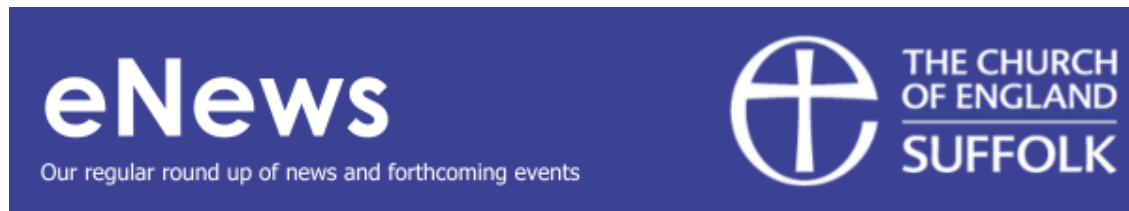


Thursday 7 August 2025



The Well Piece Community Garden



A group of villagers, determined to help their neighbours, has come together as a community to learn about wildlife-friendly gardening techniques and put together 'The Well Piece Community Garden', a project supported by St Mary's Church, Holton St Mary.

The project included the creation of a new path to link the churchyard to the Millennium Green to provide a better,

more interesting route for walkers in the village. It also included raised beds, a wildlife pond, and a behind the scenes fundraiser was initiated with the PCC for an accessible toilet. Within a year, a composting WC was funded and installed, opened by the Revd Manette Crossman, and immediately became a crucial facility for both the church and other village events. None of this would have been possible without the practical support and encouragement of all the PCC, the Parish Council, local organisations and individual villagers. So many have been enthused by the project and came together to help. There is more talking, more sharing and more openness around the village as a result. [Read the full story here.](#)

Growing in number at the Stourhead Benefice

The Stourhead Benefice, located near Haverhill in west Suffolk, received £1,500 from the Diocesan Growth Fund grant to provide equipment and support for their parishes to reimagine the use of the church buildings, make their spaces more welcoming and involve their local communities with the ambition to grow younger and grow in number.

The three main areas were: providing updated equipment for the Kedington Church coffee mornings, which is attended by between 30 - 50 people of all ages on a weekly basis; a Benefice garden party which proved to be a big hit when over 70 adults and children, many of whom were not regular attendees at church attended; and finally the Revd Chris Giles led children and their accompanying adults around the Stations of the Cross in the church at Easter. In addition St Mary's Church in Great Bradley started a 'Friends of' group and they have much enthusiasm for reimagining the use of the church space. So far they have raised £1,500 towards the maintenance of the fabric of the building and planting the

seed for repeat visits. The Benefice has continued to build its annual programme of events alongside working with local community groups such as Guides and Scouts and their local Primary School. [Read the full story here.](#)

Events

Churchwardens' Training 2025

Monday 11 August | 7.00pm | Cockfield Village Hall, Church Lane, IP30 0LA

This training session is aimed at all churchwardens, whether you are new or have been in post for some time. The session covers churchwardens' tasks and legal responsibilities, issues about building maintenance and faculties and many other related issues.

Events will be led by the Archdeacon with contributions from the Diocesan Registrar. There is an opportunity for questions and to meet your fellow churchwardens. You are welcome to attend this session, even if outside your archdeaconry. Please book [here](#).

JAMZ Christian Music Festival

Saturday 9 August, 2.00pm-7.00pm | The Severals Sports Pavilion, Newmarket CB8 7BS

All Saints' Church in Newmarket invite you to a day long festival of Christian music sponsored by Churches Together Newmarket District. Join them for live music, food, drinks and fun for the whole family!

Luceat Choir | Masters of Sacred Song | Palestrina & Gibbons

Sunday 10 August, 5.30pm St Mary's, Woodbridge IP12 4LP

Monday 11 August, 3.30pm, St Peter and St Paul, Aldeburgh IP15 5DX

Tuesday 12 August, 6.30pm, Holy Trinity, Blythburgh IP19 9LR

This summer, Luceat Choir returns to Suffolk and Norfolk for their third annual tour. They are celebrating two major musical anniversaries: 400 years since the death of Orlando Gibbons and 500 years since the birth of Palestrina. Come along to an illuminating choir experience as the Luceat Choir tours through Suffolk. Tickets are available at the door via donation.

Eco Day

Saturday 30 August, 2.00pm | St Mary's Church, 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.

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.

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](#).

Grandparents' Day - 'What does it take to be a Grandparent of Faith?'

Saturday 6 September, doors open 10.00am for a 10.30am start – 2.30pm | Fressingfield Baptist Church, Fressingfield IP21 5RU

This event is organised by the Mothers' Union with the diocesan Growing Younger team and is open to everyone. The day is designed to bring together grandparents and honorary grandparents of faith (from little faith to strong faith) and of any denomination. So that through a programme which includes worship, key speakers and small group workshops, participants will feel supported, encouraged and affirmed as a spiritual influencer to their grandchildren. Tickets are free and available [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](#) or [Emma Rowlinson](#), 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](#)

Suffolk Churches Ride and Stride - Saturday 13 September

Walkers, cyclists, runners and vintage or classic car owners are invited to sign up to join others who love Suffolk and history at the annual September event, organised by Suffolk



Historic Churches Trust (SHCT). Last year, the day's fundraising raised £200,000 and, from the proceeds, the SHCT gave grants to Suffolk's historic churches, chapels and meeting houses who need to make urgent repairs or improvements to their buildings. Sponsor forms are now available in Suffolk churches and from the Trust. Full details are available on their website: www.shct.org.uk. Car owners should email pedalanddrive@gmail.com. Donations and sponsorship can also be collected via Just Giving. We look forward to a great day of fundraising!

PCC Workshops



You are invited to join topic-based one-hour 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. For more information please email [Emma Rowlinson](mailto:Emma.Rowlinson@dioceseofsuffolk.org). Here are the details of the workshops:

Grants and Funding | 1.00pm, Thursday 18 September | [Book here](#)

Getting the most out of the Parish Giving Scheme | 1.00pm, Thursday 16 October | [Book here](#)

Gifts in Wills | 12.00pm, Thursday 23 October | [Book here](#)

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

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

Living the Story- Exploring Our Vocation Together

Tuesday 23 September, 7.00pm - 8.30pm | Earl Stonham Village Hall, Stowmarket IP14 5HJ



The first of four free in-person sessions exploring God's call on our lives to love and serve him. Each session will be rooted in the scriptures and some of the topics we'll be thinking about are: How does God call? Who does God call? How does God speak to us? and How do we listen to God?

The course will be led by the Ven Vanessa Herrick and our Diocesan Director of Ordinands, the Revd Canon Stuart Batten, and is intended for everyone – whatever stage of the vocation journey you are at.

The sessions are all on Tuesdays from 7.00 – 8.30pm on 23 September, 30 September, 14 October and 4 November. To book please visit Insight [here](#).

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 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.](#)

Come & Sing Choral Evensong

Sunday 28 September, 2.00pm | St Michael's

Framlingham, IP13 9BH

St Michael's is holding a Come and Sing Workshop and Traditional Choral Evensong, where you will be learning and practising music by Stanford, Batten, John Reading and Victoria, copies of the music (for this event only) are available in advance, together with links to YouTube examples to help you practise at home before the day. For more details and a registration form, please email framparish@gmail.com

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 | All Saints' Church, Kesgrave IP5 1AA



We are holding a Chaplaincy 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 email Inspire on contact@inspirecounselling.org.uk.

Understanding and Working with Relationships and Family Dynamics

Friday 28 November, 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 email Inspire on contact@inspirecounselling.org.uk.

Save the date: Annual Harvest Festival Service, St Edmundsbury Cathedral on Sunday 5 October.

Notices

Growth Fund Opportunities: The Diocesan Growth Fund offers grants of up to £1,500 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. To find out more about the Growth Fund visit our website [here](#).

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 available now until the end of September 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

Safeguarding Audit: We are very grateful to everyone who took part in the recent Safeguarding Audit. Your views are important and help shape the future of Safeguarding in the diocese, ensuring it remains our top priority.

Please note: there will be no editions of eNews on 21 or 28 August.

Vacancies

[Finance Administrator](#) | Diocesan Office | Closing date: 13 August

[Safeguarding Trainer and Training Coordinator](#) | Diocesan Office | Closing date: 15 August

[Finance Administrator](#) | Inspire Counselling and Training | Closing date: 26 August

[Fundraising Manager](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral | Closing date: 26 August

[Team Vicar](#) | Sole Bay Team | Closing date: 1 September

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

Part-time Youth Worker | All Saints' Church, Ipswich | Please [email here](#) for more information

Treasurer | All Saints' Church, Thorndon | Closing date: 30 November | Please [email here](#)

for more information.

[Associate Chaplain Opportunity](#) | [Click here for more information](#)

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