Thursday 14 May 2026

eNews

Our regular round up of news and forthcoming events

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND SUFFOLK

'Love Your Burial Ground Week' - with Churches Count on Nature



As part of 'Love your Burial Ground Week', Churches Count on Nature are offering a series of webinars from Monday 8 to Friday 12 June, with a bonus webinar on Tuesday 26 May. Join them in celebrating UK churchyards, cemeteries and other types of burial grounds! From history talks to wildlife surveys, there will be something of interest to anyone who is interested in these special places and their capacity for enhancing biodiversity. All webinars are free to attend. They take place from 12.00pm-1.00pm and include time at the end for a Q&A. Find out more about these webinars here.

Poignant service in memory of fishermen who have lost their lives off the coast



Fishermen in Suffolk have been praised by Bishop Joanne for the vital role they undertake in sustaining an important industry. The Fishermen's Mission arranged a service in Lowestoft to pay tribute to fishermen and to remember those who have died while carrying out their hazardous way of life. It was one of the national events on the third Fishing Remembrance Day, and Bishop Joanne was invited to read a poem and lay a posy of flowers.

The service, on Sunday 10 May, was held at St Margaret's Church in Lowestoft.
A remembrance service used to take place on one of the piers but on this occasion, a church was chosen. St Margaret's is in the Diocese of Norwich whose Bishop, the Rt Revd Graham Usher, welcomed Bishop Joanne to be part of this service. Read the full story on our website here.

Join our review of lay ministry pathways and permissions - book a 1 to 1 with Archdeacon Sam: *"Across the Diocese, we have much to give thanks for. Every day, our lay people offer their gifts with generosity, faith, and quiet dedication. This rich and varied ministry is not an addition to the life of the Church, it is at its very heart, flowing from our shared calling in baptism and shaping our common witness to Christ. With deep gratitude for all that is already flourishing, Bishop Joanne has invited me to review lay ministry pathways and permissions across the Diocese. This invitation grows out of a hopeful vision: that the many ways in which lay people serve might be more clearly supported,*



encouraged and celebrated.
Across the Diocese there is a vibrant and diverse ecology of lay ministry, pastoral, youth and children's work, pioneering, evangelism, chaplaincy, and more. This diversity is a gift. The review will gently explore how clearer and more consistent pathways might strengthen vocation, support incumbents, and enable growth in mission, while remaining faithful to the life of our local churches.

God has already been at work among us, and this review is a chance to be inspired anew, to strengthen what is strong, and to imagine what could yet be." - Archdeacon Sam **Book time with Archdeacon Sam here**.

Abbey of St Edmund, Reborn project: We are delighted to announce that planning permission has been granted for the Abbey of St Edmund Reborn project - a huge milestone that has been reached with the successful approval of all planning applications for the project. This marks a significant step forward in realising project partners', St Edmundsbury Cathedral, West Suffolk Council and English Heritage's shared vision to conserve, enhance and re-present this extraordinary historic site for future generations. Read the full story here.

Change of name for the Ipswich to Cambridge railway line: From now on this railway line will be promoted as the 'St Edmund's Line' following a competition launched by Greater Anglia and the Ipswich to Cambridge Community Rail Partnership (CRP). Over 1000 entries were received and this was the most popular suggestion, reflecting the history of Saint Edmund who in his lifetime was King of the East Angles and was later canonised to become a saint. His life in, and links to, the area have long been recognised, not least in the name of the town of Bury St Edmunds, and over the years has also been highlighted in names for local authorities, churches, and appropriately, trains too. Learn more here.



Welcoming Lindsey Moss - our new Safeguarding Trainer and Coordinator: We'd like to extend a warm welcome to Lindsey Moss, our new Safeguarding Trainer and Coordinator in the diocese. She will be working alongside Lisa Hicks in carrying out Safeguarding training throughout the Diocese. You can contact her on lindsey.moss@cofesuffolk.org.

Together we Pray: In the lead up to the Suffolk Show the Mission and Ministry team will be heading Together we Pray for two weeks. This starts with the Revd Katie de Bourcier on Monday 18 May. The live Facebook prayers will now appear on the Diocesan Facebook page and will be available: here: www.facebook.com/CofEsuffolk. If you have been following the prayers for several years please do remember to switch to the diocesan Facebook page to view the prayers: @cofesuffolk. We look forward to seeing you there.



Katie de Bourcier will be leading Together we Pray next week - make sure you catch her on the Diocesan Facebook page!

Diocesan and Mission & Ministry Events

Interested in Running Bubble Church? | 7.00pm on Thursday 21 May | Book here | Teams



Bubble Church is a Sunday church service especially for babies, toddlers, and young families. It's a puppet-packed, Jesus-centred, coffee-and-food-fuelled, 30-minute kids and families adventure. Come along to an initial Teams session to get an overview to see whether this suits your church.
7.00pm on Thursday 21 May | Book here

Readers' 160th Anniversary Celebration Service | Sunday 17 May, at 3.30pm, St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 1LS
It was on Ascension Day, 5th May 1866, at a Convocation at Canterbury that the Office of Readers was revived within the Church of England. In this 160th anniversary year it is an opportunity to reflect on and give thanks for the ministry that Readers exercise in parishes

across this Diocese and the Anglican Church. All are welcome to mark this celebratory occasion in the Cathedral on the Sunday after Ascension Day, where Bishop Joanne and Dean Joe, Warden of Readers, will share the leading and preaching at this service of Choral Evensong.

Faith Story - Archdeacon Sam | 7.00pm, 18 May 2026 | Teams
All are welcome to join us for the next 'Faith Story' in our series as the Ven Samantha Brazier-Gibbs, Archdeacon of Ipswich, shares her faith journey with us. Have you asked 'How do I know what God is asking me to do?' Come and join the conversations with others about their faith journey. Book here.

Plugged in – technology for remote and rural communities | Saturday 30 May, 10.00am **|** St Felix of Dunwich Church, Rendlesham IP12 2GG



This one-day workshop will offer a range of cost-effective suggestions whether you are starting from square one or looking to upgrade or improve existing systems. It will be led by David Jordan, who has deep experience of finding technological solutions to support mission and ministry in his own rural multi-parish benefice. Come with your questions and learn from David and each other. Diocesan staff from the Parish Resources team will also be there to talk about digital giving and grants. A free lunch will be provided. Book here.



PCC Workshop: 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

PCC Workshop: 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.

PCC Workshop: Digital Giving (contactless and online, including QR codes): Understand the need, options, availability, cost and impact of Digital Giving. A contactless donation device might be right for your church, and we will show you what's available to buy or you might choose to borrow one of our diocesan devices for an event or trial. Book 3 October, 12.00pm

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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.



Katie de Bourcier invites Chrissie and Dave to talk about their experience with LyCiG.

Carbon Literacy training | Wednesday 24 June, 10.30am to 3.30pm | St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS
The Care of Creation Group and the Cathedral would like to invite eight people to join them for a carbon literacy training day. This specialist training is delivered by Eastern Education Group and costs £25 per person. Carbon Literacy is the ability to understand, communicate about, and act on climate change in our daily lives. At the end of the training, you will be able to create an action plan and commit to at least two practical actions – one individual and one collective – to cut carbon in your personal and professional life. Places are available on a first come/served basis, to book and for further information please email Jane Haviland

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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 (ten courses available), 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.

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

Called By Name | Friday 11 September - Sunday 13 September | Sarum College, Salisbury SP1 2EE
A two-day event for ordinands, curates and those discerning. A weekend for all of UKME/GMH heritage to support and nourish you on your vocations journey. All welcome, from explorers to curates. For more information and to book click here.

Church Community Services and Events

St Edmundsbury Cathedral Pilgrimages
Saturday 16 May | Little Gidding Annual Pilgrimage from Leighton Bromswold to Little Gidding in Huntingdonshire
For more information on all pilgrimages and registration please contact Cathedral Chaplain, the Revd Canon Mark Haworth markhaworth@stedscathedral.org.

Pentecost Songs of Praise | Sunday 24 May, 3.30pm | St Edmundsbury Cathedral
With Pentecost falling in half-term this year, the 3.30 pm Evening service at St Edmundsbury Cathedral will take the form of Pentecost Songs of Praise, rather than BCP Choral Evensong. Do come along to sing some of your favourite Pentecost hymns and to celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit together. The service will include anointing for personal renewal.

A History of Israel and the Jews | Friday 15 May, 7.00pm or Saturday 16 May, 10.00am | The Place by the Water, Shottisham IP12 3HG
Come and explore 3500 years of history through the Bible and associated archaeology, the land of Israel and the history of the Jewish people. Refreshments will be served 15 minutes before each session, and there will be an opportunity for discussion throughout the event. Please note that the content for each session is the same. To book please email theplacebythewater@gmail.com.

Great Blakenham Events | Great Blakenham Parish Room IP6 0LN
Bereavement Café | Saturday 23 May, 2.00pm - 4.00pm: A safe place to talk about your grief, whether recent, a long time ago, or anticipated.
Doggy Day | Saturday 18 July, 11.00am - 2.00pm: Celebrate the four legged friends in your life. Doggy tombola, dog competitions and more.
Pet Celebration Service | Sunday 19 July, 11.00am: Celebrate how pets enrich our lives.

For pets of all types, large and small.
Refreshments provided for all.

From Flight to Faith: Holy Innocents Great Barton dedicates new vocation this Pentecost | Sunday 24 May, at 10.30am, Holy Innocents' Church, Great Barton
During the festival service, the congregation will formally take down the *Flight of Kites* art installation and dedicate the church to a permanent, ongoing vocation of prayer for the 'Modern Holy Innocents'—children across the globe whose lives are affected or taken by war and conflict. All are welcome to join the service to share in this act of dedication and to commit to this new chapter of prayer and witness.

Organ Recital and Afternoon Tea | Saturday 30 May, 3.00pm | Holy Trinity Church, Barsham NR34 8HA
The recital is to be given by Dr David Flood, formerly Organist and Master of the Choristers for 32 years at Canterbury Cathedral. Enjoy a programme of well loved organ favourites as well as some more unusual musical treasures. Delicious Barsham Tea will be served afterwards. No booking required, donations on the door warmly welcomed.

Choral Evensong | St John The Baptist Church, Snape IP17 1QW | Sunday 7 June, 6.00pm. With music from Franck, Wilby, Goss and Farrell.

Choral Evensong | St James Church, Dunwich, Sunday 21 June, 6.00pm. The Jubilate Choir will lead a traditional service of Evensong.

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 pair of underwear, all of which will be donated to two Suffolk women's refuge charity, Lighthouse Women's Aid and Restore Women's Aid centre. Click for more information and to book the Big Knicker Night.

Live, Love, Laugh: String Quartets by Holst, Beethoven and Mendelssohn | St Mary the Virgin, Dalham | Friday 5 June at 6.30pm
Celebrate summer with an evening of music. Bring a picnic to have before or after in the church grounds. A bar will be open from 6.00pm and during the interval. Brother Tree Sound String Quartet, one of the country's most innovative and exciting chamber groups, will play a programme of music featuring quartets by Imogen Holst, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, and a surprise piece about Suffolk. Tickets here.

Choral Evensong | Sunday 7 June, 6.00pm | St John the Baptist, Snape Church IP17 1QW
A service of prayer and music for Corpus Christi. Featuring music by Franck, Wilby, Goss, Farrell.

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.

Shepherd Society Talk with Shireen Awwad Hilal | Saturday 27 June, 7.00pm | Brandeston Village Hall IP13 7AE
The Shepherd Society is one way in which Palestinian Christians respond to the Gospel's call to love our neighbour and care for the poor. The Shepherd Society has been assisting struggling Palestinians in the West Bank with meeting basic needs such as food, employment and medical care. Shireen will be talking about their work and delivering an important message to us as fellow Christians. Refreshments will be served on arrival.

Come and See Weekend - Community of St Mary the Virgin | Saturday 11 July - Sunday 12 July | St Mary the Virgin, Wantage OX12 9AU
The Sisters of the Community of St Mary the Virgin are offering those wondering about a possible vocation to the Religious Life a chance to spend a weekend with them in their Convent joining them in chapel, eating with them, and more. There will also be opportunity to chat with the Sisters and ask questions. For more information please click here.

Public Faith, Common Good, Christian Social Order | Tuesday 21 July, 10.00am - 4.00pm | Old Divinity School, Cambridge CB2 1TP
In communities that are increasingly fragmented and polarised, how can the Church articulate a compelling vision for the common good, social justice, and solidarity with our neighbour? This one-day symposium brings together theologians, practitioners, and thought leaders to reflect on the Church's role within contemporary public life. Book here.

Honey and the Bear folk concert at St Nicholas | Sunday 26 July, 2.15pm, St Nicholas Church, Bedfield IP13 7JJ
Suffolk's finest Folk and Roots Duet, Honey and the Bear, will be performing on behalf of the Friends of Bedfield Heritage. Entry costs £20 per ticket. Refreshments will be available. Please email friendsofbedfieldheritage@gmail.com stating how many tickets you require and further details will be sent to you. All profits to go to the church composting toilet fund.

Cathedral Pilgrimage to Iona | 25 September to 3 October
A vacant twin room in Bishop's House has just become available; if you would like to explore the idea of coming, do please email straight away the Cathedral Chaplain, Canon Mark Haworth or tel. 01284 748720 / 07932 160009.

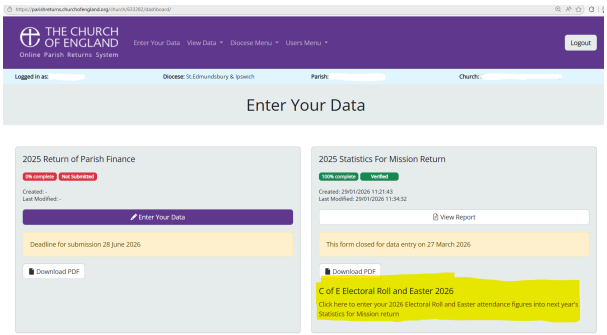
Notices

Tools with a Mission for Kagera: St Edmundsbury Cathedral will be collecting donations for Tools with a Mission (TWAM), a Christian charity that collects unwanted usable tools, refurbishes them, and sorts them into trade tool kits for livelihood creation. Donations will be collected on Sundays 7 and 14 June by the South Door, and will arrive in Kagera before the end of October. They will be distributed to projects in the dioceses of the three Kagera Bishops who visited Bury St Edmunds in January, as well as to Burundi. This is a great opportunity for you to declutter, and for those in East Africa to gain much needed tools.

Articles of Enquiry: Parishes are kindly asked to complete the online Articles of Enquiry via the Online Parish Return System (OPRS) https://parishreturns.churchofengland.org/. The questions are posed by the Archdeacons and cover key areas of parish life, including Safeguarding, Environment, Discipleship, Giving and Church Buildings. They help us understand where parishes are thriving and where support may be helpful. Please complete the form by 30 September—thank you for your time and cooperation. 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

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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 per highlight 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 take 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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ACAT (Association of Church Accountants & Treasurers) – Members and Courses: Treasurers in our diocese are offered free ACAT membership which gives them unlimited access to the ACAT helpline, monthly newsletters and the extensive handbook on their website. ACAT also offers expert training in many aspects of the church treasurer and trustee role. Please email emma.denton@cofesuffolk.org to ask for joining details. Click here for a full list of ACAT training options and booking details. (Please note: ACAT make a small charge for training).

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.

Book of Common Prayer: St Mary's Church in Bury St Edmunds, has been blessed to have increasing numbers of confirmation candidates. They use and give candidates a copy of the Book of Common Prayer, often using surplus or redundant editions. If your church has spare copies (the wrong monarch being prayed for, no longer in use and of no historical significance), and you have the appropriate permission to pass them on, please email the Revd Canon Christopher (Tiffer) Robinson.

Vacancies

Operations Manager | St Augustine's, Ipswich | Closing date: 15 May
Kid's and Families Pastor | St Augustine's, Ipswich | Closing date: 15 May
Archdeaconry Mission Enabler | Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich | Closing date: 20 May
Vicar | Kesgrave with Little Bealings & Playford | Closing date: 20 May
Rector | North Bosmere Benefice
Team Vicar | Forest Heath Team Ministry
Rector | Box River Benefice
Team Vicar & Associate Priest | Blyth Valley Team Ministry F/T Stipendiary Post

Tenor Vicar Choral | Non-Executive Safeguarding Chapter Member | Volunteers | Risk, Audit and Review Committee Member, Finance Committee Member | Cathedral Receptionist/Administrator | Senior Non-Executive Chapter Member | St Edmundsbury Cathedral
Organist or Pianist **|** United Benefice of Stanton | For more information please contact Ali Wakelin on 07717 125743.

Could you volunteer at St Edmundsbury Cathedral as a Day Chaplain?
St Edmundsbury Cathedral has a team of volunteer Day Chaplains, drawn from our own clergy and other denominations, licensed lay ministers, and suitably-qualified other lay people. They are seeking new team members to staff every weekday half-day, and would be very pleased to hear from people who sense this as an extra call on their ministry, and perhaps as part of their formation. A copy of the new Day Chaplain's Handbook is available

from the Cathedral Chaplain, Canon Mark Haworth or tel. 01284 748720 /07932 160 009 who would be glad to discuss this with you.

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