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

Thursday 9 July 2026

eNews

Our regular round up of news and forthcoming events

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND SUFFOLK

LyCiG 2026 exceeded expectations!



It was a joy to see teams from seven benefices come together for our third diocesan 'Leading your Church into Growth' (LyCiG) conference. Over the last three years, those attending LyCiG have come from a mix of rural multi-parish benefices, market towns and larger towns. Each team comes with the same heart: to engage in God's mission, see their churches grow, and make a difference in their communities.

Our three speakers this year were Charlotte Graham, Sue Cooke and Graham Naylor and each brought their own experience of leading growing churches, and stories aplenty of seeing God at work. The home team included Archdeacon Rich; the Revd Katie de Bourcier, Diocesan Mission Enabler; and others from the Mission and Ministry Team. For many, LyCiG exceeded their expectations. One participant said afterwards that they left with *"a plan for the future, a sense of direction, [and] reassurance that we are … ready to start".*

The diocesan Mission Team will run three follow-up events during the coming year, and taster sessions for those who haven't been to LYCIG before. If you are interested in future LyCiG events, or other support with mission and church growth, please email: Katie de Bourcier.

Read the full story here.

Our prayer events are underway.
Join one of the next events, no need to book!

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.

Please 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.



Feedback from the first listening prayer event

Growing Younger in our Diocese

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 should you 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 and is 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.

Deep Rooted 2026 | 14 August 2.00pm to 9.00pm | Red Lodge Sports Pavilion, IP28 8FQ

Calling all young people aged 11–17! Join Deep Rooted, a FREE youth event in Red Lodge packed with fun, friendship, and faith. Our vision is to see young people rooted and established in their community, knowing they are loved by God and truly valued. Expect an exciting afternoon/evening featuring: live music, inflatables, graffiti wall, Nerf wars, burgers and much more!

Whether you can bring along members of your youth group, want to come with friends, or attend on your own, you're very welcome. This event is open to anyone across the Diocese who wants to engage, encourage, and bless young people. Come and be part of something special! Sign up here.



Introducing Youthscape Essentials

Staff announcement: After 17 years serving in the Diocesan Office, Lesley Steed is retiring. Lesley has been a valued colleague, a friendly face, and a tremendous source of support to both diocesan staff and many of those serving in our parishes. As Lesley

prepares for this new chapter, we would love to give people an opportunity to share their thanks, memories and good wishes. If you would like to send Lesley a personal message of appreciation, please email: stuart.batten@cofesuffolk.org who will collate the messages and present them to Lesley as part of her farewell. Lesley's last working day will be Thursday 30 July.

Lesley said *"I joined as Administrator for the Diocesan Ministry Course, supporting the training of lay ministers and later taking on responsibility for CMD administration. Since then, through several team changes and moves, my role has grown to include supporting Readers, serving as administrator to the Diocesan Director of Ordinands, and more recently working with the Communications team to help introduce Insight. I've loved every minute of it (mostly!). I'm sure many people will be relieved that they'll no longer be receiving quite so many emails from me!"*

St Edmundsbury Cathedral focuses in on Net Zero Carbon: Installation work has begun on a major solar panel project at St Edmundsbury Cathedral, with 54 panels being fitted to the Nave South Aisle roof and a further 18 on the Lady Chapel roof. The project marks a significant milestone in the Cathedral's commitment to achieving net zero carbon use.

Once operational, the system should generate over 25,000 kilowatt hours of electricity annually, which could reduce the Cathedral's electricity consumption by 20.4% and cut carbon emissions by 5.65 tonnes per year. This is the first major capital project of its kind at St Edmundsbury Cathedral.

The solar panels have been carefully specified as matt black units designed for high power output with minimal glare, and their visual impact has been thoroughly assessed from key vantage points around the Cathedral. Dean Joe said: *"The Cathedral and Chapter is committed to delivering net zero carbon use, and this solar panel project is an important step in our journey to decarbonise. It demonstrates our commitment to the Church of England's net zero campaign and the priority of tackling the climate crisis."*

Growing confidence in Confirmation sees many publicly declare their faith



St Mary's and St Peter's Church in Bury St Edmunds has a strategy of focussing intentionally on confirmation and seen a remarkable number of people take the next step in their faith journey.

Over the past year, 32 candidates came for confirmation, many of whom were also baptised, with some choosing to be baptised alongside their children. It was wonderful to welcome Bishop Joanne last Sunday, as she baptised, confirmed and led several people in reaffirming their faith.

This follows confirmation services held in both 2023 and 2024, when a combined total of 30 people were confirmed. However, 2026 has marked a new milestone, with two confirmation services taking place within six months of each other for the first time. The

momentum shows no sign of slowing. A further seven people are currently considering confirmation at the next opportunity.

The Revd Canon Tiffer Robinson said, *"Even when I was in rural ministry I always tried to have a confirmation service somewhere in the diary. Here at St Mary's I have been intentional about initiation, seeing it as one of the ways to help people engage with faith and we've seen the fruits in our growing attendance. What is wonderful is seeing one member of a family come to faith and be confirmed, and then a few months or a year later their spouse or parent. It's wonderful to see God working so powerfully in people's lives".*

As increasing numbers explore faith and seek a deeper understanding of Christianity, confirmation remains a powerful moment of commitment, celebration and witness—not only for individuals, but for the whole church community.

Diocesan and Mission & Ministry Events

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 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 here so we know you are coming to this free event!

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.

Safeguarding Training: To book all 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.

Church Community Services and Events

Music for a Summer | All Saints' Church, Stanton IP31 2DA | Saturday 11 July, 7.00pm.

Join the Blackbourne Singers, directed by Claire Robinson. Concert followed by refreshments. Retiring collection in aid for church funds.

'Come and Sing Evensong' | St Mary's Church, Woodbridge IP12 4LP | Sunday 12 July
Come along and celebrate Sea Sunday - all ages welcome. Refreshments available. The rehearsal is at 3.30pm followed by service at 5.30pm.

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.

God-ward Quiet Day | St Mary and St Peter's Church, Claydon and Barham IP6 0PT | 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.

Jigsaw Puzzle Festival *with beer!* | 31 July - 2 August | St Peter and St Paul's Church, Kedington CB9 7NN
Come along to a in a jigsaw puzzle festival, where alongside the puzzles there will be local real ales and ciders plus wine, soft drinks, teas and cakes.

Flower Festival "Dunwich in Verse" | St James Church, Dunwich IP17 3DT **|** 1-3 August, 10.00am – 5.00pm.
Please come and enjoy the flower arrangements and wonderful organ music as well as plant, book and cake stalls and stay for refreshments.

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.

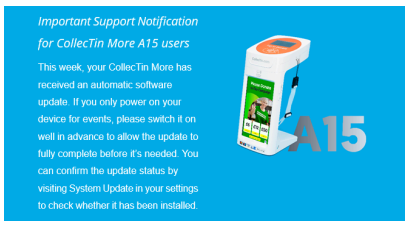
EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT - **closes on Monday 14 July**
LoveRural National Rural Mission Conference | 19–20 October 2026 | Yarnfield Park, Staffordshire | Find out more and book your place: LoveRural Conference.

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. 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.

Important update from CollecTin for those with a A15 model released in January 2026: This week your CollecTin More A15 has received an automatic software update. If you only power on your device for events, please switch it on well in advance to allow the update to fully complete before it is needed. You can confirm the update status by visiting System Update in your settings, to check it has been installed.



Please do email emma.denton@cofesuffolk.org or trudie.harkin@cofesuffolk.org if you have any issues.

Vacancies

Priest in Charge | Mission Ipswich East (MIE) | 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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