

OUR DIOCESAN FAMILY



The newspaper of the Diocese of East Anglia

FREE

November 2012

Invited to new relationship with Jesus Christ

Diocesan Administrator Fr David Bagstaff underlined one of the aims of the Year of Faith at the Opening Mass at St. John's Cathedral in Norwich on 11 October.

It was to invite us all into "a renewed relationship with Jesus, the one Saviour of the world".

The Cathedral was packed with pupils and students from Catholic schools, lay people from around the Diocese, clergy and religious all of whom found a warm welcome and hospitality.

The Year of Faith, which will run until the Solemnity of Christ the King on 23 November 2013, was initiated by Pope Benedict for the Catholic Church throughout the world.

Its purpose is to help Catholics reflect upon, strengthen and celebrate their faith, and to fit the Church for a new evangelisation – reaching out to those outside with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

"This year we are asked to return to the foundations of our faith: the Scriptures, the teaching of the Church and the Catechism."

Speaking directly to the 300 school children representing the Catholic schools from all over the Diocese who formed a major part of the congregation, Fr David likened the Year of Faith to a website.

Having arrived at the introductory page "we are invited to click on the 'Enter' button" and experience the wealth of information and other treasure that lie within the 'site'".

A special presentation of catechetical resources was made to all of the schools, for use in faith education and development:

Each secondary school received 30 copies of the YOUCAT youth catechism sponsored by the Diocese and Aid to the Church in Need; and each of the primary schools and middle schools received a selection of books suitable for younger pupils produced by the Catholic

Truth Society and sponsored by the Diocesan Schools Commission. Resources were also provided for school governors and staff.

The Year of Faith began on the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council and the 20th anniversary of the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church which Fr David noted was one of the "fruits of the Council and which sets out our Faith based upon the scriptures and the Council documents."

"The Catechism of the Catholic Church will help us rediscover the teaching of the Council, and in particular the main documents suggested for study by the Pope: the Dogmatic Constitutions on the Church (Lumen Gentium) and Divine Revelation (Dei Verbum), the Constitution on the Liturgy (Sacrosanctum Concilium) and the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the modern world (Gaudium et Spes)."

Fr David said "Events such as study days, prayer days and pilgrimages, both parish and diocesan, are just some of the things which we will experience if we 'click on Enter', experiences which will open to us the treasures of our faith."

"Much has changed in the Church since the Council was held in the 1960s: the Liturgy has been renewed, the Scriptures have been opened up once again to the laity, there has been a flourishing development in relations with other Christians, people of other faiths and the world."

"All of this is to be celebrated in this Year of Faith"

"We have a faith to be lived, and shared. All of us are asked to pass on the joy of faith in Jesus Christ and membership of the Catholic Church to those who have not experienced it and not forgetting those who have experienced it but who have drifted away from the Church, or who have been hurt or damaged in some way by members of the Church."

"It will be easier," he said "for them to walk back through the doors of the Church, if we walk with them."



The Cathedral was packed with people of all ages from parishes across East Anglia for a Mass to begin Pope Benedict's Year of Faith which carries a special message of renewal and a focus on schools and their pupils who enjoyed the day



Olympic chaplains

Fr Christopher Jamison OSB and Lucy Walker, from the Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea in Lowestoft, were members of the chaplaincy at London 2012.

It was the first time that there was a chaplaincy to the media at the Olympics and Paralympics.

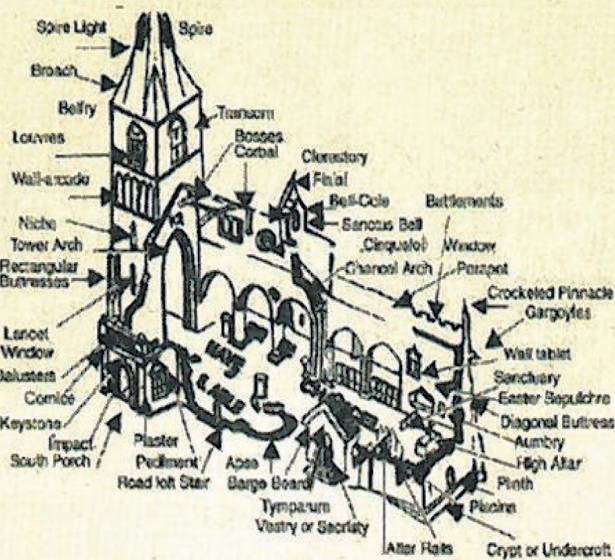
"We were part of a 12-strong team ministering to the 26,500 members of the world's media, Lucy said.

She will be giving a talk to the CWL in Southwold on 6 November at 2:30pm about her time at the media centre.



Pilgrimage to Rome to mark the Year of Faith - see page three for details

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Building Conserbation



Fr David writes about Bacton Priory

For the past four years the Sacred Heart Parish, North Walsham (which includes Aylsham and Hoveton) have celebrated Mass on the Saturday closest to the Feast of The Exaltation of the Cross (14 September), at the ruins of Bacton Priory (known as Bromholme).

Bacton is on the North Norfolk Coast and although the ruins are in private grounds it is possible to get a view of them from the gate house which is close to the free car park, or there are good views from the B1150 on your right hand side, shortly after the hamlet of Pollard Street travelling in the direction of the coast.

Diocesan Administrator Fr David Bagstaff is also parish priest at the Sacred Heart has written about Bromholme.

Illustrious History

Very little is left now of what at one time was a very wealthy Priory, although it didn't always enjoy such prosperity.

The story begins in 1113 with the founding of the Priory by William de Glanville. It was originally made subordinate to the Cluniac house of Castle Acre but the relationship between the two communities was often fraught.

By the beginning of the 13th Century the priory had hit quite hard times and in 1206 there were only eight monks living there, when a surprise visitor turned up at the monastery door and the fortune of the monastery was about to take a significant change.

The mysterious guest was a priest (Hugh) who had been chaplain and keeper of holy relics to Count Baldwin of Flanders. One of the most treasured relics in the collection was a piece of the true cross which by tradition had been found by Saint Helena, the mother of Constantine the Great.

To preserve the cross for all time, she had divided it into pieces.

It was believed that one piece bore the bloodstains of Jesus where his feet had been nailed to the cross and that this particular relic had miraculous powers and it was this holy relic which had come down to Count Baldwin and was looked after by this mysterious visitor. How did he come to be at Bromholme?

His Master, Count Baldwin, was defeated at Adrianople on



Parishioners from the Sacred Heart after celebrating Mass at Bromholme, above, and the ruins, below



15th April 1205 and Hugh took the opportunity of fleeing and taking with him the relics!

According to the medieval chronicler, Matthew Parish, he went first to St Albans and sold some of Baldwin's relics but they rejected the true cross; he then went to Weybourne Priory in Norfolk, but the Prior there refused to believe in the miraculous power of the true cross relic and sent Hugh away.

He had better luck at Bromholme - having confessed about the existence of the relic and an actual miracle being performed, he was welcomed to stay at the monastery.

From that time Bromholme became a place of great pilgrimage. It is claimed that 39 people were raised from the dead and 19 recovered their sight through the miraculous power of the relic.

It attracted pilgrims from all over England and Europe, including Henry III; and there is a reference to Bromholme in Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales". Times became very prosperous and so they continued until February 1537 when the monastery was suppressed by Henry VIII.

Was the relic taken back to the court of King Henry, and sold, or burnt; or was it buried somewhere in the area, which is how the local legend would have it? These questions must remain unanswered.

It is a privilege to be able to celebrate Mass on this holy site, which in many ways now lies forgotten and undisturbed, but has a peacefulness about it which must stem from the stream of pilgrims who came here in the past to seek the healing of the Lord through his cross and resurrection.

Is there a hidden Sacred Historic Site in your area? Then why not write and let us know about it. Please send brief details and your parish links to the site to the editor.



City honour for community work

It is good when from time to time the civil authorities recognise the presence and importance of the Church, Fr David Bagstaff writes.

The City of Peterborough recently did just this by conferring upon Fr David Jennings the Honorary Freedom of the City at a Presentation in Cathedral Square on Saturday 8 September, picture left.

Fr David was thanked in particular for promoting cohesion amongst the different communities within Peterborough and having

a significant impact on wider aspects of life in the city.

A noted example of this was how together with the Council of local Imans he had helped to bring about close working relations through the establishment of the Faith and Cohesion Network, which facilitates closer engagement between faith groups and the statutory sector tackling social challenges.

Many congratulations to Fr David on receiving the Honorary Freedom of the City of Peterborough.

Young women share Carmelite life for weekend

The sisters at Quidenham have provided further opportunities this summer for young women to come inside the enclosure and experience Carmelite life.

Six women have visited this year, and Sister Stephanie, the novice mistress, said: "Sometimes their hearts quail somewhat at first sight of the timetable for the weekend, but all of them have stayed the course and found that the rhythm of prayer, solitude, and community has carried them through."

The visitors have followed the same timetable as the sisters, rising at 5.30 am

and retiring at about 10 pm. They have participated in the celebration of Mass and the Divine Office, and have also shared in the two hours of prayer, one in the morning and one in the evening, which are the principal distinguishing feature of Carmelite life. Their experience has included some monastic work (picking raspberries or folding cards), monastic meals (while listening to a reader), and the relaxation and laughter of monastic recreations.

In addition some of the sisters have provided some input on prayer, vocation,

and the history of Carmel. One of the visitors commented: "I found the sessions extremely enlightening and helpful. Many complex questions were addressed in a remarkably clear and profound way."

For all of them, it has been a chance to confront important questions about the purpose and direction of their lives, and their relationship with God.

One wrote afterwards: "I arrived nervous and with little idea what to expect. I left with many misconceptions about the religious life challenged and my faith strengthened."

An opportunity has arisen for a committed person to take over the established role of Marriage & Family Life Co-ordinator for the Diocese of East Anglia

The role includes:-

Establishing /monitoring parent support courses & resources within schools and parishes

Increasing Marriage Preparation within the Diocese

Liaison with other Diocesan Commissions and Organisations

Regular updating of the Marriage & Family Life Diocesan Webpage

Organisation of the Annual Celebration of Marriage & Family

Quarterly meetings of the Marriage & Family Life Commission

The writing of reports for various agencies

Strategic thinking, planning, and identification of sources of funding will be key capabilities to enable the successful candidate to develop specific proposals for the continuation of Diocesan commitment in the area of Marriage & Family Life building on evaluation of work done

The successful candidate will need to be able to work on their own initiative and will be home based. The post will serve the whole of the Diocese so travel and occasional work at weekends or evenings may be required.

The hours will be 20 per week (average)

It is possible that this job could be shared between 2 people dividing the hours

Support is provided by the diocese and by an active national network of Family Ministry Workers

Remuneration is £10 per hour + expenses Annual leave is 5 weeks + Public Holidays

Further information from Diocesan Office, 21
Upgate, Poringland, Norwich NR14 7SH
Tel. 01508 492202

or

Mike Kenning, Chairman, M&FL Commission
mike.kenning@talk21.com

or

M&FL Co-ordinator mflco-ordinator@east-angliadiocese.org.uk

Courtyard of the Gentiles - The Year of Faith by Professor John Morrill

Pope Benedict has called on the whole church to experience a Year of Faith from 11 October 2012 (the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Vatican Council) to the 1st Sunday of Advent 2013.

He especially encourages us to study the four foundational documents of the Council on the Church as 'the light of the nations' (*Lumen Gentium*), on the renewal of worship (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*), on divine revelation and the right approach to scripture and tradition (*Dei Verbum*) and on the Church's engagement with modernity (*Gaudium et Spes* ['joy and hope']) – there is much left on all those bones to nourish us further!

He also encourages us to deepen our knowledge of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, published by Pope John Paul 20 years ago. Many parishes are already planning to take up this invitation.

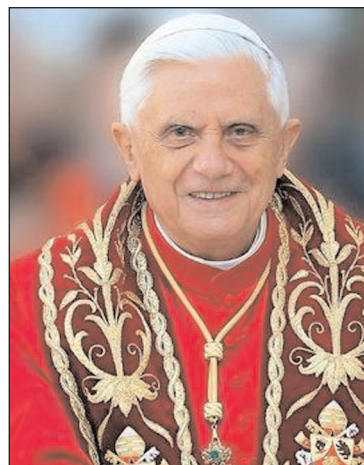
The Commission of Evangelisation is arranging study days on each of them. But we only deepen our faith in order to share it, and so we need to think of how we can share our faith more freely.

No-one lights a lamp to put under a tub; they put it on a lampstand where it shines for everyone in the house [Matthew 5:15].

So Pope Benedict is linking 'the Year of Faith' with another initiative: 'the new evangelisation for the transmission of the Christian Faith'. This is an initiative that is both top-down (it is the theme of the current 13th General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops) and bottom up (we are all encouraged to do our bit).

In a fascinating briefing document or 'Lineamenta' for the bishops' meeting (available online as http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/synod/documents/rc_synod_doc_20110202_lineamenta-xiii-assembly_en.html), the Pope reminds of us the words of Bishop Michael's favourite modern pope, Paul VI.

Speaking of 'the primacy of evangelisation', he wrote that 'it would be useful if every Christian were to pray about the following thought - that through God's mercy people can



Pope Benedict XVI

gain salvation in other ways besides our preaching the gospel to them, but as for us, can we gain salvation if (through negligence, fear, shame) we fail to preach it'.

The Lineamenta add a striking comment on this: *Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers and if he does listen to teachers it is because they are witnesses.*

In other words, St Francis's words are more relevant than ever: preach the gospel and use words if you have to. And how are we to do that? The Holy Father has been promoting a very striking idea which is well worth pondering.

He has reminded us that in the Temple of Jerusalem there was a free space for non-Jews (ie Gentiles) who wished to pray there to the one God, even if only the orthodox could enter the inner parts.

It was a place of prayer for the curious and well-wishers, those who, the pope says "are dissatisfied with their own gods, rites and myths, who desire the pure and great even if God remains for them 'the unknown God...'".



YEAR OF FAITH 2012 2013



The Second Vatican Council in Plenary Session



Popes John XXIII and Paul VI



I think that today the Church should open a sort of Courtyard of the Gentiles in which people might in some way latch on to God without knowing him and before gaining access to his mystery, at whose service the inner life of the Church stands.

Based on this idea, His Holiness himself inaugurated a Courtyard of the Gentiles in Paris during his pastoral visit to France. Thousands of people, believers and unbelievers (seekers) came together in the 'Ville Lumiere' over a period of two days.

The aim was not to preach but to listen and share, to engage and to debate. Out of the Paris Courtyard came a commitment to future sharing – one agnostic philosopher asked an Italian cardinal to co-author with him a study of the Gospel of St John.

More courtyards have been held or are planned, in Chicago, Quebec, Stockholm, in Tirana (Albania) and now in other continents. One especially striking Courtyard was held in Bucharest (Romania) where the event was entitled "in what does a non-believer believe?"

In a large open space (by definition not in a church), 2,000 students proclaiming themselves non-believers came to listen and engage – with remarkable results.

At all these events the Church can witness against false gods (materialism, human self-reliance etc) but not by lecturing but sharing experience and listening. That is by witnessing.

Next year there will be a Christian courtyard in Jerusalem. Googling 'Courtyard of the Gentiles' leads to lots of fascinating stories – get to it! But we can all set out our own



St Paul's Basilica in Rome

courtyards. Are not street pastors an example?


I find airport lounges an excellent place to open a space for meaningful conversations with strangers who want to share their apprehensions with the state of a world going to hell in a handcart.

One member of the Commission for Evangelisation sells religious books and artefacts at car boot sales not for the benefit of the sales but of the conversations. When the subject of religion comes up in ordinary daily encounters do we ring-fence conversations with our faith firmly behind a screen? The commission for evangelisation will be looking for ideas and models.

If you can help, contact John Morrill at dea_evangelisation@yahoo.co.uk or write to him at Catholic Pastoral Centre, 14 Exeter Road, Newmarket CB8 8LT. Watch out for more announcements and meanwhile go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life!

John Morrill is a deacon in the parish of Our Lady Immaculate and St Etheldreda, Newmarket and he is chair of the diocesan commission for evangelisation.



BOOK NOW - Fr David Jennings said there are still places available of the Year of Faith Pilgrimage to Rome but people should book quickly as it may fill up.




DIocese of EAST ANGLIA
'Year of Faith'
Pilgrimage to
ROME
16th - 20th September 2013

£699 PER PERSON

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DIOCESAN SCHOOLS IN FOCUS

New building to meet a growing population

A new building at St Laurence Catholic Primary School in Cambridge was blessed after a special Mass celebrated by Diocesan Administrator Fr David Bagstaff.

Other celebrants were Mgr Peter Leeming (Chairman of the Schools Commission), Fr Pat Cleary (Parish Priest), Fr Dick Healey and Fr Paul Maddison.

Representatives from the county, LSI Architects and SEH French builders also attended along with governors, past staff and friends of the school.

The school has expanded in response to population growth within the county and an increase of Catholic families moving into the area.

The new build consists of two reception year classrooms with a covered outdoor area attached as a central resource area, a separate block of two classrooms and a multi-purpose studio and a new centralised staff room, along with internal decorating and reroofing.

Contractors carried out the 36-week building programme and worked closely with the headteacher and staff to ensure the smooth running of the project.

Head teacher Jan Southgate said: "I have been absolutely delighted with the new build which is already fully in action."

"The outcomes exceeded our expectations in the design, quality and flexibility of use of all rooms."

"The innovative and imaginative ideas and designs have provided us with an amazing stimulating new environment, which enhances childrens' learning, and provides us with further creative opportunities to make teaching and learning exciting, memorable and fun!"

"In the 12 years that I have been a headteacher in three schools, this has been the smoothest, most positive experience of a build taking place in a school that I have experienced!"



Celebrating the new building blessed by Fr David Bagstaff, left



The seven Year 8 students who won prizes in the National Schools' Bible Project

Bible project brought top prizes

Seven Year 8 students at St Alban's Catholic High School in Ipswich have won prizes at the National Schools' Bible Project Competition!

The prizes were awarded at a special assembly by Joanna Bogle, chairman of Christian Projects which runs the Schools Bible Project throughout the country each year.

Pupils were invited to study various events in the life of Christ, and to choose one and write about it as if they had actually been present.

The events included the calming of the storm at sea, the raising of Lazarus, the healing of Jairus' daughter and the women finding the empty tomb on Easter morning.

Joanna said that it was difficult choosing the winners.

"There were a good number of entries of a really high standard and seven of the students have all been awarded runner up prizes for work of a high standard."

The Schools Bible Project was launched over 20 years ago and involves pupils from schools across Britain.

Talk like pirates day raises cash

Pupils at St Mary's Junior School collected pirate treasure in aid of a Cambridge charity on International Talk like a Pirate Day.

Pupils and teachers came to school dressed like pirates wearing eye patches, pirate hats and neckerchiefs.

Each of them donated £1 to Romsey Mill, a Christian charity that supports young people and families in Cambridgeshire.

Acting head teacher Christopher Hald said: "As a Christian school, we encourage our pupils to support community projects and charitable causes."

"Dressing up like pirates seemed a



creative and fun way to raise money for an important local charity, which the girls chose themselves."

St Mary's pupils are pictured above on International Talk like Pirates day.

RE practice wins award

St Bede's Inter church School Cambridge has been awarded a Gold Religious Education Quality Mark, (REQM) which is an accreditation system for recognising and celebrating good practice.

Head of RE Ann Pittaway said: "As an award it is monitored and supported by the Religious Education Council, (REC)."

"Together with our REQM assessor, we had the chance to reflect upon the quality and experience provided by RE in our school from the perspective of both students and staff."

"The experience of learners formed a central feature of the whole process, giving students a real voice in shaping and strengthening the quality of RE."

"As well as affirming our achievements, the Gold award has left us inspired and eager to provide further enrichment to all those in our care."

"We would welcome the opportunity to work with other schools in the diocese, in order to learn and progress together."

Should any schools be interested in making such links please contact the Head of RE, Ann Pittaway, email: apittaway@stbedes.cambs.sch.uk



A past pupil returned to help create and paint a new mural for a school in Peterborough.

Pupils at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School also helped to make the artwork.

Head teacher Anne-Marie McElhinney wanted a piece of art that would inspire and encourage children to ask questions and become actively involved in the creative process. The mural, above, was to portray inspirational figures both past and present. The central person in the mural was Pope John Paul II.

Notre Dame fair

Notre Dame High are holding an International Christmas Fair in the school refectory on 8 December from 10am until 3pm.



Two students from St Mary's School in Cambridge battled their way to the final of the Schools Bake Off, part of The Cake & Bake Show 2012, judged by celebrity chef Paul Hollywood. Nina Bates and Daisy Merrell, both in Year 11, impressed the judges with their cake to make it through to the finals, where they had to bake scones following Paul Hollywood's own recipe. They narrowly missed out on being crowned the winners but took the runners-up prize. Each girl was given a framed certificate, an apron and a goody bag of cake icing ingredients. Head of Food Technology Anna Ladds, said: "The girls were extremely honoured to take part in such a prestigious and popular event and learnt a great deal from the experience."

The Diocesan Youth Office,
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Mobile: (0781) 2004934 Email:
dys@east-angliadiocese.org.uk
Leave a message if no answer.

YOUTH MATTERS (Oh Yes We Do!)

Peace and joy message at camps

Once again a team of willing leaders and helpers made the most of an exciting 2012, using the Olympic message and the Diocesan theme of Justice and Peace to give 50 children an exciting Summer Camp at Eccles Hall.

Organiser Chrissie Storman said: "Countries such as Bolivia and Cambodia gained their first ever Olympic medals this year!!

"Cambodia also won some major funding from the UN to help alleviate some of their difficulties and poverty."

Camp began on Friday 24 August with an opening Mass celebrated by Fr Matthew George from Thetford.

"Later in the evening, we gathered for night prayer outside, and an Olympic torch arrived by bicycle, after quite a journey, carried by Dan Greef. The flame was lit from the torch and so began our Just and Peaceful Olympics!," Chrissie said.

Over the weekend the children were in teams representing either: The USA, China, Cambodia, Bolivia, Palestine or Zambia.

The Camp is divided into two ages for much of the weekend, 8 to 10-year-olds and 11 to 14 yrs but all got together to eat, pray and play!

The younger group spent the weekend exploring and learning about what injustice is and where in the world it "Isn't Fair".

"They made a Winge-wall, sticking their feelings of what isn't fair, on it, with the eventual plan to make it a Wonder wall to change those into hope for the world,"



The contest took all forms - singing and dancing



Ring of confidence, below, and all ages taking part, right



Chrissie said.

"They looked at the Olympic (and Paralympic) values of respect for all, friendship, courage, determination and striving for excellence, linking them to the rights of all.

"They studied the Ten Commandments and talked about what their own would be and many other interesting and lively activities, artwork and generally using their own gifts and talents to



Flags of the nations and competing for prizes



the full.

"The older group also discussed the injustices, rights and wrongs of our time, with DVDs and talks on the Church's teaching on social justice to guide and set the scene.

"An excellent Fair Trade game also did this very well, with the harshness and unfairness in world trade and exploitation of the poor recognised in the playing out of roles. Fun, but with a definite message and much food for thought.

"They were then set the weekend's big challenge.

"We had with us Fr Tony McSweeney, a UN commissioner with a grant to be given to, in his view, the country who could present the best case for need of the funding to alleviate suffering and social concerns or injustice in their land.

"The young people were to research their country and it's problems and prepare the case to be considered by the Commissioner and his committee.

"Their presentations, researched and prepared during a busy Camp and with limited time were amazing and we all learned much about the six nations chosen.

"Costumes, attractions for tourism etc were also included and the younger children helped out as extras!

"The older group also visited Quidenham for Vespers, which is always a good experience."

Together, the groups enjoyed fun times. Each team had to work on the National Anthem for their country, rearranging it to a tune of their choice, but without changing any words. Some very interesting choices were made!

Fr Tony judged and Cambodia team won for their originality, using sign language and actions.

Sports and team games, with Gold, Silver and Bronze up for grabs were exciting and lively.

Every country won medals and it was close, with the USA eventual winners!

Medals were presented when the winners were announced at the final Mass.

The presentations to the UN were excellent and our chairman had a difficult task choosing the successful country, but Cambodia got the grant.

"Fr Tony was present for much of the weekend, celebrating two Masses, leading our reconciliation service and hearing confessions with Fr Pdraig Hawkins," Chrissie said.

"He attended Vespers with the older group and spent a lot of time each day being with us, available for chats, mentoring and Faith, Food and especially Fun in general.

"On the Sunday evening we had the traditional talent show followed by the Hamish gig, with dancing, clapping, singing and stomping galore. The talent on display was stunning as usual.

"A busy, busy weekend and we waved off some tired, but I think happy children after a joyous Mass for parents and campers to finish.

"Can't wait for next year! Hopefully many will return and many new faces too."

This year's Resources for National Youth Sunday (25th November) are about The Creed, helping us focus on the Year of Faith. There are games, reflections and various activities that could be used at any time, not just around National Youth Sunday. Go to www.nationalyouthsunday.org for more information.

New Year Epiphany Candlelight Mass

**Followed by refreshments, a bonfire and fireworks
For all young people across the diocese**

**6pm - 8pm Saturday 5th January 2013
at The White House, 21 Uppgate, Poringland, Norwich, NR14 7SH**

Please bring a wrapped gift up to the value of £5 to go into a lucky dip





Some readings and bidding prayers were in the languages of the pilgrim groups and the music was provided by a modern band with guitars, flute, drums and keyboard



Gifts were brought to the altar representing many different nations



Top left, Shrine Director Fr Alan Williams, Diocesan Administrator Fr David Bagstaff, Bishop John Rawsthorne and Deacon Paul Hiron. Left, the altar at the Chapel of Reconciliation and, above, the Blessed Sacrament carried into the abbey grounds.

Shrine Director Fr Alan reflects on 2012 at Walsingham

Wet, wet, wet but still a year of joy

Walsingham Shrine Director Fr Alan Williams reviews the past year which had some challenges for pilgrims and staff alike.

In 1994 Wet Wet Wet [a Scottish rock group!] had a world-wide hit with Love is all around you.

In 2012 the National Shrine had its wettest ever start to a pilgrim season.

But amazingly it didn't seem to trouble our pilgrims! They came in groups numbering from a handful to over 10,000 in a season when it really was wet, wet, wet.

In the best traditions of pilgrimage some even walked to Walsingham - and never a complaint about the weather!

In every season it is always great to welcome young people to the Shrine.

Student Cross and the John Paul II Walking Pilgrimages both had their biggest numbers for some years.

This year the Catholic journalist Joanna Bogle spent some time with the JP2 pilgrimage which walked from Suffolk and wrote of "the young people taking part in this pilgrimage... walking 20 miles a day, sleeping overnight on floors in Church halls or schools".

As usual we welcomed a wide variety of dioceses, parishes and other groups. Some are very local - the East Anglian Diocesan Pilgrimage was led by the Diocesan Administrator Fr David Bagstaff and was blessed with good weather!

Other groups come from further afield. As I write this week we will be joined by pilgrims from Scotland and Wales and last weekend a group from New Jersey, USA.

The Grandparents Pilgrimage this year celebrated their 10th Anniversary Pilgrimage to Walsingham.

This Catholic Grandparents Association was started by a Walsingham resident Catherine Wiley and is now organising pilgrimages to many other National Shrines.

The charismatic renewal is well represented at the New Dawn Conference and Youth 2000 had even bigger numbers this year as did the Latin Mass Society pilgrimage.

Perhaps the most exciting [and joy-filled] pilgrimage is the Dowry of Mary Pilgrimage in September which this year numbered around 3,700 - an increase once again.

The ethnic chaplaincies were well represented and they and the Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre escorted the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham into the old Priory Grounds where the day finished with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and prayers at the site of the original Shrine.

Some of the sights and joy is shown in the pictures that accompany this article.

It was led by Bishop John Rawsthorne from the Hallam Diocese in Sheffield and he paid tribute to all the people from different countries over the centuries who had come to Britain with their faith and kept it alive. He spoke of the Irish in the 19th century, Africans, South Americans, Eastern Europeans and people from the Far East today. Many of them were represented at the Dowry of Mary pilgrimage.

Every year at Walsingham we choose a theme to animate our preaching. It always reflects the thinking of the wider Church and this year we took Pope Benedict's reflections on **Mary, Mother of the Word and Mother of Joy.**

Walsingham has always been a place of conversion - like Mary, pilgrims are invited to hear the Word of God and "let themselves be changed by God's word".

Mary, the Mother of the Word and Mother of Joy, has in fact been the model for pilgrims over the centuries at Walsingham.

When Erasmus visited Walsingham in the early 16th century he composed a prayer that he would become more and more like Our Lady and, by the grace of God, conceive the Lord Jesus in his inmost soul.

We are already planning for next year's season. Our pilgrim theme will, of course, reflect **the Year of Faith** called by the Holy Father. When the missionary journey of Paul and Barnabas took them to Antioch they told the local Church "of all that God had done with them and how he had opened the door of faith the pagans" [Acts 14.27].

The central concern of all shrines of Our Lady is with Evangelization.

Large numbers of pilgrims and 'religious tourists' - including many non-Catholics - make their way to Our Lady's Shrine at Walsingham and for some this is the beginning of a journey into the fullness of the Catholic Christian faith.

The Holy Father has urged to be confident during the Year of Faith - "Let us entrust this time of grace to the Mother of God, proclaimed 'blessed because she believed' [Luke 1.45]" [Pope Benedict XVI, Porta Fidei, n15].

All who come to Walsingham need to enter into a deeper conversion to the Lord.

England's Nazareth guarantees us the prayers and friendship of Mary, Mother of God and Mother of the Church.

And let us all pray that the weather will be kind to us next year.



Top, Mark Maduli and Peter Martin from the Knights of St Columba and, below, a large group of mainly young people from the Brazilian Chaplaincy who came with flags for the next World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro



Singing and dancing reflected the cultures of Africa and India



Cambridge in the reception of national flags and parish banners



Ecumenical Diamond Jubilee Flower Festival organiser Marie Drew with Barbara Wilson

Flower festival raises £1250

Two major charities and several local fundraising campaigns are to benefit from an ecumenical flower festival in the Thorpe area of Norwich in honour of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Money will go to the East Anglian Air Ambulance, Help for Heroes and individual charities that the churches and groups taking part adopted or named.

Displays were in four church buildings - Our Lady Mother of God, the Good Shepherd (part of Anglican St Andrew's parish), St Matthews in Thorpe Hamlet and the Witard Road Baptist church where flowers were provided by the Heartsease Lane Methodists, St Francis's and evangelical groups including the Vineyard Church.

Marie Drew's husband the late Fr John was a former Anglican clergyman who joined the Church and was ordained a Catholic priest attached St George's in Norwich. He was a keen cyclist and his bike and helmet appeared in an Olympic display at the Baptist Church arranged by the Methodists.

Marie said: "The event was meant to be ecumenical and this one display proved it was. I had forgotten that I donated John's bike and it was a pleasant surprise to see it being used so well."

There are plans for further events to bring the people of the churches together once again.

Marie, Rev Chris Ellis from St Matthews and a member of the Baptist Church also appeared together on the Radio Norfolk Sunday programme to talk about the festival.



The Queen of Poland display was the first flower arranging attempt by Susan Mountain and The Queen of the Rosary, above, was by Marie Drew



The altar at Our Lady Mother of God and, below, the painting exhibition and refreshments



NEWS

from

THE CATHEDRAL OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST



Display of stained glass at Cathedral proved very popular

Open door to secrets

Hundreds of people took advantage of the heritage weekend in to come to St John the Baptist Cathedral for the first time and see some of its secret places and treasures.

Many had lived in the city for decades yet had not visited the cathedral but were fascinated by its stained glass windows, Narthex, displays, views from the tower and a tour of the secret places not usually on show.

Visitors were taken to a secret chapel, the Duke's Gallery, the Sacristy, the Great South Window parapet, the Columbarium and the West End Crypt.

These areas are normally out of bounds but they give an insight into the architectural heritage of the building.

But there was much else to see besides as parishioners put on displays to show the cathedral's links with servicemen and women from America who served in East Anglia during the Second World War.

But the most fascinating display explained the stained glass windows in great detail.

Visitors' notes on the Great West Window said it represented St John the Baptist, patron of the church, pointing out the Messiah.

"In the centre is Christ on the cross surrounded by the four greater prophets with King David and Malachi.

"Above is the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove and in the apex the Eternal Father in Glory."

There is a lot more to see and appreciate in just this one window and there are 14 others to explore.

Hopefully the first time visitors and those who come to the cathedral frequently will return to explore in more detail.



Links with American's who served during the Second World War were on display and many people came to see examples of work by the embroidery group



Vital water denied to world's poor

A 'Water Day' has been held in the Narthex at St John the Baptist in Norwich by the Norwich Justice & Peace group.

People from across the diocese heard speaker Mary Colwell, a film maker on environment issues and adviser to the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, give a reminder of the importance of being thankful for water.

She showed an image of a small Dartmoor well inscribed "Lady Well, Drink, and be Thankful", a message which must have been more obvious to travellers before the days of mains water.

She went on to interweave spiritual, practical and technical threads relating to the significance of this vital gift of God.

She said: "There are 719 references to water in the Bible, from God's spirit hovering over the water in Genesis 1 to the invitation to all who are thirsty in the final chapter of the Book of Revelation.

"Our planet is unique in that water exists in all three states, solid, liquid and vapour. Fresh water available to sustain life is in limited supply, with most locked away as ice or deep underground. It provides habitat for more than 10% of known animals, 33% of known vertebrate species and 40% of all fish species.

"As humans, we are made up of 50-60% water and in the UK each person consumes directly on average 150 litres/day, each 'flush' typically amounting to six litres.

"By contrast, across the world 4,500 children die each day from unsafe water and lack of basic sanitation facilities and half of all hospital beds are occupied by



Justice and Peace looks at the importance of water to everyone in the world

people with water related diseases."

Bernard Shaw, from the diocesan Justice and Peace group, said: "Mary provided some stark images to demonstrate the impact of human activity on water.

"These included a stretch of the Yangtze river in China totally covered by plastic debris, the carcass of an albatross which had died with its belly full of plastic waste, a swathe of the Amazon cleared of trees and the once mighty flow of the Colorado reduced to a trickle.

"With 45,000 dams worldwide, 40% of food grown on irrigated land and 70% of abstracted water used for irrigation, serious steps to address waste and mismanagement are required to counter projections that half of the world, including Europe, will be water stressed by 2025."

Daniel Hale of Progressio spoke of how growing asparagus in Peru, potatoes in Egypt and flowers in Kenya can lead to over-abstraction of water.

Improved farming techniques can alleviate the impact of severe water stress and he cited the example of growing sorghum using agro-ecological techniques in Zimbabwe - much more reliable than growing the traditional maize.

Robert Cruickshank of CAFOD demonstrated the importance of provision of water, sanitation and hygiene following emergencies such as the Haiti earthquake.

He explained how, after addressing immediate emergency needs, it was important to build in resilience to future emergencies, citing building dwellings on 1m plinths in Bangladesh to resist the impact of floods.

Children had their own programme, starting with a CAFOD interactive water quiz providing surprising facts like a comparison between personal water use in the UK and Ethiopia.

They next experienced something of the effort required to carry water around Cathedral garden to provide insight into the daily toil for those having to carry water any distance. This led on to some thoughtful prayer writing and promises about water usage on 'water drops'.

A story about 11 year old Rosena from Zambia, whose life was dominated by having to collect water for her family for three hours everyday, explained how dirty river water can spread diseases.

The children then made their own water filters and used them to learn how CAFOD funded filters help communities like Rosena's made up slogans about saving water.

Library gaining reputation across country

The Duckett Library is attracting people from far and wide on the web and in person.

A priest from the Nottingham Diocese recently came to St John the Baptist's library to consult a rare book.

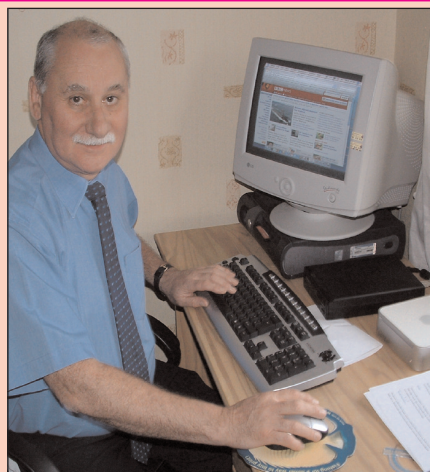
Chief librarian Peter Thorn said the collection now amounts to 4,500 books and only £20 has been spent so far with so many donations.

There are many books still to be catalogued by the volunteer staff to boost the shelves but first Peter needs to raise funds in earnest. As well as looking for money for new books the library also needs a new computer system and to buy this about £2,000 is needed.

"With all the books on an accessible computer system people will be able to see more easily what is available," Peter said.



Peter Thorn and Angela Thomas in the library



Ways to contact the editor

Thanks to everyone who sends in material most of which is used but please send pictures as files and do not include them inside documents.

Also give documents a descriptive name - I get too many just labelled diocesan article or news.

The current newspaper can be read online now at <http://www.bellcourtltd.co.uk/>

Send material to Patrick Byrne
The Editor, Our Diocesan Family,
The White House, 21 Uppgate,
Poringland, Norfolk NR14 7SH.
Tel: 01603 627409 and email:
patrick.byrne5@virginmedia.com
Deadlines: Our Diocesan Family is bi-monthly and printed early in the month before publication.
Material this time must arrive by 28 November for the JANUARY 2013 New Year issue.

BUILDING BRIDGES in the Holy Land

Pilgrim numbers grew by 40% in the past year boosting income for Palestinians

East Anglia continues to support the Christian community in the Holy Land through various parish initiatives and our diocesan project of repairing the cemetery in Kerak. We can also be proud of the work being undertaken by Palestine Pilgrimage where Fr Paul Maddison has been working these past two years in building up pilgrimage visits to the Holy Land that interact with the parishes and schools in the Holy Land.

Palestine Pilgrimage has been registered as a charity this year and has continued to see growth of over 40% in both numbers of pilgrims and profits which are sent to the Latin Patriarch in Jerusalem for use on humanitarian projects.

Fr Paul said recently that he was immensely proud of the work that had been undertaken by the charity, its management board and staff where they were making a real and substantial difference to the Church in the Holy Land. I have found the whole experience a rather steep learning curve but one of the real joys of doing this work is speaking in parishes and schools across the country.

Not only is the welcome I receive so wonderful, but I have the privilege of seeing firsthand the church in this country as something invigorating and in very good health. People are genuinely interested to hear about the lives of Christians in a different part of our world and the desire to help and support them is strong.



Mount of Beatitudes - pilgrims find that standing in holy places brings the scriptures to life

The effectiveness of support channelled through Palestine Pilgrimage was summed up by a Christian from Jerusalem who said: “the colossal work being done in increasing the awareness of Christians in the Holy Land is of crucial importance to us.

“Palestine Pilgrimage has made a big difference for us and we sincerely believe that what you are doing is a genuine help and contribution to both communities.”

Not only are the Christians in the Holy Land benefitting, but also those who go on pilgrimage as they experience what many speak of as the trip of a lifetime.

Standing in the Holy Places like Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre are inspiring in themselves, but to read or hear the scriptures in the places where it happened is something truly special. Sitting peacefully on the Mount of Beatitudes and hearing familiar phrases often gives a renewed sense of purpose and understanding to words that have become a little dull, and what could be more inspiring as we are asked to renew our faith by Pope Benedict.



Looking out over the Sea of Galilee



Jerusalem is the highlight of a pilgrimage for many

One returning pilgrim said: “Having the opportunity to visit places I have spent my whole life reading and praying about was not only humbling but has added the most enormous sense of earthly reality to my shaky faith.

“Scripture has taken on a whole new level of meaning, I could not have asked for a more incredible gift.”

Another pilgrim who was asked to read in the synagogue in Capernaum found the whole experience so moving that he said that single experience was the most incredible moment in his life; apart from marrying his wife, of course!

Fr Paul said that Palestine Pilgrimage was looking at continuing the incredible growth seen over the past two years. More people are hoping to visit the Holy Land next year with Diocese taking over 120 pilgrims.



Much of the old part of Jerusalem would be known to Jesus



The birthplace of Jesus in Bethlehem

“Interest and bookings for the Holy Land were continuing to grow even in financially challenging times. Not only are the numbers wishing to visit the Holy Land growing, but people are concerned to support the local Church and see pilgrimage as a real way of showing solidarity with those who suffer.

“The priority of the Charity now is to consolidate the gains made over the past two years and to look at ensuring that any growth is sustainable and continues to have the twin benefits of helping the living stones of the Holy Land and increasing the faith of those who make a pilgrimage to this wonderful land.

“In all of this work the Diocese of East Anglia shows itself to be a church committed to support and solidarity, reaching out to those less fortunate than ourselves,” he said.

Many of the photographs in this feature are from the book by St John the Baptist archivist Dora Cowton called *He Brought Them to His Holy Land* which chronicles several visits.

The pictures carry verses from the psalms and is in memory of Fr Harry Wace who encouraged Dora to publish it. It is available from the Slipper Chapel Book Shop, Norwich Christian Resources at St Michael at Plea Church and from Dora if you email her on doracowton@yahoo.co.uk

CAN YOU HELP?

Our two ‘Building Bridges’ projects this year are supporting Fr Manoj’s work to rebuild the church of St Andrew in Nikum, and restoring the parish cemetery at Kerak in Jordan.

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

First Name.....

Surname.....

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

Address.....

.....

.....

Postcode..... Amount enclosed.....

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

CAMBODIA (Nikum church)

HOLY LAND (Kerak cemetery)

GIFT AID DECLARATION (if appropriate)

I wish the RC Diocese of East Anglia to reclaim tax on this donation. I have paid an amount of UK Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the tax amount claimed by all the Charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) to whom I have donated in that tax year.

Only tax arising from Income or Capital Gains applies to Gift Aid. Other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify.

Signed.....

Date.....

Please send to:

‘Building Bridges’, 21 Ugate, Poringland,
Norwich, NR14 7SH
Registered charity no. 278742

How to cope with dementia

An Understanding Dementia Day is to be held in Wisbech on 8 December 2012 when the main speaker will be Ben Bano who led a similar event at St John the Baptist Cathedral Narthex in May last year.

Ben has been a social worker for 38 years and was director of older peoples services in East Kent

Mental Health Partnership Trust from 2002 to 2005.

In 2007 he founded Telos Training and his interests include social inclusion, the spiritual and holistic dimension to mental health and dementia care.

Over the past two years he has been involved in a major church-based programme on mental health issues and this has now developed into the formation of a new, not-for-profit community service.

The day at the Rosmini Centre, in

Queens Road, Wisbech (next to the Catholic Church) begins at 11.30am with registration and coffee.

There are two sessions separated by a packed lunch that people attending should bring and the day should finish at about 3.30pm.

Donations towards the speaker's expenses and the "Welcome me as I am" programme are invited from those who participate.

To book or any enquiries please contact: Elizabeth Hoey, 01945 420618 or email at: Elizabeth@thehoey.co.uk

Three family celebrations

Deacon Martin Wells and his wife Penny from Our Lady of Good Counsel and St Peter at March marked three celebrations with the people of the parish.

The couple celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary, Martin's 70th birthday and his nine years as a deacon, see picture right. A special celebration was held in the March parish to commemorate these milestones. It coincided with the arrival and first Sunday Mass celebration by Fr Sean Connolly.

After the Mass of Thanksgiving, all gathered in the parish hall where a great variety of 'goodies' and a cake, made by Iris Dean, were enjoyed by all. Chairman of the parish council, David Rees, presided at the celebration and also welcomed Fr Sean.



Church flower group now growing their own

The Garden Group at St Philip Howard Church in Cherry Hinton has had a most successful year producing flowers to decorate their church.

"The money spent on flowers for the church seemed rather wasted, parishioner Rose Desmond said.

"We have a presbytery garden, which originally consisted mostly of lawn and weeds, and so we decided to use it to try to grow our own flowers.

"In October 2010 we dug and prepared the ground for planting. In spring we bought some seeds and some dahlia tubers were donated.

"We also ran a project for the children to plant a sunflower seed and the winning sunflower had 21 flower-heads. The greatest successes however, were the Dahlias, the Gladioli, chrysanthemums and the Amaranthus, which our flower arrangers used for nearly two and a half months in 2011 - right up to Advent.

"During last autumn and winter we planted 140 tulip bulbs and stored the dahlia tubers till the Spring.

"We prepared fresh flower beds for roses, Kerria and lavender bushes.



Michael de Wolff, Rose Desmond, Barbara Burnett and Bernard Shaw with flowers at the church.

"This year the rain has been a godsend and everything seems to have bloomed well. We had tulips for Easter, followed by the white foxgloves for the First Communion Sundays.

"The dahlias, gypsophila, and gladioli are magnificent and Amaranthus self-seeded beautifully. Over Summer more plants have been donated by parishioners and they will be used again next year."



Pictured on the last Sunday of September are members of Norwich Circle of the Catenian Association with their families enjoying an annual pilgrimage to Walsingham.

St Edmunds aiming to Treat Your Senses

The annual Christmas Fayre in Bury St Edmunds that attracts thousands of visitors is happening at the same time as the Catholic Church's own celebrations.

About 25 different events will be held in St Edmunds church, its 250-year-old chapel and crypt under the theme Treating Your Senses.

Visitors will see all three recently restored and hear about their history

while viewing many interesting exhibits.

Organ recitals and evening concerts are planned, singalongs for children, parents, grandparents and teddy bears and people can choose their favourite hymns.

Special floral display, ethnic refreshment specialities, workshops, prize competitions and social activities where they will meet various

personalities are all on the agenda.

The Christmas Fayre is on 23, 24 and 25 November.

Some events are free but others require early booking because of limited availability.

For details of these events, how to book and to find out more please phone 01284 754358 or see the website <http://www.stedmundkm.org.uk/>.



The diocesan service team for charismatic renewal invited prayer group leaders from across the diocese to a retreat day at The Sacred Heart Convent at Swaffham. "We had times of prayer and praise, times of quiet and watched two DVD's of Fr Raneiro Cantalamessa speaking at the focus week of Holy Trinity Brompton," Lucy Walker said. "We were also able to share news of the progress being made in bringing a celebrate weekend to East Anglia next April!"

Fr Ben and Fr Tony

It is with regret that ODF has to report the deaths of Fr Ben Grist at a hospice in Ditchingham and Fr Tony Sketch former parish priest at Lowestoft. The next edition will contain obituaries of both and your prayers are asked for the repose their souls.

Mixing faith and business

Wisbech Interfaith forum is holding a conference on November 22 entitled Faith and the Market - no entry or open for business.

This is an invitation led event for local faith members when three speakers we will explore the relationship between faith and business. Among our speakers is the leader of Fenland Council Alan Melton who will talk about the role of politicians in helping local communities.

A member of the local Quaker community will talk about the Peckover family and a businesswoman will speak on her role as an entrepreneur, farmer's wife, mother of three children and active Christian.

News in brief + News in brief +

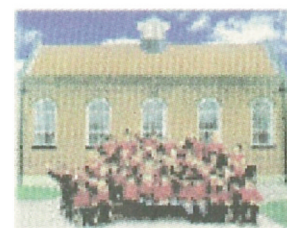
Norwich rugby club will hold their annual carol service at St John the Baptist cathedral on 19 December.

Friendly, welcoming creative writing group offering poetry/prose for all abilities restarts at the Narthex, St. John's cathedral, early September. Contact Hilary 01603 630346.

Our Lady and St Edmund in Hunstanton joined with St Cecilia's in Dersingham to raise £1,300 for parish funds through a summer barbecue and a strawberry fair. Parishioners also visited Oxburgh Hall to celebrate Corpus Christi with a procession around the grounds.

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