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

Thursday 2 July 2026

eNews

Our regular round up of news and forthcoming events

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND SUFFOLK

Bishop Joanne's first ordination service was held at St Edmundsbury Cathedral



On Saturday 27 June, 22 men and women of all ages and varied backgrounds were ordained as priests and deacons to serve communities right across Suffolk. The communities represented by the newly appointed clergy include Haverhill, Hadleigh, Woodbridge, Ipswich, Framlingham and Lavenham.

Bishop Joanne said: *"These new priests and deacons will be a vital presence in our Suffolk communities, making a difference in the towns and villages they serve. They are bringing Christ's message of hope and compassion to every place they minister. It is an honour for me to support them, conducting my first ordinations in the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. I ask everyone to pray for them. I also invite everyone to listen for the call of God in their own lives and to consider what God might be asking of them".*



To read the full story, please click here. To find out more about vocations in Suffolk please click here. We are delighted that three of those attending the service have provided a short case study available here: Jonathan Boast | Simon English | Cathie Fraser and a full suite of pictures is available on the Bishop's Facebook page.

Together we are listening - refreshing our vision and strategy - three steps:

1) Take part! To take part in the public survey please click HERE. Your voice really matters, and this is a valuable opportunity to help shape how we reflect, learn, and improve together.



2) Attend a prayer event Offering a chance to pause, reflect, and pray together. Whether you come with questions, hopes, or simply a desire to be present, you are very welcome. There is no need to sign up to the following events:

- 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

Or sign up to the online webinar on Saturday 18 July 11.00am – 1.00pm led by the Revd Canon Sharron Coburn. To sign up click HERE.

3) **Find out more** 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.

Growing Younger in our Diocese

Growing Younger: Together We Are Listening

The Diocesan *Growing Younger* team is inviting **youth, children's and family leaders** to take part in *Together We Are Listening*—an important opportunity to help discern the future of the Church of England in Suffolk. This is your chance to be heard and to contribute to a shared vision, with a particular focus on how we grow younger as a Church. You can get involved in two simple ways:

- Join Jamie Swinerd, Diocesan Youth & Young Adults Advisor, as he leads a prayer event — a space to listen, reflect, and share openly as we seek God's guidance together. This will be held on Thursday 9 July, 8.00-9.00pm Please email Jamie to receive the invitation email.
- And take part in our short public survey — a quick and easy way to offer your thoughts and insights - please click HERE

Your experience and perspective are invaluable. Together, we can shape a hopeful and vibrant future for the Church.

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.

Why you should sign up?🖍️ Because you have sensed that God is maybe calling you into youth ministry, or perhaps you are already there and want to be released further into

your calling! Take time to invest in yourself and your youth ministry.

Cost: 💰 FREE – including an extensive training manual which will be given to you before the first session. Sign up in good time to receive the manual before the first session.

Dates and times: 🗓️ 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.

Bubble Church Training Day | Wednesday 15 July, 10.00am-4.00pm | St Nicholas Centre, Cutler Street, Ipswich IP1 1UQ.



Are you looking to grow or start your children and families ministry? Bubble Church is a Sunday church service for young families. Already thriving in two churches in our Diocese. Each session includes simple liturgy, action songs, a Bible story, puppets, and a response activity, it's easy to launch and you'll be supported every step of the way! Please join us for this training day click here to register.

Diocesan and Mission & Ministry Events

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. This film is also being shown at St John's Church Hall, Woodbridge on Thursday 16 July, 7.00-8.00pm.

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.

Safeguarding Training | EXTRA SPACES AVAILABLE
Safeguarding Leadership Training: In Person; Earl Stonham: starting 16 or 18 July. Please book by Monday using this link - click here.

Book all other 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.

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.

Suffolk Archdeaconry - 7.00pm Wednesday 15 July | **PLEASE NOTE THE NEW VENUE:** St Felix of Dunwich Church, Rendlesham IP12 2GG
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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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 so we know you are coming to this free event! Register here.

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.

Together we Pray:

Together we Pray is being livestreamed by St Edmundsbury Cathedral, on YouTube at 8.30am. They also share Evensong, Monday to Friday at 5.30pm: www.youtube.com/@stedscathedral/streams.

You can still share your comments with each other live on YouTube, we look forward to seeing you there!

Church Community Services and Events

History Afternoon | St Andrew's Church, Norton IP31 3NB | Saturday 4 July, 2.00pm to 4.00pm.
Topics to include: 'The Story of Misericords' with special reference to the beautiful examples in Norton Church by Miles Dodd and 'History of the Stained Glass at Norton Church' by Dr Martin Wood. Tickets £5 available on the door. Refreshments will be served along with a raffle. For more information contact Janet Bauer on janetbauer3545@gmail.com

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Living Well with Alzheimer's | Sunday 5 July, 2.30pm, Holy Trinity Church, Middleton
Come and join an informative talk by Peter Barry (Journey with Alzheimer's). There will be an opportunity to buy books. All donations to Alzheimer's Research UK.

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.

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.

God-ward Quiet Day | St Mary and St Peter's Church, Claydon and Barham | Tuesday 28 July 10.00am to 4.00pm
Offering a Quiet Day with Canon Mark Haworth to include two morning quiet sessions, Eucharist, a bring your own lunch and two further quiet sessions in the afternoon. Please email Mark Haworth to reserve your place ~ donations will be appreciated on the day.

SAVE THE DATES:

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

General Synod Elections for the 2026-2031 quinquennium: Could you help shape the future of the Church? Stand for General Synod. The 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. This is a unique opportunity to make a meaningful difference—bringing your perspective, experience and faith to the heart of the Church's decision-making. If you feel called to serve, we warmly encourage you to stand. If you are interested please find all the information needed on our website here.

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.

Vacancies

Applaud Coffee Assistant Manager | River Church | Closing date: 8 July
Estates Pioneer | St Mary Stoke, Ipswich | Closing date: 9 July
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
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
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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