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Bishop Alan outside St Paul's Basilica in Rome with the three newly-ordained deacons, from the left, Mike Brookes, Alan Hodgson and Paul Spellman.



Trio in historic Rome Ordination

Three Diocese of East Anglia seminarians were ordained as deacons in Rome on June 13 in an historic Mass at St Paul's-outside-the-Walls Basilica led by Bishop Alan Hopes. Keith Morris reports.

■ Alan Hodgson, Paul Spellman and Mike Brookes were among 11 students from the Pontifical Beda English College in Rome to be ordained as deacons and it is believed to be the first time three seminarians from East Anglia have become deacons on the same day in Rome.

Bishop Alan was accorded the significant honour of celebrating the Mass, ordaining the deacons and preaching in the Basilica. It is believed to be the first time an East Anglian bishop has done so at a major Basilica, all four of which are in Rome.

The ordinations were followed by a celebration buffet for 300 staff, students, and family and friends of those ordained back at the Beda College. The ordination marks the end of the academic year and students will now return to their dioc-



ses for pastoral placements.

Referring in his homily to the portraits of popes, and the pallium each one is wearing, lining the walls of St Paul's, Bishop Alan said: "Like the priest, the bishop, the Pope, you too are called to be associated with the work of the Good Shepherd.

"From today you will have a part to play in the care of the Good Shepherd's

flock. You will even begin to take on yourself, with Christ, the burden of his people and their needs, in your prayers, your sacrifices and pastoral commitment. This is the sweet yoke of Christ to which he invites all those who would follow him and minister with him to carry.

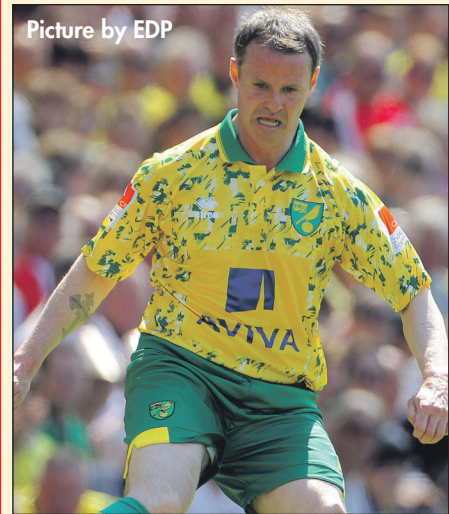
"In order to begin to carry the Lord's flock you will need broad shoulders, the broad shoulders of Christ himself. This has been the point of your seminary training thus far. You have come to the Beda as men already mature in years and the valuable experience of a profession. The job of the seminary is to make of you men who are mature in Christ – men who are conformed to him in such a way as to be shepherds with him," said Bishop Alan.

"Many will look at you in disbelief and decide that you are throwing your lives away, throwing away the opportunities and freedoms and privileges that you have so far enjoyed.

"The Church looks at what you are doing and sees that you are generously giving your life, for love of God and of his church."

■ For more on this story see page three.

Picture by EDP



Fr Philip plays Cathedral and Carrow Road in same day

Former Norwich City star Philip Mulryne preached from the heart at St John's Cathedral in Norwich on May 20, just hours before he made a return to the pitch at Carrow Road to play for the Canaries' Legends team against Inter (Milan) Forever in a charity game. Keith Morris reports.

■ The former Canaries midfielder is now Father Philip, after his ordination as a Catholic priest in Dublin last July. Returning to Norwich for the charity game (pictured above) to raise money for the Community Sports Foundation, Fr Philip was invited to be a celebrant at the 9am Mass at the Catholic cathedral in the city, alongside football-mad Fr Seelan.

The story of Fr Philip's journey from football star to Catholic priest was warmly welcomed both at the Cathedral and at Carrow Road.

Fr Philip said: "The response I got at Carrow Road was quite overwhelming. Fans, players and staff at the club were hugely supportive of the path I have taken. It was a wonderful opportunity to share with them the journey that led me to embrace the religious life.

"It felt like I had never left, and the atmosphere in the dressing room before the game was great. Often charity games can resemble a training ground stroll in the park, but the supporters ensured by their singing that this match was competitive and the players responded to them."

Close Norwich friend, Clare Richards, was at the cathedral to hear Fr Philip. She said: "Phil spoke rather movingly about his life. He said that while at

■ Continued on page two.

news in brief



Double 80th birthday party

Parishioners from St Benedict's Catholic community in Sawtry, Cambs enjoyed a double birthday celebration recently for John Bourne and Bridie Sewters (pictured above) who were both 80 years old.

The celebrations were held in Sawtry WI Hall where food and drink were in plentiful supply and singing was led by Margaret Mason with a good time being had by all, reports Roy Dunn.

Invitation to drinks

The Friends of St John's Cathedral will be holding a Drinks Party with canapés in the garden of The White House at Poringland following Mass at 11am (around 12 noon) on Sunday July 8, by kind permission of Bishop Alan.

The event is open to both Friends (who will receive an invitation), those who might like to consider becoming a Friend and those who would simply like to come and enjoy the occasion. The cost is £15.

Chairman of the Friends, Jeremy Evans, said: "Following our assistance with the Sanctuary, we are now raising funds to assist with the reordering of The Chapel of The Most Precious Blood."

For those who would like to come or simply make a donation, please contact Jeremy Evans at The Mill House, Leavenheath, Suffolk, CO6 4PT. Tel 01787 210146 or email: jeremy.evans@hampden.co.uk. Cheques should be made payable to Friends of the RC Cathedral of East Anglia.

Catholic East Anglia

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Articles and photographs for the next edition (September) are very welcome and should be sent to the editor, ideally via email, by the deadline, Monday August 6.

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Fr Philip preaches and plays in same day

Continued from page one.

Manchester United and Norwich City he was living the football dream lifestyle and had not gone to Mass for a number of years. He loved his football but felt something was not quite right.

"He said that his sister had been praying for him and that he came to the realisation that the football lifestyle was shallow and he fell in love with Jesus, which changed his life dramatically.

"The cathedral congregation clapped him at the end, which I have never heard before, and there was a long queue of people afterwards asking to be blessed by Phil. He then stayed around to chat to people and have a coffee – it was a very special occasion," said Clare.

"Phil said to me that he was a bit worried about the match in the afternoon as, although he does a lot of running and coaches young footballers at the Dominican school he teaches at in County Kildare in Ireland, he has not played football for a long time.

"In the event, he was on for the whole of the first half and then came back on again later in the second – I thought he was the best player on the pitch," said Clare.

"I was very lucky as Delia Smith invited me to have lunch with her and her husband Michael at Carrow Road before the match and then to watch it with her. Delia really gets involved in the football so there were shouts and yells and she was telling the referee what to do. I joined in as well of course."



Fr Philip Mulryne after preaching at St John's Cathedral with friend Clare Richards (left), her daughter Blanca and grandchildren Cian and Rory, before going on to play for Norwich City Legends at Carrow Road later in the day.

One big family of God celebrates Pentecost

St Edmunds church in Bury St Edmunds marked Pentecost with an international weekend celebration. Fr Alvan Ibeh reports.

This year Pentecost was celebrated in grand style involving a whole weekend of international events with the theme "We are one big family of God".

The celebrations began on Friday May 18 with an evening of prayer and praise in preparation for Pentecost.

Saturday 19 saw an international evening with over 50 people including representatives from all the different communities in our Parish. Each community talked about some aspects of their culture which was entertaining and enlightening. They also taught the audience how to prepare a particular meal local to them.

The communities that made the presentation were the English, Germans, Poles, Indians and Filipinos. We were also delighted to have Fr Totet, who is the Parish Priest of our twin Parish in Cambodia, who talked about life in Cambodia. This activity is very important because it is only when we understand each other in our diversities that we will be able to be united as one big family.

Pentecost Sunday was the grand finale of the whole celebration, with an international Mass to mark the feast. The Mass began with a procession from the car park with all the different nationalities holding up their flags. The Mass was beautifully celebrated with Fr Alvan Ibeh as the Chief Celebrant, flanked by Fr Totet and Dcn Alan, with Canon Mark Hackeson also present at the altar. Also



Fr Alvan Ibeh with parishioners at the Pentecost celebration at St Edmunds.

present at this lovely celebration was the new Mayor of St Edmundsbury, Cllr Margaret Marks, with her consul and Mohammed, who is the spokesman of the Muslim community in Bury St Edmunds.

The whole church was beautifully adorned with the lovely outfits people wore to Mass. The parish international choir sang at the Mass. This was their first outing as a new group made up of the main choir and members of the different communities in the parish. The music for the parts of the Mass was done in different languages ranging from Igbo (Nigeria), Polish, Tagalog (Philippines), French, Malayalam (Indian).

The bidding prayers were said in English, Polish, German, American, Lithuania, Spanish, Italian, Malayalam,

French, etc.

The homily was given by Fr Totet who stressed the importance of the Holy Spirit in our lives and mission as Christians. Our mission is to spread the good news of the gospel and to do this, we need courage and boldness which the Holy Spirit gives as it happened on the day of Pentecost. The Mass was indeed a very joyful and colour one thanks to the united efforts of the Parishioners.

After the Mass, celebrations continued in the Crypt as we all went down to have a taste dishes from the different communities in our parish. There were foods from India, Malaysia, the Philippines, Ghana and England and variety of lovely cakes and deserts from Poland and Lithuania.



Vocation stories behind three Rome ordinations

Alan Hodgson

■ Born in Cape Town, South Africa, Alan Hodgson became an aircraft fitter when he was inspired by a group of Redemptorist priests who held a parish mission and whom he joined briefly. He moved to the UK and worked his way up to becoming a successful Operations Manager for Gatwick Airport but felt there was still a gap in his life.

"One evening, I was involved in a traumatic event on the way home from work which really led me to take stock of my life and to begin to search to fill the gap," said Alan. "I found solace in front of the Blessed Sacrament and it was there that I realised that the call to priesthood, which I had buried for so long, was still there and yelling to get out."

He met Bishop Alan and was allowed to work in the parish of Bury St Edmunds under the care of Canon Mark Hackeson before enrolling at the Beda College.

"When I look back at my life, at the young boy in South Africa who approached the Redemptorists in order to fulfil his dream and God's call to be a priest, I cannot believe that I have finally made it to ordination and that God has been so generous to me," said Alan.



Mike Brookes

■ Mike Brookes was raised in an Anglican family with a strong sense of offering service to others, and after university followed a career in psychiatric nursing.

He was received into the Catholic Church in 1991 and later spent four years with a religious order before discerning that his future did not lie there.

"After leaving I felt a strong sense that God was guiding me towards the discernment of diocesan priesthood, a vocation which I had not previously considered," said Mike.

"My love for East Anglia centres on both its natural beauty and my strong devotion to Our Lady of Walsingham, and so I began my application to the diocese in early 2014, and for three years now my time has been split between St Marks Ipswich and the Beda College.

"Having, with God's help, reached this milestone of ordination, I wish to express my gratitude to Bishop Alan, to the people and clergy of East Anglia, and to the family and friends who have nurtured my vocation, and I look forward to serving the people of the diocese in time still to come."

Paul Spellman

■ Paul Spellman is linked with Our Lady and St Joseph in Sheringham.

"My time at the Pontifical Beda College has been one of immense personal growth," he said. "One that has required me to listen more closely, like Elijah was asked to do, to the whisper of God's voice and to bend my ear to hear what it is God is asking of me."

"Living in community has helped me to see the richness and value that it offers both to the individual as well as the group as a whole. I believe strongly that this is a true reflection of Christ in our world and why Jesus wants us all to be people who share our lives with those around us."

"My experience on pastoral placement in Palestine last summer further challenged that sense of community, especially in light of the daily experience the Palestinian people I was with have."

"Jesus asks us all to give up things for the benefit of others, and as I approach being ordained a Deacon, I continue to reflect on how I can best be of service to those who need me to be just that...a servant of and for Christ."



A day like no other

Mike Brookes reports on the Rome ordinations.

■ Studying in Rome at the heart of the Church is a great privilege and an unparalleled opportunity for learning and for imbibing the many cultures of the worldwide body of believers.

Being ordained in Rome at one of the four major basilicas in the company of family and friends, and by our own bishop, seems like an embarrassment of riches.

The day itself was unlike any other, when, by the laying-on of the Bishop's hands and through the sacramental encounter with Christ, we receive admission to the order of deacons and so become servants of the people. It is the pinnacle of the first three years of our formation and what a truly marvellous and blessed day it was.

The presence of Bishop Alan as main celebrant was enhanced by the presence of diocesan chancellor Monsignor Eugene Harkness, vicar general Fr David Bagstaff, vocations director Fr Pat Cleary and many other lay people and clergy from East Anglia, along with the formation staff, our families and friends.

The Bishop's laying-on of hands is followed by the prayer of consecration, investiture in the deacon's clothing of stole and dalmatic and the presentation of the Book of the Gospels as a sign of the diaconal duties of preaching and alignment to Christian truth.

The Eucharist is then celebrated, with the newly ordained fulfilling the liturgical roles appropriate to deacons.

But for me the most profound moment was when all 11 of us prostrated ourselves before the altar in anticipation of the ordination rite - it was truly humbling and beautiful, and a reminder of the great power and the great love of God.

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NEW EVANGELISATION



Sharing our hope in a crisis

East Anglia is the first Catholic diocese to join with UK Disaster Relief to provide training for Catholics who would like to learn how to share the hope of the Gospel with people who are facing crisis situations.

■ A one-day seminar is set to be held in Norwich in November to help train people to bring comfort to those who are experiencing tragedy – whether that is bereavement, redundancy, sudden illness or another crisis.

Do you know what to say to colleagues or friends at difficult times or do you sometimes wish you could find the right words to share our hope in Jesus Christ with others?

Rebecca Bretherton, New Evangelisation Commission Co-ordinator, said: "We are really pleased to be working with UK Disaster Relief, which is a partnership between Samaritans Purse and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. This



is an opportunity to learn from the experiences of another Christian organisation. East Anglia will be the first Catholic diocese in the country to host this training, so this is a pioneering event. Other dioceses are planning similar training next year."

The Sharing Hope in Crisis

seminar is suitable for anyone who wants to learn the practical skills needed to share God's love and comfort with people in crisis.

It will be particularly valuable for SVP members, parish bereavement groups, home visitors, and people working in other charity groups.

The main trainer for the event will be Ian Macleod, Head of UK Disaster Relief.

Eldred Willey, a parishioner of St John's Cathedral in Norwich, has worked as a volunteer chaplain in crisis situations with the Billy Graham Rapid Response Team.

He said: "The course is based

on the experience of chaplains from the Rapid Response Team which works with local authorities and the emergency services when there is a disaster such as a terrorist attack or a major flood. This seminar applies these experiences to ordinary, everyday life.

"The seminar will cover topics such as: trauma and grief; listening and asking questions; the difference between witnessing, evangelising and proselytising; from 'why' to 'who'; what (not) to say

"During the day there will short films and presentations, as well as interactive sessions where you can have discussions in groups and practice skills. There will also be opportunities to ask questions and to pray," said Eldred.

■ The seminar takes place on Saturday November 3, at St George's, Sprowston Road, Norwich NR3 4HZ and you should register for it at: <https://billy-graham.org.uk/rapid-response-team/training>

The day starts at 9am and will finish at 4.30pm. Drinks will be provided, but please bring a packed lunch.

There is ample parking and the event is free, but you are welcome to make a donation.



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The Celebrate East Anglia weekend in Bury St Edmunds.



Family weekend of celebrations

People from across East Anglia gathered in Bury St Edmunds on June 2 and 3 for the annual Catholic Charismatic family weekend, Celebrate East Anglia.

■ Staged at St Benedict's Catholic School, around 250 people enjoyed a lively programme of high-profile speakers, praise and worship, workshops and Mass, alongside a full youth programme for all different ages.

"See I am doing a new thing", Isaiah 43.19, was the theme for the weekend.

New conference co-ordinator, Matt Spiller, who is lay chaplain at St Benedict's, explained what the event, which has run for the past six years, is all about.

"It is an opportunity to share Christ being fully alive in the church and is run locally by the Catholic charismatic renewal but open to speakers and delegates from other denominations.

"There is a family atmosphere, great talks and prayer times where people can meet God again and deepen their faith.

"My personal hope is for a renewed level of spirituality across the diocese and that people will experience a renewed faith and prayer life – not that everyone will pray in the same way but that they will find a refreshment in their own experience and expression of faith," said Matt.

The first main speaker was Michelle Moran, a founder member of Sion Catholic Community for Evangelism and a widely travelled preacher, teacher, evangelist and author.

President of the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services, and based in the Vatican for the past ten years, Michelle was recently personally appointed by Pope Francis to work on establishing new structures for the service of Renewal and Mission in the Church.

Michelle addressed the paradox that our God who never changes is also always doing new things.

"The core essence of God is unchanging – God is love and nothing can make him less than this," she said. "But at the same time it is this which makes him change and be dynamic because love grows and changes and we believe in the God who surprises us with his love. The never changing God is a God who is on the move and who makes all things new."

Workshops, which delegates could enjoy, included Anglican vicar Steve Burston, a former Met Police detective, Bury St Edmunds Vineyard church leaders Louise and Mark Williams, Celebrate founders Charles and Sue Whitehead and Christian mime artist Steve Murray.

A full programme of youth activities for children in all different age groups was run by the Ignite Youth Team and others on both days.

Mass on the Saturday was celebrated by Ignite Youth Team chaplain Fr Luke Goymour, concelebrated by Fr Alvan Ibeh. Fr Luke preached about prayer and explained how praying in tongues and infused contemplation were the purest forms of prayer as we do not let our own thoughts and words get in the way of communing with God.

Next year's East Anglia conference is on June 1 and 2 and you can book at: www.celebrateconference.org/east-anglia

news in brief



Yarmouth church altar is re-dedicated after recent arson attack

■ The Altar at St Mary's Church in Great Yarmouth has been re-dedicated by Bishop Alan Hopes after it was desecrated during an arson attack in March, and the church was also blessed.

During the re-dedication Mass on May 31, Bishop Alan asked for prayers for the young man who desecrated the altar. The Bishop urged everyone to attend for a few minutes of private prayer in the next week or so to experience the smell of the holy oil and the incense used in the Mass.

Fr Anthony Nwankwo thanked Bishop Alan for attending and conducting a beautiful Mass. He also thanked everyone for their support both in the immediate aftermath and ongoing since the incident. Fr Alex Ibe from St Peter's, Gorleston, also concelebrated at the Mass.

Pictured above is Bishop Alan Hopes during the re-dedication Mass at the Altar at St Mary's church in Great Yarmouth. Picture by Brian Lafferty.

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servers at St John's Cathedral Mass in Norwich



Over 100 altar servers from across the Diocese of East Anglia gathered with their families for a special Mass celebrated by Bishop Alan Hopes on Saturday May 26 at St John's Cathedral in Norwich.

■ During the Mass, six new altar servers were presented with bronze medals and enrolled in the Guild of St Stephen by Bishop Alan.

St Stephen, the first martyr of the Christian church, is the patron saint of altar servers.

In his homily, Bishop Alan said: "Serving at the altar is not just a hobby that we do each week.

"It is part of who we are – followers of Jesus Christ. Serving at the altar is a privilege – something we do out of our love for him.

"Let others see what a difference our faith makes to

our lives.

"As altar servers, let us be people of faith and strong followers of Jesus; let us be people who have responded to God's call willingly and generously; let us be people who are great witnesses to Jesus Christ."

After Mass the altar servers and their families enjoyed a barbecue in the grounds of the Cathedral Narthex.

To see a full picture gallery visit: www.rcdea.org.uk



ration fills cathedral

Catholic parishioners from Peterborough filled the city's Anglican cathedral for a One Mass and an international celebration on Saturday June 2. Keith Morris reports.

■ Around 800 people gathered for the biennial Mass staged by the Parish of St Peter and All Souls, along with Our Lady of Lourdes in Dogsthorpe where Sunday Masses were cancelled.

Parish priest, Fr Adam Sowa, said: "There is a great sense of community at the heart of Peterborough. Throughout its history it has served an enormously diverse community differing in language, culture, nationality and ethnicity.

"Irish, English, Italian, Portuguese, Daman, Polish, Lithuanian, Filipino are just some of the nationalities that come together each week to pray and worship. Bringing such diversity together may on the outside seem a bit like mission impossible, but it has become a sweet burden and a blessing.

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

Bishop Alan gave a homily on the Feast of Corpus Christi and said: "In our festive procession at the end of

Mass we bring Christ, present under the sign of Bread, onto the streets around the cathedral. We entrust the streets, homes and families of our city to him and pray that they too might be filled with his presence and blessing."

Many of the different national groups took an active part in the evening, carrying flags in the opening procession, saying prayers in their own languages and helping to provide an international feast in the cloisters afterwards.

Over 30 First Communion children had their picture taken with Bishop Alan, helped him cut a celebration cake and received certificates.

The cathedral was used by kind permission of the Bishop of Peterborough, the Rt Rev Donald Allister and the Cathedral Dean, the Very Rev Chris Dalliston, who introduced the Mass and stayed for the whole evening.

Explaining the history of the event, honorary archivist at All Souls, Peter Waszak, said: "From our records it seems that in February 1983 Catholics attended Concelebrated Mass to mark the end of 'Mission '83'. It was the first time the whole parish was able to get together at one service.

"However there was no claim that this was the first Catholic Community Mass in the Cathedral since the Reformation, and there may possibly have been earlier occasions? In May 1987 there was an All Souls Deanery Mass. In April 2005 there was the Pope John Paul II Requiem Mass. Half-a-dozen One Masses have been held since then and the next one is planned for 2020."



The One Mass in Peterborough Cathedral. To see a full picture gallery visit: www.rcdea.org.uk

DIOCESAN SCHOOLS IN FOCUS

Innovative production is a treasure



■ Students at Sacred Heart School in Swaffham have staged an innovative version of *Treasure Island* – in the school's gymnasium.

Directed by teacher Charlie Williams, and with student Daisy O'Brien playing lead character Capt Jim Hawkins, the production was highly acclaimed as of "West End standard" and in-

genious in its use of gym bars and ropes and variable staging to really set the scene. Charlie said: "It was an immense privilege for me to direct this production and to enable the students to be part of what I hope will become a seminal memory from their school days as they progress through life."

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Celebrating 50 at school

St Laurence's Catholic Primary School in Cambridge has just celebrated its 50th anniversary. History Curriculum Lead and past pupil Rachel Chalklin reports.

■ Ten years after the consecration of St Laurence's Church, the parish primary school finally opened on April 29, 1968 with 86 children and five members of staff under headteacher Ron Ellison (1968-1986), with the parish funding almost the entire £110,000 cost.

The school began a week of Golden Jubilee celebrations on April 30 with children using the opportunity to develop their historical research skills, with each of the key stages focusing on an element of the school's history.

Over the past 50 years our faith has bound us together; we teach the children about our Christian values, the children show wonderful examples of this in their RE learning, but far more importantly they live their faith implicitly in all they do at school and other areas of their lives.

As part of our focus on the school's opening in 1968, the children reflected on what it might have been like 50 years ago.

On the Wednesday, the whole school dressed in 1960s clothing with the Beatles, Jimi Hendrix, Thunderbirds and hippies in attendance.

Friday was a very special day at the school with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Alan, Fr Pat, Fr Bob, Dcn Geoff and Fr Padraig. We were joined by parents past and present, members of the parish and past members of



The tree-planting ceremony.

staff from school including Mr Ellison and Miss Adams, the first deputy head teacher.

After Mass, Bishop Alan helped plant a commemorative tree with current headteacher Mrs Clark and the youngest and oldest current pupils at school. Included in the tree planting was a time capsule that the children in Reception and Years 1 and 2 had filled with newsletters, examples of their writing, local and national newspapers, till receipts and maths resources.

Bishop Alan and our other guests then visited the school history exhibition that the children had created.

In the afternoon, the whole school enjoyed a party outside with food and drink supplied by parents, 1960s music and a birthday cake big enough for everyone to share. The cake was cut by Mrs Clark and Hyung Mo from Owls class who had played the piano so eloquently at Mass in the morning.

Some of the children in Years 1 and 2 thought about what they would like to be in 50 years' time - scientists, zoo keepers, dancers, artists, rock stars, spacemen and teachers were some of the responses. If the next 50 years at St Laurence Primary are as good as the first what a wonderful place it will continue to be.

news in brief

Bishop's visit and new head-teacher

It has been a busy time at St Alban's Catholic High School, Ipswich, including a visit from Bishop Alan Hopes and a new head-teacher commissioned. Lay Chaplain, Katherine Edwards, reports.

■ On March 16 the school community welcomed Bishop Alan for a pastoral visit. It was a joyful day where the bishop personally met both students and staff. He met the Student Chaplaincy Group where he encouraged them in their endeavours in school liturgies and also the Sixth Form Council.

He visited RE classrooms in the afternoon but of course, the highlight of the day was a Mass celebrated with students, staff and governors in the Chapel.



During the Mass, Bishop Alan commissioned Matt Baker (pictured above) as Head Teacher praying for the Holy Spirit to guide and lead him in his new role at St Alban's. Mr Baker promised that he would serve the school community so that each person can become the person God created them to be. It was a truly blessed day.

■ Students in years 7 and 8 have been busy collecting sponsorship money to support their walk around the school field on March 23. The money raised will go towards the building of a Health Centre in Zimbabwe. The country has been the focus for CAFOD during Lent. Every pound raised will be matched by government funding.

■ Over Easter, a group of young people from St Alban's Catholic High School in Ipswich travelled to Lourdes with HCPT (Hosanna House and Children's Pilgrimage Trust). The Trust take children who would really benefit from a holiday at no cost to them. Four of our current Year 13 and one ex-student travelled as adult helpers.

We supported the Stowmarket and Ipswich Group 11 (whose uniform is bright pink) and with the help of St Mary's RC Parish, and a non-school uniform day 'Wear Something Pink', we raised a total of £620 for HCPT.

24-hour charity fast

■ Sixth Form students from St John Fisher Catholic High School, Peterborough, recently completed a 24-hour fast to raise money for a local charity called Children of Adam, raising over £600. This charity distributes food to the local homeless in the city. On Sunday May 20, they worked with the charity to distribute food and meet with people who are struggling greatly in the community.

RE teacher, Nissa Khan, who has co-ordinated the students' project, said: "It was incredible to see how determined our students were to get involved." The school's current Head Girl, Vanessa Abankwa, was one of the group, and she said: "I think that this was a wonderful experience due to the fact that we were able to make a difference in people's lives and put smiles on their faces." Well done to all of the students involved.

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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YOUTH MATTERS

Your opportunity to be part of new prayer network

The Ignite Youth Team has launched a new prayer network and is inviting people to join it to pray for the young people of the Diocese and the ministry of Ignite. Team leader Cat Williams explains all.

■ To achieve anything worthwhile we need to commend it to God and sharing the faith with young people is no exception to this. We need to pray for young people and for their families, friends,

schools and parishes - and this is something that you can help with too!

In many parishes around the Diocese we have given out prayer cards in the hope that people of all ages will pray regularly for young people and those who work with them.

Now, the Diocesan Youth Service is launching the Ignite Prayer Network, open to all those who would like to join us in praying for the young people of the Diocese and for the ministry of the

Ignite Team.

There is no age limit - we only ask that you remember us in your prayers, be it once a day or once a month. All members of the prayer network are remembered, along with their intentions, at a monthly Mass offered by our chaplain.

This is a fantastic way of uniting your prayers with others around the Diocese, and beyond, who want to see young people come to know Jesus and deepen their

relationship with Him.

Please go to the website www.rcdea.org.uk/youth/prayer to sign up to the network and be added to our list of intercessors. There you will also find the text of the Ignite Prayer for the Young People of the Diocese and a list of current prayer intentions.

We look forward to praying alongside you and seeing what God does next among the young people here in East Anglia.



Over 400 young people and adults joined in an enthusiastic Children's Pilgrimage and Mass at Walsingham on Tuesday May 29, led by Bishop Alan Hopes. Keith Morris reports.

400 join East Anglia children's pilgrimage

■ Large numbers of young pilgrims came from across the Diocese of East Anglia, including Cambridge, Huntingdon, Sawston, Beccles, Peterborough, Great Yarmouth, Gorleston, Thetford and Norwich.

Everyone gathered in the Friday Market Place outside the Church of the Annunciation in Little Walsingham and then processed along the railway track path to the Catholic National Shrine, stopping for prayers, said by young people. Young pilgrims also received prayer cards, scripture verses and a rosary while on the way.

Bishop Alan welcomed pilgrims to a Mass at the Chapel of Reconciliation.

Ignite Youth Team chaplain Fr Luke Goymour gave the homily. He said: "We are on a journey of life, which has lots of twists and turns. It starts when we are born and finishes when we die and we meet God face to face."

"God gives us special food for this journey - the best food we could possibly imagine - the Eucharist. Every time you come to Mass you witness a miracle. The priest takes bread and wine and something wonderful happens - it becomes Jesus for us. The God who loves you comes to you in the form of bread and wine."

"You are what you eat," said Fr Luke. "It

is true on a natural level and on a spiritual level. When we come to the Eucharist we eat Jesus. Unless we eat his body and drink his blood and feed on his Word, then we cannot be Christ in the world. When we receive Jesus we become the presence of God."

A vivid demonstration of this was made though loaves of bread spelling out the words Bread Of Life, baked overnight by Jo Graham from St John's Cathedral, which was incorporated into the Mass and then shared out with those picnicking in the shrine grounds afterwards.

Reflecting on the day, pilgrimage organiser, Chris Storman who has helped to organise it since the very first one 33 years ago, said: "It has been quite wonderful today."

"The pilgrimage began when small groups from Thetford and Yarmouth met up at Walsingham and then other parishes

said they would like to join in and it has grown from there. The numbers this year are one of the biggest I can remember."

Explaining the purpose behind the pilgrimage, Chris said: "It is good to introduce young people to the idea of pilgrimage and to Walsingham itself."

"It is a new experience for many of them, a new way of praying and there is a children-orientated Mass as well. They can also feel that they are part of a bigger family than just their own parish."

To see a full picture gallery visit: www.rcdea.org.uk



Key 2018 dates

■ 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

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All other enquiries: dys@rcdea.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/igniteyea

Twitter: @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 university, 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: igniteeam@rcdea.org.uk for more information.

Parish praised for work with poor and refugees



Bernard Shaw presenting the award to the parish team.

■ The parish of Sacred Heart North Walsham together with St Helen, Hoveton and St John of the Cross, Aylsham, has achieved the Catholic international aid charity (CAFOD) LiveSimply award for its work with the poor and refugees.

The parish is the 37th in the country and the fifth in the Diocese of East Anglia to receive the LiveSimply award. It was awarded on May 14.

The parish was assessed by CAFOD campaign volunteers Bernard Shaw and Judith Tooth.

Judith said: "I was impressed by the way the LiveSimply team had worked together, drawing on the strengths of each member to encourage engagement and participation across the parish, and how the LiveSimply journey had strengthened the bonds between its three church

communities. Particularly heartening was the parish's generosity in helping refugees and the ongoing commitment by several parishioners to write regularly to their MPs about issues of concern."

During Lent, the parish collected over 30 bags of clothing, which they donated to Calais-based organisations Seeking Sanctuary and the Refugee Community Kitchen.

Claire Hardie, a member of the LiveSimply planning team, said: "We would strongly encourage other parishes to work towards gaining a Live Simply Award as it has helped the parishioners to work together to be more aware of the huge need to care for creation and to be much more supportive of the needs of the poor."

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The Corpus Christi procession at the Cathedral in Norwich. Picture by Michael Hill.

Processions mark Corpus Christi feast

The feast of Corpus Christi was marked by processions across the Diocese of East Anglia including at Oxburgh Hall and in Norwich on Sunday June 3.

■ The glorious setting of historic Oxburgh Hall in blazing sunshine was the venue for the annual Corpus Christi Procession of the Deanery of St Wilfrid (King's Lynn).

About 150 people from parishes across the deanery processed with the Blessed Sacrament with the private chapel, around the moat and through the courtyard and house into the private garden where Benediction was given before the procession returned to the chapel.

The grounds were thronged with summer visitors who were evidently struck by the sight of the procession with some falling to their knees as the Blessed Sacrament passed.

Members of the Catenians had the honour of carrying the Canopy over the Blessed Sacrament and Knights of St Columba, including the Deputy Supreme Grand Knight, acted as torchbearers.

The service was led by dean Fr Peter Rollings and was held by kind permission of the Bedingfeld family who own Oxburgh Hall.

■ At St John's Cathedral in Norwich, Bishop Alan Hopes led the Corpus Christi Mass, with Canon David Paul, Fr Henry Whisenant and Deacon Andrew Eburne in support at the altar, during the Mass and in the procession.

The procession from the Cathedral was led by the cross bearer and incense carriers, the choir and then the four bearers of the canopy over the monstrance held by Bishop Alan. The congregation of some 350 filed out of the Cathedral and followed the Bishop in procession along Earlham Road to the Unthank Road entrance to the Cathedral grounds. Once back in the Cathedral garden, under a bright blue sky, Bishop Alan led Benediction with the congregation gathered around singing with the choir and responding to the prayers.



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BUILDING BRIDGES

Bishop Alan leads Polish Mission meeting

■ Bishop Alan Hopes has described a meeting with Polish bishops in London on June 7 and 8 as “constructive and helpful”.

Bishop Alan, who has responsibility for the good working of the Polish Mission across England Wales, met with the two Polish bishops who have the care for the Polish diaspora in Europe and beyond, together with Monsignor Stephan, the Polish Mission Rector and the General Secretary of the Bishops Conference for England Wales.

“These biannual meetings are always constructive and helpful as we seek to work closely together for the mission of the Church here,” said Bishop Alan. Picture © mazur/catholic-news.org.uk



Warm welcome for Cambodian priest

Parishes twinned with communities in Cambodia have just had the pleasure of welcoming Fr Totet to the Diocese of East Anglia. Stella Fox reports.

■ Fr Totet is the vicar general of the Diocese of Battambang and parish priest of Siem Reap an area in the north west of Cambodia.

During his visit he was able to spend time with many people who have visited Cambodia, some of them many times.

He celebrated Pentecost at Bury St Edmunds then visited Diss, Ipswich and Ely where he joined the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre celebrating their annual Mass in Ely Cathedral's Lady Chapel.

He then visited Gorleston where he was able to see a group of parishioners who visited Cambodia for the first time this year.

Next stop was the children's pilgrimage to Walsingham. He then moved on to North Walsham and Aylsham, a parish which visits every year. Fr Totet also visited Costessey before leaving to visit friends and family.

It was a great joy to welcome him and share many happy occasions. It was an opportunity to discuss further twinnings as well as those already in existence and how this valuable relationship of commitment should continue and develop.



Pictured with Fr Totet in East Anglia are, above, Cambodia supporters from Ely and Gorleston and, left, from North Walsham.

If you would like to know more about twinning please contact Fr Philip Shryane. There are many communities in

Cambodia looking for a possible twinning. Together we can share the love of God in our mutual care and mission.

news in brief

Join charity sisters to celebrate 150th

■ The Daughters of Divine Charity, who have a convent and school in Swaffham and a small care home in Hunstanton, are celebrating the 150th anniversary of the founding of their Congregation this year and there will be a celebration Mass at St John's Cathedral in Norwich on July 5.

There was an international celebration in June in Vienna, Austria, where the order was founded by Mother Francisca Lechner on November 21, 1868.

Bishop Alan Hopes has invited the Sisters, the school, friends and parishioners to an 11.30am Mass at the Cathedral, followed by a barbecue.

Sr Francis Ridler said: “We would like as many people as possible to attend and would like to extend an invitation our across the diocese.”

Since the arrival of the Sisters in England in 1914, the main apostolate has been in education. At present, there is the Sacred Heart Primary and Secondary School in Swaffham, a nursery in Chesterfield and a small care home in Hunstanton. In the parishes where convents are situated, many of the Sisters are Eucharistic ministers, catechists, visitors of the sick, lonely, elderly and housebound, among other needs.

■ The Sisters recently featured in the Channel 5 TV documentary *Bad Habits, Holy Orders*. The series was a finalist in the Sanford St Martin Awards – Radio Times Readers' Award which were presented at Lambeth Palace on June 7. The category was won by the BBC One drama series *Broken* by Jimmy McGovern featuring Sean Bean as a Catholic priest facing up to difficult choices.

A monk down under

■ Fr Henry Whisenant has announced that he is to spend a year as a monk in Tasmania, in Australia, to discern whether it is the right move for him to take.

Fr Henry said: “Bishop Alan has given me his permission and blessing to take a year to discern the monastic life, with a new community in Tasmania. It's certainly a big step.

“If after a year I discover this way of life is not my vocation, the bishop has kindly said I can return to ministry in the diocese. If it should be God's calling me for to stay in Tasmania and join that monastery, then I can honestly say that I will always be indebted to East Anglia for the initial formation I've received as a priest.

“This diocese, with all its good people, and also its rich Catholic history and plethora of saints, as well as the favour of Our Lady of Walsingham, will always be close to my heart (and I promise to bore the Aussies silly with telling of it). I would like to thank all of you in the diocese, laity and clergy, for your friendship and support these last five years of ordination, and to ask that you pray for me in this discernment.”

You can read more about Fr Henry's decision on www.rcdea.org.uk

www.notredamemonastery.org

News picture gallery from parishes around the Diocese



■ Parishioners of Our Lady & St Walstan parish in Costessey visited the second of three local wells associated with St Walstan on Sunday May 13. The first, at Taverham, has been long lost. The second (pictured above) is on the grounds of Costessey Golf Club and this was the second year that, with the kind permission of the Club, a mini-pilgrimage took place.
On Sunday May 27 several members of the parish walked to the third well, at Bawburgh, on a long-established pilgrimage. Those unable to walk the four miles met the walkers at the well for a short service and a picnic.



■ There was a very colourful celebration of the Pentecost Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea in Lowestoft on May 20 when the Ignite Youth team were in attendance. The Communion Class children sang and actioned 'My Lighthouse' beautifully and there was a knitted adaptation of 'The Last Supper' by the ladies of the CWL.



■ A record number of children received their First Holy Communion at Our Lady and St Charles Borromeo in Wisbech on June 3, the Feast of Corpus Christi, when 15 received a blessing from parish priest Fr James Fyfe.



■ A Day of Reflection was held in May by the Ely SVP Conference at St Etheldreda's Parish Church where they were joined by members of the St Ives Conference.
The proceeding started with Mass and, after general introductions with tea and coffee in the parish rooms, parish priest Fr Tony Shryane gave the first of two talks on the Mass and the Holy Eucharist. Two groups were formed for general discussion. After lunch in the garden the second talk and discussions took place and the afternoon concluded with the Holy Hour in the parish church for quiet reflection.



■ Fr Alex Ibe celebrated with 22 children who made their First Holy Communion at St Peter the Apostle, Gorleston on Sunday June 3. Picture by Brian Lafferty.