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Catholic East Anglia

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Newspaper of the Diocese of East Anglia

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ordination of
Bishop Peter
Collins**
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The fifth Bishop of East Anglia is ordained

Fr Philip to be a bishop

■ Rector of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Mgr Philip Moger, has been appointed as an Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Southwark by His Holiness Pope Francis.

A priest of the Diocese of Leeds for 40 years, Bishop-elect Moger has been Rector at Walsingham for the past two years.

Following the news of his appointment, Bishop Elect-Moger said: "As well as being very surprised, I am humbled indeed by the Holy Father



appointing me to be an Auxiliary Bishop of Southwark. I accept this calling with a glad and open heart. I shall, of course, be sorry to leave England's National Shrine of Our Lady, in Walsingham, and my home Diocese of Leeds, but I look forward to moving even further south, getting to know the Archdiocese of Southwark and working with Archbishop John Wilson, Bishop Paul Hendricks, and the clergy, religious and lay faithful in South London and Kent.

"Throughout my priesthood, and the various missions entrusted to me, I have much to thank God for. In Walsingham, England's Nazareth, I learned much from the many faith-filled pilgrims who sought to be wrapped in Our Lady's mantle of prayer. I have much to learn once more, and I depend on Our Lady's prayers and yours. Our Lady of Walsingham, pray for us."

The date for Bishop-elect Moger's Episcopal Ordination is February 21, 2023 in St George's Cathedral, Southwark.

Catholic EastAnglia

Newspaper of the Diocese of East Anglia

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Pictured from top left, the leaving procession, Bishop Peter celebrates Mass, Bishop Peter blessing the congregation, reader and student Ufuoma Ehwerhemuepha and, below, Cardinal Vincent Nichols.



Bishop Peter sits on his Cathedra for the first time.

See more pictures and watch the video

- You can watch a recording of the ordination at: www.youtube.com/@rcdea
 - You can see a full picture gallery of the ordination at: www.flickr.com/dioceseofeastanglia
- Pictures by Marcin Mazur, Bill Smith and Keith Morris.

New bishop Peter Collins is ordained

Canon Peter Collins was ordained as the fifth Bishop of East Anglia on a wintry December 14 at St John's Cathedral in Norwich, before a congregation of up to 1,100 people including Cardinal Vincent Nichols, over 20 bishops, civic and ecumenical guests. Keith Morris reports.

■ The homily was preached by Cardinal Vincent Nichols, the Archbishop of Westminster and leader of the Catholic Church in England and Wales, who said: "Dear Bishop-Elect Peter. In a few moments, all of us gathered here on this splendid occasion will act as witnesses as you solemnly promise to undertake the duties of a bishop until the end of your life. These promises, one by one, detail the tasks that lie ahead of you - preaching the Gospel, teaching the truth, sustaining the unity of the Church, serving others in charity and compassion, reaching out to those on the margins, and practising constant prayer. All fulfilled, as you will promise, so as to afford no grounds for reproach. Peter, this is not an easy task.

"Peter, your act of prostration is our keenest moment of prayer. We beseech for you every grace and blessing, for we know and believe that all this, all that is good, is the work of the Holy Spirit. For

that gift, we pray with all our hearts.

"Now, as Peter takes up his crozier, Bishop Alan hands it over. So we take this opportunity to salute you, Bishop Alan, and to thank you most sincerely for your tireless leadership during these ten years or so at the helm of this diocese. You have fulfilled your ministry with dedication and care, never slacking in pace, even as age brought on its additional demands," said Cardinal Vincent.

The Apostolic Nuncio's representative, Mgr Ervin Lengyel, addressed the congregation on the Nuncio's behalf, saying: "The duties of my new office prevent me from being physically present today, at this moment which is the most solemn in the life of the Church. The gift of a bishop to the Church is a powerful sign of the love of the bridegroom for the bride.

"My thanks to dear Bishop Alan, who served for so many years, almost to the point of thinking he had achieved immortality, with warmth, sympathy and enthusiasm. To Bishop Peter my warmest congratulations on behalf of the Holy Father. His rich personal history of uninterrupted service to the faithful under the guidance of several bishops even in tiring times and in difficult roles testifies to us that his gift to the Diocese of East Anglia is of the highest quality."

The new Bishop Peter Collins then addressed the assembly. In his first public words as Bishop of East Anglia, he said: "To all of you - those here present in the cathedral who have contended with the

obstacles of bad weather along with disruption to transportation, and those joining through the live-stream - my brothers and sisters, from near and far; those of you who have known me for many years and those who are getting over the shock of meeting me for the first time. In allegiance to Christ, I offer a loving embrace, an assurance of my prayers and a commitment to service.

"Whilst depending upon God's grace and mercy, it was nonetheless with a little trepidation that this Celt journeyed eastward to this gloriously fertile, though flat, land of Angles and Saxons. I rejoice that our British family has always been a wonderful international mix, no more so than in this present age. I draw encouragement from the warmth of your welcome and great strength from the multitude of messages offering an assurance of prayers for my episcopal ministry in this beloved part of England.

"Our Advent journey is taking us, step by step, towards the celebration of the nativity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. As we prepare once more to offer our adoration at the crib, may we pray for that grace which provides a courageous foundation for our fidelity; may we pray for the wisdom that feeds and fashions a creative vision; in this cathedral dedicated to St John the Baptist we joyfully proclaim - prepare the way of the Lord."

■ **Read our report of the Ordination ceremony and what happened - see centre pages.**

news in brief

Walsingham feast petition

■ The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales is set to petition the Holy See in Rome to upgrade the memorial of Our Lady of Walsingham to become a Feast in England.

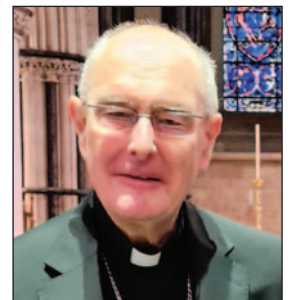
In a resolution from the Bishops' Autumn Plenary held in Hinsley Hall, Leeds, in early November, the Bishops' Conference has asked the Department for Christian Life and Worship to prepare the necessary texts and other materials to petition the Dicastery for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments to grant the recognition for the memorial of Our Lady of Walsingham to be celebrated as a feast in England.

The memorial of Our Lady of Walsingham is celebrated on September 24.

The move has been warmly welcomed by Mgr Philip Moger, the Rector of the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady, in Walsingham, who said: "I am delighted. Having it as a feast nationally will help make the message of Our Lady's Annunciation, and the 11th Century shrine at Walsingham which honours it, even more significant for our country."

Bishop Emeritus

■ With effect from December 15, 2022, the new contact details for Bishop Emeritus Alan Hopes will be as follows:



Postal address: The Rt Rev Alan Hopes, St Simon Stock Suite, The Catholic Rectory, Cambridge, CB2 1JR.

Tel: 01223 356890 and via email at: bishopemeritus@rcdea.org.uk

Brigid is elected

■ Brigid Rawlinson, a Secular Franciscan from St Benet's Parish, Beccles has been elected as National Minister for Youth and Families at the National Elective Chapter of the Secular Franciscan Order of Great Britain, which was held at High Leigh Conference Centre on the weekend of October 14-16. The elected councillors serve a three-year term.

Brigid is a member of the Pax et Bonum Fraternity based in Norwich which meets at St George's Church, Sprowston Road, on the first Sunday of the month at 4pm.

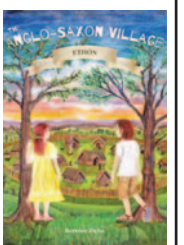
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When God said No to my prayer

In this month's Voice of Hope series Fr Alvan Ibeh shares the story of when God said "no" to him. It follows on from last month's article.



■ This is the story of when God said "no" to me – one of so many times. But one thing I have come to understand is this; there is always a reason for every No answer we receive from God. When God says No, there is a reason, a plan and an outcome. Only with time will we come to realise the reason behind the initial response.

On December 19, 2004, I had an accident that almost took my life. Back home in Nigeria, the ember months (September to December) are very dangerous because many people will do anything to make money to celebrate Christmas.

In December, the recklessness seen among commercial drivers is nothing to write

home about. Unfortunately, I became a victim that year. On that faithful Sunday morning, before I left the house, I prayed for divine protection from any road mishap. But I believe God was fully aware that something serious was waiting for me on the road.

He said No in order to use the pain I was going to encounter to transform my life in readiness for a task which I knew nothing about then, but today has become very clear to me.

Around 12.30pm that day, while I was on a motorbike as a passenger going home, we were hit by two cars, one was reversing, and the other one was at top speed. I lay down on the road with a broken arm, cracked ribs and internal bleeding. No one who saw what happened believed I would survive. But you know what? "When we are down to nothing, God is up to something".

I spent the rest of the year in the hospital in excruciating pain and also battling for my life. Then I understood how it feels to spend Christmas and New Year celebrations in the hospital. I asked God many questions while all this was going on but got no answers.

It was like He was saying, "Don't worry, I won't say anything for now; when the time comes, you will see why I have said No to all these prayers". Even when I was praying earnestly for my broken arm to heal so that I could go back to school and continue with my classmates, God said, "No, I have a different plan for you".

I desired to be ordained with my classmates, but it never happened. But today, in all honesty, I look back to all that happened, all that I can say is, thank God for saying No to those prayers because all that I passed through then, opened my eyes a lot about whom God is. It has also helped me a lot, especially in my ministry as a hospital chaplain. I asked God to spare me pains, and God said: "No, suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me".

Can you imagine what would have happened if God said Yes to His son Jesus's prayer in the garden of Gethsemane in Luke 22:41-43? That means we wouldn't have had the opportunity of salvation.

But He said No, so that we could all be saved by the death of His son on the cross. All Jesus did was submit to the will of His Father, knowing He has a great plan not just for Him, but for us all.

So, my dear friend, when next God says No to your prayer, don't get disappointed, don't get upset; all you need to do is believe and trust that He only has the best in store for you.

God has perfect timing, never early, never late. It takes patience and a lot of faith, but it's worth the wait. Receive the strength and patience to wait on Him. Amen.

Have a blessed Christmas, and see you in the New Year, by His grace.

See the November Catholic East Anglia issue for the first part of this article.

Hamish runs 10k for youth charity funds

The Director of the Diocesan Youth Service, Hamish MacQueen, has run 10k to raise money for the Benjamin Foundation.

■ For many people running 10k isn't much of an achievement, but for Hamish it really was.

He was running at the recent city-wide 'Run Norwich' event. "I'm unfit, fatter than I should be," said Hamish, "and I hate running, so it was the perfect challenge.

"I stupidly trained for only a month beforehand, running round the block and managed to get up to 7km, but that was a real struggle. I just hoped the atmosphere and adrenalin on the day would carry me through the last bit and thankfully it did."

The first 6km was ok, 7 and 8 were really tough, but then on the last two you know the end is in sight and everyone is cheering, so you just keep going. I couldn't walk very well the following day but it was worth it."

Hamish was raising money for the Norfolk-based Benjamin Foundation, a charity 'bringing hope, opportunity, stability and independence to children and young people experiencing challenges'.

If you would like to donate, please visit: www.benjaminfoundation.co.uk

Pictured right is Hamish MacQueen running for the Benjamin Foundation.



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New Year! New Experience?

GAP YEAR: Residential Support Assistant (Learning Disabilities) - Ipswich



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Interviews will be held in Ipswich throughout January and February 2023

A bit about L'Arche:

L'Arche is a network of Communities which supports adults with Learning Disabilities. Our Communities comprise of households in which people with and without Learning Disabilities live alongside one another, sharing the joys and challenges of life, and form unique friendships not often seen in wider society. L'Arche is a committed care provider that seeks to support the physical, medical, social, emotional and spiritual needs of its community members.

L'Arche Ipswich is recruiting for Gap Year adventurers to live in Community, learning care skills and sharing life with people they may not ordinarily encounter. Previous and current assistants have described the experience as life-transforming.

Learn what others had to say here: www.larche.org.uk/assistants

This opportunity is made up of Community Living activities and Personal Care tasks.

Community Living: going out for coffee | watching TV | playing games | cooking and baking | walking | eating together | Video calling friends | going shopping | assisting in a L'Arche Workshop | art classes | dance and drama activities | singing songs | household chores | community gatherings and celebrations | holidays | cinema trips | worship services/reflections

Personal Care: supporting morning and bedtime routines | administering medication | assisting with personal hygiene | supporting meal times | aiding mobility

You don't need to have prior experience to thrive in this role, we'll train you up. The main thing is that you are willing to throw yourself into Community life (which is a lot of fun!).

We think it could be a good fit for someone:

- looking for a gap year
- interested in volunteering
- exploring the charity sector
- who is unsure of their next steps, but wants to make a difference

- pursuing a career in psychology, but in need of more practical experience
- who would like space to explore personal growth and/or spirituality
- interested in the health and social care sector
- looking for a unique, hands-on experience

You will be a voluntary worker if you take part in this Gap Year opportunity, however food, accommodation and a subsistence (£309 per month) are provided. There is also the potential for retreats, holidays and reflection days.

To find out more please go to: www.larche.org.uk/assistants
To apply for the post of Live-in Assistant, please send your CV to: ipswichrecruitment@larche.org.uk



Seminarians receive ministries



East Anglian Oscott seminarians, from the left, Anthony Reilly, Benjamin Barnett, Peter Ho and Deacon Bienn Carlo Manuntag.

Three East Anglian seminarians have had the Ministry of Lector or Acolyte conferred on them at Oscott Seminary in Birmingham while a further student was ordained as a Deacon earlier in the year.

■ The Rite of Institution of a Reader and Acolytes took place on November 22, the Feast of Saint Cecilia. Benjamin Barnett was instituted as a Lector, while seminarians Peter Ho and Anthony Reilly were instituted as Acolytes by David McGough, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Birmingham.

Pope Paul VI, in his Apostolic Letter *Ministeria Quaedam*, established the lay ministries of Lector and Acolyte. They are given to all seminarians who are aspiring for Holy Orders as a preliminary preparation for the commitment they are undertaking in the Church.

Those entrusted with the ministry of Reader are tasked with the reading of the word of God in the liturgical assembly and for the preparation of the faithful who by a temporary appointment are to read the

Scriptures in liturgical celebrations (Apostolic Letter issued *Motu Proprio* by which the discipline of first Tonsure, Minor Orders, and Subdiaconate in the Latin Church is Reformed, no. 5).

Those instituted as Acolytes are tasked to help the deacon and the priest in the service of the altar in every liturgical celebration, especially the Holy Mass. They are also tasked to distribute Holy Communion as auxiliary ministers during the Mass, to expose the Blessed Sacrament for the adoration of the faithful, and to instruct the faithful who are temporary appointed to assist in liturgical celebrations as servers.

Earlier in the year, on June 25, seminarian Bienn Carlo Manuntag had been ordained to the Diaconate. This ordination took place on the Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Bienn Carlo was ordained together with his fellow seminarians in the college. The Mass and the Rite of Ordination was celebrated by Archbishop Bernard Longley of Birmingham.

The ordination to the diaconate takes seminarians one step closer to priesthood. Please pray for all our seminarians and all students who are studying for the priesthood.

St Luke's makes more room for community

■ With the help of Alive in Faith funds, St Luke's Peterborough has been able to adapt to the challenges of a rapidly growing community. Fr Jeffrey Downie explains the changes.

With considerable housing development in the area, St Luke's Peterborough has seen significant growth in recent years. There are now three Sunday morning Masses instead of one and attendance has more than doubled over the past five years alone. The church community is young and diverse, bringing much new life and freshness to the parish, along with a new voluntary aided primary school, St John Henry Newman.

With limited resources it has been a challenge to quickly adapt the church building to these changes, but with the help of our Alive in Faith funds and other donations, we have been able to make the best use of the space available.

At a cost of £120,000 the grounds have been fenced off, creating a safe space for outdoor activities, fire exits have been improved, the server's sacristy enlarged, kitchen and toilets replaced, and external storage supplied. In particular, three small rooms have been knocked together to create a useful small hall, which can be opened onto the church.

On Sunday October 16 illness kept Bishop Alan Hopes from joining us to bless the building, but parish priest Fr Jeffrey, joined by Fr Andrews and Deacon Prameel, was able to step in at the 12 noon Mass. The building work was blessed, the children's choir sang 'Panis Angelicus' by Cesar Frank, and everyone enjoyed a buffet lunch with celebration cakes afterwards.

We are very grateful for the support of all concerned and offer our prayers and thanks as we look to the future and all that it holds with faith and trust.

Pictured above is the St Luke's choir singing 'Panis Angelicus'.



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History of the bishops of East Anglia

■ The Diocese of East Anglia is a suffragan diocese within the Province of Westminster, erected on 13 March 1976 by the decree Quod Ecumenicum of Pope Paul VI, using territory taken from the Diocese of Northampton, which was created in 1850.

■ V: The Rt Rev Peter Gwilym Collins

Was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Cardiff on July 14, 1984. He served in Cardiff and Bridgend and was appointed as Vice Rector at the Royal English College, from 1989-94. In 2001 he became Dean of the Metropolitan Cathedral in Cardiff. He was appointed as Bishop of East Anglia in October 2022 and ordained at St John's Cathedral on December 14, 2022.



■ IV: The Rt Rev Alan Stephen Hopes

Converted to Catholicism in 1994 and was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Westminster the following year. He was ordained to the episcopate by Cardinal Murphy O'Connor in 2003, as Titular Bishop of Chester-le-Street, and serving as auxiliary bishop in Westminster. He was appointed Bishop of East Anglia in 2013 and was installed in Norwich on July 16.



■ III The Rt Rev Michael Charles Evans

Was ordained Bishop of East Anglia by Cardinal Murphy O'Connor in 2003 and served the Diocese until his death in 2011. His corporal remains are buried in St John's Cathedral in Norwich.



■ II The Most Rev Peter David Smith

Was ordained Bishop of East Anglia by Cardinal Hume in 1995 and served as bishop until 2001, when he was translated to the See of Cardiff. In 2010, he became Archbishop of Southwark, until his retirement in 2019. He died in 2020 and is buried in Southwark Cathedral.



■ I The Rt Rev Alan Charles Clark

Was the first bishop of the new Diocese, from its creation in 1976 until his resignation in 1995. He was previously Titular Bishop of Elmham and Auxiliary Bishop of Northampton. He died in 2002 and is buried in Walsingham.



How the new Bis

The ordination of the Rt Rev Peter Collins as the fifth Bishop of East Anglia on December 14 at St John's Cathedral in Norwich, included a number of significant and symbolic moments. Keith Morris reports.

■ Twenty-two of the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales concelebrated the Mass and took part in the consecration of the new bishop. Priests of the Diocese of East Anglia and the Archdiocese of Cardiff were also concelebrants. The permanent deacons of the Diocese were also present, totalling around 150 clergy. There were representatives from every parish and Catholic school in the Diocese, together with representatives from the different Diocesan organisations.

As the appointment of a new bishop is always at the gift of the Pope, the Vatican's Apostolic Nuncio (Ambassador) to Great Britain was represented by Mgr Ervin Lengyel, First Counsellor of the Apostolic Nuncio of Great Britain.

The Anglican Bishops of Norwich and St Edmundsbury and Ipswich attended the Mass together with other Christian and faith leaders.

Civic guests included His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk, The Lady Dannatt and General The Lord Richard Dannatt, His Honour John Devaux, representing the Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk. Also present were the mayors of Norwich and Peterborough, the Lord Mayor of Ely and the High Sheriff of Norfolk.

The family of Bishop Peter and members of his former parish of St Mary of the Angels, Canton and Holy Family, Fairwater in Cardiff were also present. In support of him were two close friends: Fr Allan Davies-Hale from Cardiff, a former fellow student at the Royal English College in Spain and Fr Paul Dean from Birmingham, a student of Bishop Peter while he was Vice Rector at the same college.

The statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Walsingham was brought into the Cathedral from the Slipper Chapel by the Rector of the Shrine, Mgr Philip Moger and Rev Kevin Smith, Administrator of the Anglican Shrine, the Papal Knights followed by members of the Sovereign Order of Malta, Dames of Saint Gregory and the Knights and Dames of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre



See more pictures and watch the video

- You can watch a recording of the ordination at: www.youtube.com/@rcdea
 - You can see a full picture gallery of the ordination at: www.flickr.com/dioceseofeastanglia
- Pictures by Marcin Mazur, Bill Smith and Keith Morris.

of Jerusalem.

Canon Peter Collins was consecrated as a bishop by Bishop Alan Hopes – now the Bishop Emeritus of East Anglia, assisted by Archbishop Mark O'Toole – current Bishop of Menevia and Archbishop of Cardiff, the diocese from which the new bishop comes – and Archbishop George Stack, Archbishop Emeritus of Cardiff.

There were Scripture readings which were read by: Ufuoma Ehwerhemuepha, a student from St John Fisher High School, Peterborough, chosen to represent the Catholic schools of the Diocese; and Diocesan Trustee Moira Goldstaub from Stowmarket.

The Gospel was proclaimed by Deacon James Hurst from Newmarket.

After the Gospel reading, the Rite of Ordination began.

Provost-Emeritus Canon David Paul presented Bishop-Elect Peter to Bishop Alan for ordination. Bishop Alan then asked if there was a mandate from the Holy See

and Pope Francis. The mandate, or Papal Bull, was first shown to the Cathedral Chapter of Canons and then to all the people in the cathedral by Bishop-Elect Peter, then read first in Latin by Mgr Ervin Lengyel and in English by the Chancellor of East Anglia, Canon Eugene Harkness, and it was accepted by all present.

The homily was preached by Cardinal Vincent Nichols, the Archbishop of Westminster and leader of the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

As part of the ceremony, Bishop-Elect Peter was first asked questions by Bishop Alan about his fidelity to proclaiming the gospel, teaching the Catholic faith, building up the life of the Church in the Diocese of East Anglia, his obedience to the Pope, and his care for the priests, deacons, religious and people of the diocese.

Bishop Alan then invited all to pray for the Bishop Elect who lay prostrate on the floor. The prayers of the saints were then

Bishop Peter was ordained



Symbolic moments: from top left, the Book of the Gospels is held over the head of Bishop-Elect Peter, the oil of Chrism is used for anointing, Bishop-Elect Peter lies prostrate on the floor and, below, the Papal Bull is shown to the people.

invoked in a sung litany.

When the Litany was finished, Bishop Alan and all the other bishops present laid their hands, in silence, on the head of Bishop-Elect Peter. This silent gesture indicates the invocation of the Holy Spirit to come down on the Bishop-Elect.

Bishop Alan placed the open Book of the Gospels upon the head of the Bishop-Elect, whose ministry is subject to God's Word. Two deacons held the book over his head until the Prayer of Consecration was completed.

When the prayer was finished, Bishop Peter's head was anointed with the Oil of Chrism, symbolic of his sharing in the priestly, prophetic and kingly role of Christ. This oil is used also in Baptism and Confirmation.

He was then presented

with the Book of the Gospels – symbolising his proclamation of God's Word and his sound teaching.

The new bishop was then given the three symbols of his office.

- The ring – symbolising his fidelity to Christ and his Church.

- The mitre – a pointed hat symbolising his authority, and worn whenever he presides at a liturgy.

- The crozier or pastoral staff – a symbol of his role as shepherd to the people of his diocese.

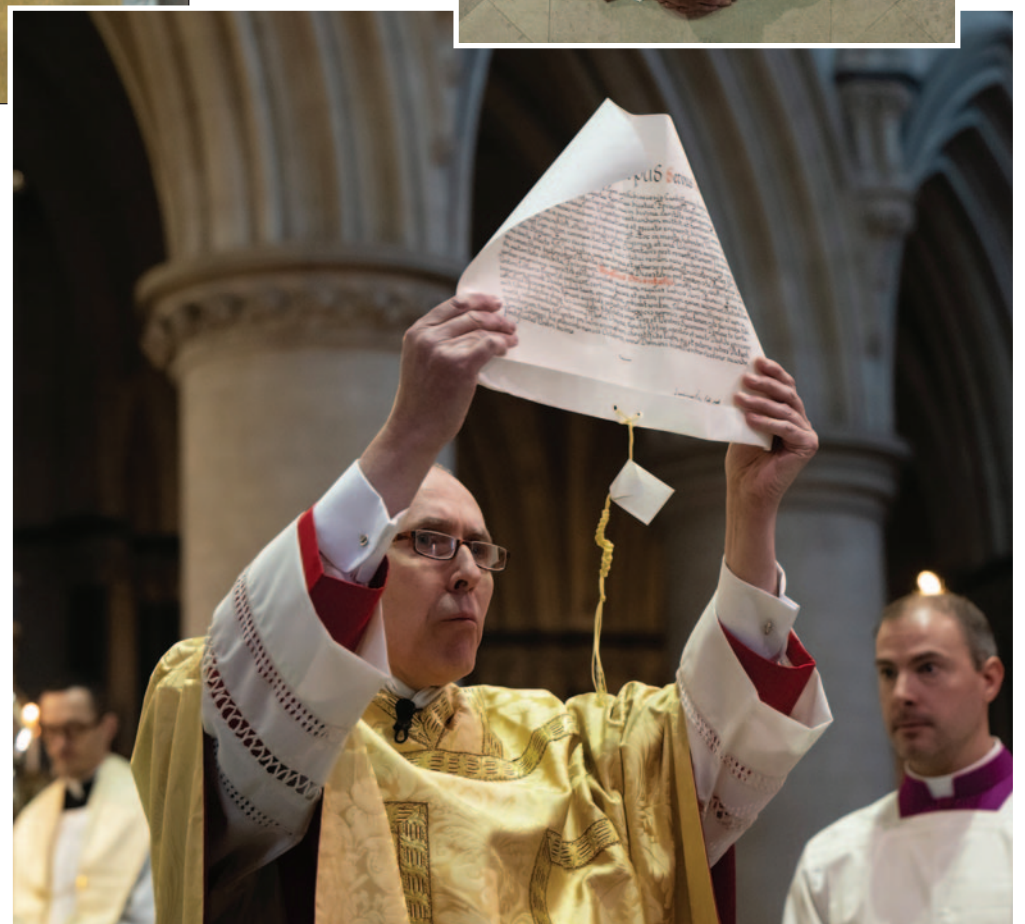
Bishop Alan then led Bishop Peter to his special chair – known as the Cathedra. From the moment Bishop Peter sat on the chair, Bishop Alan ceased to be Bishop of East Anglia and Bishop Peter was acclaimed as the fifth Bishop of East Anglia.

Bishop Peter was greeted by all the bishops present with the Kiss of Peace. Bishop Peter then greeted representatives from the Diocese of East Anglia from his Cathedra and then other dignitaries in the nave.

Bishop Peter then presided for the remainder of the Mass as the principal celebrant. At the end of the Mass, Bishop Peter walked around his cathedral, blessing all present.

The Apostolic Nuncio's representative, Mgr Ervin Lengyel, addressed the congregation on the Nuncio's behalf, followed by Bishop Peter in his first public words as the fifth Bishop of East Anglia.

The various processions then left the cathedral and refreshments were served in the cathedral garden and the Narthex Hall.



Church wins five-year battle to save tower

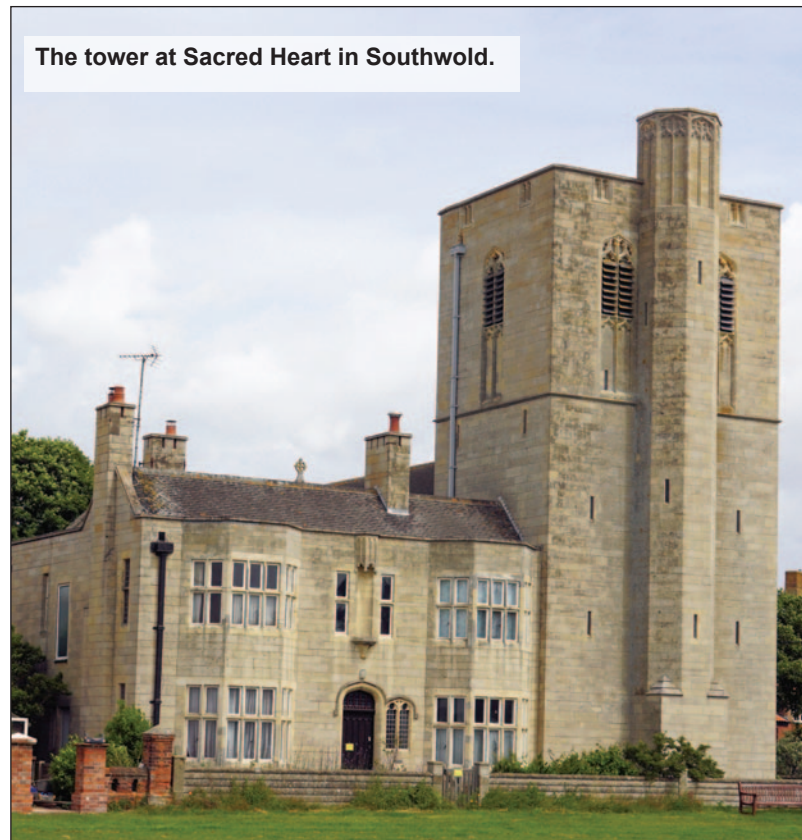
Sacred Heart Church in Southwold has been taken off the “At Risk” register published by Historic England after a successful five-year battle to save its tower from collapse.

■ In November, Historic England published its latest annual update on historic buildings across England that are considered to be ‘At Risk’, and after a half decade long struggle, Sacred Heart Church is delighted to see its church removed from the register.

The Southwold church is a unique example, outside London, of the work of Benedict Williamson, architect, priest and polymath.

Speaking after receiving the news, Cedric Burton, who oversaw the project on behalf of the parish, said: “The parish is delighted that its five-year battle to save the church tower from collapse has succeeded and Historic England have removed the building from the Heritage at Risk Register.

“The need for urgent structural repairs was identified in 2016 and a major project was launched. With the help of the Heritage Lottery Fund over £300,000 was raised to rebuild the upper part of the tower and replace the



The tower at Sacred Heart in Southwold.

reinforced concrete roof which was literally hanging on by a thread. More than 50 tonnes of concrete hovered over the congregation’s head supported only by wafer thin remnants of rusted steel ‘I’ beams”.

The scheme for restoration, developed under the direction of architect Nicholas Warns of Norwich, and executed by S&L Restoration Ltd, has restored the

unique 106-year-old church in Southwold to its former simple glory.

Matthew Champion, Historic Churches Support Officer for the Diocese, said: “It is wonderful news to see this magnificent church removed from the at risk register, and a real testament to all the hard work that has been put in by the parish and congregation.”



OBITUARY

Tribute to Fr Jeremy Davies

Fr Jeremy Davies, a priest of the Diocese of Westminster who was living in Walsingham, passed away on November 5. Mgr Martin Hayes, Vicar General of Westminster, pays tribute.

■ Fr Jeremy Ponsonby Meredyth Davies touched the lives of countless people because of his ministry as a priest and his writings, talks and witness. His specialist ministry, as a priest trained and mandated for ministry as an exorcist, brought comfort and healing to people over many years.

Born in Wimbledon, London, on March 25, 1935, and ordained to the priesthood in Rome on April 15, 1974, Fr Jeremy died peacefully close to his beloved Walsingham at the age of 87 having served as a priest for 48 years.

Jeremy became a Catholic in 1966 at the age of 31 when he was baptised at the church of St Charles Borromeo, Ogle Street. His was a ‘conditional baptism’ because it was not known if he had already been baptised. His parents were not Catholic. His mother, Elizabeth, tragically died in a plane crash when Jeremy was 18. His father, Idris, was a successful garage proprietor.

Jeremy was educated at King’s School, Canterbury, then at St Edmund Hall, Oxford from 1954-57. He graduated in English Language and Literature. He then worked in the market research office of an advertising agency for two years, followed by a job as an air steward with a commercial airline for a year.

When he was about 25, Jeremy had serious thoughts about becoming a Catholic. A good friend from university days had done so and encouraged Jeremy. In 1961 he began studies as a medical student at St Bartholomew’s Hospital in London where he was based until qualifying in 1967. By then he was a Catholic, convinced that joining the Church was the right decision, often recalling the date of his baptism, October 21, 1966, as the happiest day of his life.

Newly qualified, Dr Davies spent time overseas practising in mission stations and for six months worked as a House Surgeon at Redhill General Hospital. His thoughts about becoming a priest developed during his time as a medical student. He was encouraged to complete his studies and then to pursue the possibility of a vocation to the priesthood. This he did and was accepted as a student for the Diocese of Westminster by Cardinal John Heenan and sent to Rome.

At the Pontifical Bede College, Rome, where Jeremy was a seminarian from 1970-74, he was described by the Rector as ‘an outstanding person and excellent in all respects.

Above all, he saw his time in Rome as a time for discernment of God’s will for his life. On December 15, 1973, he was ordained to the diaconate and to the priesthood on April 15 the following year. Fr Jeremy was then appointed to Westminster Cathedral where he joined the team of chaplains from 1974 – 76.

His next appointment was to St Mary’s, Cadogan Street in Chelsea and he then went to St James’s, Spanish Place in 1979 where he served as Assistant Priest until 1997. It was during this time that Fr Jeremy undertook training for the ministry of exorcist, returning to Rome for this. He was mandated for this ministry by Cardinal Hume in 1987. Six years later he and others established the International Association of Exorcists.

While based at Spanish Place, Fr Jeremy became increasingly involved with the Pro-Life Movement. In 1984 he established the annual Pilgrimage of Reparation and Prayer for the Sanctity of Life held in Walsingham. Fr Jeremy’s next appointment was to Puckeridge and Old Hall Green in Herts where he served as Parish Priest from 1997 to 2005.

In April 2005, Fr Jeremy moved to live at Our Lady Help of Christians, in Luton, where he assisted in parish ministry and with time for talks, conferences and workshops. He travelled widely in Europe, America, Australia and Africa and maintained contact with numerous people by writing letters, always by hand. In March 2021 he moved from Luton to Walsingham.

In October, Fr Jeremy moved from Walsingham to nearby Fakenham where his increased need of care could be met. On November 5, Fr Jeremy died peacefully.

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2023 diocesan Yearbook is out

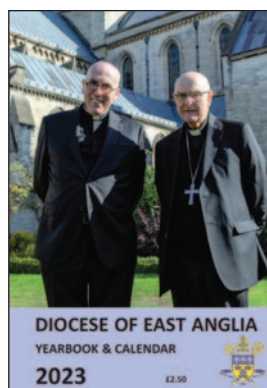
■ The Diocese of East Anglia Yearbook and Calendar for 2023 has been published online and printed copies are now available in all parishes, priced at just £2.50.

The annual Yearbook contains a comprehensive, up-to-date guide to the Diocese of East Anglia.

It carries all necessary contact information, curia, departments and commissions, parishes, Mass times, clergy and religious, schools, hospital, diary dates, societies and organisations and a retreat centre guide.

It also carries a pictorial review of 2022 and the official Diocesan Calendar for 2023.

An online PDF copy of the yearbook and calendar is also available, free of charge, at rcdea.org.uk



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Radio Maria marks third birthday

Catholic broadcaster Radio Maria England celebrated three years of broadcasting from studios in Cambridge on Saturday November 5 with a Mass at St Laurence's in the city.

As prayer is always at the heart of all of Radio Maria's activities, the event began with the First Saturday Devotions, adoration and confessions, said the station's National Promoter, Helena Judd.

Fr Toby Lees OP then celebrated Mass, joined by Fr John Minh and Fr Stefan Park

OSA, a RME trustee.

Helena said: "The congregation then enjoyed a lovely bring and share lunch in the parish hall. A whole host of listeners, volunteers, and supporters came along, both local and from further afield. However, the single largest group, who were in fine voice, were the Women of Christ's Love group from London along with all their delightful children.

"The event concluded with the men walking together to Midsummer Common in Cambridge to pray the rosary as part of the Men of St Joseph's Rosary Rally – a beautiful witness as men of all ages knelt in

prayer, honouring the Mother of God."

Radio Maria England is a 24-hour station and part of a worldwide network of more than 80 radio stations on all continents.

You can listen to Radio Maria England via the website, the Radio Maria Play App, or DAB in London and Cambridge areas. Alternatively, you can just ask Alexa to 'Play Radio Maria England'.

www.radiomariaengland.uk

Pictured above are the Women of Christ's Love group from London along with their children and station staff at the Radio Maria England third birthday celebrations at St Laurence's in Cambridge.

To read the latest Diocese of East Anglia news as it happens, sign up for our enews bulletin at www.rcdea.org.uk



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An Indian celebration

Parishioners in Cambourne enjoyed the gracious hospitality of the Cambourne Indian community for their annual Onam celebrations.

Onam is the biggest and the most important festival of the state of Kerala. It is a harvest festival and is celebrated with enthusiasm by people of all communities. Although a cultural rather than a religious feast, it is a good opportunity to thank God for his goodness.

Onam was celebrated in Cambourne on October 8: this is at the beginning of the month of Chingam, the first month of Malayalam Calendar. This year celebrations were delayed out of respect for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth.

Onam is a sign of respect between the different religious communities. Such celebrations have helped the economy flourish in the state as well as in the worldwide Keralan diaspora.

Parishioners were able to join the most impressive part of Onam celebration, the grand feast called Onasadya, a nine-course meal consisting of 11 to 13 dishes.

In Cambourne guests sat rather more luxuriously at



tables with mass-produced paper banana leaves as plates. Food included 'sambhar' vegetable stew with rice and spicy pickles eaten with the right hand. Shaju, Christy, Rex and Sebimon were amongst the crew serving food to a great number of guests in two very large sittings.

"We are deeply grateful to our Keralan Catholics," writes Mel Ward from St John Fisher parish, "for their deep devotion to their faith and to the blossoming of Catholicism west of Cambridge. and their warm welcome to share their rich cultural traditions."

Pictured above are the Onam celebration in Cambourne with a flower mat.

Be part of our global network.

The Catenian Association welcomes new members to our international social network of Catholic men committed to friendship, family and Faith.

Our local Circles are active throughout the U.K., Ireland, Australia, Malta, India, Bangladesh, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Our U.K. Circles raised over £250,000 in the past year for local charities as well as supporting the Association's two in-house charities; the Benevolent Fund which supports members and their families and the Bursary Fund which sponsors young persons in projects contributing to wider society at home and abroad.

Our Circles meet monthly and arrange activities both for members and their families, including meals together, barbecues, picnics, theatre visits, music and sporting events.

Golf societies throughout the Association join together in a National Golf Championship week every year and the Catenian Caravan and Camping Fellowship have a popular range of special events

Join us today and make friendships for life!

To find your local Circle please contact our provincial membership Officer Paul Thompson on p_s_thompson9@hotmail.com

Scan to visit our website:

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CATENIANS

Warm welcome back for Fr Pat

■ Around 130 parishioners came to St Mary's Thetford to welcome back Fr Pat Cleary to the parish for the second time as parish priest.

Fr Pat was parish priest in Thetford from 1985-91 and has now been reappointed by Bishop Alan Hopes.

The welcome took place on Saturday October 29 and was the first big social event for the parish in many years. It was great to see people there of all ages enjoying themselves outside in the parish garden.

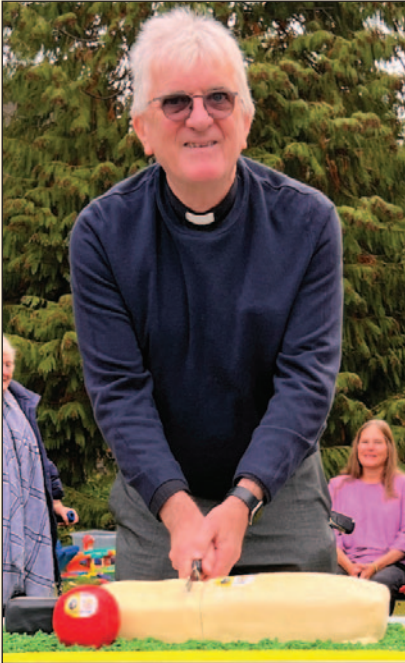
As part of the celebration, Fr Pat was presented with a cake in the

shape of a cricket bat and ball, as Fr Pat is a great lover of the sport.

Paul Gilbert, chair of the parish council welcomed everyone to the event and thanked them for their support in making the event a success. He welcomed Fr Pat back to the parish to huge applause. Paul said that it was a team effort from parishioners in St Mary's to make this event a success.

Fr Pat said, "This is not about the past. I'm here for today, tomorrow and the future. We are all on a journey together in faith. This is remarkable and I feel very touched that you have all welcomed me back to the parish in this way. Thank you all so much."

Activities included a tug of war between children and parents, a kids' football match and a game of outdoor Jenga.



Two churches are given listed status

■ Despite its modest size, the Diocese of East Anglia has more listed churches than any other Catholic diocese in England and two more have just been added to that number.

Following a recent review of the Catholic churches in England, undertaken by Historic England on behalf of the Department of Culture, Media, and Sport, that number is set to rise still further.

The review has also seen a number of East Anglian churches promoted to even higher levels of protection – recognizing their significance as important examples of English church architecture.

New churches added to the list are Our Lady of the Annunciation in King's Lynn, which has been designated as Grade II listed. Also added to the list at Grade II is

St Felix's church in Felixstowe, recognizing its unique contribution to local and regional design heritage.

A number of presbyteries have also been given protected status, including those belonging to St Joseph's church in Sheringham, and St Peter's in Gorleston.

The review has also seen the level of protection for a number of churches increased, with the magnificent church of Our Lady and English Martyrs in Cambridge having been redesignated as Grade I listed.

Paul Raynes, Operations and Finance Director for the Diocese, said: "From the monumental to the modest, from a timber-framed mission chapel to gothic glories in stone, the listed buildings in the Diocese's care testify to East Anglia's

deep Catholic heritage and the devotion of generations of donors, architects and builders. The Secretary of State's listing decisions recognise the national importance of these physical expressions of our faith."

Not all of the decisions have yet been published by Historic England, and it is expected that further churches in the Diocese will also be added to the list.

Matthew Champion, Historic Churches Support Officer for the Diocese, said: "This is wonderful news for the Diocese, and a great recognition of the part these buildings play in the region's varied and diverse history."

Full details of all the churches in the Diocese can be found on at: taking-stock.org.uk/diocese/east-anglia/



Pictured is the ale stew lunch in the crypt of St Edmund's.

Climax to Abbey 1000 celebrations

The flag of St Edmund was flown above St Edmund's Catholic Church, Bury St Edmunds on the Saint's feast day, as Abbey 1000 celebrations came to a climax.

■ St Edmund's Day was brought forward to November 19 so as to observe the Feast of Christ the King the following day. It was one of the final events to be held as part of Abbey 1000, to commemorate 1000 years since the founding of the Abbey Mass.

The congregation was joined by guests including the Lord Lieutenant Countess of Euston, Lord Bristol, civic dignitaries and members of the Abbey 1000 Committee. In his homily, Canon David Bagstaff highlighted how Edmund had stayed true to his people and his faith by refusing to

renounce his Christianity.

He also paid tribute to the ways that Abbey 1000 had involved the community in the many events of 2022, including the weekend in May when Catholics and Anglicans joined Benedictines who gathered in St Edmundsbury for the celebration by Bishop Alan Hopes of Mass and Bishop Martin Seeley of Mass of the Anglican Eucharist; pilgrimages had taken place; the 'Picnic in the Park' in July had led to St Edmund's parishioners raising £1,200 for good causes.

After the service around 80 guests were able to enjoy the traditional 'ale stew' lunch in the church crypt and to see an exhibition which included a banner depicting St Edmund's life and martyrdom made by pupils from St Edmund's School, an arrowhead (loaned by the town's museum) purportedly from the tree on which Edmund was martyred, a relic of the Saint and a medallion, of unknown origin.

Candlelight Mass

A Special Mass for Young People
at the start of January

Celebrated by Bishop Peter

Followed by hotdogs, fireworks and refreshments

4pm – 6pm Saturday 7th January 2023

at The White House, 21 Upgate,
Poringland. NR14 7SH

There will be a collection of gifts for the *Welcome Rucksack Project* which helps children who are refugees.

Suitable gifts, (please bring unwrapped), include small games, stickers, children's shampoo and bodywash

Organised by the Youth Service of the Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia: www.rcdea.org.uk/youth



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Picture gallery from parishes around the Diocese

■ Clare Priory Craft Fair distributed £17,000 from this summer's takings to 12 charities at a charity presentation evening.

The presentation took place on November 25 at Clare Priory in Suffolk. Clare Priory's renowned Craft Fair takes place each year over the second weekend of July, drawing around 10,000 visitors to view and buy artisan products in the historic priory's beautiful gardens over the two days.

Exhibitors and visitors alike greatly appreciate the unique atmosphere and setting of the Priory, and many have become familiar friends as they return year after year. All proceeds from the Craft Fair go to charity, and the organisers and helpers are all unpaid volunteers and parishioners who give their time freely and generously.

The charities benefitting this year were: Clare Priory, REACH Foodbank, St Nicholas Hospice, East Anglia Children's Hospice, Clare Playing Fields, Cavendish Care, CLASP, East Anglian Air Ambulance, Cancer Research UK, Marys Meals and Addenbrookes Bone Marrow Unit.

At a moving presentation evening, representatives from the receiving charities gave a fascinating insight into their work, the difference they make and the pressing need to fund their services. The national lockdown meant that 2020 and 2021 were the only years the Craft Fair has not been held since 1993. The 2022 Craft Fair's great success is a reflection on the tremendous efforts of everyone involved and plans are already well underway to make the 2023 event even more special.

Pictured above are charity representatives receiving cheques at the presentation evening.



■ Our Lady & St Walstan parish in Costessey has received a special visitor from the parish of Taken in Cambodia, with which it has long-been twinned.

On Thursday November 3, Dr Nhor Chamrom, who lives near to Taken, visited the parish for the morning as part of a trip to England.

Fr David Ward said: "Nhor had hoped to be there for Mass, but she was present for the period of Exposition that is always held after Mass on a Thursday morning."

Following Exposition, Chamrom met some members of the parish over a cup of tea in the presbytery and presented a few gifts she had brought. These included a number of hand-made giraffes: both Fr David at Costessey and Bishop Kike in Cambodia are besotted by these beautiful creatures.

She had also brought some Christmas cards from the people of Taken, which will be shared out between the parish and

St Augustine's school, and she collected a great number of cards written by members of Costessey parish and the children at the school to take back with her.

After tea, Fr David and Hilda Kaye, Costessey's Cambodia twinning rep, took Chamrom and John Bolger, who was driving her on her visit, to St Augustine's where head teacher Rachel Swindell greeted them. Rachel then took the group to every class in the school where Chamrom thanked the children for their cards and assured them they would be delivered safely.

On returning to the presbytery, the group was joined by Katie Maidment of Support Cambodia who had a donation for a project which Chamrom was going to take with her.

Pictured at St Augustine's school are John Bolger, Fr David Ward, Dr Nhor Chamrom and Rachel Swindell.



■ Our Lady of the Annunciation in King's Lynn celebrated the end of its 125th anniversary year with a celebratory dinner in the town hall.

Pauline McSherry, a parishioner and retired teacher, took those gathered on a journey down memory lane, beginning in 1947 with the Consecration of Our Lady's Church, when she was present.

"Yesterday has gone," said Pauline. "Down memory lane is history. Tomorrow is a new day. May we embrace the future with hope, and journey ahead with confidence as a truly Christian, united family."

Around 100 parishioners and friends had gathered in the historic town hall. An excellent meal was served by staff of Bank House Hotel. Deputy Mayor Cllr Margaret Wilkinson and Dawn Leigh (Consort) were present.

Parish events and school days were related with amusing anecdotes. Pauline is deeply indebted to Stephen Farr, a past pupil and friend for all his support. She brought her journey to a close with a special tribute to Peter Martin who, with his good wife Helen, RIP, served their Lord faithfully in Our Lady's for many years.

In June, Bishop Alan Hopes had celebrated a Mass for the 125th anniversary of the foundation of the Church of Our Lady of the Annunciation and of the restoration of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham.

Pictured above are Pauline McSherry (centre) and friends Valentine and Jesse Nwaneri and family at the celebrations at King's Lynn town hall.