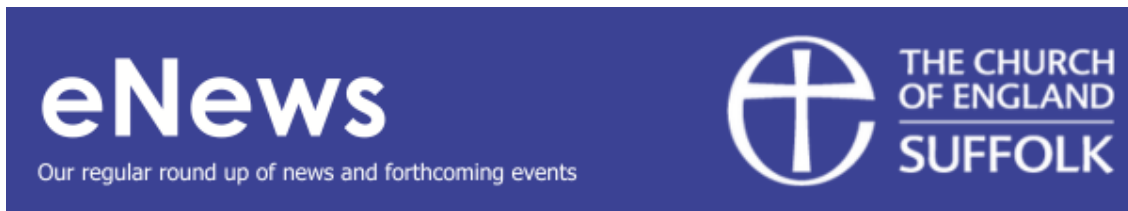


Thursday 10 July 2025



RECOGNISE (7-13 July)



RECOGNISE is this week - a national week of recognition for everyone involved in ministry with children, young people and their families. Across the country, churches will be celebrating everyone involved in this vital ministry. For more information please [click here](#). Below is the new Prayer for emerging generations:

Gracious God,

We thank you for the ministry of those who care for children, young people and their families in your Church.

Lord Jesus, who welcomed children,
empower those called to this ministry with courage and creativity.
May their ministry be rooted in joy, emboldened by the Spirit,
and always grounded in your unshakable love.

Bless those who serve the emerging generations.
May they be signs of your presence,
bringing light in the darkness, peace into places of anxiety,
and hope in the context of despair.

Lord Jesus,
impart a vision in us to see the younger generations.
To abundantly welcome them as an integral part of your Church.
Forming in us a Christ-like character and a child-like hope.
Leading the Church to reflect your love in word and deed.

In your loving name
Amen

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.

Thousands of people across the country will take part in this event, which began in Suffolk in 1982. Over 500 Suffolk churches are involved and most are open to welcome participants with refreshments. As they journey on the route they have chosen, cyclists, walkers and runners will meet others taking part including families, local history lovers, church supporters and those who just enjoy an annual trip around the villages and towns of Suffolk.

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!

National Safeguarding Audit

The audit for the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich has begun with evidence gathering from the last 12 months. This must be submitted to INEQE by 6 August 2025. INEQE will then visit the diocese in the Autumn to carry out in person interviews. Can you help us with the audit?

As part of the collection of evidence INEQE has requested that we ask people to complete a survey with their views on safeguarding in the diocese. The surveys are anonymous and will only be seen by the auditors. A summary of findings will be included in the final report. There are several surveys to represent the diverse groups of people across the diocese. Please complete any which you feel are applicable to you, the link below will take you to the surveys, where you can choose the one(s) relevant to you. All surveys need to be submitted by 6 August 2025.

Survey link: <https://ineqe.com/churchofengland/edmundsbury-and-ipswich/>

Events

Zac Musical | The Combined Churches Choir

Sunday 13 July, 4.00pm | St Peter and St Mary's Church, Stowmarket IP14 1ES

Come along to the musical Zacchaeus by Roger Jones which tells the story of Zacchaeus the taxman who wanted to meet Jesus and hear more of the message that he brought to the world and how it changed his life. Roger Jones himself is coming to conduct the musical presentation. Entry is free, with a collection going to St Nicholas Hospice.

Choir Evensong

Sunday 13 July, 5.30pm (and rehearsal at 2.30pm) | St Mary's Church, Woodbridge IP12 4LP

An opportunity to join St Mary's Woodbridge, Choir and friends to sing Evensong in celebration of the sea and all who go on it. There is no charge to take part; music and refreshments are provided. You are also very welcome to join the service as part of the congregation. For more information and to book places, please contact: directorofmusic@stmaryswoodbridge.org or tel 01394 388820. We look forward to welcoming you to St Mary's!

Faith Story – with Laura Mumford

Monday 14 July, 7.00pm, online



All are welcome to join us for the next 'Faith Story' in our series as the Revd Laura Mumford, Diocesan Growing Younger Enabler, shares her faith journey with us. In January 2025, Laura brought her passion and experience to the Mission and Ministry team, taking on the role of Growing Younger Enabler. Before this, she served as a school Chaplain at the Royal Hospital School in Holbrook, where she blended her priestly calling with her background in teaching Religious Studies. Find out more

and book [here](#).

Introduction to being a Church Trustee

Tuesday 15 July 7.00pm to 8.00pm | By Zoom

This course offered by the ACAT provides insight for those considering joining their church's governing body, exploring the role's responsibilities, eligibility and its biblical context. It's designed for anyone who has been asked, or is considering offering, to be part of the governing body of your church as well as those who are looking for potential future trustees for their church governing body. This introductory course brings real and practical information and insights into the calling to be a church trustee. It's delivered by an experienced trainer who can answer your questions and concerns. Cost is £15 per person. Book [here](#).

The Diocese provides free [ACAT](#) (Association of Church Accountants and Treasurers) membership for its treasurers. Please email [Julie Podd](#) to obtain details. Membership of ACAT provides access to their informative handbook, introductory guide for new treasurers, training, newsletters as well as advice on accounting, reporting, Gift Aid, GASDS, independent examination as well as the chance to email in questions. In addition our Diocese supports treasurers with the Treasurer Forum where you can interact with each other to offer advice and support, and share information. Please email [Emma Denton](#) to join.

Song Circle Summer Concert 2025

Saturday 19 July, 5.00pm | Holy Trinity Church Long Melford, Sudbury CO10 9DT

The combined voices of the Song Circle ladies' choir come together to share beautiful harmonies in this most spectacular setting. Songs from the shows, classical works and the odd vintage pop song will reverberate in three part harmony in this almost cathedral-like space with its stunning medieval stained glass windows. Tickets are £5.50 and available [here](#) and children are admitted free.

Westleton Wildflower Festival and Craft Fair

Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 July, 12 noon to 5.00pm | St Peter's Church, Westleton IP17 3BD

Come and marvel at the the spectacular wildflower arrangements in the Church. Admire the flora and fauna in the Churchyard and join in the bug hunts. There will also be craft and plant stalls, along with refreshments in the Village Hall. Entry is free with donations welcome to support the Church and the Village Hall.

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 serves.

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 Thologian of Westminster Abby | 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](#).

A Feast of Music

Friday 19 September, 7.30pm | St Mary and St Peter's Church, Barham IP6 0PU

Join the Mothers' Union as they host a evening of music from local musicians. Be entertained, eat cake and raise money for the MU. Why not bring a friend along? For further information please email: contact henleymothersunion@gmail.com

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](#)

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 and Sing Choral Evensong

Sunday 28 September, from 2.00pm. The service starts at 5.30pm | St Michael's Church, Framlingham IP13 9BJ

Enjoy a singing workshop to learn and practise music by Stanford, Batten, John Reading and de 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. You are welcome to come to the service only, and hear the music. 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 | Kesgrave - see Insight for address

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

Understanding and Working with Relationships and Family Dynamics

Friday 28 November 2025, 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 contact Inspire or email contact@inspirecounselling.org.uk.

Notices

Growth Fund Opportunities: The Diocesan Growth Fund offers grants of up to £1500 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](#).

The Suffolk Community Awards 2025: It's time again for the annual awards which recognise and celebrate all those who have improved the quality of life for communities across Suffolk. Winners receive a certificate, trophy and £50 cash prize. The Faith Award provides recognition to a faith group that has worked for the benefit of the community - is there a faith group you would like to nominate? Submit your nomination before 13 July at www.suffolkcommunityawards.co.uk/nominate

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 now live for you 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

Return of Parish Finance: Many thanks to all parishes who have submitted their form. Completing your Return of Parish Finance provides your benefice and our Diocese with valuable information and data. The results of your efforts are collated by the National Church and used to report key trends and features of parish financial activity. Returns are to be submitted on the Online Parish Returns System: <https://parishreturns.churchofengland.org/>. If you require login details or any other assistance regarding the online portal, please contact statistics@cofesuffolk.org by email. The deadline is now **31 July 2025**. Further information is available on our [website here](#).

Vacancies

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

[Lead Parish Nurse](#) | Closing date: 25 July

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

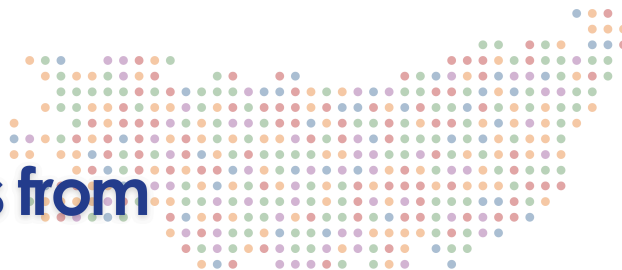
[Mothers' Union Communication Lead](#) | Closing day: 31 July

The Arthur Rank Centre has just launched a dedicated webpage to support rural churches, charities and communities with sharing and discovering new job opportunities. Listings are free. Please visit: [Rural Vacancies](#).

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



Watch our stories from around Suffolk



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