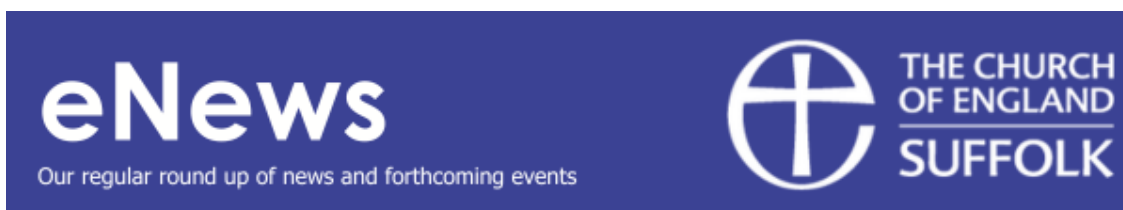


Our regular round up of news and forthcoming events from our diocese

[View this email in your browser](#)

Thursday 30 October 2025



Net Zero Carbon Action Plan



Together for God's creation
Our journey to Net Zero Carbon by 2030



cofesuffolk.org



The Net Zero Carbon Action Plan was approved by Diocesan Synod on Saturday 18 October as a key part of our journey to Net Zero Carbon by 2030. The action plan demonstrates the scale and nature of the changes required to achieve net zero and offers a roadmap to help inform decision making, maintain momentum and encourage collaborative efforts across the diocese and beyond on our path to net zero. [To read the full report or download a summary leaflet please visit our website here.](#) You can also listen to James Rolls, Diocesan Net Zero Carbon Officer, explain the background about the plan [here](#).

Environment Policy

Creation care, an integral part of the five marks of mission, enables us to share the Christian faith within our communities and beyond. As part of this, the Diocesan environment policy has been updated and can be found on our website [here](#). To watch a video of the Revd Canon Alison Alder explaining the changes please click [here](#).

Sustainability in Action



St Andrew's Church, Bredfield, has successfully completed two projects that have transformed the church and its neighbouring church room into warmer, more energy-efficient spaces.

The church room project was made possible through the Church of England's Quick Wins grant — a scheme that supports small-scale environmental upgrades — and additional support from the Bredfield Town Lands

Charity. The project included the installation of modern electric panel heaters, offering responsive, zoned heating, and replacing the old LPG system completely. All internal and external lighting was also replaced with energy-efficient LED units, improving visibility while dramatically reducing electricity consumption.

The project to transform the main church was awarded a grant from the Church of England's Give to Go Green fund. This programme operates as a match-funding initiative, requiring parishes to raise the same amount of funding locally in order to receive the grant. The project included the removal of their condemned pew heaters, and installation of new, energy-efficient under-pew electric heaters, each individually controlled to allow flexible, targeted heating of only the areas in use, and replacement of all interior lighting with low-power LED units, which use only around 10% of the energy of the previous fittings.

The church has calculated that, together, these two projects will reduce annual energy consumption by over 1,000 kWh and lower our carbon emissions by an estimated 0.25 tonnes per year. These are meaningful savings for a small rural parish and align closely with the Church of England's ambition to become net zero carbon by 2030.

Read the full story on [our website here](#). Chris Gaze talked about this project at Synod, watch the video [here](#).

Church receives £102k to restore mosaic with fascinating history

The three-sided reredos mosaic at the Grade I-listed St Lawrence Church in Great Waldingfield will be painstakingly refurbished thanks to a £102,000 grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The Rector, the Revd Faith Marsden, said that mosaic has a special place in the community's heart. *"The mosaic came to the church back in 1869," she said. "It's spectacular. It's amazing to think how far the stone from these mosaics has come and the fascinating history behind them. The community have really come together to work on this project, helping to apply for the funding and getting the church ready. They have been amazing, it has been incredible."*

Edmund Harris, Diocesan DAC Secretary, said, *"The need for action to save from decay one of the most remarkable pieces of Victorian art in any Suffolk church has been apparent for many years. Discussions began around the Millennium, but funding for such a costly project was a stumbling block. I'm delighted that the National Lottery Heritage Fund is able to support the conservation of the reredos produced by Emily and Ann Baily's collaboration with William Butterfield, and would like extend my warmest thanks to the Revd Faith Marsden, Dawn Judd and all of the restoration committee for the hard work that we know is required for every successful application. I look forward very much to seeing the finished result."*

The work is expected to be completed at Christmas. [To find out more about the mosaic's history click here.](#)



Katie du Bourcier will be leading Together we Pray next week, from Monday - Thursday

Mission and Ministry Events

Handling Conflict Constructively Saturday 17 January 9.00am - 4.30pm |
Saxmundham Church Hall, Saxmundham IP17 1ES

As part of the commitment to equip Church Leaders for the challenges of ministry, we are running a Bridge Builders 'Handling Conflict Constructively' training day. The day will start at 9.00am with welcoming drinks, with the course starting promptly at 9.30am. Lunch is included. For more information on Bridge Builders as an organisation [please see their website.](#)

Places are free of charge but numbers are limited and are being offered on a first-to-respond basis. If you would like to take up the offer of this valuable training, please register [here.](#)

Clergy and spouse Preparing for Retirement Retreat Day | Thursday 13 November, 10.00am | Pleshey House of Retreat, Pleshey, Chelmsford CM3 1HA

By popular request from those who have attended our Clergy Preparing for Retirement Conference, we warmly invite clergy who have reached the age of 60yrs and their spouse to this additional event. Enjoy a day together in the quiet surroundings of Pleshey Retreat House that may help you – practically, psychologically and spiritually – prepare for this next transition in life. The day will include professional input from a psychotherapist and guest speakers. For more information please [click here.](#)

Theological Refreshment in Ministry (TRiM) 2025 | *Wisdom from the Desert: A Reflective Retreat Inspired by Charles de Foucauld, Carlo Caretto and the Desert Fathers* | 10.00am Monday 24 November - 2.00pm Tuesday 25 November | The House of Retreat, Chelmsford CM3 1HA

Immerse yourself in stillness, community and spiritual insight. This retreat for clergy and Licensed Lay Ministers will be led by the Revd Canon Stuart Batten and offers space to explore life lessons drawn from the spiritual writings of Charles de Foucauld, Carlo Caretto and the Desert Fathers. You'll experience time for personal reflection rooted in desert spirituality and sacred themes, with quiet times to allow for rest or solitude or to walk and spend time in nature. There will be time in community; time to talk and share, to pray, eat and contemplate. [Book here.](#)

Flourish | Saturday 2 May 2026, 9.00am | 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.](#)

Save the date - **Fieldwork: Celebrating Rural Mission and Ministry in Suffolk**



Come and join us on 28 February 2026 for this diocesan day conference for church members, PCC members, those in our church schools, lay ministers and clergy from our rural parishes, as a time to hear from great speakers, 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. More details including a booking link will follow soon.

Events and training

Building Healthy Organisations and Churches | Saturday 1 November, 9.30am to 4.30pm, St Michael's, Martlesham Heath IP5 3PL

Join Inspire and Christians in Counselling for a day looking at behaviour in organisations - how we build healthy churches and organisations with the main speaker Dr Lisa Oakley. For further information and to book please email contact@inspirecounselling.org.uk

Panel Discussion: On Marriage & Meaning | 12 November, at 1.30pm to 2.15pm, at University of Suffolk.

Join Panel Chair Dr Amanda Hodgkinson, Director for Suffolk Centre of Culture and Heritage at the University of Suffolk, and panel members Raj Mistry, Hindu community;

Shkar Abdullah, Muslim community; Robin Herne, Pagan community; Tom Mumford, Christian community; Dayasara, Buddhist community; Adele Chaplin, Humanist community, for this lively discussion. For more information and to register see: [University of Suffolk Unlocked: An Interfaith Conversation](#)

'A Church for England' talk | Ipswich Minster, 12 November at 7.30pm

Join Rabbi Miriam Lorie of Kehillat Nashira, Jewish Educator and BBC Radio2 contributor, on 'What should a good Church of England look like for people of other faiths? A Jewish perspective'.

Inter-faith conversation | 13 November 7.00pm to 9.00pm, St Mary's Church, Worlingworth

Join the Revd Tom Mumford, Diocesan Inter-faith Advisor, for this conversation on Inter-faith.

PCC Workshops | Zoom

You are invited to join topic-based one-hour Zoom meetings led by Diocesan staff and parish experts. Suitable for Treasurers, Churchwardens, PCC members and administrators, as well as clergy and LLMs. Each session will involve sharing information and a short presentation. Here are the details of the workshops:

Digital Giving | 12.00pm, Wednesday 12 November | [Book here](#)

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

Writing a Net Zero Carbon Action Plan for your Parish | 12.00pm, Tuesday 18 November | [Book here](#)

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](#), Diocesan Giving Advisor.

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](#).

Church Grants Training | Tuesday 4 November | Online

The Church Grants Team are running some superb online training next month for churches that have or are planning a major fundraising appeal for their church. From decades of church-related major fundraising capital appeal experience, you will hear about the different income streams available to you and the techniques to get money from these, learn to understand what people, processes and resources you need before you even start fundraising and get to see helpful examples of resources to help and execute your

fundraising appeal. To sign up, follow this link www.churchgrants.co.uk/training

The Challenge of Changing Funeral Ministry | Wednesday 19 November, 9.30am - 1.00pm | Zoom

This event, held by Transforming Worship, will explore how changes in culture are significantly changing funeral practices. This can be seen particularly in light of a new trend, that of immediate cremation after death, often called 'direct' cremation, with no formal funeral service at all. Without a funeral, how do relatives and friends experience a 'proper ending', a 'good send-off', and a putting a loved one 'to rest'? Cost of the event is £5, to book please contact the [Revd Helen Bent](#).

Understanding and working with relationship and family dynamics, Friday 28 November, 9.00am to 4.00pm | St Andrew's Church Hall, Rushmere St Andrew, Ipswich IP5 1DH

This workshop is offered by Inspire Counselling and Training. Facilitated by Dr Jan Fish, an accredited counsellor, supervisor and trainer. This day is suitable for student and qualified counsellors, supervisors, ministers and church leaders, pastoral and youth workers, teachers and teaching assistants together with anyone with an interest in working with families. 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. Full information is available [here](#).

Advent retreat day - 'I am the Vine, you are the branches' - led by Sarah Wallington-Smith

Thursday 27 November | Lark Rise, 230 Ferry Road, Felixstowe (limited to 12 people)

Friday 28 November | Metfield, near Halesworth

Saturday 29 November | Lark Rise, 230 Ferry Road, Felixstowe (limited to 12 people)

All days run from 10.00am – 4.00pm and cost £25/person including refreshments and lunch. More details and bookings are on www.larkriseretreats.org or call Catherine Bond or Jane Pearse on 01394 284213.

Church Community Services and Events

Heritage Morning and 'Gift Day' | Saturday 8 November, 9.30am to 12.30pm | St Mary's Church, Woodbridge IP12 4LP

As a focal point of Woodbridge for many centuries, St Mary's Church has so many stories to tell and you are invited to come along for a rare opportunity to: join a mini church tour led by Canon Roy Tricker BEM; climb the 52 steps to the ringing chamber; view the church from high up in the vestry; look inside the organ and view the amazing five-volume record of all the church artefacts. There will be activities for children, and refreshments will be available. This day is part of Building Project Appeal fundraising for replacement heating. To find out more please visit the website [here](#).

Safeguarding Sunday | 16 November

This initiative, spearheaded by Thirtyone:eight, invites communities to come together to reflect on their safeguarding journey, and highlight all the good work that is being done to create safer places. [Find out more about Safeguarding Sunday here](#). Last year over 5,000 churches took part in Safeguarding Sunday, with an estimated reach of 250,000 people. If you [register](#) you will have access to lots of free digital resources to help make your event a success including sermon ideas, children's talks, intergeneration service ideas, bible study, videos, victim-survivor support and more.

Light Up a Life Remembrance Events | St Nicholas Hospice | Various locations starting from 23 November. Full list of dates and locations [available here](#).

The Light Up a Life events are free and open to all. They offer a meaningful way to come together as a community during the festive season and share a moment of reflection, with music and readings. You are invited, should you wish, to have the names of those you want to remember read out at an event. You can do this by visiting their [website here](#).

Coptic Pilgrimage | Tuesday 2 December, 10.00am - 4.00pm | Arranged by St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Shephalbury Manor in Stevenage has been home to The Coptic Orthodox Church Centre in the UK for over two decades. The pilgrimage includes an audience with Archbishop Angaelos of London, and the option to celebrate an Anglican Eucharist. Tickets cost £15 and will cover drinks and lunch. Transport will be via rail or shared cars. If you are interested in taking part in the trip, please contact [Mark Haworth](#).

Hexachordia: Heigh-ho, the Holly! | Sunday 7 December, 4.00pm | St Margaret's Church, Ipswich IP4 2BT

Music, mirth and merriment for the festive season, as this hour-long concert reveals what Christmas and New Year was like for folk at all levels of society in the 16th and 17th centuries. Come along and hear the Medieval and Tudor origins of today's familiar carols in one of Hexachordia's final concerts together as they play the gittern, vielle, crumhorn, lute, viol, recorder and bagpipes. Complimentary hot drinks and cake served after the concert. Tickets £8.00 standard, £5.00 concession for children, students and carers. [Click here](#) to secure your tickets or contact office.stmagsips@gmail.com or text/phone 07733 609661.

Francis Young "Terrors made flesh: M. R. James and the theology of the Christmas ghost story" | Friday 12 December, 6.00pm | St John the Evangelist, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1SN

Join this lecture by Francis Young, a historian and folklorist who was born and brought up in Bury St Edmunds. He is the author of over 20 nonfiction books including *Twilight of the Godlings* and *Silence of the Gods*, as well as a couple of collections of ghost stories. Tickets from [We Got Tickets](#) or contact Adrian Mann on 01284 753984 or at adrian.mann@btinternet.com.

Advent Event for Bury St Edmunds | Sunday 14 December, 7.00pm | St Mary's Church, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1RT

St Edmundsbury Cathedral's InHarmony project is working with Cantus Firmus Trust and Churches Together in Bury St Edmunds and District to present an Advent event for the town, entitled "Sharers in the Promise". The presentation uses music and drama to reflect on the coming of Jesus Christ – a promise of hope and salvation in which all can share. Admission is by free ticket, available at cantusfirmus.org.uk There will be a collection to help cover costs.

Notices

Online Parish Returns System (OPRS): This is open to parishes wanting to input attendance figures on the number of people attending their church in person for services and other acts of worship during the first four weeks in October. This includes the number of people attending on Sundays and during the week (Monday to Saturday) .The OPRS can be accessed via following link <https://parishreturns.churchofengland.org>. If you need help creating an account for the Online Parish Returns System, please send an email to statistics@cofesuffolk.org and we will be happy to help you.

The PGS Digital Platform is now live!

Watch Grant Forrest's introduction: [Parish - The new Parish Giving Scheme platform is live!](#)

The next time you visit the PGS website, you'll need to reset your password and set up multi-factor authentication (MFA). This new feature has been introduced to further strengthen security and help protect against today's increasingly sophisticated cyber challenges (Using 'tkos.co.uk' for the authentication process, which ensures all your credentials are encrypted and secure).

There is a new parish portal, which can be accessed at: <https://parishportal.parishgiving.org.uk>. You'll find the 'parish portal' button under the 'Parishes' menu on the website. Please note, givers will use the login button located at the top right of the main website. If you need any assistance accessing your account, please email info@parishgiving.co.uk or call 0333 002 1260.

Upcoming webinars for PGS Statement Receivers: Getting to know the new PGS platform

PGS are hosting a series of webinars. During each of the sessions they will walk you through the refreshed website, highlight the new features, and demonstrate how to access and use the dynamic reporting tools.

November 13th: 10.00am - [register here](#) 12.30pm - [register here](#) 2.00pm - [register here](#) 8.00pm - [register here](#)

November 18th: 10.00am - [register here](#) 12.00pm - [register here](#)

Updates and new PGS Registration Forms:

- Updates will continue to be shared via email to Statement Receivers and Givers, so please keep an eye on all communications from the PGS to stay informed. If you

need any help or assistance please contact the PGS directly on info@parishgiving.org.uk or the Parish Resources Team pgs@cofesuffolk.org

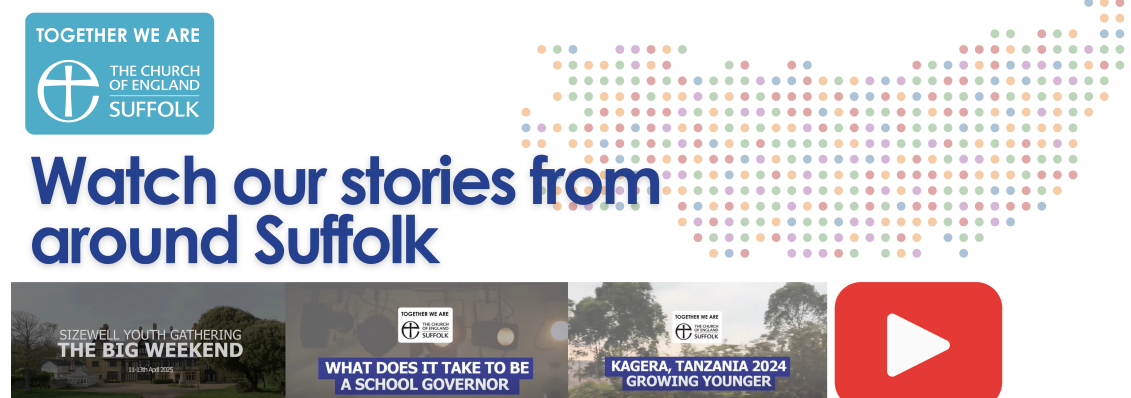
- Find the new Registration Form and Terms & Conditions [here](#).

If you need any help or assistance please contact the PGS directly info@parishgiving.org.uk or the Diocesan Parish Resources Team pgs@cofesuffolk.org

Vacancies

[Choral Scholar](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral | Closing date: 7 November
[Cathedral Safeguarding Officer](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral | Closing date: 12 November
[Early Years Estates Pioneer](#) | Perfect Peace Project Lead | Closing date: 12 November
[Giving Advisor](#) | Parish Resources Team | Closing date: 13 November
[Rector](#) | North Bosmere Benefice | Closing date: 14 November
[Diocesan Treasurer](#) | Mothers' Union | Closing date: 15 November
[Regional Net Zero Carbon Fundraising Officer](#) | Closing date: 18 November
[Executive Assistant to the Diocesan Bishop](#) | Closing date: 21 November
[Vicar at St Peter & St Mary's Church](#) | Closing date: 27 November
[DAC Chair](#) | Voluntary Role | Closing date: 30 November
 Treasurer | All Saints' Church, Thorndon | Closing date: 30 November | Please [email here](#) for more information.
[Kids Pastor](#) | River Church | Closing date: 30 November
[Worship Pastor](#) | River Church | Closing date: 30 November
[Non-Executive Chapter Member](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral
[Cathedral Volunteers](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral
[Risk, Audit and Review Committee Member](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral
[Architect and Fabric Surveyor](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral
[Associate Chaplain](#) | Sizewell C
 Part-time Youth Worker | All Saints' Church, Ipswich | Please [email here](#) for more information

[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
19-20 April 2025

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE
A SCHOOL GOVERNOR

KAGERA, TANZANIA 2024
GROWING YOUNGER



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