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East Anglian pilgrims join 2m young Catholics at World Youth Day



East Anglian pilgrims, above, join Pope Francis, right, on the Field of Mercy at World Youth Day.

World's youth inspired at Mercy Field



An 80-strong pilgrim group from the Diocese of East Anglia has returned to the UK after an inspirational fortnight with two million other young Catholics, and Pope Francis, at World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland. Keith Morris reports.

The East Anglia group included dozens of young people from across Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs and Peterborough, along with Bishop Alan Hopes and a number of local priests.

They spent the first week in the Polish town of Zakopane on a retreat, visiting local churches and shrines, meeting local Catholics and walking in the footsteps of former Polish Pope, Saint John Paul II.

The second week was spent in Krakow where they took part in huge outdoor events with Pope Francis at Campus Misericordiae (Field of Mercy), an all-night vigil, youth festivals, concerts and catechesis (teaching) sessions

in huge sports stadiums.

During the final Mass, Pope Francis told his two million plus people present to trust that God truly loves them and blesses their dreams: "God is pointing you to the future, not to the museum," he said. "Take your place in your history, leave your mark."

The trip was led by Director of Youth Services, Hamish Mac-

Queen, who said: "For many young Catholics in a small rural parish with only few young people, to be in a field with two million others like them is inspiring and they can see that they are part of a much bigger thing - a truly universal, international church.



Queen, who said: "For many young Catholics in a small rural parish with only few young people, to be in a field with two million others like them is inspiring and they can see that they are part of a much bigger thing - a truly universal, international church.

"At the opening mass to see the flags of almost every nation of earth being waved - there for a

common purpose - was very moving and inspiring. Some young people come away finding their faith has rocketed, or their life has changed or they have got a sense of their vocation."

East Anglia youth communications officer, Clare Storey, said: "We have had a brilliant two weeks, and bonded very well as a group, particularly in looking out and supporting each other.

"World Youth Day was a massive celebration of our faith and we learnt just how vibrant Catholic youth are and that we are the future, and the present, of the Catholic church."

Young communications officers Clare, Sarah Mawe from Reepham and Dan Anderson from March provided a regular online blog with pictures and videos and Sarah and Clare appeared on local BBC radio stations to talk about their experiences.

During the final event, Pope Francis announced that the next World Youth Day will be held in Panama in 2019.

■ For a diary of the trip and more pictures, see centre pages.



WALSINGHAM

SUNDAY 18th SEPTEMBER 2016
Holy Year of Mercy



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news in brief

Four Holy Doors for Rome pilgrims

■ The Diocese of East Anglia pilgrimage to Rome from June 6 to 10 included no less than four Holy Doors, bringing real meaning and significance to the pilgrim journey, reports **Fr Paul Maddison**.

In brilliant sunshine, 52 pilgrims from the Diocese, led by Bishop Alan walked in procession along the pilgrim path towards St Peter's in Rome.

As we prayed the rosary, we were united with all our family and friends, parishioners from home and our own thoughts and intentions, making our way to the Holy Door in this jubilee year of mercy.

Stepping through the door, amidst thousands of tourists, we continued our way along the central aisle of the Basilica until we were standing in front of the High Altar looking down on the tomb of St Peter. Here we offered our prayers to God for the people of our Diocese, praying that we would all receive mercy from the Father.

As our week together progressed we walked through all four Holy Doors in the city, bringing real meaning and significance to our pilgrim journey. We also visited many of the churches and places of pilgrimage in Rome as well as enjoying free time and the excellent hospitality of the sisters at our accommodation just next to the Vatican.

Meeting with some of our seminarians was a highlight for many.

We returned home exhausted, but with a great sense of achievement and inner peace, having completed our pilgrimage to the "tombs of the Apostles". Thank you Bishop Alan, for a wonderful pilgrimage.

Vestments exhibition

■ An exhibition of vestments and other church treasures entitled "All Things Bright and Beautiful" was held during the first week of August 2016 at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Sheringham. It opened with a launch party attended by about 60 people. There was a range of vestments spanning some 300 years, mostly from the collection of collector Fr Timothy Bugby.

Catholic East Anglia

Newspaper of the Diocese of East Anglia

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Articles and photographs for the next edition are very welcome and should be sent to the editor, ideally via email, by the deadline of October 1.

Diocese website: www.rcdea.org.uk

Advertising: Contact Alice at Cathcom Ltd on tel 01440 730399 or at alicej@cathcom.org

Publisher: Cathcom Ltd of Haverhill, 0207 112 6710



Helping make Alive in Faith a success

Almost 5,000 households have now learnt about the Alive in Faith vision for the future of the Diocese of East Anglia.

■ During July, Paul Spellman, one of the diocesan seminarians, helped to share Alive in Faith with parishioners in Peterborough. He has been speaking about the positive impacts of Alive in Faith and why he is prepared to support parishes with their fundraising efforts.

"Ensuring we have priests for the future, that we can accommodate those who have served our communities and that we are actively putting the needs of the vulnerable first are integral to the continuing mission of our faith," said Paul. "We all have a part to play. What we do now will benefit the next generation of Catholics."

St Peter and All Souls, with Our Lady of Lourdes, in Peterborough, was one of nine parishes to recently undertake Alive in Faith. Paul explained how his two-week stay at the parish was unintentionally well-timed: "I shared my journey of hearing God's call, as well as my experiences of being in seminary at all six Masses on one of the final



Paul Spellman (far left) with Fr Waldemar Smialek, Assistant Priest and some of the volunteer team, working together to make Alive in Faith a success at All Souls Peterborough.

weekends of Alive in Faith at All Souls."

Paul's story was warmly received and had a positive impact on parishioners. By the end of the campaign in Peterborough, over 150 households had stepped forward and pledged their support to Alive in Faith.

"We are indebted to parishioners across the Diocese for their generosity, prayers and words of encouragement.

This was my way of giving something back – helping people to understand the difference their support can make," said Paul.

All Souls, Peterborough raised over £220,000 for Alive in Faith.

■ To find out more about how parishioners are responding elsewhere, please visit www.rcdea.org.uk/alive-in-faith



Fr David Bagstaff (centre) cutting his anniversary cake surrounded by fellow priests.

First priest celebrates 40

The very first priest to be ordained in the newly-formed Diocese of East Anglia, 40 years ago, has celebrated his own 40th anniversary of ordination with a One Mass Sunday at St Henry Morse Church in Diss, reports **Judith Tooth**.

At his ordination in 1976, Bishop Alan Clark called Fr David Bagstaff "the Benjamin": the youngest priest in the new Diocese. On July 10, Fr David celebrated both anniversaries in Diss where he has been parish priest for the past two years.

The Gospel reading that day, the story of the Good Samaritan, was, said Fr David, a profound and simple proclamation of good news that cut to the heart: no-one listening, then or now, could fail to understand the challenge it presented: to reach out in love and service to all, especially those most in need, and those we didn't want naturally to connect with. Everyone is a child of God, he said.

Fr David began his ministry as assistant priest at St Peter and All Souls, Peterborough; he then moved to St John's

Cathedral, Norwich as assistant priest; on to St Mary's, Woodbridge Road, Ipswich, and back to Peterborough as parish priest. Sacred Heart, North Walsham, with Aylsham and Wroxham, was his next parish, until he moved to Diss. Priests and parishioners from his former parishes joined in the celebrations.

Describing the unique relationship between a Catholic priest and his parishioners, Fr David said: "It is the love that the priest receives daily from the people of the parish that enables him to give love, to be alongside, to lead, to listen, and to reach out together in love and service. As priests we're very fortunate that they are very tolerant of our eccentricities and forgive our mistakes!"

"In this celebration today, I give thanks to God for his grace, without which we can do nothing. I'm offering thanks, together with you, for 40 years and for the hundreds of thousands of people I've connected with and walked alongside. It's a great day for thanksgiving."



Martyr's death is marked

■ Bishop Alan Hopes joined the parish of St George's in Norwich, on July 13, in celebrating the 400th anniversary of Blessed Thomas Tunstall (pictured above), who was martyred in the parish. We should be inspired to live and proclaim our faith by his witness and commitment said Bishop Alan in his homily.

On July 12, 1616, Thomas was tried and condemned as a Catholic priest and sentenced to be hung, drawn and quartered just outside of the city's Magdalen Gate.

Generations meet

■ Aimed at bringing the generations together, St George's in Norwich held a Summer Party on Saturday July 16, as part of the Crossing the Threshold programme that has been taking place in the parish over the last year.

The event started with a Mass and was followed by a party with entertainment provided by Notre Dame High School students and a lunch prepared by the ladies from the St George's Luncheon Club. The students chatted to the guests who shared their memories. They also provided cakes and served lunch and tea.



■ Four priests with a total of 175 years of service joined 42 others from across the Diocese of East Anglia at a Celebration of Priesthood at the Bishop's White House at Poringland on July 15.

The priests came together to reflect on their ministry and to celebrate the years of faithful service given by those celebrating jubilees in 2016.

Mass was concelebrated with Bishop Alan Hopes at the church of Our Lady of the Annunciation in Poringland, followed by drinks in the garden of the Bishop's White House and then lunch served by a team from the Cathedral

Narthex.

The priests celebrating special jubilees were Fr Ben O'Rourke OSA from Clare (60 years), Fr Peter Brett from Sudbury (50 years), Canon David Bagstaff from Diss (40 years) and Fr Russell Frost from Ipswich (25 years).

Bishop Alan thanked them and the other priests for "transforming the joys and hopes, the visions and dreams of the countless thousands of people whom you have served over the years."

Pictured above are all the priests at the White House with Bishop Alan.

Bishop gives Pope pupils' refugee gifts

By Keith Morris

Letters for refugee families, written by Cambridgeshire school children, have been handed to Pope Francis by Bishop Alan Hopes, at a recent audience at the Vatican during a Diocesan pilgrimage to Rome.

The letters from year five and six pupils at the All Saints Inter-Church Academy in March, were written to the refugee families who were recently housed at the Vatican by Pope Francis, as part of a Year of Mercy project.

The pupils also produced some Doors of Mercy artwork which was given to March parish priest Fr Paul Maddison, to take to Rome. They were presented to the Pope by Bishop Alan, along with a copy of a history book written to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Diocese of East Anglia.

All Saints year five and six teacher, Charlotte Harrison, explained: "As a class we wanted to create some artwork which would represent the Year of Mercy doors in our own way. We decided on plaques, incorporating William Morris patterns, many with doors which could be opened."

"Our year five children wrote some very beautiful letters which Fr Paul kindly took along to Rome along with some of our artwork. We had carried out quite a lot of work linked with the plight of the refugees and our letters were part of our work."

"We also decided to raise money for the Toilet Twinning charity which paid for a latrine in Pakistan and a whole school toilet block in Sierra Leone. I'm so proud of what they achieved and the positive impact it will have on others."

"Our Year of Mercy work has evolved



Bishop Alan Hopes presents the letters and book to Pope Francis and, right, an All Saints pupil with her Door of Mercy, which was taken to Rome.

into us going on to carry out different practical activities and I feel that it has been a very much alive here at All Saints.

"The children were overjoyed when I told them about their work being handed to Pope Francis. One of the children - Ilona - said that she couldn't believe how their work could reach the hands of Pope Francis through just two other people and that it made her feel like Pope Francis was a friend we now

knew," said Charlotte.

The audience with Pope Francis took place on June 8 when Bishop Alan also presented a copy of Catholic East Anglia, a history book which marks the 40th anniversary of the Diocese of East Anglia.

Bishop Alan said: "Pope Francis was very pleased to receive the letters, artwork and history book. He also wished the Diocese happy birthday."

news in brief

Catholic faith and real ale served up

■ Catholic faith and real ale were served without fuss at the launch of a new catechetical series, Peter's Pints, in Mac's Bar at the Cathedral Narthex in Norwich on June 17.

The pilot event was attended by around 30 people, who had travelled as far across the diocese as Walsingham and Cambridge, and included Bishop Alan.

Attendees were invited to sample two cask ales from St Peter's Brewery near Bungay. The talk was delivered by Fr Julian Green, a parish priest in North Staffordshire who has many years' experience of teaching and catechesis in the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

In his talk, "The Fear of the Lord is the First Stage of Wisdom", Fr Julian spoke about the fear of the Lord as a gift of the Holy Spirit, how it needs to be recovered in the wider life of the Church, and how it differs from "servile" fear because it leads to freedom and joy. A recording of the talk can be accessed on the diocesan website.

Fr Henry Whisenant, the organiser, said: "I am sure this series will prove a wonderful way to delve into our Catholic faith and I can assure you that there are other good speakers in the line up!"

The next event will be on Friday September 16, details at peterspints@gmail.com.

Seafarers Mass invite

■ Church maritime agency, the Apostleship of the Sea has issued an open invitation to join its Mass to mark the feast of its patron saint, Our Lady Star of the Sea, Stella Maris in Norwich.

The Mass will take place on Tuesday September 6 at 7pm at St John the Baptist Cathedral in Norwich (NR2 2PA) with celebrant being Bishop Alan Hopes.

Digital Marketing Officer, Nathaniel Xavier, said: "Please join us to pray for seafarers who are responsible for bringing us up to 95% of the goods we consume in the UK and to pray for the ministry of AoS. All are invited, please come along."

New-look sanctuary

■ St Felix Church in Felixstowe has a new-look sanctuary thanks to funding from the Alive in Faith project.

The re-modelling involved three main parts explained Fr John Barnes: "First, the laying of a new floor of small red tiles to replace a jazzy 1970s floor of highly patterned yellow and brown tiles."

"Second, the two concrete supports for the white marble top of the altar have been replaced by stone supports, the stone matching the stone used in the construction of the church."

"And third, the introduction of a handsome stone plinth for a new tabernacle in the centre of the east wall. In recent years the Blessed Sacrament was housed in an aumbry on a side altar."

Sweet peas and shrine

■ A group from Our Lady and St Joseph Sheringham and Cromer recently enjoyed an outing and pilgrimage to Grantham and King's Lynn, led by Deacon Andrew Neate. The first visit was to the Easton walled gardens near Grantham, which have a particularly fine collection of sweet peas. The group then travelled back to King's Lynn to visit the Pontifical Shrine to Our Lady of Walsingham, which is within the Catholic parish church.

NEW EVANGELISATION

Reflecting on God's mercy

Around 50 parish New Evangelisation reps from across the Diocese of East Anglia met for a day of reflection, linking God's mercy with the call to proclaim the Good News, at Newmarket parish centre on Saturday July 2.

■ Canon John Udris, of the Diocese of Northampton, spoke on God's Merciless Mercy.

In his talk he shared GK Chesterton's thought that God is "the unrelenting sleuthhound who seeks to save and not slay."

The afternoon talk went into the Old Testament to consider "The Third Day: Where Trust and Mercy Meet", the times



of encounter with God throughout the history of the Jewish people.

Canon John's talks provoked some thoughts and inspired many of the people there.

"I found Fr John's presentation so inspiring," said Brigid Rawlinson, from Beccles. "Everything on the day fitted so well with our quest in New Evangelisation and it is our duty now to spread the word among our parishes."

Rebecca Bretherton, coordinator of the Commission for the New Evangelisation explained the thinking behind the day: "As we talk about communicating the message of God's mercy during this Jubilee Year, it is appropriate that we give ourselves the opportunity to stop, reflect and pray about what this message means in our lives. The day gave all of us an opportunity to meet others and explore our experiences of sharing our faith in our parishes."

A parishioner from Hadleigh, Suffolk said, "The day was like a perfect gift!"

Pictured, above, is Canon John Udris of Diocese of Northampton addressing the Newmarket New Evangelisation day of reflection.

Wednesday Word to help share Gospel

■ This year, Home Mission Sunday is Sunday September 18.

We pray particularly for non-church-going Catholics; we pray that we will find the right words to help them return to an living relationship with Jesus Christ and the Church.

In 2015, many parishes prayed the Coming Home prayer during the bidding prayers at Sunday Mass. Some parishes have adopted it as a regular prayer throughout the year. The Coming Home prayer cards proved to be a way for people to take the prayer to other people and to pray at home for family members.

For 2016, many parishes are planning to use Home Mission Sunday and the weeks until Advent Sunday to try out the free parish version of The Wednesday Word.

This simple sheet provides an excellent way for all parishioners to pray and reflect on the following Sunday's gospel during the course of the week.

Wednesday Word was launched in East Anglia at the July New Evangelisation event. Representatives from about 30 parishes tried out the sheet that weekend.

In the same way that the little Coming Home prayer cards are useful to show people we are thinking of them, Wednesday Word is a resource for people to take home from church which could:

- start a conversation;
- or help parishioners to share their faith;
- or help people witness their faith;
- or may be read by Catholics who choose not to come to Mass.

Rebecca Bretherton, co-ordinator for the Commission for New Evangelisation explains: "This is a practical way for us to share our faith. People sometimes find it difficult to talk about prayer and the Gospel with family and friends.

"Wednesday Word is an excellent way for a parish to support people who are learning to pray. People who prepare for Mass know it creates a more fruitful experience of Mass.

"Wednesday Word helps us help others to develop this habit in an informal way."

So how could you use Wednesday Word in your parish?

- Have a couple of people handing out the sheet after Mass and being ready to explain it.
- The sheet could be taken with Holy Communion to people who cannot come to Mass.
- Some parishes print the Gospel page onto the parish newsletter.
- Wednesday Word is ideal for readers to prepare the readings for Mass.
- It is a resource for Gospel Sharing groups.

You can download the resource from the website www.wednesdayword.org every week at any time after Thursday 12 noon.

Then simply distribute it at Sunday Mass for parishioners to take home and pray during the week in preparation for the coming Sunday Mass.

HOW TO...

Colourful ideas that will grow on you

In the latest of her series of How to... articles, Rebecca Bretherton has some tips for creating a Mary Garden.

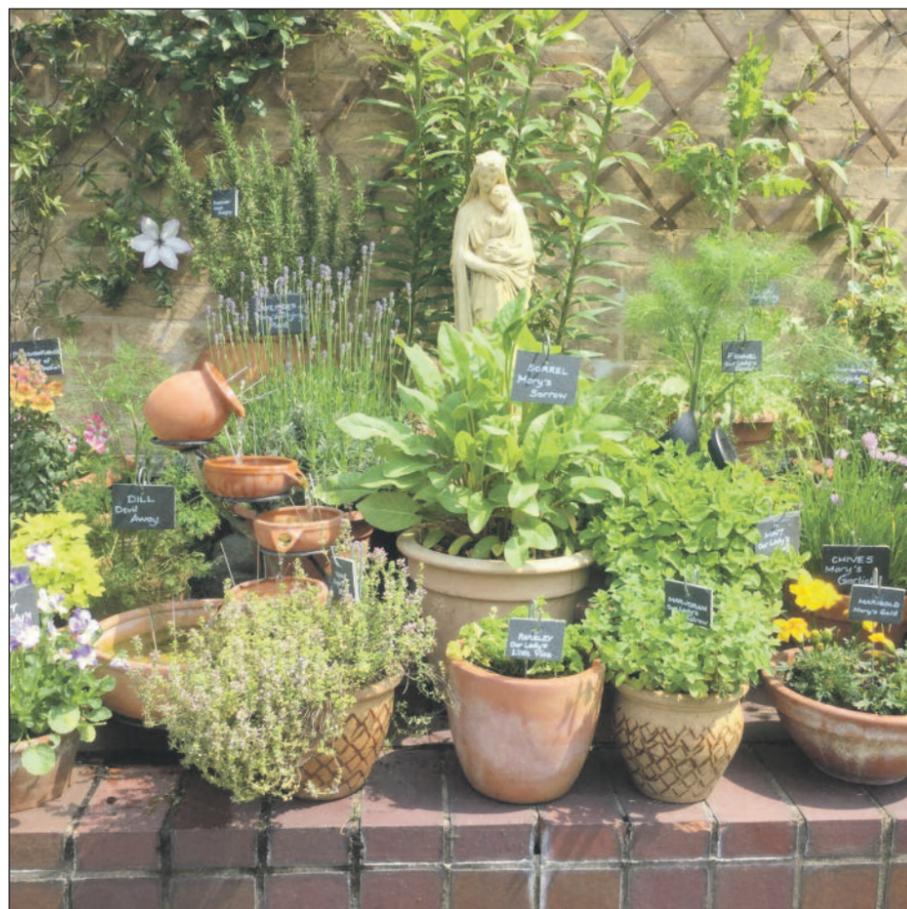
■ Gardens honouring Our Lady remind us of her place in our everyday lives and show our love for the Mother of God to others. The idea works as a parish or home project. Monsignor Mark Langham, the creator of the Fisher House garden, agrees: "Creating the garden and tending it is devotional; our community values this prayerful space."

Some parish gardens already have a shrine or memorial area to start the garden.

Mary Gardens were popular in the Middle Ages, especially in monasteries. St Fiacre, the patron saint of gardening planted the first recorded Mary Garden in 7th century France. In East Anglia, the priory in Norwich had a Mary Garden in the fifteenth century. Many traditional healing plants were linked to Our Lady. Some have Mary's name; others are traditional stories. Some stretch the link to Our Lady a bit but are fun to include in the planting.

Here are some ideas:

- The garden should be seen by as many people as possible.
- Plan some seating;
- Find a weatherproof statue;
- In small spaces try a window box of petunias or herbs;
- If you are creating a parish garden, use plants which need very little care. Many herbs, such as rosemary, thrive in East Anglia with minimal attention. Home gardens are more suitable for plants which require lots of water in the summer or protection in the winter.
- Maybe concentrate on a blue and gold theme or a bed of roses ... or add 10 stepping stones to encourage people to stop and pray the rosary ...
- Enjoy the research. Websites such as www.fisheaters.com have details of the



The rooftop Mary Garden enjoyed by students at Fisher House, the Catholic Chaplaincy at the University of Cambridge.

plants linked to Our Lady and some of the stories attached to them;

■ Use labels to explain the plants;

■ To make this a parish evangelisation initiative: involve everyone in the project. Share some of the Mary plant stories in your parish newsletter. Even the most unlikely myths will give someone a moment to reflect and pray.

Here are some plants with connections to Mary to inspire you:

- Marigolds: "Mary's gold" Robbers who stole Our Lady's purse on the flight into Egypt found these flowers instead of coins.
- Lovage: "Mary's duster"
- Daffodil: "Mary's star" and a good start

to the year.

- Fuchsia: "Our Lady's eardrop"
- Roses: One of Mary's titles in the litany of Loretto is "Mystical Rose".
- Petunia: "Our Lady's praise" There are some beautiful blue varieties.
- Pinks: Mary's tears fell on the flight to Egypt and these flowers blossomed.
- Lavender: "Mary's drying plant" It is said that Mary dried Our Lord's swaddling clothes on this plant.
- Lily of the Valley: These are said to have flowered where Mary's tears fell at the foot of the Cross.
- Violets: Traditionally these flowers start to flower on the Feast of the Annunciation, March 25.

Church marks its 120th anniversary

■ **St Peter and All Souls Peterborough has celebrated its 120th anniversary with a joint Mass of its diverse congregations all together at the Anglican Cathedral in Peterborough. Fr Adam Sowa reports.**

■ There is a great sense of community at the heart of St Peter and All Souls parish in Peterborough. Throughout its history it has served an enormously diverse community differing in language, culture, nationality and ethnicity.

Irish, English, Italian, Portuguese, Daman, Polish, Lithuanian, Pilipino are but some of the nationalities that come together each week to pray and worship in our two churches.

Bringing such diversity together may on the outside seem a bit like mission impossible, but it has become a sweet burden and a blessing.

As a sign of the many blessings the parish celebrated a special One Parish Celebration Mass to mark its 120th Anniversary and the Year of Mercy, in Peterborough Anglican Cathedral on Saturday, June 18.

The Rt Rev Donald Allister, Bishop of Peterborough, gave his kind permission so that we could have our own Bishop Alan Hopes presiding over the Solemn Pontifical Mass and include the many priests of Peterborough and St Hugh Deanery who joined us on this special occasion.



Bishop Alan Hopes and Fr Adam Sowa with the 120th anniversary cake.

During the Mass we prayed in many different national languages thanking God and Our Lady for the faith and love of parishioners and priests who have gone before us as well as we looked forward towards the future, praying for many blessings upon our church building and upon our parish community.

There was also a moment of gratitude

for the service of many parishioners, who give their time, talents and resources in the service of this ecclesial community. Twelve of them were given awards by Bishop Alan for long service to the Diocese and the Parish.

The Celebration Evening finished off with a big garden party in the Cathedral cloisters.

Calendar to mark 40th

■ The Cathedral of St John the Baptist in Norwich has published a special 18-month calendar to mark the 40th anniversary of the Diocese of East Anglia.

The calendar gives a unique visual insight into the life of the cathedral and features a number of priests and other staff in different cathedral settings. Featured people include Bishop Alan Hopes, Provost David Paul, librarian Peter Thorn, Fr Arockiya Seelan, Fr Michael Collis, master of music Daniel Justin, the garden team, the flowers team and shop manager Beryl Stock.

The calendar can be bought from the cathedral shop for £5.99.

Well walking

■ A Gorleston parishioner and independent charity Support Cambodia have combined to provide two bore wells for a deprived primary school of 265 pupils in a remote rural location in Cambodia's Pailin Province.

Moira Selvage, who attends St Peter the Apostle Catholic church in Gorleston, recently completed 200k of the Camino del Norte towards Santiago de Compostela in eight days to raise around £2000 while the charity's fourth annual plant sale at North Walsham provided the other £500.

The bore wells will also benefit four local villages whose current water supply is, like the school, a picturesque but filthy pool and a cracked concrete tank.



Flowers for 50th birthday

■ A Flower Festival with an Art and Craft Exhibition is to held at St George's Catholic Church in Sprowston Road, Norwich from September 10 to 12 to help celebrate the church's 50th anniversary.

"Flowers arrangers from 15 catholic parishes from across East Anglia will be taking part with sponsorship from several others. Local Anglican churches, the Polish community and local flower clubs are also included," said Festival Co-ordinator, Marie Drew.

The exhibition will be open to the public from 10.30am on Saturday 10th and Monday September 12 and from noon until 5pm on Sunday 11th, with refreshments available.

Parish Priest, Fr Sean Connolly, has encouraged a variety of events

throughout the year celebrating the 50th anniversary, from a Teddy Bears Picnic for toddlers to a free lunch and concert for the infirm and housebound, so that there should be "something for everyone and open to the wider community".

The Festival also includes an Arts and Crafts Exhibition, organised by St George's parishioner, Gill Bannon. "We will be displaying a whole variety of work by local artists, from paintings to sculptor and from needlework to jewellery," she said.

On the Friday evening, two former priests from St George's, Mgr Philip Shryane and Mgr Anthony Rogers, will return to concelebrate a Mass.

Admission is £2, which includes a Festival Guidebook.



**Apostleship
of the Sea**
Supporting Seafarers Worldwide

Mass for Seafarers

To mark the feast of Our Lady Star of the Sea, Stella Maris the Apostleship of the Sea invite you to Mass and a reception

Tuesday 6th September 2016, 7pm

St John the Baptist's Cathedral, Norwich

celebrated by
Bishop Alan Hopes

for more information contact
John Green

johngreen@apostleshipofthesea.org.uk or 07505653801

I thank the Lord for the work of the Apostleship of the Sea, which for many years has offered human and spiritual support to those who live this difficult and challenging way of life.

Pope Benedict XVI

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Church celebrates 100

■ The Church of the Sacred Heart in Southwold has celebrated the centenary of its opening with a Mass presided over by Bishop Alan Hopes. Keith Morris reports.

■ The celebration, attended by around 80 parishioners, priests and ecumenical guests, also marked the sixtieth anniversary of the consecration of the church in 1956.

The first Mass at the church was held on June 22, 1916, almost 30 years after the first known Mass in Southwold, held in a private house, since the Reformation. In 1899, Southwold had its first Parish Priest Fr St Leger-Mason, who served until 1940.

A fund to build a church was started and some land was bought in 1902. Work started on the building in 1914 through the generous gift of a convert Miss Amy Auld who became a Benedictine Nun at the Abbey at East Bergholt. Although delayed by the outbreak of the First World War, the final stone of the tower was laid by Fr St Leger-Mason on November 10, 1915 and it was blessed on June 4, 1916.

The Church had to wait until June 7, 1956, before Bishop Leo Parker of Northampton came to consecrate it, once all debts had been paid off.

In his homily, Bishop Alan said: "Today we pay tribute to all those priests and people who had the vision, the faith and the courage and commitment to work for the establishment of this church.

"We pay tribute to all those who,



Bishop Alan Hopes with Deacon Stephen Pomeroy and Fr Roger de Lacy-Spencer at the Mass.

together with the present Catholic community, have since continued to build on the foundation that they laid – so many seeds of the Gospel sown over so many years and so much fruit produced.

"But today cannot be just about a building. Today is our celebration – for we are the People of God, the Living Stones, the living members of Christ's Body, the Church. The Living Stones of Christ's Church here are also called to be a beacon of hope and love in a society which is torn apart by selfishness, war, terrorism, hunger, homelessness and poverty," said Bishop Alan.

"God has blessed your community over

these past 100 years. May the seeds you sow for the Lord produce an even greater abundance of fruit over the next 100."

Parish priest, Rev Roger de Lacy-Spencer, said: "Today is a bringing together of the parish and celebrating those who have worked so hard in the past to make this a viable parish now and into the future. People have travelled from Peterborough and Cambridge and further afield to be here."

The congregation then went to the nearby church hall to enjoy a glass of Champagne and a light lunch and look at a display of the church's history and plans for its future.

Jesus is the Lord of risk, Pope tells WYD pilgrims

Fr Henry Whisenant reflects back on a fun and vibrant World Youth Day.

■ In late July, along with 80 other young people from East Anglia, I took part in what must be the biggest regular gathering of Christians in the entire world. Every two or three years the Pope invites young Catholics from across the globe to join him for a week of prayer, catechesis and festivities, culminating in "World Youth Day" on the final Sunday.

Having now been to five of these events, the thing that always strikes me is the buoyancy, noise and colour that descends upon the host city. In Krakow's charming old



streets and in the large Mariacki Square throngs of young people from Italy, Ghana, the USA, even Mongolia and war-torn Syria, waved their nations' flags and sang their homeland chants. In Blonia park where we gathered to welcome the Pope on Thursday evening, groups of audacious French scouts formed human pyramids that were giddily and less successfully imitated by others, while international and seemingly interminable human chains danced and weaved through the crowded green. Those who despair of Christianity's future would do well to have sat in the park at such a time and witnessed the exuberance of the Church!

At the field where we gathered for the final vigil, the Holy Father encouraged the youth to bring that same passion and liveliness to the adventure of faith. "Jesus is the Lord of risk", he said, "of the eternal more. Jesus is not the Lord of comfort, security and ease. Following Jesus demands [...] a readiness to trade in the sofa for a pair of walking shoes and to set out on new and uncharted paths".

How right he is. Our pilgrimage to Krakow has ended, and the boots are stowed away, but if we remain open to divine grace then we can be sure that God will lead us on interior paths and through woods and hills of the heart that we had not foreseen, and only the lively and willing can keep up with him.

"Leave the dead to bury the dead. But you come and follow me."

Pilgrim carries cross as sign of hope for refugees

■ Inspired by the words of Pope Francis, Diss parishioner Judith Tooth has walked 175 miles of the Camino de Santiago de Compostela pilgrimage to raise money for CAFOD and awareness of the plight of migrants and refugees.

"Pope Francis said: 'We ourselves need to see, and then enable others to see, that migrants and refugees ... are brothers and sisters to be welcomed, respected and loved,'" explained Judith.

The latest in her series of annual pilgrimage walks, Judith carried a simple cross made by Sicilian carpenter Francesco Tuccio. His first crosses were made from the wreckage of a boat carrying 500 Eritrean and Somali refugees that sank off the island of Lampedusa, with a loss of 349 lives.

"Fellow pilgrims were profoundly moved when I explained to them that the carpenter had offered the crosses he'd made to survivors as a symbol of their rescue and a sign of hope, and that I was carrying one of those crosses to continue that message of hope," said Judith.

"Thinking of the per-



Judith Tooth with Pere Pierre and the wooden cross.

ilous journeys made by so many escaping war, poverty and persecution, only to be met by hostility and further hardship – let alone all those lying at the bottom of the Mediterranean – was, at times, almost overwhelming. But, by carrying the cross, I was sharing the hope that compassion and love could overcome, that we could see Jesus in the stranger and make them welcome."

During her pilgrimage over 11 days in late July, the cross was blessed by Pere Pierre at the Sanctuary of Notre Dame de Sarrance in the Pyrenees, and by Pobre Don Julián Ruiz Martorell and Padre Ivan Duque at

the Church of Santiago in Jaca at a mass celebrating the Feast of St James.

Meanwhile parishioners in Diss were invited to write messages of hope or commitment to refugees as a further sign of solidarity. The messages will be dedicated at a special event at the end of the Year of Mercy and shared with refugees around the world.

"We're also having a one-day refugee solidarity pilgrimage in our parish on September 3 as part of a Live Simply week of events," said Judith. "We'll walk 10 miles from the Carmelite monastery at Quidenham to our church in Diss."



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Human slavery in East Anglia

By Keith Morris

The wide extent of human slavery in parts of East Anglia was revealed at a meeting between representatives of the Catholic Church, local Police forces and the Office of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner in Peterborough on June 22.

The meeting was initiated by Bishop Alan Hopes and was led by Bishop Patrick Lynch, Chair of the Office of Migration Policy for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales (CBCEW).

It was a round-table discussion which heard from Catholic priests and specialist police officers with detailed knowledge of vulnerable communities in the region from Eastern Europe, Africa and the Far East.

The agricultural industry across West Norfolk, Fenland and Lincolnshire was particularly highlighted with gang masters from Lithuania operating widely.

Police officers working with the Lithuanian and Romany gypsy communities in Fenland explained how gang-masters exploited vulnerable new arrivals to the area by isolating them from the local community and controlled them by providing over-crowded housing and transport to work in the fields. They would then take a large proportion of the wages and sometimes passports in return.

Workers then often ended up in debt to the gang-masters, giving them more leverage over the exploited workers and their bank accounts, which were often used to perpetrate fraud.

Female workers who got into debt were given the option of tak-

ing part in sham marriages and fraud to earn their way out of debt.

PC Petr Torak, from Peterborough, told the meeting that within a 12-month period 84 sex workers and 25 brothels were identified in Peterborough, many in ordinary-looking houses. The largest nationality of women involved was Romanian, followed by Thai and Hungarian.

In one four-month period in 2014, five Lithuanians in Wisbech were known by the Police to have committed suicide by hanging themselves.

Many of the exploited workers come from Catholic countries and sometimes attended local Masses in East Anglian Catholic churches, giving priests the opportunity to support them and maybe help intervene.

Initiatives discussed at the meeting included producing information cards in appropriate languages about helplines and legal rights, appointing a priest to work with the Lithuanian communities and possibly setting up safe houses to facilitate escape from slavery.



The human trafficking round-table meeting in Peterborough.

After the meeting, Bishop Pat Lynch said: "The meeting was very successful in looking at the challenges of human trafficking and modern day slavery in East Anglia.

"It built up a strong sense of co-operation between Police, the church and vulnerable communities and an on-going commitment to help make people in vulnerable groups and the wide community aware of the issues, the realities and the suffering of people trapped in violence and inhumane treatment at the hands of their traffickers".

"It also raised the need to build trust with communities locally, provide support for victims and work collaboratively with the church in the countries of origin to make people aware of the suffering that victims of trafficking experience in the UK and that the streets are not paved with gold".

"We also affirmed the existing work that leaders of the local church communities in East Anglia are doing in engaging with vulnerable communities and supporting them," said Bishop Pat.

news in brief



East Anglian seminarian Peter Wygnanski, pictured above, received the ministry of lectorate at a Mass at Palazzola, from Bishop Philip Egan on July 3.

Nine deacons celebrate their Silver Jubilees

Nine Diocese of East Anglia deacons, who were all ordained together by Bishop Alan Clark in St John's Cathedral in Norwich on May 25, 1991, are celebrating their Silver Jubilees this year.

Seven are still serving in East Anglia. They are: Bill Dimelow – Costessey, Ian Hatfield – St George's, Norwich, Paul Hiron – Walsingham Shrine, Ray Howlings (ret'd) – St George's, Norwich, Robert Joyce (ret'd) – OLEM, Cambridge, Mike Vipond – Framlingham and Mike Wells – Beccles. Secondo Lucca is now in Vincenza, Italy and Si Wells has since transferred to a diocese in New Zealand. There were 20 deacons ordained, the others have sadly died.

Sunday morning Mass was offered for Bill Dimelow and his wife Dorothy on May 22, at Our Lady & St Walstan parish, Costessey, three days before the actual anniversary, and a reception held afterwards in the Garden Room with a celebration cake attended by many parishioners.

Parish priest, Fr David Ward, said: "Bill has lived in the parish for many, many years and knows all of the parishioners – and most of the people living in Costessey! He has constantly proved a valuable asset to the parish, along with the unstinting and unselfish support of his wife, Dorothy."

Cathedrals and shrine pilgrimage

A pilgrimage taking in both of Norwich's cathedrals and the Julian Shrine was organised by the Norwich Secular Franciscans on Sunday July 26. The pilgrimage ended back at St John's where pilgrims walked through the Holy Door.

Pilgrims visit Walsingham

A coach-load of Diocese of East Anglia pilgrims from St Mary's King's Lynn and St Cecilia's in Dersingham joined the annual St Vincent de Paul National Pilgrimage to Walsingham on July 3.

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thoughts of WYD pilgrims

■ "I feel that this trip has definitely changed my faith for the better and has gone as far as to change my life."

Joseph Kaluza-Gilbert, Sacred Heart, St Ives

■ "WYD was an amazing experience for me. Its been truly wonderful to meet such awesome people and be a part of the atmosphere. The two weeks have touched me and will help shape me for my future."

Alice Harvey, St Edmunds, Bungay

■ "This is definitely one of the most unforgettable moments in my life (for both good and bad, ha, ha).

Claudine Alicante, Sacred Heart, Ramsey

■ "I expected to have a fantastic time at WYD but it has been far better than I could have imagined."

May Harvey, St Edmunds, Bungay

■ "Thank you for one of the best weeks of my life - despite the 11-hour walk."

Dom Bennett, OLEM, Cambridge

■ "The experience has been amazing in every way. There have been numerous moments that have left one speechless and times I have been moved to tears. It is always humbling to be a witness to the sincere and developing faith of young people."

Teresa Wiseman



World Youth

A team of young communications officers produced a daily blog of the East Anglian pilgrims' World Youth Day adventures. Clare Storey, Sarah Mawe and Dan Anderson report.

Day One - July 20

■ After a smooth start from our meeting point at St Philip Howard Church in Cambridge, and a coach to Luton Airport, baggage mix-ups and a three-hour delay subdued spirits a little.

We arrived at Poprad Tatry Airport in Slovakia to spectacular scenes of green mountains, rolling hills, fields and forests. We were met by waving GB and Polish flags from a familiar face, Fr Adam Sowa and Ania our mountain guide. We filed on to the buses to begin our journey from Slovakia to the town of Zakopane in Poland. The roads twisted and turned and up and up we went through the mountains.

We arrived at the La Salette order retreat centre, Malenka Zakopane, to an amazing welcome from staff dressed in traditional clothes. After Mass we had a meal and settled down to some much needed sleep.

Day Two - July 21

■ Thursday was our first full day together in Zakopane, and we headed off into the mountains in the footsteps of Saint John Paul II who used to visit the town and surrounding area as a young priest in Kraków.

Our first stop was a shrine consecrated to Our Lady of Fatima. Our adventure continued on to the Miraculous Medal Shrine at Bachledowka and the shrine to Our Lady of Czestochowa. Fr Henry Whisenant talked to us about Saint John Paul and Fr Adam Sowa gave an insight into the Catholic Church in Poland.

We had a lot of fun eating our lunch by a river, and watched one of our seminarians, Pete Wygnanski, trying to cross it, while others paddled in the shallows to cool their feet after all the walking.

Later on, we stopped in Chochołów and visited a traditional-style house, made from local felled trees. After this we headed back to the retreat house for dinner, evening prayer and some down time. Many thanks to the La Salette Community who funded the coach travel on this brilliant day

Day Three - July 22

■ Friday started off with morning prayer led by one of our seminarians, Alan Hodgson, who introduced us to meditation. After breakfast, we set off on a walk to the nearby Tatra Mountains National Park.

Our route took us up to the hermitage and chapel of Saint Brother Albert Chmielowski.

The group took the opportunity to pray in the Chapel, before heading further up the mountain to have lunch and be greeted with incredible views of the valley and forest-lined slopes.



World Youth Day pictures by



Day Four - July 23

■ After breakfast we set off on another walk, to the older part of Zakopane. We saw the second oldest sacred building in Zakopane, a little church, dedicated to Our Lady of Czestochowa. Our walk continued through a busy marketplace and to the foot of the mountains.

Our group split in two, with most of us taking a trip up the funicular railway to Bachledówka. We spent some time walking around, taking in the views and looking at the stalls, then walking to the chair lift, which those of us who were brave enough took back down into Zakopane.

Once we were all back at the retreat house, Fr Karol Porczak, from Sacred Heart parish in St Ives, celebrated Mass for us.

After dinner we headed off to a traditional Polish barbecue and folk music, kindly paid for by the Lowestoft Knights of St Columba. We have bonded very well as a group so far, and are enjoying spending time with each other and building relationships.

Day Five - July 24

■ A short lie in, as today was a quieter

day for us all. Sarah Mawe was interviewed on BBC Radio Norfolk and Clare Storey on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire about World Youth Day.

We celebrated Mass in the local parish church where we were warmly welcomed. Afterwards, most of the group went to the water park while some of us went in search of some traditional Polish food for a Sunday lunch including Pierogi and Wild Boar.

Angela, Aiden, Agata, Pete and Fr Henry had a session in the common room with a mandolin, guitar and a cajon. Clodagh took no time in teaching Fr Adam and Clare some traditional Irish country dancing.

Day Six - July 25

■ After early morning prayer, one of our seminarians, Paul Spellman, led us through the Divine Office. Then breakfast and a two-and-a-half hour coach journey to St Bernard's Monastery, where the church was given Minor Basilica status by Saint John Paul II.

Our next stop was Wadowice, the hometown of JPII or Karol Wojtyła as he was known before his Papacy. In the centre is the Basilica of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary that John Paul

Day adventures



Sarah Mawe, Clive Sheridan, Angela Bennett and Marcin Mazur.



Eugène, Fr Adam, Fr Michael and Fr Henry in the Chapel of the Holy Cross.

We managed to get a look inside the Chapel where Saint Faustina would have prayed during her earthly life. After we had a look around, we congregated to pray the Stations of the Cross before getting a late lunch and heading in different directions, some back to the hotel for rest, some to the city centre and some to join the Stations of the Cross at Campus Misericordia.

Tomorrow the group is setting off very early to join with the two million other pilgrims for the Vigil Mass with Pope Francis.

Day Eleven - July 30

■ Early on Saturday morning we set off for Campus Misericordiae (Field of Mercy) for the final celebration of World Youth Day with some two million other Catholics from nearly every country of the world.

It took a while to arrive at our destination, but once we found a corner in our designated area much nearer the stage than before, everyone settled down for a long day of waiting around for things to kick off.

Fr Henry and a couple of the boys in the group constructed a makeshift altar on top of some wooden crates so we could celebrate the Holy Mass before the Vigil started.

We sat through various sound checks and sung worship before Pope Francis' arrival was announced and the Vigil was finally underway.

Pope Francis reiterated the message from the Opening Ceremony a few days before and encouraged the young people present to renounce the ways of the world, in particular the materialistic way of living that is encouraged, and instead carry a different type of truth in their hearts: one that is Christ-centred.

As the sun set over the field, candles were handed out and lit as we entered a time of prayer and once things had quietened down a bit, many chose to sleep.

Day Twelve - July 31

■ In a field of so many, combined with tiredness and Mass celebrated in a different language to what we're used to, it wasn't always easy to follow! However we persevered until at the end the Pope announced that the next World Youth Day is to be held in Panama in 2019 and gave the final blessing.

Our journey back to our hotel was an eventful one, with a few people becoming dehydrated because of the heat. We were also caught in two rainstorms and eventually arriving very damp and tired, just in time for a very welcome dinner courtesy of Bishop Alan who joined us for the evening.

Speeches and recognition of the hard work Hamish has put into organising this World Youth Day were heard and Hamish, in turn, thanked our group leaders and mentors, seminarians, communications officers and all the pilgrims for their enthusiasm and joy throughout the two weeks.

On Monday morning, we left for the airport for our flights home later in the day. Fr Michael and Fr Henry concelebrated Mass in the airport Chapel and gave thanks for the blessings of World Youth Day 2016 and for a safe journey home.

■ See the full WYD picture gallery and blog at: www.rcdea.org.uk

would have attended as a child.

From Wadowice, the journey to Kraków continued. The lack of sleep caught up with us again, and finally we had arrived at the hotel on the southern edge of Kraków.

Fr Michael celebrated Mass for us in a room in the hotel. Bishop Alan, Fr Padraig Hawkins and Monsignor Eugène Harkness arrived and we all had dinner together.

Day Seven - July 26

■ Having spent the previous evening relaxing in the hotel bar and pool, Tuesday was time to truly enter the World Youth Day experience.

We started our day by heading into Krakow city centre, encountering many groups from other countries along the way, and subsequently met Bishop Alan outside St Mary's Church at midday.

Following lunch, we proceeded to the day's main event; the opening Mass, presided over by Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz and said in the traditional Latin rite.

The atmosphere throughout the whole day, of being in a city with over a million young Catholics was intense and amazing! A lot of singing, dancing and high fiving.

Day Eight - July 27

■ Waking up to an early start, we headed off to the Tauron Arena for Mass and catechesis.

After a traditional World Youth Day queue, we entered the arena, where after some praise and worship we enjoyed a Mass presided by Cardinal Sean Patrick O'Malley. The treat within the Mass, however, was Bishop Alan Hopes both concelebrating and participating in the Eucharistic Prayer.

Following lunch, we split off into the different talks available at the arena. We reconvened at a La Salette seminary, to have a beautiful reconciliation service in the chapel. Presided by Bishop Alan, there were six priests available for confession, as well as exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and worship music throughout.

It gave us a chance to escape the hustle and bustle of a busy World Youth Day to reflect on our lives and bring ourselves closer to God.

In the evening, some of us went to a concert back at the arena, whereas the rest elected to rest at the hotel and prepare for tomorrow.

Day Nine - July 28

■ Today we see the Pope! It was an early

rise and we all jumped on a tram ready for an exhausting yet exhilarating day. We sang, we cheered and waved our flags all the way to the Tauron Arena for our second day of Catechesis.

A Q and A session with Cardinal Nichols and short testimonies from young people about how Jesus had touched their lives were included.

We reconvened at Campus Misericordia for the Opening Ceremony with Pope Francis.

We have been able to listen to translations of the Masses on FM radio but had to rely on the nearest screen to see what was going on. Before the ceremony began, dance performances from each continent were taken in before the Gospel was brought up.

We had a long walk back to the hotel, and were very glad to be resting our feet afterwards and unwinding before bed.

Day Ten - July 29

■ This morning we started with morning prayer led by one of our seminarians Edrich D'Souza, followed by breakfast and then set off for the John Paul Sanctuary and Divine Mercy Sanctuary.

Bishop Alan and Fr Padraig met us at the Divine Mercy shrine and Bishop Alan concelebrated Mass with Monsignor

Diocesan Schools in Focus

School marks golden jubilee

St Alban's Catholic High School in Ipswich has celebrated its Golden Jubilee with the help of Bishop Alan Hopes.

In 1966, St Alban's Catholic High School first opened to pupils. Now, 50 years on, the school has celebrated the 50th anniversary of the school. On June 27, Bishop Alan led the Thanksgiving Mass for the 50th anniversary. Invited guests including clergy, former staff, civic dignitaries and representatives of the Diocese celebrated Mass along with the whole school.

The school was delighted to be presented with a Papal blessing which was handed to Colin Walker, School Principal, which both celebrated and recognised the mission and work of the school over the past 50 years. This was received with a rapturous round of

applause. In addition, to mark the half century, the deanery presented a new crucifix for the main hall, which was blessed by Bishop Alan.

Colin Walker said: "I am delighted we have a new crucifix for the main hall; it will hang in there as both a mark of this 50th anniversary but also as a symbol to inspire staff and pupils on our collective mission as a Catholic school. We are grateful to the deanery for providing this for the school community."

Bishop Alan, in his homily, talked of the bravery of St Alban and how pupils should work to follow his example and that of others who strive to be a positive force in the world. To end the day pupils then gathered on the field to set off a large number of golden balloons as a charity fundraiser.



Bishop Alan with the new crucifix, Colin Walker and Diocesan priests.

Exploring theme of pilgrimage

One of the RE topics at St Francis of Assisi Primary School this term has been to investigate and explore the theme of Pilgrimage. To help them gain an experience of what this might mean, the school hall was used as a spiritual space and a huge canvas labyrinth was rolled out. "We were visited by Janet Marshall and her team of volunteers from Norwich Cathedral," said Fran Ludden, Deputy Head. "She worked with each class in turn over a period of seven days. Adults and children alike were drawn into the workshops and accepted the spiritual challenge of walking the labyrinth in quiet prayer and contemplation."

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Diocesan Schools in Focus

Celebration of 45 years of school life

A truly uplifting “Mass of Thanksgiving” to celebrate all St Louis Middle School in Bury St Edmunds has achieved in its 45-year history was held at St Edmundsbury Cathedral on July 19.

The school closed in July due to a local school organisation review, resulting in the closure of all middle schools in Suffolk, with primary and secondary schools increasing their intake.

Bury St Edmunds cathedral accommodated a large congregation made up of many people connected to the school. It included ex-head teachers Madeleine O’Callaghan, Anne Mansfield and Mike Cassidy, as well as many other past pupils and staff, the St Louis Sisters, school governors, representatives of local schools, parents, and members of the public. The school’s first head teacher, Sister Una McGuinness, sent her best wishes.

Priests from parishes in the school’s past and present catchment area joined Fr Mark Hackeson in concelebrating the service including former school chaplains, Fr Philip Shyrane and Fr John Warrington.

“The mass itself was a true testament to the ethos of St Louis Catholic Middle School with so many students and staff being actively involved,” said head-teacher Rose Heap.

“The liturgy group have been an integral part of worship in the everyday life at St Louis, and it was fitting that it played such a large part in the school’s final celebration. Forty eight pupils sang and played a wide range of



The Mass of Thanksgiving for St Louis Middle School at Bury St Edmunds Cathedral.

instruments. The opening hymn, Gather Us In, was chosen to reflect the coming together of all those involved in St Louis Middle School over the years and it culminated in a lively “Hymn in Honour of St Louis” specifically written for the current pupils of the school.”

An icon of St Louis, painted by the staff during their recent retreat day at Clare Priory, was presented during the offertory. This is to be hung in St Edmund’s church in memory of the school.

At the end of the service, Rose Heap

was awarded the Diocesan Medal for her services to education. The school has achieved ‘outstanding’ status in its two most recent Ofsted inspections and has been one of the highest performing schools in the area in the annual key stage 2 SATs examinations. Additionally, those members of staff who have served the school for more than 20 years were each presented with a commemorative, personalised plate designed by local artists, many of whom are ex-pupils of the school.

After the mass, the school celebrations continued with a family picnic.

Headteacher retires after 33 years’ service

Headteacher of St Benedict’s Catholic School in Bury St Edmunds, Hugh O’Neill, has retired after 33 years of service at the school.

The father-of-two joined St Benedict’s as a housemaster in 1983. He went on to become head of year, head of sixth form, senior teacher, assistant head and deputy head before taking up his final role as headteacher in 2009.

During his headship he has overseen a long process of reorganisation, welcoming the school’s first Year 7 intake in 2013 as it continued to accept students from areas of Suffolk, which had already moved to two-tier education.

But as it prepares to become a full 11-18 secondary school from September, when it will start using the closing St Louis Middle School for extra space, Mr O’Neill feels now is the right time to hand over to someone new.

He said: “I always intended to retire at 60, which would have been last year, but because the school’s been going through some quite choppy times in terms of reorganisation I thought I should stay in charge until the point where we were moving fully



Hugh O’Neill. Picture by Bury Free Press.

towards being a two-tier school.

“I did wonder whether I should also see through the first year of us using both sites but I decided it made just as much sense for a new teacher to come in and shape that school from the beginning rather than pick it up.”

One of his proudest legacies is the number of students he has helped get accepted into Cambridge and Oxford Universities. As a Cambridge graduate himself and someone who

believes that going to a state school should not disadvantage a person, Mr O’Neill made a commitment to support students’ Oxbridge ambitions.

Since he joined the school, up to 50 pupils have gone on to read at Oxbridge – an impressive record which was recognised by Schools Minister David Laws in 2013.

“I’m going to come back and work with the Oxbridge candidates next year, but I’m looking forward to being out of mainstream education for the first time in nearly 40 years,” said Mr O’Neill. He is also looking forward to the school’s golden jubilee celebrations in January when he has been invited to read during a special mass at St Edmundsbury Cathedral.

In his retirement, Mr O’Neill plans to rekindle his passion for cycling and landscape photography, and to travel with his wife, Elaine, who retired four years’ ago. He said it had been a ‘real privilege’ to work with children and to watch them go on to achieve things in life, and that he was grateful to have had such ‘friendly, supportive’ colleagues who had made ‘going to work any day a pleasure’.

Mr O’Neill will be succeeded by Kate Pereira.

news in brief



Bishop Alan opens the news classroom block.

Revolutionary classrooms open

A revolutionary new classroom block has been opened at St Augustine’s Catholic Primary School, Costessey, near Norwich, due to increasing pupil numbers, and has been blessed by Bishop Alan Hopes.

The new classrooms were opened on Wednesday July 6 by Bishop Alan, in front of a watching school. He blessed the new block – both inside and outside and cut the ribbon to the cheers of the children.

Headteacher Adrian La Chapelle, said: “The building work has been in response to the need to accommodate the extra numbers being accepted into reception, and consists of a stand-alone block of three classrooms.

“The revolutionary design means the classrooms have been built two-thirds into the ground, with a ‘living’ roof (in parts wild flowers and grassed areas) becoming part of the existing playing field.

“It is the final part of the building infrastructure upgrade at St Augustine’s which has now been completed.”

Bishop Alan personally thanked the builders (Gills of Honingham) and the architect (Hoopers of Ipswich) for their eco-friendly design and commented on how well the building blended into the existing structure of the school.

Young ambassadors

Five RE Young Ambassadors from St Bede’s Inter church school in Cambridge went to London to give a presentation at the annual Young Ambassadors’ Conference hosted by the RE Council at Conway Hall on June 7. Their presentation was on Jainism, which they had spent several months researching and preparing, reports Alistair Catmur, Year 10.

Lord Winston was the keynote speaker to inspire and enthuse us on the importance of RE. He gave a speech about humanity and its relation to religion, from ancient cave paintings of hands, to the concentration camps in Auschwitz and the spirituality of humanity under horrible conditions.

Once the presentations had finished, we had to explain what our team had done and what we wanted to do in the future. We shared the projects we have already worked on at St Bede’s and received some ideas for future projects. It was great to be able to share new and exciting ideas.



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Honour for D-Day hero after 70 years

Seventy years after playing a heroic role in the D-Day landings in Normandy, Cromer church member, John Worthington, has received the prestigious Légion d'honneur medal from the French government for his contribution to ensuring their nation's freedom.

John, aged 91, a member of Our Lady of Refuge Catholic church in Cromer, was honoured for his role when, as a teenager, he helped to clear a Normandy beach of mines and other obstacles while under fire from all directions.

John, who was serving in the Royal Navy, was one of the very first to land on Juno beach as part of a beach clearance party.

John, now a retired fisherman and carpenter, said: "The landing craft I was on got blown up twice before I even got to the beach. I can remember a bit of decking being blown up under my toes - closer and I would have lost my foot."

John remembers that something special was about to happen when his unit was inspected by King George VI before departure and he knew there was a massive military build-up along England's south coast.

As he helped clear the beach, John recalls the sound of artillery shells being fired over his head from HMS Warspite, and he was also dodging the Germans' returning fire.

"I don't think the thought of death bothered me so much then," he said. "When you're that age you think you're fireproof."

John spent two weeks in the area when one of his jobs was to remove bodies from the beach. He later saw service in the Far East before being demobbed.

John has been part of Our Lady of Refuge Catholic church in Cromer for the last 20 years, along with wife Yvonne



John Worthington is pictured with his Legion D'Honneur for service to France. Picture courtesy of EDP.

(94), who is partly French.

"We moved from the Anglican church in Overstrand where we live because they seemed a friendly bunch," said John. Yvonne is a reader and does a lot of catering at Our Lady.

John was brought up in a strict Wesleyan family and his father was a soldier in the Great War and the Boer War and he gave John some tips on his military career

"He told me to look after number one to start with," said John, "Also to not be afraid to do something. He was hard as

nails and a strict disciplinarian."

The military tradition is continuing in the family with one grandson just leaving the Navy and two grandsons in the Grenadier Guards.

John was proud to receive the Légion d'honneur, saying: "It's recognition of some sort. Your chances of survival in that first D-Day wave were less than 50:50.

"You don't have the chance to think of much in those situations," said John, but admitted that his faith was important to him. I am a believer," he said.

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Diocese looking to recruit fertility advisor

The Diocese of East Anglia is looking to recruit a part-time Fertility Awareness Methods (FAM) Advisor to work with Marriage and Family Life Coordinator Kerry Urdzik to promote FAM services throughout the diocese.

Kerry said: "The use of natural fertility awareness methods (FAM) is a natural and healthy way for married couples to plan their families. Fertility awareness methods (such as Billings, Sympto-Thermal or Creighton) help couples understand their fertility better, and aid those who are having trouble conceiving as well as those who may need to avoid pregnancy at any particular time.

"Many couples find their relation-

ship improved and marital communication deepened, as the total gift of self remains intact with the natural methods.

"FAM teaches the couple to recognise signs of fertility in the woman's cycle which indicate the likelihood of conception on any particular day. Each month may be different, and FAM reflects this; it is not the old-fashioned calendar, or rhythm method, but is very reliable when used correctly."

If you would like further information about the job vacancy, FAM, or joining a team of volunteers to promote it in your parishes, please contact Kerry Urdzik at mflc@east-angliadiocese.org.uk and see the job advert, right.

JOB ADVERT

Fertility Awareness Methods Advisor

The Diocese of East Anglia is looking to recruit a part-time Fertility Awareness Methods (FAM) Advisor to work with the Marriage and Family Life Coordinator to promote FAM services throughout the diocese.

The successful applicant will be a qualified teacher of at least one method, possess good organisational and communication skills, and hold a valid driving licence with a car available for business use.

The FAM advisor will be based at home, working up to 16 hours per week, at £13 per hour. Some Saturdays required. Travel expenses will be reimbursed. Closing date October 10.

To apply, or for further information, contact Kerry Urdzik mflc@east-angliadiocese.org.uk

Family Announcements

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Acknowledgements, Anniversaries, Birthdays, Births, Deaths, Marriages, Remembrances

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East Anglia Catholic History Society launched

■ A new society dedicated to promoting knowledge of the history of Catholicism in East Anglia has been established, following the history conference.

The East Anglian Catholic History Society will produce a quarterly newsletter, host talks and seminars, and offer assistance and advice to parish history groups, whether established or just setting themselves up.

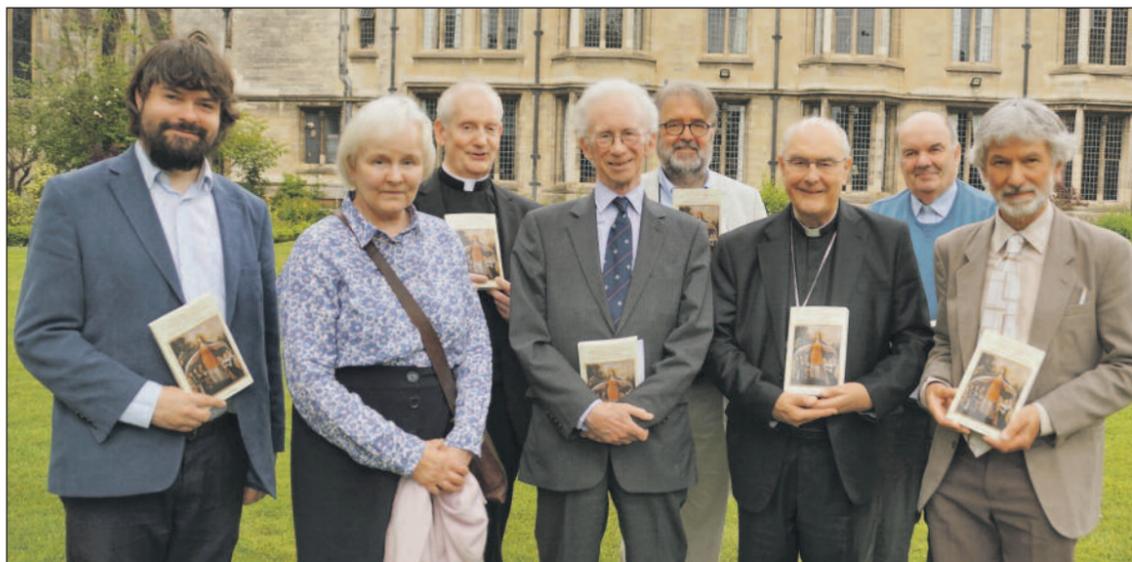
Sir Henry Bedingfeld, Professor John Charmley, Fr Charles Fitzgerald-Lombard, Professor John Morrill, Jeremy Pilch and Dr Francis Young were elected to the committee of the new Society. John Morrill was elected chairman and Francis Young secretary.

It was decided that, pending review in 2017, there will be no membership fee for joining the Society, and anyone can

become a member by expressing an interest in the Society's work.

The secretary will send out a quarterly e-newsletter by e-mail to all interested parties. If anyone would like to receive this and has not already signed up at the conference, please e-mail the secretary at catholiceastanglia@gmail.com.

Website: <https://catholiceastanglia2016.wordpress.com/>



Pictured at St John's Cathedral in Norwich at the book launch are, from the left, Dr Francis Young, Lady Bedingfeld, Fr Russell Frost, Sir Henry and Lady Bedingfeld, Prof John Charmley, Bishop Alan Hopes, Fr Tony Rogers and Jonathon Hooton.

History-makers

One of the events to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Diocese of East Anglia was a one-day conference on Saturday June 11, called Catholic East Anglia, to look at the history of Catholicism in East Anglia since the Reformation. Organiser Dr Francis Young reports.

Papers were delivered by Dr Francis Young, on behalf of Joy Rowe, by Professor John Charmley and by Jonathan Hooton. The afternoon featured the launch of the new history of the Diocese, Catholic East Anglia: a history of the Catholic faith in Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, published by Gracewing Press.

The conference, at the Cathedral Narthex in Norwich, was attended by over 80 delegates and was opened by Bishop Alan Hopes.

Francis Young's paper concentrated on the sixteenth-century Suffolk recusant Roger Martin (1527-1615) of Long Melford and his recent discovery of a prayer book that may have belonged to Martin and later to the recusant Rookwood family of Coldham Hall.

Dr Young then read, on behalf of Joy

Rowe, a paper on a mission in eighteenth-century East Anglia that crossed the border between Norfolk and Suffolk and served a wide area. This was the Bacton or Border Mission, whose mission registers survive for the period 1768-1798.

John Charmley's paper focussed on the development of Catholicism in Victorian East Anglia, when the region was part of the vast and unwieldy Diocese of Northampton (established in 1850). Northampton was famously described by Cardinal Manning as 'the dead diocese' as it was so vast in geographical area yet contained so few churches and priests.

Jonathan Hooton spoke about the chapel of Notre Dame High School in Norwich, one of the architectural 'hidden gems' of Norwich and the Diocese. Amongst other things, the chapel features a beautifully preserved Victorian porcelain toilet in its own turret!

The launch of Catholic East Anglia was attended by Sir Henry and Lady Bedingfeld of Oxburgh Hall, who graciously gave their permission for a painting at Oxburgh to be reproduced for the front cover of the book. The painting depicts the Bedingfeld family sheltering under the mantle of Our Lady while scenes behind depict war and exile.

Prof Charmley set for Twickenham

■ Prof John Charmley, from the University of East Anglia in Norwich, has been appointed as Pro Vice-Chancellor for Academic Strategy at St Mary's Catholic University in Twickenham from September 2016.

Prof Charmley is currently Head of the Interdisciplinary Institute for the Humanities, Associate Dean for Enterprise and Academic Director for Employability at UEA. He also organises the well-known Catholic Newman Lecture Series.

Prof Charmley said: "I am looking forward to helping Britain's premier Catholic University to build on its proud reputation for teaching excellence and student experience"



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Purchasing a support advert for £39 in the 'Celebrating our Schools' Section is also a great way of supporting the paper. Please do contact Alice if you require more information.

Pastoral priest

■ Fr Tony Webb, a Catholic priest in King's Lynn, Haverhill, Sheringham and Fakenham with a gift for pastoral care, has died at the age of 73. Fr David Bagstaff pays tribute.

Tony was born to Sidney and Eva Webb on August 26, 1942 at Bushey Heath, Hertfordshire. His earlier career took him into catering with London Transport, as well as a variety of other short-term jobs, including a time at the head office for the Church of England Children's Society.

Being a late vocation, he began his studies for the priesthood at Campion House, Osterley and was ordained for the Canons Regular of the Lateran by Bishop Cyril Restieaux at St Mary's, Bodmin on May 5, 1983.

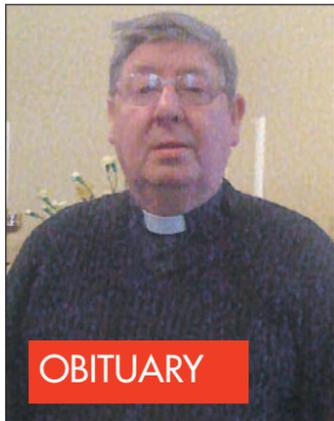
Following various parish and chaplaincy appointments, Fr Tony approached Bishop Alan Clark with a view to working within the Diocese of East Anglia. After a period as assistant priest at King's Lynn (1990-1995) he was appointed Parish Priest at St Felix, Haverhill.

It was in 1997 that Tony was formally incardinated into our diocese. He remained in Haverhill until 2000 when Bishop Peter Smith appointed him to St Joseph's, Sheringham. In 2008, Bishop Michael Evans asked him to take up the appointment as Parish Priest at St Anthony of Padua, Fakenham where he remained until his retirement earlier this year.

Tony had a number of pastoral gifts which he put at the service of the Church, in particular caring for the sick and elderly in the various parishes he worked within. He also enjoyed visiting parishioners in their homes. His pastoral care was appreciated by many who came to know him.

His interests included history and animals and he was deeply attached to his little pet dogs. He died at the Norfolk and Norwich University hospital on May 26.

The Funeral Mass took place at The Chapel of Reconciliation, Walsingham on June 24.



Former Vicar General

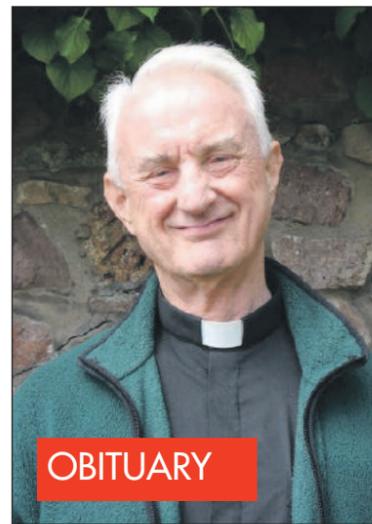
■ Former Diocese of East Anglia Vicar General and Spiritual Director at the Venerable English College in Rome, Mgr Tony Philpot, has died at the age of 81. Mgr Tony Rogers pays tribute.

Anthony (always known as Tony) John Philpot was born on March 24, 1935 in Croydon, the eldest child of William and Josephine. He went to Bedford School, alma mater of John Bunyan.

In 1953 Tony began his studies for the priesthood at the Venerable English College in Rome, and was ordained in 1959 at the Basilica of St John Lateran, completing his Licentiate in Theology the next year, and returning to the Diocese of Northampton to serve as assistant priest, first at St Joseph's, Bedford and then at Northampton Cathedral.

His first pastoral charge was in Leighton Buzzard, and, thereafter all his parish appointments were in what later became the Diocese of East Anglia. He took over the parish of St Mark's in Ipswich, when the Franciscans left, and was later moved to Newmarket, following a short spell working with the Society of St James in South America.

In 1980, Bishop Alan Clark asked him to move to Our Lady and the English Martyrs in Cambridge, where he remained for 14 years. His time there, where his gifts as a talented preacher and a gentle pastor were much appreciated, was one of change. Tony



was involved in major reorganisation of Catholic state secondary education in Cambridge, as well as a major and much needed refurbishment of the rectory.

When the Diocese of East Anglia was established in 1976, Bishop Alan Clark asked him to take charge of religious education, and later appointed him as one of his vicars general. The 1980s was a time when mutual support for the priests of the diocese was given high priority and Tony was given responsibility to head up the Ministry to Priests programme.

He had also become involved in the Jesus Caritas Fraternity, inspired by the spirituality of Charles de Foucauld, for which he eventually became the worldwide responsible.

He was also elected to the Old Brotherhood of the English Secular clergy.

Following his time in Cambridge, Tony took the unusual step of returning to St Mark's in Ipswich and, after a relatively short time there, he was asked to take over the running of Palazzola, the country villa of the English College in Rome, on the edge of Lake Albano.

He was increasingly in demand as a retreat giver, and there can be few dioceses in England and Wales that did not benefit from his accessible wisdom and deeply-rooted personal spirituality.

Perhaps, unsurprisingly, he was asked to move from Palazzola, to become Spiritual Director at the Venerable English College, a post which he held for about five years.

Retirement from the College took him to Peterborough, where his phenomenal gifts as a linguist were put to good use in ministering to the large Portuguese community in the city, whose language he had made it his business to learn before leaving Rome.

But even his retirement was interrupted, when he was asked to return to Rome and help out at the Beda College for a year.

After some years in Peterborough he took the bold decision to move to London when an independent flat became available at St Anne's home in Stoke Newington. Living in London meant he was much nearer to his sisters Margaret and Cathie.

Cancer eventually took over and he was transferred to the nursing home section of St Anne's. Tony struggled bravely, and died on July 16.

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BUILDING BRIDGES

Students' life-changing trip to Cambodia

□ A group of from the Diocese of East Anglia, including three schoolgirls from St Benedict's Catholic Upper School in Bury St Edmunds, Alana Hart (18), Chloe Isles (17) and Eloise Burrows (18), have spent the last month in Cambodia helping to deliver education to those who struggle to access it. Trip leader Philippa Sutton, from St Mary's in Thetford reports.

□ It was an inspiring and life-changing experience that we were all privileged to have had the opportunity to undertake. During our time in Cambodia we visited many places and met many people; each of whom were just as lovely as the next.

In the first few weeks we spent time in Phnom Penh, Battambang, Pailin and Ta Om before travelling to Siem Reap. Each place offered different communities and atmospheres, yet all had the same welcoming feeling, making us feel so comfortable and at home, despite being so far away.

We immediately felt involved and appreciated, through children participating in our games with laughter, taking our hands to show us their villages, greeting us with hugs and smiles and endless kindness and hospitality from the people we met.



The East Anglia visitors with the Peik Snaeg Chas village class they taught every morning.

In Siem Reap we spent time at a kindergarten in the mornings where the children (and teachers!) had very little access to English. It was amazing to see our teaching being absorbed and making a difference to both the children's and teacher's confidence. Due to our funding, we were able to donate over \$2000 to help repair their leaking roof before rainy season. The money

will also help them to build a small kitchen to sustain the church funded 'rice soup programme' providing children with a weekly nutritious meal. The donation will not cover all of this, but will be a start for them as rainy season is fast approaching!

Read more about the trip at: <https://ourcambodiatrip2016blog.wordpress.com/>

Can you help build bridges?

The two current Diocese of East Anglia Building Bridges projects are a youth basketball project in Beit Sahour in the Holy Land and a new formation centre for children, youth groups and adults at Battambang in Cambodia.

If you would you like to support these projects, cheques should be made payable to the "RC Diocese of East Anglia".

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Boost for Palestine music peace project

A partnership between Diocese of East Anglia-backed charitable tour operator Pilgrimage People and the Tunes for Peace Project in Palestine has been boosted after a visit to meet students and staff in Bethlehem.

A group from Pilgrimage People, led by March priest Fr Paul Maddison, visited the project recently to see what difference the money it had donated to the cultural project had made.

They listened in as students had lessons on a violin, piano and kanoon and then spoke to George Rishmawi, Director of the Palestinian Centre for Rapprochement Between People, where the project is based, and Maher Kassis, the Project's Coordinator.

Charitable donations from Pilgrimage People has helped Tunes for Peace introduce new instruments and teach more students. Up to 75 students are able to receive individual, theory and group tuition on the violin, guitar, piano and drums alongside traditional Palestinian instruments like the kanoon and oud.

George said: "I believe in what music can do for a person - it can give them an



The Pilgrimage People visitors at Tunes for Peace in Bethlehem.

inner calm and, for some, the chance for a future career.

"We discussed the possibilities of organizing a trip for our young musicians to the UK to perform in churches and other venues across East Anglia in the UK," said George. "Music is a common language that can help break

down barriers and misconceptions."

Fr Paul said: "It was wonderful to visit the project and hear some students play their instruments and receive individual tuition - and see what a difference the funds we have been able to give have made. We look forward to a

possible visit to East Anglia with great enthusiasm."

The Tunes for Peace project allows young Palestinians to learn music and play instruments without worrying about high fees, because it provides music education at a very low cost, affordable by average Palestinian families.

Cathedral hosts marriage and family life thanksgiving mass



Celebration of 3,400 years of marriage

An amazing 3,400 years of marriage were represented by 80 couples who received certificates from Bishop Alan Hopes at the annual Marriage and Family Celebration Mass at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist in Norwich on Saturday June 18. Keith Morris reports.

This Mass is offered in thanksgiving and celebration of the goodness of marriage and family, and as an affirmation of the life-long commitment husbands and wives make to each other, said Kerry Urdzik, Marriage and Family Life Co-ordinator.

"A strong marriage forms the basis of a happy family, which in turn contributes to a flourishing community. We recognise and commend all couples for the love they give and the sacrifices they make to achieve this, and the witness to marriage they provide. We have couples here today celebrating over 60 years of marriage, which is remarkable!"

Over 300 people attended the Mass and the 80 couples who received certificates from Bishop Alan were celebrating their first year of marriage, multiples of five years or anything over 60 years.

Two couples were celebrating 65 years of marriage. They were Mollie and Kevin Marsden from St Mary's Parish in Great

Yarmouth, and Fr Gordon and Mary Cordy from the Cathedral in Norwich.

Gordon and Mary had been married for 65 years in March and have eight grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

Mary said: "The secret of a happy marriage is give and take and to look after each other. Gordon is not well now and it can sometimes be a bit difficult, but we go through it all together, do things together, help each other.

"The service today is very important to us. It is excellent and is good to bring everybody in and let the younger people see how long people can remain married for."

Giving the homily, Bishop Alan said: "We understand that love is at the heart of marriage. Our first reading today, from St Paul's first letter to the Corinthians in chapter 13, is a litany of love.

"It is why Pope Francis in his recent apostolic exhortation on marriage and family called it Amoris Laetitia, which means the "joy of love". He devotes a whole chapter to reflect on these words of Paul.

"The very nature of love is to make sacrifices," said Bishop Alan. "We express our love by the sacrifice of our bodies just as Jesus gave his body for us on the cross.

"We express this in the heart of marriage when we say to each other 'this is my body' and it is said so radically that, according to the Scriptures, the two of you become one flesh. This beautiful reality is at the heart of the church's teaching about marriage. To say this is my body is nothing less than to share in the cross of the Lord himself."



Top and above, couples who took part in the Marriage and Family Celebration Mass and, left, Kevin and Molly Marsden (on left) and Fr Gordon and Mary Cordy marking their 65 years of marriage with Bishop Alan. Pictures by Paul Hurst.