Thursday 19 March 2026

eNews

Our regular round up of news and forthcoming events

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND SUFFOLK

Medieval Psalter returns to St Edmundsbury Cathedral



The Bury Psalter, a beautifully illuminated book of Psalms which dates from around 1400 and which was made for and used at the ancient Abbey of St Edmund, has found new home at St Edmundsbury Cathedral following the closure of the Suffolk Archives site in Bury St Edmunds. The Bury Psalter is a Latin manuscript which includes the Psalms (150 religious songs from the Old Testament), a list of Saints, and hymns. It is one of only two books from the vast medieval library of the Abbey of St Edmund known to remain in the town. After the Abbey of St Edmund was dissolved in 1539 its possessions, including its library, were confiscated and given or sold to private owners. The Psalter came into the possession of James Cobbes, and in 1706 his grandson, James Harvey, gave it to King Edward VI Grammar School and the Trustees of the King Edward VI Grammar School Foundation Trust have now donated it to the Cathedral.

The Bury Psalter is displayed in the Cathedral's Treasury, which is open seven days a week: Monday – Saturday 10.00am – 4.00pm and Sunday 12.30pm – 3.00pm.

HM Courts of Justice Service

On Sunday 22 March at 3.30pm, the Cathedral will host a special annual service for His Majesty's Courts of Justice. This service marks a year in office of Suffolk's High Sheriff, Gulshan Kaur Kayembe. The service celebrates the tireless dedication of all those who work within and with our communities to uphold the law, administer justice fairly, help us stay safe, and to fight for social justice for those most in need across Suffolk. It is an opportunity to show our appreciation for their endeavours but also to pay tribute to the amazing voluntary sector, full of passionate and visionary people whose hard work and support touches lives and has a palpable impact.

The service is attended by representatives of the legal and criminal justice system and this year's speaker is Lemn Sissay OBE FRSL. Lemn Sissay is a poet, playwright, memoirist and broadcaster. He has performed throughout the world from The Library of Congress in The United States to the National Theatre of Ethiopia in Addis Ababa to the London Palladium in England.

£100,000 grant to support major upgrade at St Andrew's Church, Great Cornard



St Andrew's Church in Great Cornard has been awarded £100,000 from Babergh District Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) fund to support a major internal upgrade project that will improve accessibility and expand the building's use as a community venue. The funding will help deliver essential improvements to the Grade I listed church, including the installation of an accessible toilet, refurbishment of the kitchen, and improvements to accessibility throughout the building.

Alongside this significant grant, the project has also received support from: Benefact Trust, Garfield Weston Foundation, Suffolk Historic Churches Trust, Ganzoni Charities Trust, the Beatrice Lang Foundation and the Great Cornard Townland Charity, together with local fundraising and donations from the church community. Read the full story here.

Welcoming Bishop Joanne's new Executive Assistant



We welcome to the Diocese Bishop Joanne's new executive assistant Elaine Joseland. Elaine is delighted to have joined the diocese and will play a key role, not least managing Bishop Joanne's diary, scheduling, correspondence and as one of the first points of contacts for the busy office.

'Bishop Joanne's warmth and insight will play a vital role in connecting and supporting rural communities across our county and I am really excited to be part of that journey,' says Elaine. Elaine, married with one daughter and two (very naughty) Jack Russell dogs, is hoping that her sense of humour will lighten the load of what can be a very busy office in our diocese. Elaine who also represents residents in the Carlford Division of Suffolk County Council, adds: '*Having worked with two Members of Parliament in their offices during the past 10 years, I aim to bring calmness, resilience, professionalism, and above all – a good sense of humour.'*

Elaine's appointment comes after the previous executive assistant moved to a new career role outside the diocese. Elaine can be contacted at the Bishop's office and by email: elaine.joseland@cofesuffolk.org.



Together we pray: As a follow up to Synod we have had two chaplains leading the prayers. This week we introduce School Chaplain, the Revd Keith Rengert, from Monday 23 March. Tune in at 8.30am on the Bishop's Facebook page to watch live or visit the page to watch again later in the day.



Vocations Fair and Vocation Sunday

Jesus called his first disciples with the words, 'Follow me' - and he offers the same invitation today. He calls each of us to use our gifts and talents in Christ-like ways in the world around us.

We are holding our annual Vocations Fair on Saturday 25 April in St Edmundsbury Cathedral. We would be delighted to see as many of you as possible. Come along by yourself or with congregation members, to meet the Revd Canon Stuart Batten and his team who are ready to greet you and share the latest news about training and opportunities available in this diocese. Vocations Sunday falls on April 26, which is the Fourth Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday). This day focuses on encouraging individuals to explore God's call in their lives, including lay and ordained ministries. We have put together a collection of resources here, including reflections, prayers, orders of service and information about some of the vocations in the diocese.

The vocations team will be participating in 'nine days of prayer' in the days leading up to the event. The prayers will appear on our social media channels and the Revd Charlotte Harkness, curate at Long Melford, will be leading Together we Pray that week too. The prayers are available in a booklet which contains passages and reflections to help you on your vocational journey and understanding of what God is calling you to do: Nine Days of Prayer - Insight CofE Suffolk, also available from the resource collection.

Safeguarding Training

- In-Person **Basic Awareness** Level Training is taking place in Huntingfield near Halesworth on **Wednesday 25 March** - book here.

- In-Person **Foundation** Level Training is taking place at the same location in Huntingfield on **Wednesday 15 April -** book here.

Due to restricted capacity in the Safeguarding Training team, there will be fewer in-person training sessions this year. If you are a Volunteer, PCC member, children's/youth helper or other church member with Basic Awareness and/or Foundation level training that is due for renewal, and you do not want to access the training online, please do not miss this opportunity for in-person training. Future Basic Awareness and Foundation training sessions will be located in Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich. Dates for these will be advertised on Insight as soon as possible.

- In-Person **Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse** Level Training is taking place in Bury St Edmunds on **Wednesday 29 April** 2026 book here. Future courses in 2026 will be held in Huntingfield and Ipswich.

To book your place on any in-person safeguarding training visit Insight, where you, or your local safeguarding officer, can book you a place to attend a course.

If you are looking for Safeguarding Leadership training, please check Insight for the latest course dates. Additional dates will be published as soon as they are available, so please keep checking in to find the right course for you. There will be a combination of in-person and online Leadership courses available throughout 2026. 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.

Diocesan and Mission & Ministry Events

Interested in Reader Ministry? Saturday 21 March, 10.00am to 12.00pm | Best Western Brome Grange Hotel, Norwich Road, nr Eye, IP23 8AP

Come along to our informal Coffee Morning - an opportunity to find out more about Reader ministry. Led by Diocesan staff and those currently serving as and training to be Readers. Even better, there will be cake! Please email Lauren Moore to express your interest, ask any further questions and to enable us to arrange catering.

Lark Rise Retreats

'The Pilgrim's Progress - **exploring the themes of John Bunyan's novel'** a study day led by Jane Jennison on Saturday 28 March at St Nicholas Church, The Ferry, Felixstowe
'The resurrection appearances of Jesus', a quiet day led by the Revd Penny Brinkley on Saturday 11 April at St Nicholas Church, The Ferry, Felixstowe
'Faith on the edge - Jesus heals at the margins', a retreat day based on Luke 8.40 to 56, led by the Revd Helen Rengert on Saturday 9 May at St Edmunds Church, Langer Road, Felixstowe

Days run from 10.00am – 4.00pm and cost £27/person including refreshments and

lunch. A bursary fund is available. More details and bookings are on www.larkriseretreats.org or call Catherine Bond and Jane Pearse on 01394 284213.

The Gathering | Friday 24 April 6.00pm - Sunday 26 April 2.00pm | Vauxhall Farm, Great Wenham CO7 6QQ



The Gathering is a residential weekend organised in partnership with Ipswich CYM and youth leaders from across Ipswich. The cost for this weekend is £110 per young person. Bookings are managed by CYM Ipswich using the online *Ticket Taylor* system. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to email Jamie Swinerd. To find out more and book please visit our website here.

Eco Church Support | Tuesday 28 April, 6.00pm to 7.00pm on Zoom
Join this online support group for an interesting talk by Nigel Cooper about using Creation Care to engage with your local community. Register here.

In the beginning was the story. A different approach to the New Testament |
Starts Wednesday 29 April 2026 for seven weeks at Earl Stonham Village Hall
Led by the Revd Canon John Parr, this course takes a story-shaped approach to the heart of Christian faith. This course looks at the beginnings of what became Christianity in the writings of the New Testament, and explores their narrative features. The New Testament writers passed on the gospel of Jesus Christ not as a collection of facts or doctrines, but as a series of stories that shaped people's lives. What can we learn from them about the challenges we face in doing the same in our day? Please book here.

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 our Diocesan Giving Advisors: emma.denton@cofesuffolk.org , or trudie.harkin@cofesuffolk.org.

Wednesday 29 April | St Edmundsbury Cathedral | 9.30am, 10.30am, 11.30am, 2.00pm or 3.00pm
Wednesday 8 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
Further dates across the county to follow. Click here to book any of these dates.

Flourish | Saturday 2 May 2026, 9.30am for 10.00am – 3.00pm | The Salvation Army Hall, Stowmarket IP14 1NE
An invitation to all Readers, Licensed Lay Ministers and Lay Elders to join us for our annual study day. The guest speaker this year is the Revd Dr Thomas Sharp from St Augustine's College of Theology. A core part of Thomas's teaching focuses on human flourishing, especially how Christians care for others in times of hardship. The morning session focuses on Pastoral Care in a Broken World and the afternoon session is on the Theology

of Safeguarding – what does it mean to care? Reserve your free space now! Click here: Flourish - Insight CofE Suffolk.

Celebrating our Care for Creation | Saturday 9 May, St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS

To mark the 10th anniversary of A Rocha's Eco Church Award Scheme, we are holding a day of celebration of all that is happening in our Suffolk churches to care for God's Creation. The event will begin with a morning of talks, focusing on the importance of our environmental mission and ministry in our communities and globally. There will then be an opportunity to explore exhibitions and stalls showcasing both what is happening around the diocese and also organisations who support this work. The day will culminate in a service of celebration for representatives from all our churches who have achieved an Eco Church award, who are currently working towards an award or who would like to get involved. If you would like to contribute to the day, please contact: Environment@cofesuffolk.org To register please book here.

PCC Workshop: Digital Giving (contactless and online, including QR codes) | 12.00pm, 13 May 2026 **|** 12.00pm, 13 October 2026 | Teams

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. 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. We can help you find the best solution for your parish. Book here for May | Book here for October

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Preparing for Retirement Conference 19-21 May 2026 | The Retreat House, Chelmsford CM3 1HA
An opportunity for clergy considering retirement from parochial or chaplaincy roles to reflect on transitioning into ministry in retirement. Many people look forward to retirement as a time when they can at last be in charge of their diaries. Some dread the thought of moving away from activities and relationships that have given their lives a sense of purpose for decades. For clergy, and especially those who have been in full-time ministry for many years, retirement raises questions about identity and meaning.

If you would like to join us, book here. The conference cost will be covered by the diocese and won't come from your CMD grant. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email Lesley Steed.

Church Community Services and Events

Easter Encounter | 21 March, 12.00pm - 3.30pm | St Mary's Church, Bury St Edmunds
Come along to this interactive Easter story offering a new presentation to meet the characters who witnessed Jesus' death and and his resurrection. This is a family event but children must be accompanied. Followed by Easter crafts and refreshments. To book your place and for further information contact: jennifer.aston@btinternet.com

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The Tower - decrypting the tower of St Mary's Church, Wortham | Saturday 28 March, 7.00pm | Wortham Village Hall IP22 1PS
Have you ever wondered why the round tower at St Mary's Wortham is so much larger than its counterparts in Norfolk and Suffolk? Come to a talk by Stephen Davis to discover the results of his research carried out over many years. Tickets £10 from Wortham Post Office or Bridget tel. 07747 620003 Cash bar available. All proceeds to St Mary the Virgin Nave Roof Appeal

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Rogationtide run or walk | Saturday 9 May, 10.00am | St Martin's Church, Exning CB8 7HF
Join a stewarded, waymarked circular walk tracing the ancient parish boundary of Exning, Newmarket. With a distance of 13.2 miles or a 10mile shorter option. Please book here: www.exning.net/walks.html

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College of the Resurrection, Mirfield - Open Day 2026 Sunday 10 May
You are welcome to join the next College Open Day for those considering where to prepare for ordination. If you are considering where to undertake your theological training and formation, please come along and meet their team. Please visit the College website to register for the open day. For an informal chat about life at the College please contact the Revd Canon Andrew Dotchin who is a member of the College Council. Mobile: 07814 949828 Email: revdotchin@gmail.com

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Living Well with Dementia | Thursday 11 June, 10.45am | The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Norfolk NR22 6EE
Come along to a day conference to learn more about making your church dementia-friendly, and caring for those with dementia spiritually and pastorally. Booking costs £25, including coffee/tea and a 2-course lunch. To book your place, please email: mihoward@btinternet.com.

British Sign Language Worship Workshop | Saturday 20 June, 10.00am-4.00pm, Thomas Clarkson Centre, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3JT
Signs of God will be delivering training in British Sign Language in the context of worship. A simple lunch will be provided. Cost £20 per person, to book please click here.

Cathedral Reflective Pilgrimages for 2026 for Parishes, Benefices and/or Deaneries
Your cathedral awaits your visit! St Edmundsbury Cathedral has three dates unfilled and would be very pleased to hear from you, the dates are Sundays 19 April, 10 May and 14 June. Arrival from 1.30pm for a a reflective and devotional pilgrimage around the building starting at 2.00pm, then Choral Evensong at 3.30pm, followed by tea and cake kindly provided and served by the Friends of the Cathedral. Please do be in touch with Cathedral Chaplain, the Revd Canon Mark Haworth markhaworth@stedscathedral.org tel 01284 748720, for further information and booking.

Notices

Energy Footprint Tool: Complete your EFT on the Parish Returns Portal here. 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.

Parish Share Congregational guide: We are delighted to announce the production of a new leaflet on Parish Share for everyone in our congregations, please download your copy here.

Vacancies

HR Administration Assistant | Closing date: 30 March
Children and Families' Worker | Alde Sandlings Benefice | Closing date: 3 April
Diocesan Director of Education | Closing date: 6 April
Deputy Diocesan Director of Education | Closing date: 20 April
Rector | North Bosmere Benefice
Team Vicar | Forest Heath Team Ministry
Team Vicar | Sole Bay Team
Team Vicar & Associate Priest | Blyth Valley Team Ministry F/T Stipendiary Post
Tenor Vicar ChoralNon-Executive Safeguarding Chapter Member | Cathedral Volunteers | Risk, Audit and Review Committee Member, Finance Committee Member | St Edmundsbury Cathedral
Children's and Families' Minister | Parish of Whitton
Organist or Pianist **|** United Benefice of Stanton | For more information please contact Ali Wakelin on 07717 125743.

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