Thursday 11 June 2026

eNews

Our regular round up of news and forthcoming events

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND SUFFOLK

How Our Link with Tanzania is Changing Lives



For many across our Diocese, our link with Tanzania is something we value and support—but stories like this remind us just how powerful and life-changing these partnerships can be. Later this year, Mike Morley, a farmer from Bradfield St Clare, will embark on an extraordinary next chapter. At 72, as he retires from farming in Suffolk, he is choosing not to slow down! Mike will travel to our link dioceses in Tanzania, where he plans to spend up to two years sharing his knowledge and experience to help improve farming and livelihoods.

In Kagera, he connects with Thomas Shavu at Christian Community Mobilization Project. (CCMP). Together, they share a simple but powerful vision: to improve local farming in practical, sustainable ways. Initially this was focused on pigs because Thomas had six sows and one boar but knew little about pig farming while Mike had pig nutrition and husbandry expertise. With some help from UK partners, together they developed a new pig feed based on local crops, built a new pig weighing machine and along with three vets in the region they could regularly monitored the pigs' health. This resulted in healthier pigs, larger litters and increased food production. More pigs meant more manure, providing compost for arable crops which doubled the maize production. This is a powerful cycle: better farming, healthier animals, improved harvests and therefore more food for families. Mike's work is not about imposing solutions, but about sharing knowledge and learning together.

Mike hopes to work with the local government and the Bishops of Biharamulo, Kagera and Lweru to share the knowledge more widely. The diocese is fully engaged in improving the land in their parishes. Preaching about the land and the need to feed the land is a key message in their churches – the link between land, animals and food is clear.

You are invited to hold Mike in your prayers as he travels to Africa this October. He has promised to update us in the autumn and we look forward to more stories of faith in action, which show that small acts can have a big impact and transform local communities.

Read the full story here.

A community celebrates completion of historic mosaic restoration

The mosaic at St Lawrence Church in Great Waldingfield has a fascinating history, with the



stones for the artwork brought back from Egypt, Italy, Sudan and the Holy Land in the mid-19th century by two intrepid sisters from the village. The mosaic was removed from the church piece by piece and restored by specialists at Skillington's Workshop in Grantham before it was painstakingly put back together. Funding for the restoration project came through The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Suffolk Historic Churches Trust and local donations.

On Sunday 24 May, the community held a special service at the church, with Bishop Joanne leading the service. Read the full story here.

Together we Pray:

Together we Pray will be livestreamed by St Edmundsbury Cathedral, on YouTube at 8.30am. They also share Evensong, Monday to Friday at 5.30pm. If you have been following the prayers please switch to the livestreaming of prayers on YouTube: www.youtube.com/@stedscathedral/streams.
You can still share your comments with each other live on YouTube, we look forward to seeing you there!

Diocesan and Mission & Ministry Events



PCC Workshops:

Parish Giving Scheme: Join a monthly PGS webinar with the Parish Resources Team to find out more about the scheme, the benefits and how to join. The PGS is dedicated to serving givers and churches in a shared ministry of giving. Book: 12 June

Buildings: Do you have a pending project for fabric repairs in your church? Julie Alcock, Historic Church Buildings Support Officer; Toby Hart, Church Buildings Support Officer and Emma Denton, Giving Advisor, will guide you through the process of where you need to start, who you need to involve, and any permissions required. Book: 7 July.

Leading your Church into Growth

Leading your Church into Growth, 12-13 June 2026 at Debenham Community Centre
Following the positive feedback from our Leading your Church into Growth (LyCiG) conferences in 2024 and 2025, we are delighted that the LyCiG team are coming back to lead another conference for us in 2026. Come along to be encouraged, inspired, and equipped with practical tools and frameworks for mission and growth for your church. This conference is relevant to churches large and small, rural and urban, and whether you are a single parish or a multi-parish benefice. We invite

incumbents to come with a small team.
For more information, please email: the Revd Katie de Bourcier, Diocesan Mission Enabler, or Lisa Hicks, LyCiG Coordinator. To book please click here.

Church brand toolkit and new Canva templates | 2.00pm Thursday 18 June, Zoom
Join this national webinar to learn more about the new customisable brand templates and design resources made for churches! These are all editable within Canva so you can jump straight in and start creating, saving you time and energy. Includes a walk through a new visual support pack for churches, which provides a range of colours, fonts and logos churches can use, and demo an interactive practice session you can use to get more confident with Canva. Register here.

Safeguarding Training
Book your safeguarding course - for any in-person safeguarding training visit Insight, where you, or your local safeguarding officer, can book you a place to attend a course.

Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse Training: Huntingfield, Wednesday 24 June, book here.
Foundation Training: Bury St Edmunds, Tuesday 30 June, book here or Ipswich, Tuesday 29 September, book here.
Leadership Training: Earl Stonham, June and July, book here.
Basic Awareness Training: Ipswich, Tuesday 15 September, book here.

Additional dates for in-person and online courses will be published soon. For those people who want to get a head start on completing the pre-work for their Leadership Training, please click here to view and download the Leadership pre-work materials that all participants need to complete before attending their first booked session of Leadership Training.

Digital Surgeries
Join members of the Parish Resources Team for a one-to-one session to find out more about enhancing the digital giving presence in your parish:

Monday 13 July | St Michael's Church, Framlingham | 9.30am, 10.30am, 2.00pm or 3.00pm
Tuesday 4 August | St Peter and St Paul's Church, Lavenham | 9.30am, 10.30am, 2.00pm or 3.00pm
Wednesday 30 September | Abbey House, Bury St Edmunds | 9.30am, 10.30am, 11.30am, 2.00pm or 3.00pm
Tuesday 3 November | Diocesan Office, Ipswich | 1.30pm, 2.30pm or 3.30pm.

Click here to book any of these dates. Further dates across the county to follow.

Churchwardens' Training 2026
These 90-minute training sessions are aimed at all churchwardens, whether you are new or have been in post for some time. The sessions are also open to anyone who might have reason to think that he or she could be a churchwarden before long! Covering churchwardens' tasks and legal responsibilities, issues about building maintenance and faculties and many other related issues. Led by the Archdeacon with contributions from the

Diocesan Registrar. There is an opportunity for questions and to meet your fellow churchwardens.

Suffolk Archdeaconry - 7.00pm Wednesday 15 July | All Saints' Church, Wickham Market IP13 0SA
Sudbury Archdeaconry - 7.00pm Monday 20 July | Cockfield Village Hall, Church Lane, IP30 0LA
Ipswich Archdeaconry - 7.00pm Wednesday 22 July | St Peter's Church, Stoke Park Drive, Ipswich IP2 9TH
Book here and select the session most convenient for you.

A morning with Julia Mourant
You are invited to attend a morning offered by Julia Mourant, author of 'The Spiritual Director: Practising the Charism of Presence and Attention', writer and Spiritual Director. She will explore the distinctive nature of spiritual direction as both vocation and spiritual gift, grounded in experiential formation, theological reflection, and the capacity for personal growth and transformation. The cost will be £10, payable in cash only on the door. Please register here.

Church Community Services and Events

Open Gardens | Bedfield | Saturday and Sunday 13-14 June 11.00am - 4.30pm
Programmes and tickets from Mill House IP13 7SL and Bedfield & Monk Soham Community Hub IP13 7JE. Free Parking. Refreshments available.

A Summer Concert with the Illuminati Choir | Sunday 14 June, 6.30pm | St Mary and St Lawrence Church IP7 7DN
Come along to a vibrant summer concert with the Illuminati Choir. Admission is free, wine and nibbles provided with a retiring collection.

One Man Comedy Show | Friday 19 June, 7.30pm | Pettiward Hall, Great Finborough
Join Tim FitzHigham for a night of comedy: From the Edinburgh Fringe to Harleston via Pettiward Hall. Tickets £10 please, in aid of St Augustine, Harleston's re-thatching appeal. Please book by phoning 07884 334733.

British Sign Language Workshop | Saturday 20 June, 10.00am - 4.00pm | Thomas Clarkson Centre IP33 3JT
St Mary's Church, Bury St Edmunds, are hosting a British Sign Language in worship training workshop to help increase inclusiveness within church settings using BSL. Lunch provided, costs £25. Book here.

Pastimes in Petals | Saturday 20 June and Sunday 21 June, 11.00am to 5.00pm | St Mary's Church, Bawdsey
Come along for refreshments, plant stall, opportunities to climb the tower, open gardens on either side of the church and a children's trail. Also during the Flower Festival on Saturday we will be entertained by the Phoenix Handbells playing and the Barley Brigg North West Style Morris Dancers as well as other musical events on Sunday.

Open Gardens | Sunday 21 June, 11.00am - 5.00pm | All Saints' Church, Shelley
You are warmly invited to visit up to nine local gardens, enjoy tea and cakes at the church,

and resolve your gardening questions at our special Garden Surgery. All contributions support the church. Tickets are £7 for adults, with children free. You can pay on the day by card or cash at the church, or by cash only at Hullwood Barn, Erie House or Wayside Cottage.

Big Knicker Night to raise awareness of domestic abuse | Tuesday 23 June Salvation Army Hall, Stowmarket



An evening of entertainment, speakers, stalls and refreshments. Free entry to anyone who brings and donates a new packet of underwear, all of which will be donated to two Suffolk women's refuge charities, Lighthouse Women's Aid and Restore Women's Aid Centre. Click for more information and to book the Big Knicker Night.

Grow Alpha | Monday 29 June, 7.00pm | River Church IP4 1BZ
Grow Alpha is an event for church leaders, Alpha team members, or those considering running Alpha, to hear from some of the Alpha UK team on how to run effective Alpha courses, and grow the number of people exploring faith in your church. There will be free pizza and coffee, times of prayer and worship, and input from the Alpha UK team. Doors open at 6.30pm for pizza. Sign up here.

Jigsaw Puzzle Festival | 31 July - 2 August | St Peter and St Paul's Church, Kedington CB9 7NN
Come along to a in a jigsaw puzzle festival, where alongside the puzzles there will be local real ales and ciders plus wine, soft drinks, teas and cakes.

Clarkson Service | 11.00am, Sunday 5 July | Playford Church IP6 9DZ
Come along to a commemoration service of Thomas Clarkson, who dedicated his life to the cause of justice and the abolition of the slave trade. The service will be followed by a light lunch and refreshments.

Churchyard Management | Wednesday 15 July | St Mary's Church, Coddenham IP6 9PZ
Find out how to understand the wildlife value of burial grounds, the place of churchyards within a wider network of habitats and how to record any sightings. We will be focusing in particular on meadow flowers but covering the wider wildlife interest, such as veteran trees, found in churchyards too. For more information and to book please click here.

SAVE THE DATES:

Caring for Creation Service | Saturday 5 September | St Edmundsbury Cathedral.
To celebrate the 10th anniversary Eco Church and the start of Creationtide the following day. Register here.

Suffolk Harvest Festival | Sunday 4 October, 3.30pm | St Edmundsbury Cathedral.
Bringing the community together for a county Harvest Festival to celebrate people and organisations across Suffolk who work the land and sea, and to give thanks to God for this year's harvest.

Christian Activism in Today's World – a Study Day for Lay and Ordained Ministers |

Saturday 10 October, 10.00am to 3.00pm | Salvation Army Hall, Stowmarket.
A day exploring how we respond to the injustices of our world. Supported by Mark Sheard (Diocesan World Mission Officer) and the Revd Richard Stainer (former Diocesan World Development Adviser), joined by speakers from the charity sector. More information nearer the time.

Pilgrimages to the Cathedral 2027
By this autumn we will have welcomed various parishes, benefices or deaneries from across the diocese, on seven Sunday afternoons since February, to share in a Reflective Pilgrimage around the cathedral and precincts. We would be glad to now be taking bookings for next year so if you are at all interested and/or would like to discuss the practicalities in more detail, please be in touch with the Cathedral Chaplain markhaworth@stedscathedral.org tel 01284 748720.

Notices

Notice about the PF1 Form: For those concerned with claiming for funerals please be aware that the form has been updated to reflect the increase in mileage allowance agreed by HMRC. The form issued to the funeral directors by the parishes is the basis of the charge to the deceased family. The DBF will process the invoice to the funeral directors, and the payment to the parish, based on this form. We can't make amendments after it is received so please ensure that the updated form is used to claim the new mileage allowance. Find the new form here.

Return of Parish Finance: Thank you to all parishes who have submitted their Return of Parish Finance. Completing your Return provides your benefice and our Diocese with valuable information and data. The results of your efforts are collated by national church and used to report key trends and features of parish financial activity. Please submit your Return via the Online Parish Returns System here.

If you require login details or any other assistance regarding the online portal, please email statistics@cofesuffolk.org. The deadline for this Return is **28 June 2026**. Further information on the Return of Parish Finance and other returns is available on Insight here: Parish Returns resources - Insight CofE Suffolk

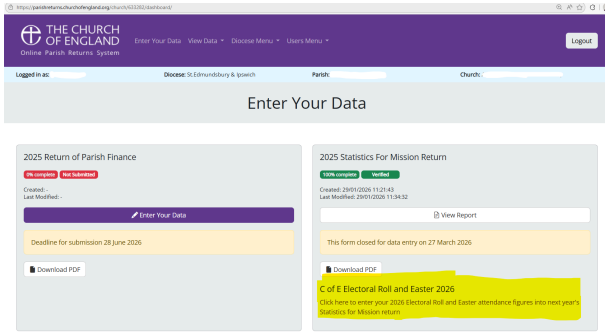
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Record retention guidance: As a church body you store a huge range of information. Click here for new guidance to help you more easily comply with legal, contractual, GDPR and safeguarding requirements for record retention, and care for records of historical value.

Policies and guidance: A new section on the Church of England website brings together policies and guidance for PCCs about keeping people safe. PCCs and church charities are responsible for taking reasonable steps to protecting people from harm in a church setting. This page signposts you to find mandatory and best practice information. Find everything you need here.

Places of Worship Renewal Fund: A new national funding scheme for churches, the Places of Worship Renewal Fund, was launched on Wednesday 20 May. It is aimed, in part, to plug the funding gap created by the abolition of the Listed Places of Worship Fund. Any listed church in the Diocese is eligible to apply, and a total of £23m is available this year. Awards will range between £10,000 and £1m, with priority being given to churches in areas of high deprivation and those which face the greatest fundraising challenges. The application process begins with submitting an 'Expression of Interest' and guidance is currently available on Historic England's website here. We hope to be able to bring you more guidance in due course but in the meantime, you can find an explanation of how the new fund will operate on the website of the National Churches Trust here.

Electoral Roll: By 1 July each year, the PCC Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary or the Electoral Roll Officer must notify the Secretary of the Diocesan Synod of the number of names on the Electoral Roll as at the date of the APCM. Anyone aged 16+, baptised, who lives in a parish or regularly worships there, and declares themselves a member of the Church of England, is eligible for the Church Electoral Roll. For a more comprehensive list of rules, please refer to 'Parish Resources' here. As of this year, please submit your Electoral Roll number via the Online Parish Returns system here. Once logged in, navigate to the 'Enter Your Data' section, as shown below, to record your Electoral Roll number.



If you require login details, are unable to submit the figure online, or you need any other assistance regarding the online portal, please email: statistics@cofesuffolk.org. Please do not send the Electoral Roll itself, as this would breach data protection regulations.

Deanery Synod Elections: The term of office for the current Deanery Synod membership ends on 30 June 2026. We wrote to Deanery Synod Secretaries in December informing them of the number of lay representatives to be elected from PCCs in their Deanery. PCCs must elect the allocated number of lay representatives at their Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCMs), which must have taken place by 31 May, and the results of these elections returned to their Deanery Synod Secretary by 14 June.

The Deanery Synod Secretary must then compile **a register of lay and clergy representatives** with their names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses (specifying for each member the category of membership) and a copy of this register must then be sent to the Diocesan Secretary at diocesan.secretary@cofesuffolk.org no later than **1 July 2026**.

We provided a spreadsheet in the New Year enabling you to record this information. If you require another copy of this spreadsheet, or any further assistance, please email diocesan.secretary@cofesuffolk.org

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Energy Footprint Tool: Complete your EFT on the Parish Returns Portal here. It should take about 15 minutes to do, and completion of the tool will make your church eligible for various sources of funding for net zero and energy reducing projects in your buildings. There is funding from £5,000 up to £80,000 available over this triennium to support net zero projects in your parish. If you require log-in details or any other assistance with the online portal, please email statistics@cofesuffolk.org If you need help with the EFT please email James Rolls, our Net Zero Carbon Officer.

Vacancies

Executive Assistant to the Archdeacons & Designated Officer for Clergy Appointments | Bishop's Office | Closing date: 15 June
Team Vicar | Team Rector | Sole Bay Team | Closing date: 24 June
Rector | Sancroft Benefice | Closing date: 30 June
Community Outreach Minister | St Andrew's, Rendlesham | Closing date: 30 June | Contact Father Paul Hambling.
Coffee Shop Manager | Runway Coffee shop operated by the church in Martlesham | Closing date: 17 July
Team Vicar | Forest Heath Team Ministry
Rector | North Bosmere Benefice
Kids Pastor | Full-time | River Church
Internship for 18-30s with theological training from St Mellitus College | River Church
Tenor Vicar Choral | Non-Executive Safeguarding Chapter Member | Volunteers | Risk, Audit and Review Committee Member, Finance Committee Member | Senior Non-Executive Chapter Member | St Edmundsbury Cathedral

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