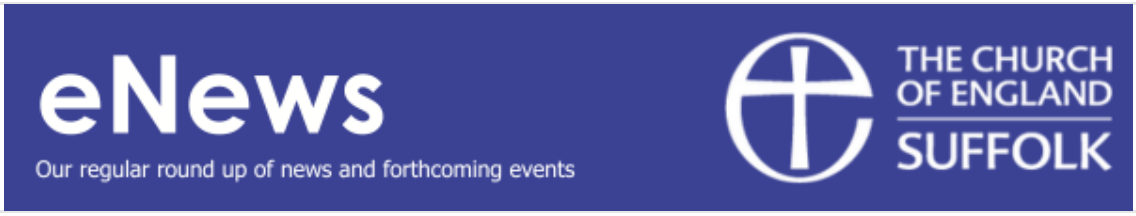
Thursday 3 September 2026



Independent safeguarding audit

An independent audit has commended the on-going improvements and commitment to safeguarding practices across the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, St Edmundsbury Cathedral and at parish level.

The intensive audit, conducted by the INEQE Safeguarding Group, was part of the ongoing independent audit programme, commissioned by the Archbishops' Council, to look at safeguarding in all Church of England dioceses and cathedrals.

In a newly-published report, the auditors acknowledged the leadership across the diocese and recognised strong collaboration with the Cathedral. The report also recognised the key role of all safeguarding officers and other key players.

The report also acknowledged the capacity constraints upon both the Diocese and the Cathedral and indicated that increasing professional capacity within safeguarding support was a key area for improvement, which if addressed, would build upon the considerable progress made so far.

The report's detailed recommendations will become the basis of the action plans to further grow, build, and embed a solid safeguarding culture across the diocese.

The Right Revd Dr Joanne Woolway Grenfell, Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, who joined the diocese in January said, *"I welcome the audit's findings and am encouraged by the progress that has been made in our safeguarding work, particularly in providing support for victims and survivors. Ensuring that those who have been harmed are heard, respected and supported must remain a priority.*

The independent audit found our diocesan and parish culture to be 'welcoming, supportive and inclusive'. This is a significant affirmation of the commitment shown by clergy, staff, volunteers and worshipping communities across the diocese to fostering a positive safeguarding culture.

I recognise the dedication and hard work that have contributed to this, and I want to thank everyone who has played a part in this ongoing journey of improvement. Safeguarding is a shared responsibility, and I am committed to working closely with the Diocesan Board of Finance Trustees and colleagues across the Diocese to implement the report's recommendations and continue strengthening our safeguarding culture and

practice. I would particularly like to thank both our volunteer parish safeguarding officers, PSOs and our professional safeguarding advisers working across the diocese and in our cathedral. Their hard work is reflected in the report.

We must continue to build on this work as the detailed recommendations form part of our ongoing action plan, exploring new ways to enhance the support we offer, strengthening the systems, processes and record-keeping that underpin effective safeguarding practice, and ensuring that safeguarding remains at the heart of our mission and ministry."

The full report and further information can be found on our website here.

'Together We Are Listening: Thank You for Your Feedback

A massive thank you! The survey has closed and over the last six weeks we have received 892 survey responses:

- Congregation public survey 591
- Clergy survey 89
- PCC survey 101
- Ministers survey 111

We have begun the exciting next stage of the process by reviewing the data and identifying the key themes emerging from your feedback. Four discussion groups have already met to explore these themes in more detail, leading to some really insightful and engaging conversations. On Monday 1 September, Bishop Joanne met with the diocesan team to begin a period of discernment and reflection that will help shape our strategic priorities in the coming months. This marks the start of a wider conversation, and we look forward to sharing progress with you over the coming months, starting with a presentation at Synod in October.

3,000 mile 'virtual pilgrimage' walking challenge



The Revd Simon Ramacci BEM plans to walk the distance from Ipswich to Jerusalem, minus the boat crossing, to raise funds for the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group, which provides expert eye care for people living in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem. Simon, from the Benefice of Westerfield and Tuddenham St Martin with Witnesham, said he was keen to get the community involved in his walking challenge.

"I am hoping to get some interest from people in the local benefice, as well as reaching out to churches of St John the Baptist – it would be nice to have some company as I walk. I have a little widget on my laptop where I can track my walking and people can see on the map how far I have walked. I'm planning on posting frequent updates, so people can see how my pilgrimage progresses."

To find out more about Simon's 'virtual pilgrimage' and to donate to the campaign visit Just Giving. Visit here to read the full story.

Growing Younger in our Diocese

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

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Youthscape Essentials is all-round training for every youth leader
Take time to invest in yourself and your youth ministry. The course is free and includes an extensive training manual which will be given to you before the first session. 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. If these dates don't work for you, or if you would prefer face to face training, please email jamie.swinerd@cofesuffolk.org to register interest

Diocesan and Mission & Ministry Events

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!

Season of Creation webinar series | Tuesday evenings, 5.30pm-6.30pm on 8, 15 and 22 September
You are welcome to join these sessions exploring the themes of Hope for Creation. Please sign up here: Hope for All Creation. To support this Church House Publishing has just released a new edition of *A Time for Creation*. It now includes the newly approved liturgy for the brand new Festival of Creation in Christ, which falls on the first Sunday in September, 6 September this year. It also features prayers in times of extreme weather. You can purchase the book here. Creation in Christ liturgy has also been added to the lectionary and all the related digital apps and platforms. So it should automatically pop up now when you search for readings and prayers for that day.

Garden Party for Kagera | Saturday 12 September, 2.00pm - 4.30pm | 32 Church Lane, Henley, IP6 0RQ.

Want to find out more about Kagera? Come along to our Garden Party for refreshments, cakes, plants, raffle, Tanzanian crafts, children's activities and more. Learning how you can support our link dioceses in Tanzania. There'll be lots to do and lots to look at! Everyone welcome.

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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Wellbeing Steering Group: Are you passionate about supporting wellbeing across our diocese? We are gathering a Wellbeing Steering Group to help shape and encourage this important area of work.

An initial meeting will take place on **Thursday 17 September 3.00pm** at the Diocesan Office. If you would be interested in being part of the conversation and exploring how we can promote wellbeing among clergy and lay leaders, please email Archdeacon Sam for further details and to register your interest.
We would love to hear from anyone with an interest in wellbeing, pastoral support, or helping others flourish in ministry.

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.

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.

Church in Action Roadshow | 29 September 2027, London, 1 October 2027, Derby
The Cinnamon Network seeks to equip UK churches for social action in their communities, by developing Christian social action projects and supporting church leaders and volunteers. They've got two roadshows coming up, giving a chance to hear from people taking forward projects in different contexts, and find out more about the support offered by the Network. Click here for more details.

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.

Enhancing Worship (2026) | Wednesdays Starting 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.

Find out more - '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.

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. **Please note - bookings close on Friday 2nd October 2026.** To register, please click here.

Leading your Church into Growth (LyCiG) – Follow-On Day | Saturday 10 October, 9.30am-1.00pm, The Coddenham Centre, Mary Day Close, Coddenham IP6 9SR
This follow-on day is particularly intended for those who came to the 2026 LyCiG conference, to help you continue on your journey of mission and growth, with further exploration of LyCiG's teaching and the chance to reflect and plan together as benefice teams. However, it is also open to teams who came in previous years as a refresher. We will be joined by one of our LyCiG speakers and members of the diocesan Mission and Ministry team. Booking 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.

Prisons week | 11 - 17 October
Prisons Week aims to encourage prayer and awareness of the needs of prisoners and their families, victims of offenders, prisons staff and all those who care. Download this information leaflet 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

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. 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.

Bereavement Café | 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).

The Pilgrimage Way between St Mary Elms, Ipswich, and St Edmundsbury Cathedral | Monday 14 September, from 7.00pm | Museum Street Methodist Church, Black Horse Lane IP1 2EF | Parking in Wolsey opposite.

Join this illustrated talk by Dr Mike Walker and hear about the exciting revival of this medieval pilgrimage route. Admission free. Refreshments available. For people of all faiths and none, encouraging "a transformational personal journey as well as a celebration of Suffolk." For more information please email: nicholasjardine40@gmail.com

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Classical Keyboard Spectacular | St Peter & Paul Church, Eye, IP23 7BD | Saturday 26 September, 7.30pm

Join this fundraiser for the repair to stained glass windows and enjoy the internationally acclaimed Jonathan and Tom Scott showcasing a programme of organ and piano duos plus

animation on Tickets £25 (adult) £15 (under 18). For further details visit www.eyeparishchurch.org or for tickets click: here.

Flute recital | Holy Trinity Church, Long Melford, CO10 9DL | Saturday 26 September, 6.00pm
Featuring the music of Schubert, Poulenc & Ferroud. Tickets £10 please email Elizabeth Rossi (ejcobb@talktalk.net or call 07932 233431) or available on the door.

The African Choir of Norfolk | St Michael's Church, Beccles | Saturday 3 October, 7.00pm
Come along to see this choir which performed at the inauguration of Archbishop Sarah Mullally. Tickets cost £15 per person and can be bought on the door or reserved beforehand. For further details, please email: faith@darch.plus.com.

Suffolk Harvest Festival | Sunday 4 October | 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. Activities between 10.00am - 3.00pm include: Suffolk Trinity animals, machinery, stalls, family activities, food and drink. Followed by the 3.30pm Harvest Service giving thanks for Suffolk's Harvest. Download this flyer to promote locally.

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

General Synod Elections
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. The important next steps:

- **7 September:** Nominations officially close.
- **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.

Dwelling in the Word has been updated to John 15, which will be in use from August 2026. View on Insight here.

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.

Vacancies

Historic Church Building Support Officer | Closing Date: 6 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
Archdeaconry Mission Enabler | Closing date: 30 September
Vicar of Ipswich Minster | Closing date: 10 October
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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