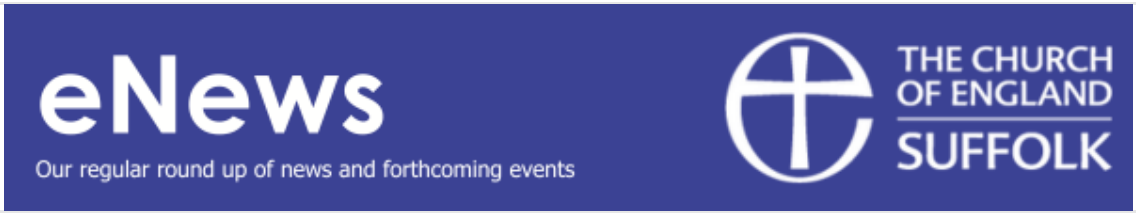
Our regular round up of news and forthcoming events from our diocese [View this email in your browser]

Thursday 25 June 2026



Ordinations
On Saturday 27 June Bishop Joanne will ordain nine deacons and 13 priests, please join in praying for these candidates, their families and the people they will serve.

To be ordained Deacon
Roz Armstrong | The Benefice of North Suffolk
Jonathan Boast | The Benefice of Lark Valley and North Bury Team
Lyanne de Boos | The Benefice of Ipswich St Thomas
Simon English | The Benefice of Ipswich St Matthew with Triangle and All Saints
Cathie Fraser | The Benefice of Melton and Ufford
Nicky Lawson | The Benefices of Chadbrook and of Lavenham with Preston
Margaret Maybury | The Benefice of Lavenham and Preston
Chris Palmer | The Benefice of Ipswich St Thomas
Sarah Smith | The Stour Valley Benefice

To be ordained Priest
Catherine Cox | The Benefice of Haverhill with Withersfield
Glenda Hall | The Benefice of Hadleigh, Layham and Shelley
Charlotte Harkness | The Benefice of Chadbrook
Ann Hastings-Payne | The Benefice of Hundred River and Wainford; and the Benefice of Wrentham, Covehithe with Benacre, Henstead with Hulver and Frostenden
Karen Lawson | The Benefice of Woodbridge St John and Bredfield
Teresa Lester | The Benefice of Brett Valley
Andrew Little | The Benefice of Combs and Finborough
Fiona Malby | The Cockfield Benefice
Peter Plummer | The Benefice of Woodbridge St John and Bredfield
Maria Price | The Benefice of Sancroft
Andrew Revitt | The Benefice of Ipswich St Matthew with Triangle and All Saints
Edmund Smith | The Benefice of The Blyth Valley Team Ministry
Emma Steadman | The Benefice of Framlingham with Saxtead

Synod Saturday 20 June

Diocesan Synod met last Saturday at St Edmundsbury Cathedral, with around 100 people in attendance. The day, led by Bishop Joanne, focused on the theme '*Together We Are Listening'.* Synod members were invited into a time of prayer for this process, led by

Archdeacon Sam, followed by a five-minute period of quiet reflection. This marked an important step in our shared journey of discernment as we listen to God and one another. You are warmly encouraged to take part in this process — please see the invitation below for details on how to get involved.

We also heard from Jane Sheat, Diocesan Director of Education, who presented her final annual report to the Diocesan Board of Education ahead of her retirement. In addition, there were presentations on Envoy, financial statements, wellbeing and safeguarding.

A full report of Synod will be available on our website soon, along with video highlights from the day.

Together we are listening - refreshing our vision and strategy - All are warmly invited to our prayer events



Join us for a special time of prayer through '*Together We Are Listening*' — a chance to pause, reflect, and pray together as we begin to refresh our diocesan vision and strategy. This is an opportunity for everyone to be part of the journey: to pray, to listen to one another, and to listen for God's voice.

💬 Whether you come with questions, hopes, or simply a desire to be present, you are very welcome.

🚶 No need to sign up — just come along. Let's gather in faith, in community and in hope for what lies ahead. Find out more: www.cofesuffolk.org/together-we-are-listening

- 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 - details to follow

There are also surveys which will gather views from across the diocese's clergy, parishes and congregations, as well as from the general public, to help develop a shared vision for the church's future.

Take part!

To take part in the surveys or to download the resources please visit our website **HERE**, which now includes an easy to print POSTER with a QR code directly to the congregation/public survey. Surveys will be available until Friday 28 August.



Bishop Joanne explaining why we are 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!

Deanery Synod Elections

The term of office for the current Deanery Synod membership ends on 30 June 2026. We wrote to Deanery Synod Secretaries 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 emailed to the Diocesan Secretary at diocesan.secretary@cofesuffolk.org no later than **1 July 2026**.

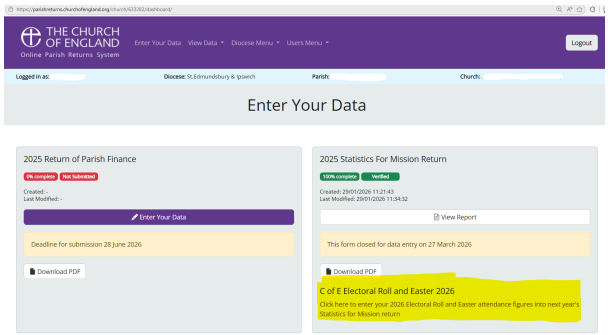
We provided a spreadsheet earlier in the year enabling you to record this information. We are actively following up on the data we have received and working with secretaries to ensure the data is complete and checked, and to follow up on those submissions we have not yet received. In general, these returns are of those elected as a parochial representative of the laity to the deanery synod, so would not include those elected by the deanery to represent them on the diocesan synod (not already members of the deanery synod) who are members of their deanery synod under the Church Representation Rules.

Therefore, in our follow up work, we will include those diocesan synod members elected to represent deanery synods in the register of lay electors, so that deanery synod secretaries have a complete register of those lay electors who are also entitled to vote in the forthcoming election of members to the House of Laity of General Synod.

If you require any further assistance, please email diocesan.secretary@cofesuffolk.org, and we will be glad to help you.

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. Please note, your Easter figures may also be requested.

General Synod Elections for the 2026-2031 quinquennium

An informal notification and timetable on the forthcoming General Synod Elections for clergy and laity have been emailed today on behalf of Gary Peverley, the Diocesan Secretary, to all clergy, Deanery Synod Secretaries, Rural/Area Deans, Deanery Lay Chairs, and PCC Secretaries. The notification outlines the rules and arrangements for the process including qualification of electors, restrictions on voting and candidacy, and the nomination process.

Please note that anyone who attends church regularly is likely to be eligible to stand as a lay member. You do not need to be a member of a PCC, deanery synod, or diocesan synod, and the diocese welcomes people from all backgrounds.

If you have not received a copy of this notification and you are in a role listed above, please email diocesan.secretary@cofesuffolk.org for help. Please also use this email if you would like any further information on these elections. A copy of the timetable can be found on the diocesan website here**.** Further information will follow soon.

Energy Footprint Tool

We want to say a huge thank you to everyone who has submitted the Energy Footprint Tool for their church. This gives us an understanding of our progress towards net zero

carbon and helps us to continue to care for creation. There is still time to submit your entry - the tool closes for submissions on **Tuesday 30 June**. If you need any help to complete the tool, please email our Net Zero Carbon Officer at james.rolls@cofesuffolk.org

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White Badge Accreditation

St Edmundsbury Cathedral is celebrating the appointment of 11 tour guides who have become accredited with the white badge approved by the Institute of Tourist Guiding (ITG). The guides were formally recognised at a presentation ceremony at the Cathedral on 11 June 2026. The white badge certifies that guides have the knowledge and skills to lead visitors around the Cathedral with confidence and expertise. Dean Joe said, *"Working in partnership with the Bury Town Guides has been a wonderful way to offer new opportunities for our volunteers. With the Abbey of St Edmund, Reborn project on the horizon, we will see an increase in tourism in the town and wider county and new ways of offering tours and other ways to experience our heritage are key. We're thrilled that everyone who took part in this intense training programme passed."*

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.

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.

PCC Workshop on 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 here: July | September

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.

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 | **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.

A service to 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, click Register on the left and then

Submit, then please make sure you press the red buttons 'Proceed to checkout' and 'Place order' 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.

Church Community Services and Events

Fun Day | Saturday 27 June, 12.00m to 4.00pm | All Saints Church, Newmarket CB8 8ES
Join in with this fundraiser for the church kitchen and toilets, offering a BBQ, traditional fete stalls, free games and church tour. Fun for all.

Flower Festival | 27/28 June, 10.00am to 4.00pm | St Mary & St Peter's Church, Kelsale
The Church will be filled with beautiful displays depicting the wonder of God's Creation. Refreshments available. Sunday Serenata concert, 3.00pm on 28 June, offering a celebration of young performers.

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.

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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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.

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

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

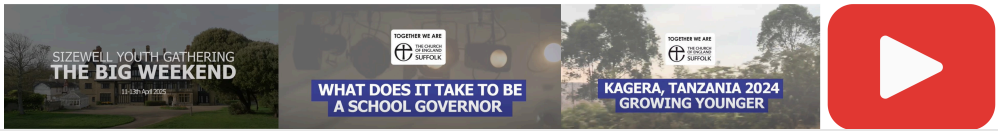
Vacancies

Rector | Sancroft Benefice | Closing date: 30 June
Community Outreach Minister | St Andrew's, Rendlesham | Closing date: 30 June | Contact Father Paul Hambling
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
Associate Mission Priest / Lightwave Hub Leader | Bungay Benefice | Closing date: 20 July
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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TOGETHER WE ARE THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND SUFFOLK

Watch our stories from around Suffolk



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