Thursday 30 April 2026

eNews

Our regular round up of news and forthcoming events

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND SUFFOLK

Big Knicker Night to raise awareness of domestic abuse



Suffolk's Mothers' Union is hosting a 'Big Knicker Night' to raise awareness of domestic abuse.

The Christian charity is holding an evening of entertainment, speakers, stalls and refreshments at the Salvation Army centre in Violet Hill Road, Stowmarket, on Tuesday June 23. The event includes free entry to anyone who brings and donates a new pair of underwear, all of which will be donated to two Suffolk women's refuge charity, Lighthouse Women's Aid and Restore Women's Aid centre.

Jeanette Appleton, President of the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Mothers' Union, said*: "This is about raising awareness of this very important issue that affects thousands of people across the county. We really want to reach people outside of the Mothers' Union, so we wanted to create a fun evening everyone could be involved in. Research shows one in three women, and one in seven men, suffer domestic abuse. It's not just violence, it can be coercive control, financial control or emotional control too. It's something we don't want to whisper about, we want to shout about it."*

Read the full story on our website here. Click here to book the Big Knicker Night

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. The free programme, 10.00am to 6.00pm, will feature a 'farmers' market and street food on Angel Hill, community performances and heritage displays in

Abbey Gardens. The day will conclude with a ticketed evening performance of a Suffolk musical and literary anthology, in the Cathedral. This "Suffolk Celebration", being directed by Nick Hutchison, will bring together music, spoken word, dance and contributions from young people and local community groups, celebrating the county's creativity and generosity. 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



The Revd Canon Stuart Batten talks about the Vocations Fair that took place on Saturday 25 April at St Edmundsbury Cathedral.

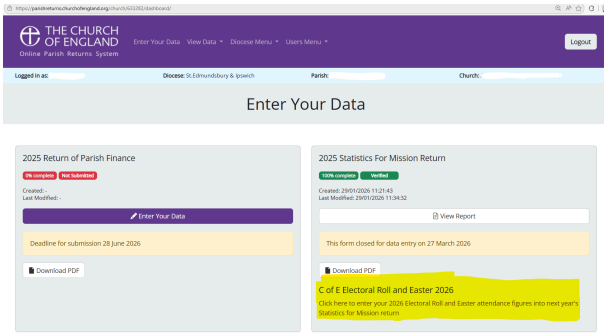
Together we Pray



The Revd Dominic Doble and the Revd Dr Edmund Smith will be leading 'Together we Pray' for the next two weeks, at the usual time of 8.30am on the Bishop's Facebook page.

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.

ACAT (Association of Church Accountants & Treasurers) – Members and Courses

Treasurers in our diocese are offered free ACAT membership which gives them unlimited access to the ACAT helpline, monthly newsletters, and the extensive handbook on their website. ACAT also offers expert training in many aspects of the church treasurer and trustee role. Please email emma.denton@cofesuffolk.org to ask for joining details.

ACAT Training:

- The Church Treasurer: Insights into the Role and Responsibilities (27 May, 7-8 pm, Zoom),
- Introduction to Being a Church Trustee (2 June, 7-8 pm, Zoom)
- Generating Income and Grant Applications (6 June, 10-4 pm, Cambridge)
- Being a Treasurer: The Basics – Session 1: Charity Law, Finance Processes and Bookkeeping (11 June, 7-9 pm, Zoom)
- Charities SORP 2026: An Introduction (15 June, 7-8 pm, Zoom),
- Being a Treasurer: The Basics – Session 2: Budgeting, Risk and Gift Aid (18 June, 7-9 pm, Zoom)
- Being a Treasurer: The Basics – Session 3: Year-End Reporting (25 June, 7-9 pm, Zoom)
- Gift Aid: Maximising the Benefits and Reducing the Pitfalls (6 July, 7-9 pm, Zoom)
- Introduction to Computer Security for Churches (14 July, 7.30-8.30 pm, Zoom)

Book through this link https://www.acat.uk.com/training-events/ (ACAT make a small charge for training).

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 Deaney 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

Thank you for your cooperation.

Diocesan and Mission & Ministry Events

Safeguarding Training
There are various in-person safeguarding courses taking place over the next few weeks. 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.

Basic Awareness Training:
Bury St Edmunds, Thursday 14 May, book here.
Ipswich, Tuesday 15 September, book here.
Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse Training:
Huntingfield, Wednesday 24 June, book here.
A future course in 2026 will be held in Ipswich.
Foundation Training:
Bury St Edmunds, Tuesday 30 June, book here.
Ipswich, Tuesday 29 September, book here.
Leadership Training:
Earl Stonham, June and July (ten courses available), book here.

Additional dates for in-person and online Leadership 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.

Child Exploitation Awareness Training
Are you working with children and young people? Ensure you have the knowledge and confidence to keep them safe with Child Exploitation Awareness Training. Claire Prosser, Criminal Exploitation Project Manager from Suffolk County Council, is delivering this course on 7 May 2026 in Ipswich. Please register to attend here.

PCC Workshops



Friends Group Workshop: Emma Denton, Diocesan Giving Advisor, will take you through the process of the best way to set up a Friends group to help with your fundraising and how it put it to good use. Book: 6 May.

Why should your Parish join the 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: 12 May | 12 June

PCC Buildings Workshop 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: 7 July.

Digital Giving (contactless and online, including QR codes): Understand the need, options, availability, cost and impact of Digital Giving. 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. Book 13 May, 12.00pm | 3 October, 12.00pm

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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
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. Reserve your free space now! Click here: Flourish - Insight CofE Suffolk.

Lark Rise Retreats '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 Edmund's 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.

Interested in Running Bubble Church? | Teams



Bubble Church is a Sunday church service especially for babies, toddlers, and young families. It's a puppet-packed, Jesus-centred, coffee-and-food-fuelled, 30 minute kids and families adventure. Come along to an initial Teams session to get an overview to see whether this suits your church.
11.00am on Monday 11 May | Book here
7.00pm on Thursday 21 May | Book here

Faith Story - Archdeacon Sam | 7.00pm, 18 May 2026 | Teams
All are welcome to join us for the next 'Faith Story' in our series as the Ven Samantha Brazier-Gibbs, Archdeacon of Ipswich, shares her faith journey with us. Have you asked 'How do I know what God is asking me to do?' Come and join the conversations with others about their faith journey. Book here.

Preparing for Retirement Conference 19-21 May 2026 | The Retreat House, Chelmsford CM3 1HA
This is suitable for any clergy members considering retirement in the next 5 years, stipendiary or SSM, to reflect on transitioning from ministry to retirement. 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.

Plugged in – technology for remote and rural communities | Saturday 30 May, 10.00am **|** St Felix of Dunwich Church, Rendlesham, IP12 2GG



This one-day workshop will offer a range of cost-effective suggestions whether you are starting from square one or looking to upgrade or improve existing systems. It will be led by David Jordan, who has deep experience of finding technological solutions to support mission and ministry in his own rural multi-parish benefice. Come with your questions and learn from David and each other. Diocesan staff from the Parish Resources team will also be there to talk about digital giving and grants. A free lunch will be provided. Book here.

Leading your Church into Growth

Leading your Church into Growth, 12-13 June 2026 at Debenham Community Centre
Following the positive feedback from our Leading your Church into Growth (LyCiG) conferences in 2024 and 2025, we are delighted that the LyCiG team are coming back to lead another conference for us in 2026. The Insight booking link will be shared shortly. For more information, please email: the Revd Katie de Bourcier, Diocesan Mission Enabler, or Lisa Hicks, LyCiG Coordinator. To book please click here.

LoveRural Conference | 19–20 October | Yarnfield Park, Yarnfield Lane, Stone, Staffordshire ST15 0NL

Early bird bookings are open, offering a discounted rate of **£190** until end June 2026. Special offer at £130 for young adults too: Spaces are limited, so we encourage you to secure your place soon and take advantage of these reduced rates. Click here for information.

St Edmundsbury Cathedral Pilgrimages
Saturday 9 May | Rogationtide Walk 'Beating the Bounds' of Exning & Newmarket Parishes.
Saturday 16 May | Little Gidding Annual Pilgrimage from Leighton Bromswold to Little Gidding in Huntingdonshire
For more information on all pilgrimages and registration please contact Cathedral Chaplain, Revd Canon Mark Haworth markhaworth@stedscathedral.org.

Recital | Saturday 9 May, 7.30pm | Holy Trinity Church, Bungay
Join a world-renowned classical pianist, American-Ukrainian Roman Rudnytsky, for a recital, one of seven in his UK tour. The recital will feature work by Rossini, Mozart, Ravel and Greig, with two items Rudnytsky has transcribed himself for solo piano – Mozart's Concerto in A for piano and orchestra, and Beethoven's Fantasia for piano, orchestra and chorus, op. 80 (the Choral Fantasy). Tickets are £10, email Terry Reeve or call on 07873 419535. Tickets will also be available on the door.

Bury Male Octet with Eddie's Swing Sisters | Saturday 9 May, 7.30pm | Hitcham Church, off the B1115. Parking is in the church car park which is accessed from Fen Lane (What3Words expel.materials.magically)
The Bury Male Octet will sing acapella whilst Eddie's SwingSisters will have backing music, both choirs will sing together for the second half. Tickets are just £5 and include tea and coffee. Raffle. In aid of church funds, please email RNFCurrie@gmail.com for more information.

Old Newton Art Exhibition | Saturday and Sunday 9/10 May | Village Hall, Old Newton IP14 4ED
Come along to a creative art exhibition bringing together a wonderful selection of artwork from talented local and regional artists. Refreshments available, in aid of St Mary's Church.

'**Drawn to Imperfection' |** Wednesday 13 May **|** St Andrew's Church, Ipswich IP5 1DH
Come along to an exhibition of twenty-one portraits of biblical characters by renowned artist Dave Nevarad. Exhibition opens with a cheese and wine evening on Wednesday 13 May from 7.30pm and then open daily 10.00am to 4.00pm until 20 May. For more information please click here.

A History of Israel and the Jews | Friday 15 May, 7.00pm or Saturday 16 May, 10.00am | The Place by the Water, Shottisham IP12 3HG
Come and explore 3500 years of history through the Bible and associated archaeology, the land of Israel and the history of the Jewish people. Refreshments will be served 15 minutes before each session, and there will be an opportunity for discussion throughout the event. Please note that the content for each session is the same. To book please email theplacebythewater@gmail.com.

Model Railway Exhibition Saturday 16 May, 10.00am – 4.00pm, St Peter and St Paul Church, Lavenham
Layouts of all kinds, in a range of scales, regions and countries (with special focus on East Anglia), together with trade stalls. Refreshments available. Adult admission £7.00, family tickets £12.00 (purchased in advance here to guarantee entry). In aid of Christian Aid.

Folk Concert for Christian Aid | Saturday 16 May, 6.00pm, St John the Baptist Church, Needham Market IP6 8AE

Come along to a folk concert held to raise funds for Christian Aid. Performances from Maggie & Stan, Wildflowers, Joka and Folk on the Hill. Entry costs £8 (cash only) on the door including interval tea and biscuits. There will also be a raffle.

Mildenhall Deanery Quiet Day | Tuesday 19 May, 10.00am-3.00pm, St Martin's Church, Exning CB8 7HG
Old Testament Prophecy in Bible, art and music with the Revd Dr Naomi Wormell, lecturer in Old Testament at Westcott House, Cambridge, and Rector of The Cheveley Group, Diocese of Ely.
All are most welcome – please bring a packed lunch. Enquiries to the Revd Canon Chris Childs, Rural Dean of Mildenhall on 01638 429212 or revcchilds@aol.com.

Great Blakenham Events | Great Blakenham Parish Room IP6 0LN

Bereavement Cafe | Saturday 23 May, 2.00pm - 4.00pm
A safe place to talk about your grief, whether recent, a long time ago, or anticipated. Tea, coffee, biscuits and a safe space with listening ears.

Doggy Day | Saturday 18 July, 11.00am - 2.00pm
Come along to an event celebrating the four legged friends in your life. Doggy tombola, dog competitions and more plus refreshments. Proceeds to go towards St Mary's Church, Great Blakenham.

Pet Celebration Service | Sunday 19 July, 11.00am | St Mary's Church, Great Blakenham IP6 0LP
Come along and celebrate how pets enrich our lives. For pets of all types, large and small. Refreshments provided for all.

The Conference of Birds | Saturday 30 May, 3.00pm | St. Peter's Church, Great Livermere IP31 1JR
Come along and witness the performing ensemble of Planet Birdsong, a global citizen science initiative that connects people with birdsong. Tickets cost £15 for adults, children under 16 half price. Refreshments available, tickets can be purchased on the door. All profits to go to the church toilet fund.

British Sign Language Workshop | Saturday 20 June, 10.00am - 4.00pm | Thomas Clarkson Centre IP33 3JT
St Mary's Church, Bury St Edmunds, are hosting a British Sign Language in worship training workshop to help increase inclusiveness within church settings using BSL. Lunch provided, costs £25. Book here.

Live, Love, Laugh: String Quartets by Holst, Beethoven and Mendelssohn | St Mary the Virgin, Dalham - Friday 5 June at 6.30pm
Celebrate summer with an evening of music. Bring a picnic to have before or after in the church grounds. A bar will be open from 6.00pm and during the interval. Brother Tree Sound String Quartet, one of the country's most innovative and exciting chamber groups, will play a programme of music featuring quartets by Imogen Holst, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, and a surprise piece about Suffolk. You'll have to come along to hear what that is! Tickets here.

Come and See Weekend - Community of St Mary the Virgin | Saturday 11 July - Sunday 12 July | St Mary the Virgin, Wantage OX12 9AU
The Sisters of the Community of St Mary the Virgin are offering those wondering about a possible vocation to the Religious Life a chance to spend a weekend with them in their Convent joining them in chapel, eating with them, and more. There will also be opportunity to chat with the Sisters and ask questions. For more information please click here.

Called By Name | Friday 11 September - Sunday 13 September | Sarum College, Salisbury SP1 2EE
A two-day event for ordinands, curates and those discerning. A weekend for all of UKME/GMH heritage to support and nourish you on your vocations journey. All welcome, from explorers to curates. For more information and to book click here.

Notices

Parish Accessibility Fund: Full details of the scope of the Parish Accessibility Grants scheme are here and the VAT rules are here. As a first step you should contact contact Toby Hart at the Diocesan Office via email toby.hart@cofesuffolk.org.

Sizewell Hall Fundraiser: Sizewell Hall stands as a sanctuary where the Word of God is taught and lives are changed. The Trustees have an exclusive opportunity to purchase the hall, to preserve and continue to use it for the advancement of God's kingdom. Could you help? Please download the letter here for more information.

Inspire Counselling: Low-cost, professional, safe and confidential counselling service offered in Ipswich for individuals aged 18 years and over, currently accepting new clients. All the counsellors are Christians. Open Tuesdays and Thursdays. For further information please contact Inspire on 01473 217694, email contact@inspirecounselling.org.uk or visit their website here.

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

Operations Manager | St Augustine's, Ipswich | Closing date: 15 May
Kid's and Families Pastor | St Augustine's, Ipswich | Closing date: 15 May
Vicar | Kesgrave with Little Bealings & Playford | Closing date: 20 May
Rector | North Bosmere Benefice

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

Tenor Vicar Choral | Non-Executive Safeguarding Chapter Member | Volunteers | Risk, Audit and Review Committee Member, Finance Committee Member | Officer Manager | Senior Non-Executive Chapter Member | St Edmundsbury Cathedral

Organist or Pianist **|** United Benefice of Stanton | For more information please contact Ali Wakelin on 07717 125743.

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