



Bishop Alan celebrates his 75th birthday
– page 2



Ex-vicar is ordained as a priest
– page 3



Frying pans at the ready for pancake races
– page 5

Record 200 attend from East Anglia



Above, some of the 200-strong group from East Anglia at Wembley for Flame and, right, the Flame choir.



Youth faith is lit up at Flame '19

A record 200 people from across the Diocese of East Anglia joined 8,000 young people at Wembley Arena for Flame 2019, the country's largest gathering of Catholic youth in England and Wales on Saturday March 2. Alex Savage reports.

■ The theme of the event was #Significance and explored ways in which we can lead a life of purpose. The Congress started with a message from Pope Francis encouraging the Youth of the Church to 'dream great things' inspired by Jesus' example.

Jean Vanier the founder of l'Arche

explained that as we accept our weaknesses and grow in love, our true value is revealed.

Rap Artist Guvna B and Emma Borquaye the founder of www.girlgotfaith.com shared about the difficulties they faced growing up, in particular how messages and images on social media can make us feel inadequate. Their faith helped both of them to discover their true potential and how to lead a fulfilling life.

Robert Madu, a pastor from Dallas Texas, explained with passion and humour why comparing our lives to everyone around us is pointless. He finished by saying "In the race of life we should stay in our lane and focus our eyes on Jesus". This received a standing ovation from the crowd who were genuinely moved by his words of encouragement.

The young people who attended the

Congress were clearly inspired by experiencing this event with thousands of like-minded people. On the coach home they shared what they would take back from FLAME.

Jasmine felt that "the people who spoke were so relatable and inspirational".

"The atmosphere of being with everyone in Christ filled our hearts" said Angel.

One of the most popular aspects of the day was singing such uplifting songs. Matthew shared how the music "filled everyone with joy".

Destiny summed up the day up by explaining "you can really feel the presence and love of God around us".

Large groups came from Norwich 108, Ipswich 36, Cambridge, Peterborough and St Ives 26, Swaffham 16 and Walsingham 7.

cymfed.org.uk/flame

An Easter message from Bishop Alan

'He is not here; he has risen!'

■ These are the words of the Angel to Mary of Magdala, that first Easter morning. They are the words that we will hear at the great Mass of the Easter Vigil, the climax of the Easter liturgy.

That marvellous encounter, of Mary with the Angel, is followed by something more wonderful still: Mary sees Jesus Himself.

In his Gospel, St John the Evangelist records the words actually spoken by Mary in this extraordinary moment. Mary exclaims, 'I have seen the Lord!'

It is no co-incidence that Mary's words, full of breathless love, echo the phrase that John himself had used at the beginning of his Gospel: 'And the Word became Flesh and dwelt among us... and we have seen His glory.'

This is the vision of Easter. Mary's vision, and John's, is the vision of every Christian. It is your vision, and mine: we have seen His glory! We have seen the Lord!

After our journey through the desert of Lent, and through the deep sorrow of the Passion, the vision of the Risen Lord is one of life-changing joy.

For truly this is for us – as it was for Mary, and for John – an

encounter which changes our lives. It is an encounter with the One who allows us to experience all the fullness of God's goodness and truth, with the One who sets us free, heals us, and restores our dignity. This explains the depth of feeling in Mary's words. Jesus after all was the One who enabled her to be reborn, who gave her a new future, a life of goodness and complete fulfilment. He is risen!

In one of his sermons as Bishop of Hippo, St Augustine says to the people of his diocese, 'the resurrection of the Lord is our hope!' That is as true for each one of us and for our diocese today, as it was on that first Easter morning, for Mary and for John. The resurrection of the Lord is our hope – and it is a hope that will never deceive us.

In our own, troubled times – when political leaders seem helpless in the face of division and uncertainty – how clear it is, once again, that there is only the One in whom we can place absolute trust!

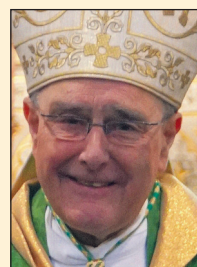
Let us enter then into that Easter joy of Mary. Let us listen again to the message of the angel, and make it our own:

'There is no need to be afraid... He is risen!'

And then let us make that message known once again in our families, in our communities and in our world today.

With the assurance of my prayers for a truly joyful and hope-filled Easter,
Devotedly in Christ,

+ Alan



news in brief



John retires after 12 years

■ After 12 years with the Diocese of East Anglia, Lt Col John Pitt has retired as Diocesan Financial Secretary.

John has had a varied career as a banker, Army officer, military diplomat, military intelligence officer and Secretary of the Special Forces Club in London over the last 58 years.

He met his wife, Ellen, who was serving in Ottawa with HM Diplomatic Service, while he was negotiating with the Canadian Defence Department on behalf of the British Army for training facilities in Alberta. They have been married for 45 years and have two sons and five grandchildren.

Financial Secretary has been a key position under two bishops and during the period of Sede Vacante after Bishop Michael's death. The overall role has been to support the Bishop and the Diocesan Trustees in the routine management and strategic development and delivery of the diocesan mission.

During his appointment John has been instrumental in many diocesan initiatives. One of the recent highlights has been Alive in Faith, which is funding social outreach, seminarian training and securing the future of our retired priests.

Bishop Alan said: "I am grateful to John for his service to the Diocese and wish him and his wife Ellen a long and happy retirement together."

Catholic East Anglia

Newspaper of the Diocese of East Anglia

EDITOR: Keith Morris
tel: 01508 488318 or
07712 787762

Pear Tree Farmhouse,
Wymondham Road,
Wrenningham, Norwich,
NR16 1AT

email: keith.morris@rcdea.org.uk



Articles and photographs for the next edition are very welcome and should be sent to the editor, ideally via email, by the deadline of Monday April 8.

Diocese website: www.rcdea.org.uk

Advertising: Contact Charlotte at Cathcom on tel 01440 730399 or email at charlotter@cathcom.org

Publisher: Cathcom Ltd, 0207 112 6710

Bishop celebrates 75th birthday

■ Bishop Alan Hopes marked his 75th birthday on March 17 when parishioners of St John the Baptist Cathedral in Norwich gathered in the Narthex after the Solemn Mass and sang Happy Birthday to him.

Jo Graham, one of the parishioners, had baked a very large cake which was cut by Bishop Alan helped by two young people from the First Holy Communion group at the cathedral, Leanne and Samy (both aged 7 years).

As is customary for Catholic bishops, when they reach the age of 75, Bishop Alan will be writing a letter to Pope Francis tendering his resignation as Bishop of East Anglia.

The normal convention is that a bishop will stay in post until his successor is appointed.

The Pope is assisted in the appointment process by the Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain, His Excellency Archbishop Edward Adams, who will making a three-day visit to the Diocese in May.



Bishop Alan cuts his birthday cake helped by Leanne (left) and Samy.

Dowry of Mary Tour reaches Norwich

The two-year Dowry Tour, intended to help prepare Catholics spiritually for England's re-dedication as the Dowry of Mary in 2020, reached St John's Cathedral in Norwich on March 2.

■ The statue of Our Lady of Walsingham was welcomed to the Cathedral at an opening Mass for the Dowry Pilgrimage Visit as was an exhibition and a shrine for the statue.

The Pilgrim Visit to St John's involved a three-day triduum of prayer. There were talks on the Dowry of Mary, an evening of Adoration, and a day set aside for visits from primary and secondary schools.

During the opening Mass, Cathedral Dean Canon David Paul spoke about the importance of the home of Mary as the starting place in the history of the salvation of the world.

"Salvation began in a home which was filled with love and prayer," said Canon Paul. "Our own homes are very important to us, where we are with our family, welcome friends and hopefully learn about our faith and God's love for us."



The statue of Our Lady of Walsingham during the Dowry Tour visit to St John's Cathedral in Norwich.

"Jesus often visited people in their homes, which is why Walsingham is so important as a representation of the Holy House of Nazareth where Jesus was brought up and grew in grace.

"We can see in that little home a glimpse of heaven," said Canon Paul. "Our true home is in heaven."

The tour is being jointly

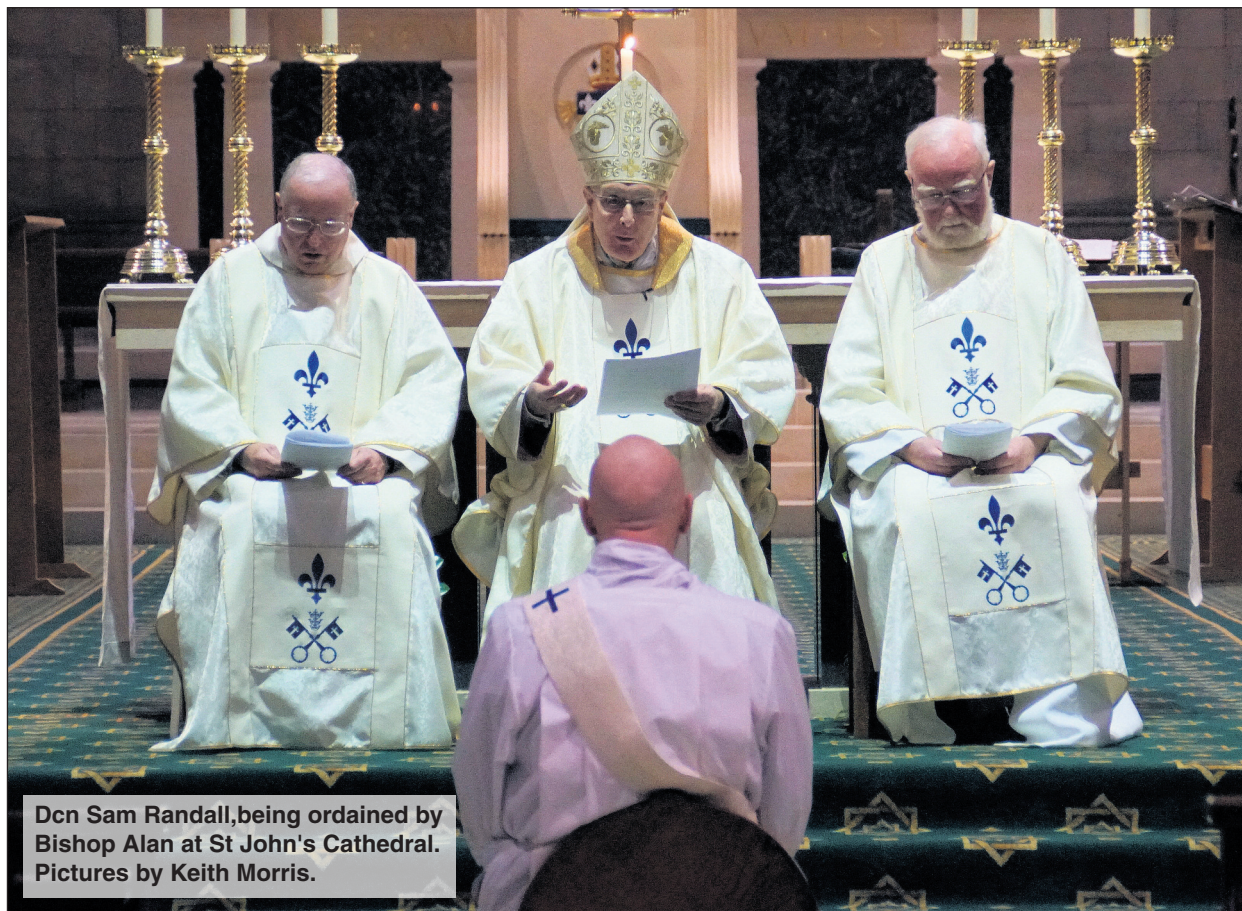
organised by the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham and the Guild of Our Lady of Ransom, a group founded in 1887 that seeks "the conversion of England and Wales, the restoration of the lapsed, and prayer for the forgotten dead".

The tour is part of the spiritual preparation for England's re-dedication as the Dowry of Mary at the Solemn

nity of the Annunciation in 2020. Both the Tour and the rededication have the support of the English Bishops. It is a call to a spiritual renewal to support the New Evangelisation in England.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols has called the rededication a "moment of great promise ... for the Church in this country and for our mission".

Australian former Anglican vicar, Dcn Sam Randall, was ordained to the Catholic priesthood by Bishop Alan at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist in Norwich on Friday March 15.



Dcn Sam Randall, being ordained by Bishop Alan at St John's Cathedral. Pictures by Keith Morris.

Ex Anglican vicar ordained as priest

■ In his homily, Bishop Alan said: "Samuel, you responded to God's invitation many years ago. You said 'Yes' to God.

"Now in recent years you have said 'Yes' again to another invitation – to come into full communion with the Catholic Church. Last year you were ordained a deacon. Today you receive the grace of the priesthood in the Catholic Church.

"As a priest you will be a source of God's blessing as you reconcile God's people in the sacrament of forgiveness, as you anoint them in their sickness, as you baptise, catechise and walk with them in times of joy and sorrow and death.

"In your ministry may you always be ready to do what God tells you. May you, like Mary at the cross, remain faithful to the Word of God and give yourself completely to Him and His service," said Bishop Alan.

Fr Sam met his Swiss wife Mirjam at Bible College in England and both went to Cambridge where Fr Sam did more studies and went forward for Anglican ordination, attending Ridley Hall for three years.

He served a curacy in Hull, completed post-graduate studies in Leeds and during this time in England, the couple had three children. Fr Sam then joined the Army as a Chaplain, which included a period of active service during the First Gulf War.

A post in Leeds as a Team-Vicar and

as the director of a youth development charity was followed by a move to the West Indies as missionaries. Fr Sam was then appointed as the diocesan ecumenical officer for Durham and the parish priest of an ex-mining community. After five years he was appointed to be the Bishop's Officer for Church in the World for Bradford.

In Bradford he encountered the Franciscans of the Renewal and, after ten years in the city went to Cambridge University to do a PhD and research into: 'vicarious suffering in the Church, in Dietrich Bonhoeffer, with particular reference to Edith Stein.'

Fr Sam said: "We then 'discovered' Lighthouse Catholic Media and the Augustine Institute and met regularly with Fr Aidan Nichols exploring together the Catechism.

"After three years of remarkable provision during the PhD, and having completed most of my research, Mirjam and I were received together into the Catholic Church by Bishop Alan at the Feast of Pentecost 2016."



Lenten alms for two charities

■ Lenten alms will be collected throughout Lent for the two diocesan appointed charities – Aid to the Church in Need (Syria and Iraq) and the Cambridge Nazareth Trust.

Cambridge Nazareth Trust Chairman, Margaret Waddingham, said: "Our aim is to encourage the education of the next generation of Christians in the Holy Land. Christians in the Holy Land are alive and active but live in very difficult situations. After 50 years of occupation, their need for help is greater than ever.

"Your donations and prayers are a bridge, reminding these struggling Christian communities that they are not alone and offering solidarity. Your support gives them hope, the greatest of gifts. The funds raised will be used to provide training for the teachers in the 41 schools of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem."

cambridgenazarethtrust.co.uk

Aid to the Church in Need has a Change a Life this Easter Appeal running during Lent and Easter in its work to support persecuted Christians in Syria and Iraq

In Syria, horrific accounts of genocidal atrocities by Daesh during this period have emerged. A disproportionately high number of Christians fled Syria – up to half the Christian population. acnuk.org

Donations can be made via parishes throughout Lent.

Invitation to Chrism Mass

■ Bishop Alan invites all the lay faithful of the Diocese to join him and the clergy for the celebration of the Solemn Chrism Mass on Tuesday April 16, 7pm, at the cathedral of St John the Baptist.

The Holy Oils are blessed and consecrated for the coming year which are then used in every parish for the celebration of the Sacraments. During the Mass the Priests are invited to renew their Priestly Vows. Members of the Diocesan choir will join the cathedral Choir for this occasion. Hot cross buns are served afterwards in the Narthex.

2019 Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham

Bank Holiday Monday - May 6

■ The Diocese of East Anglia Pilgrimage to the Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham marks the first weekend of Pilgrimages from the Diocese of England and Wales. The Pilgrimage is led by the Parish of King's Lynn, who made the first procession to Walsingham in modern times.

■ Bishop Alan warmly invites the clergy, religious and all God's people to join in this Pilgrimage in which we will consecrate our Diocese once more to her loving care.

■ Parish Coaches are welcome as are families and individuals making their own way! The young people who will have been celebrating the Ignite Weekend will also be joining us in Walsingham. All Diocesan altar servers are also invited to vest for the Mass and procession.

■ Timetable

1100 Confessions (The Basilica and at the Pilgrim Crosses in the grounds)

1200 Pilgrimage Mass of Our Lady celebrated by Bishop Alan and the priests of the Diocese followed by Lunch in the Grounds (packed lunch or food available from the café)

1500 Rosary Procession of Our Lady from the Basilica to the Village finishing with **Benediction** in the ancient Priory Grounds and the Consecration of the Diocese on the original site of the Holy House.

NEW EVANGELISATION



Church Supplies

Also serving schools,
businesses and homes...

Church Pews Uncomfortable?
Why not try

safeoam

top quality upholstered foam pew cushions?
Safeoam, Green Lane, Riley Green,
Hoghton, Preston PR5 0SN

www.safeoam.co.uk

Freephone 0800 015 44 33

Free Sample Pack of foam & fabrics sent by first class mail
When phoning please quote MV101

To advertise contact Charlotte on
01440 730399 or 07932 248225

TRAVEL INSURANCE

arranged for readers of Catholic East Anglia

ANNUAL TRAVEL INSURANCE

AVAILABLE TO ANYONE UP TO
85 YEARS OF AGE.

MOST PRE-EXISTING MEDICAL
CONDITIONS ACCEPTED

TOP QUALITY COVER

With a 24 hour helpline and an
air ambulance get-you-home service.

Mention this advert to get a Special
Catholic East Anglia discount. Don't forget
we can also sell SINGLE-TRIP COVER, with
no maximum age limit and up to £20,000
cancellation cover per couple.

CALL FOR DETAILS AND PRICES

FT
Travel
Insurance

**0116 272
0500**

Car Hire

Real people - not
machines!



Authorised and
regulated by the FCA



TANGNEY TOURS

The Pilgrims Choice

Join the East Anglia Diocesan
Lourdes Pilgrimage
with Bishop Alan Hopes
and the Catholic Association
2019 theme - "Blessed are the poor"



By air - from £874 per person
Flights direct from Stansted and
Manchester 23rd - 30th August
www.tangney-tours.com/CA

Lourdes by air - From Stansted

9 May | 7 Nights From £599 pp plus flights
20 May | 4 Nights From £539 pp plus flights

Fatima by air - From London Heathrow

11 May | 4 Nights From £580 pp inc. flights
11 Sept. | 6 Nights From £679 pp inc. flights

Holy Land Pilgrimages

7 May | 7 Nights From £1363 pp inc flights
12 Nov | 7 Nights From £1426 pp inc flights

Rome - Led by Fr Ross Crichton

20 May | 4 Nights From £432 pp plus flights



www.tangney-tours.com

e-mail: sales@tangney-tours.com

FREE BROCHURE LINE: 0800 917 3572

Over 60 welcomed at Rite of Election

Over 60 people seeking to become members of the Catholic Church were personally greeted by Bishop Alan Hopes at the Rite of Election service at St John's Cathedral in Norwich on Sunday March 10.

■ A total of 30 Catechumens and 32 Candidates from across the Diocese of East Anglia gathered at the cathedral with their sponsors to take part in the Rite of Election, an important stage along their journey as they undergo the final stages of RCIA (Rite of Catholic Initiation of Adults) and prepare to be either Confirmed, or to be received into the Full Communion of the Church and receive the Eucharist for the first time, both of which take place at the Easter Vigil.

In his homily, Bishop Alan said to them: "Today is a celebration of your hope and trust in Jesus Christ, to whom you turn for salvation. Today you are being elected, chosen, called to salvation. The Church rejoices with you as she numbers you amongst all those who have been called and chosen."

"During Lent, together with



Some of those welcomed at the Rite of Election in Norwich.

the whole Church, you are being called to turn to the Lord. You are being called to deepen your commitment to Him and so grow in holiness. You are being called to become saints of God.

"This call is not just for special people, but for everyone. We are all called to become like Jesus Christ."

There were individuals and groups from Cambridge, Peterborough, Ipswich, Nor-

wich, Lowestoft, Great Yarmouth, St Ives, Ely, Huntingdon, Whittlesey, King's Lynn and North Walsham.

Catechumens are adults who have never been baptised and seek to become members of the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. After being greeted by Bishop Alan, they were invited to write their names in the Book

of the Elect.

Candidates are adults who have been baptised in one of the Christian denominations and now seek to become members of the Catholic Church through the Rite of Reception whereby they will receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.

■ To see a full picture gallery of the service, which are free to download and use, visit: www.rcdea.org.uk

Making the stranger welcome

Are you prepared to welcome the stranger, asks Rebecca Bretherton, who also gives some ideas on how to go about doing so.

■ Last summer, a young student attended weekday Mass before her A Level exam. She parked in the car park at a church near the examination centre. A parishioner approached and told her she could not park there. Parking was only allowed for people attending Mass.

She is a confident Catholic and gently explained that she wanted to worship that morning. Despite her confidence, she felt she was an unwelcome outsider. Could a similar encounter happen in your parish?

The man in the car park was not ready to welcome a stranger in need. He had not considered that a young woman might want to join the comfortable week-

day congregation of local people.

Catholics regularly say that their parish is very friendly. Sometimes what they mean is that they meet their friends at church. It is easy for all of us to slip into comfortable fellowship with those we know. As someone who visits other parishes, I have often been ignored by the whole congregation: sometimes, I'm afraid to say, in East Anglia.

We know we should welcome others. Jesus tells us to do so in the Gospel: He says, "I was a stranger and you made me welcome" (Matthew 25).

It is not always so easy to do so. We put off trying to welcome people until we are not so busy. We leave it for the Parish Welcoming Team.

The uncomfortable truth is that now is the time to start. At Ash Wednesday Mass, St Paul told us: Now is the favourable time; this is the day of salvation! (2 Corinthians 5) Every encounter

you have may help someone to find Jesus Christ and give Him the opportunity to change their life.

How can we become people who are ready to welcome others? As with all skills the answer is: with determined practice. Even experts need to keep practising to improve their skills.

Challenge yourself each Sunday this month to practice your skills:

- 1) Greet someone you don't know on the way into Mass. A smile and hello is enough if you are shy.
- 2) After Mass: introduce yourself to one person you don't know at Mass;
- 3) Speak to someone you haven't spoken to for a while;
- 4) Move to a different seat in church or change your after-Mass routine slightly to allow an opportunity to speak to someone else;
- 5) Give a welcome card to someone who is to be baptised this Easter.



Pictured are choristers at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist in Norwich taking part in some pancake races. Picture by David Street.

On song with some pancake race fun

Young choristers from the Cathedral of St John the Baptist in Norwich had fun warming up for their singing practice with some pancake races to mark Shrove Tuesday.

■ A series of pancake races, held in the beautiful cathedral garden, were organised by Culture & Heritage Officer Julia Stafford and Master of Music, Daniel Justin. Choristers competed against each other in perfecting their pancake flips

and running skills.

Julia explained: "The pancake races were to celebrate Shrove Tuesday, an important date in the Christian calendar, marking the day before the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Shrove Tuesday has become a good excuse to use up all the leftover rich and fatty foods in the cupboards and feast on pancakes which, along with other delicious foods, are traditionally not eaten during Lent. During this significant penitential season Christians prepare for Easter with a time of reflection, fasting and almsgiving."

The choristers meet twice a week after school to prepare for the Sung Masses on Sundays in the Cathedral and were very

eager to warm up for their rehearsal with the pancake races.

Chorister Daisy, aged 12, said: "It was really fun to take part in the pancake race but unfortunately we couldn't eat the ones we raced with because they fell on the floor a few times."

"Daniel reminded us that lots of Cathedrals have a tradition of a pancake race, but as the Choristers have only been singing for three years, this is a first for us. But I have no doubt it will become a tradition!"

The winner of the race was Hebe, and she was awarded the first prize by the Dean of the Cathedral of St John the Baptist, Provost Paul.

Matthew is new director of finance

■ Matthew Fernandez-Graham has been appointed as Director of Finance and Resources for the Diocese following John Pitt's retirement after 12 years.

Matthew first moved to the Diocese in 1993, when he came to Cambridge University as an undergraduate. He met his wife, Jo, at the Cambridge University Catholic Chaplaincy (Fisher House) in 1995.

After moving to Norwich in 1997, Matthew has enjoyed a varied career in the NHS, auditing and voluntary sector, most recently working at South Norfolk District Council for the last six years.

Matthew said: "I am really honoured to have been appointed to this position, which allows me to give something back to the Church that has given so much to me and my family."

"I am just a few days into the job and am really excited to see the great commitment in homes, parishes and schools across the Diocese to supporting the mission of the Catholic Church in East



Anglia."

Jo and Matthew have been blessed with four children who are all at Catholic schools in the Diocese.

Pictured above is Matthew Fernandez-Graham (front centre) with Bishop Alan at John Pitt's final diocesan finance board.

news in brief

Catenian ladies night in Ipswich

■ At its Ladies Night in February, the Ipswich Circle of the Catenians were joined by guest Debbie Richards who represented the Ipswich SVP. After the dinner, the Circle President, Gerry Elliott, presented Debbie with a cheque for £100 as a donation towards the Ipswich SVP's expenses. The presentation was part of the Circle's programme of reaching out and supporting other organisations in the local Catholic community.

Hoveton celebration

■ There will be celebrations to mark the 60th anniversary of the founding of the St Helen's church in Hoveton, on Friday May 3.

Richard McGreevy said: "A concelebrated Mass will be followed by a buffet supper. "We want to make this an evening to remember and hope that many old friends will attend."

If you would like more details please ring Richard on 07585 731298.

Talk on fake news

■ The highlight of February's meeting of the Norwich Circle of the Catenian Association held in the Refectory of the Old Hospital in the grounds of the Anglican Cathedral was a fascinating after-dinner speech delivered by Circle member James Bush, a journalist with Anglia TV, about his work in the media.

It included the subject of so-called 'Fake News' ranging from the Nazi propaganda broadcast by Irish American William Joyce, aka Lord Haw Haw, during World War Two plus the Orson Welles spoof, War of the Worlds, up to the recent USA election.

Charity carols

■ The Syro Malabar Catholic Community in King's Lynn have donated £485 to St Vincent de Paul (SVP) King's Lynn, money which was raised through Carol services held over Christmas.

The Catenian Association



An international brotherhood of Catholic men who aim to:

- Strengthen family life through friendship and faith.
- Advance the interests of young Catholics.
- Establish, maintain and administer benevolent funds.
- The Association is non-political, is not a fund raising agent or action pressure group.

"We, the women and men of the church, are in the middle of a love story: each of us is a link in this chain of love."

Pope Francis

For further information about the Norwich Circle of the Catenian Association contact:
THE MEMBERSHIP OFFICER
norwichcatenians@yahoo.com

Mission trips are tra

A group from across the Diocese of East Anglia travelled with Fr Michael Johnstone in January to spend two weeks working with the Missionaries of the Poor in Kingston, Jamaica. Some of the group reflect on a transforming experience.

Moira Selvae (Gorleston)

■ “I thought I was going to serve the mentally and physically challenged children, men and women, the abandoned and most rejected by society, in the ghettos of Kingston, Jamaica. I was ready to give my all.

“Instead, it was I who received love in abundance, my appreciation of the value of life increased a hundredfold, my cup refilled, my batteries were recharged.

“In my daily apostolate work I was greeted with enormous smiles and hugs of welcome. These residents had nothing, they asked for nothing, yet their spirits shone. In the deformed and disfigured bodies of the children, I encountered the face of Jesus radiating joy. Here was the wounded body of Christ, His presence among the poor, His presence amidst rejection by society.

“Alongside the brothers and sisters we joked, danced, sang, ate and shared in their daily prayer life which sustained us.

“Hence their motto, ‘Joyful service with Christ on the Cross’ Why not come, see, and experience it yourself?”

Shelina Guedes (St Peter and All Souls)

■ “During our time in Kingston, we pursued the daily routine structure of the MOP Brothers’ way of living, which began with morning prayer at 5.45am, followed by Mass and Eucharistic adoration.

I realised prayer is an important aspect of their lives, as it was the central source from which they drew their strength to serve the poorest of the poor. We shared everything with the other volunteers from sleeping arrangements to eating the same meal together.

“This experience was definitely both satisfying and rewarding. We spent our time serving the residents at five different apostolates namely Faith Centre,



Pictured above is the Diocese of East Anglia group with Fr Michael Johnstone. As well as the writers below, the group also included: Caroline Peel and Tony Chapman (St George, Norwich), Peter Ho (Sawston), Tom Condon (St George's via Ireland), Myles O'Hanlon (All Souls Peterborough) and Tom Mason (Cathedral, Norwich).

Pictured right, Shelina Guedes with Jason, one of the residents at the faith centre. If you would like to find out more about future visits to Jamaica, please contact Fr Michael Johnstone at fr.mcjohnstone@gmail.com or visit: www.missionariesofthepoor.org

Jacob's Well, Lord's place, Bethlehem and Good Shepherd. In the apostolates, we helped out with some basic chores such as cleaning dormitories, mopping floors, feeding the residents, cleaning and cutting their nails, applying lotion, shaving men's beard, applying nail polish to women, preparing medication boxes and dressing wounds.

“Most of the residents were either physically disabled or mentally challenged and I found it difficult to take the first step and engage with them initially. It was not only their appearance, but also the atmosphere which I was struggling to get used to. However, all hesitation vanished the moment I said a prayer to God asking Him to let me see His face in the

faces of these residents. Instantly, I felt a little courageous to move forward and began speaking to them.

“Spending time with the residents helped me realise that they are equally able to give and receive love the same way we give and receive love from our dear ones. They are just like our family. Having built a relationship with them over the two weeks, I began to understand the joy of selfless love; they never expected anything from us, instead all they wanted was for us to spend time with them.

“It certainly taught me a few lessons. Usually I see people worrying about job, mortgage, marriage etc, but through this experience, I learnt that life cannot be lived freely if we are going to worry

every day about the things that are passing. For the residents, life was about living each day to the full.

“This has indeed been a spiritual retreat for me, where we hear the word of God during Mass every morning and are then encouraged to go out and live the Gospel; to serve the poor, to be the hands and feet of Jesus, to hear the resident's painful stories and spend time with them.

This is how I see a follower of Christ; to love and serve Christ by offering service to those most in need. I realised donating money and clothing is very easy but spending time amidst those who are afflicted is more difficult. No doubt, this is also what provides us with utmost joy; the joy of giving is greater when we are

A long but rewarding journey to Cambodia

A cold early morning in January saw a clutch of Bury St Edmund's parishioners begin their long journey to Cambodia to visit their twinned St John's Parish, Siem Reap, for the first time. Diane Kennedy reports.

■ The first-timers were accompanied by Fr Mark Hackeson, Ian Boast (Great Yarmouth) and a small group of other 'veteran' visitors to Cambodia, from other parishes in the diocese.

These new friends and companions helped ensure that we felt safe and full of

enthusiasm for what we could achieve. But nothing could have prepared us for the warmth and welcome of the Cambodian people – their genuine faith and optimism for the future and the innocent, heartfelt ambitions of their older students.

All this against the backdrop of the genocide, as evidenced at Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum and the 'Killing Field' in Phnom Penh. This raw experience quickly brought to life our mission; to show solidarity with the Cambodian community and to witness the Cambodian determination to remember in order to reconcile and heal was humbling.

We carried with us over 200kg of medical supplies, education resources, white school shirts, baby clothes, toothbrushes, toys and books, including pencils, pens and the St Edmund's children's Christmas gifts so kindly donated by families. Spectacles were also donated and professionally prescribed by two visiting opticians from Lowestoft.

Very generous monetary donations from the Parish and people across the Diocese was used to provide equipment such as a computer, a white board, floor covering, building maintenance and wheelchairs.

At Peak Snaeng, Siem Reap, the

salaries of two teachers and their continued professional development, was ensured. But an even greater impact was the crucial cash for hungry children who were fed at the soup kitchens in each school. The equivalent of £5 a day can feed just over 40 children with hot soup and sometimes eggs, vital to their well-being and ability to learn.

As Fr Totet and his team look to the future for their parish at St John's, their hard work is fired by the faith that this generation will be able to use their education to fulfill their dreams of equal opportunity and reduced poverty in their home country.

nsforming



mission in my heart. He said, "Less is more; the less of materialistic things you have in this world, the more of Christ you will have in your life". Since that day onwards, I have taken it a challenge to live a simple life; to know the difference between what I want and what I need."

Mary Desbruslais (Ignite Team)

■ During my time in Jamaica with the Missionaries of the Poor, I worked at several care centres for the deformed, the poor, the mute, the disabled, the abandoned and the sick. We put lotion on their arms and legs. We fed them for as long as it took. We gave them water. But even more importantly, we spent time with them, sang to them, teased them, danced with them, told them stories – or just hugged them for as long as they wanted.

The important thing was to show them that they were loveable, and to love them relentlessly. It was just a matter of figuring out what made them happy and doing that over and over and over again until they smiled or fell asleep or calmed down a little – no matter what age they were. Anything to alleviate the pain. Anything to show them their dignity as children of God.

In the same care centre, I visited a lady who was sitting on her bed only half dressed, bone-thin and rocking back and forth with her arms across her chest. I asked her if she wanted anything, but she shook her head. I wasn't sure if she was able to speak or nod, so I asked again. Then she said, "I have everything I need. I have Jesus and he gives me everything I need. I'm alright... thank you." I was totally dumbfounded. This lady had nothing and Jesus had given her everything.

I noticed that those who could speak, spoke about God often. Jesus really is the centre of their days. They all pray together, say the rosary together, listen to the gospel and to sermons from the brothers together. They also look out for each other, showing the volunteers who needs help the most.

They are in tremendous physical pain and discomfort, but they really know what they're about. They really love one another. They just wanted to have another good day, and they wanted you to share it with them. They were so determined to be happy, and they were astoundingly good at it!!

physically present and give ourselves completely to serving them. What left a huge impact in my life is seeing the Brothers work day and night tirelessly without expecting a salary at the end of the week. The work they do is not easy at all but when I asked them what motivated them to leave their family behind and give up their time, talents and life for such a mission they replied, "it is only the love for Christ and nothing else".

"This mission experience has provided me with a new perspective to life. I don't think anyone who goes through such an experience can return to their normal lives and not feel the difference.

"I will always treasure the words of Fr Richard Ho Lung, founder of the MOP



Youngsters enjoy a rice soup meal at Peak Snaeng school.

Calais refugee support

A hugely generous response from St Edmunds Bungay and Harleston to the Pope's "moral imperative" to assist the exiled, the migrant, and the refugee, enabled parishioner Mary Kirk to take a car full of material donations and more than €1000 for the work of Help Refugees at the Auberge des Migrants in Calais.

■ A second collection raised nearly £500 and others chipped in. For the second year running parishioners also bought or donated goods desperately needed for those stranded in Calais and along the coast to Dunkirk.

Mary said: "The situation for the "exilés" (so designated as to avoid any judgment as to who is a refugee and who is a migrant) is piteous, especially in the bitterly cold weather at the end of January and early February when I was there.

"Official policy is to prevent the creation of any camp such as the Jungle, which was demolished in 2016, so the Frontier

Police and Riot (CRS) Police squads daily (and nightly) destroy and remove all tents, sleeping bags, and belongings, and move the exilés on. There is a great reluctance to go to registration centres as it could result in their being immediately deported back to their first point of entry into Europe."

Help Refugees at the Auberge des Migrants distributes more than 1500 hot meals a day in Calais and along the coast via the Refugee Community Kitchen. There is a regular distribution of tents, sleeping bags, blankets, clothes and toiletries. And, vitally in winter, two tons of wood, in 13kg bags, are taken out each day, just to keep people alive in sub-zero temperatures. Because of the regular evictions and clearances, donations are needed urgently all the time.

To read about the work of the Auberge des Migrants, which is run on volunteer labour, with many young people often giving up months or years to help, go to: www.lauberGEDesMigrants.fr/en/home



A refugee camp near Calais. Picture by Auberge des Migrants/Refugee Info Bus.



Do you want to explore your faith?

Would you like to spend an inspiring year living in community?

Do you care about vulnerable people?

Are you cut out for L'Arche?

If not, cut this out and give to someone who may be



E-mail emily.nunn@larche.org.uk

Website: <http://www.larche.org.uk/Sites/ipswich>

DIOCESAN SCHOOLS IN FOCUS

Painting prizes are presented

■ Children from two East Anglia Catholic schools have received certificates and prizes from the recent Knights of St Columba Nativity Painting Competition.

Winners from St Mary's Primary School, Lowestoft and Notre Dame Preparatory School, Norwich were awarded certificates and prizes at school assembly presentations in February by brothers from Lowestoft Council 518 and Norwich Council 976.

The children all received a certificate, a money prize and a copy of their entry. The two Provincial group winners also received a framed copy of their entry and have been entered into the national competition for judging at KSC head office in Glasgow.

Pictured (right) are the Notre Dame Prep School, Norwich KS2 winners from left: Anthea 1st, Elise 2nd, Daisy 3rd, with their teachers and KSC Brothers Colin Harper (left) and Chris Brooks. Anthea and Daisy also won 1st and 3rd prizes in the Provincial Competition for KS2.

Pictured (top right) are the St Mary's Primary School winners with Bro Jason Wickard (left) and Chris Brooks of Lowestoft KSC Co 518. From the left: KS2 Maria Anna 3rd,



Shannon 2nd and Rafal 1st. KS1 Lola 1st (with a framed copy of her picture), Nadia 2nd and Pearl 3rd also won the Provincial Competition at KS1.

All schools in the Diocese have been circulated with the forthcoming KSC Easter Scene Painting competition, Prayer Composition and Essay Writing competitions. Schools and Parishes can be sent further information by contacting Past Provincial Grand Knight Bro Chris Brooks, Tel (01502) 563208.



Strong support for new school

Following strong public support for a new Catholic primary school in Swaffham, the Diocese of East Anglia has decided to proceed with its recent proposal to Norfolk County Council to open a school on the site of the current Sacred Heart School which is due to close at the end of the summer term.

■ Helen Bates, Assistant Director for Schools, said: "We want to thank everyone who took the time to respond to our consultation about the new school. We received 137 responses and 90% of these wanted to see a new Catholic primary school in Swaffham."

"We also received support from local civic leaders including Swaffham Town Council. This level of support means we can now go through the legal requirements needed to apply to open a new school."

A public notice has been published in the local press and a copy can be found on

our website at www.rcdea.org.uk/sacred-heartva. Further details about the proposal can also be found on this website.

Comments about the proposal can be made to Norfolk County Council between now and April 5, by emailing schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk or writing to School Organisation Team (Bay 34), Floor 8, FREEPOST IH2076, Norfolk County Council, County Hall, Norwich, NR1 2DH; after which the County Council will decide if the new school can open.

If approved, the new school will open on September 1, 2019.

www.rcdea.org.uk/sacredheartva

JOE WALSH TOURS
PILGRIMAGES 2019

LOURDES DAILY BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER
23 MAY | 5 NIGHTS
From Liverpool **from £675pp**

5 JULY | 6 NIGHTS
From Leeds-Bradford **from £749pp**

25 JULY | 6 NIGHTS
From Manchester **from £749pp**

WE OFFER >>

- Full religious programme led by Spiritual Director
- Direct Flights to Tarbes - Lourdes Airport
- Return airport transfers in Lourdes
- Great selection of hotels
- Daily breakfast, lunch & dinner
- Full assistance of professional guides & representatives throughout
- Bonded & licensed for full financial protection

LONDON: 0203 468 0617 | CARDIFF: 0292 000 3865
www.joewalshshtours.co.uk | info@joewalshshtours.co.uk

Licensed by the Commission for Aviation Regulation, TO 052 and TA 0689 in compliance with the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018.

Celebrating our Schools Adverts
These adverts can be used to promote open days, staff vacancies as well as supporting the paper

from only £25

Contact Charlotte by phone 01440 730399 or email charlotte@cathcom.org

**ST THOMAS MORE
CATHOLIC PRIMARY
SCHOOL**
PARK LANE, PETERBOROUGH
PE1 5JW
HEADTEACHER
MRS MCELHINNEY
TELEPHONE 01733 566005

Young leaders take up CAFOD challenge

■ A group of Sixth Formers from St Alban's Ipswich, St Benedict's Bury St Edmund's, Notre Dame Norwich and St Mary's Cambridge have taken up the challenge to lead CAFOD activities in their schools following a CAFOD Young Leader training day on February 12 at St Alban's High School in Ipswich.

Sarah Burrows from CAFOD showed videos to help explain the charity's work. In the afternoon, the group were invited to reflect on why they wanted to put their faith into action and then each school group shared ideas on what they would like to do back in their school.

This national scheme will give students a deeper understanding of global issues and how they can be resolved. The training will also develop their communication and leadership skills so that they can organise events to raise awareness back in their schools.

Jane Crone, from CAFOD East Anglia, said: "It is wonderful to hear about the Young Leaders' solidarity with their brothers and sisters across the globe and their commitment to make sure that no one is beyond reach."



YOUTH MATTERS

Ignite Festival is back

The Ignite Youth Festival is back at Sacred Heart School, Swaffham, Norfolk, over the bank holiday weekend, May 4 to 5.

■ The Ignite Festival is an annual Catholic youth event for anyone in Year 8 or above run by the Diocesan Youth Service for East Anglia.

Ignite Team Leader, Catherine Williams, said: "It promises to be an amazing weekend of faith, fun and fellowship for all those Y8+ with chances to explore your faith in new ways through inspiring talks, workshops, live music and passionate prayer."

"There is also the option of staying on an extra day and joining the rest of the Diocese for the annual pilgrimage to Walsingham on May 6.

To find out more and book your place go to: www.ignitefestival.co.uk.

■ If you would like to sign up to the Diocesan Youth Service mailing list to receive information about new initiatives and upcoming events then visit www.rcdea.org.uk/youth to sign up.



Worship and adoration from last year's Ignite Festival.



Diary dates 2019

■ **May 4 – 6:** Ignite Diocesan Youth Festival, Swaffham.

■ **May 6:** Pilgrimage Walk to Walsingham.

■ **June 1 – 2:** Celebrate East Anglia Family Conference, St Benedict's School, Bury St Edmunds. Lively music, inspiring talks, Mass and Reconciliation. Also a special programme for children and young people. For more information and to book a place, visit: www.celebrateconference.org

■ **July 29 – August 2:** New Dawn Family Conference, Walsingham.

■ **August 22 – 26:** Youth 2000 Prayer Festival, Walsingham.

■ **August 23 – 30:** Lourdes Pilgrimage.

■ **August 23 – 26:** Summer Camp for those aged 8 – 14, Bury St Edmunds.

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

Youth contacts

Tel: 01508 486236

Email: Ignite Team enquiries

ignite@rcdea.org.uk

All other enquiries: dys@rcdea.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/igniteyea

Twitter: @igniteyea

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

E-news: If you would like to sign up to the Diocesan Youth Service mailing list to receive information about new initiatives and upcoming events then visit www.rcdea.org.uk/youth

Your chance to join the Ignite team

The Ignite Team is looking for new members to join the Diocesan Youth Service in serving the Church in the Diocese of East Anglia September 2019 - July 2020. Current team member Mary Desbruslais, shares some of her experience:

"As a member of the Ignite Team, you work for the Church full-time for a year and get to share your life with a genuinely beautiful community as well as have your lodgings paid for."

"The personal growth in the process and the beauty of working in this ministry is truly phenomenal. It is a crash course in knowing yourself, in figuring out how you work with others and how to love God best."

"Your prayer life becomes deeper and more resilient and your decisions feel more intentional and refined over time. It is a chance to develop the ways in which you can use your gifts to serve the Church out of love for God and your neighbour as well

as learn new skills which will help you in a diverse range of professions – event organisation, administration, safeguarding, public speaking, creative art projects, teaching – the list goes on."

"I would recommend it to anyone who feels called to spend a year growing in discipleship in England."

■ Further information and an application form are available on the website: www.rcdea.org.uk/youth



Mary Desbruslais working with some young people.

The Youth Mission Team for the Diocese of East Anglia: Ignite, is recruiting!



If you are aged between 18–35 then why not come and spend a year serving with the Ignite Team, sharing the Gospel with the children and young people of the Diocese of East Anglia? As part of the team you will spend the year living in community, running events in both schools and parishes across Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, with an opportunity for an overseas mission trip in January.

Accommodation, food and an allowance are provided. For an application form go to our website, or for further information contact us using the details below.

Don't want to join the team full-time but would still like to get involved? Join our Ignite Lite volunteer team!
Open to all those aged 16–35.



CONTACT US:

Diocesan Youth Office, 21 Upgate,
Poringland, Norwich, NR14 7SH
01508 486236

ignite@rcdea.org.uk

www.rcdea.org.uk/youth

Follow us on social media: @igniteyea



OBITUARIES

Can you help build bridges?

The two current Diocese of East Anglia Building Bridges projects are support for the salary of a kindergarten teacher in the Holy Land and a new formation centre for children, youth groups and adults at Battambang in Cambodia.

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

First
Name.....
Surname.....
Address.....
.....
.....
Postcode.....
Amount enclosed
.....

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

☐ Cambodia ☐ Holy Land

GIFT AID

You can boost your donation by 25p in Gift Aid for every £1 you donate. Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay in the current tax year. Your address is needed, above, to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

DECLARATION

I am a UK taxpayer and wish the RC Diocese of East Anglia to treat this donation as a gift aid donation. I understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signature:.....

Date:.....

Please send to: Building Bridges, 21 Upgate, Poringland, Norwich, NR14 7SH

Registered charity no 278742

Much-loved Sacristan Bernard



St Peter the Apostle in Gorleston was crowded on Wednesday February 6 for the funeral of long-serving and much-loved Sacristan, Bernard Power writes Bill Howell.

■ Two of St Peter's former parish priests had returned for the Mass: Fr Henry MacCarthy, now retired, had worked with Bernard for many years, and came to deliver the homily, full of reminiscences of Bernard's cars and his work with the Hospital Car Service, and his work with Alcoholics Anonymous, as well as reminders of Bernard's awful puns. Fr Philip Shryane, who had only recently moved

from Gorleston to Huntingdon, presided at the Requiem Mass. Also present were the three priests of the parish, Fr Anthony, Fr Alex and Fr Alvan and Deacon Peter Glanville. Owen Darby, one of Bernard's team of servers, delivered a tribute to Bernard's attention to detail and insistence on getting everything right, and like Fr Henry, mentioned Bernard's jokes and sense of humour. He also spoke of Bernard's family and his younger days, which few of us knew about. The hymns and responses were sung with great gusto, and at the end of Mass, Bernard was taken to the Magdalen Cemetery for burial. His friends and family then went to the Parish Hall for refreshments and to share their many loving memories of their old friend.

Former priest and head David

Fr David Hennessy, a former parish priest in Felixstowe and ex-headmaster of St Joseph's College in Ipswich, has died peacefully after a long illness.



■ Bishop Alan said: "After many years of living with cancer, Fr David died very peacefully early on March 9 in the convent of Jesus and Mary in Felixstowe. "He was aided by the prayers of his family and some of the sisters who were with him. I am extremely grateful to the Sisters and to Carol (the Manager) who have supported him and encour-

aged him through these last months." Then Brother David, of the De La Salle order, he became head of the independent St Joseph's College day and boarding school in Ipswich in the autumn of 1987, and, after leaving the order remained as head of the School David later trained for the Catholic priesthood at St

John's Seminary, Womersley, and was ordained in the college chapel on December 6th 1998. He was appointed as assistant priest at All Souls', Peterborough, where he stayed until he became parish priest of Sawston in Cambridgeshire. He was transferred to St Felix parish in Felixstowe in 2007. In all three parishes in which he served his is remembered as a kind pastor, a gifted preacher and an inspiring teacher. His funeral will take place at St Mary's Ipswich, at 11.30am on Wednesday, April 10, followed by cremation at Seven Hills Crematorium. ■ Pictured is Fr David Hennessy back in 1987. Picture copyright Archant.

Modern-day slavery is focus of talk

■ Modern-day slavery and the work of the Medaille Trust was the subject of an engaging talk at St John's Cathedral in early February, reports Sarah Ebelewicz. Around 40 people from parishes in Norwich, Wymondham, Aylsham and Thetford gathered at the cathedral Narthex to hear Jacinta Goode, East Anglia rep for the Medaille Trust. In a thought-provoking and challenging talk entitled 'Modern Slavery – a Christian Response', Jacinta outlined the history of the charity. Founded in 2006 by Sr Ann Teresa in Southampton, who set up a safe house for trafficked street workers, it has since become the largest provider of safe house accommodation to victims of modern slavery in the country. The Medaille Trust also provides clients

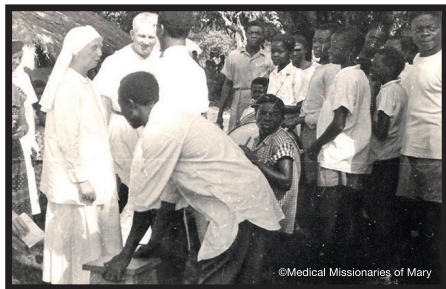
with a breathing space, safety, specialist services for support and rehabilitation to begin to rebuild their lives and move forward. Jacinta outlined how modern slavery is the fastest-growing international crime with 40 million people worldwide affected. Traffickers' profits are worth \$150 billion per year. Prostitution, domestic servitude, hospitality, nail bars, car washes, garment factories, tea and cocoa plantations mining, forced marriage, organ donation are some of the areas that modern slavery exists in. We can pray for victims and traffickers and pray for peace. Human trafficking is the extreme end of modern consumerism. Let's buy more fairly-traded goods and question how and where are garments are made and our food is produced. Get involved in campaigns such as 'Who picked my tea' by Traidcraft Exchange to hold tea producers to account. Let's be aware of our neighbours, the people on our streets. Traffickers actively seek out those on the streets who are homeless, vulnerable and those being released from prison. Modern slavery helpline is 0800 121 700. There's also a safe carwash app Stop to report suspect car wash operations. The evening was hosted by the Norwich Justice and Peace Group based at the cathedral and the evening raised £94 for the charity. Jacinta Goode is happy to come to your group or parish to speak. Please contact her on j.goode@medaille-trust.org.uk

NOW IS OUR OPPORTUNITY TO END THE SUFFERING CAUSED BY LEPROSY



Let's create a leprosy-free world

For thousands of years leprosy has been the scourge of poverty-stricken communities across the world. The disease frequently leads to severe, life-changing disabilities and those who suffer from it are often excluded by their community, and struggle to fend for themselves.



123 years dedicated to the relief of suffering

St Francis Leprosy Guild has been dedicated to the relief of suffering caused by leprosy for more than a century, during which time many religious sisters, brothers and priests have made it their life's vocation to care for those with the disease. Today we are determined to build on their legacy and seize our opportunity to help eradicate leprosy once and for all.

A leprosy-free world is now within sight

Just a few decades ago, more than five million

people were being diagnosed with leprosy every year, their lives destroyed physically, emotionally and socially by the disease. Today, this number has reduced significantly but remains stubbornly at over 200,000 new cases annually, worldwide. St Francis Leprosy Guild is committed to achieving a leprosy-free world and we genuinely believe it is possible, if only people like you are prepared to help.

Early detection can stop leprosy in its tracks

Leprosy is curable and in 1995 the World Health Organisation made multi-drug treatments freely available to help fight it. Since then, millions of people have been cured of the disease. New cases

of leprosy tend to be concentrated in isolated communities where people are still living in dire poverty and have little or no access to healthcare. If leprosy is to be stamped out for good, your support is needed to train local healthcare workers who can reach out to these communities. By supporting early detection and treatment - before the disease takes hold - you can help to prevent untold suffering.

If, in this season of Lent, you are able to send a donation of £30, you will help us support ongoing health initiatives, such as the hospital ship run by Dr Tony Lopez Gonzalez.

This has already helped to train 600 local healthcare assistants, and the ship visits remote communities in the Amazon where leprosy is still



rife, so they can monitor people for early symptoms and provide prompt medication.

Help to beat leprosy for good

Dr Tony's hospital ship is just one of around 60 inspirational partner organisations supported by St Francis Leprosy Guild, which are working with remote and marginalised communities in countries such as India and Brazil. Please send £30 today to help this essential work continue. **This Lent, let's seize the opportunity to create a leprosy-free world and help put an end to people's suffering at last.**



Winning the battle against leprosy

- 1980s - some 5.2 million cases of leprosy reported annually.
- 1995 – World Health Organisation extends free access to leprosy treatments.
- 16 million people cured of leprosy in past 20 years.
- Today, over 200,000 new cases diagnosed annually, worldwide.
- Early diagnosis and treatment is key to total eradication.

I WANT TO SEE A LEPROSY-FREE WORLD. HERE IS MY GIFT TO HELP.

Please donate at www.justgiving.com/stfrancisleprosyguild or return this form with your gift.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms

First Name

Surname

Address

Postcode

Email

Telephone

Here is my gift of: £30 ☐ £60 ☐ £100 ☐ Other £

By Cheque/Postal Order/CAF Voucher (to St Francis Leprosy Guild)

Visa/MasterCard/Amex/Maestro (delete as appropriate)

Account no.

Expiry date / Issue date / Security code (3 digits on the back of your card, 4 on front of Amex)

Signature Date /

Registered Charity Number 208741

DA1912

\$FLG

ST FRANCIS LEPROSY GUILD

THANK YOU!

Please return this form with your gift to: St Francis Leprosy Guild, 73 St Charles Square, London W10 6EJ.

Please fill in your name and address. We will never pass on your details to any other organisation and will treat them with respect. We will use the personal information you have provided to process your donation and to contact you with news of our work. If you would prefer not to receive further communications please tick this box ☐ or you can call us on 020 8969 1345 to let us know which communications you would like to receive. To read more about how we value your privacy, visit www.stfrancisleprosy.org

This appeal has been made possible thanks to a supporter's kind legacy

News picture gallery from parishes around the Diocese



■ The All Souls Children's Choir sang two hymns as part of the Annual Peterborough Inter Faiths Council's United Nations Children's Day Celebration in Peterborough Cathedral on Wednesday February 27, reports Brian Keegan.

All Souls in Peterborough is blessed in having parishioners from all over our world including Africa, India, The Philippines and Eastern Europe.

The Choir, led by Jeremy Jepson, included children from many different heritages, they sang 'Jesu, Joy of Man's Desire' and 'A Hymn to Love,' accompanied by pianist Emily Smith and oboist Victoria Worthington.

Children from the Islamic, Sikh, Hindu, Jewish faiths also participated and all joined together to sing with the audience to sing 'Peace is Flowing Like a River' for the final hymn.



■ Fr Francis (Sam) Leeder was presented with a letter from Bishop Alan and more than £1,000 to celebrate his 80th birthday after parishioners at St Pancras in Ipswich held a secret collection for him.

He said: "I tried to keep it quiet but Theresa Cleary – who seems to know everyone's birthmark, never mind birthday, didn't forget it. I'm grateful to the parishioners who've been so kind to me and it was kind of the bishop."

Fr Leeder first came to St Pancras as a curate in 1963 before serving in Norwich and Woodbridge, returning to Ipswich in 1981. One parishioner said he is still the youngest and fittest priest in the town.

■ St George's Parish in Norwich launched their new 'Hands On' project by organising an evening on February 12 for their CAFOD group and 17th Norwich Scout Explorers.

They combined forces to learn about Colombia and why its young people are taking a lead in giving this country a better future.

The activities revealed how little we know about its vibrant people, stunning landscapes and the richness of its natural resources. A CAFOD video showed how motivated young people are to speak out and encourage each other to live together

in peace.

The two groups greatly enjoyed the opportunity to team up. They are now planning activities together to raise awareness and funds. Donations will be used by CAFOD's partners in the Magdalena Medio region running peace building projects in local schools.

Jane Crone, CAFOD Community Participation Coordinator for East Anglia Diocese, said: "St George's has loyally supported CAFOD for many years. It's great to see different groups within the parish working together to raise funds and learn more about Colombia."



■ Acle showed its ecumenical credentials with its traditional prayer walk around the village on Sunday March 17.

Led by Methodist Minister Rev Steve Cullis and Church of England Vicar Rev Martin Greenland, representatives of Roman Catholic, Methodist and Anglican churches enjoyed their traditional annual prayer walk on the afternoon of Sunday March 17.

Assembling at St Edmunds

Church for initial prayers the group processed around the village, pausing to recite appropriate prayers at Barclays Bank, the Fire Station, the Primary School, the Social Club, the Medical Centre and the Library before finishing up with final prayers at the Methodist Chapel where refreshments were served.

Pictured are, far left Steve Cullis and far right Martin Greenland with John Kenny, forefront, outside Acle Fire Station.