

OUR DIOCESAN FAMILY



The newspaper of the Diocese of East Anglia

FREE

November 2011

Insight into missionary work at Red Box 75th anniversary Mass

Missionary work across the world today was the focus of a Mass of Thanksgiving at St John the Baptist Cathedral in Norwich to mark the 75th anniversary of the Red Boxes.

People put odd change into these boxes which they keep at home and often, when they are due to be collected, they make a more substantial contribution.

For the past 75 years the Association for the Propagation of the Faith and Mill Hill Missionaries have used the millions of pounds collected to bring the Good News to people around the world.

Fr David Bagstaff celebrated the Mass and in his homily he drew attention to the final dismissal in the new translation which sends all people out

to spread the Gospel through the way they lived.

He said in 19th Century Lyon in France a group of people came together to pray and raise money for missions and the Association for the Propagation of the Faith was founded.

Through a series of developments and growth the campaign came to Britain and Mill Hill Missionaries were set up in London.

The Red Box idea was floated and was launched in 1936 and is now celebrating its 75th anniversary.

Fr David said: "The relationship between the APF and Mill Hill Missionaries is a wonderful marriage and we are here to give thanks to God for the vision of the original founders and the work now being carried across the world."

He paid tribute to the work in the parishes and particularly Deacon Chris Brighten who led the Red Box campaign here.

Canon James Cronin, a missionary who spent much of his time in Ghana, said missionary work was now being undertaken in 27 countries in Africa and Asia and "it was a joy to see the enthusiasm and vibrancy" of the people.

Fr Bernard Fox, a Mill Hill Missionary, said the money raised was also used to bring clean drinking water to communities, to help in the aftermath of apartheid in South Africa, to empower women, increase literacy and to feed people.

"But it was not only a matter of meeting the needs of the stomach there was also a hunger for spiritual sustenance - a hunger of the heart which was met by missionaries bringing word of the love of God."



Archbishop Peter Smith led the Dowry of Mary pilgrimage to Walsingham this year and as usual it was truly international with nationalities from all over the world represented



Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Fr David Bagstaff

Social Concern Commission collection on 6 November

Plea for volunteers and financial help

The Social Concern Commission is six members short of the representation needed for its work across the diocese.

The major tasks of the commission are to serve those with special needs and to provide financial support for organisations working locally to relieve poverty, distress or loneliness.

Chairman Bernard Segrave-Daly said in the commission's annual report: "We are without representation from the deaneries of Cambridge, Kings Lynn and North Norfolk as well as the SVP, CWL and the Catholic Clothing Guild.

"This leaves us six short out of our minimum representation of 14. We

hope we can have volunteers from these Deaneries and organisations soon.

"From past surveys we are aware that the greatest deprivations in our diocese come from poverty, illness and isolation.

"No-one knows better than the parishes what the local needs are so we have worked to promote visitor groups or Helping Hands to visit the lonely and isolated.

"Recently we held a Day of Awareness on those affected by dementia and their carers, encouraging every parish to be aware of the issues involved with such people, and how necessary it is to give support or relief to those dedicated to looking after a loved one.

"Our study day at Norwich was attended by 45 people representing 15 of our parishes and gave us

considerable insight into what is needed to minister those affected.

"For many Catholics we recognise that being involved in work that expresses our love and concern for our neighbour is the way some can best express their love for Our Lord."

The St Edmund's Fund is a special resource in the Diocese of East Anglia for the relief of poverty and promotion of work of social concern.

Money raised in an annual collection in the parishes and donations funds vital work.

Bernard said: We shall be making our annual appeal on Sunday 6 November and we also encourage parishioners to have a St Edmund's Box at home.

For grant applications to St Edmund's Fund please contact Deacon Tony Felton, 6 Borough End, Beccles NR34 6YW.



The daytime prayer group from St John's Cathedral are pictured on their annual trip to Walsingham in July.

Helen Savelli said: "We met to walk the Holy mile and said the rosary together, arriving at the shrine to celebrate the 12 noon Mass.

"The prayer group was started over five years ago with about six members we have now grown to over 20 members with a mixture of young and old alike! We always welcome new members and are a fairly traditional prayer group and we do readings, psalms, prayers of intercessions and pray the rosary.

"The Church's year is followed with weekly themes but sometimes we dedicate the prayer group to important issues facing the world today. We also have a special list to pray for our loved ones and friends.

"Many people we know who are unable to attend the group often ask for prayers to be included on our 'list'."

The group meets every Monday morning in school term time at 10.40am and are open to anyone across all the parishes in Norwich. Parents with young children are welcome to bring them along.

For more details please ring Helen on 01603 623858.

NEWS FROM THE WHITE HOUSE

NEW PEOPLE ON OUR DIOCESAN TEAM

The Diocese of East Anglia is served by a small, but dedicated body of staff, mainly based at the White House in Poringland, but many of whom spend most of their time 'on the road' serving our 50 parishes, 32 schools and other institutions and Diocesan projects. Autumn 2011 sees the retirement of three long-standing members of this team and the arrival of three new members.

DIOCESAN SCHOOLS SERVICE



Helen Bates
Assistant Director – Capital and Buildings

The diocese welcomes Helen Bates as a new member of staff working in the schools office as Assistant Director - Capital and Buildings. She takes over from Andrew Firth, who retires at Christmas after many years of great service. We thank him for all the support and expertise he has given to our schools over the years and we wish him well.

Helen's role will take her around the diocese assisting our schools and leading on the planning, management and delivery of the Diocesan Schools' Capital Programme.

MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE

After three years working as the Diocesan Co-ordinator for Marriage and Family Life, a post funded by the Celebrating Family Fund, administered by the CBCEW Marriage and Family Life Office, Mary Clark is stepping down from the role.

Mary has worked closely with the Diocesan Commission for Marriage and Family Life to implement Bishop Michael's Pastoral Plan on Marriage and the Family, which informed the original bid to the Celebrating Family Fund.

During the past three years, 12 new Marriage Preparation Providers have been recruited and trained, doubling the number in the diocese. This in turn has led, amongst other things, to the provision of Marriage Preparation days in the Ipswich Deanery, under the auspices of the newly formed Colchester and Ipswich Marriage Care Centre.

Other initiatives have included the training of staff in a number of schools in the use of parent support materials produced by the Family Caring Trust, as well as the introduction of a variety of family resources to schools and parishes for example: 'Home is a Holy Place' and 'New Ways of Being Parish'.

The annual Celebration of Marriage and Family life at St John the Baptist Cathedral also continues to grow, and is now an important event in the diocesan calendar.

Edwina Griffin has been appointed to take over the role, and she said: "I'm excited to have been appointed to the post of Marriage and Family Life Co-ordinator and am looking forward to getting started, although Mary will be a hard act to follow!"

"I'm married to Ian and we have a daughter Hannah who is two. We live just outside of Halesworth and attend the

Catholic Church there. I have a background in administration and have worked in grant giving and charity organisations all of which I believe will come in useful for this post. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible."

Edwina will be looking at new initiatives from CBCEW, such as the setting up of Family Groups in parishes and links with the National Catholic Grandparents' Association, who have a pilgrimage to Walsingham every year, as well as consolidating the work of the past three years.



Mary Clark and Edwina Griffin

SAFEGUARDING

This November sees the retirement of Barbara Warwick who has been our Diocesan Safeguarding Co-ordinator for the past 10 eventful years and also served as manager of the Diocesan Children's Society until its closure. Of her years of service, Barbara said: "The job has grown enormously since the implementation of the Nolan Report and has become more focussed.

"The detailed procedures, despite their onerous nature, have made our parishes and schools safe places for children and vulnerable adults. At the same time, I believe, it has minimised the risk for clergy and volunteers – providing guidelines for a safe environment and safe practice."

Barbara added that she was going now to enjoy her retirement and wished her successor well. "He's very experienced and will deal sympathetically with people in very difficult situations," she said. Fr David Bagstaff paid tribute to Barbara and said: "Barbara's energy, professionalism and sensitivity in the important work of Safeguarding have been much appreciated. We thank her and wish her well in her retirement."



Michael Thurley and Barbara Warwick

Michael Thurley, who will be taking over as Safeguarding Officer said that Barbara Warwick would be a hard act to follow. Mick, as he prefers to be called, comes to the role after 32 years as a Police Officer.

Twelve of those years have been spent in the area of safeguarding, 10 as a member of the Metropolitan Police Child Abuse Investigation Command.

He said: "I am excited about my new role and look forward to working with everyone in the Diocese. I appreciate that many of the people with whom I will be in contact will be in very difficult circumstances, but hope that they will find me approachable and willing to listen."

Mick will spend November working alongside Barbara before taking over in December.

LEARNING TOGETHER

These are the next four modules for our diocesan adult religious formation programme. Everyone is welcome.

26th November 2011

**Catholic Parish Hall, 1 Norwich Road,
Wymondham, Norfolk. NR18 0QE**

**'Go in Peace,
Glorifying the Lord by your Life!'**

Deacon John Morrill leads a day on evangelisation – 'getting the Good News out there'.

4th February 2012

**St. Luke's Catholic Church, Benyon Grove,
Orton Malborne, Peterborough. PE2 5XS**

Things Spiritual

Mgr. Andrew Faley, Assistant General Secretary of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales helps us to build up a deeper personal spirituality and love of God.

3rd March 2012

**Catholic Pastoral Centre, 14 Exeter Road,
Newmarket. CB8 8LT**

The Passion and Death of Jesus

Fr Denis McBride explores the four Gospel accounts of the Passion and Death of Jesus as we prepare for Easter.

31st March 2012

**The Parish Hall, St Mary's Catholic Church,
322 Woodbridge Road, Ipswich. IP4 4BD**

Reconciliation

Pat Deegan helps us to understand the theology and grace of the Sacrament of Reconciliation at a time when many of us will be preparing for Easter by celebrating this wonderful Sacrament.

You can register for each module by e-mailing:

learningtogether1112@yahoo.com

or by going to the 'Adult Education' pages on our diocesan website and registering on-line,

or by writing to:

Diocesan Learning Together Programme, Parish Office,
14 Exeter Road, Newmarket CB8 8LT

BISHOP MICHAEL TO REST IN HIS CATHEDRAL

The cathedral, as the Mother Church of the diocese, was one of the focuses of Bishop Michael's ministry in East Anglia.

He contributed his energy and support to its development and outreach – and as many people know, rejoiced in the Narthex and its ministry of welcome to all. It is fitting therefore that he will be laid to rest in his cathedral church.

"The Bishop's decision to be cremated was informed by his desire to be laid to rest at St. John's," said Fr Mark Hackeson,

Bishop Michael's Private Secretary. Preparations are in hand for his ashes to be interred in the Chapel of the East Anglian Saints which he blessed last December on the Solemnity of Immaculate Conception.

They will rest appropriately near the icon of St Felix, the first Bishop of the East Angles.' The final date has not yet been set but is expected to be in December. Parishes will be informed so that those who wish can attend a special Mass before the actual interment.

HOW IS A BISHOP APPOINTED?

Have we got a new Bishop yet?

Over the last month or so, many people have asked whether a new bishop has been appointed to East Anglia yet. Many people have assumed that as Bishop Michael's illness had been well-known for a long time, that the process of choosing his successor would have already been underway.

It therefore comes as surprise to them that such is not the case. Until a bishop dies or his resignation from office is accepted by the Holy See, the process cannot begin.

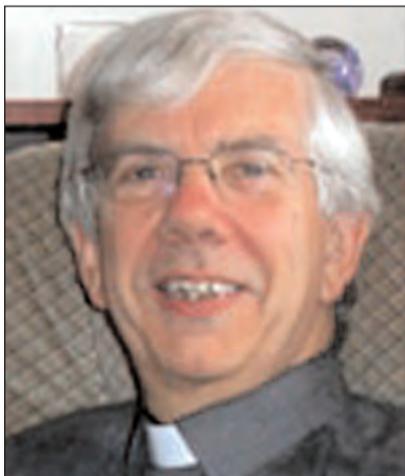
So, what does happen?

When Bishop Michael died the diocese became 'Sede Vacante' – literally a Vacant Seat! The bishop's cathedra in the cathedral now has no occupant, and will not have until a new bishop is ordained and installed there.

In the meantime however, the life of the diocese has to continue. Responsibility for this falls on the College of Consultors – a group of priests who have acted as the Bishop's 'Cabinet'. In Bishop Michael's time the college has comprised his Vicars General, Vicar Judicial, Vicar for Finance, Chancellor and the Deans.

These priests are obliged to meet immediately and elect one of their number as Diocesan Administrator. Fr David Bagstaff, parish priest of North Walsham, Dean of the North Norfolk Deanery and one of Bishop Michael's former Vicars General was elected. He immediately made his profession of faith as required by Canon Law and notified the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Mennini, the Pope's representative to Great Britain of his election.

His appointment was subsequently confirmed in a Latin document from the Holy See. Fr David will administer the diocese, with the help of the consultors until a new bishop is appointed.



*Father David Bagstaff
Diocesan Administrator*

It is at this point that the process of choosing a new bishop really begins. It is a process that can be quite lengthy as you may remember from the previous occasion we were without a Bishop, when Bishop Peter Smith was translated to Cardiff in succession to Archbishop Ward. Then we waited for 15 months! However, the length of time, rather than being solely a cause of frustration, can also be seen as a reminder of the care that is taken to discern who would be the most suitable bishop for East Anglia – indeed, who God is calling to that ministry.

The Needs of the Diocese

A number of people have assumed that it is already 'done and dusted'. 'There must be a list' and presumably the one who has arrived at the 'top of the list' is appointed.' It is not so simple – and is infinitely more pastoral! Whilst it is clear that there must be some good and holy priests who have been identified as possible future bishops – it is the needs of the Diocese that are of primary importance in appointing a new bishop.

As part of the process the Diocesan Administrator draws up a report on the present state of the Diocese and of its most pressing needs. The consultation goes further than his report alone. The manner in which this is performed is not widely published quite simply to ensure that those who are consulted, laity and clergy alike, are not only a balanced cross-section of people involved in all levels of the life of the diocese, but that they are able to express their thoughts honestly and without any pressure from others.

We all know that 'lobbyists' of all kinds would home in on those being consulted if they knew who they were!



*Archbishop Antonio Mennini,
the Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain.*

We must bear in mind that the Church is not like other human institutions, although it may have many similar characteristics. When Fr David was elected as Diocesan Administrator it was important not simply that a majority decision was made, but that a consensus was reached.

A majority decision can always run the danger of creating a faction of 'losers'. It would be difficult for anyone who has been chosen in such a manner to be a focus of unity – to keep together those who make up Christ's Body the Church. Even more so for a bishop who is to be a focus of unity for his diocese. Thus the process of consultation, which is now beginning, seeks not to identify a 'victorious party', but the choice of man who will answer the needs of our diocese and who will lead us forward to address those needs together, united in one and the same Spirit.

The diocese of course does not exist in isolation from other dioceses, and the bishops of the province are also consulted. East Anglia is one of the suffragan dioceses of the Province of Westminster, so Archbishop Nichols and the other bishops of dioceses of Westminster, Northampton, Brentwood and Nottingham and possibly bishops from other provinces in England and Wales, will also be consulted.

The Man

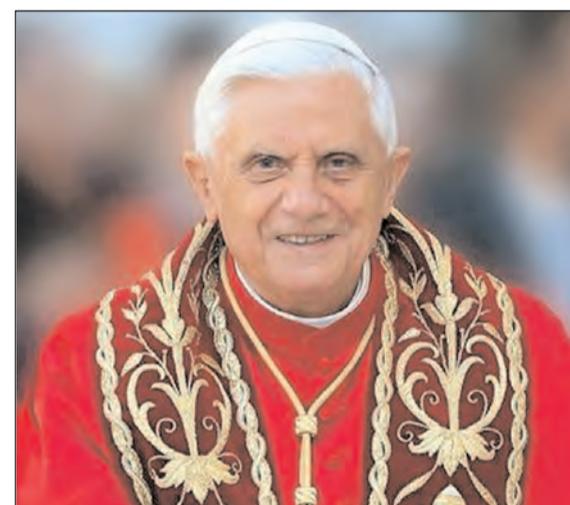
Once a profile of the needs of the diocese has been arrived at, then those responsible are in a position to look for a man who best fulfills those needs. A man whose particular combination of gifts will enable the church in East Anglia to continue its present growth and look forward to a future that may be very different, but one that is also full of promise and hope. It is at this point that individuals begin to be considered for the post of the 4th Bishop of East Anglia. The Nuncio will then decide on a 'short list' of men who would be suitable candidates. An investigation will take place as to their suitability. These investigations once again take place in strictest confidence in order not to compromise any of the possible candidates.

All may be eminently suitable, and the choice of one over the others does not reflect negatively upon them, especially in the light of what has been said above about the precedence of the needs of the diocese.

Finally he will draw up a 'terna' – a list of three names – which are submitted to the Congregation for Bishops in Rome along with all the documentation that he has collected and his own recommendation. The congregation then examine the documentation carefully and is free to reject any or all three of the suggested candidates.

In the latter case a new *terna* would have to be drawn up by the Nuncio. If however, the congregation is happy with one of the candidates, his name will be submitted to the Pope who is free to accept the nomination or to refuse it. If he accepts, then the Nuncio contacts the priest who has been nominated to seek his consent. If that consent is forthcoming then a date is set for publication of the appointment.

Only then, at the end of a long process of prayer, reflection and examination will we know who our new bishop will be.



Pope Benedict XVI

Whilst the process strives to provide a balance and wide consultation as a basis for the choice of our new bishop, comparatively few of us will be asked to provide a personal opinion on the needs of our diocese. We must pray that those who are so asked will do so with integrity and wisdom – guided by the Holy Spirit. Still fewer people will be asked to submit names – and only at the invitation of the Nuncio – so please don't flood his desk with letters!

But we all have our part to play at this important moment in the life of the diocese: ensuring that the work of living and preaching the Gospel continues as normal, and also in prayer for our diocese, for those involved in choosing a successor to Bishop Michael and for the man whom God has chosen to be our next bishop.

**Eternal God, shepherd and guide,
in your mercy give your Church in
East Anglia
a shepherd after your own heart
who will watch over your people with loving
care;
a leader of vision
and a teacher of your truth
who will inspire young and old alike.
So may your Church be built up,
your Gospel heard,
and your name be glorified.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

**Our Lady of Walsingham – pray for us!
St. Felix – pray for us!
St. Edmund, King & Martyr – pray for us!
St. Etheldreda – pray for us!**

NEWS

from

THE
CATHEDRAL
OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

Group campaigns for street children

The Justice and Peace group at St John the Baptist Cathedral is now running a campaign to raise awareness and money to help street children.

These are abandoned youngsters left to fend for themselves on the streets of towns and cities in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe.

Money raised will go to help them to get off drugs and lead them to a healthier way of life.

The group meets at the Narthex on the first Thursday of the month.

Peter Kemp said: "There is nothing more eye catching and more attractive, loveable and appealing than the open face and body language of a loved child.

"Their healthy appearance at play and rest is so obvious for everyone to see.

"People around them want to be with them and spend time in their company, do more for them, get involved in their lives, making sure all continues well for them.

"In contrast, there is nothing so pitiable, so derelict, as a starving, filthy dirty child, helpless, desperate, isolated, sitting or lying at the side of a road, sniffing glue or popping poisonous, illegal drugs scrounged on the black market or from sex - this is their only relief from a continuous misery."

Peter outlines the way broken families, bereavement or bad parenting can leave children without support in a world without welfare systems.

Transformation from what could be a short lifetime is possible with money, effort, love and a will to do something for them.

The group is going to work with organisations in El Salvador, Guatemala, Colombia, Kenya, and Nigeria.

Work is already under way to feed, clean up and educate needy children in these counties.

Many who are sick have received medication, they are under going healthy activities to build up personal and social skills to they can eventually get employment and look after themselves.

Peter said: "Some have even returned to their birth families. Sport is often used as an alternative therapy, notably football, to tackle anger and depression without resort to drugs.

"Others have become professional helpers such as doctors and other carers and advocates for other street children.

"We are looking for people to come and join in our efforts as regular members of the Justice and Peace group or to help in fundraising or organising events."

For more details contact Peter Kemp on 01603 502355.



John and Zanna pruning at the edges



Julio and Brian weeding the beds that show a blaze of colour

Gardens bloom with colour

The autumn saw the gardens at St John's Cathedral bloom but few of the congregation and visitors realise that behind the scenes, week-in week-out, a group of volunteers work so hard to create such an attractive space.

Work is continuing as the group are only two years into a five-year plan to create an attractive open

space around the Narthex and Cathedral House.

Zanna Foley-Davies leads the band of volunteers and said the first phase was to create a central amenity for parishioners and visitors to the Cathedral to enjoy.

This has been achieved to a great extent but a great deal of work still has to be done to keep up its appearance - especially where inadvertant damage may be caused.

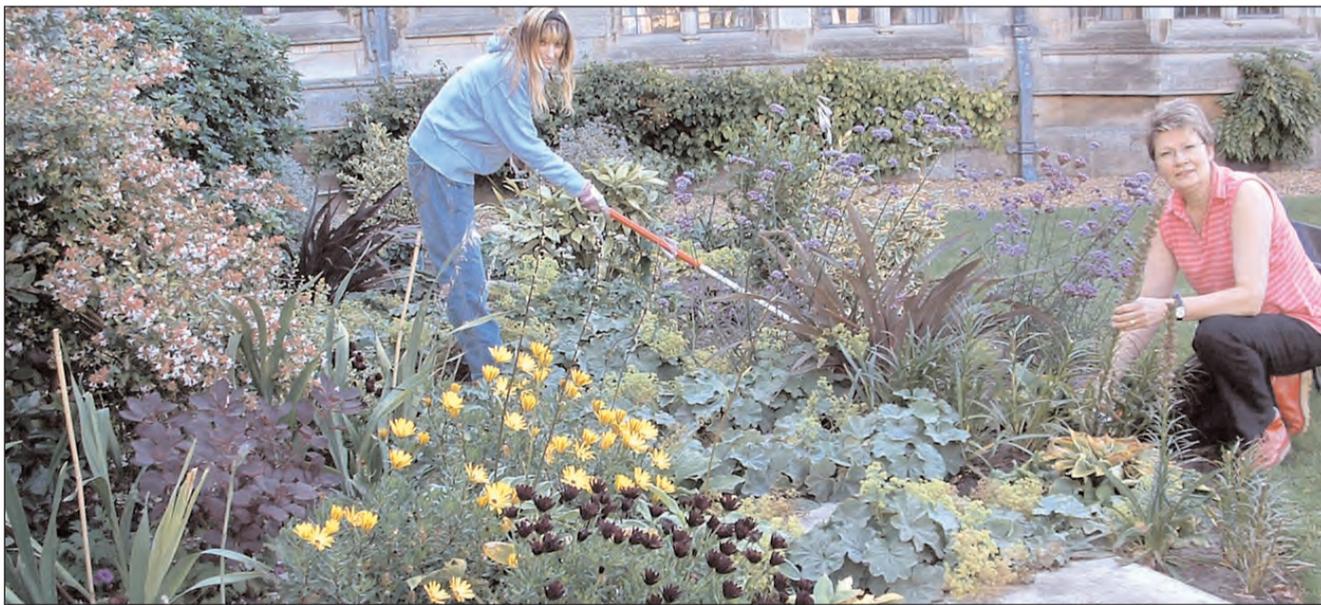
Work is now continuing on the bank behind the Narthex bar to extend the garden but Zanna has been forced to put up warning signs to keep people

away from these areas as there may be hazards.

To progress further the group needs more funding and high on the list of priorities is a community feature and a private space for the clergy surrounded by hedges as they have lost their larger garden.

Visitors are welcome to go and admire the colour and variety of flower, shrubs and other plants in the garden but they are asked to keep to the designated paths and grass areas.

Walking on the flower beds or picking the flowers may spoil the sights that others would enjoy.



Above Elaine and Zanna with Georgina shown below

Easy ways to contact the editor



Thanks to everyone who sends in material most of which is used but please send pictures as jpgs at 72 ppi and no bigger than 1M. Please also give documents a descriptive name - I get too many just labeled diocesan article. You can also send photographs by post but please do not embed pictures in Word or other documents as quality is impaired when extracted.

Please send material to Patrick Byrne The Editor, Our Diocesan Family, The White House, 21 Ugate, Poringland, Norfolk NR14 7SH. Tel: 01603 627409 and NEW email: patrick.byrne5@virginmedia.com **Deadlines: Our Diocesan Family is bi-monthly and printed early in the month before publication. Material for must arrive by 1 December for the JANUARY 2012 issue.**





Displays gave an insight into cathedral life through the ages from when it was built to the present day

NEWS

from
THE
CATHEDRAL
OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST



Peter Thorne, below, welcomed visitors to the new library where the number of books is growing



The seven sacraments provided an inspiration for displays and among the most popular was the one dedicated to married life, above



Heritage on view

The life of St John the Baptist Cathedral over the years since it was completed in the early 20th Century was laid open for all to see in displays during the Heritage Open Days at the beginning of September.

Organisers English Heritage wanted visitors to get to the heart of buildings not usually open to the general public.

Although St John's is open every day for people to spend time in a place of quiet prayer, to enjoy the Narthex and its facilities or just to wander around the building many residents of Norwich had never set foot inside.

The Heritage Open Days were an opportunity for the many visitors who came to the cathedral over the long weekend to see the work of the parish raising money for Tambogrande, a long established link with a community in South America.

They were also able to see the rich but sometime hidden architectural gems such as the roof vault reliefs which were displayed in pictures and to read the history of the Holy Rood high above the front of the altar created by Peter Rendl of Oberammergau in Germany.

Barbara Scrutton, one of the parish organisers said: "Our idea was to put across the life and times of the Cathedral from early days to modern times.

"One of the most popular displays were the vestments in St Joseph's Chapel which included a complete set left to the Cathedral by Fr Tony Roberts and dating from the 1940s."

These were very much a design of their time but contrast with some of the priestly clothes

worn by the late Mgr John Drury who was an administrator at the Cathedral.

He was also instrumental in helping a community in Ecuador where he worked for several years.

There was also a separate display for Canon Edward McBride who died earlier this year and helped to develop the Cathedral and parish during his time as Administrator.

One of the themes running through the many displays was the life of the Catholic Church as expressed through the seven sacraments.

The newly restored baptistry set the tone at the entrance to the Cathedral and the displays expressing features of priestly life put a discrete but noticeable emphasis on Holy Orders and vocations.

One of the most striking displays dealt with marriage and the parish flower group made a distinctive backdrop which attracted many visitors.

Music was played at intervals during the day and many visitors sat in the pews to take it in but for those seeking some quiet the new Duckett Library was open for them to browse.

Librarian Peter Thorne said: "We hope to be open officially by Christmas to all members of the Cathedral community with a small members subscription.

"The library, when fully open, will be staffed by volunteers after Sunday Masses and at various times during the week.

"Extended shelving is about to be installed thanks to generous funding by the Friends of the Cathedral of East Anglia."

Visitors also saw that the Cathedral is a central part of the city of Norwich and a valued amenity for residents visitors alike.



The Norwich Society has awarded the Sir Bernard Fielden Award to the Narthex for excellence in building and conservation. The award is named in honour of one of the city's eminent architects.

Hanging chandeliers is next Friends' project

The Friends of the Cathedral of East Anglia are to commit £30,000 in the coming year to the design, making and hanging of new chandeliers.

The annual general meeting also heard that income last year was only £25,179 but they had used savings to spend £45,340 for the Chancel heating and to help create the new Chapel of East Anglian Saints behind the High Altar.

The 28th annual meeting on 25 September opened with Sung Mass celebrated by Fr James Walsh for the Friends' intentions and the names of Friends who had died during the year, including Bishop Michael, were read out.

Chairman Brian Lewis later opened the formal meeting and Brian Dowler presented the accounts and gave an explanation of where money had been spent.

Fr James said the parishioners of St John the Baptist provide the bread and butter everyday expenses but the Cathedral depended on donations from its Friends for the "jam".

Fr David Bagstaff, Diocesan Administrator, closed the meeting by thanking the Friends for their generosity in funding large projects which enhanced the Cathedral.

"We must always remember that Bishop Michael saw our Cathedral as the heart of a thriving diocese," he said.



The group from East Anglia, above, and the huge crowds that went to Madrid, right, to see Pope Benedict touring, below



Making new friends was part of the experience of WYD but also travelling as a group in Madrid, above left, in Lourdes, above, and in the coach, below, brought everyone together



A rich world of experience but sometimes the pace was too much and needed to be cooled a little



YOUTH MATTERS (Oh Yes We Do!)

Amazing youth enjoy Madrid with Pope Benedict



Throughout the World Youth Day Pilgrimage, the group kept an online blog. The following is an edited version that tells the story of WYD 2011.

Journey to Spain - Day 1 Walsingham

Our three Shrine Challenge (three national shrines in three countries in three days) started with Mass at 6:00am in the Slipper Chapel at Walsingham. On the coach to Newmarket we pick up the last of the group before going on to Dover to catch the ferry. We stop overnight in mid France before driving onto our second national shrine - Lourdes.

Day 2 - Lourdes

Lourdes was absolutely beautiful! We were able to have Mass in the Glorious Cross Chapel celebrated by Fr Luke and concelebrated by Fr Martin and Fr Michael. We then went to the grotto. After a very long, but gorgeous coach journey over the Pyrenees, we finally arrived at Zaragoza. This part of the pilgrimage was interesting to say the least. Eventually we figured out where we were staying and at about 2:30 this morning, we rolled into bed.

Day 3 - First day in Zaragoza

We visited the Basilica de Santa Engracia named after a woman martyred for refusing to renounce her faith. After this, we walked towards the area where we receive our food. While we were eating there was lots of singing and dancing all around us, especially with the French and Brazilians. Great fun! Obviously we had to join in!

In the afternoon, some of us went swimming at the local outdoor swimming pool, which was lush! The water was freezing, but as it is so hot here, I don't think anyone was complaining too much!

After dinner, we went to the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Pillar, Zaragoza. When we got to the doors of the Shrine, we were able to go in, but for one minute only, as they were closing and we only just had time to say the Hail Mary! But we have done it! Three shrines in three countries in three days complete!

Day 4 - Our Lady of the Pillar and the International Rosary

After visiting the Cathedral, we were able to visit the Shrine of Our Lady of the Pillar again - this time for longer and accompanied by a Spanish priest who told us more about it. My word, is that one breathtaking place? It was just amazing! We got to see some beautiful historical paintings and side chapel where we spent a little time praying and meditating. The priest also explained to us about the Patron Saint of Spain St James, to whom Our Lady appeared on a pillar and told him that this place will be a Catholic place.

After dinner, we went to the Rosary Vigil at the Basilica de Santa Engracia, where all the groups from WYD staying in Zaragoza were, and it was amazing. The Five Mysteries of the Rosary were read in a different language, as well as blessings from the Cardinal of Bordeaux and Archbishop of Zaragoza. We all received a candle, which was lit, lighting the

Square beautifully. We spoke to and exchanged gifts with young people from other countries, including Syria, Venezuela, etc. which was great fun!

Day 5 - Mass and Concert

Following the joys of Saturday evening, we had a wonderful celebration of Mass on Sunday morning - the WYD Zimbabwe group's music and dancing raised the roof! In the evening, our hosts organised an amazing concert of Spanish music and dancing. Some attempted to copy the dance steps and ended up doing some impressive ballroom dancing, whilst others decided the Macarena approach was better and proceeded to engage a large group of followers of various nationalities.

Day 6 - Zaragoza to Madrid

Our last day in Zaragoza and there was a farewell Mass, with about 4,000 pilgrims. Although it was much longer than a normal Mass, due to numerous translations of some parts, it was a nice end to our time in Zaragoza. For now back on the coach again.

On arrival in Madrid, we went to pickup our 'Pilgrim packs'. It was an opportunity for those who considered themselves 'strapping' to volunteer and help carry them to the coach. They managed to pray the entire Rosary in the time they were waiting and still have an hour to spare!

There was a combination of tiredness, relief and hunger when we reached our rooms. We actually have BEDS!!!! A quick turnaround saw us back out for dinner in no time at all. We found a little Mexican (a restaurant, not a person, just in case you were wondering!) and enjoyed a good meal.

Day 7 - The Vocations Fair

We woke up to a lovely breakfast and a very smiley Spanish lady. Everyone seemed considerably chirpier after sleeping on beds(!!) and semi lay-in. We then set off in teams to the Vocations Fair which was an enormous exhibition of groups, orders and movements promoting the idea that we all have a Vocation. Please God, it will inspire new priests and nuns for East Anglia!

Day 8 - Catechesis and Opening Mass

Next morning, we began our Catechesis sessions in local parishes. Various English-speaking countries were put together with people from Canada, America, Ireland, the UK, South Africa, etc. We had a Canadian bishop to lead the catechesis and he was speaking very clearly of how faith is a gift from God and at the same time our response to His call. He gave us different steps for remaining "Firm in the Faith" linking it to our baptismal promises. After a long question-and-answer session, we finally had an English Mass! This was really lovely, as we were able to understand exactly where we were in the Mass, even if we did say everything a bit fast! In the evening we walked into the centre of Madrid for the official opening ceremony which was brilliant.

Day 9 - Catechesis and Pope arrives

After Catechesis, we made our way into the masses of people swarming around the Plaza de Cibeles. Having secured space next to the

barriers to the road we thought the Pope would be travelling down in the Popemobile. We then experienced the world's largest party (until the Vigil on Saturday night) where we danced with people around the world until the coverage started on the big screen. After watching the Holy Father walk through the city gates and officially enter Madrid, he presided over a welcome service, which we all greatly enjoyed.

Day 10 - Catechesis and Way of Cross

For our final Catechesis session we listened to Cardinal George of Chicago, Illinois, USA, talk about being a witness to Christ. We then celebrated Mass together.

For lunch today, we were fortunate enough to meet up with the WYD group from Battambang, Cambodia with whom the Diocese of East Anglia is twinned. Cambodia was always very close to Bishop Michael's heart, so he was very much in the centre of all our minds today. We shared our WYD experiences so far, and previous WYDs if we had been before. We also shared dances, songs and prayers. Bishop Michael was loved by both dioceses, and Fr Luke emphasised this by saying that even though we are from completely different parts of the world and have very different walks of life, we are not alone in our faith, and this struck home for many of us, especially with seeing so many other young Catholics around the world just on the streets of Madrid!

A brisk walk later and the group were ready in position for Via Crucis (translated as The Way of the Cross or the Stations of the Cross). We were very lucky to get a position between Stations 8 and 9 and it was absolutely amazing! The huge bonus was that the Pope was driven right past us in the Popemobile. We were all shouting, screaming, waving, and singing as he went past, but as soon as the Stations started, then silence fell over the pilgrims. The whole things was just incredible. There was singing between each Station and a cross travelling between them held by young Catholics in different situations), we had another surprise as the Pope came back exactly the way he had come! Seeing the Pope twice in one day was amazing!

Day 11 - The Vigil with Pope Benedict

As I write this, the Holy Father is on his way to Cuatro Vientos to celebrate the Vigil. There are literally hundreds of thousands, if not millions of people here. It was really hot earlier (temperatures reached 47C), so much so that we nearly had one person go to hospital with sunstroke! Fire engines were brought in to hose the crowds down but it looks like may rain. 'He's here now! 'Benedicto!' is being chanted all over the place' - everyone is standing up, watching the big screens to see exactly what the Pope is doing. The atmosphere's electric (literally, with the lightning that's just started!) "Esta es la juventud en Papa!" is another chant that everyone knows. The vigil starts with the Pope blessing us.

'Can't quite believe that everywhere I look, there's more and more people! It is the largest gathering I've ever been to - it's simply

incredible!' We are all here for one reason as well, which makes it all the more special - we are, as young Catholics from around the world, celebrating our faith and we are having a huge party to allow the world to realise that. The Holy Father addresses the crowd then says a prayer, introducing a period of adoration before Benediction.

After the vigil, Pope Benedict leaves followed by an absolutely breathtaking firework display! A fantastic evening. Now all we can do is hope and pray that the rain will go away and attempt to get some sleep.

Day 12 - Mass with The Holy Father

After not a bad night's sleep considering we are in a field with hundreds of thousands of people, we are now waiting for the Holy Father to arrive for Mass. "Firmes en La Fe" is playing again - gotta love that hymn now! Everyone is finally awake and there is a buzz in the air.

The Holy Father arrives and starts Mass - I love listening to him - there is no mistaking his voice and he always talks directly to us, as opposed to at us, which is just lovely!

I have just thought how to describe it here - like a real community of people. Although we do not all know each other and there are language barriers, that does not matter at all, because we are all celebrating something that is close to everyone's heart here, and that is Jesus Christ and the sacrifice He made for us. Silence again. The Pope is now singing the Preface. I love this, because if Mass is in a foreign language, everyone knows this bit because the tune is absolutely universal. After communion, everyone is quiet. Really amazing - almost two million people being quiet. Awesome! We'll shortly be finding out where the next WYD is going to be held. Are the rumours correct? Is it going to be Rio? Yes, Rio in 2013! Wow, two years to get all that money together! We will do it - it always comes together! Finally the Pope leaves to another singing of "Firmes en La Fe"!

Day 13 - Time to go home

All done! Until two years time. Rio will be amazing! Might even be better organised than Spain did it! It has been such an inspiration time here in Spain, with some lows, many highs and oh so many laughs! It has been great and I think I speak for lots of people when I say that my faith has been deepened and I am even prouder to say that I am a practising Catholic that I was before! Now to return to our parishes across the world and explain and inspire people about WYD and encourage them to come to the next one! It has been amazing! Thank you to the many people who made this pilgrimage possible through their support and Thank you Lord!

Special thanks to Ruth Waterson, who did much of the blogging and coordinated the group blogging. To see the blog in full including photos, videos and addresses by the Holy father go to www.catholicseastanglia.org/youth and click on the WYD links.

Fr Michael the legend

The group that went to Madrid has paid tribute to one member of the clergy who is a stalwart, veteran and now a legend.

Fr Michael Johnstone, parish priest of Our Lady of Pity at Swaffham in Norfolk, has been to more World Youth Days than anyone else in the Diocese of East Anglia.

Starting in 1991 with Czestahowa, he then came to Rome in 2000, Toronto in 2003, Cologne in 2005 and Sydney in 2008, where he suffered from ill health and was admitted to hospital.

He was not planning to come to

Madrid, but at the last minute he flew in on the morning of the vigil, slept in the field, concelebrated Mass with the Pope on Sunday morning, and flew back the following day.

"Fr. Michael you're an inspiration - you might be in your late 70s but you are more youthful than many of us!," is the considered opinion of all.

CONTACT US at The Diocesan Youth Office, The White House, 21 Uppgate, Poringland, Norwich, Norfolk NR14 7SH Tel: (01508) 494833 Mobile: (0781) 2004934 Email: dys@east-angliadiocese.org.uk Leave a message if no answer.



There were different times to eat, to meditate on WYD and to go en masse to the big events like the vigil, below



What would you look like as a priest, above, Pope Benedict, left, the number of young people, below and Frs Luke and Michael, below right



BUILDING BRIDGES in the Holy Land

ABOUT SOAP OPERA

‘Opera’ is the Latin for “work” and the opportunity for people to work in the West Bank, Palestine, continues to be limited by the occupation. However, one village has – with the help of our Diocese – taken steps to overcome such difficulties and to set up a major “self-help” project.

About village is located about 30 kilometres to the north-west of Jerusalem and on the hills overlooking the Palestinian coast. The village is sited on the ancient road that used to connect Jerusalem with Ra’s al-In (Antipatris) and the Mediterranean. According to the local oral traditions, the Holy Family used to pass through the village when travelling from Nazareth to Jerusalem, and Jesus with his disciples used this route and preached to the locals.

Thus the villagers embraced Christianity from the earliest days; this is testified to by the many ancient churches and monasteries scattered in the region, chief among them being St Mary’s Byzantine church and the monastery of St Simon

During the past few years, we have marketed limited amounts of About Olive Oil Soap in America, the United Kingdom, Italy, Germany and France.

The revenue created has helped several families and has assisted some of our young people in their transportation and tuition fees for university. We look forward to creating permanent markets for our product.

The village nowadays is populated by nearly 2,000 people some of whom work in agriculture or other activities. The village is famed for its mountainous land cultivated predominantly with olive trees.

The oil from the olives constitutes as vital livelihood for most of the families, and about 150 tons of pure olive oil is produced annually. The villagers consume 50 tons leaving the remaining oil to be marketed.



Olives on the trees in About

The residents of About face major challenges in marketing the olive oil due to the Israeli occupation policies and the segregation wall, checkpoints, closures and the prohibition of marketing the oil within Israel.

All these factors have caused serious economic and financial hardship to the villagers.

In the light of these circumstances and in an attempt to alleviate the financial crisis faced by the villagers; we, the Catholic Community of About, with the help of our friends in the Diocese of East Anglia in the United Kingdom, have taken the initiative of establishing a small factory for making soap from olive oil purchased from the villagers.

This operation sustains the livelihood and culture of the villages as well as providing employment for some of the villagers.



Stacks of soap in the factory

We have now set up a simple website through which our soap can be ordered. It is supplied in boxes of 150 pieces, individually boxed, and is priced at £2 per piece.

If your parish or you would be willing to order some soap to sell it would make a real difference to our lives. Please use the order form on our website: www.aboudsoap.com and we will be happy to deal with your request.

We always pray for our friends and supporters in the United Kingdom and we are so grateful for all your support to us over the past years.



About Soap



About Children at School

CAN YOU HELP?

Our two ‘Building Bridges’ projects this year are supporting Fr Franco’s work for the children of Kompong Chhnang, and providing a catechism room at Al-Wahadneh in Jordan.

Would you like to support these projects? Cheques should be made payable to the ‘RC Diocese of East Anglia’.

First Name.....

Surname.....

Title (Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms, etc)

Address.....

.....

.....

Postcode.....

Amount enclosed.....

Anything you give will be divided equally between Cambodia and the Holy Land, unless you indicate below by ticking one or other that all your money should go to that project:

CAMBODIA (Kompong Chhnang)

HOLY LAND (Al-Wahadneh)

GIFT AID DECLARATION (if appropriate)

I wish the RC Diocese of East Anglia to reclaim tax on this donation.

I have paid an amount of UK tax or capital gains tax equal to any tax claimed.

Signed.....

Date.....

Please send to:
 ‘Building Bridges’, 21 Upgate, Poringland,
 Norwich, NR14 7SH
 Registered charity no. 278742

OUR DIOCESAN FAMILY

Swaffham centenary celebration

The son of a town's post master whose house was used for Mass was one of the guests at the centenary celebrations at Our Lady of Pity in Swaffham, Norfolk.

Frank Devaney and his wife Brenda were among the congregation at a special Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated at the church by Mgr Tony Rogers in early October.

Parish priest Fr Michael Johnstone said: "The parish has grown from a small group of three who came to Mass on Sunday to a thriving community."

Also at the Mass were Fr John Barnes from nearby Dereham, Fr Michael Vulliamy from King's Lynn, Fr Wojtek a visiting priest from Poland and Fr Jon Ravendale recently ordained to the Ordinariate.

Mgr Rogers said the theme of the Mass at Our Lady of Pity was of the mother standing at the foot of the cross next to the beloved disciple when Jesus entrusted them into each other's care. It is around the care of the local community that the parish has built up.

"It is hard for us 100 years on to grasp the scale of things in Swaffham when the parish started - gentry in their large homes but less than 10 Catholic parishioners. Their descendants, some at this celebration, kept the faith alive. The first Masses were celebrated in the home of the local post master but it is a feature of our church that it will grow.

"Swaffham grew and a church was built dedicated to Our Lady of Pity, one of only three in England, and its particular focus was on Mary at the foot of the Cross.

"This creates the image of Our Lady cradling the body of her son as shown in the Pieta by Michelangelo - a wonderful image of Christian care. These bonds of love that hold us all together never break - a love that never dies."

Mgr Rogers paid tribute to parish priests that had contributed to the development of the church including Fr Gerry Langley who did much building and Fr Brian Nightingale who completed the presbytery which the late Fr Trevor Richardson developed even further to provide spacious meeting rooms.

Mgr Rogers also paid tribute to the work of the Sisters of Divine Charity who had worked in the parish from the early days and had set up a thriving school as well as taking a full part in the local community.

The Mass was also a thanksgiving for the people of the parish who had established a foothold in Swaffham and had seen this grow to become an important part of town life.



Fr Michael Johnstone addresses the congregation, above, and those who attended the Mass of Thanksgiving, below

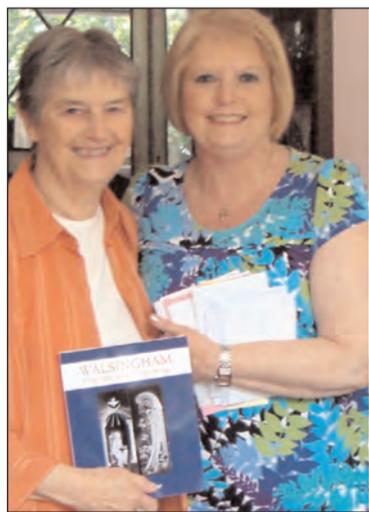


Brenda and Frank Devaney with Fr Jon Ravendale, above, and the social celebrations, below



Norwich Catenian Association President Bernard Noakes awards member Tony Baker a special scroll to commemorate his 40 years membership and congratulated his many fundraising activities.

Kate Hoare, Walsingham coordinator national sub committee Union of Catholic Mothers, with Una McWeeny who has just finished her five years in this office. The Walsingham team, most of who live in and Suffolk, had a presentation and lunch in grateful appreciation for all the hard work Una had put in over the past five years.



Port chaplain deals with trauma of piracy

Port chaplain at Felixstowe Sr Marian Davey, pictured right, has revealed many seafarers now face attack by pirates as well as the hazards of the sea.

"Sadly we can no longer think of piracy as just part of maritime mythology or seafarers tales. It's a reality for many seafarers today," she said.

"Over the past two years or so I have had many conversations with seafarers who have had to experience the anxiety and fear of sailing through piracy waters as the ship makes its way to deliver its cargo to European ports.

"A few months ago I spent some time with a crew in Felixstowe whose ship had been threatened by pirates. One pirate attempted to climb onboard, but fell off, as the captain made a series of



movements with the ship, causing him to lose his grip.

"Meanwhile there was a speedboat full of pirates with a lot of weapons ready to fire at the ship. In this case, it ended well, as the ship was able to speed away from the scene and out of reach of their guns.

"When the ship arrived in Felixstowe three weeks later quite a few of the

Filipino crew were still recovering from the experience. But they said they had no choice but to get on with the next stage of the voyage in order to earn a living wage to support their families back home."

Earlier in the year, regional coordinators of the Apostleship of the Sea met in Rome for a conference organized by the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People.

They were told that piracy had reached its historical peak in 2010 with 445 attacks, 53 vessels seized, and 1,181 seafarers captured.

Sr Marian works with the Apostleship of the Sea at the Suffolk port where she is a chaplain.



Members of the Diocesan Inter Religious sub committee Michael Prentice, Loris Squirrel, Mags Bulmer, Sean Finlay and Brian Keegan

Call to support diversity

Meeting God in Friend and Stranger
A brief explanation by Sean Finlay.

Meeting God in Friend and Stranger is the title of a booklet issued by the Bishops Conference of England and Wales in March 2010 to encourage the Catholic community to look upon interfaith dialogue as an essential part of their witness.

Sean Finlay from St Charles Borromeo parish in Wisbech reviews the document.

No longer are we a white, Anglo Saxon, Christian country but one who like South Africa could be described as a Rainbow Nation. The government has launched an austerity programme which could increase tensions within and between communities so we need to be bridge builders.

Recently we have seen attacks launched on the already diminishing Christian populations of Iraq and Egypt, while in the Holy Land Christians are a seriously "endangered species". The bishops are keen we are not driven into a bunker mentality but reach out to non-Christian neighbours.

They wish to encourage what they call Interreligious dialogue but perhaps they should consider the broader title better known as Inter-faith dialogue.

We are reminded in the document that we all form one humanity under one God and that we are collectively responsible for the stewardship of the earth.

It alludes to the religions of the Book - Judaism, Christianity and Islam - with a shared heritage of the Holy Land. These three faiths have a lot in common which needs to be explored not only to dispel prejudices and fears but to show how much we have in common.

Yet this "Holy Land" is a very unhappy place with considerable community tensions and sadly, outright hatred.

The worldwide Catholic Church is a multi-racial community. I am aware of the growing numbers of people from the Asian subcontinent, the Philippines, the Caribbean Eastern Europe and Africa who are welcome members of our congregations. These people have brought a richness to our liturgical celebrations which is uplifting and enlightening.

In the words of the document this heightens our awareness of what it means to be "catholic" - embracing all peoples.

Catholics, of all people, should respect diversity, not only among themselves and Christians in general, but within the general population of the country. This should be something which we value and applaud.

The document helps to encourage us to join with other Christians in promoting good community relations.

In a diocese such as ours where active Christians are relatively thin on the ground this should encourage us to play our part in ensuring that our local Churches Together actively embrace and support interfaith initiatives.

The Catholic Church is no longer considered a "bit player" but a leading light in the ecumenical movement. The bishops are keen that this readable booklet finds its way into an increasing number of homes and its message assimilated.

Archbishop Vincent Nichols in his introduction said: "I am confident.. that this document is an important contribution to the task of dialogue within our society, a task and a duty which falls to us all."

Copies of this booklet priced at £5.95 can be obtained from CTS online.



St Helen's church at Hoveton opened its doors to visitors with a flower festival last month marking harvest with a blaze of colour and produce organised by Liz Smith.