Thursday 18 June 2026

eNews

Our regular round up of news and forthcoming events

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND SUFFOLK



Together we are Listening - refreshing our vision and strategy

Today, we are launching 'Together we are Listening' as a time to pray, to reflect and to listen together to God and one another as we begin to refresh our diocesan vision and strategy. The strategy will be rooted in Growing in God, whilst recognising that some things may have changed and new opportunities may have emerged. This process will be underpinned by a rhythm of prayer, attuning our hearts to God's voice as we listen and discern what God is calling us to in the future.

The first stage, between now and mid-September, is to understand where we are as a Church, to notice where God has been and is at work, and to start to discern what he may be calling us to for the future.

Join in prayer: You are invited to engage in a rhythm of prayer throughout the process of listening and discernment that will shape our future strategy. We have provided the following resources:

Together we are listening Parish Briefing and Toolkit | PDF
Together we are listening bookmark | PDF
Together we are listening flyer | PDF

Our listening prayer:

Living God,

Speak to your Church in this season of listening and

deepen our life in Christ.

As we give thanks for the growth you have begun,

open our hearts to your voice

and lead us by your Spirit into the future you prepare.

Amen.

We encourage you to use these locally within your own rhythm of prayer, as well as to make use of the diocesan prayer opportunities taking place over the coming months.

Prayer events - Save the date:

- Monday 6 July 7.00pm – 9.00pm led by Archdeacon Rich | St Margaret's Church, Leiston
- Monday 13 July 7.00pm – 9.00pm led by Archdeacon David | St Peter's Church, Cockfield
- Tuesday 28 July 7.00pm – 9.00pm led by Archdeacon Sam | St Margaret's Church, Ipswich
- Saturday 18 July 11.00am – 1.00pm led by the Revd Canon Sharron Coburn | Online

What happens next? As responses come in, we will discern key themes and, in September, start to share what we are hearing. These insights will shape the next stage of refreshing our diocesan vision and strategy as we look to shape a shared vision and discern what God is calling us to prioritise.

Take part!

Between now and Friday 28 August, online surveys will be open for different groups to complete. These will give everyone an opportunity to share what they are discerning, as well as requesting some information to inform the process. Links to each survey are available here, on our website, where you can also find supporting videos and further prayer resources.



Bishop Joanne launching Together We Are Listening

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!

Suffolk Day: Sunday 21 June is Suffolk Day, a vibrant celebration showcasing the county's food culture, heritage and musical talent. Delivered in partnership with local councils, cultural organisations and Suffolk Community Foundation, this year's event promises a lively, family-friendly programme across Angel Hill, Abbey Gardens, The Athenaeum and St Edmundsbury Cathedral in Bury St Edmunds. The free programme, 10.00am to 6.00pm, will feature a farmers' market and street food on Angel Hill, and community performances and heritage displays in Abbey Gardens. With strong community involvement, accessible activities and a focus on what makes Suffolk unique, Suffolk Day 2026 aims to be an uplifting highlight in the county's calendar. For programme updates visit suffolkday.co.uk

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Suffolk Faith Award: We are delighted that there have been 26 nominations for the Faith Award, which is a fantastic start and really encouraging to see. The awards recognise and celebrate those who have improved the quality of life for a community in Suffolk and it is offered in partnership with Community Action Suffolk (CAS), Suffolk County Council and the Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC). You can nominate someone for an award here: Suffolk Community Awards. The closing date for entries is midnight on Sunday 12 July 2026.

Sliver Eco Church Award: We are delighted that St Peter & St Paul with St Edmund church in Hoxne has been awarded a Silver Eco Church award from A Rocha. This has come after work within the parish, engaging with local community groups and benefitting from generous gifts from the community which enabled them to establish a Suffolk heritage fruit orchard amongst other environmentally sustainable projects. The PCC members are now working to achieving the Gold award. Congratulations!

Diocesan and Mission & Ministry Events

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.



PCC Workshop on Buildings | Online | Tuesday 7 July
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 here.

People's Emergency Briefing Film | Bradfield St George Village Hall, IP30 0AS | Thursday 9 July, 7.00pm
Are you concerned about climate change? Come along to watch this film and hear what the scientists have to say, followed by a discussion chaired by Archdeacon David. This is a free event, for those over 16 years old, hosted by Cockfield Benefice. Please reserve your ticket by emailing rev.richard21@gmail.com.

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

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

Flower Festival | 20/21 June, 11.00am to 4.00pm | St Mary's Church, Gosbeck
The Church will be filled with beautiful displays depicting faith using flowers and Bible verses. Refreshments available. Songs of Praise, 6.30pm Sunday evening.

British Sign Language Workshop | Saturday 20 June, 10.00am - 4.00pm | Thomas Clarkson Centre IP33 3JT
Join this 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.

Open Gardens | Sunday 21 June, 11.00am - 5.00pm | All Saints' Church, Shelley
You are warmly invited to visit up to nine local gardens and resolve your gardening questions at our special Garden Surgery. All contributions support the church. Tickets £7 for adults, children free. Refreshments availale.

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.

United in Solace and Grace service | Sunday 28 June, 4.00pm | Holy Trinity Church, Ipswich IP3 8AJ
Spring Churches will be hosting a reflective service for survivors of abuse, supporters and

professionals. Visit here for more information. If you are attending as a member of clergy, do please email Ali Hobson, as there are some guidelines with regards to clergy attire.

Grow Alpha | Monday 29 June, 7.00pm | River Church, Ipswich IP4 1BZ
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.

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.

Westleton's Wild Flower Festival and Art | 18/19 July, 11.00am to 4.00pm | St Peter's Church, Westleton and the Village Hall
Celebrate the 60th Flower Festival at the church. Westleton Art Group will also have their annual Art Exhibition in the village hall. Free entry, with donations. Refreshments available.

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

SAVE THE DATES:

Caring for Creation Service | Saturday 5 September | St Edmundsbury Cathedral.
To celebrate the 10th anniversary of 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.

Chaplaincy Gathering | Wednesday 7 October, 10.00am–3.00pm | St Felix 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.

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 are glad to now be taking bookings for next year so if you are 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.

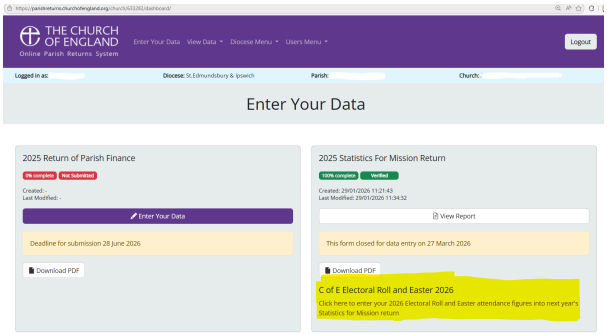
Notices

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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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

Bishop's Chaplain | Bishop's Office | Closing date: 24 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.
Vicar | St John the Baptist and St Andrew's, Ipswich | Closing date: 13 July
Coffee Shop Manager | Runway Coffee shop operated by the church in Martlesham |

Closing date: 17 July
Team Vicar | Forest Heath Team Ministry
Associate Mission Priest / Lightwave Hub Leader | Bungay Benefice | Closing date: 20 July
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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