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Engaging time for Ignite team in Cambourne
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Picture by Keith Morris.

Fr Anthony and Brian Lafferty with the damaged icon in front of the desecrated altar and sanctuary at St Mary's in Great Yarmouth.

Church stays open after arson attack

St Mary's in Great Yarmouth has remained open and the community has expressed its support after it became the victim of an arson attack and shocking religious hate crime with a picture of a devil left on its holy altar. Keith Morris reports.

■ The Catholic church in Regent Road suffered the desecration on Tuesday March 27 when a man walked into the open church, lit a couple of small fires, including attempting to burn a sacred icon taken off the church's altar. As well as this a picture of a satanic figure was left in the icon's place on the holy altar. Norfolk Police are investigating and arrested a 17-year-old man on suspicion of causing criminal damage after the church released CCTV pictures. He has since been released under investigation while enquiries continue.

The attack was condemned by Parish Priest Fr Anthony Nwankwo and by Bishop Alan Hopes, who pledged that the incident would not stop the Diocese leaving its churches across the region open

as places of prayer and sanctuary.

Fr Anthony said: "I was shocked and saddened when I discovered what had happened. When I looked at the altar I saw this picture of something satanic. My immediate thought was to get some holy water and use it with prayer to nullify what the person had done.

"It is a clear attack on the church and our religion which is not acceptable. If people do not like what we do here they can just stay away. Such an attack on our church can never succeed.

"Our parishioners are shocked and sad about what has happened but I was very encouraged by the number of people who came to Mass in support.

"Our church and sanctuary has been desecrated. When I celebrated Mass the following morning I did not use the altar or sanctuary, because I felt the altar has been desecrated.

"Something similar happened four months ago when someone came into the church and left a satanic picture at the foot of a cross we have at the back of the church. Two weeks ago someone came in and stole a microphone we use on the altar.

"We will not close the church but to use the altar and sanctuary we need to go through a service to reconsecrate the area. As part of that we will also ask for forgiveness for the person who did this," said Fr Anthony

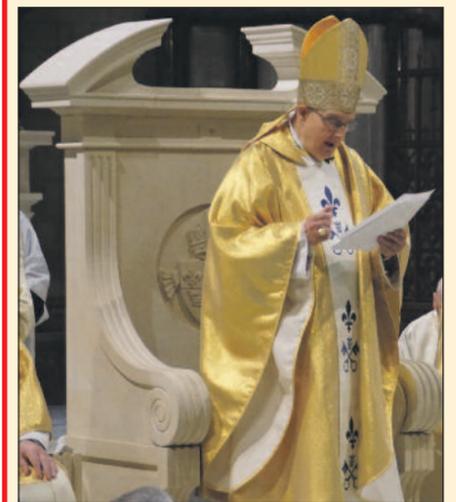
Brian Lafferty, who has been a parishioner for 33 years and is on the parish council, said he was appalled: "I have never seen anything like it before and it is quite disturbing really, especially in this day and age. I was totally shocked and disgusted when I saw it and there is no room for it in today's society.

"If you want to celebrate like that and worship other gods there are other places you can go. Here, we worship the one God.

"The Police told me that they regard it as a really serious crime because of both the arson and the religious hatred element to it.

"We have clear CCTV pictures of the man who did this, which we have given to the Police and the church is alarmed. But we re-opened for business as soon as possible after Fr Anthony re-blessed the church."

■ Continued on page two.



Bishop Alan blesses new stone cathedra

A permanent new stone cathedra (or bishop's chair) has been installed in St John the Baptist the Cathedral in Norwich, the mother church of the Diocese of East Anglia.

■ The cathedra is the seat of the bishop, now complete with two stone deacons' chair next to it and surrounded by stalls for priests and deacons to sit in.

The installation and reordering of the sanctuary was completed in time for the Chrism Mass on March 27, when it was blessed and first used by Bishop Alan.

The cathedra is the symbol of the bishop's authority to preach the gospel and to teach the Catholic Faith, and to celebrate the Liturgy.

Bishop Alan said: "The refurbishment links us across the ages with the early Church. Now, when we stand at the back of the cathedral our eyes travel first to the altar where the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is offered; then on to the cathedra, which makes this building a cathedral, and from which the bishop preaches the Gospel and

■ Continued on page seven.





Tributes paid to Sr Rosalie Temple

■ Sister Rosalie Temple, a retired Franciscan nun, who lived near Oundle and was well-known in Peterborough and Walsingham, died on March 12 after a short illness.

Sr Rosalie (aged 92) lived in Lilford, and her packed Requiem Mass was held at The Most Holy Name of Jesus in Oundle on April 12.

Friend Michael Hughes said: "Sr Rosalie was a friend and confidante to many, often offering the hospitality of her home to people who came to talk over their problems. She was a lovely and loving person. She made many trips to Medjugore, was a supporter of Charismatic events like New Dawn meetings and often visited Germany."

Friend, Andrea Cope, said: "Three things were always immediately evident upon meeting Sr Rosalie – the importance and love of the Blessed Sacrament, Devotion to Our Lady and the preciousness of our Catholic faith and the Saints."

"The homily by Fr Tony Whitfield highlighted her love of St Francis and his way of life in serving God. Also Sr Rosalie's humility, love of the poor and selfless giving to all in need, especially the broken, both at home and abroad."

"Sr Rosalie also had the gift of healing. Fr Tony testified to the life of a young man debilitated with ME and how he felt that it was her gift of healing that led to his recovery."

"The funeral was a beautiful reflection of her life, always drawing attention to God, not herself."

Sr Rosalie is survived by her son Raymond Jensen.

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 Friday May 4.

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Church stays open after arson attack

■ Continued from front page.

Bishop Alan said: "I am very saddened by what has happened, especially in Holy Week which is the most important week in the church's year. I am hoping it is not a hate crime, but whoever did it needs to know that he is already forgiven because that is part of who we are as Christians, but we pray that this won't happen again."

"Whatever happens, our churches should remain open because they are places where people can find sanctuary and God's presence, somewhere to pray and bring their concerns to God."

Daniel Candon, St Mary's Parish Council Secretary, said: "The terrible attack that happened in our church was deeply saddening but the reaction of kindness from people was truly uplifting."

"The Easter celebrations carried on as normal and the church remained open as well. God's house will always be open to anyone and no event or evil deed shall stop that."

"I want to thank everyone who has



The burnt area of the sanctuary near the altar at St Mary's in Great Yarmouth.

sent us their thoughts and messages of support. I also want to thank the person who made a large anonymous monetary donation."

Investigating officer PC Lewis Gilmore, said: "We are treating this very seriously and this is being investigated as a hate incident. I would appeal to anyone who may have information

concerning the incident or the person responsible to come forward. We do have CCTV which is being examined as part of our enquiries."

Anyone with information should contact PC Gilmore at Great Yarmouth Police Station on 101 or alternatively call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



Charity representatives receive donations from the Clare Priory Craft Fair and Prior Fr Stefan Park (second right).

Craft fair raises over £10,000 for charity

Charities have received over £10,000 in donations thanks to the annual Clare Priory Craft Fair in July, which brings together over 200 exhibitors of traditional and contemporary crafts in the grounds of the Suffolk priory.

■ The fair attracted over 10,000 visitors in 2017 and all proceeds are donated to local, national and international charities.

On March 23, recipients of donations from the 2017 Craft Fair gathered over

wine, biscuits and cheese at Clare Priory to receive their awards from Prior Fr Stefan Park. Representatives from organisations including the Priory's Augustinian Order, East Anglia Children's Hospice, Clare Seekers and Catholic international aid agency CAFOD enjoyed meeting each other and talking about their work.

Craft Fair committee member, Robin Hughes, said: "What a great evening. It was so good to meet volunteers and charity workers, hear about their work and present them with their awards."

Jane Crone, Community Participation Coordinator for CAFOD in the Diocese

East Anglia, expressed her thanks, saying: "It was a real pleasure to meet the Craft Fair committee and volunteers from so many wonderful charities. CAFOD is enormously grateful for the generous donation to our Lent appeal."

"All donations up to £5 million given to CAFOD's Lent Appeal before May 12 will be doubled by the UK government thanks to match funding. So this donation will make double the difference to our partners working in countries such as Zimbabwe and Eritrea in their work for justice and an end to poverty."

The 2018 Craft Fair will be the 26th and will be held on July 14 and 15.



Pictures by Keith Morris.

Hundreds of people attended Holy Week and Easter Masses at St John the Baptist Cathedral in Norwich. Pictured above is the Easter Vigil on Easter Saturday (March 31), which included the celebration of Baptism, Reception and Confirmation and, inset, the Solemn Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord. See full picture galleries at: www.flickr.com/photos/dioceseofeastanglia/

Bishop washes feet on Maundy Thursday

The Bishop of East Anglia washed the feet of 12 members of the congregation at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist in Norwich on March 29, in the traditional Maundy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper.

■ Bishop Alan knelt to wash, dry and kiss their feet following the example of Jesus, who did the same to his 12 disciples at the Last Supper, the day before he was crucified.

In his homily, Bishop Alan said: "The whole mystery of Jesus Christ is expressed in this simple act of washing the feet of his disciples, expressing the simple truth that God loves us.

"But God did not intend that we should remain passive recipients of his goodness.

"Jesus said to his disciples: 'If I your Lord and master wash your feet you should wash each other's' feet. You



Picture by Keith Morris.

Bishop Alan washing the feet of congregation members at St John's Cathedral in Norwich.

should love one another as I have loved you.'"

Holy Communion was followed by a procession and the transfer of the most blessed sacrament.

news in brief

Franciscans run Lent lunch cafe

■ The Norwich Secular Franciscans volunteered to run one of the Café sessions being run throughout Lent at St Georges Norwich, featuring the Oremus programme.

Volunteering involves preparing the room and refreshments and providing some form of light entertainment during the break.

Parish Priest, Fr Sean, in his weekly announcement, informed the Parish it was the turn of the Secular Franciscans and jokingly told them they could expect bread and water.

Anne Murrin said: "Parishioners arrived and were rather shocked to find they could not have their usual cup of tea and a cake or biscuit, but only some slices of French sticks, not even buttered, and a jug of water to share – it was Lent after all!

"At the interval however, they were treated to the well-hidden homemade cakes and other goodies, and their much-awaited cups of tea.

"There was also a quiz on the life of St Francis that even some of us who are reasonably well versed in his life-time activities found difficult," said Anne.

Carmelite Pilgrimage Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham

Saturday 23 June 2018

Everyone welcome

Timetable for the day

11am Talk by Fr Matt Blake OCD (Chapel of Reconciliation)

12 noon Pilgrim Mass (Chapel of Reconciliation)

2.15pm Silent procession to the Holy House, Walsingham Village

3.15pm Sprinkling at the well

4-5pm Exposition and benediction in the Parish Church of the Annunciation

For further information

email jnicholson@faracharity.org



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NEW EVANGELISATION



Thy kingdom come



Catholics across the Diocese of East Anglia are being urged to join global prayer campaign Thy Kingdom Come for ten days in May. Rebecca Bretherton reports.

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement, which invites Christians around the world to pray between Ascension (May 10) and Pentecost (May 20) for more people to come to know Jesus Christ. From small beginnings it has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer.

The hope is that people will commit to pray with God's world-wide family - as a church, individually or as a family and that people will be empowered by the Holy Spirit to find new confidence to be witnesses for Jesus Christ.

What you can do:

- Join an event in one of your local churches. Many Christian communities are involved this year;

- Use the ideas at www.thykingdom-come.global to plan something in your parish or for your family;

- Add your name to the international prayer campaign. www.thykingdom-come.global includes a Pledge2Pray to join other Christians throughout the world in prayer.

Take up the challenge to pray for five people between Ascension Day and Pentecost Sunday (Thursday May 10 – Sunday May 20, 2018):

Praying for others to know Jesus is one of the most powerful things we can do. Persistent prayer for others brings transformation to their lives.

Consistently praying for others takes

discipline, and there are many ways that we can build up habits that will help us to pray for our friends and family.

Choose five people you would like to pray for and write their names down onto a list. If you're not sure who to pray for, ask God to guide you as you choose. Once you have settled on five names, commit to praying for them by praying the following:

*Loving Father,
in the face of Jesus Christ
your light and glory have blazed forth.
Send your Holy Spirit that I may share
with my friends [here, name your
friends]
the life of your Son and your love for all.
Strengthen me as a witness to that love
as I pledge to pray for them,
for your name's sake. Amen*

Extracts from Acts 1 and 2

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses ...to the ends of the earth. When he had said this...he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight...Then they returned to Jerusalem ... and were constantly devoting themselves to prayer..."

"When the day of Pentecost had come they were all together in one place... All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit... and that day about 3000 persons were added." www.thykingdomcome.global

Marriage & Family Life Co-ordinator

An opportunity has arisen for a committed person to take over the established role of Marriage & Family Life Co-ordinator for the Diocese of East Anglia.

The role includes:

- * Coordinating and supporting Marriage Preparation within the Diocese
- * Delivering area-based marriage preparation sessions
- * Organisation of the Annual Celebration of Marriage & Family
- * Quarterly meetings of the Marriage & Family Life Commission
- * Liaison with other Diocesan Commissions and Organisations
- * Ensuring the MFL Diocesan Webpages are comprehensive and up-to-date
- * Developing resources to support parents within schools and parishes
- * Writing reports for various agencies as required

Strategic thinking, planning, and identification of sources of funding will be key capabilities to enable the successful candidate to develop specific proposals for the continuation of Diocesan commitment in the area of Marriage & Family Life building on evaluation of work done

The successful candidate will need to be able to work on their own initiative and will be home based. The post will serve the whole of the Diocese, necessitating occasional travel as well as some weekend and evening work.

The hours will be 20 per week (average). Possible job share between two people if desired

Support is provided by the Diocese and by an active national network of Family Ministry Workers

Remuneration is £13 per hour + expenses. Annual leave is 5 weeks + Public Holidays

Further information from Diocesan Office, 21 Ugate, Poringland, Norwich NR14 7SH
Tel. 01508 492202 or email Kerry Urdzik: mflc@rcdea.org.uk



On Easter Sunday the Great Clare Priory Easter Egg Hunt was held once again following great success in previous years. The many children really enjoy racing around the grounds following the clues, younger ones getting assistance from the older children.

Afternoon of divine celebrations

■ Divine Mercy Sunday (April 8) was marked at St Peter and All Souls in Peterborough by an afternoon of celebrations organised by Deacon Claudio Chiappinelli.

Claudio said: "A short reflection on the life of St Faustina and how the Divine Mercy Chaplet came to be was followed by the blessing of the large Divine Mercy icon/painting. This led us straight into the Divine Mercy Chaplet led by our wonderful music ministry. We then had Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament finishing with Benediction.

"The music ministry complimented the Holy Time beautifully with chants and hymns to the Blessed Sacrament. A parishioner led us through the recitation of the Holy Rosary plus we had time to include the praying of Vespers. Fr Waldimar was also available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The programme ended with Holy Mass led by the music ministry team."

One parishioner told Claudio: "I would like you to know I was truly blessed to be at the Divine Mercy Service yesterday, it was a beautiful and inspiring service. I thoroughly enjoyed the singing and everyone making me feel as I was one of a giant family it is fantastic and lovely to feel like I am part of something and not alone."

"This is a testimony which gives us the inspiration to continue arranging such celebrations to mark key events within the church's liturgical year," said Claudio. "No matter how small or large our congregation is, Jesus is waiting to touch the heart and life of people through such holy celebrations."



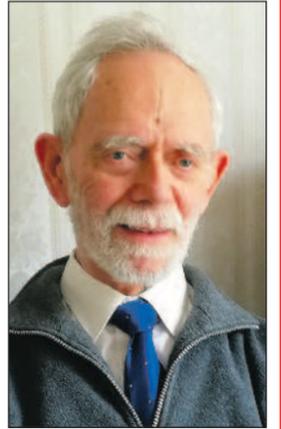
Divine Mercy Sunday being celebrated at St Peter and All Souls, Peterborough.

news in brief

Michael's special blood donation

■ A member of the St John the Baptist Cathedral's choir in Norwich recently completed his 75th blood donation and received a certificate in recognition.

Director of Blood Donation, Mike Shredder wrote to Michael Hughes, saying: "Only a handful of donors reach this landmark. We are hugely grateful for your time and generosity. You



have made a difference to the lives of people all over the country, many of whom would not have survived without your help.

Michael made his first donation whilst on National Service in the RAF in 1955. His most recent donation was made a few weeks ago when stocks of blood had fallen to an epic low.

He said: "While a blood donation may be a big deal for the recipient it is not an ordeal for the donor; the staff are attentive and the tea and biscuits afterwards are enjoyable. New donors are accepted up to the age of 65 and healthy donors are now allowed to contribute well beyond the original cut-off date of 70."

Jacinta joins anti-trafficking charity

■ Catholic anti-trafficking charity the Medaille Trust has appointed a representative in the Diocese of East Anglia – one of four new posts.

Jacinta Goode, from St George's parish in Norwich, joined the team in March and will work on behalf of victims of human trafficking and modern slavery.

The Medaille Trust was set up in 2006 by a group of Religious, who saw the need to support victims of human trafficking and they set up a safe house for victims who had been rescued. The Trust has grown considerably in the last 12 years, responding to the need to support more and more victims. Medaille now has nine safe houses across England, supporting women, men and children.

Jacinta said: "I have joined the Medaille Trust at an exciting time and we are the largest provider of this kind of support in the UK. Sadly, there are more victims being identified than ever, but the charity is responding to the demands and now has representatives in 11 Catholic dioceses to spread the word and 109 bed spaces available to identified victims at any one time.

"With the help of local people we can support our brothers and sisters who have had their lives violated in the cruellest of ways. I'm looking forward very much to meeting people around the diocese who wish to join with our Holy Father to eradicate this evil, which he



New rep Jacinta Goode.

has called 'a crime against humanity'," said Jacinta.

Jacinta is available to give talks to parish groups or others with an interest in supporting the work of the Medaille Trust. For further information, to book a talk, or to request a free magazine from the Trust, please contact her by email: j.goode@medaille-trust.org.uk

Visit: medaille-trust.org.uk or follow them on Facebook or Twitter.

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prayers on the site of the original
Holy House
4.30pm: Depart

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Chrism Mass is

Over 1,000 people attended the annual Chrism Mass at a packed Cathedral of St John the Baptist in Norwich on March 27, during which priestly promises were renewed and sacred oils blessed. Keith Morris reports.

■ In the biggest gathering in the diocesan year, Bishop Alan Hopes welcomed clergy and laity from parishes right across the Diocese, with coaches lining the nearby roads. In his homily, Bishop Alan addressed the secularist challenge to the church. He said: "We are living in a time of aggressive secularism. The secularists tell us that the principles of reason, freedom and human rights are essential for progress, for a civilised society, for personal freedom and the betterment of all humanity. "For them, religion is in direct opposition to these principles – the source of all superstition, oppression and backward thinking.

"The foundation they would build on for a new secular civilisation would be relativism – the abolition of all objective truth and its replacement with subjective truth, that is – what I believe and do is right for me, whether or not that impinges on my neighbour's good or not.

"This is a huge challenge for the Church, as we seek to proclaim the truth and the joy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every generation," said Bishop Alan. "How can we live out our faith, how can we speak about our faith to others, in a society which consigns religion to the private sphere and refuses to allow believers to speak publicly or to influence the life of that society?"

"We are experiencing today much the same challenges which the Apostles and the early Church experienced. They too faced the aggressive opposition to the Gospel from the world in which they lived.

"Like them we too have been commissioned by the Lord, to go out to the whole world and, in spite of the huge challenge we face, proclaim his Gospel to all. Jesus gives us his promise that he will be with us as we do so.

"In a few moments, the Holy Oils will be blessed and Chrism consecrated. They speak of our vocation to proclaim Him and his Gospel in our words and lives – and they give us the strength and courage to do so. They are powerful signs of the risen Lord's presence among us today."

Around 85 priests from across the diocese then renewed their priestly promises. This was followed by the blessing of the three oils.

The Oil of Chrism, a mixture of olive oil and a sweet smelling perfume, is consecrated by Bishop Alan to be sent out to all the parishes of the diocese where it will be used in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Ordination and for the consecration of churches and altars.

The Bishop also blessed two other



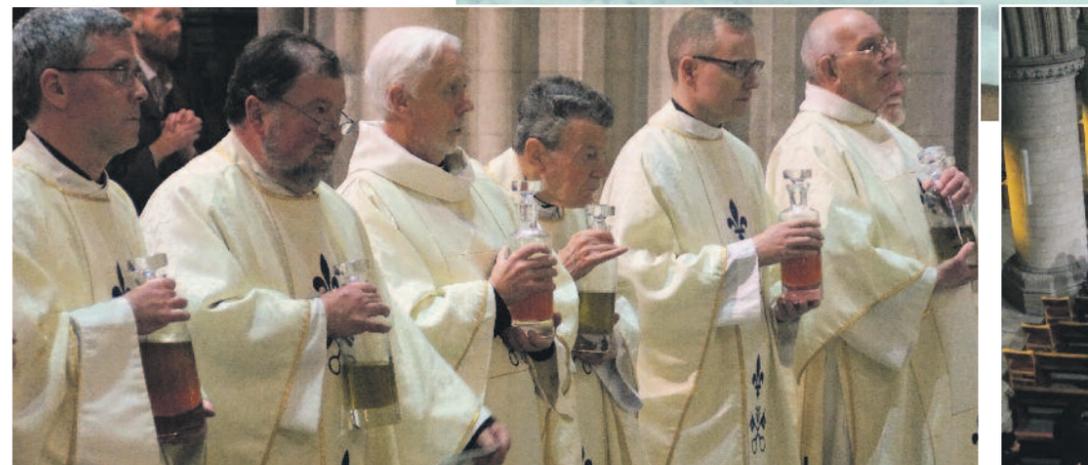
Pictures from the Chrism Mass. For a full picture gallery visit: www.rcdea.org.uk Pictures by Keith Morris.

oils to be sent for use in parishes: the oil used by priests in the sacrament of anointing of the sick and the oil used to strengthen catechumen prior to baptism.

At the end of the Mass, the oils were collected by the seven diocesan Deans for distribution to their parishes.

When the Mass had finished, everyone was invited to have a hot drink and a hot cross bun in the Narthex.

For a full picture gallery of the Chrism Mass visit www.rcdea.org.uk



sacred time



Bishop Alan blessing the new cathedra at St John's Cathedral.

Bishop blesses new cathedra

■ Continued from front page.

teaches the faith; on to the figure of Christ crucified, by whose death and precious Blood we have been redeemed; and so finally on to the wonderful stained glass of the east window which reminds us of the saints in the glory of heaven – the destination of our pilgrim journey.

"I would like to thank the Friends of the Cathedral and the anonymous donor who have helped us to add to the beauty of our already beautiful cathedral," said Bishop Alan.

The work has been paid for by the Friends of the cathedral, whose chairman, Jeremy Evans, said: "This restores our cathedral to the vision that the architect George Gilbert Scott had for it when he designed what was originally a parish church, only becoming a cathedral many decades later in 1976.

"This work is a part of our ongoing commitment to further enhance the beauty of what is the second largest Catholic cathedral in the country, behind Westminster. Our next project is to work with the Dean in reordering the Chapel of The Most Precious Blood.

"To be able to continue with our work we are always thinking of fund-raising events and are currently planning something for the summer. We also need new members, so if you would be interested in joining us and being part of what we do then do please contact me at jeremy.evans@hampden.co.uk or ring on 01787 210146, or at The Mill House, Leavenheath, Suffolk, CO6 4PT."

See more pictures at: <https://flic.kr/s/aHsmiHBTxH>

Eddie is on the road to recovery

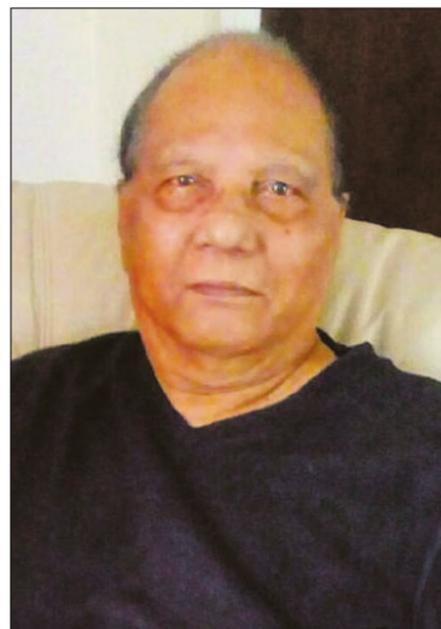
■ Eddie Francis, a parishioner from St Ives who collapsed with suspected heart problems just before the Chrism Mass began in St John's Cathedral on March 27 and received emergency treatment, is now on the road to recovery.

Just before the Chrism Mass started, Eddie collapsed with a suspected heart problem and received emergency treatment from a doctor and nurses from the congregation who used a Cathedral defibrillator on him before paramedics arrived and took him to hospital.

Bishop Alan visited Eddie in the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital the following day and gave him Holy Communion.

The tests on Eddie at the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital and then at the Royal Papworth Hospital where he was transferred showed that he had not had a heart attack and was given the all clear on his heart.

Eddie's wife Pat said: "The cause is still unknown as to why he collapsed but he is still attending outpatient appointments for more tests. He is recovering slowly but surely and with all your prayers he will be ready to



Eddie Francis.

serve the Lord again soon. It is still a difficult time but we are sure with the grace of God things will work out for

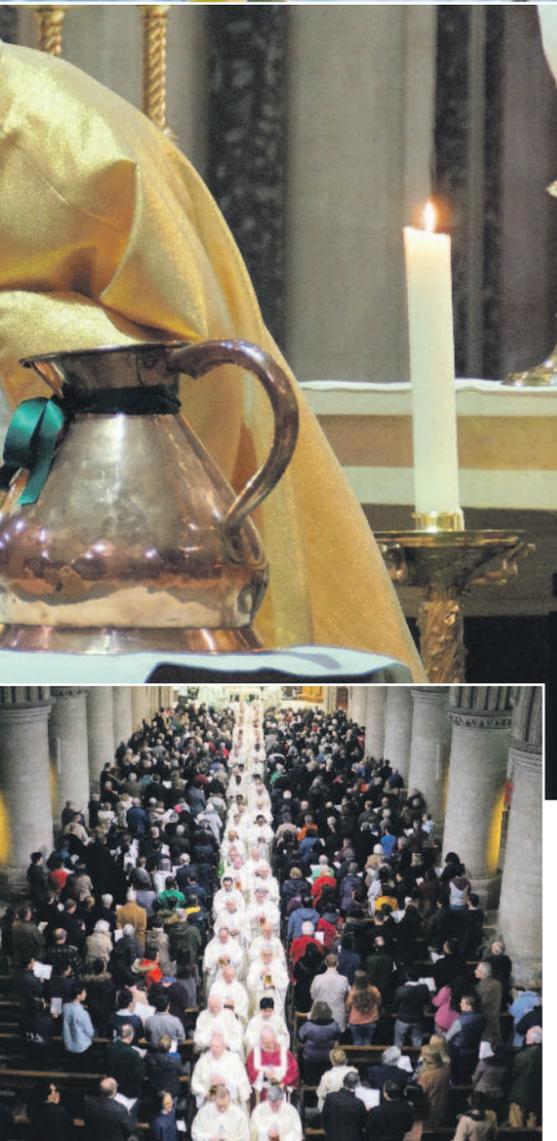
the best.

"We would like to thank our dear Lord and Mother Mary for helping us through this difficult time. Also Bishop Alan for his prayers and concern about Eddie, we are so humbled to have such a caring bishop.

"We would also like to thank the priest who anointed Eddie at the Cathedral, Fr Seelan for arranging with a family for me to stay with, Emily & George Mathew who were such a loving and caring family who cared for me and Eddie.

"Fr Laurie who visited Eddie at the hospital, Ellen Kemp and Brother Jarek who comforted me throughout the ordeal, Jean Grimby for accompanying me and staying with me at the hospital till my family arrived. To the doctor, nurses, the ambulance crew, the police and hospital staff.

"Last but not least we would like to thank Fr Karol our parish priest and Fr Ivan and all the parishioners of the Sacred Heart Church in St Ives for all their prayers, kind wishes, Masses and all their care and support."



DIOCESAN SCHOOLS IN FOCUS

School marks women's right to vote victory

■ St Mary's School, Cambridge marked the centennial of women gaining the right to vote in the UK, by inviting Classworks Theatre group to perform a special re-enactment of a speech given by Emmeline Pankhurst in 1912.

Kate Latham, Director of Teaching & Learning at the school, introduced the performance on International Women's Day, March 8, and urged students, from Year 6 to the Upper Sixth, to act as if they were in the original 1912 crowd.

She said: "Some brave women gained the right to vote 100 years ago. Emmeline Pankhurst was one of the most significant suffragettes in history and, in 1912, she gave the speech that you are about to hear to a very large, very rowdy crowd at The Guildhall in Cambridge."

In the re-enactment, students found themselves amongst 'hecklers' who disapproved of Mrs Pankhurst's outspoken opinions about equality for women. The performance exposed some of the horrors women faced in the early 1900s and the relative privilege enjoyed by men at the same time. During the speech, Mrs Pankhurst - played by Mandi Cattell - revealed that she spent six weeks in prison as a result of visiting the House of Commons with a petition and refusing to move on when asked. She went on to explain that the same sentence was served by a prominent man in Bradford for committing atrocious acts.

Following the conclusion of the play, Mrs Latham said: "We are hopeful this has given our students a flavour of the determination of women, like Mrs Pankhurst, who were so fundamental in effecting change for the better. It's always fascinating to see young people learning about how different life has been through history and especially important for them to understand how much has been achieved. We take this time to also remember that equality is not yet guaranteed - for many women and girls globally, as well as closer to home. We are confident that this experience will have both inspired our girls to understand the need to keep on 'Pressing for progress' over the next 100 years and hope it has also encouraged them to believe determination and passion can result in real positive change".



A heckler attacks suffragettes Emmeline Pankhurst and Georgina Brackenbury.

Project aids Malawi

St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School in Norwich has been visited by Andy and Mary Clark who took all the children for an unusual Monday morning assembly. Head of School Fran Ludden reports.

■ During the Dress A Girl Assembly on March 12, the children heard about and saw photos of children who live in Malawi. Andy told a wonderful story which helped the children to realise that things that seem of little worth to them can be of great value to people they have never met.

The school community had held two sewing workshops during which a total of 36 dresses were made. The dresses are going to be distributed by volunteers with Network for a Better World - a project linking people of the UK and Malawi.

The activity has been successful on so many levels. The



The Dress A Girl assembly at St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School in Norwich.

workshops brought together members of school staff, families and children, who were

involved in sewing on pockets and writing cards to put in them. The dresses are going first to a local tailor in Malawi who, using sewing machines sourced by Connections, will alter the dresses where necessary and set

about making more for his community.

And we didn't leave the boys out. We had the brilliant idea of recycling good quality white shirts and trousers that had been left in lost property. Freya's grandma even turned some trousers into shorts.

This was such a successful project for our school commu-

nity that we are busy thinking about what to do next. Not only are we going to continue to recycle school uniforms, but our Year Six children are going to make bags to accompany the dresses we have made, and a further project making T-shirt dresses for Cambodia is already in the pipeline.

Sacred Heart School just loves to sing

■ Two choirs from Sacred Heart School in Swaffham have been called outstanding at county music festivals in Norfolk.

Attending the Norfolk County Music Festival at Springwood School in King's Lynn on March 18, the Lower School Choir was given an 'Outstanding Performance' certificate by the adjudicators, who commented that this was a confident group of singers, obviously accomplished and very able musically and that this was a very high quality and captivating and engaging performance. They noted a high standard of very strong leadership to elicit such a high standard. The choir was led by Sarah Pickard.

The Senior Choir took part in the Senior County Music Festival in Norwich's Central Baptist Church on March 15.

The choir was led by Sarah and Charlie Williams, who said: "After a very short warm-up we were shown into the Grand Hall where we thought we would be taken to our seats to listen to other choirs before us. However, we were led right through the audience and straight onto the stage.

"Our choir showed great courage at this moment and simply got ready to perform. Emily introduced our songs, 'Pokarekare Ana' (a gentle Maori love song) and 'Seasons of Love,' a tricky unaccompanied song from a contemporary musical. All sang confidently, calmly and competently. Before we had the chance to be truly nervous, it was over. I think we all knew it had gone



The Sacred Heart choirs, Senior School (top) and the Lower School (above).

well - it was our very best performance.

The choir retired to the gallery upstairs before receiving positive comments from the adjudicator, Sue Nicholls, who said: "An engaging performance - exciting, vibrant, great

audience communication, tender, intimate and polished."

Charlie said: "All in all, a second 'Outstanding' for our school. We do not audition, we simply love to sing great songs together."

YOUTH MATTERS

Band, DJ and TV stars at Ignite Festival

■ More details have been announced of the Ignite Youth Festival at the Sacred Heart School in Swaffham from May 5 to 6.

Youth director Hamish MacQueen, said, "We are really pleased to confirm Gabby and Paige from the TV show *Bad Habits Holy Orders* will be joining us on the Saturday.

"After our Reconciliation Service on the Saturday evening, we will be played out by a Christian DJ.

"On Sunday we welcome back the internationally acclaimed mime artist Steve Murray who is our keynote



Norwich band Mengelmoes will play at the Ignite Festival.

speaker. After Mass with Bishop Alan, we have a vari-

ety of people leading workshops. Sunday evening closes with popular up-and-coming band Mengelmoes – all students at Notre Dame in Norwich.

Festival goers are invited to stay until the morning of Monday 7.

On the Monday morning youngsters can be picked up at 9am from Swaffham, or join a Pilgrimage Walk to join the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham, and be picked at 4.30pm from the Abbey grounds.

For more information and to buy tickets visit: www.ignitefestival.co.uk

Ignite's engaging visit to Cambourne

A recent visit by the Ignite Youth Team to the new Cambourne and Sawston Parish saw 50 youngsters engage in musical, dramatic and reflective activities. Confirmation catechist Mel Ward reports.

■ About 50 youngsters descended upon the church and eagerly participated in the varied, thought-provoking and engaging activities on offer. The younger ones talked with Cat about the Mass and decorated Tabernacles whilst the large hall buzzed with musical, dramatic and reflective activity.

A rather precarious mountain and two animated rocks were the scene of an imaginatively improvised drama of the Transfiguration guided by Fr Luke and Aga, Helen and Shumona who lead our music gathered and prepared lively and joyful hymns with their volunteers.

Formulating their own prayers of intercession and final reflection with Ciaran, Joe and Clive gave many food for thought and a chance for some who felt cautious about reading in church an opportunity to 'step up' with the support of their friends.

Each and every week we work hard to try to build a church that offers a home and a role for all. We may be short of theologians and have just one priest, but each one of our dozens of servers, every person who puts out the chairs, pours tea, greets their neighbour, stays for a chat or smiles at a struggling parent or signs a card for our sick, bereaved and housebound and performs any of a myriad of acts of kindness, is building up the church with abundance, grace and glory.

This is something held precious by our church. The Ignite team helped, as one child said: "To inspire you to contribute and help the community for the better."

After Mass and coffee there was an incredible spread prepared by Lorretta and team and the young people had a good chance to get to know the Ignite team better as they ate and chatted. This was followed by one of our favourite socials - a DIY open-mic session where our youngsters played instruments and sang



The Ignite Youth Team, left, in Cambourne.

together with joy and good humour. The evening ended too soon.

I have worked for 30 years with young people in a very changing world and the role of Ignite in the Diocese is a very precious and vital one. There is much encouragement and guidance needed for many communities who struggle to know how to support families and encourage a

sense of hope and vocation.

The seeding of new young ministers and the shared experience, sense of adventure and encouragement which shines from Ignite are a gift and opportunity to us all to learn from each other in very different locations, situations and settings. A wise investment by Bishop Alan in our present church as well as our future.

Key 2018 dates

■ **May 5 – 6:** Ignite Diocesan Youth Festival, Swaffham

■ **May 7:** Pilgrimage Walk to Walsingham. All ages welcome

■ **June 2 – 3:** Celebrate East Anglia Family Conference, Bury St Edmunds. Details at: www.celebrateconference.org

■ **July 24 – 29:** Youth Summer Pilgrimage to the North of England and Scotland. The 'Northern Saints Pilgrimage,' is for 16 - 35s. We will be visiting Lindisfarne, Durham and Iona amongst other places with a focus on the saints who lived in these locations and what they can teach us. To register your interest please email dys@rcdea.org.uk.

■ **July 30 – August 3:** New Dawn Family Conference, Walsingham

■ **August 24 – 31:** Pilgrimage to Lourdes

■ **August 23 – 27:** Youth 2000 Prayer Festival, Walsingham, for those aged 16+

■ **August:** Summer Camp (location and dates to be decided), for those aged 8-14

For more details of each event, please see www.rcdea.org.uk/youth

Youth contacts

Tel: 01508 486236

Email: Ignite Team enquiries
igniteyea@rcdea.org.uk

All other enquiries: dys@rcdea.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/igniteyea

Twitter: [@igniteyea](https://twitter.com/igniteyea)

Web: www.rcdea.org.uk/youth/

Your chance to join the Ignite team

■ The Ignite Youth Team is recruiting members for 2018-2019 sharing the Gospel message in schools and parishes. It is ideal as a gap year.

So if you are aged between 18 – 30 and will have just left school or uni-



versity, be in between jobs or just want to do something different, why not think about applying? Or perhaps you know someone who might be interested? Board, lodging, living expenses and a monthly allowance provided. Contact igniteyea@rcdea.org.uk for more information.

Action-packed year with Ignite team

Ignite youth team member Ciaran Losasso looks back after a packed year so far.

■ Looking back over the months since I joined the Ignite Team full-time at the beginning of September, it feels like quite a long time has passed because we've packed so much in!

The first few weeks allowed us a bit of time and space to grow closer as a team while the bookings to visit schools and parishes began to flow in thick and fast. It wasn't long before we had an increasingly full diary and were criss-crossing the Diocese through the course of each week, meeting children and young people of all different ages and sharing the most precious thing we have: our faith in Jesus.

The novelty of being able to dedicate myself full-time to something as important as evangelisation has still not worn off. In fact, it has allowed me to encounter all sorts of new people, situations and experiences. I have particularly liked the variety of ages that we get to work with. In the week that I am writing this, for example, we are working with 13-year-olds on Thursday, 18-year-olds on Friday, and four-year-olds on Tuesday!

Many hours are spent on the road in



The Ignite team, including Ciaran Losasso (second left), are ready for anything - even Nerf gun fights.

our van, but this means we get to see such a diversity of different places around our Diocese as we serve young people in settings ranging from secondary schools in cities to market-town parish churches.

In January, I was given the special opportunity to spend three weeks with

overseas missionaries in Jamaica. This was an amazing experience which allowed me to meet Jesus in the poor and severely disabled people who are looked after by the Missionaries of the Poor in the ghetto of downtown Kingston. Our small diocesan group, of all ages, was able to spend time immersed in the uni-

versality of the Church, surrounded by a group of religious Brothers and Sisters from many nations whose faith was truly alive and active.

Returning to East Anglia, we had an especially full schedule during Lent. I enjoy the busy periods as it can feel particularly rewarding to know my time has been well-spent. Nevertheless, I am also grateful for the opportunities we have had to go on pilgrimage and silent retreat as a team - allowing me to spend more time resting and praying. The brief pause in engagements over the Easter Octave was similarly beneficial as we entered the run-up to our biggest weekend of the year at the Ignite Festival in Swaffham (May 5-6).

I am sure this last part of the academic year will begin to disappear very quickly, as I come to conclusions about where God is calling me to be after July. In the meantime, though, I hope to continue to try and make the most of each day and the very different challenges and blessings it can bring.

■ **If you are interested in joining the Ignite Team for a gap year from September 2018 to July 2019, email Ignite Team Leader, Cat Williams, for details and to apply at igniteteam@rcdea.org.uk**

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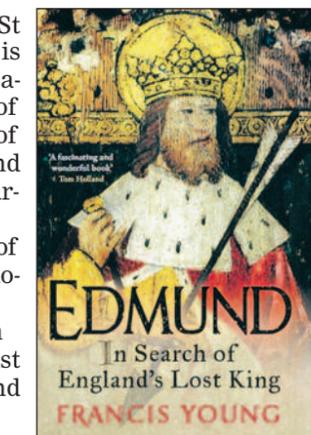
Books with Bury links

BOOK REVIEWS

■ Bury St Edmunds is the probable site of the body of St Edmund - the martyred monarch of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of East Anglia and England's first patron saint, reveals Catholic academic Francis Young (below) in his new book.

Praise for Edmund: In Search of England's Lost King - is published on

April 26 and in it, Francis suggests that the ruins of the Benedictine Abbey of Bury St Edmunds may conceal a find as exciting as the emer-



gence from beneath a Leicester car-park of the remains of Richard III.

The king was slain by marauding Vikings in the ninth century and the legend which grew up around his murder led to the foundation in Bury of one of the pre-eminent shrines of Christendom. In revealing how King Edmund

became the pivotal figure around whom Saxons, Danes and Normans all felt able to rally, the author points to the likely rediscovery of the ruler who created England.

A Cambridge author and broadcaster, Francis, says: "The body was likely placed in an 'iron chest' but lost during the Dissolution of the Monasteries."

Part detective-story, part gripping historical reconstruction, Edmund: In Search of England's Lost King suggests that Edmund may now be a crucial figure in the creation of a new English identity.

Published in hardback by I B Tauris at £20, ISBN 9781788311793
www.ibtauris.com

■ **Ahead of Its Time** is the story of one of Bury's 'forgotten' schools. St Alban's Catholic Primary School, opened in 1971 on the Howard Estate, closing in 2000.

Many of its records disappeared but local historian **John Saunders** (right) researched its history and obtained stories and photographs from former teachers, parents and pupils. Whether or not you attended it makes fascinating reading and preserves significant links with the past.

The booklet is published as a limited edition and can be obtained from John at jes767894@btinternet.com or 01284 767894 (£5 per copy if collected; £7 if posted).



To advertise Phone Janet on

01440 730399 or 07931 836907

BUILDING BRIDGES

Peace campaigner is interfaith guest

Peace campaigner Maz Saleem is the guest speaker at the AGM of the Wisbech Interfaith Forum on June 13.

In April 2013, Maz Saleem's (pictured right) father was brutally murdered in Small Heath, Birmingham while walking home from evening prayers at the mosque - because he was a Muslim.

Since then Maz has been actively campaigning against Islamophobia, war and racism and is setting up an educational website, Education for Peace, in memory of her father.

She asks: "What hope is there for generations to come if we don't make a stand against all forms of hate? And what hope is there, here and now, that we will overcome the pernicious evil of Islamophobia, if we don't name the very problem which we need to confront?"

The programme starts at 7pm with the AGM and the venue is the Oasis Centre, St. Michael's Avenue, Wisbech, PE13 3NR. More details from Sean Finlay on 01945 584737.

www.wisbechinterfaith.btck.co.uk



Can you help build bridges?

The two current Diocese of East Anglia Building Bridges projects are support for the salary of a kindergarten teacher 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".

First Name.....
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 Amount enclosed

Anything you give will be divided equally between Cambodia and the Holy Land unless you indicate by ticking the box below that all your money should go to that project.
 Cambodia Holy Land

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Signature:.....
 Date:.....
Please send to: Building Bridges, 21 Uppgate, Poringland, Norwich, NR14 7SH
 Registered charity no 278742

2,000 at Walsingham Filipino pilgrimage

Around 2,000 pilgrims joined the annual Filipino Catholic Palm Sunday Pilgrimage to Walsingham on Sunday March 25.

Around 2,000 pilgrims joined the annual Filipino Catholic Palm Sunday Pilgrimage to Walsingham on Sunday March 25.

The annual pilgrimage started in 2011 with just two communities - Norwich and Ipswich - headed by Father Norlan Julia, a Filipino Jesuit priest who studied for his doctoral degree in Theology from the University of London.

During his studies he ministered to migrant Filipino communities all over UK. After he finished his course, and before going back to the Philippines, he assigned six couples from Norwich and counterpart couples from Ipswich to be the coordinators for the yearly pilgrimage and from then on the tradition has kept on going.

Mary Rose Comia, a parishioner from St John's Cathedral in Norwich, said: "It is astonishing to witness how the number of pilgrim grows in number throughout the years in this solemn participation in fellowship for Christ. This year was the eighth annual pilgrimage and the biggest so far, attended by around 2,000 pilgrims from over 30 communities as far as Oxford, London, Frimley, Dudley, North Shields and Lincolnshire."

The pilgrimage, which started from the Station of the Cross at the Anglican Shrine, processed to the Walsingham Catholic National Shrine, ended with the blessing of the palms and the Holy Mass.

During the event, pilgrims were welcomed by Father Andreas in the Anglican Shrine and Monsignor Armitage of the Walsingham Catholic National Shrine.

Mary Rose said: "It has been an opportunity for all of us to rekindle our love for our Lord and strengthen our faith in Him.



Pilgrims at Walsingham for the annual Filipino Pilgrimage on March 25.



News picture gallery from parishes around the Diocese

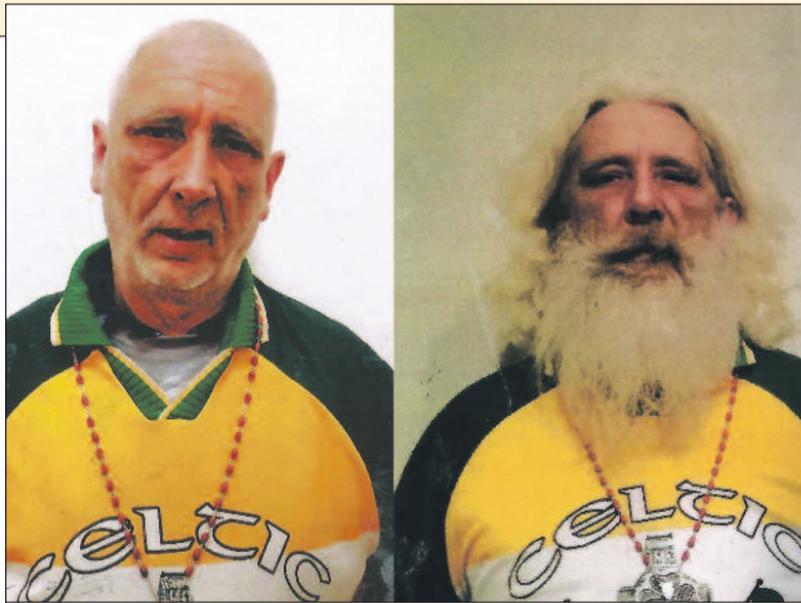


■ The flower arrangers at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist were recently treated to a superb afternoon tea and personalised tour of the Guildhall by the sheriff and his wife, David and Gisele Walker, reports Brigid Dowler: "This was a welcome reward after all the hard work and dedication of decorating the cathedral for Easter."



■ St Nicholas Church in Lowestoft saw 24 parish children make their first Reconciliation on March 20 and they enjoyed a little celebration afterwards said Kathy Fallon: "They were amazing and it was a really beautiful day and another step towards their First Holy Communion."

■ A Yarmouth parishioner, Nigel Weale (aged 57) has had his substantial beard and hair shaved off to raise funds for the Building Fund at St Mary's Catholic Church, Great Yarmouth.



Liverpool born Nigel, who is also a volunteer plumber for the Diocese of East Anglia, was warmly praised for his efforts by Bob Gale who is involved in the Building Fund initiatives.

The idea of the sponsored shave was conceived by the Great Yarmouth Council of the Knights of St Columba and has to date, raised over £1,000.



■ The parishioners of St Benet's in Beccles have expressed their gratitude to Jackie Pipe for the 40 years of service she has given to the Parish as President of its Flower Guild.

Rona Baxter, Jackie's successor, presented a bouquet of spring flowers and said how delighted parishioners had always been at the floral displays produced by Jackie and her team of helpers. "It has also been wonderful to see the way Jackie had encouraged new members and had generously shared her skills and expertise," said Rona. "However, as she had now reached the magnificent age of 90, Jackie felt she really had to retire and let the younger generation take over."

Fr Martin added his congratulations and thanks – and he extended his appreciation to the 30 other parishioners who also volunteered their time and skills to keep the parish functioning.

Pictured above is Rona Baxter, right, presenting a bouquet to the retiring Jackie Pipe.



■ The Polish community at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Lowestoft, came together on Easter Saturday for the Blessing of their Easter Baskets – called Swieconka. Kathy Fallon said: "We were only expecting a few families and were absolutely delighted at how many came and with their beautiful baskets. This was the first time that we could do this and now we hope that it becomes an annual tradition."