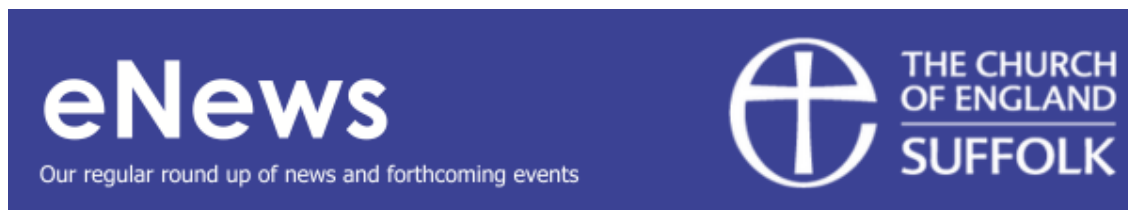


Our regular round up of news and forthcoming events from our diocese

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Thursday 9 October 2025



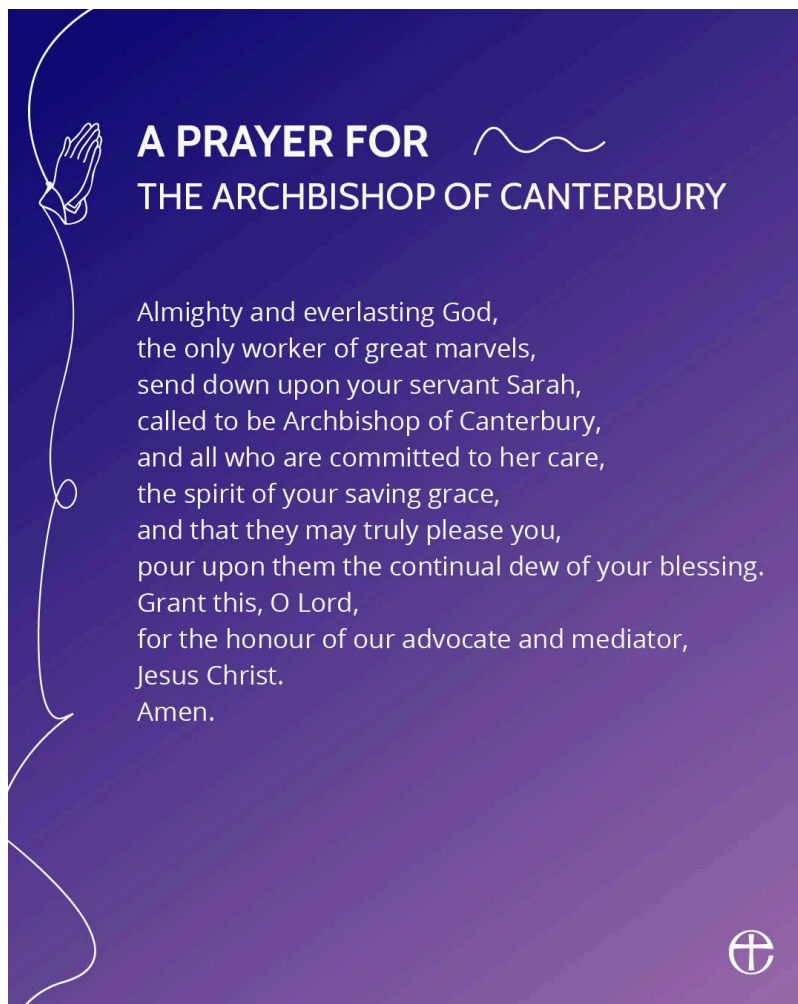
New Archbishop of Canterbury announced



Downing Street announced last Friday that the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE is to be the next Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Rt Revd Dr Joanne Grenfell, the newly appointed Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocese, said: *"I am delighted that Bishop Sarah has been appointed Archbishop of Canterbury. Having worked with her for the last six years in the Diocese of*

London I have seen first hand her courage, commitment and compassion. I believe that she is the right person to lead the Church of England towards a healthier and safer culture, and to speak about God's justice, peace, and healing in the world. I trust that parishes across the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich will join me in praying for her as she prepares for this new ministry."



Suffolk Harvest Festival



On Sunday 5 October, St Edmundsbury Cathedral hosted the County Harvest Festival, drawing visitors from across the county for a day of seasonal celebration.

The Edmund Green was filled with stalls, activities and displays celebrating Suffolk's agricultural tradition, and the service brought together worship, thanksgiving and community spirit. Read the full story on our [website here](#).



The Revd Raúl Arkaia will be leading Together we Pray next week - make sure you tune in on the Bishop's Facebook page at 8.30am each day next week!

The Diocesan Growth Fund is back

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. To find out more about the Growth Fund visit our website [here](#).

We are seeking applications for our next panel meeting and they need to be received by 4 November. This is an excellent time to fund your projects over the Christmas period. Please note applications for up to and including £500 can be agreed outside our panel meetings.

'Spud days' - St Mary's Church in Capel St Mary and St John's Church in Great Wenham received a £400 growth fund to hold their inaugural 'Spud Days' earlier this year. There was much more to this than just spuds! The days offered young people a wide range of activities, from parachute games, creating crispy cornflake desserts, painting beautiful pictures and getting active with games of rugby and darts. There was also a special churchyard quiz which had children learning and having fun about different facets of the church, like their choir and piano alongside the church's baptistery. More spud days are planned this autumn.

Mission and Ministry Events

Lay Elder Training and Social Morning, Saturday 11 October, 9.00am | The Salvation Army Hall, Stowmarket IP14 1NE

We are delighted to invite you to the next Elders' training and social morning. As part of our two-year cycle of training and celebrating, we are holding an Elders' training and social

morning with special guest speakers from across the Diocese. The workshops have been designed to help and resource you in your ministry. We are also very pleased that our keynote speaker will be the Ven Dr David Jenkins, Archdeacon of Sudbury. To register, 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.

Handling Conflict Constructively Monday 3 November, 9.00am - 4.30pm | Lavenham Village Hall, Sudbury CO10 9QT or 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 two separate Bridge Builders 'Handling Conflict Constructively' training days. The days 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 book the date and let us know if you can make the alternative date, if necessary. To register please [click 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](#).

Introduction to Preaching | Starting Saturday 22 November, 9.30am | St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Preaching is just one way by which we can grow in depth as disciples of Jesus Christ. In the Church of England this is a public ministry and a vital part for those exploring faith who visit on a Sunday or attend a baptism, wedding, or funeral. Equally those who are attracted to an activity of a new worshipping community event can benefit from an opportunity to hear the word of God explained and applied to living out faith in everyday

life. If this is something you feel called to then we want to encourage this gifting by offering an accessible means to enter this ministry. The course runs on 22 November, 24 January, 7 March, 20 June and 11 July. For more information, [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](#).

Events and training

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:

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](#)

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

Talking Toddlers | Thursday 23 October, 10.00am -11.30am, Webinar

Join Hope Together to explore how to make Christmas a welcoming and inclusive time for every child aged 0-4. Explore how toddler groups can create simple, accessible celebrations - especially for children with additional needs. [Please sign up here](#).

Church Heating Q&A | Zoom | Thursday 23 October, 7.30pm to 8.30pm

Come along to this session to learn about the impact of moving to electric heating in your church, digging into the detail of running costs, and how to go about choosing the right system. This session is for anyone in the dioceses of Ely, Norwich, Chelmsford, St Albans and St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. [Register here](#).

Talking Money: Preaching and Teaching Generosity | Thursday 23 October, 12.00pm - 2.00pm | Online

To equip clergy to teach and preach about giving - to encourage a deepening of discipleship in believers and to stimulate a culture of generosity within churches as they outwork their vision. The session will be run by Jonathan de Bernhardt Wood, the Director of Giving and Income Generation and the Regional Giving Advisor Team from the Church of England's Giving Directorate. [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](#).

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 & church leaders, pastoral & 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](#).

Lark Rise Retreats

'Does God want us to be happy?' Led by Jane Jennison
Saturday 25 October at St Nicholas Church, Felixstowe IP11 9RZ

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

Sight Loss Sunday, 12 October

Sight Loss Sunday is an initiative by Torch Trust, an organisation dedicated to enabling blind and partially sighted people to encounter Jesus, grow in their faith and thrive in Christian community. There is a whole suite of resources available on their [website here](#) including a fully planned all-age service, a recorded sermon, a video celebrating the leadership gifts and experience of those with sight loss and lots more.

The English Constitution | A Church For England 15 October, 7.30pm | Ipswich Minster IP1 3BE

Ipswich Minster is welcoming the Canon Theologian of Westminster Abbey, The Revd Dr James Hawkey, to speak on the topic of the English constitution, how it has been shaped by Christianity and the church, and how it has in turn shaped our national life, our history and our institutions. In light of current affairs, this talk is of special interest and importance. For more information [please click here](#).

Prisons Week Service, Sunday 19 October at 10.30am | St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Prison governors, chaplains and others who are involved in the Criminal Justice System are invited to this service. Serving prisoners will join for discussion and refreshments after the service. The preacher is the Venerable James Ridge who is Chaplain General and Head of Faith Services at His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service. All are welcome.

Walk with Me talk by Peter Berry and Deb Bunt, 20 October, 10.00am to 1.00pm | Felixstowe Trades and Labour Club, Felixstowe IP11 9BB

Come and be inspired by Peter Berry's journey of living well with Alzheimer's, as he shares his experiences alongside Deb Bunt. This unique event promises to be both enlightening and uplifting, offering valuable insights into dementia, safeguarding and community support. This event is intended for all to attend. **To book your place, please click here:** [Walk With Me, Living well with Dementia](#)

Heritage Morning & '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 their 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](#).

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.

Notices

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR): Please be aware of the rules surrounding GDPR. It is vital that a parish gains consent before holding the data of those visiting your church. This includes for example, if a person attends a funeral you must have their consent to hold their personal details enabling you to contact them in a year's time to invite them to a memorial service. This [website link on Parish Resources](#) provides support on understanding GDPR in a parish setting.

Parish Giving Scheme Digital Transformation Update on Gift Forms:

- New PGS Gift Forms (print and post) will be emailed to PGS Parish Statement Receivers by the Parish Resources Team starting on 13 October 2025. You can add your own parish details: name of church, place and PGS parish code 330633xxx

before printing or sending to your givers. If you would like us to add the parish details to the Gift Form and send it over to you, or if you need help with finding your parish details, please email pgs@cofesuffolk.org with your parish name and place. Please do not use the old forms as the direct debit details will be incorrect. If the PGS receive old forms, they will contact the giver directly to enable the correct information to be completed.

- New gifts can be set up from Monday 3 November 2025 when PGS online giving (through www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/) and the telephone service call on 0333 002 1271, Monday to Friday, 9.00am – 5.00pm, will once more be available.
- To confirm the revised downtime dates for the PGS website. The PGS website will be taken offline from 3.00pm Monday 13 October, remaining unavailable until Monday 3 November.
- 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

info@parishgiving.org.uk or the diocesan Parish Resources Team pgs@cofesuffolk.org

Vacancies

[Team Vicar & Associate Priest](#) | Blyth Valley Team Ministry | Closing date: 10 October

[Team Vicar](#) | Forest Heath Team Ministry | Closing date: 15 October

[Youth Worker](#) | St Thomas, Ipswich | Closing date: 20 October

[King Edward VI CEVC School Chaplain](#) | Bury St Edmunds | Closing date: 31 October

[Giving Advisor](#) | Parish Resources Team | Closing date: 13 November

[DAC Chair](#) | Voluntary Role | Closing date: 30 November

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

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

[Team Vicar](#) | Sole Bay Team

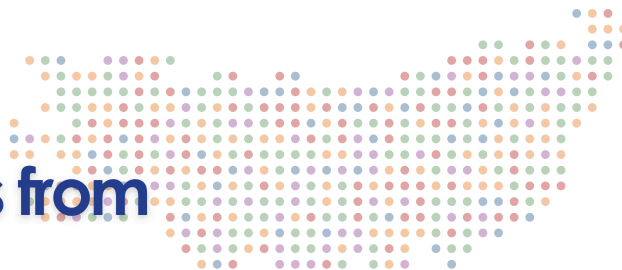
[Associate Chaplain](#) | Sizewell C

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

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