Thursday 28 May 2026

eNews

Our regular round up of news and forthcoming events

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND SUFFOLK

The Church of England celebrates the Suffolk Show with 2,000 visitors



Suffolk's new Bishop celebrated her birthday at the county show meeting young people, families, and up to 2,000 people in the Church of England marquee.

Bishop Joanne marks a double celebration with her first visit to the Suffolk Show since she took up office, and her birthday on the first day.

The previous bishop, the Rt Revd Martin Seeley, was President of the Suffolk Show last year and that coincided with his 70th birthday.

Bishop Joanne, who was at the county show at Trinity Park in Ipswich on both days May 27th and 28th, said: *"The county's iconic agricultural show is an event that I have been looking forward to ever since I arrived in Suffolk last year. It gives me an opportunity to meet so many people from all walks of life and learn more about the rich farming heritage enjoyed in the county. I have great admiration for the farmers who work so hard, often in challenging weather conditions, to bring food to our plate and I want to hear how they adapt to our changing climate and what pressures they face in their industry."*



The Church of England was at stand 531 in Flower Show Avenue, and Bishop Joanne was joined by other members of the clergy where families are having fun with their children.

Games, puppets, youth games and other children's entertainment, free refreshments and a purple sofa for Bishop Joanne were on the agenda.

"I listened and learned from visitors about their lives in Suffolk, how they juggle work, family and social responsibilities, and I gained an insight into how the Church can remain relevant and adapt in today's modern world. We want to reach out to communities, listening and benefiting from their own experiences and offering

support. Our Agricultural Chaplaincy Team was also at the show discussing their valuable role in building relationships and supporting the farming community. It is increasingly common that farmers can suffer from depression and anxiety, and our team is available on the phone or for pastoral visits too as part of their role," she added.

The Diocese has had links with in north west Tanzania in Africa for more than 20 years and there will be details about farming in that region, where many people are subsistence farmers living on less than £1.50 a day.



Suffolk Show 2026

Together we Pray will be available on the Diocesan Facebook page next week. It will be hosted by the Revd Rachel Revely and friends. We are looking for people to host Together we Pray in June and July, this can be delivered live from Facebook at 8.30am or you can pre-record the prayers and we will scheduled the posts for you. If you would like to take part please email Leonie Ryle, Communications Manager as soon as possible.

Notices

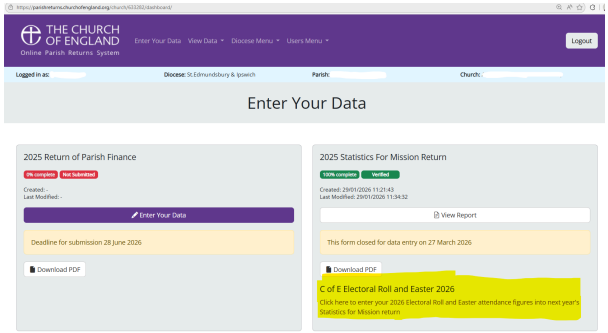
Churchwarden message re CMS: Every person who has a role in the diocese has their data held on our database called CMS. Those with roles can find their entry on the national CMS portal here. It is vital we keep our records up to date and next week, Churchwardens will receive an email from cmssupport@cofesuffolk.org asking you to confirm the contact details for the key posts within the parish. Could Churchwardens please look out for the email and respond as soon as possible. The process is simple and details will be contained within the email. If you have recently retired from post, please forward this to your successor. Because postholders may have changed due to recent

elections at APCMs, it is important for all of us to have up-to-date details to ensure the right people are contacted at the right time on the most relevant topics for their role.

Articles of Enquiry: Parishes are kindly asked to complete the online Articles of Enquiry via the Online Parish Return System (OPRS) https://parishreturns.churchofengland.org/. The questions are posed by the Archdeacons and cover key areas of parish life, including Safeguarding, Environment, Discipleship, Giving and Church Buildings. They help us understand where parishes are thriving and where support may be helpful. Please complete the form by 30 September—thank you for your time and cooperation. 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

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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 per highlight 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 take 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

Rector | Box River Benefice
Team Vicar | Forest Heath Team Ministry
Team Vicar & Associate Priest | Blyth Valley Team Ministry F/T Stipendiary Post
Rector | North Bosmere Benefice

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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