Our regular round up of news and forthcoming events from our diocese [View this email in your browser]

Thursday 16 July 2026

eNews

Our regular round up of news and forthcoming events

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND SUFFOLK



Bishop Joanne at General Synod
Click here to watch

General Synod

Bishop Joanne has been attending General Synod this week which was held in York from 10 to 14 July. While attending, her colleague, Arabella Moore-Smith, filmed the video above as a flavour of the session alongside the national church comms team. Full Synod details can be found here and you can catch up on watching the events unfold on YouTube here.

General Synod is the national assembly of the Church of England—often described as the Church's Parliament. It plays a vital role in shaping the life, mission and future direction of the Church. It agrees new forms of worship, debates matters of national and international importance, and approves the annual budget for the work of the Church at national level.

New clergy and lay members are being elected to General Synod this year – and you are invited to stand as a candidate. Almost anyone who attends church regularly is likely to be eligible to stand as a lay member. You don't need to be a member of a PCC, Deanery Synod or Diocesan Synod. Those elected will serve for five years.

If you think you could help shape the future of the Church please consider standing for General Synod - you can find all the information needed on our website here. This includes a handy timeline and the next key date is **14 August when nominations open.**

Bishop Joanne stands against anti-Muslim hatred



Following the arrest of 12 people with the possible threat to the UK Ijtima event at Shrubland Hall, in Barham, the Rt Rev Dr Joanne Woolway Grenfell, Bishop of the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocese and a House of Lords member, said: *"I encourage us all to stand against anti-Muslim violence and anti-Muslim hatred, and indeed any actions or words that create fear and prevent the peaceful coexistence of people of different faiths across Suffolk.*

Today, I stand with our Muslim brothers and sisters and reassure them of my care and support."

Our prayer events are underway - the next one is on 18 July:
Sign up to the online webinar on Saturday 18 July, from 11.00am – 1.00pm led by the Revd Canon Sharron Coburn. You need to register so we can send you the link: click here.

Tuesday 28 July 7.00pm – 9.00pm led by Archdeacon Sam | St Margaret's Church, Ipswich | no need to book!

Please download the resources available on our website **here**, where you will also find the surveys for Clergy, Clergy PTO/Lay Ministers and the PCC Survey for Churchwardens and Treasurers. There is also an easy to print POSTER with a QR code directly to the congregation/public survey.



Feedback from our latest listening prayer event, led by Archdeacon David

Abbey of St Edmund, Reborn Project awarded delivery grant



St Edmundsbury Cathedral, West Suffolk Council and English Heritage, project partners of The Abbey of St Edmund, Reborn have announced a £7.137m grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, contributing to a total project of £9.83m. Made possible thanks to National Lottery players, the Abbey of St Edmund, Reborn project reunifies the fragmented 60-acre Abbey of St Edmund site, creating a coherent, accessible and sustainable 'place making' cultural destination.

Dean Joe said, *"We are thrilled to have received this support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund. So much hard work has gone into the project to get to this stage and thanks to National Lottery players, we can now realise the exciting plans we have for the Abbey of St Edmund, Reborn with building works commencing from Spring 2027. This will be a landmark project for Suffolk."*

Read the full story here.

Staff announcement: Julie Alcock, Historic Church Buildings Support Officer, will be leaving the Diocese at the end of July. Julie has given exceptional service, bringing a wealth of professionalism, expertise and dedication to her role. Her knowledge of historic church buildings has been invaluable, but it is her warmth, kindness and generous support of colleagues and parishes alike that have made such a lasting impact - her presence will be greatly missed. Please join us in thanking Julie and wishing her every happiness and success in the future. We hope to appoint a successor in due course, but in the meantime please address any enquiries about the cases Julie had been handling to edmund.harris@cofesuffolk.org.

Growing Younger in our Diocese

Youthscape Essentials is all-round training for every youth leader

The course covers 30 different topics; including insights into youth culture, practical skills to build confidence and the development of leadership characteristics. Take time to invest in yourself and your youth ministry. The course is free and includes an extensive training manual which will be given to you before the first session. In 2026 there were two streams available for Youthscape Essentials, online and in-person. In-person is now fully booked, but you can still join us online from 7.00pm – 9.00pm on Wednesdays: 16 September, 7 October, 11 November, 9 December, 13 January 2027, 10 February 2027, 10 March 2027, 14 April 2027, 12 May 2027 and 9 June 2027. Please sign up here.

Deep Rooted 2026 | 14 August 2.00pm to 9.00pm | Red Lodge Sports Pavilion, IP28 8FQ

Calling all young people aged 11–17! Join Deep Rooted, a FREE youth event in Red Lodge packed with fun, friendship, and faith. Our vision is to see young people rooted and established in their community, knowing they are loved by God and truly valued. Expect an exciting afternoon/evening featuring: live music, inflatables, graffiti wall, Nerf wars, burgers and much more!

Whether you can bring along members of your youth group, want to come with friends, or attend on your own, you're very welcome. This event is open to anyone across the Diocese who wants to engage, encourage, and bless young people. Come and be part of something special! Sign up here.

Diocesan and Mission & Ministry Events

Churchwardens' Training 2026

These 90-minute training sessions are open to all, including those who might interested in becoming 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.

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.

PCC Workshop on Parish Giving Scheme: Friday 17 July 11.00am or Monday 14 September, 11.00am
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 here: July | September

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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:
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.

A service at the start of Creationtide to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Eco Church | Saturday 5 September, 3.30pm | St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

Join us for our service of celebration to mark the 10th anniversary of A Rocha's Eco Church Awards. Please register so we are aware of numbers, Please register here so we know you are coming to this free event!

A morning with Julia Mourant | Saturday 3 October, 10.00am to 1.30pm | Salvation Army Hall, Violet Hill Road, Stowmarket IP14 1NE
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.

Chaplaincy Gathering | Wednesday 7 October, 10.00am–3.00pm | St Felix of Dunwich Church, Rendlesham IP12 2GG
This special day brings together chaplains serving in a wide range of settings across Suffolk for encouragement, reflection and fellowship. Hosted by Archdeacon Rich, with contributions from Bishop Joanne and keynote speaker Dr Josh Hunt, Chaplain at Felixstowe School, the gathering will offer fresh insights, inspiration and opportunities to connect with fellow chaplains. Whether you serve in education, healthcare, the workplace, community settings, the emergency services or other sectors, this is a valuable opportunity to share experiences, deepen relationships and be renewed in your ministry. Lunch will be provided. Book here.

PCC Workshop: Digital Giving (contactless and online, including QR codes) | Tuesday 13 October
Understand the need, options, availability, cost and impact of Digital Giving. Every parish should have some form of online giving available (includes QR codes) and we can help you find the best option, including tips on how best to promote it to your congregation and wider community. Book here.

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

Church Community Services and Events

Doggy Day | Saturday 18 July, 11.00am - 2.00pm | Great Blakenham Parish Room

Pet Celebration Service | Sunday 19 July 11.00am | St Mary's Chuchyard, Great Blakenham
Join these two animal related events to celebrate how our pets enrich our lives. Refreshments provided.

Jigsaw Puzzle Festival *with beer!* | 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.

Organ Recitals | St Mary's Church, Woodbridge
You are invited to a series of five recitals presenting music from across the centuries. Simon Kirk on 1 August, Ben Scott on 8 August, Mark Blatchly on 15 August, D'Arcy Trinkwon on 22 August and David Flodd 29 August. Each concert starts at 12 noon and refreshments are available.

Flower Festival "Dunwich in Verse" | St James Church, Dunwich IP17 3DT **|** 1-3 August, 10.00am – 5.00pm.
Please come and enjoy the flower arrangements and wonderful organ music as well as plant, book and cake stalls and stay for refreshments.

Hitchin Concert Band on Tour | Friday 14 August, 7.30pm | St Peter's Church, Ipswich IP2 9TH
Join this programme of epic movies and TV music with showstoppers all suitable for the whoel family. Conducted by Alison Eales with guest soloist Richard Ingham (saxophone). £8 adult and £4 per church, and family tickets £20. Book 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.

Notices

Extension to the deadline for the Return of Parish Finance: Thank you to all parishes who have already submitted their Return of Parish Finance. Completing your Return provides your benefice and our Diocese with valuable information and data. Please note that the National Church has extended the deadline for this return to **31 July 2026** to enable the collection of more data for its end of year report to dioceses. There will be no further extension. 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. Further information on the Return of Parish Finance and other returns is available on Insight here: Parish Returns resources - Insight CofE Suffolk.

Rural Resourcing Churches: Rural England is home to around 10 million people and continues to grow proportionally faster than urban areas. Yet rural churches face well-documented distinctive challenges, including dispersed populations, limited resources, clergy shortages and cultural change. Led by the Revd Sally Gaze in partnership with Rural Missions and Rural Ministry, the findings of recent research is available in *Listening to the Voice of Rural Church Planters and Pioneers*, click here to find out more.

Important update from CollecTin for those with a A15 model released in January 2026: This week your CollecTin More A15 has received an automatic software update. If you only power on your device for events, please switch it on well in advance to allow the update to fully complete before it is needed. You can confirm the update status by visiting System Update in your settings, to check it has been installed.



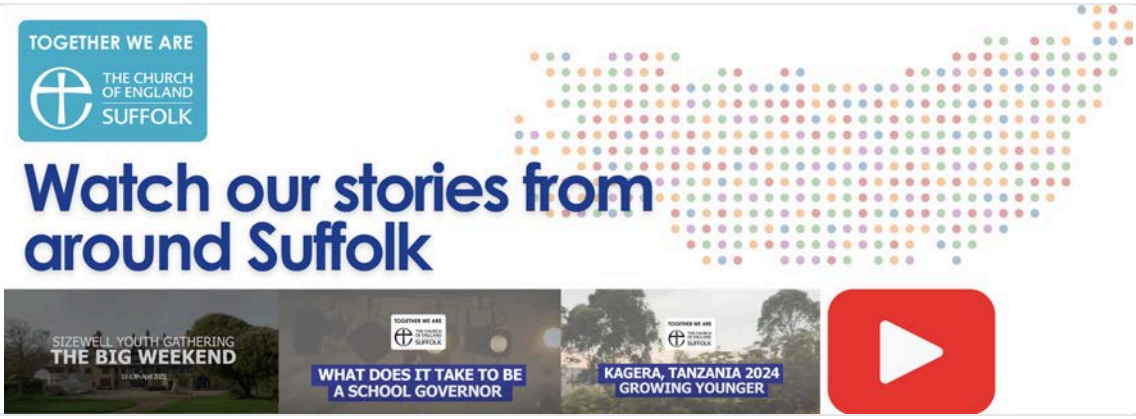
Please do email emma.denton@cofesuffolk.org or trudie.harkin@cofesuffolk.org if you have any issues.

Vacancies

Coffee Shop Manager | Runway Coffee shop operated by the church in Martlesham | Closing date: 17 July
Archdeaconry Mission Enabler | Closing date: 19 July
Associate Mission Priest / Lightwave Hub Leader | Bungay Benefice | Closing date: 20 July
Part-Time Parish Administrator (7.5 hours per week) | Christ Church Moreton Hall, Bury St. Edmunds | Closing date: 24 July
Associate Vicar | St Augustine's Church, Ipswich | Closing date: 31 July
Chief Operating Officer | St Edmundsbury Cathedral | Closing date: 3 August

Children and Families Worker | Great Barton and Thurston | Closing date: 28 August
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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