As part of the service, we also hope to produce a small piece of interactive art, which will continue to develop and grow as a symbol of freedom and renewal. All are welcome.

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

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

Join this extended webinar, which will look at 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.

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 IP33 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 a half hour 1:1 slot to address your digital giving needs. For more information email [Emma Denton](#) or [Emma Rowlinson](#), Diocesan Giving Advisors. [Book your place here](#).

Faith Story with Katie de Bourcier

Monday 24 February, 7.00pm. By Zoom



The Revd Katie de Bourcier joined the Diocesan Mission and Ministry team 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

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

Or 7.30pm Wednesday 5 March 7.30pm to 9.00pm - on 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, 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, click here to [book](#). Admission to the service is free. For more information, contact music.development@stedscathedral.org

Grandparents' Day

Saturday 15 March 10.30am – 2.30pm | St John's Church centre, Caudwell Hall Road, Ipswich IP4 4QE

'What does it take to be a Grandparent of Faith? This event, organised by the Mothers' Union but open to non-members, is designed to bring together grandparents and honorary grandparents of faith (from little faith to strong faith) and of any denomination. Join us to feel supported, encouraged and affirmed as a spiritual influencer to your grandchildren through a programme of worship, key speakers and small group workshops. [Free tickets available here](#).

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](#).

Resound with Joy! LLMs and Elders study morning

Saturday 29 March, 9.00am

Salvation Army Hall, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

Our visiting Canon Theologian, The Revd Dr Victoria Johnson, will lead us on a journey of discovery about the world of voice, both human and divine. A morning exploring voices human and divine, through speech, song and silence. We will reflect on the voices we have been given from a theological and ministerial perspective, and how we use them within worship, preaching and pastoral ministry to share the good news. The morning will encompass both pragmatic responses to how we use our voices and the deeply spiritual. [Reserve your free space now 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 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.](#)

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

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 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

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, and please remember 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.

To register for Insight:

- Go to <https://insight.cofesuffolk.org/> and 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](#).

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](#).

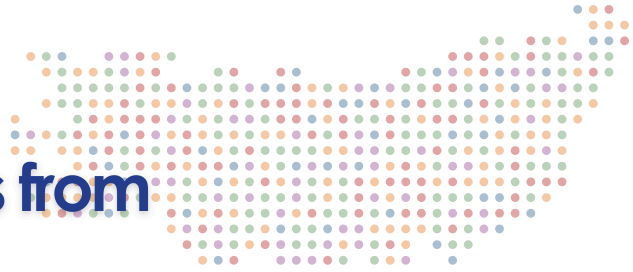
Vacancies

[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: 27 February
[Governance Manager](#) | Closing date: 27 February
[Rector](#) | Woolpit and Drinkstone Benefice | Closing date: 21 May
[Part-time Associate Priest](#) | Carlford Benefice | Closing date: TBC

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