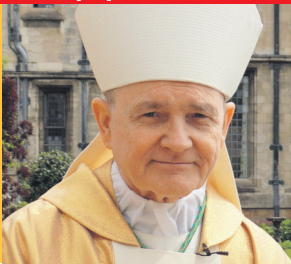


June
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Catholic East Anglia

Newspaper of the Diocese of East Anglia

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Hundreds join East Anglia pilgrimage

Around 850 people joined the annual Diocese of East Anglia pilgrimage to Walsingham on Bank Holiday Monday, May 6, despite cold and cloudy weather. Keith Morris reports.

■ The pilgrimage began at noon at the Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, with a Pontifical Mass held in and outside the Chapel of Our Lady of Reconciliation.

A group of some 120 young pilgrims had walked across the Norfolk countryside to Walsingham after attending the Ignite Festival in Swaffham.

In his homily, Bishop Alan said that during the Pilgrimage we were consecrating our Diocese to Our Lady of Walsingham, so that we might bring the Gospel to all the people of East Anglia.

"The story of Walsingham is an enduring witness to the beauty and power of silence," he said. "Our world is becoming less and less silent... but we know that the more we run away from silence, the more we run away from the Word of God, Jesus Christ, who speaks deep within us in the silence of prayer and reflection."

"The message of Walsingham asks us



not to speak but to help build up the Kingdom of God through silent witness to our faith in lives lived closely to Jesus Christ. The evangelisation of our country will never happen, nor individuals be impressed by the faith, unless our words are based on the foundation of personal holiness and prayer."

After Mass, groups from across Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough enjoyed their lunches in the grounds of the Shrine before Bishop Alan performed the traditional crowning of the statue of Mary.

Over 700 pilgrims then joining a Marian Procession to the Priory grounds in

Walsingham along the Holy Mile (one of only three such pilgrimages now allowed along this route every year), while others went in coaches.

On arrival at the Priory grounds, the Blessed Sacrament was placed on the altar and Bishop Alan gave Benediction and then led devotions at the original site of the Holy House which contained the image of Our Lady, before it was destroyed at the time of the Reformation. This included a prayer for England and singing the Lady of Walsingham hymn.

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



East Anglia group joins March for Life

■ A group from the Diocese of East Anglia travelled to London to join more than 5,000 pro-life supporters to take part in this year's March for Life on Saturday May 11.

This is the second year the March has taken place in London, starting at Westminster Church House and culminating in a festival style event in Parliament Square.

Groups from Peterborough, Ipswich and Walsingham (complete with the processional statue of Our Lady of Walsingham)

attended, said diocesan pro-life representative, Sarah Ward: "All the pro-life groups and associations were represented and many speakers gave powerful testimonies about their personal stories or their work in the pro-life movement. It really was a wonderful and joyful day, but the message of why we were there was not forgotten."

"The organisers, Ben and Sarah Thatcher, were very keen to encourage people to take the spirit of the March back to where they came from and continue to build the civilisation of love in their daily lives," said Sarah.

If any readers would like to get more involved with the pro-life movement please contact the Marriage & Family Commission's pro-life representative, Sarah Ward at sarahcampling@hotmail.com

"If enough people are interested, we would like to organise a 40 Days for Life prayer, fasting and vigil campaign in the diocese," said Sarah.

Pictured top are the East Anglia group during the march and, above, Sarah Ward.

www.marchforlife.co.uk



news in brief

Free historic church seminar

■ A leaking roof, crumbling stone or overflowing drains are just a few of the challenges regularly facing those with the responsibility for our historic churches. However, the biggest challenge is how repairs and maintenance can be paid for and how to keep costs down. Historic England is undertaking a trial in Suffolk on how small grants can make a big difference to improved church maintenance. As part of this trial a workshop is to be held in Lowestoft at the Church of St Peter & St John, Rectory Road, Lowestoft on June 3. Anyone with an interest or a responsibility for historic churches, and we have 18 in the Diocese, is encouraged to attend. Details can be found at: <https://bit.ly/2W2QrFr>

An Easter sunrise

■ Acle demonstrated its uncompromising approach to ecumenism when a cross-section of 40 members of the Roman Catholic, Methodist and Church of England communities celebrated a sun-rise service on Easter Sunday reports John Kenny.

Led by Deacon Peter Glanville, Rev Stephen Cullis, Rev Martin Greenland, Rev Nick Garrard and Rev Helen Garrard the congregation assembled at 5.30am on Easter Sunday outside the 12th Century church of St Mary's Fishley, for the traditional annual dawn service.

The service began with prayers and hymns inside the candle-lit church before the congregation processed outside into the grounds of the church to coincide with the rising of the sun.

Conway Cup winner

■ At the April meeting of the Norwich Circle of the Catenian Association, held in the Refectory of the Great Hospital, newly installed President Philip Hoy handed the Conway Cup to Paul Moore, President of Billericay Circle. The cup which is awarded to the Circle within No2 Province with the best record for visiting other Circles within that Province during the year.

Catholic East Anglia

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Articles and photographs for the next edition are very welcome and should be sent to the editor, ideally via email, by the deadline of Monday June 10.

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School tops Big Pedal challenge

■ St Thomas More Catholic Primary School in Peterborough has been named as the top school in the East of England in the recent Big Pedal 2019 challenge for schools.

Big Pedal 2019 is the UK's largest cycling, walking and scooting challenge for schools and across the country, 2,299 schools took part with 746,218 pupils actively travelling to school.

Organised by the walking and cycling charity Sustrans, the competition ran from Monday March 25 to Friday April 5 and encouraged young people from across the UK to travel by bike, walk or scooter for their journey to and from school.

St Thomas More achieved a remarkable average score of over 94% of students arriving by bike, scooter or by walking. They also achieved first place in the East of England and were in ninth place nationally which is a fantastic achievement.

Head Teacher and Sustrans School Champion, Anne-Marie McElhinney, said: "Our children and the whole school

community never cease to amaze me! We are delighted with our efforts this year as everyone in the community supported us so well. It's good to put Peterborough on the map for all the right reasons."

Matt Easter, Sustrans England Director Midlands and East, said: "The Big Pedal

may only run for two weeks but can leave a lasting effect on the way children travel to school.

"It can show parents just what is possible and how easy it can be to leave the car at home for a few extra journeys a week."



Jean is elected as an honorary freeman

Mrs Jean Wallace, a parishioner of Saint Thomas's Church in Woodbridge, was elected to be one of 12 Honorary Freemen of Woodbridge and received the award at a meeting of Woodbridge Town Council on April 30.

■ The Mayor of Woodbridge, Councillor David Mortimer said: "Vacancies to become an Honorary Freeman of Woodbridge are few and far between and are eagerly contested. It is a testament to the work that Mrs Wallace does that she has been elected to this very small and elite band."

Woodbridge's 12 Honorary Freemen must live within three miles of the town and have made a significant contribution to the life of the town.

Jean said: "I feel really honoured to have been elected as an Honorary Freeman of Woodbridge, especially when



Jean Wallace receives her award as an Honorary Freeman from Woodbridge Mayor Cllr David Mortimer.

you realise how much the other nominees have done for the town."

Jean was nominated by her parish priest, Fr Edmund Eggleston, in recognition of her voluntary work in the town over the last 26 years.

Fr Edmund said: "Jean's contribution to the life and mission of the Catholic

Church in Woodbridge was recognised some years ago by Bishop Alan's award to her of the East Anglia Diocesan Medal.

"Additionally, Jean gives a significant amount of her time each week to volunteer at the New Horizons Lunch Club for the elderly which meets in Woodbridge, to

Churches Together in Woodbridge & Melton, and to Woodbridge Town Museum. Jean is also a keen supporter of MISSIO and SPUC.

"I am delighted that this award has been made to Jean in recognition of all the work that she has done, and continues to do, for the town," said Fr Edmund.



Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Edward Adams and Bishop Alan Hopes with parishioners at St John's Cathedral in Norwich.

Nuncio begins East Anglia visit

The Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain, His Excellency Archbishop Edward Adams, began a four-day visit to the Diocese of East Anglia on Sunday May 19, by celebrating Mass at St John's Cathedral in Norwich.

■ The Nuncio is touring round the Diocese as part of the appointment process for a new Bishop after Bishop Alan Hopes celebrated his 75th birthday in March. The Nuncio started with a visit

to the Synagogue in Norwich opposite St John's where he met some of the Jewish congregation.

He then celebrated Mass and preached at the Cathedral before meeting parishioners over coffee.

Lunch with the Chapter of Canons was followed by a visit to Norwich Anglican Cathedral where he met Cathedral Dean, the Very Rev Jane Hedges and then took part in Compline.

The tour is due to continue with visits to two Catholics schools in Peterborough, Oxburgh Hall, the Catholic National Shrine at Walsingham, Sheringham, Quidenham and Cambridge.

The visit will be fully reported in the July newspaper and online at www.rcdea.org.uk



The Apostolic Nuncio is shown around Norwich Anglican Cathedral by Dean Jane Hedges.

Invite to come to special ordinations

■ No fewer than eight men will be ordained as either Priests or Deacons in the Diocese of East Anglia at St John's Cathedral in Norwich over two Saturdays this summer.

All are invited and are most welcome to come to the Ordination Masses, to pray for those who are to be ordained and to join in our celebration of the great gift that God has given to our Diocese.

On Saturday June 22, at 11:30am, Bishop Alan will ordain three men to serve the Diocese as Permanent Deacons. They are: Brett Gladden (from Bury St Edmunds), James Hurst (from Newmarket) and Martin L'Estrange (from King's Lynn).

Seminarian Peter Wygnanski will also be ordained a transitory Deacon by Bishop Alan in Rome (Palazzola) on July 14.

These new deacons will undertake pastoral work in their parishes, and assist at the altar during Mass, particularly in proclaiming the Gospel - the Word of God. We will gather to pray for them, and for their future ministry.

On Saturday July 6 at 11:30am, five men will be ordained as priests for the Diocese; the highest number ordained at one time in nearly 20 years, and a real blessing for our Diocese.

Those to be ordained to the sacred priesthood are: Rev Jude Belnas (from St

Philip Howard, Cambridge), Rev Michael Brookes (from Sacred Heart, Dereham), Rev Simon Davies (from St Neots), Rev Alan Hodgson (from St Edmund's, Bury) and Rev Paul Spellman (from Our Lady and St Joseph, Sheringham).

Bishop Alan said: This is a grace filled moment for our Diocese - a great blessing from God - and I hope that every parish will be represented in the cathedral on this day both to pray for our new priests and to welcome them amongst us as they prepare to minister to the people of God in East Anglia. I ask everyone to pray fervently that more men will answer God's call to serve Him and his church as priests."

news in brief

Support after Sri Lanka attacks

■ Bishop Alan Hopes has welcomed a message of support from the Muslim Council in Peterborough following the recent terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka including on two Catholic churches.

Its chairman, Mohammad Choudhary, wrote to Bishop Alan saying: "We want to express our extreme shock and most sincere condolences to our Christian brothers and sisters at the callous and barbaric terrorist attacks on the churches, Christians and other citizens of Sri Lanka."

"We stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the rest of humanity in our support for the innocent civilians killed, injured or affected in any way by this most horrific cowardly attack on places of worship and public places. The sanctity of places of worship of all faiths and innocent lives is paramount and fundamental tenant of Islam."

"We join in prayers with all faiths for solace of those who were so cruelly affected and pray for the peace of mankind and eradication of devious and extremist thoughts amongst all sections of society."

Bishop Alan replied: "I much appreciate the kind and positive message. Your solidarity with us in prayer and in our deep respect for the dignity and sanctity of all human life is much welcomed."

"Let us continue to pray for peace and justice throughout the world and for an end to all terrorist activity which is so contrary to God's Law."

"With profound gratitude for your message and an assurance of our respect for all our Muslim brothers and sisters in Peterborough and across the Diocese."

Free film is offered

■ A big thank you to all those who came and supported the Charity Film Night at St John the Baptist Cathedral, where there was a screening of the film, 'Power in my Hands' a film all about the power of the prayer of the Rosary, says organizer Helen Savelli.

A total of £360.55 was raised for the charity, Mary's Meals which feeds some of the poorest children in our world in a place of education.

A licence (which lasts for a year), to screen the film 'Power in my Hands' in parishes and groups (up to 100 people), has been purchased. If anyone is interested in borrowing the film on DVD with a view to putting on the film in their parish or prayer group please contact helen@savelli.co.uk for more information.

History newsletter

■ The Spring 2019 edition of the East Anglian Catholic History Society newsletter, *Oriente Lumen*, has just been published.

It contains news of the happy reunion of two long-separated manuscripts, as well as plans for the millennium celebration in 2020 of the foundation of St Edmunds Abbey in Bury St Edmunds by King Canute.

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Can you help welcome the stranger to church?

Can you help welcome the stranger to your church, asks Rebecca Bretherton.

■ In an East Anglian tourist information office I asked "Where is the local Catholic church?" The staff couldn't help: they kindly offered me other churches but didn't know there was a Catholic church.

So do visitors know where to find your parish?

We want to share God's Good News with others. "Welcoming the stranger" is not an obscure message in the Bible; it's God's message. In Matthew 25:35, Jesus reminds us that he is with the stranger when he says: "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

Who uses tourist information offices? Tourists obviously, but even if you are not living in a holiday destination, your parish community will have visitors. People who are working away from home; people who are visiting family; or people relocating to the area. People outside their normal routine have an opportunity to consider an encounter with Jesus Christ in your community.

How do you invite people to join you? Tourist Information Offices are often run by volunteers or are merged into other local services, so information can get lost. At hotels and B&Bs and holiday parks, the information can become out-of-date or disappear.

This month's challenge:

■ June is a good time to review what is waiting for summer visitors. Volunteer to visit your local tourist information service and visitor accommodation on behalf of your parish. Maybe a few of you could work together. Speak to the staff and ask what would help them. Here are some suggestions:

■ Providing a leaflet or invitation sheet makes it easy for businesses to display



■ A sailing yacht was welcomed into the port of Ipswich on Wednesday May 8 with prayer, praise and worship by Catholics from across East Anglia reports Anne Murrin.

The boat What If It's True is on a mission around the British coast to publicise the various Celebrate Catholic Renewal family conferences taking place at various locations, including at Bury St Edmunds on June 1 and 2.

The Ignite Youth Team and the St George's Norwich Tuesday Prayer Group were among around 30 people to gather at Nelson's Quay to pray and sing.

They met Russ Fairman from the Portsmouth Diocese, skipper and owner of the boat, who had sailed from Southampton picking up volunteer crew along the way. Ross is on a mission to visit various ports around Britain close to where the Celebrate Conferences are being held.

The intention of his visit to Ipswich was to offer prayer support for the East Angli Celebrate Conference to be held at St Benedict's School in Bury. Prayers were also said for the town of Ipswich and its surrounding locality.

www.celebrateconference.org/east-anglia

your invitation;

■ Posters for your parish summer events could find a place on notice boards;

■ A greetings card from local Catholics for staff thanking them for the work they do;

■ Tell them that you and your parish are

praying for everyone working in the hospitality industry. Then make sure you do so!

■ Hebrews 13:1 -- Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

VOCATIONS – Fr Gregory Pearson

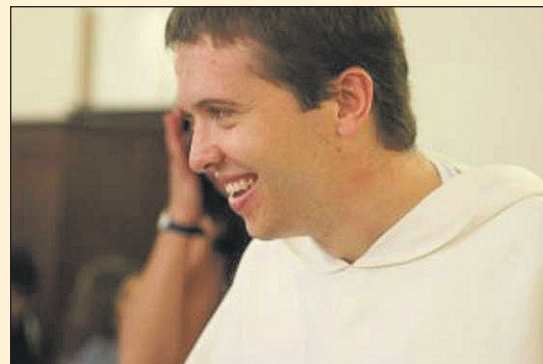
Norfolk-born Fr Gregory Pearson OP is an assistant priest at St Dominic's, London. Here is his vocation story.

■ Born and raised in rural Norfolk, it was as a teenager at boarding school that I became drawn towards the Catholic faith (I had been brought up in the Church of England).

The need to defend and explain my Christian beliefs, to myself as much as to my sceptical peers, in the light of the challenges and questions they raised, led me to discover the beauty and coherence of the Catholic doctrinal vision.

So eventually, just before I finished school, I was received into the Church.

At university in Cambridge, the Catholic chaplaincy, Fisher House, proved a won-



derful place not only to learn to think more deeply about the Faith but also to live it out as part of a genuine Christian community. It was also a place where vocation was something natural to talk about: here was a bunch of young people looking to the future and asking themselves how they could best live out their faith. As well as a

fair few weddings within the chaplaincy fold, there were several examples of people entering the seminary or religious life, not least the Dominican novitiate which happens to be in Cambridge.

The same thing which had led me to the Church – seeking to present an intelligible account of Christian belief – was, I discovered, at the heart of the Dominican vocation, grounded in a common life of prayer and a commitment to study, and with preaching in its broadest sense as the Order's work (hence the name, Order of Preachers): this seemed to me the best way I could put myself at the Lord's service.

Today, 11 years since entering the novitiate and five years since I was ordained priest, it still does.

Parish and school launch eco-project

■ St Edmund's Parish and Primary School in Bungay have taken a big stride towards being more environmentally friendly with the launch of 20 photovoltaic panels on the roof of the parish and school hall, reports Mary Kirk.

Telling pupils about the project on May 3, parish priest Fr Charles Fitzgerald Lombard quoted teenage environmentalist Greta Thunberg who holds the older generation responsible for the catastrophe of climate change, and said that the installation of the panels was a gesture on the part of the parish towards putting its house in order.

The initiative grew from a plea from some members of the Parish Pastoral

Council that the parish should live more simply and reduce its carbon footprint, and at the same time help the children at the school learn about the problems facing the environment, and reflect on their own and their family's way of life.

Head teacher Samantha Barlow said: "We are all really excited to be part of an eco-friendly school project, and we'll definitely be encouraging the children to be more eco-friendly themselves and look at other ways of helping the environment."

The scheme was made possible by the parish's participation in the Diocese of East Anglia scheme Alive in Faith which raised funds for the development of the

diocese and its parishes.

The firm Green Bricks of Diss surveyed the hall and suggested using an advanced technology to maximise effective heat capture, and ensures that if one panel fails it does not interrupt the working of the others. In normal use the system has a generating capacity of 5.3kW, and over 20 years will save 56 metric tonnes of CO2 emissions from damaging our world.

Also present at the assembly was Parish Pastoral Chair Shirley Kalinauckas, who encouraged the children to get their parents to save energy, and – amongst other things – turn off equipment which is left on stand-by.



Jacinta Goode with Bishop Alan and Fr David Bagstaff

Caritas given a boost as Jacinta appointed

Caritas has been given a major boost within the Diocese of East Anglia with the appointment of Jacinta Goode, from St George's parish in Norwich, as its new Development Worker.

■ Caritas – which means 'charity' – is an international Catholic agency with member organisations which are at the heart of the Church's mission of serving the poor, vulnerable, dispossessed and marginalized.

Caritas is inspired by Scripture, Catholic Social Teaching and by the experiences and hopes of people who are disadvantaged and living in poverty.

Jacinta, who grew up in Costessey parish, studied philosophy and theology at Heythrop College in London and then chose to come back to live in Norwich.

She said: "I'm delighted to have been appointed to serve in this way in East Anglia. Through the teachings of Jesus in the Gospels and of the Church in Catholic Social Teaching, we learn to love our neighbour as ourselves and to value everything we have as gift from God. We are called to serve God in the poor and the marginalised. I'm excited to see how the Holy Spirit leads us to serve Him in East Anglia."

Within the diocese, the work of Caritas will be to oversee the social outreach work carried out by Catholics in East Anglia.

Jacinta said: "Much good work is happening around our diocese by a lot of

people, often unseen. We want to celebrate that and in doing so, we hope to encourage others to share in the mission of the Church in serving the poor and marginalised."

There will be much more information about the work of Caritas – what it does and how you can join in – in future editions of Catholic East Anglia, but if you would like to offer to help right now, please email Jacinta at: caritas@rcdea.org.uk

Caritas East Anglia will continue to be overseen by Fr David Bagstaff.

Pictured is Jacinta Goode with Bishop Alan and Fr David Bagstaff who is the chair of Caritas East Anglia. Our Lady of Walsingham is at the centre of the diocese and Jacinta is asking people to pray for her intercession for the work of Caritas East Anglia.

news in brief

Celebration of Divine Mercy

■ English and Polish parishioners of St James the Less Catholic Church, Ipswich, together with parishioners from the Ipswich Deanery, celebrated the Feast of Divine Mercy on Sunday April 28, led by Canon Michael Hazell and assisted by Fr Pawel Nawloka.

The devotions began at 2pm with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession. At 2pm, all present joined Catholics praying throughout the UK, reciting the Three O'clock Prayers and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Veneration of the Image of Divine Mercy was followed by Benediction.

Bursaries awarded

■ Tony Baker, President of the Norwich Circle of the Catenian Association, has presented £100 bursary cheques to Notre Dame High School students awarded financial assistance to travel on a pilgrimage to Lourdes.

They are Klara Kouropoupis, Frederick Greef, Amelie Letondeur-Burridge and Louise Miller.

Director retires

■ Around 150 people gathered in the school canteen of Maria Fidelis Senior School, near Euston Station to mark the retirement of Pat Gaffney, Director of Pax Christi UK on Saturday April 13. They included Sean and Hilary Finlay (Pax Christi members from Wisbech) and Sue Claydon (chairperson of the Anglican Peace Fellowship from March).

Easter egg hunt

■ On Easter Sunday after a packed Mass, over 30 children took part in the Great Clare Priory Easter Egg Hunt. Eggs were hidden across the Priory grounds. While parents had tea and coffee after Mass the children excitedly followed the clues to search for the hidden eggs.

JOE WALSH TOURS
PILGRIMAGES 2019



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Picture by Helen Jackson.

Shumona runs to fight slavery

■ Shumona Knott, a member of St John Fisher Parish in Cambourne, ran the London Marathon on Sunday April 28 to raise funds and awareness for Unseen, a charity which is working to stop modern slavery and human trafficking and to support survivors.

Shumona, who has run five marathons and one ultra-marathon before, finished in 5 hours 26 mins and raised over £600 for the charity, for which she is a helpline advisor.

"The best part of the day was hearing all the people cheering the runners on mid-way, especially around Canary Wharf. The worst part was waiting for the race to begin in the freezing cold. I thought I was going to get hypothermia," she said.

"As a Christian, I strongly believe that any kind of slavery is a sin, whether it be slavery to work or addictions. The money I have raised will help Unseen make a significant contribution to the fight against modern slavery."

Unseen is funded by individuals, corporate sponsors, trusts and foundations. It runs safehouses for men and women who have been victims and also operates the Modern Slavery Helpline (08000 121 700) which victims, frontline professionals and members of the public can call for free help, support and advice.

In 2018, the Helpline received over 6,000 calls and almost 1,400 reports, from which over 7,000 potential victims of modern slavery have been identified from 94 different nationalities. This uncovered around 1,850 cases in the UK.

From these reports, Helpline Advisors (like Shumona) were able to make over 3,300 referrals and signposts to police, local authorities and other organisations that handle modern slavery.

If you would like to support Shumona and Unseen, please visit her JustGiving page at: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/shumona-knott
www.unseenuk.org

John says thanks

■ Former diocesan financial secretary John Pitt has expressed his gratitude to the clergy and parishioners of the diocese for their "very generous presentation" to mark his retirement. "It was a great and gratifying surprise and I very much appreciate their good wishes," wrote John to Bishop Alan. "It has been an honour and a privilege to serve the last 12 years of my working life in support of the diocesan mission and I wish you all the best in the future."

Festival ignites y

Over 200 young people from across the Diocese of East Anglia enjoyed and benefited from a powerful weekend at the Ignite Festival, over the Bank Holiday Weekend at the Sacred Heart School in Swaffham. Hannah Williams reports.

■ Organised by the Ignite Youth Team, festival-goers enjoyed worship from the YFC Band from Norwich, comedy from Tony Vino and Nathan Ball, mime from Steve Murray and high energy music from DJ Galactus Jack and Black Vynes, which the attendees wholeheartedly enjoyed.

The Ignite Team did an amazing job of organising this weekend and encouraging the young people to seek a deeper relationship with God. The talks and workshops were filled with inspiring speakers including Sr Theresa Weight from the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham, Youth Chaplain Fr Luke Goymour and Bishop Alan Hopes who celebrated Mass in a specially constructed Holy House inside the school gymnasium.

"Young people are not just the future of the church, but they have a vital role to play in the present church," said Bishop Alan.

This weekend gave the young people a beautiful invitation to further explore their faith and reach out to God as He reached out to them.

Twelve-year-old Nancy Allen loved the variety of fun and spiritual workshops. "I had an encounter with Christ and my faith has really grown from the event. I really learnt something from the weekend and loved seeing the Bishop and having adoration in the holy house," she said. Nancy went on to say how she made new friends, liked the food, and looks forward to next year!

The theme of the weekend was the same as for World Youth Day 2019: "I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1v38). Which fitted in with the talk by Sr Theresa on the Saturday as she related her personal faith journey, having taken her final vows just last year.

"God is revealed to us in the everyday things of life," explained Sr Theresa. "I think God is asking many of you to say 'yes' to him in some way this weekend. Mary helps us to see what God is asking of us and embrace our 'yes'. Say to the Lord, like Mary: 'Let it be done to me according to your word.'"

Professional Christian comedian, and former solicitor, Tony Vino, straight from a visit to Nairobi and before he left for Montenegro, brought the crowd to life with his jokes and impromptu staging's of the story of King Arthur and The Lion King with the help of the audience.

"I had such fun when the DJ came on, and found the comedian, Tony Vino, so funny," 13-year-old Trinity Fannon from East Rudham remarked. "The talk by Steve Murray made me think and I really related to what he spoke about. I also felt such comfort when I had someone praying over me. I can't wait till next year and I highly recommend this to all the youth!"

Other teenagers at the event said how enriching the prayer was and how it drew



them closer to God. One young person even said the event changed their life!

On the Monday, around 120 of the Festival attendees joined in with the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham, after walking five miles from Waterden Church, echoing the journey taken by thousands of pilgrims to Walsingham over the centuries.

The Ignite Festival was a compelling

weekend that has served to help so many teenagers as they go through a turbulent stage of their life. It has assisted them in enriching their lives with Christ's love and growing with his strength as they grow in their faith and relationship with Christ.

■ Full picture gallery to download at www.rcdea.org.uk

young faith



Pictured above, comedian Tony Vino stages The Lion King, with help from his audience, right Sr Theresa Weight, left, a barbecue and, below, Adoration in a Holy House.



reflection

Getting a spiritual boost

In his monthly series of reflections, Deacon Peter Coates from Woodbridge looks at getting a spiritual boost during June.



■ Those of us who need regular boosts to keep our spiritual lives going should be in for a treat in June.

Easter was so late this year that there is a surfeit of Solemnities and Feasts in the month of June, both on Sundays and weekdays. These are the great traditional landmarks which the Church uses to guide us in our growth to holiness.

I love the great Feasts with their solemn liturgy and lots of incense (if I am lucky). Pentecost, Holy Trinity, Corpus Christi, and Saints Peter & Paul on the Sundays plus Sacred Heart, John the Baptist, John Fisher and Thomas More, and our own Cathedral on weekdays. It will be a busy time but I do wonder if we are really finding the way for a 21st century spiritual life.

This year the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus falls on the last Friday of the month. This holy concept has, according to a priest friend of mine, produced some of the deepest devotion and worst art in the church. Certainly some of the representations seen in Spain and

Italy have never inspired me to pray or worship.

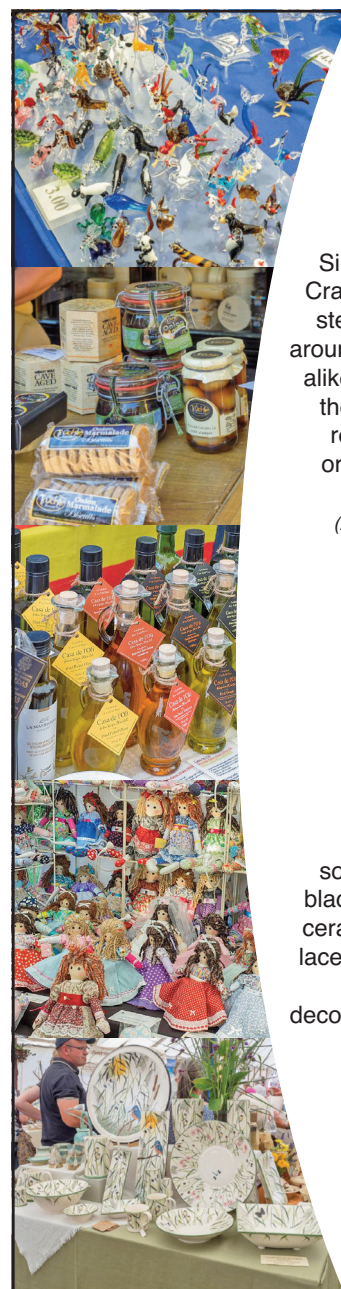
But I am not looking for a new 21st century depiction of the Sacred Heart nor for a clever explanation to suit "today's world". The unconditional love poured out from the Cross can bring even me to my knees and I want the world to know that this is the love for today.

The great propagators of this devotion tell us of wonderful promises that are fulfilled for those who open themselves to receive the love of Christ. St Margaret Mary Alacoque gives us twelve promises which can be claimed by those who will show their devotion to this expression of Christ's love for all mankind.

They include many of the benefits that I would include in general statements about our God of Love, and an intriguing assurance to priests of their "power to touch the most hardened hearts".

But the overall message is the encouragement to open our lives to receive His Love, with some hints on how to do this. The search for holiness is not for the few but the many. The power of love is for all to transform us into His living body to bring all people to Him. Even today, the Sacred Heart of Jesus offers new life to the world.

■ Peter spent 15 years as a Methodist minister before European Education and Training projects in Portugal (where he converted), Hungary, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Moldova where he lived for six years. He was the first permanent deacon ordained in the former Soviet Union in the Diocese of Chisinau, Moldova.



Clare Priory Craft Fair

July 13th/14th - 2019

Since 1993 Grade 1 listed Clare Priory has been hosting a Craft Fair on the second full weekend in July. This has grown steadily to become a very popular event, and now receives around 10,000 visitors over the two days. Exhibitors and visitors alike greatly appreciate the unique atmosphere and setting of the Priory, and many have become familiar friends as they return year after year. All proceeds go to charity, and the organisers and helpers are all unpaid volunteers who give their time freely and generously.

(As mentioned in the Suffolk Tourist Guide www.suffolktouristguide.com)

2019 Visitor Information -
Sorry, no dogs except Assistance dogs

Opening Times:
Sat & Sun, July 13/14, 10am - 5pm

Admission:
One Day: Adults £5, Seniors £4
Both Days: Adults £8, Seniors £6
Accompanied under-16s FREE

Crafts: With over 140 exhibitors and 160 stalls there is something for everyone. Crafts on display in 2018 included blacksmithing, wood craft, leatherwork, stick-making, textiles, ceramics, high-quality wooden furniture, metalwork, jewellery, lace-making, artists, plants and flowers, wool-spinning, artisan food and drink, glassware, pyrography, photography, decoupage, cards & stationery, clothing & accessories, candles, aromatherapy, beauty products.

For Children:
Traditional Punch & Judy shows, Magician and Free daily children's raffle

Other:
Licensed Bar, Refreshments and Live Entertainment

Clare Priory, Ashen Road, Clare, Suffolk CO10 8NX

DIOCESAN SCHOOLS IN FOCUS

New Catholic primary school in Swaffham is approved

Following strong public support, Norfolk County Council has approved the Diocese of East Anglia's proposal to open a new 210-place primary school on the site of the current Sacred Heart School in Swaffham which is due to close at the end of the summer term.

■ The new Voluntary Aided, non-fee paying, primary school will open on September 1, 2019 with 210 places and a 25-place maintained nursery class.

Helen Bates, Assistant Director for Schools for the Diocese, said: "This is fantastic news for current and future parents and pupils, the local Swaffham community and for Catholic education in Norfolk."

"We would like to thank everyone who supported our proposal, without which this would not have been possible. Now the hard work really starts to make sure that the school is up and running in less than four months."

Further information regarding admission to the school in September will be available from Sacred Heart School's office and on the Diocese's website at www.rcdea.org.uk/sacredheartva

Sr Francis Ridler, headteacher of Sacred Heart School, said: "I am pleased that the legacy of the Sisters who arrived from Vienna in 1914 to set up a school in Swaffham will continue through the new VA Catholic Primary School. It has been a long journey to finally have free education on the site of the Sacred Heart Convent."

"After much praying and hard work by a gallant group from the school and Diocese, parents, pupils and staff both past and present we will have secured the continuation of the Daughters of Divine Charity's ethos, Service before Self. May all who have given encouragement and loyalty to this venture feel proud of this achievement."

"So we rejoice and thank God but would also like to remember those staff, families and pupils who were sad that their Senior School must close."

There will be a day of thanksgiving and celebration for all the past staff, parents and pupils on June 29, 105 years after the school's formation.

Top chemistry award for Niki

■ Dr Niki Kaiser, from Notre Dame Catholic High School in Norwich, has been named winner of the prestigious Schools Education Award from the Royal Society of Chemistry.

Dr Kaiser won the award for outstanding commitment to the incorporation and dissemination of research informed teaching approaches.

Receiving the award, Dr Kaiser said: "I feel very honoured to have been selected to receive the Schools Education Award, and I think it reflects how teachers are increasingly looking to research to help inform their practice."

"Teaching is a wonderful, rewarding career, and I believe that good professional development and excellent support for classroom practitioners is vital, if we are going to continue attracting new teachers to our profession, while retaining the much-needed voice of experienced teachers. I'm fortunate to have been able to pursue directions that interested me, and carve my own path professionally. I'm keen to help ensure that all teachers are able to do the same."

Dr Kaiser has lived and worked in Nor-



wich since 2006 and thinks of it as home. In winning the award Dr Kaiser also receives £2,000 and a medal.

Dr Robert Parker, chief executive of the Royal Society of Chemistry said: "Over the years, our lives have been significantly improved by the chemical sciences, from medicines and food to the environment itself. We are proud of the contribution the chemical sciences make to our global community, which is why it is right for us to recognise important innovations and expertise such as these."

"Our Prizes and Awards recognise people from a range of different spe-

cialisms, backgrounds and locations. Every winner is an inspiration to the chemistry community and will play an incredibly important role in enriching people's lives for generations to come."

Dr Kaiser works with teachers to find ways of applying educational research to their classrooms. She's keen to help them improve student outcomes without losing the sense of wonder or increasing their workload. She also uses research to support her own students, and is particularly interested in exploring why they find certain chemistry concepts difficult to understand.

Warm welcome for school head

St Benedict's Catholic School in Bury St Edmunds has welcomed a new headteacher who will see the school transition from two sites to operate on a single site.

■ Imogen Senior has taken over from Kate Pereira as headteacher of the school. Kate has just been appointed as headteacher at St John Fisher High School in Peterborough.

Kate had been in the role for just over two and a half years and she succeeded Hugh O'Neill after he retired from working at the school for 33 years.

Imogen said: "It's very exciting, the school is a lovely place to be."

She was promoted from the role of head of sixth form which is currently rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted, whilst the school overall was rated 'Good' in its last inspection in 2016.

She has been in education since 2001 and has worked at St Benedict's since September after previously working as head of sixth form at the Samuel Ward Academy in Haverhill.

"I love it, it's fantastic," she said about the school and teaching. "I want to carry on the fantastic work that's been started here. Supporting our students achieving the very best academically and



personally."

She added: "The move to the one site enables us to come together as a community which we currently struggle to do across the two sites."

"I think the school has gone through significant changes already. I would like to continue what we do very well, for example continuing to build on the sixth form," Imogen said, "we want to support all of our students. I am interested in making improvements, not massive changes."

Imogen also said she would like to enhance and carry on the charity work that the school and students are currently very involved with.

The school will be operating solely on the Beetons Way site from September. As part of the closure of the lower school site in St Andrew's Street South the school is holding a special mass and picnic on June 29. Anyone connected with the school or interested in attending can call 01284 753512.

www.st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk

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



YOUTH MATTERS

Adventure on a retreat

Young people from St George's Parish had an adventure retreat together at the Horstead Activity Centre recently.



■ Together they explored various themes from Holy Week through a wide range of activities from making their own unleavened bread to washing each other's feet. They also discovered the meaning of pilgrimage, by walking to the nearby

ancient church of Saint Thibault.

Alex Savage said: "There were also opportunities to pray and socialise together. It was wonderful to see young people aged 8 - 18 enjoying each other's company and sharing their faith together."

The event culminated with a moving Mass celebrated by Fr Sean Connolly. He invited each person to light a candle and say who they would like the Mass to be said for. At the sign of peace, each person gave another a friendship bracelet. This symbolised that the group would continue to support each other as they share life's journey.



A moving celebration

Young people from St John Fisher Cambourne and Our Lady of Lourdes Sawston joined up with friends from OLEM Youth Group in Cambridge for an annual Good Friday celebration reports Mel Ward.

■ With hot cross bun making, time to reflect upon and write intercessions for the service, games, a shared supper and music practice, it was a busy evening organised by Rachael Beale aided by parishioners and parents.

Joe Caprani encouraged youngsters to join him and members of OLEM 5Alive and some of the recently founded parish youth choir as they led the Taize worship.

The service has become increasingly popular with the wider community and quite a few people wandered in from the street and stayed and joined or simply sat and listened.

Many were moved by the reverence and dignity with which the young people read from scripture, poetry and their own prayers and joined in the worship. Tea lights were lit by all of us as a focus for our gratitude for the sacrifice of the cross and the final poem by Stephen Henderson left us with the tension of expectation of the unexpected, unimaginable and world shattering history and life redefining miracle that "There was no death enough to dull me to cull me.....There was no cross, grave or room to hold me."

Diary dates 2019

■ **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

■ **August 5 - 9:** 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

igniteteam@rcdea.org.uk

All other enquiries: dys@rcdea.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/igniteyea

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

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

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

Can you help transform young lives?

Supported Lodgings

- ▶ Do you have a heart for young people?
- ▶ Can you provide a young person in need a room in your home and support?
- ▶ Do you want to receive approx £95 tax free a week?

We are looking for fantastic people to join our Supported Lodging's Providers Team. You can help provide a young person with a safe place to call home and equip them with the skills and confidence to live independently.

You won't be alone in this, YMCA Norfolk will help by providing training and regular support. If you would like to find out more about being part of a team that helps change a vulnerable young person's life for the better please contact;

YMCA Community Housing, 29-34 Anglia Square, Norwich, NR3 1DZ

Email: community.housing@ymcanorfolk.org

Telephone: 01603 662455

www.ymcanorfolk.org



YMCA enables people to develop their full potential in mind, body and spirit. Inspired by, and faithful to, our Christian values, we create supportive, inclusive and energising communities, where young people can truly belong, contribute and thrive.

SUPPORT & ADVICE

ACCOMMODATION

FAMILY WORK

HEALTH & WELLBEING

TRAINING & EDUCATION

Jean made the Gospel come alive

Tony Gibbings, Community Leader of L'Arche Ipswich, pays a personal tribute to renowned Catholic philosopher, writer and humanist Jean Vanier, founder of two international organizations for people with intellectual disabilities, L'Arche and Faith and Light, who died on May 7.

■ I first met Jean Vanier in early 1970, when I went to a talk at the Catholic chaplaincy in Gower St London, organised by Bruce Kent, who was chaplain there at the time. A few of us – students for the priesthood at the time – wanted to go to France for the summer and do something a bit more interesting – and possibly easier – than picking grapes.

That summer, four of us went to the village of Trosly, near Compiègne, and spent two happy months immersed in the community of L'Arche that Jean had created during the previous five years. People came from all over the world to get behind his vision of a community that invites the most vulnerable in to its centre.

The moment I walked in the door of the house I was to stay in I felt the Gospels coming alive. Here was what Jesus meant in the Beatitudes; here were the poor in spirit and the pure in heart; here were the words of St Paul about weakness, strength, the centrality of the cross and the experience of resurrection all happening in front of me; here was the feast of the Kingdom of Heaven hap-



pening before my eyes; here was the possibility of living as a child of God, even while taking responsibility for others; here was a place where rejection was identified for what it is and reversed by bringing a place of tangible love where all could be welcomed to the feast. Here was what was missing from the Church and life generally.

And Jean's discovery was that people with learning disabilities had the gift to make such a world possible. All he had to do was remain faithful to them and their gift for creating a community rooted in the Gospel message. Simple. Jean locked

on to this discovery and the insights that came from it.

He could have made a very much bigger noise in the world. He was charismatic in his presence and in his words. He chose to remain hidden within the heart of L'Arche and its people. He chose to remain vulnerable to the vagaries of relationships and enabling others rather than being more well-known and powerful in the eyes of those who he might have influenced more. His public voice was comparatively muted. L'Arche communities were his real voice and message.

Of course, in creating L'Arche particularly, there are problems and struggles. Of course there is pain and fatigue. But if the world of war – and “mutually assured destruction” – was to be reversed a price has to be paid and many have followed Jean in creating L'Arche communities against many odds all over the world. A blend of care for the vulnerable, a peace movement, a world where people can learn to be open to receive as well as give. Jean took the gospel message seriously, living it in a way that made it possible for others. He was prepared to live on the edge of the Church rather than at its centre, in order to offer a welcoming hand to all he engaged with. He had the strength, the insight and the gift to stand alone with the New Testament and offer it pure and simple.

L'Arche in the UK was started in 1974 near Canterbury by Jean's sister, Thérèse, a devoted doctor who left an important post as a consultant at St Thomas's in London to found L'Arche, at first near Canterbury – thus sharing Jean's vocation of “climbing down the ladder of success” – to share with people who were vulnerable to rejection, whether through disability or not.

Thérèse, who died in 2014, continued to work in palliative care as a doctor. One of their brothers was a Cistercian monk in Montreal. Thus there were three differing, but connected, vocations within the Church all from the same family.

Now in the UK, there are 10 communities with several houses each, and two others being formed. Ipswich is one of the most recent, having opened in 2006, with four properties, one of which is the former convent of Jesus and Mary adjacent to St Mary's parish church.

Thetford parish honours faithful steward John

Tributes have been paid to Lay Father and President of the Parish of St Mary's, Thetford, John White and his devoted wife Bernie after John's recent death, reports Paul Gilbert.

■ John served St Mary's alongside Bernie, whom he met at a church camp, marrying on June 21, 1963, and then moving to the parish in 1964. During their marriage of over 50 years, John and Bernie celebrated the birth of six children, 14 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Throughout John's life, he dedicated himself to a variety of roles within St Mary's. These roles and responsibilities included, senior server, master of ceremonies, Eucharistic Minister, chair of the parish council, deanery representative for Thetford for Bury St Edmunds deanery and many others throughout the years. He served faithfully throughout his life both the parish of Thetford and the wider Catholic community within the Diocese of East Anglia.

Last year, John's health took a turn for the worse and Mgr Canon Peter Leeming, parish Priest of Thetford asked that John White be awarded the Diocesan Medal for his great service to the church. John was also given the rare honour of becoming Lay Father and



President of the parish by Mgr Canon Peter Leeming. John was awarded the Diocesan Medal by Bishop Alan Hopes shortly before he sadly passed away on October 7, aged 76.

Mgr Canon Leeming said: "John was a very faithful servant of the church, a good friend not only to the parish priest, but to the parish community as a whole. John worked tirelessly in helping others



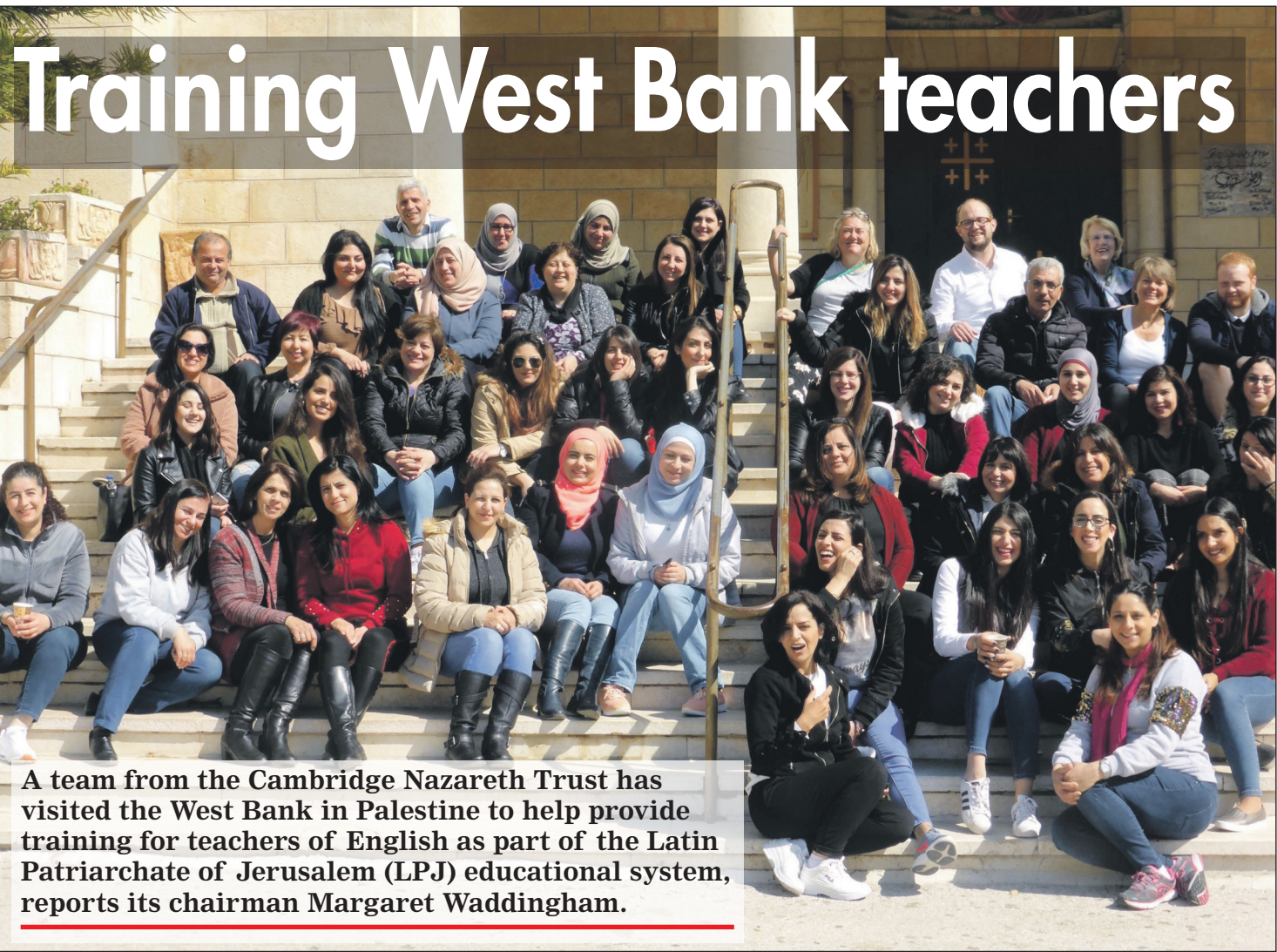
and if there was ever a problem, John would know how to fix it. It is only right that John should be honoured and recognised."

Sadly, Bernie passed away two years before John and was not able to see John awarded the Diocesan Medal. However, before he passed away John said that the Diocesan Medal was for both Bernie's and his dedication and efforts to parish.

John did not want to take all the credit, he wanted his loving wife to be recognised as well. They were devoted to each other and without having Bernie's support, John would not have been able to fulfil the roles within St Mary's. Bernie and John were very much loved and respected in the parish.

The parish pastoral council of Thetford decided to honour John posthumously with a memorial plaque that shows how much he meant to the parish. There was an overwhelming response from the parish in support for a plaque to be erected in John's memory.

BUILDING BRIDGES



A team from the Cambridge Nazareth Trust has visited the West Bank in Palestine to help provide training for teachers of English as part of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem (LPJ) educational system, reports its chairman Margaret Waddingham.

Teachers and the tutors on the steps of Birzeit Church, built by the Christian and Muslim community.

■ Three years after our last visit, we flew to Tel Aviv on March 31 with a team of specialist language tutors: Richenda Askew, Jackie Halsall and Jonny Kowal together with David Pearce, a Drama specialist, for a week of training.

Fr Iyad Twal, the Education Director in Palestine and Israel for LPJ, has developed a five-year programme in which every member of the educational system will receive training.

We were based in the parish of Birzeit, a 20-minute journey from Ramallah by school bus.

The 41 teachers attending the course came from across the West Bank, often travelling long distances each day.

These teachers are academically qualified and possess a sound knowledge of English but have received little teacher training before starting their careers.

Training for LPJ teachers is not provided by the state and we, as English, are uniquely qualified to help them to

improve their skills in English, the global language.

Rawan Mussallam, the Principal at Birzeit, welcomed us with open arms and Parish Priest, Fr Louis Hazboun, kindly let us use his parish hall. A busy week of workshops and seminars followed.

We were delighted to meet teachers who had received some training between 2013 and 2016, and to discover how they had progressed. We are pleased that some are acting as trainers for others and are cascading best practice. They received advanced training on strategies for listening, reading, writing, critical thinking, reflection and further activities to encourage English fluency and comprehension.

A further group of 14 enthusiastic new teachers of English were, through lively workshops, introduced to student-centred teaching techniques, classroom layout dynamics, receptive skills, error correction and how to 'humanise' the

course book.

On their final day, they all had to present a three-minute micro-teach or lesson, demonstrating their adoption of some of these new strategies.

As a new initiative, both of these two groups had a Drama session with David to encourage and inspire a fluency in English through Drama. The third group of 16 teachers, enjoyed three days of Drama with David and were enthused and inspired.

The teachers were delighted and reassured to hear that they were remembered, that people in the UK prayed and cared for them.

They are now aware and grateful that 230 kind CNT donors, The Sir Harold Hood Foundation, the Lenten collections from the Diocese of East Anglia and donations from parishes are generously assisting them. This gives hope, the greatest of gifts.

www.cambridgenazarethtrust.co.uk

Work of pastors on Norwich streets

The work of the Christian Norfolk Street Partnership was the subject of a talk organised by the Norwich Justice and Peace Group at the Cathedral Narthex in Norwich on April 4, reports Sarah Ebelewicz.

■ A 45-strong audience from several parishes heard John Pinnington and Irene Moore from NSP speak about the small ecumenical Christian charity which aims to offer practical support and help to young clubbers on the late-night streets of Norwich. They also watch out for rough sleepers and exist to express their Christian faith by means of offering care, compassion, appropriate practical and spiritual help to anyone in need.

John and Irene gave us a very vivid insight into the development of the charity, its core aims and values and many practical insights about a night shift on the street with the team and at the prayer base.

The presentation revealed the way in which officials and volunteers together have successfully developed a culture that effectively cares for mainly young people who, for whatever rea-

son, are vulnerable on the streets of Norwich at night. At a time when bad news and frustrations abound in this country it is something for the city to be justly proud of, and does many people a lot of credit,

For a largely Christian audience it was inspiring to learn about prayer as the main bastion in supporting the work of the city pastors. This was a powerful example of prayer in action – and was a wonderful example to us all.

Both John and Irene were delightfully open in the way they explained what happens, and responded to questions from an engrossed audience. Judging from all the comments being expressed in the hall afterwards, this was both an education and a source of inspiration for many of those who attended.

The charity needs more volunteers to be part of the street/prayer team. Anyone who's over 18, and a regular worshipper at a Christian church for the last 12 months, is welcome to apply. Applicants need to be prepared to complete NSP training, have a positive reference from their church and have a completed, accepted DBS check. Visit: www.nspuk.org

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 Uppgate, Poringland, Norwich, NR14 7SH

Registered charity no 278742

News picture gallery from parishes around the Diocese

■ Churches Together in Peterborough held their annual Good Friday Procession of Witness when some 350 Christians of many different denominations processed from Stanley Recreation Ground, to the main shopping street in Peterborough, the Town Hall and then to Cathedral Square for an ecumenical service, reports Brian Keegan.

The cross at the head of the procession was carried by members of the Catholic Indian community and there were a substantial number of Catholics supporting this ecumenical event including Fr Waldemar, the Assistant Priest and Deacons Claudio Chiappinelli and John Bedford.

The service was led by Rev Adrian Holdsworth, the Vicar of St Marks Church and the address was given by Canon Sarah Brown, Canon Missioner from the Cathedral.

After the service Christians from all the various denominations enjoyed hot cross buns and coffee in St John's C of E Church nearby.



■ After extensive local preparations, the annual Clare Priory Pilgrimage took place on Sunday, May 12, with coaches from Hoxton and Hythe and others attending from all over East Anglia.

It was a time to catch up with old friends and find out what is happening in other parishes reports Steven Cubitt.

A Rosary in the church took place followed by a procession to the shrine of Mother of Good Counsel with prayers at the shrine and Regina Caeli. At 12.15pm the Service of Rec-

onciliation Adoration took place in the church.

In-between and afterwards teas, coffees and cakes were served to everyone attending. With everyone enjoying picnics in the grounds of the priory on a glorious sunny day. The children playing hide and seek and enjoying the wilder parts of grounds.

Finally there was a Mass in honour of Our Lady of Good Counsel with Celebrant and Preacher being Fr Stefan Park OSA, Prior of Clare.



■ Polish parishioners at St Felix Church, Felixstowe, brought their beautifully decorated Easter baskets to be blessed by Fr John Barnes on Saturday April 20, reports Stephen Badcock.

In many Eastern European countries, it is a tradition to have a basket of food blessed on Holy Saturday and the food items in the Easter basket, as well as at the Easter Sunday breakfast, when the blessed food is eaten, have special significance.

They include: bacon, bread, Easter bread, butter, a candle, cheese, coloured eggs, ham, horseradish, salt and sweets.



■ Parishioners from St Thomas of Canterbury in Brandon and St John the Evangelist in Mildenhall welcomed young Student Cross pilgrims on their way to Walsingham for Easter reports Jo Leveridge.

On Wednesday April 17, a small group of volunteers, armed with plates of food, gathered at the Hockwold home of Graham and Janice Whitaker to welcome young pilgrims bound for Walsingham.

It has become a tradition over the last 10 years or so, to provide afternoon tea and the opportunity of a brief rest to these interdenominational groups, as they wend their way from Epping to Walsingham. It is always a joyful time - filled with goodwill and fellowship. On this occasion,

the group included a pregnant mum to be and a one-year-old baby girl, who quickly stole our hearts.

After cheerfully consuming the refreshments provided, the pilgrims were able to tend to sore feet and blisters if needed. The next leg of their journey would take them to Methwold for supper and a place to spend the night.

However, before leaving Hockwold in the late afternoon sun, they sang a thank-you song to us all, promising to return next year. And as the cross was hoisted aloft by willing hands, they said that they would pray for us in Walsingham.

It is always inspiring to take part in this small portion of such a meaningful Lenten journey. We look forward to next year.

www.studentcross.org.uk