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to Santiago
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The East Anglian Way to Santiago de Compestela



A group from the Diocese of East Anglia completed a ten-day Youth Pilgrimage walking the Camino in Spain to Santiago at the end of July. See page 13 for the full story and pictures.

Mass starts cause for hero's sainthood

A Memorial Requiem Mass to celebrate the life of Suffolk humanitarian and philanthropist Leonard Cheshire is to be held on September 7, the centenary of his birth, in his home village of Cavendish. It will also mark the start of a campaign by the Diocese of East Anglia to promote his Cause, the first step to sainthood.

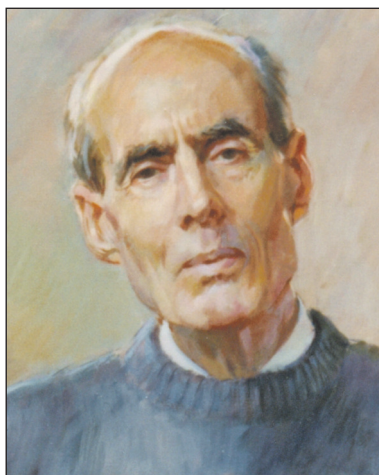
Leonard is best known for his work creating hundreds of homes around the world to care for disabled people, but he was also an outstanding war-time leader and pilot who was awarded the VC. He converted to Catholicism at the age of 31.

Fr James Fyfe, who will be promoting the Cause of Leonard, explained: "It means to begin to

try to collect any evidence for sainthood from among the faithful. There is a prayer which invites people to pray to Leonard for a particular reason. If the prayers are answered then evidence is collected, examined and presented. This does not mean that we already think he is a saint - that part is a very long way off and it may be 50 or 100 years hence - it is a discovery process.

"Bishop Alan and the Diocese are embarking on the process because Leonard lived in Cavendish. But he is a world-wide figure and many people will be praying for the success of the Cause and we shall reach out to them. However, we shall begin in East Anglia first because there are people here who knew him and remember him and who may have something to tell us."

The Requiem Mass will be held in the Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Cavendish, CO10 8BA,



A portrait of Leonard Cheshire by June Mendoza.

at 7pm on Thursday September 7, celebrated by Bishop Alan.

Anyone interested in the promotion is invited to contact: Fr James Fyfe, 69 Queen's Road, Wisbech, PE13 2PH for more information.

Diocese is set to appoint its first Caritas director

■ The Diocese of East Anglia is looking to appoint a first-ever Director to lead its social action arm – Caritas East Anglia.

Caritas East Anglia aims to encourage, support and co-ordinate works of social outreach in the Diocese of East Anglia and the new volunteer Director will be a key member of the team who will guide, develop and manage its work.

The management team of Caritas East Anglia includes representatives of each deanery and of caring organisations active in the Diocese and it is a member of the Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN), the social action arm of the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

Caritas East Anglia administers the St Edmund's Fund, which makes crisis grants to needy individuals and families, and Alive in Faith project grants, which are available to parishes and associated Catholic groups to support local social action initiatives, especially to seed fund new projects.

Bishop Alan said: "Caritas East Anglia is an initiative to enhance social outreach in the Diocese. As a new appointment, the Director will have the opportunity to develop this important aspect of the diocesan mission, working to the Social Outreach Management Team to provide material support and assistance to the poor, deprived and vulnerable members of society in the Diocese."

For full details of the role, call 01508 492540, e-mail caritas@rcdea.org.uk or write to Caritas East Anglia, The White House, 21 Ugate, Poringland. Norfolk NR14 7SH.

The closing date is September 14.



**WALSINGHAM
SUNDAY**

17th SEPTEMBER 2017

**PILGRIMAGE of REPARATION and PRAYER
for the SANCTITY of LIFE
led by Rt Rev. Robert Byrne CO**

Auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham

FR. JEREMY DAVIES,

FRANCISCAN FRIARS OF THE RENEWAL

commencing at the 12 o'clock Pilgrim Mass in the Chapel of Reconciliation

**Coach from Cambridge
Trumpington P&R at 9.15am.**

To book your seat contact

Catherine Bolam - 01582 581917

Tickets: £15 Adults, £7 children & full-time students

includes entrance to Priory grounds

cheques payable to LGC Luton

bring a packed lunch

For more details

call 01858 571242 or visit www.prolifepilgrimage.org

news in brief

Prayer-walk marks feast

■ The feast of St Oswald, Northumbrian king and martyr, was observed by members of the parish of Sacred Heart and St Oswald, Peterborough on August 4. The traditional four-mile prayer-walk from the parish church in Walton to the former shrine at Peterborough's Anglican cathedral.

At the shrine parishioners prayed at the chapel of St Oswald where, during the Middle Ages, the warrior saint's right arm was venerated as a holy relic. At the Reformation the relic was lost but the watchtower at the chapel, where the monks guarded the shrine, remains. Also in the chapel is a statue of St Aiden who, with St Oswald's help, converted many of the local people to Christianity. The two saints were based on the holy island of Lindisfarne in the 7th Century.

Summer party

■ It was a day for celebration at Our Lady's in Stowmarket when parishioner Sheila Dobey was presented with a framed Papal Blessing in recognition of 25 years of loyal and devoted service as a CAFOD volunteer by Fr David Finegan at Mass on July 2.

It was followed by the Parish Summer Party when parishioners gathered at the Cedars Hotel with the Keralan group providing superb traditional food. A barbecue and cakes were also prepared by members of the parish, as were a variety of children's games.

Bishop's mardle

■ Bishop Alan joined the trustees of the charity Network for a Better World for a mardle (a chat) at their quarterly meeting at the Cathedral Narthex in Norwich. The meeting was hosted by Mary and Andy Clark and Angela Stone and trustees travelled from as far away as Liverpool and Manchester.

They were able to update Bishop Alan about their work in the parish of Sitima, Diocese of Zomba in Southern Malawi, particularly an irrigation project that is supporting 35 single female headed households.

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 October 1.

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Ex Norwich City star is ordained

Former Norwich City midfield player Philip Mulyrne was ordained as a priest in the Dominican Order (Order of Preachers) in Dublin on July 8 swapping his football shirt for priestly robes. St John's Cathedral parishioner and personal friend Clare Richards reports.

■ Philip Mulyrne, born in Belfast, had an outstanding professional football career for 13 years - eight of those in Norwich at Carrow Road.

He first played for Manchester United and earned 27 caps for Northern Ireland, and quickly became a fans' favourite.

At Norwich City, a bad injury early on kept him out for a year. My student daughter was an evening waitress in a Chinese restaurant at the time and Philip and his mother liked to eat there and occasionally I joined them.

Philip recovered from the injury, living his dream but, as he later admitted, he stopped going to Mass, and lived a materialistic lifestyle.

Eventually he went home to Ireland. We heard no more about him for a long time. He later wrote that he fell in love again with his faith and started to go back to Mass.

In 2010 I was in Rome at the English



Fr Philip Mulyrne during his ordination and with Archbishop Augustine, courtesy of www.dominicans.ie

College and discovered that Philip, studying for the priesthood at the Irish college, was to play in a football match. We met up again.

When I said "what a coincidence" he replied "there are no coincidences, we are meant to share our love for God together". He later realized God calling him to be in a religious community.

I was so happy when he joined the

Dominicans in Dublin. I was privileged to be invited to his First Profession, to his Final Profession, and to his ordination as Deacon. Most recently to his ordination as a Dominican priest.

Fr Philip is now chaplain at the Dominican school in County Kildare, with two days a week playing and teaching football. I guess the girls will want to join in also!

Support offered to Syrian archbishop

A statue of Our Lady of Walsingham has been presented to the Maronite Archbishop of Damascus, Samir Nassar, by Antonia Moffat, Outreach Co-ordinator at the National Catholic Shrine at Walsingham, during a pilgrimage to Lebanon.

■ Antonia was on a pilgrimage with Aid to the Church in Need on June 14 when she finally met Archbishop Samir, with whom she had been in regular email contact for the past six years, and who had travelled from Damascus in Syria to meet them.

"For the past six years of the Syria war, I have had the joy and privilege of accompanying this courageous and faith-filled Archbishop, his flock and peoples in prayer, friendship, faith, solidarity and charity," said Antonia.

"Through the Archbishop's regular letters I have encouraged many hundreds of others to have a deeper understanding of the life of the suffering Church in a war zone. Through various pilgrimage collections and days of prayer monies have been sent to support the Archbishop in his daily work of helping and supporting desperate refugees fleeing from the latest atrocities inflicted by Daesh/ISIS."

"Walsingham has an ancient connection with the Church of the Middle East as Walsingham is known as 'England's Nazareth'. For it was to Walsingham that ancient pilgrims came from Europe and all over the world when it was unsafe to pilgrimage to the Holy Land especially during the times of the Crusades. England's Nazareth hence acquired a special



Antonia Moffat presents a statue of Our Lady of Walsingham to Archbishop Samir in Lebanon.

significance. And this special significance is just as important today," said Antonia.

"This solidarity of friendship and prayer deepened and of course included the entire Middle East with all Syria, Iraq, Egypt, the Holy Land, Jordan, and all the other lands in the prayer."

Antonia took the opportunity to present the Archbishop with a small statue of Our Lady of Walsingham, which Mgr John Armitage had blessed following the Feast of Divine Mercy in Walsingham.

She said: "The statue was presented to the Archbishop as a pledge of our continued prayer, solidarity and love for the persecuted Church in Syria and beyond.

In that moment my heart was filled with love, prayer and I was overcome with silent tears, so awesome was this spiritually speaking.

"The Archbishop has placed the statue on his working desk in Damascus as a constant reminder to him that he has friends all over the world supporting him in prayer for his difficult mission and which helps him carry the great cross which the Lord has placed upon his shoulders.

"I exhort you and encourage you to pray much for the suffering and persecuted Church of Syria, Iraq and the many other countries where persecution is intense and heavy."



Bishop Alan conferring the Ministry of Acolyte on Peter Wygnanski at the English College in Rome.

Peter receives new ministry in Rome

■ Diocese of East Anglia seminarian Peter Wygnanski received the Ministry of Acolyte at a conferral at the English College at Pallazola in Rome from his very own Bishop Alan on July 9.

Peter has just finished his third year of seminary and the first year of theology at the Gregorian University.

Acolyte is the second ministry seminarians receive, to help priests and deacons at the altar.

Peter received the Ministry of Acolyte from Bishop Alan who was there by invitation of the English College, which invites bishops to confer ministries, when the opportunity arises to do so, to one of their own seminarians.

The Mass and Conferral took place at the church of Our Lady of the Snows in Palazzola.

Peter said: "Receiving the Ministry of Acolyte is a great step towards

discerning priesthood, and it was a particular joy to welcome Bishop Alan amongst the community of the English College for the occasion.

"The liturgy conferring the ministry challenges new acolytes to live more fully by the Lord's sacrifice and to be moulded more perfectly in its likeness, so in this spirit of taking up our cross to follow Christ, we strive towards that to which God calls us.

Alive in Faith raises a magnificent £6.5m

A magnificent £6.5m has been raised through the Diocese's successful Alive in Faith campaign to help fund parish projects, social outreach, clergy pensions and seminarian training.

Financial secretary, John Pitt, said: "All parishes have now completed the pledge phase of the campaign and fundraisers CCS have completed their role. Management and administration of the income and expenditure is now the responsibility of the Diocese.

"This will be achieved by the establishment of an Alive in Faith

Stewardship committee with members from all parts of the Diocese meeting on a regular basis. The Committee's primary role will be to monitor the income from pledges and the application of funds to the appropriate objectives as set out at the beginning of the Alive in Faith Campaign."

The total actually pledged to date is currently £6,563,485.

Current activity is primarily the implementation of Parish Projects. There are 13 currently running for which £145,507 has been paid out.

John said: "Projects extend in scope from participation in community social activities to much needed repairs.

"Preparations are also well in hand to set up Caritas East Anglia as a means of channelling the social outreach funds raised by Alive in Faith into assisting the poor and vulnerable in the Diocese. Applications will be received by Caritas East Anglia and assessed by a diocesan panel to ensure the validity of any grants meets the diocesan criteria."

St John's cathedrals exhibition

■ A unique exhibition linking St John's Cathedral in Norwich to the 75 other Catholic cathedrals across the world also dedicated to St John the Baptist will be staged during September.

Every September, St John's Cathedral in Norwich involves itself in the Heritage Open Days celebrations. Each year tours, displays and exhibitions are put on that reflect the Cathedral's Catholic heritage and faith.

It was decided this year to expand the event's horizons and to find out how many Catholic cathedrals world-wide are also dedicated to St John the Baptist, and to see how many of these could be featured in a small exhibition.

The 76 cathedrals are located in 32 different countries on five continents. A request for information from the other cathedrals was met by a phenomenal response with information from all of them received direct or researched online.

St John's Cathedral Culture and Heritage Officer, Julia Stafford, said: "What started as a possibly small display has taken on a life of its own and grown out of all proportion to original ideas and what was thought may be probable or even possible.

"The result of the wonderful response is that this fascinating exhibition, will now feature stunning imagery and informa-

tion on all 76 cathedrals.

"It will also not only be over the Heritage Open Days, from September 7 to 10 but will be extended to the end of September for anyone who is not able to see the display during the heritage days.

Our Lady and the Annunciation, King's Lynn will also be open for Heritage Open Days from September 7-10.

Other sites with Catholic associations that will be open to the public include the Farmers' Club in Bury St Edmunds (former townhouse of the recusant Gage family) and Giffords Hall, Stoke-by-Nayland (former home of the recusant Mannock family).

news in brief

Marython for men to walk and pray

■ A new 26-mile pilgrimage to bring men together from around East Anglia, to take up the role of spiritual fatherhood in praying for our diocese, is set to take place in mid-September reports Fr Henry Whisenant.

Men's Marython will take place from King's Lynn to Walsingham on Saturday September 16 to include prayers for our Bishop Alan, our clergy, our religious, our families, our parishes and schools.

King's Lynn is the home of the Pontifical Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, set up in 1897 by Pope Leo XIII and Walsingham, is the national shrine of Our Lady in England and a Minor Basilica. So we plan to walk between these two important shrines of Our Lady, a distance of 26 miles – hence the name Marython!

The plan is to start with a 7pm Mass on Friday 15th in the Holy House at King's Lynn, followed by a fish and chip supper and spend the night in the hall.

We will start walking by 5am on Saturday morning. One of the King's Lynn parishioners has sorted out a beautiful, quiet walk through the Norfolk countryside. We plan to arrive at Walsingham, at the Slipper Chapel, for Mass at 5.30 pm.

For more details, or to express your interest, contact henry.whisenant@rcdea.org.uk

Coffee fund-raiser

■ Cake, coffee and conversation flowed on July 13 at a fundraising coffee morning held in Norwich in aid of education in Tambogrande, Peru. A group met in glorious sunshine including people drawn from the Daytime Prayer Group, the Justice and Peace Group and other St John's Cathedral parishioners, at the home of Helen Savelli who hosts the Daytime Prayer Group there. A total of £164.56 was raised for a St John's-sponsored teacher in Tambogrande.

Blessing for mayor

■ The Civic Service for Dereham's new mayor, Councillor Hilary Bushell was held at Sacred Heart in the town on July 29. The Mayor and Council invoked God's blessings on their work in the year ahead. The address was given by Fr Brendan Moffatt.

Volunteer Director



Caritas East Anglia is an initiative to enhance social outreach in the Diocese.

It is creating a new volunteer role of Director to develop this important aspect of the diocesan mission, to provide material support and assistance to the poor, deprived and vulnerable members of society in the Diocese.

For full details: e-mail caritas@rcdea.org.uk, call 01508 492540, or write to Caritas East Anglia, The White House, 21 Ugate, Poringland, Norfolk, NR14 7SH. Closing date for applications is September 14.

NEW EVANGELISATION

Reaching out in home mission

Every day Benedictine communities pray: "May the help of God remain with us always and with our absent brethren, Amen."

■ For the monastery, these absent brethren are likely to be monks and nuns who are working away or those who are too ill to attend services. The community brings its travellers and the infirm before the Lord, entrusting their safety to Him. The prayer links them with home and asks for a safe homecoming. The prayer goes even wider and remembers that everyone is part of the monastery's community of prayer. That includes all of us, which is nice to know.

Many of us have absent brethren. Brothers and sisters; parents or children; friends and others we know who choose not to share in the fullness of our Christian faith. We miss people who used to be at Mass. All our parishes have absent brethren who are not with us.

Home Mission Sunday (September 17) gives us an opportunity to remember our absent family and friends and to pray for them. We pray that they will find a way to a full relationship with Jesus Christ and his Church. We recognise that we have a part to play: to show what being a Christian really means. We pray that we have the wisdom and courage to offer others an encounter with Our Lord, who is our Life.

What can I do to help my absent brethren?

Pray:

1. Many parishes use the Coming Home Prayer as a bidding prayer for Home Mission Sunday and the Sundays until the end of the Church year. You may be able to suggest that your parish does this in 2017.

2. Pledge to pray for 5 of your absent brethren for the same season. Maybe write down their names so you will bring them to mind easily. Pray the Coming Home Prayer or pray a decade of the Rosary for each of them.



The latest in a series of free media workshop across the Diocese was held in Peterborough during July, a further one is to be held at St Mary Magdalene in Ipswich on Wednesday August 30, from 7-9pm. Please contact rebecca.bretherton@icloud.com for more details.

The Coming Home Prayer

Loving Father,
we pray for those baptised
who no longer or rarely attend Church:
that they will understand and experience in their hearts
that Christ is the source
of unconditional love and reconciliation.

We pray for everyone who worships in our parish community:
that we may find the right words and means
to invite our absent brothers and sisters
to return to the practice of their faith.
Amen.

Study:

Home Mission Sunday falls on September 17. Look up the readings for 24th Sunday of Ordinary Time (A) before coming to Mass. All the readings

speak to us about God's compassionate love and forgiveness. They challenge us to show that same love and forgiveness to our loved ones and to those who are harder to love.

What are the readings asking of me today?

Give:

1. Give some time. Speak to someone you do not know at Mass. This may be the week they are wondering whether God is in their life. This may be the week you can help them feel at home at church.

2. Please give to the national Home Mission Sunday collection. The money is used to support evangelisation in parishes throughout England and Wales.

Share your faith:

1. Is there someone who needs to be invited to After Mass coffee?

2. Is there someone who needs a lift to church?

3. Tell someone you are praying for them.

Chance to build a missionary parish

■ Would you like to join others who are trying to share their faith? Are you a group discerning how to develop evangelisation work in your area?

On January 13 we will joined in Newmarket for a Building Missionary Parishes event by members of the Diocese of Plymouth's New Evangelisation team who will explain how their successful programme has created over 38 parish mission teams in their diocese.

Across Cornwall, Dorset and Devon, more than 400 parishioners have taken part with great effect and extraordinary results. The programme takes people on a personal journey of exploration into their own faith, seeking to give a fuller sense of personal discipleship and to equip them to discern ways of evangelising with a wiser and deeper empathy for the person they encounter and where they may be in their spiritual journey.

Join others from across the diocese to learn how to create a mission team in your parish. More information about the event will be available in your parish this autumn.



#RedWednesday

■ This autumn Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need is asking people to once again to stand in solidarity with persecuted Christians and all who suffer for their peacefully held beliefs.

It will be holding a week of events from November 19 – 26 with #RedWednesday as the highlight on Wednesday November 22.

Red is the Christian colour of martyrdom. Christians are the most persecuted faith group in today's world and #RedWednesday will honour all Christians who suffer and die for their faithfulness to Christ's message of peace and love.

#RedWednesday will shine a light on Christian persecution but also highlight the injustices perpetrated against other faith groups.

Find out more at www.acnuk.org and, if you stage a support event, send us a picture to publish in this paper and online.

Please pray

■ Please pray for our parishes who are creating mission teams this year:

St Laurence, Cambridge

Sacred Heart, St Ives

St George, Norwich

Our Lady and St Joseph, Sheringham and Cromer

Time to start thinking about Advent

■ Now is the time to start thinking about your parish's Advent Posada Journey. The first challenge may be to find where it was put last Christmas!

'Posada' is a Mexican tradition. A young couple from the parish are selected to dress up as Mary and Joseph and then spend the days of Advent travelling from house to house asking for a room for the night and telling their hosts about the imminent arrival of Jesus at Christmas.

Modern day 'Posada' uses a statue of Mary and Joseph and the donkey instead of a young couple to travel from home to home. Posada provides an opportunity for hospitality and a sharing of our Christian faith with family and friends. By hosting the statue we can join this simple but effective form of evangelisation.

This year: How can your Posada Journey become more missionary? How can you include people who haven't been

involved before. Could you be braver and invite others to your home to help celebrate? Maybe you could sign up to take the Posada to someone you don't know yet. Is there a neighbour you could invite to be with you when the Posada arrives? Could you tell colleagues about hosting the Posada when they ask if you are ready for Christmas?

Take a photo of people with your Posada for Facebook or Twitter and send us a copy to publish in this paper.

Fr James celebrates golden jubilee



■ North Walsham parish priest, Fr James Walsh has celebrated his Golden Jubilee of ministry with the help of Sacred Heart Parish, which also includes St John of the Cross, Aylsham and St Helen's, Hoveton.

A Mass of Thanksgiving to mark the 50 years was attended by nearly 200 people on Saturday July 22 and was followed by a lunch served in the church grounds.

Antonia Martinez said: "To mark the very happy occasion and bring the afternoon to a close, PPC Chairman Robert Hardie (pictured left), expressed not only our congratulations on such a 'landmark' achievement but our thanks to Fr James personally for his exemplary ministry to us during these last few years. He was presented with a specially-made icon of St James, painted by local iconologist Judith James, who was also present. Other gifts were presented from the parish to mark the wonderful achievement."

King's Lynn marks 1175 years history

King's Lynn Parish celebrated an amazing 1175 years of Catholic history in a very special Anniversaries Mass in the grounds of St Martha's School on June 25. Edd Chomicz reports.

■ 2017 is a historic year for the parish with so many anniversaries to be celebrated. These include:

- 480 years of the Walsingham Martyrs execution in Kings Lynn,
- 225 years of public celebration of Mass in Kings Lynn,
- 120 years of the restoration of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in the Holy House
- 120 years of the building of Our Lady's Church,
- 100 years of the death of Austin Lewis in World War 1,
- 70 years of the Consecration of Our Lady's Church,
- 60 years of the opening of St. Martha's School

Specific dates have allowed particular occasions to be remembered and celebrated throughout the year, but parish priest Fr Peter Rollings, asked for something special for the whole parish to celebrate and participate in together.

His wish was granted and on Sunday June 25, usual Masses were cancelled and all parishioners were invited and encouraged to attend the single celebratory outdoor Mass and fete as planned, prepared by parish communities,



Confirmation candidates taking part in the King's Lynn Parish Anniversaries Mass.

organizations and families.

St Martha's Catholic primary school allowed the use of its playing field, its staging, its PA systems and other facilities. The school children sang at the mass. The Knights of St Columba (KSC) organized the set-up and practicalities for the mass and stalls for the fete afterwards. All food and drink, games, activities and stalls were free.

The Parish sick were anointed during the Mass; first communion candidates were presented with their communion certificates; confirmation candidates were presented with celebration prayer books and the parish celebrated an outdoor baptism, believed to be a first for the Parish.

After Mass, three food stalls fed hungry parishioners – a traditional BBQ, a South Indian food stall and a Filipino

food stall. An amazing 700 free hot meals were prepared and eaten.

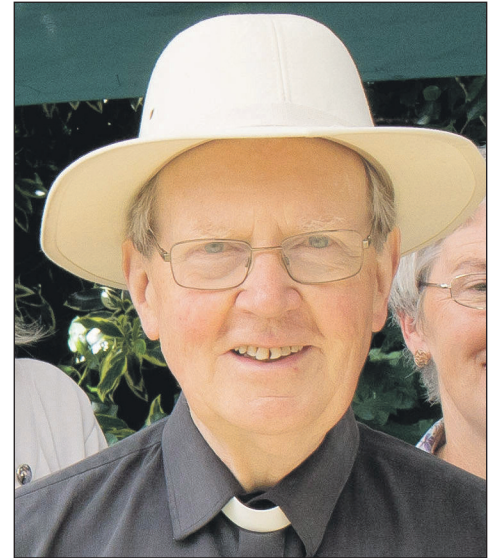
Free candy floss, cakes, books, plants (bring/share/take) stalls were very popular, as were free teas and coffees.

The youth group and KSC had game stalls and garden games. The Cubs and Beavers demonstrated their skills and challenged all. The school all-weather area had competitions, and KS1 and KS2 Easter Painting competition winners were presented with their prizes.

A test pit was also prepared by the West Norfolk and King's Lynn Archeological Society, with interesting finds to be displayed at the school.

The weather was generally kind with only a few showers. This did not dampen the enthusiasm and participation of everyone. A very special celebratory day not to be forgotten.

news in brief



Fr Henry marks 40 years as priest

■ People gathered from across the Diocese of East Anglia, the UK and Ireland to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the ordination of Norfolk Catholic priest Fr Henry MacCarthy on Saturday July 1.

The Catholic church of St Cecilia's in the West Norfolk village of Dersingham was packed to capacity, including relatives of Fr Henry from Ireland and guests from the many parts of the Diocese of East Anglia where Fr Henry had served as Curate or Parish Priest during the last 40 years.

The celebrations began with Mass, which was celebrated by Fr Henry, assisted by nine other priests from East Anglia, and was followed by a lunch for everyone who attended.

Many tributes to Fr Henry and his work during the last four decades were delivered by family and friends and he was presented with a framed special map of the locations where he had ministered.

In response to these tributes, Fr Henry said that he was humbled but delighted that so many people had made the effort to attend and that he was now able to enjoy his retirement in his new home in Dersingham.

He thanked all those who had supported him over these last 40 years and the people of the Catholic Parish of Hunstanton who had welcomed him so generously and supportively since he came in 2013.

"I have never been so well looked after in my life," he said after cutting the cake made to mark the occasion.

Many cards and gifts were given to Fr Henry to mark the occasion and he said that all the monies given to him will be sent to one of his special charities, Médecins Sans Frontières.

Worldwide prayer

■ A monthly Padre Pio prayer group at St Joseph's Church, Sheringham, joined with groups throughout the world on June 16 on the 15th anniversary of the canonisation of St Pio. They were invited to join in prayer through the intercession of Our Lady of Grace and St Pio of Pietrelcina.

Group leader, Anne Mann, said: "The prayer intentions included: Pope Francis, the Catholic Church and all persecuted Christians throughout the world, for prayer groups of Padre Pio become 'beacons of light to the world, and gardens of faith, and hearths of love; and for peace and conversion of hearts, of families, of the whole world, and for those who govern nations."

Led by Fr Tim Bugby, the evening included Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary and Holy Mass.

Cathedral play to highlight work of Romero

■ Rise Theatre returns to St John's Cathedral Norwich for a performance of Romero – Heartbeat of El Salvador – which tells the true life story of the human right champion.

Blessed Oscar Romero chose to challenge those in power and stand up for

social justice. He demanded respect for human rights.

Romero – Heartbeat of El Salvador will be performed on Saturday September 30, with doors opening at 7pm (show starts at 7.30pm). The performance, from the professional Christian

theatre company, is 75 minutes long and the recommended age is 11+.

Tickets at £12 per adult and £10 concessions are available at the cathedral shop and also online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/event/198601. Discounts available til September 4.

news in brief

Cambridge is a City of Sanctuary

■ The Catholic community in Cambridge has pledged its support to support Cambridge as a City of Sanctuary.

Fr Pat Cleary signed a "Resolution of Support" on behalf of the Cambridge Deanery at an ecumenical event held in the parish hall of Our Lady & the English Martyrs, Cambridge, on June 16.

The audience then explored what this might mean for our communities in practice by hearing from Cambridge groups actively supporting refugees and asylum seekers.

Rosemary Watson, of City of Sanctuary, linked the ancient role of churches in providing sanctuary to the present day role of faith communities in helping to make Cambridge a place of safety and welcome for refugees and asylum seekers. COS is developing databases of volunteers for associated charities and national COS.

Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign (CRRC) encourages voluntary effort in support of refugees, complementing the role of local authorities. Some churches have provided safe venues for refugees to meet socially or learn English.

There remains a pressing need for self-contained accommodation to enable Cambridge to welcome more Syrian refugees under the Vulnerable Person Resettlement Programme.

In conclusion, Fr Pat spoke of the role of Pope Francis in stressing the imperative of providing support for those seeking sanctuary.

Pope blesses CAFOD trio

■ Three volunteers from the Diocese of East Anglia have been awarded Papal Blessings in recognition of a combined 90 years of service to the aid agency CAFOD.

Bernard Shaw has volunteered for 40 years and Mary Prentice and Sheila Dobey have each volunteered for 25 years, demonstrating a remarkable commitment to helping those in need. To mark this achievement and their Papal Blessings, which are bestowed by Pope Francis, they celebrated by having tea with Bishop Alan in Norwich.

A chemical engineer by profession, Bernard Shaw, 69, from Cambridge, started volunteering for CAFOD in the late 1970s. Since then he has been an extremely active campaigner, galvanising people across East Anglia to engage with issues such as climate change and poverty. He has now become an assessor for CAFOD's Livesimply scheme.

Bernard, who attends St Philip Howard church, was surprised to receive a Papal Blessing and still can't quite believe that he's been volunteering for CAFOD for so long: "If you'd asked me when I first started about whether I would still be volunteering for CAFOD in 40 years time, I would have said that it would be quite unlikely! But if my health stands up, I would think I'll still be volunteering in another ten years."

In contrast, it was the turn of the millennium that marked the start of Mary Prentice's journey with CAFOD. She began by running the CAFOD stall at the Walsingham shrine and despite a busy working life as a headteacher, she was also heavily involved in campaigning.

Since becoming involved with CAFOD, she has written to her MP, encouraged others in her church to sign petitions and told everyone she can about



Pictured above, from the left, Mary, Sheila and Bernard with Bishop Alan.

CAFOD's work.

Mary, 82, who attends Our Lady of Pity in Swaffham, was also surprised when she was awarded a Papal Blessing and also has happy memories of her time volunteering for CAFOD.

"I probably got more out of volunteering in Walsingham than anyone else! I loved meeting people. Everybody who came was so keen to tell you what there were doing for CAFOD in their parish. It was wonderful, they were so proud and had such enthusiasm! That was the thing that really impressed me, the love the Catholic laity have for CAFOD. When they do all that they do, the least I could do was open the stall!"

Sheila Dobey, a member of Our Lady in Stowmarket, is a former English teacher

who started volunteering for CAFOD in Preston before moving to Stowmarket in the 1980s. She inspired her parish of Our Lady to fundraise for CAFOD and more recently, to take part in the LiveSimply scheme.

The trio were invited to tea in Norwich by Bishop Alan, who wanted to thank them in person for their continuing services to CAFOD and to present them with their Blessings.

CAFOD's representative in East Anglia, Stephen Matthews, said: "The dedication and enthusiasm Sheila, Bernard and Mary have shown over the years is inspirational. It is volunteers like them that allow CAFOD to bring life, hope and dignity to men, women and children from all around the world."

A mine of treasures

Fr Henry Whisenant reflects on a never-ending mine of treasures – the Word of God.

■ When I was thinking of something to write for the September issue of this paper, my confrere Fr Seelan told me that back in his home country of India, September is dedicated to the Word of God. The last day of September is the feast of St Jerome, who, when he wasn't pulling thorns out of the paws of lions or directing choice invective against heretics (he once described the British monk Pelagius as man whose wits had been dulled by Scots porridge), he was translating the Bible into Latin, the vernacular of his day.

The Bible is a bit of a sore subject for me at the moment. Back at the start of the summer, the quizmaster put a mischievous Bible round at the start of the parish quiz. And of course the priests made the mistake of sitting all together in the same team... which made our failure on this round all the more embarrassing! Granted, some of the questions felt like the quizmaster had randomly opened the Old Testament and gleaned an obscure fact that nobody but he could possibly know (For example: Who was the wife of Lapidoth?). Nevertheless, several tables still managed to get more answers than us, which isn't saying much!

The salutary fruit of this shame is that I'm trying now to read the Bible more often and more thoroughly. In fact I'm using a Bible in a Year scheme, whereby the entire Scriptures are split up in such a way that I can read the whole of it in a year, with an average of three chapters from the Old

Testament (including a Psalm) and one chapter from the New Testament each day. It's something I've done once before, and no doubt some of you reading have as well.

The advantage of such a scheme is that it breaks down what would otherwise be quite a formidable task into manageable chunks, and it keeps the reading varied, so that the reader is never left too long in just one book. Important, since many people have resolved to read the Bible straight through, only to stumble at the hurdle of Leviticus!

I have just finished Genesis in my daily Old Testament portion, and as well as enjoying the sheer colour of the story, it makes me think about the more familiar Gospels in a new light. For example, I couldn't help comparing Jacob's assessment of his twelve sons – the founders of the twelve tribes of Israel – to the characteristics of Christ's apostles. Reuben, the firstborn, is "unstable as water" according to his father, and Simeon and Levi, the next two, are brothers who are marked by anger and the use of violence. Is there not perhaps more than a passing resemblance here to Peter, whose allegiance to Christ is fickle, and James and John, "sons of thunder", who wish to call down lightning on those villages that fail to welcome the Lord? The beauty of reading the Scriptures is that the more you read, the more there is to take away. It is a never-ending mine of treasures, in which we discover amongst all the variegations of human history the plan of God and the face of Christ.

For those who are interested in using a Bible in a Year scheme, you can find a good one on the website Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture. Happy delving!



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Liturgy for the unborn and their parents

■ A special Mass for those who have lost babies by either miscarriage, still-birth or abortion is to be held in Cambridge on September 13.

Organiser Sandra Hobson said: "If you have suffered miscarriage, still-birth, or had the pain of handing your little one back to God through abor-

tion, come and find peace and closure which is ours for the asking. This Mass is for both men and women. Everyone is welcome. We will be opening a book of remembrance for our little ones."

Liturgy for the unborn and their parents. Celebrated in Honour of Our

Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Unborn (Adapted from the Liturgy of Cotignac (Toulon/Frejus) by Fr Michael Gwinnell. It will take place at St Laurence Catholic Church, 91 Milton Road, Cambridge CB4 1BX on Wednesday, Sept 13, at 7.30pm.

For more details, ring 01223 704640.

The Fatima Pilgrim Virgin statue and relics will be visiting the Cathedral of St John the Baptist, Norwich, on September 23 and 24 as part of a national programme. Donal Anthony Foley reports.



The Fatima statue in Westminster Cathedral.

Fatima visitation is heading for Norwich

■ The highlight of the Centenary Year of Our Lady's apparitions from May to October 1917, has been the canonisation at Fatima on May 13 of Francisco and Jacinta by Pope Francis, who thus became the first children in the history of the Church to become saints in the ordinary course of their family life.

To honour Our Lady, the World Apostolate of Fatima (WAF) has organised a Visitation programme of the National Pilgrim Virgin Statue to the Cathedrals of England and Wales, together with relics of Saints Francisco and Jacinta.

This programme began on Saturday February 18, when Cardinal Nichols received, blessed and crowned the Statue in Westminster Cathedral. So many people came, that the doors had to be closed. Since then the dioceses of Cardiff, Southwark, Shrewsbury, Menevia, Nottingham, and Plymouth, Arundel and Brighton and Birmingham have received the Statue, and the Visitations will continue until October.

In his homily, Cardinal Nichols said that devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, so central to her message, "is a way for us to say 'yes' from the depths of our hearts ... which is why today we consecrate afresh ourselves, our lives, our country, to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, so that we can always be saying 'Yes' to the Lord, with all our heart, with all our will, from the centre of our being. And only Mary can teach us how to do this."

He also emphasised the importance of the Rosary and of praying it in the family, which he recalled doing as a child.

On September 23 and 24, the Statue and Relics will be visiting St John's in Norwich, and the highlight of the weekend will be Holy Mass said by Bishop Alan with a post-communion Act of

Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Mass will be preceded by the enthronement and crowning of the National Fatima Statue, and followed by veneration of the Relics of Saints Jacinta and Francisco, and enrolment and investiture of the Brown Scapular.

Timetable

■ Saturday September 23

10am - Solemn Reception of Relics followed by Mass

Relics met at the West Door by Bishop and Chapter

After Mass, relics and statue moved to Walsingham chapel for veneration of relics

2pm - Rosary (followed by presentation in Narthex)

3pm - Rosary and veneration

4pm - Mass in Polish and veneration

6pm - Vigil Mass and veneration

7.30pm - Pilgrim Service followed by Brown Scapular enrolments and veneration

9pm - close of the Cathedral

■ Sunday September 24

7.30am - Cathedral opens

9am - Mass followed by veneration

11am - Mass followed by veneration and Brown Scapular enrolments

1.30pm - Holy Hour and Rosary led by youth of the diocese

3.30pm - Syro Malabar Mass

5.30pm - Rosary in Portuguese

6pm - Mass in Portuguese followed by veneration

7.30pm - Pilgrim Service followed by Brown Scapular enrolments

9pm - close of the Cathedral

■ Donal Anthony Foley is the Secretary of WAF England and Wales

events in brief

Next Ignite Lite training weekend

■ The next Ignite Lite training weekend will take place from September 8 to 10 and is open to those aged 16 - 30 who are interested in helping out at events around the Diocese or would just like to know more about the Catholic faith.

Over the weekend at Poringland near Norwich, there will be times for fellowship, prayer, reflection and also input on various topics about faith. The weekend is free of charge.

If you are interested in coming along or would like to know more contact Catherine Williams at igniteteam@rcdea.org.uk or call on 07769315031.

Torchlight Vigil for Life

■ A torchlight 'Vigil for Life' procession will take place through Norwich city centre on Friday October 27, to mark 50 years since the passing of the Abortion Act in 1967.

The Eucharistic procession through Norwich will be followed by all-night adoration at the Cathedral with each hour being led by different groups from around the Diocese. There will also be workshops throughout the evening, mainly aimed at young people themed around the gift of life.

Cambridge is Ablaze

■ A vibrant Ablaze Mass led mostly by young people will be held at 5pm on Sunday September 17. Featuring the Ablaze Music Group and followed by meet, greet and eat in the Parish Hall, St Laurence Church, Milton Road, Cambridge, CB4 1BX.



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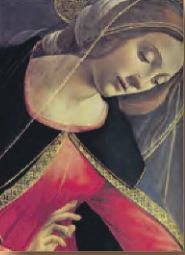
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DIOCESAN SCHOOLS IN FOCUS

Celebrations a

St Mary's Catholic Primary in Lowestoft is marking its Golden Jubilee in 2017 and a special end-of-year Mass with Bishop Alan, helped to mark the 50th anniversary in style. Keith Morris reports.

Pupils, teachers and family members joined Bishop Alan in the special Mass held at the school, including three people who were at the school on the opening day, 50 years ago.

Current year six teacher Bridget Wright was a seven-year-old pupil back in 1967. Her three children also attended the school before she joined the staff as a part-time then full-time teacher

“Once you start here it is not just a job it is more of a lifestyle,” said Bridget. “It has helped to restore my own faith.”

Wyn McFaul, aged 92, was the school secretary back in 1967. She said: “God has always been with this school. A lot of love has gone into it first from the original nuns, the Sisters of St Mary of Namur, and then the parish of Lowestoft.”

Katherine Wilton, aged 85, helped to raise funds to pay for staff for the new school.

In his homily, Bishop Alan reminded the pupils that when the school was built it had to have strong, sure foundations on which the rest of the buildings took shape, but it did not come alive until it was filled with children and teachers.

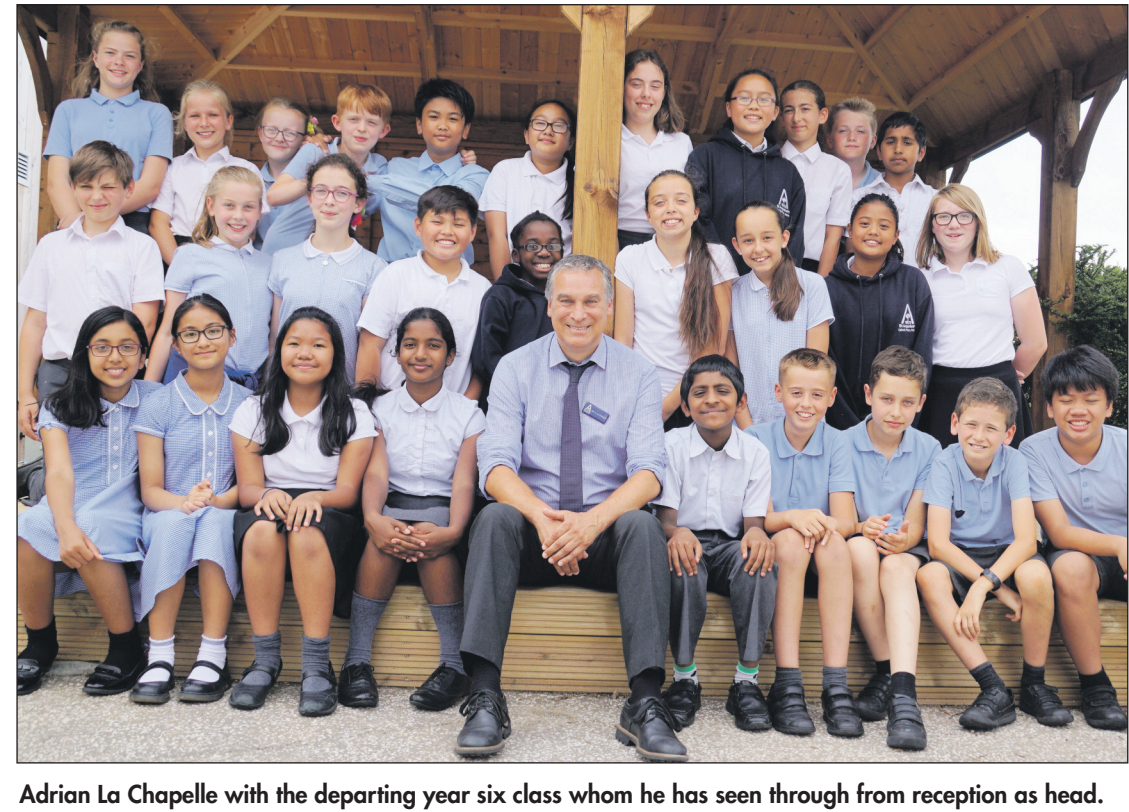
“Through being a member of your own family, the church and this school help your life to take shape and you to grow into adults. You never know where life will lead but when your life has been built on a sure foundation of Jesus Christ it will be the best you can ever have.

“May this school last another 50 years and may you continue to grow and grow in the next 50 years into the people God wants you to become.”

Headmaster Alex Savage ended the Mass by saying: “All the families, pupils and staff who have been to St Mary's over the past 50 years have been blessed by the love, care and inspiration of this very special community. It is now our responsibility to enable our school to continue to flourish into the future.”

Everyone then enjoyed a family picnic in the grounds of the school overlooking the beach and the sea

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



Adrian La Chapelle with the departing year six class whom he has seen through from reception as head.

Headteacher Adrian La Chapelle retired on July 21 after 18 “well worthwhile” years at St Augustine's Catholic Primary School in Costessey, Norwich, in a teaching career spanning 33 years.

Adrian, aged 56, was deputy for 11 years and head for the last seven at what is believed to be the oldest Catholic primary school in the whole country to still remain on its original site, and is one of the oldest state schools in Norfolk.

The original schoolrooms, first established by Lady and Lord Stafford from Costessey Hall, still co-exist within a school which has seen much building work including a revolutionary new classroom bloc opened just a year ago.

Adrian said: “When I first arrived

s school year ends



Pictured are pupils taking part in the St Mary's celebration Mass with Bishop Alan. Pictures by Keith Morris.

it looked a very different place, almost forgotten about in some ways. But we have had a lot of building work done. It has really come into its own over the past 18 years. It is now an excellent, outstanding school with lovely children. So it feels like a well worthwhile job done – a vocation.”

Of Adrian's 33 years as a teacher, 32 have been spent at Catholic schools in East Anglia. He started at St Joseph's College in Ipswich as a maths teacher, then St Thomas More (now St Francis) in Norwich, with one year as an acting head at St Edmunds in Bury St Edmunds on secondment after he joined St Augustine's.

“The one year I spent outside Catholic schools I really noticed the difference in children and ethos and really missed it,” said Adrian.

“I believe that Catholic schools are the best way to get children to understand what faith is like when churches sometimes struggle to reach them. Catholic schools do a

cracking job and here especially where children leave, having been cherished and are absolutely ready for the world. A lot of our former pupils come back to visit or to work here in various guises – so they feel a connection is there with the school even when they have left and gone on to bigger and better things.”

Memorable moments for Adrian have included a school Theatre Royal project when he got to play his guitar on the stage and, as a maths specialist, having the school year six class twice winning the Norfolk Shield for a county maths quiz at UEA.

“I will miss the children the most,” said Adrian. “They make the day so much better – I like just walking around the school and they are very friendly and it just feels like being part of a big family. The staff really care for the children.

“I would like to pay tribute to all the children, staff and parents I have worked with – without them all working together as a family team it

would be so much harder to be the headteacher and it makes it enjoyable as well. I am leaving while I am still enjoying it but as you get older you do know the time to stop.”

A tea party was held for many of the people Adrian has worked with at both St Augustine's and elsewhere over the 33 years, including Bishop Alan, organised by his deputy Philippa Holdsworth.

There was also a final Mass with the children involved on Adrian's last day.

Adrian plans to spend more time with his two teenage daughters Hermione and Imogen and his elderly father, as well as getting involved in voluntary work and continuing his hobbies, including Bridge which he plays to county standard, travelling around the country.

The new head at St Augustine's will be Rachel Swindell, currently assistant head of St Albans Catholic Primary in Cambridge, who starts in September.



Cambridge teacher Lizzy Bennett. Picture by David Johnson/ Cambridge News.

Lizzy named as teacher of the year

A Catholic deputy head has been named Teacher of the Year in the Cambridge News and Media Education Awards and a Catholic primary was also shortlisted as Primary School of the Year.

■ Lizzy Bennett, Deputy Head (Teaching and Learning) at St Laurence Primary School in Cambridge was named as Teacher of the Year. She is also English subject leader and PE subject leader.

Lizzy won praise from judges for raising the level of PE teaching and creating an environment for pupils where they feel trusted, safe and like there is nothing they can't achieve.

She said: “I came into teaching as a vocation, this means the world to me. I had a lovely evening at the presentation awards and I was thrilled to be nominated and delighted to win it.

“My role involves me supporting teaching staff in developing their practice to become the best practitioners they can be and provide high quality first teaching for the children in our school.

“Over the past two years we have developed the sporting opportunities for the children at St Laurence and we have a range of sports clubs on offer; tag rugby, netball, athletics, dance, Change 4 Life (Legendary Legends), goalball and many more. We have also had a variety of sports teams representing St Laurence at competitions organised by the Cambridge School Sports partnership and we have represented Cambridge Schools at the Level 3 County competitions for dance, tennis and athletics.”

Headteacher, Clare Clark, paid tribute saying: “Everyone at St Laurence was so delighted by Lizzy's nomination for Cambridge Teacher of the Year and her success in winning the award. It is very well deserved and reflects her role as one of our deputy headteachers as well as PE leader and the impact her energy and positivity has with children and parents. St Laurence has just been successful again in retaining the prestigious Sports Gold Mark.

“All of our staff work so hard and it's great for Lizzy to receive this recognition. This is the second consecutive year St Laurence has featured in the Awards as our School Business Manager, Liz Taylor, won the Support Staff category last year.”

St Alban's Catholic Primary School, was also a finalist in the Primary School of the Year category.

The awards were presented at Homerton College in Cambridge on Tuesday July 18 and nominations for the awards were made by readers of the Cambridge News.

DIOCESAN SCHOOLS IN FOCUS

news in brief

Celebration of sport

■ The sporting pursuits and achievements of students at St Mary's School, Cambridge were celebrated on Monday July 3 at the school's annual Sports Award Dinner, where three-time Olympic swimmer and Bronze medallist Joanne Jackson, and Paralympic archer Danielle Brown (MBE), presented the prizes.

Danielle said: "I thoroughly enjoyed the evening and I have to say it was probably one of the best sports awards I have attended. Although I don't think they need it, my advice for the girls is to carry on what they are doing, by choosing sports they enjoy. To be good you have to work hard and it's so much easier to work hard when you're doing something you enjoy. But they already know that!"

At the recent sports day students had beaten school sporting records, some held for more than 20 years.

Robocup success

■ The Year 5 and Year 6 pupils from St Mary's School, Cambridge have successfully coded their way to the 2017 RoboCup Championships UK Final. The Year 6 final – the prestigious RoboCupJunior UK National CoSpace Championships – took place on June 12, and a St Mary's Junior School, Cambridge team finished in fourth place out of 58 national teams. The Year 5 final – the inaugural RoboCupJunior Line Tracking Primary Championship – took place on June 13, and a St Mary's Junior School, Cambridge team finished in third place out of 30 national teams.



A group of youngsters from Notre Dame High School in Norwich was recently confirmed by Bishop Alan. The confirmation sacrament took place at Our Lady Star of the Sea in Lowestoft.

Pupils raise over £500 for Syrian refugees

■ A quartet of pupils from St John Fisher School in Peterborough have raised over £500 for orphan refugee children from Syria.

Mueen Kabir (Year 13) and three fellow pupils Bongani Luwemba, Fred Cook and Zeeshan Waseem, raised the money by selling cakes made by supporter Mrs Burrell and samosas made by the wife of school teacher Zahid Akbar.

Mueen said: "I was inspired to raise the money after attending a comedy show sponsored by charity Human Appeal recently. Human Appeal is a global charity that dedicates its time and resources to help those less fortunate around the world. At this event they were raising money for orphan children that fled Syria to escape the warzone; this inspired me to pledge and start raising money with the help of my friends."

"We managed to raise £500 and presented the money to Human Appeal on Salaam (Peace) Radio 106.2 FM on June 17. I hope that our efforts will inspire others to do the same and continue doing good deeds - charity can start from just a single smile to another."

Human Appeal is a faith-based charity inspired by Islamic values.



Pictured above are, from left to right: student Mueen Kabir, Human Appeal rep Abid Hussain, and teacher Zahid Akbar.

Salaam Radio is a Peterborough-based station that aims to promote community

cohesion in bringing people together. www.humanappeal.org.uk

Pupils rewarded for learning skills

■ A group of pupils from St Edmund's RC Primary School in Bungay and St Benet's RC Primary School in Beccles attended a "Joy of Not Knowing" celebratory event organised by Norfolk County Council at the King's Centre in Norwich.

Pupils had been selected by their teachers for displaying brilliant learning behaviours during this academic year. Both schools have been trialling a scheme called "JONK – The Joy of Not Knowing" which is about bringing how we learn to the forefront of education.

The scheme was originally developed by Marcelo Staricoff, and St Benet's and St Edmund's were two of 14 schools offered the opportunity to be part of the scheme led by Norfolk County Council.

Teacher Miss Ashfield, from St Benet's, said: "The scheme centralises round six characteristics of effective learning, which enable children to be successful learners now and in their futures – resilience, resourcefulness,



Pictured are pupils from St Benet's with their certificates.

reflectiveness, creativity, curiosity and collaboration. In school we have linked each characteristic to an animal which the children can relate to in lessons.

"The scheme has had a great impact in the classes it has been trialled in so far, helping the children become more

independent learners and both schools will be rolling it out across all classes next year.

Children received their awards in front of their proud families and teachers at the July 3 award ceremony, alongside the other schools involved.

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Bishop Alan paid a second-ever visit to the Catholic community in Cambourne on Saturday May 24 to celebrate Mass and receive two people into the Catholic church. Melanie Ward reports on a joyous occasion.

Bishop Alan came to celebrate our regular Saturday 5pm Mass with us and Canon John Minh. He was able to receive two of our parents, Nicola Walshe and Kim Giraud into the Catholic church. A wonderful time for their families as Kim's daughter Maryam, a student in year 7 at St Mary's Cambridge was baptised in our church only a few weeks before and Nicola's daughter Emma has received her First Holy Communion with our group only the previous Saturday.

Very apt, as Bishop Alan encouraged us with the words of St Matthew that, although there would be those who would judge us for being Christians: "if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of human beings, I will declare myself for

him in the presence of my Father in heaven" and not to be discouraged or to turn away from our faith but to be living witnesses and "preach it from the housetops".

He presented gifts of books from our community to Nicola, Kim and Anastasia Ward who received the Sacrament of Confirmation at OLEM the previous Sunday and, as always, took a great deal of time to speak personally with each candidate and as many of us as possible.

He thanked Fr John for his service to us and we are very aware of the courage and sheer hard work needed to face the challenges of a 'new' and extensive parish which will spread over 50 villages around Cambridge. We are blessed that Our Lady of Lourdes, Sawston, is such a grounded, prayerful, practical, pastoral and family orientated community which we can learn a great deal from as our young church grows and flourishes.

We not only had one of our famously international Bring and Share's after Mass (our Keralan community is treasured not only for its deep spirituality, but its catering), but also the annual Thanksgiving Tea for our First Holy Communion Group which had been planned for that date.

We have a very large group of enthusiastic and dedicated servers. Helping our youth to serve God and the church in practical ways within the community is very important to us and our vibrant music group and children's liturgy, youth readers and many other activities are a real testament to their faith which Bishop Alan recognised.

As one young person replied when he commented upon her obvious excitement about their faith - "It is about Jesus - what's not to get excited about?!"

He also delighted Beryl Webber, who marked her 100th birthday earlier this year, with conversation.

Celebrating hope for future

A church held in a Portacabin, bungalow and doctor's surgery and Mass celebrated on a car boot or a pantomime stage are all part of the rich story of Camborne Catholics who are now looking forward to exciting plans for the future. Melanie Ward reports.

Just 16 years ago, in 2001, the first foundations were laid for three villages, nine miles west of Cambridge on land at Monkfield Farm, once owned by the Benedictine Monastery at St Neots and Cambourne was born.

Fathers Tony Rogers, Rafael Esteban, John Minh and Dick Healey in turn took the generous and courageous decision to celebrate a weekly Mass amongst the muddy fields and newcomers on their hour-round drive each Saturday.

After a spell in a bungalow and the doctor's surgery (you brought your own chair to Mass), the Ark (a pair of rather decrepit Portacabin classrooms) literally landed and became our first 'home' - shared as today, with Churches Together in Cambourne - formed with the C of E, Baptist Union, Methodist and United Reformed Churches. It also served as the first and only community building at the time, and was hosed down, plumbed in, wired up and formally opened with great joy on Palm Sunday 2002.

For the first two years, our intrepid

clergy served Mass to barely a dozen faithful, but with the arrival of First Holy Communion preparation lessons in 2004 to a small group of seven children, a greater sense of stability and purpose helped the community to blossom - Mass was soon bursting at the seams. The music group was crammed into our tiny kitchen space and a move in 2008 to the Vine inter-church Primary School for our weekly Mass was greatly welcomed.

By 2008, Cambourne, with a population of 7,600, had a birth-rate higher than that of China, India, Indonesia, the US and Brazil. Not surprisingly, the Communion group grew to almost 30 children.

Today the population is over 12,000 and rising as building continues apace.

After much fundraising and hard work, the first phase of Cambourne Church was opened in July 2010. A tall barn-like building, apt for a newly-born church, it serves our community, Churches Together and, until recently, the St Thomas Indian Orthodox Church who have now bought a church in Papworth.

Shared space, services and other events, visiting each other's celebrations during the Week of Christian Unity and joint fundraising and social events all strengthen and encourage us in our friendship with and faith in Christ and each other. Our Walk of Faith on Good Friday is a surprisingly joyful, prayerful witness to salvation for one and all.

From the beginning, the community, with no local resident priest, has taken seriously the commitment to love and serve and lay participation is high with people keenly aware that, as Rose Duchesne said: "we cultivate a very small field for Christ, but we love it, knowing that



The Ark, mobile Portacabin venue.

God does not require great achievements, but a heart that holds back nothing for self."

We are blessed with a truly international church and we know how to party well with the best food, friendship and fellowship from around the world. Our Keralan parishioners bought our treasured statue of Our Lady which travelled around different homes each week to be prayed with until we had safer storage.

We have had to live as relative 'nomads' as the church is heavily booked, but this has meant that weekday Masses, discussion, prayer, rosary and youth groups and adult formation have had to take place in people's homes - very 'Early Church' and a natural way to really get to know each other. We are grateful for the ethos of faithful adventure instilled in us from the beginning by imaginative, trusting clergy.

In September 2016, Bishop Alan appointed Canon John Minh as priest-in-charge of the lively, friendly churches of Sawston and Cambourne - both influenced by the sense of missionary

adventure by Fr Raf.

We are now able to have Mass on Tuesday and Thursday as well as our traditional Saturday 5pm slot. Adoration and Confessions are now feasible and we have an even greater sense of unity and purpose as we step forward with a pastor who is very with us and for us.

The early days of Mass celebrated on a car boot or on a pantomime stage with Widow Twankie's Parlour as a backdrop may soon be behind us, but we face new challenges. Bids for two church schools in Cambourne and growing spiritual, pastoral, financial and administrative demands are exciting, if rather daunting.

We have had an energetic and exciting house-led café church which has helped us develop a large, lively and enthusiastic youth group. We have Torch, dozens of servers on rota and a joyful and talented music group who are prayerfully tuned in to the charism of our welcoming community. We also have a committed children's liturgy, reading, catechetical and eucharistic ministry teams and a community council steering group never short of work and ideas.

We look forward to joining in more with the rest of the Diocese with our growing number of adult and youth confirmations over the next few years and following Bishop Michael Evans' original hope for us that we should go 'Forward and Outward Together'.

We are fortunate to have Fr John whose deep faith and simple joy in God will keep us grounded and grateful and will ensure that, as Pope Francis says: "Let the church always be a place of mercy and hope, where everyone is welcomed, loved and forgiven."



Above, Bishop Alan with couples at the Marriage and Family Celebration Mass at St John's Cathedral and, below, cutting a cake with the two couples marking 65 years together.

Celebration of marriage

Over 3,500 years of married life were represented at the annual Marriage and Family Celebration Mass which took place on Saturday, June 17 at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist.

■ Couples from across the Diocese of East Anglia took part with around 300 people in attendance. Certificates were presented to couples celebrating significant anniversaries and two couples were celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary this year. Betty and John Stubbs and Claude and Jeff Smith.

Bishop Alan welcomed all the couples and in his homily encouraged them to continue witnessing to love.

"If we love one another, we love God himself," he said. "Families are schools of theology – in loving each other, you learn about God."

He focused on two aspects of God's love for us; his faithfulness and his fruitfulness. Despite mankind turning away from God, he always offers us a new start, taking us back to himself "for the 77th time and more". This faithfulness, especially during difficult times, is the challenge posed to us in marriage.

"What makes living together different from marriage," said Bishop Alan, "is that there are no solemn vows to live out, no promises to remember, nothing to stop them walking out when things go wrong."

After thanking those present for their



powerful witness to faithful love, he turned his attention to fruitfulness pointing out that the world tends to isolate marriage from the family. In marriage, our generosity shows the world that children are not a burden but a gift. Speaking to childless couples, he reminded them that their faithful love bears fruit in many other ways; ultimately, God is the spouse whose love bears fruit and is

faithful from generation to generation.

Following the presentation of certificates and photographs, a lunch buffet was enjoyed by all in the cathedral grounds. Many couples remarked how lovely the day was. All married and engaged couples are encouraged to put this in their diary for next year – it is open to all, not just those who are eligible for a certificate.

Pictures were taken by Paul Hurst of every couple at the Mass and they can all be seen in an online picture gallery at <https://flic.kr/s/aHsm2ZP3MA>.

High resolution pictures in electronic or print format are available for £8 each. If you wish purchase a copy, please email Kerry Urdzik at mflc@rcdea.org.uk, quoting the number of the photo(s) you wish to obtain."



Wisbech couples celebrate 100 years

■ Two Wisbech couples, who have enjoyed a combined total of over 100 years of married life, have received Papal blessings from Pope Francis.

The couples' milestone anniversaries were recognised at Our Lady and St Charles Borromeo in Wisbech where they worship.

Eileen and Bernard Goose (pictured left), who were married at the same church by Fr Sammons celebrated 65

glorious years of marriage on June 24.

Irene and Michael Albone (pictured right), who were recently welcomed to the parish, celebrated their 40th anniversary on July 9.

Parish priest, Fr James Fyfe, said: "Both couples shared their happiness with parishioners after the Sunday Mass with refreshments in the Rosmini Centre. To both we say 'Many more happy years together'."



YOUTH MATTERS

Young Santiago pilgrims

A group from the Diocese of East Anglia completed a ten-day Youth Pilgrimage walking the Camino in Spain to Santiago at the end of July. Pete Wygnanski shares his experiences.

Poringland to Sarria

■ Our pilgrim journey began at Poringland on July 23 with a special Mass celebrated by Bishop Alan and Fr Luke. Having commended our pilgrimage to Jesus and asked the prayers of St James, we were treated to a welcome cup of coffee before Bishop Alan waved us off.

The journey to Stansted Airport was punctuated by the rosary and an all-important McDonald's stop on the way, after which we navigated the somewhat peculiar route from the parking space to the terminal and found ourselves rushing through departures to ensure we made our plane to Santiago, on time.

Precious time set aside for homework had slipped away so it was only on the dauntingly long drive from Santiago to our starting point that my research began. Being repeatedly assured of the deactivation of roaming data charges in Europe, a Wikipedia article was loaded.

The Way of St James, one of the most important Christian pilgrimages during the Middle Ages, takes the faithful from across Europe to the city of Santiago de Compostela, where, tradition tells us, St James' remains were buried, having been brought by boat from Jerusalem to northern Spain. After a period of decline, due in part to the Black Death and the Reformation, the pilgrimage enjoyed a revival in recent times. Of all the many routes, the Camino Francés is especially walked, including the relatively short route commencing in the town of Sarria, - our destination. So far, so good.

On arrival, the driver explained that he cannot go further as 'something is going on' and the group discovered that Sarria had been converted into a cycling race-track. For sure, getting one's bearings at the start of the Camino is made more thrilling when it involves dodging cyclists jumping over cars. Eventually we found the hostel, colloquially Albergue and collected our pilgrim passport and first stamp, needed to obtain the coveted certificates of completion, colloquially compostellas, in Santiago itself. At the day's end, we were all grateful to sit down with a glass of the local Albariño and some excellent patatas fritas, colloquially chips.

Sarria to Portomarin

■ The next morning was one of quiet trepidation: the early start undeniably challenging as sleep was broken by the noise of cycling ramps being dismantled well into the night, and the nearest source of caffeine was uncertain, somewhere along the 24kms we faced that day.

The team assembled, and after a blessing, we set off. Caffeine was found, and as the sun slowly rose over the Galician countryside, we came to know what it meant to walk the Camino. Walking sticks, wooden or otherwise, were purchased, stamps collected in our pilgrim passports, and leaky water containers abandoned. Cheerful greetings from seasoned walkers welcomed us on the way,



The youth pilgrims on the Camino de Santiago, above and left and at Fatima, right.

whilst laughter, prayer and beautiful scenery served to mask that growing discomfort in feet and legs as we slowly made our way to Pontomarin, our first stop.

Portomarin – Palais de Rei – Azura – O Pedruzo

■ The following days seem to blend together in the writer's memory, and after some initial uncertainty, the group entered into the rhythm of the pilgrimage, and even when bodies were tired, we'd have a well-deserved and often side-splittingly funny meal, sleep the restorative sleep of the just, and be ready early the next day to continue. The kilometres, 100 to be exact, rolled past as we progressed through the towns of Palas de Rei, Azura and O Pedruzo, stopping at ancient roadside chapels for daily Mass. Faces we would see time and again became familiar like old friends, and we'd frequent numerous taverns for much needed water, ice-cream, and/or sangria, depending on the time and heat of the day.

O Pedruzo - Santiago

■ All agreed, after lengthy debate in some cases, that on the last morning we would try to arrive in Santiago for the midday pilgrims' Mass, which involved a 5am

start. The guidebook informed us that we traversed a beautiful wood of eucalyptus by torchlight, and the rear-guard even managed mobile and nocturnal Morning Prayer from the Divine Office without incident or injury. On this occasion, the sun rose to reveal the crowds of pilgrims coming together in the suburbs of Santiago and we skirted the airport we had landed into. After a steep walk up to, and then down from, Monte do Gozo and a last coffee break, we faced the final ascent to the Cathedral. Against all odds, we arrived just in time for Mass, and after a compulsory group photo and quick lunch, all were keen to head to the final Albergue for a siesta before a noteworthy celebratory meal. Visiting Santiago itself could wait.

Santiago to Fatima

■ The next day we queued at length for our compostellas, received only after a rigorous check of the stamps gathered in one's pilgrim passport. We returned to the Cathedral to venerate the relic of the Apostle, and perused the local shops and market stalls for all the devotional items and gifts one might need. Eventually the time to catch the bus came but we went not to the airport; instead the group headed for a quick visit to Fatima. What with Fatima being so close and it being

the 100th anniversary of the apparitions, we just had to go.

We crossed the border into Portugal by means of a beautifully scenic coach-ride to Porto airport, where we collected two rental cars for the onward journey. After a quick drive, highlighted in one of the cars by choice Monty Python and 70s musical aristocracy Toto, we arrived in Fatima in the evening.

Circumstances meant Fr Luke said Mass for the group in his hotel room, which proved to be one of the most moving moments of the whole pilgrimage, as we came together in quiet, giving thanks for such a grace-filled week of friendship both new and old, recollection, prayer, and spiritual growth; all that pilgrimage is meant to be.

Fatima to Poringland

■ The next morning we enjoyed a longer sleep, and headed for the shrine in Fatima to attend the main international Mass alongside thousands of other pilgrims. The group reunited and fed, and having perused yet more shops, we returned to Porto airport. Not even the long wait for the delayed flight back to London could dampen the mood in the last hours together – a sure sign of a pilgrimage well done.

Historic place for pilgrim retreat

For over 500 years Dowry House in Walsingham has been used as a pilgrim hostel and since early 2017 this purpose has been restored by the shrine when it reopened as a retreat house run by the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham.

The Community was founded in the Slipper Chapel on the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6, 2004 with the aim of living and spreading the spirituality of Walsingham in-depth. As an ecclesial family of consecrated life, membership is open to people from all states of life.

Meanwhile, in 2006, Peter Hoyer bought Dowry House and began renovating it to update the retreat centre for modern-day pilgrims. His dream was to have a religious community living on-site, praying in the chapel and offering hospitality. In 2016, he generously passed over the management of the retreat house to the shrine and Bishop Alan invited the Community to run it: "for the shrine, for the diocese and for the nation".

Known affectionately to many as 'the old Sue Ryder place' Dowry House is situated directly opposite the Priory Gatehouse in the High Street. Built between 1470 and 1496, the twelfth-century Augustinian Priory used it as a pilgrim hostel, providing hearty meals and warm lodgings. During the 15th Century, Walsingham enjoyed the reputation of being one of the world's most renowned shrines and pilgrims came from far and wide.

The religious landscape of England changed dramatically during the Reformation of King Henry VIII and at one point the house's cellars were used to house two martyrs who were hung, drawn and quartered the following day.



After the Reformation, the building underwent a series of evolutions as it was used for different purposes: for trading businesses, as a post office, a coffee shop and accommodation. The exterior of the building, facing onto the High Street, was given a brick façade in the 19th century. More recently, in 1982, Sue Ryder purchased it to provide a retreat house for her staff in this quiet, grace-filled place known as England's Nazareth.

A range of formation courses and

retreats for those seeking to deepen their faith are now offered at Dowry House.

It has 17 beautifully furnished bedrooms that can hold up to 26 guests, for whom all meals are provided. The Welcome Centre at the entrance offers resources for passing pilgrims to have a fruitful time in Walsingham and the gardens are being developed to provide outdoor prayer spaces for residential guests.

The Julian Library holds a Marian collection of some 3,000 books ranging from art and history through to mystical theology. The Beckett Room is a reading room where residents can relax and the St Edward's Conference Room, with its media facilities, sits larger groups of 30 plus for seminars. The cloister of the

courtyard joins the main building to the Chapel.

The beautiful chapel has a special tabernacle designed for Perpetual Adoration, since it is from the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus that all effective evangelization comes. As such Dowry House hopes to be the praying heart of the shrine and a place for all people to encounter the Word made flesh Who lives among us.

Sr Camilla, the leader of the community, said: "Walsingham is a place where pilgrims can be held by Mary and led by her to a knowledge of the Father's infinite love for each one of us. We are invited to bring our somewhat broken spirits to be healed by God through her intercession.

"As such, Dowry House Retreat is a place for people to come and recharge their spiritual batteries, to attend one of the many formation courses being organised by the shrine, to do an individually guided retreat or just to come away and rest a while with the Lord.

"We hope that, for anyone visiting, it will be a grace-filled and a life-defining experience. By discovering all that Walsingham has to offer for the spiritual journey we hope people may leave with the desire to come back again and again."

Factfile

■ Room rates start from £55 for a single or £90 for a double, full board. En-suite rooms are £78 for a single and £136 for a double (full board). Discounts for groups.

www.dowryhouse.org.uk

Tel: 01328 801018

E: dowryhouse@walsingham.org.uk



Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology

Catholic House of Cambridge Theological Federation

New Courses in 2017-2018

Margaret Beaufort Certificate

This course consists of five modules which follows Cambridge University Term Dates. It is possible to book all 5 modules per year or to register for a term.

The list of modules for 2017-2018 includes:

1. Moral Imagination, Art, and Spiritual Formation (Dr Anna Abram)
2. Matristics/Patristics (Dr Amy Daughton)
3. Reform, Rupture, and Revolution: The Reformation (Dr Jon Reimer)
4. Biblical Women from Miriam to Mary Magdalen (Ms Rosalie Moloney)
5. Thomas Merton: Model of Discernment, Personal Care, Pastoral Presence, and Social Justice (Dr Melanie Prejean-Sullivan).

For the list of fees, please visit our website:

www.margaretbeaufort.cam.ac.uk/

The modules are taught on Thursday afternoons, 2-5 pm. The teaching ends with the Holy Mass at 6 pm and is followed by supper at 7 pm.

The Second Vatican Council

A 3-Day Course, led by Dr Peter Coughlan, will explore the history, teaching, reception and impact of the most significant event (Vatican II) in the Roman Catholic Church in the last hundred years.

Dates: 21, 28 October and 4 November
(10 am – 4.30 pm)

Fees: £210 or £70 per Saturday. Some bursaries are available; please contact Dr Anna Abram, Principal (aa2008@cam.ac.uk) to find out whether you are eligible.

Tea and coffee will be provided.

Please bring your lunch.



Spirituality, Religion and Ethics in Contemporary Prison Service

This new interactive course which might be of interest to anyone working or volunteering in prison service will be taught over three Wednesdays in February 2018 (7, 14 and 21). It will cover such topics as 'Philosophical Principles (justice, faith, care and rights); theological principles (the human person and spiritual formation) and practical applications in prison service.



For information about Diploma, Masters and Doctoral Programmes, please visit our website:

www.margaretbeaufort.cam.ac.uk

Places are limited so please book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

For more information about the above courses or to register please email Ela Wolbek on ew263@cam.ac.uk

Venue: 12 Grange Road, Cambridge, CB3 9DU, 01223 741039 Website: www.margaretbeaufort.cam.ac.uk

BUILDING BRIDGES

Ready for refugees

■ The youth group at St John's Cathedral in Norwich has been packing rucksacks for asylum seekers arriving into the city.

Responding to the refugee crisis, they began collecting basic goods and toiletries from parishioners and Notre Dame School.

The group compiled a list of items from feedback received from asylum seekers, meaning everything the youth group collected was useful.

With the large number of rucksacks to pack, one of the race organisers, Carol Chiltern made it into a game to make the process fun. The children had to find all 20 items for the rucksack by doing a competitive scavenger hunt outside.

Packing bags was especially poignant for some members of the youth group as Jo Graham, lead catechist at St John's said: "For some, collecting goods for people in need is all academic. But within the parish we have a growing number of refugees and asylum seekers.

"For them, it's a lived experience and they make it very real. The bags stop being packed for some nameless individual."

Catholic aid agency CAFOD has been encouraging people to respond to the refugee crisis with respect and love through writing messages of hope to refugees.

Parishioners were invited to place a sticker on a map to show their country of origin, before writing messages expressing their solidarity with refugees.

254 messages were collected from the parishioners who came from over 50 countries around the world: from Mexico to Iceland to the Philippines. They are now distributed by CAFOD to refugees at home and abroad.

Young parishioner Beatrix wrote a message saying: "I think that you are being very brave and I hope you feel welcome in our country. I want you to feel that you are now somewhere safe. I will always be praying for you and thinking about you".

CAFOD representative, Stephen Matthews, said: "It's wonderful to see young people taking the lead and helping others to see. As Pope Francis said that 'migrants and refugees are brothers and sisters to be welcomed, respected and loved.' Keep up the good work."

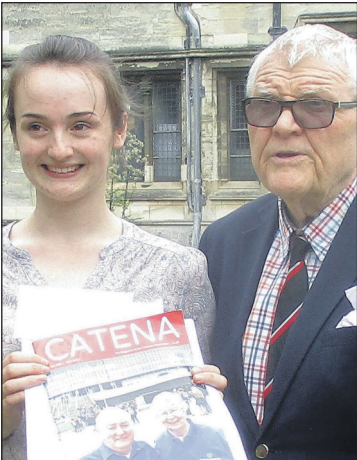
The packed rucksacks will now be stored with volunteers before being given to asylum seekers when they arrive in Norwich.

Eleanor's bursary for year in Chile

■ A Norfolk student has been presented with a £1,800 bursary by the Catenian Association to help fund a year working as a teaching assistant in Santiago, Chile.

Eleanor Frankland from Reepham in Norfolk has just taken her 'A' levels in Spanish, Law and History and is hoping to eventually take up a career in the legal profession.

But before that she is travelling to Chile in August to spend a year working in a suburban school in Santiago. She was recommended for the bursary by Deacon Paul Hirons of Walsingham and was presented with the cheque in the gardens of St John's Cathedral, Norwich by John Kenny, President of Norwich Circle of the Catenian Association (pictured above).



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

Ely trio volunteer to teach in Myanmar

■ Three parishioners from St Etheldreda's in Ely have joined others to travel to Patheingyi, Myanmar to volunteer with a local charity organisation by teaching English and supporting local organisations.

■ Karuna Mission Social Solidarity (KMSS) is one of the Caritas umbrella organisations based in the country formerly known as Burma, which dispenses foreign aid including money from our own CAFOD.

Last year Mary Durkacz raised over £1600 through generous friends and parishioners to help with flood relief in the area before leading the group of ten on what was her third visit.

In January, over two intensive teaching weeks, more than 40 students, aged from 16 to 64, came to classes predominantly from the local junior seminary and the aspirants' house of the St Francis Xavier convent in Patheingyi. Several other Christian and Buddhist students also wanted to learn English from native speakers: the teachers were delighted to have this rich cultural and religious diversity within the classes.

What struck members of the group most was the warmth and friendliness of the students, their eagerness to learn, their kindness towards one another, their spirituality which made them unafraid to say grace in public or pray for a safe journey and very importantly the delicious food. Tony Sigrist summed it up, saying: "It's still an age of innocence where happiness is found in the simplest of existences."

Katie Betts added: "I was impressed and delighted with the friendliness and welcome we received in Myanmar. The students we taught were delightful - so dignified, respectful and hard working. I



Tony Sigrist, Katie Betts and Mary Durkacz with students in Myanmar visiting a local museum.

thoroughly enjoyed the experience."

Myanmar is still in the process of emerging from a long, brutal military regime which lasted from 1962 until 2011 and this saw the significant eroding of education, social and medical services throughout the country. It was the general election of 2015 and the success of Aung San Suu Kyi's party in both houses that truly opened up the country's borders and allowed more political and social freedom. However a significant military presence within the government remains.

Mary, Tony and Katie intend to return to Myanmar to teach for another two weeks in January 2018. The trip is likely to cost around £750 in total. If you are interested in joining them please contact Mary, mdurkacz@hotmail.co.uk for more

information. Teaching experience is not necessary but a sense of adventure and a sense of humour are vital!

Coming events

Mary has organised two events to raise money for and awareness of the charity Ahtutu in Ely during September.

■ Thursday, September 7, at 7pm in St Etheldreda's Church Rooms - a meal and presentation about the work of Ahtutu in Myanmar. Tickets: £10

■ Saturday, September 30, at 7:30pm in Ely Tigers Rugby Club - a Family Ceilidh for Myanmar. Tickets £15/£7.50 (to include fish and chip supper)

More details from Mary, at mdurkacz@hotmail.co.uk

News picture gallery from parishes around the Diocese



■ Over 50 children from three church choirs across East Anglia came together at the first-ever Diocese of East Anglia Children's Choirs Festival at OLEM in Cambridge on Saturday (June 24).

The choirs from Norwich Cathedral, St Peter and All Souls Peterborough and Our Lady and the English Martyrs came together to sing a Mass which Bishop Alan celebrated on the Solemnity of the Nativity of St John the Baptist. They were led by musical directors Daniel Justin (Norwich Cathedral) and Andrew Reid (St Peter and All Souls).

The 52 children sang for a Mass at 2pm after a morning of workshops and rehearsals.

Daniel Justin said: "What a great event for the music of our Diocese! Over 50 children singing together with great joy was something to behold."



■ The ICC Women's World Cup Final at Lord's on July 23 was started by a bell rung by 105-year-old Eileen Ash, a regular at St George's and Our Lady Mother of God churches in Norwich.

Eileen was given the honour of ringing the traditional bell at the Bowlers' Bar to mark the start of play as she is England's oldest living former women's cricketer, who played seven Test matches for England either side of World War Two.

In 2011, she became the first female Test player to reach her 100th birthday and, in the same year, was awarded Honorary Life Membership by MCC.



■ Half-a-dozen children made their First Communion at the parish of Our Lady and St Joseph in Sheringham on June 11. They are pictured above with Fr Denys Lloyd.



■ It was a case of "mum's the word" for 500 Catholic mothers at Walsingham recently when they were asked to remain silent during an entire procession along the Holy Mile.

The Union of Catholic Mothers 72nd Annual Pilgrimage to The National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham on July 4, saw new UCM East Anglia presidents Anne Sibley (from Sacred Heart & St Margaret Mary, Dereham) and Leish Davis (from St Joseph at St Neots), along with approximately 500 UCM members, national officers, bishops and clergy, preparing to walk the Holy Mile processing in silence reflecting on our Mother and the Theme of the Pilgrimage - 'The Joy of the Annunciation.

UCM East Anglia vice president Maria Taverna, said: "It was a beautiful day, a most spiritual pilgrimage, filled with love and friendships all encompassed in the power of prayer.



■ Market day in St Ives was marked by a special Mass at the Bridge Chapel (Chapel of St Leger) on Monday June 26 with Bishop Alan Hopes in attendance. A 10am Mass is celebrated at the Chapel in the Cambridgeshire town every Monday (market day) from the early May Bank Holiday (May 1) to the late August Bank Holiday (August 28). Bishop Alan celebrated the Mass with parish priest Fr Karol Porczak and Fr Ivan Weston.