Thursday 13 August 2026

eNews

Our regular round up of news and forthcoming events

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND SUFFOLK

Envoy Spaces, Suffolk: Living Life Abundantly

Envoy Spaces Suffolk is a learning community that helps Christians grow in confidence, discovering authentic ways to live and share their Christian faith well in their everyday lives. So far, 95 people have taken part in Suffolk Envoy. Many have discovered simple, enriching ways to share their faith in the everyday of their lives. Others have also found the confidence to begin local mission initiatives and form new worshipping communities. Some have explored new vocations including chaplaincy, pastoral care, Lay Pioneer and Lay Evangelist roles, as well as ordained ministry. Find out more about Envoy here.

Case study: Owen Bannister



"First I attended an Envoy taster session at our church called How Beautiful, and it was exactly what I needed. It gave me the confidence to believe that I am enough as I am and that I don't need to compare myself to others.

Later, I joined Envoy Spaces and it helped me reflect on my faith journey. When I first found faith, I had just come through a dark time of depression and anxiety and I realised that now I want to help others who may be going through something similar.

My faith has grown more than I could have imagined through Envoy. I now rely on and pray to the Holy Spirit much more than before. My trust in God has deepened, giving me the confidence to step outside my comfort zone and talk more openly about my faith. Read the full case study here.

How Beautiful Reflective Morning

9.30am - 12.30 Saturday 3 October | Christ Church Moreton Hall, Bury Saint Edmunds IP32 7EW

Join us for a reflective half day, focused on mapping and giving thanks for our own walk with God. We celebrate those who introduced us to Jesus and those with whom we share our faith and continue to journey alongside. We notice the patterns and rhythms of our everyday faithful walk with God alongside, naming key moments and encounters. A short

time of centring worship is followed by times of input and opportunities to reflect on and map our own journey of faith. Sign up here.

Together We Are Listening: Final Call to Have Your Say

'Together We Are Listening' is a time to pray, reflect, and listen together to God and one another as we begin to refresh our diocesan vision and strategy. Over the summer, we have been listening to people from across the Diocese, and we are grateful to everyone who has attended an event, completed a survey, or shared the public survey with others. A massive thank you! Over the last six weeks we have:

- Received more than 600 survey responses
- Held four prayer events (three in person and one online)
- Run a prayer event for youth leaders
- Hosted listening, prayer, and discussion sessions with Diocesan Synod, Rural Deans and Lay Chairs, and Bishop's Council.

Have you completed the survey yet?
If you have not yet taken part, there is still time. All the surveys close on 28 August, and this is your final opportunity to contribute. Your voice matters, and we would love to hear from you before the closing date. Please take a few moments to:

- Everyone can complete the congregation/public survey and please encourage others in your church, community, and networks to do the same - survey link HERE.
- Clergy also have their own survey to complete. Please click HERE for a copy of the survey and to submit your response. (You will need to be registered on Insight to take part).
- We are seeking Clergy with PTO, Lay Ministers, Ordinands and Chaplains to complete a survey with specific questions designed for you! Please click HERE for a copy of the survey and to submit your response. (You will need to be registered on Insight to take part).
- If you are a member of your PCC, your Churchwarden and Treasurer will have received the survey link to complete this survey as a team.

We look forward to sharing further feedback from the listening process in the coming months.



Watch Archdeacon Sam at the last Archdeaconry Listening event held on 28 July.

Suffolk Churches Ride and Stride/Pedal and Drive | Saturday 12 September

Cyclists, walkers, vintage and classic car owners and even horse-riders, can start to plan their route for Suffolk Churches Ride and Stride and Pedal and Drive day. Organised by Suffolk Historic Churches Trust, this fund-raising idea started in Suffolk in 1982 and is now held across most counties in England.

Suffolk Churches Pedal & Drive, a vintage and classic car rally, with around 100 cars visiting a selection of churches solving clues in a mystery quiz. A steeple-to -steeple horse ride is organised too. *"Last year, the day's fundraising in Suffolk raised £220,000, and we hope to equal or even better that this year"* explained Simon Ronan, the Chairman of Suffolk Churches Ride and Stride. Donations and sponsorship can also be collected via Just Giving. Click HERE (cars) or HERE (horses). Half the money raised goes to the church, chapel or meeting house of your choice, and the remainder is given in grants by Suffolk Historic Churches Trust for urgent repairs or improvements to church buildings. Details of how to get involved are now in churches and on the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust website here.

Growing Younger in our Diocese

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.

Free Youth 'Confirmation' Course | Introductory Webinars | Tuesday 15 September and Wednesday 7 October both at 1.30pm.

'Confirmation' is a brand-new course offered by Youthscape which supports and prepares young people journeying towards confirmation.. 'Confirmation' provides leaders with a well-rounded suite of flexible resources so that leaders can build a bespoke course that's right for their group and setting. Funded by the Archbishops Council's Partnership funding, 'Confirmation' is now available for free to all clergy and laity in the Church of England. Download for free and find out more here: www.confirmationcourse.co.uk or attend either of these webinars to register, please email jemimah.allen@youthscape.co.uk

Diocesan and Mission & Ministry Events

National Church Talking Money Training for Curates and Clergy (Online on Zoom**)**

Curate session on Talking Money: Offering a chance to explore the topics of money, budgeting, giving and generosity. Click HERE to find out more and book Tuesday 22 September, 12.30pm - 1.30pm or HERE for 7.00pm - 8.00pm, Thursday 24 September.

Curate session on Teaching & Preaching Generosity: This session aims to help equip curates to teach and preach about generosity - to encourage a deepening of discipleship in believers and to stimulate a culture of generosity within churches as they outwork their vision. Click HERE to find out more and book 12.30pm - 1.30pm, Tuesday, 13 October.

Clergy Training: This session covers the different elements of fundraising you might need to do in your church, from running fundraising events to securing funding from grants to asking people to leave a gift in their will. Click HERE to find out more and book Fundraising: 12.30pm - 1.30pm, Tuesday, 20 October.

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:

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.

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!

PCC Workshop on Parish Giving Scheme: 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: September

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PCC Online Workshop – Linking our faith to living a generous life | Thursday 24 September, 1.00pm
Join us for an online session where we will explore how our faith links to living a generous life, a subject that lies at the heart of our relationship with God and with one another. We will give you an insight into how you might approach the topic of giving and generosity with your congregation, fellow church members, and those in the wider community. This webinar is suitable for clergy and PCC volunteers, and we will share examples, ideas and preaching resources, together with plenty of time for discussion. Book here.

Enhancing Worship (2026) | Wednesday 30 September | Earl Stonham Village Hall, Forward Green, Earl Stonham IP14 5HJ
This six-week module provides an opportunity to explore the nature of worship, varieties of worship in the Church of England, and the practical skills needed to both design and lead acts of worship. This module is open to all, it is also a requirement for Elders who lead worship and those on the Elizabeth Pathway. For information and to book please click 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 | St Felix of Dunwich Church, Woodbridge IP12 2GG
A day of encouragement, inspiration and connection to equip and strengthen chaplaincy across Suffolk. This special day brings together chaplains serving in a wide range of settings 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. Lunch provided. To register, please click here.

Christian Activism in Today's World – a study day for Lay and Ordained Ministers | Saturday 10 October, 9.30am Salvation Army Hall, Violet Hill Road,

Stowmarket IP14 1NE
Supported by Mark Sheard (Diocesan World Mission Officer) and Richard Stainer (former Diocesan World Development Adviser) and joined by speakers from the CAP (Christians Against Poverty), Open Doors and the Mothers' Union (on Modern Slavery), this promises to be a rich day of exploration and reflection. For further information and booking please click 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 Sunday
Safeguarding Sunday is an annual awareness campaign led by Thirtyone:eight, held on 15 November (or when you are able). This year's theme is *Love Protects*, helping churches explore safeguarding as an expression of care, protection and love. Registration is now open for free resources including service-planning materials, and ready-to-use content. Many of our churches hold a Safeguarding Sunday during the year and find it a really positive experience. If you would like some assistance or would like to know more, email safeguarding@cofesuffolk.org

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Safeguarding Training: Do you like helping others? Have you got access to a computer and a willingness to share your skills? Are you the right person to become a local Safeguarding Trainer? If you would like to know more about becoming a Level One Safeguarding Trainer, please click here to view a role description and enrol on one of the short, online training courses taking place in September.

Safeguarding training courses available for you to access at any time via the National Training Portal include Basic Awareness, Foundation, Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse and Safer Recruitment & People Management: please click here to access the Portal. To book all in-person and diocesan led safeguarding courses, visit Insight. Here you, or your local safeguarding officer, can book you a place to attend. Courses bookable via Insight include Leadership; In-Person and Online via MS Teams, plus In-Person versions of Basic Awareness, Foundation, Leadership PTO and Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse. We look forward to seeing you at a training event soon. Any questions, please contact us at safeguarding.training@cofesuffolk.org.

Church Community Services and Events

Bereavement Cafe | Saturday 22 August, 2.00pm | Great Blakenham Parish Room IP6 0LN
A safe space to come and talk about your loss, no matter how recent. You can also just sit and be with others if you prefer. Tea, coffee and biscuits provided. For more info please email wendyatstmaryschurch@gmail.com.

2026 Annual Pilgrimage walk in Ipswich (Wolsey's route) | Sunday 6 September
Do join us for this popular event. Begins at St Peter's by the Waterfront (IP4 1BF) at 3.00pm and ends around 4.15pm at St Mary Elms (IP1 1EY) with refreshments. An ecumenical event; all welcome. Any queries to: nicholasjardine40@gmail.com).

Art Journalling Day | Saturday 19 September 2026, 9.30am | St Edmund's Church, Felixstowe IP11 2HR
This is a relaxed day where you will learn how to make an accordion journal in the morning and then in the afternoon we will begin to create in it, looking at creation using Genesis and the Psalms. Cost £20.00, all art materials included, just bring a packed lunch. To book please contact Penny on rev.pennybrinkley@yahoo.com.

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.

Faith Community Drop in Session | Thursday 8 October, 2.00pm | St Nicholas Hospice Care, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2QY
Come along to a welcoming drop in session for members of different faith communities - find out more about how the hospice serves their community. Refreshments provided. To book your place, email education@stnh.org.uk.

Notices

STAND for SYNOD

General Synod Elections
An introductory letter was issued on behalf of Kevin Wilson, the Presiding Officer for the diocese on 29 July. This letter outlines the election process, key dates, and voting procedures. Please check your email or post to ensure you have received this important update. A paper copy was posted to those without email.

The General Synod serves as the national parliament of the Church of England. Elected members serve a **five-year term** and actively shape the Church's future by approving new forms of worship, debating major national and global issues and voting on the national church budget.

Why You Should Stand
Elections are happening now for both **clergy and lay members**. You do not need experience on a PCC, Deanery Synod, or Diocesan Synod. If you attend church regularly, you are likely eligible to run and help guide the mission of the Church. The important next steps:

- **14 August:** Nominations officially open. All qualified electors will receive an invitation to nominate.
- **The Portal:** The elections are managed online via **Civica Election Services**, with paper alternatives available for those without email.

- **Get Involved:** Find more details and download laity nomination forms on the diocesan website here.

For queries or help with the process, contact the election team directly at elections@cofesuffolk.org.

National Survey: The National Conversation is a UK wide listening exercise, designed to hear directly from people in every nation and region about their experiences of community life. You can take part in a national survey, designed and run independently by Nuffield College, University of Oxford. Please complete the survey here.

The insights gathered through the National Conversation will inform a report by The Independent Commission on Community & Cohesion. Its mission is to understand the country's state of connection and cohesion, and then set out a credible shared vision for how we can live well together – alongside the practical steps needed to make it a reality. For more information, head to www.livingwelltogether.org.uk.

New Building Management Portal to replace Online Faculty System: The Church of England is introducing the Building Management Portal, which will replace the Online Faculty System for applications relating to works on churches, their contents, and churchyards, with a planned release date in early October 2026. The existing faculty, List A, and List B processes are not changing, but the new portal will provide a clearer digital route for preparing, submitting, reviewing, and managing applications. Further detailed information will be provided in eNews in the coming weeks.

Build your digital skills and improve outreach to your community: Digital Labs is offering an exciting opportunity to learn digital skills in the lead up to Christmas this year:

- Receive tailored support for your church from our Digital, Giving and Vision and Strategy teams
- Benefit from interactive webinars and resources focusing on social media, digital content creation, planning and measuring your activities, and for continuing to reach your community in the new year
- Be equipped with everything you need
- Learn alongside other churches, with the opportunity for dialogue and sharing creative ideas together

Complete our sign-up form with some details about your church here.

Vacancies

Children and Families Worker | Great Barton and Thurston | Closing date: 28 August
Rector | North Bosmere Benefice | Closing date: 1 September
Associate Vicar for Mission | St Augustine's Church | Closing date: 25 September
Children & Families Worker | The Benefice of Holy Innocents, Great Barton and St Peter's | Closing date: 25 September
Rector | Sancroft Benefice | Closing date: 30 September
Team Vicar | Forest Heath Team Ministry

Associate Mission Priest / Lightwave Hub Leader | Bungay Benefice
Kids Pastor | Full-time | River Church
Internship for 18-30s with theological training from St Mellitus College | River Church
Volunteer Manager | Senior Fundraiser | 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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