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

Thursday 4 June 2026

eNews

Our regular round up of news and forthcoming events

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND SUFFOLK

Suffolk Agricultural Chaplaincy



The Suffolk Agricultural Chaplaincy team was pleased to support the Suffolk Show last week, continuing its mission to offer care and encouragement to those working in rural industries.

The dedicated team includes Geoffrey Kiddy, a farmer and Churchwarden; Spencer Campbell, a Young Farmer; Sue Cole, a farmer's daughter; the Revd Clive Fairclough, Chaplain; and Linda Preston, the Diocesan Agricultural Chaplain.

Linda has been part of the team since 2020, having grown up in a rural Suffolk village, she brings both personal understanding and professional training to her role. She is a Lay Evangelist in Claydon Benefice and was licensed as Diocesan Agricultural Chaplain in September 2025. Linda has received Mental Health First Aid training from RABI (the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution), a charity working towards a future where people in farming have the same opportunities for health and wellbeing as the wider population. She has also completed the Enhancing Pastoral Ministry course. Linda says, *"Pastoral care is so important. I offer support to those in the farming and fishing industry by talking, listening, and simply giving time for people to share. I can help, encourage and signpost them to further support when needed."*

The chaplaincy team seeks to share God's love with those working on the land, at sea, and across rural industries. They attend events throughout the county, including the Suffolk Show, Hadleigh Show and others, and support is available to anyone working in these sectors. The team offers confidential care, prayer and practical help through phone calls, home or farm visits, or meetings at a convenient location. They can also attend events to provide information or give talks. To get in touch or refer someone for support, please email: agrichaplaincy@cofesuffolk.org or download the leaflet here.

Together we Pray:

From next week our typical Together we Pray morning prayers livestreamed on

Facebook at 8.30am will be hosted by St Edmundsbury Cathedral, on YouTube instead. They also share Evening Prayer, Tuesday to Friday at 5.30pm. If you have been following the prayers for several years 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!

Diocesan and Mission & Ministry Events

Transforming the Church of England's national website | Tuesday 9 June 1.00pm, Zoom
Join this special webinar to learn more about the Church of England's transformed website and how it's been developed, and ask any questions you have. As part of the transformation of the Church of England's national websites, the updated ChurchofEngland.org will go live later this year. Register here.



PCC Workshops:
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 June

Buildings: 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.

Theology Of Giving: Exploring The Theology of Giving, a subject that lies at the heart of our relationship with God and with one another, will give you an insight into how you might approach the topic of giving and generosity with your fellow church members and those in the wider community. Book: 24 September

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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. Come along to be encouraged, inspired, and equipped with practical tools and frameworks for mission and growth for your church. This conference is relevant to churches large and small, rural and urban, and whether you are a single parish or a multi-parish benefice. We invite incumbents to come with a small team.

For more information, please email: the Revd Katie de Bourcier, Diocesan Mission Enabler, or Lisa Hicks, LyCiG Coordinator. To book please click here.

Church brand toolkit and new Canva templates | 2.00pm Thursday 18 June, Zoom
Join this national webinar to learn more about the new customisable brand templates and design resources made for churches! These are all editable within Canva so you can jump straight in and start creating, saving you time and energy. Includes a walk through a new visual support pack for churches, which provides a range of colours, fonts and logos churches can use, and demo an interactive practice session you can use to get more confident with Canva. Register here.

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.

Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse Training: Huntingfield, Wednesday 24 June, book here.
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.

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.

Further dates across the county to follow. Click here to book any of these dates.

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 | All Saints' Church, Wickham Market IP13 0SA
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 morning with Julia Mourant
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.

Church Community Services and Events

CO-OP Brass Band and Concert | Saturday 6 June, 7.00pm, | St Mary's Church, Woodbridge
Join the Saint-Saens "Organ" symphony with local organist, Dr Sarah Dodds, for a concert in aid of the church 'Help Heat our Church' Appeal. Tickets are £12 each, and can be purchased online in advance: here or in the Church Shop, or on the door.

One Man Comedy Show | Friday 19 June, 7.30pm | Pettiward Hall, Great Finborough
Join FitzHigham for a night of comedy: From the Edinburgh Fringe to Harleston via Pettiward Hall. Tickets £10 please, in aid of St Augustine, Harleston's rethatching appeal. Please book by phoning 07884 334733.

Pastimes in Petals | Saturday 20 June and Sunday 21 June, 11.00am to 5.00pm | St Mary's Church, Bawdsey
Come along for refreshments, plant stall, opportunities to climb the tower, open gardens on either side of the church and a children's trail. Also during the Flower Festival on Saturday we will be entertained by the Phoenix Handbells playing and the Barley Brigg North West Style Morris Dancers as well as other musical events on Sunday.

Open Gardens | Sunday 21 June, 11.00am - 5.00pm | All Saints' Church, Shelley
You are warmly invited to visit up to nine local gardens, enjoy tea and cakes at the church, and resolve your gardening questions at our special Garden Surgery. All contributions support the church. Tickets are £7 for adults, with children free. You can pay on the day by card or cash at the church, or by cash only at Hullwood Barn, Erie House or Wayside Cottage.

Big Knicker Night to raise awareness of domestic abuse | Tuesday 23 June Salvation Army Hall, Stowmarket
An evening of entertainment, speakers, stalls and refreshments. Free entry to anyone who brings and donates a new packet of underwear, all of which will be donated to two Suffolk women's refuge charities, Lighthouse Women's Aid and Restore Women's Aid Centre. Click for more information and to book the Big Knicker Night.



Grow Alpha | Monday 29 June, 7.00pm | River Church IP4 1BZ
Grow Alpha is an event for church leaders, Alpha team members, or those considering running Alpha, to hear from some of the Alpha UK team on how to run effective Alpha courses, and grow the number of people exploring faith in your church. There will be free pizza and coffee, times of prayer and worship, and input from the Alpha UK team. Doors open at 6.30pm for pizza. Sign up here.

SAVE THE DATES:

Caring for Creation Service | Saturday 5 September | St Edmundsbury Cathedral.
To celebrate the 10th anniversary Eco Church and the start of Creationtide the following day.

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.

Notices

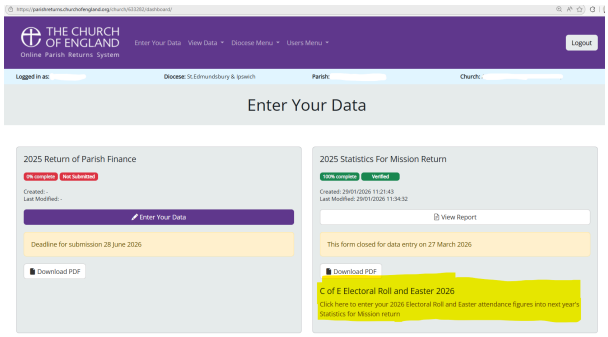
Record retention guidance: As a church body you store a huge range of information. Click here for new guidance to help you more easily comply with legal, contractual, GDPR and safeguarding requirements for record retention, and care for records of historical value.

Policies and guidance: A new section on the Church of England website brings together policies and guidance for PCCs about keeping people safe. PCCs and Church charities are responsible for taking reasonable steps to protecting people from harm in a church setting. This page signposts you to find mandatory and best practice information. Find everything you need here.

Places of Worship Renewal Fund: A new national funding scheme for churches, the Places of Worship Renewal Fund, was launched on Wednesday 20 May. It is aimed, in part, to plug the funding gap created by the abolition of the Listed Places of Worship Fund. Any listed church in the Diocese is eligible to apply, and a total of £23m is available this year. Awards will range between £10,000 and £1m, with priority being given to churches in areas of high deprivation and those which face the greatest fundraising challenges. The application process begins with submitting an 'Expression of Interest' and guidance is

currently available on Historic England's website here. We hope to be able to bring you more guidance in due course but in the meantime, you can find an explanation of how the new fund will operate on the website of the National Churches Trust here.

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 | Closing date: 5 June
Executive Assistant to the Archdeacons & Designated Officer for Clergy Appointments | Bishop's Office | Closing date: 15 June
Team Vicar | Team Rector | Sole Bay Team | Closing date: 24 June
Rector | Sancroft Benefice | Closing date: 30 June
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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Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, 4 Cutler Street, Ipswich, Suffolk, England IP1 1UQ

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