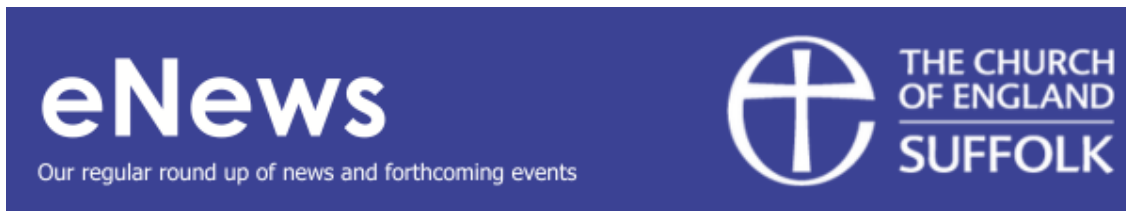


Thursday 9 January 2025



Music, Mission and Young People project launched



The Music, Mission and Young People (MMYP) project is exploring how churches throughout the Diocese are running, or would like to run, music initiatives for young people, with a faith development pathway. The project is being led by Richard Hubbard (Project Director) and Andrew Gosden (Project Manager). Richard said, *"So far we've found 25 churches that are wanting to develop activities, covering a wide range of approaches, including traditional church choirs, after-school music clubs, youth community choirs and music groups. This is really encouraging"*.

A key part of the MMYP project is to encourage faith development in young people through music activities. To help support churches with this, a new **Suffolk Music for Growing Faith Network** is being launched with their first meeting to be held on Tuesday 21 January from 12.30pm to 1.30pm, via Zoom. You can register [to join the Network here](#).

The new online community of leaders will meet periodically to share ideas and learn from each other. Further [information is available here](#).

Church community raises more than £23,000 through Give to Go Green scheme

GIVE TO GO GREEN

The Church of England in Suffolk is taking part in the Give to Go Green campaign, which sees the national CofE match any money raised for eco projects – and is urging more churches across the county to join up.

The community of St Peter and St Paul Church in Pettistree has raised a total of £23,910, including match-funding and gift aid, to revamp and update its parish room, which was built in the churchyard in 1891. The building is being fully insulated and a ramp installed for disabled access.

Churchwarden Martin Corrall said: *"The idea is for it to become a useful community resource and bring it into the 21st century. It is sometimes easy to feel powerless in the face of climate change, but our church and its community enthusiastically embraced the recent opportunity of Give to Go Green and its matched funding. The objective, to reduce our carbon footprint and make the parish room a warmer, cheaper to heat space for the*

wider use of the community, was simple to understand and very well supported."

For every £1 a church raises during the scheme's window, the Church of England will match it. The scheme is completely digital, run through the online contactless giving platform 'Give a Little'. Read the full story on [our website here](#).

The second phase of Give to Go Green campaign is now open for applications - [visit our website here for all the information](#) or email James.rolls@cofesuffolk.org.



How did you celebrate Epiphany?

St Mary-le-Tower events and Minster Ceremony Service

The making of Ipswich, the call of its minster

Friday 17 January, 7.30pm

St Mary-le-Tower Church, Ipswich IP1 3BE

Let Richard Edgar Wilson lead you through the story of Ipswich and its soon-to-be minster church. An evening of entertainment through story and music tracing the historical and cultural history of Ipswich from the medieval to the present day. World premieres of works written for the occasion will be performed by musicians from Ipswich Minster, Framlingham College and Ipswich School featuring performance from the Ravenscroft Consort and Kathryn Parry. Free entry.

Church open day

Saturday 18 January, all day

St Mary-le-Tower Church, Ipswich IP1 3BE

The soon-to-be minster welcomes all people to explore and enjoy the beautiful church. The café will be open all day with children's activities, sculpture and stained glass exhibits. Join a free church tour at 12.00pm.

Children's Singing Workshop

Saturday 18 January, 10.30am to 11.30am

St Mary-le-Tower Church, Ipswich IP1 3BE

Join this free music event for an hour of singing and music making in the church. Enjoy songs, play junk percussion play music games. Parents are also welcome to enjoy refreshments from the café.

Bell ringing Workshop

Saturday 18 January, 10.15am to 1.30pm

St Mary-le-Tower Church, Ipswich IP1 3BE

Come along and explore the bell tower and ringing chamber, and while you are there chat to experience bellringers and enjoy ringing the region's most famous bells.

Ecumenical Vespers

Saturday 18 January, 4.00pm

St Mary-le-Tower Church, Ipswich IP1 3BE

Join us for Ecumenical Vespers on the eve of the re-designation of St Mary le Tower as Ipswich Minster and on the first day of the week of prayer for Christian Unity. All welcome.

Minster-Making Ceremony

Sunday 19 January 10.30am

St Mary-le-Tower Church, Ipswich IP1 3BE

Join us for the historic official redesignation service of St Mary le Tower to Minster, led by Bishop Martin. Open to all.

Events

Plough Sunday Service & Blessing of the Plough

Sunday 12 January, 10.30am

St Mary's Church, Cratfield IP19 0BX

All are invited to this Sunday service with the Ven Archdeacon Sally Gaze, held partially outside. Please bring along your garden tools to be blessed. Followed by a bread and soup lunch - if possible please bring your own mug.

Connect Family Ministry Course

The Woolpit Institute, Woolpit IP30 9QH

Saturdays 18 January, 22 February, 29 March, 24 May, 21 June and 19 July

In this course, we look at what families look like in the Bible and how the early church ministered to families. We then look at child development, learning and spiritual styles, discipleship, intergenerational worship, schools ministry and how we walk with families

through life's key transitions. This course is perfect for anyone already doing some children or family ministry who wishes to consolidate their learning, access new resources and join a network of like-minded people who share their enthusiasm for this ministry. Please sign up [here](#).

The Only Way is Ethics

Earl Stonham Village Hall, Stowmarket IP14 5HJ

Tuesdays 21 January, 28 January, 4 February 2025, 11 February 2025, 25 February 2025 and 4 March 2025, 7.30pm - 9.30pm

The Christian Ethics module is a six-session course which explores the history of ethical thought and also everyday issues and moral questions from capitalism to the environment. Led by the Revd Rachel Revely, the course aims to further develop moral thinking, appreciation and judgment that is appropriate within the context of Christian teaching and pastoral ministry, and Christian living. [Book here](#).

Lower than the Angels

St John's Street, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1SN

Thursday 6 February at 7.30pm

Join Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch as he speaks about his recent book. Admission £12 + 10% booking fee. Advance tickets from [We Got Tickets](#).

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 IP31 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.

Diocesan Growing Younger Conference

Saturday 8 March 10.00am - 3.30pm

St Michaels 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 to come alongside young people to grow in their faith and become confident disciples of Christ. Archdeacon Rich and the Growing Younger team are hosting a Growing

Younger Conference and 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](#).

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 explores how some creative activities can create 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 per person for students, and for those working for the NHS, charities and churches/Diocese, is applicable. For more information and for details on how to apply please [click 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 Edmunds 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 & bookings on www.larkriseretreats.org or call on 01394 284213.

In the beginning was the story... Approaching the New Testament

Earl Stonham Village Hall, Stowmarket IP14 5HJ

Wednesdays 30 April, 7 May, 14 May, 28 May, 4 June, 11 June and 18 June, 7.30pm - 9.30pm

This course looks at the beginnings of what became Christianity, in the writings of the New Testament, and explores their narrative features. Led by the Revd Canon John Parr, Approaching the New Testament takes a story-shaped approach to the heart of Christian faith. To book your place please [click here](#).

Lark Rise Retreats - Open Arms

Saturday 3 May, 10.00am - 4.00pm

St Edmunds Church, Felixstowe IP11 2HL

Led by Archdeacon Rich Henderson and drawing on the story of the Prodigal Son. Days run from 10am – 4pm, cost £25/person and includes refreshments and lunch unless otherwise stated. More details and bookings on www.larkriseretreats.org or call on 01394 284213.

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 Community 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](#).

Notice

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 \(see here\)](#), 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 is 31 January 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](#).

Living alongside Bats in Churches - Grant Opportunity

The Bat Conservation Trust offers grant funding to churches with bats living in them to help support the cost a roost might cause them - for example an increased cleaning burden. To find out more and to apply for this grant, please [click here](#).

Vacancies

[Organ Scholar](#) | St Edmundsbury Cathedral | Closing date: 14 January
[Rector](#) | Woolpit and Drinkstone Benefice | Closing date: 14 January
[Rector](#) | North Bosmere Benefice | Closing date: 28 January

[Archdeacon of Ipswich](#) | Closing date: 29 January

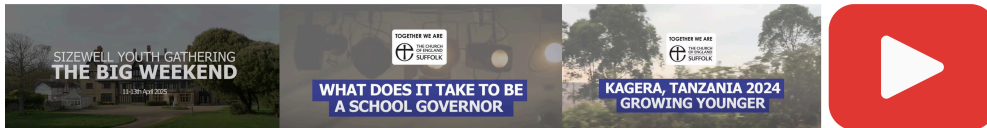
[Historic Church Building Support Officer \(HCBSO\)](#) | Closing date: 2 February

[Team Rector](#) | Wilford Peninsula Team Ministry | Closing date: 12 February

[Click here to print and share with others](#)



Watch our stories from around Suffolk



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