

St Edmundsbury Cathedral



Annual Report 2015

For the Guild of St Edmund AGM
26 June 2106

Editor: Sarah Friswell, PR Manager

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Bellringers, Abby Antrobus

Last year, we noted the completion of the augmentation. This year, we are pleased to report that we regularly ring all 12 bells for Sunday services. As a band, we have made progress with the transition from ringing on 10 and we have achieved a number quarter peals on 12 with a predominantly Norman Tower band.

Throughout the year, the bells have sounded for special services and events, including four weddings, Carl Melville's first mass, and UCS graduation. We rang every day for Evensong during the Flower Festival in July. Sixteen 'quarter peals' (performances of approximately 50 minutes of non-stop ringing) include those for Palm Sunday, St George's Day, the festal evensong at the end of the Flower Festival, Harvest Festival, Remembrance Sunday, St Edmund's Day, and the feast of the Holy Innocents. A quarter peal in September celebrated Ernie and Renee Bishop's 60th anniversary, and Peter and Wendie Summers' 30th. A long-length quarter of *St Edmunds Abbey Surprise Royal* was rung by the Suffolk Guild for the Magna Carta 800 celebrations.

Visiting ringers have praised the 'fit' of the trebles with the original ten, and our waiting list for peals reaches 2020. There have been three full peals this year, one for the Magna Carta celebrations on May 24th (Guildford Diocesan Guild), one by the Southwell and Nottingham Diocesan Guild, and one by the Ancient Society of College Youths.

Whilst we went on a trip Peterborough, visitors to the Norman Tower included the NW District of the Suffolk Guild, the University of Bristol, and bands from Hampshire, Durham and Warrington. On Mothering Sunday, Suffolk's Young Ringers rang before Evensong.

The tower has a new carpet and lighting, and was open for Heritage Open Days. The 25 ringers listed for Bury in the Suffolk Guild are a mixed group who enjoy each other's company, and if it wasn't for our general knowledge, we might have been victorious at the FOCC quiz.

Chaplains, Geoffrey Smith

Once again in 2014, we were able to provide a chaplain, morning and afternoon for all the weekdays from May to September. Over 30 men and women were involved – a variety of retired priests, lay canons and canons emeriti, Readers and retired Methodist ministers, all cassocked, or gowned, were on hand to provide counsel if asked, or simply to be a recognisable part of the welcoming team of the Cathedral, brief prayers are offered at midday and 3 pm from the pulpit.

Unfortunately for a variety of reasons, the number of Chaplains available for 2015 will be less than the previous year, but hopefully, some of the gaps will be filled as the summer progresses so that this vital ministry can be maintained.

Discovery Centre, Helen Woodroffe

We had a very full and successful year, organizing and participating in key events in the Diocese and Cathedral to celebrate the Diocesan Centenary 'Pilgrims in Time' as well as developing new projects.

Discovery Centre Space

As part of our ongoing work, we were pleased to welcome and lead 89 school groups in the Cathedral, as well as going out visiting 18 schools and parishes (Discovery Centre in the Community) during the year, incorporating leading sessions of Reflective Storytelling, Discover...Advent, Candlemas in the Parish and Discover...Easter. This meant we worked closely with 80 different schools, enabling us to have direct contact with 6634 children as well as their teachers and church leaders.

Highlights included *The Magna Carta Project* for local schools in April/May and *The Edmund Festival* in November, involving 200 children. New initiatives included *The Worship & Prayer Adventure Day* for KS1 children in the Autumn and Spring and *Remembrance Day* sessions for St. James' Middle School in November.

Children's Spirituality & the Creative Arts

The 'Pilgrims in Time' Centenary year enabled us to organize and take part in numerous events, providing evidence and demonstrating to others the spirituality and creativity of our children and young people. Many of our contributions were based around Pilgrim's Progress, a children's version of which, we adopted as a basis of our work.

Having addressed the children's gifts and talents in the RESPECT Art Exhibition in March, we created a contemporary take on the Celestial City at the Cathedral in the INSPIRE Art Exhibition in October, involving the Hopes and Dreams of children of Suffolk. In partnership with others we had BIG puppet characters from Pilgrim's Progress made for use at the Suffolk Show in May, the Diocesan Centenary Celebration at the Regent Theatre, Ipswich in July and as part of the

Church School's Celebration Service in October. We also enjoyed being part of the Reflections Flower Festival in July and dancing at the final Diocesan Centenary Service at the Cathedral in November.

Discovery Centre Team

Our Discovery Centre team continues to change and strengthen. In 2014, we had to say goodbye to John Kirby in the Autumn as he accompanied his wife Liz, as they begin a new ministry together in Derbyshire. John had been with us for almost 3 years and had contributed so many practical and storytelling skills and we will really miss him. However, we were able to run another Children's Guide Training programme in the Summer Term, resulting in two new members: Christine Andrews and Miriam Webb. Furthermore, as a result of our various projects in 2014 we were also pleased to welcome Sharon Brandon and Irene Leech bringing additional skills to the team.

Telling the Christian Story

Storytelling continued to be at the core of our work in 2014. Following the production of our third Reflective Storytelling Book (in March), 'A Pilgrim's Progress', written with 16 teachers and members of the Diocesan Guild of Storytellers, we worked in partnership with the Bury St. Edmunds Wood turners in creating storytelling kits. This will be developed further in 2015 as we develop all the Bible teaching to go alongside it.

We continued to tell the Christian story using our portable BIG Story Labyrinth (13 Bible stories) during 2014 but developed the project further by writing and piloting the 'Values' Labyrinth. Linked to the theme of pilgrimage and the Pilgrim's Progress story, we offered this experience in which children explored 13 values in life (all linked to Bible verses and stories) and we are planning to write it up and offer the experience more widely in our schools and parishes in 2015.

Community Outreach

Our annual community outreach programme of Family Activity Days at the Cathedral, were well attended (172 children) throughout the year, and were all based on the theme of pilgrimage including The Journey of Life (February), Making Choices (August x 4) and Hopes and Dreams (October). The Suffolk Show was very successful once again with the highest recorded number (984) of children and young people engaging with the activities we had prepared.

As we continue on the PILGRIM journey, we continue to pray (using our Discovery Centre Prayer) *Lord, in whom all truth is found, may we be open to discover more of you, as we journey together in our learning, guiding and nurturing.*

Flowers, Sue Cockram

We are very fortunate to be able to arrange flowers in such a beautiful Cathedral and are always finding new and interesting areas to display flowers!

This year we have several weddings, including one important date in September! Also we shall be arranging flowers for the Enthronement of our new Bishop so plenty of work ahead.

On a sad note, we said goodbye to Sue James and Meg Clibbon who both moved away to pastures new in 2014. Also Mary Griffiths, one of our arrangers, sadly died in March of this year. Mary lived in Mildenhall and just helped at Festivals and we shall miss her amazing arrangements. However, on a brighter note we have enrolled four new arrangers which is great news!

The rota for flower arrangers is now on the Noticeboard outside the Refectory so please put your name down. The work done by the Mothers Union is much appreciated arranging flowers once a month in the Lady Chapel and at Festivals.

In July, 2014 the Flower Festival "Reflections" was held in the Cathedral as part of the celebrations of the 100th anniversary of the Diocese and what a wonderful occasion it was! The Cathedral looked splendid and we received many wonderful compliments on the way in which everything was organised so my thanks go to the hard working Committee but also to the Cathedral and Congregation for their support and help. We raised £25,000, far exceeding my expectations! £10,000 was given to EACH and £15,000 to the Discovery Centre towards their outreach to the parishes.

Last year I mentioned that we had invited various Parishes to come into the Cathedral to arrange flowers at various times – this has been a great success and is being repeated again this year!

Groundforce, Alan McAndrew

We have enjoyed a very busy year looking after the lawns and plants throughout the Cathedral's Gardens. Numerous visitors have expressed their thanks for our efforts not least the Bury in Bloom Committee who presented

the Cathedral with a Certificate of Merit, "in recognition that the floral display had helped to enhance the neighbourhood".

Spurred by this award we started on a number of major projects such as the one involving trench-digging to carry the cables for our much needed electricity supply. It is not surprising that easy access to an electricity supply has made our work so much easier. It was also noted the existing Japanese cherry tree was looking sickly and needed replacing. By an amazing coincidence a member of the Cathedral wished to donate a tree for the Gardens. The old one was quickly removed and the replacement *Cercis Siliquastrum* planted in the autumn. It will be more colourful than the old one and will undoubtedly enhance the look of this important area. To make other improvements we have replaced the old wooden lawn edging (which had simply rotted away) with a modern metal replacement. All these improvements should show results in the coming months.

Finally, a programme has started to replace a number of the herb plants in the Herb Garden. The old ones have had their day and fresh plants should enhance this important area – that is provided the local hungry Muntjac and Roe deer don't notice!

Guides, Marguerite Budden

I am happy to report another busy year for our group of approximately 20 guides. The number of booked in paying groups fell this year from 54 previously to 38, but we did more public tours and had roving guides on at peak times. We were also on duty for Magna Carta in May, both stewarding and leading tours. The Flower Festival produced a huge number of visitors but obviously not for our tours. We lost the benefit of visits from the American base at Lakenheath in the course of the year because they decided that they would prefer a full tour of the town rather than just the Cathedral. So they still visit us briefly, but with a town guide who then takes them to other sites.

The Guides meet every month to arrange tours and have some form of training or outings. This year we looked at Magna Carta in April, prior to the event. Charles Taylor talked about Christian symbols, and James Knowles recounted his walking pilgrimage to Santiago. Charles and I arranged church visits to some parishes NE of Bury St Edmunds with lunch at Ixworth.

Recently Marian Shaw organised a trip to Ely Cathedral to an exhibition of ecclesiastical embroidery from the collection of the Royal School of Needlework and Ely Cathedral. We saw some remarkable vestments. Most of the earlier ones were continental but one medieval cope was English dating from 1470 (pre Reformation). It belongs to Ely Cathedral, with a repeat flower like motif known as the Ely knot. We had a table for 10 at the Almonry which was excellent.

We look forward to another good year in 2015, but please note that our public tours have moved from 11.30 am to 11 am.

Guild of St Edmund, Sarah Friswell

We have a huge team of volunteers at the Cathedral – over 300 at the last count. That equals many hours of faithful service without which the Cathedral could not function so well. You will read elsewhere in this report of the work of the individual groups which make up the Guild – every single volunteer is vital to our Ministry of Welcome. We are grateful to the leaders and rota co-ordinators of the different groups, who help to keep everything running smoothly.

The Guild met twice as a group. At the AGM in July, we commissioned 17 new volunteers who had joined the Guild in the previous 12 months. It is good to have this annual gathering which places the importance of volunteers at the centre. It was interesting to hear the responses of volunteers to the Dean's question 'Why do you volunteer here?' At the AGM we also thanked Stewart Alderman who stepped down at the end of his three year term of office as Chairman. We duly elected Geoffrey House as the new Chairman and Marguerite Budden and Sandra Pollerman were elected to become members of the Guild Committee too. So the Committee is at full strength and continues to meet three times a year to oversee the work of all volunteers.

The Guild also met later in the year, for Holy Communion followed by lunch and a highly informative talk from Charles Taylor entitled 'Wherefore Edmund, King and Martyr?' – an apt topic for a meeting held on 20 November.

I am particularly grateful to the many volunteers who really stepped up to the mark in 2014, volunteering for many extra duties during the Magna Carta exhibition and Flower Festival. These two special events when added to the regular visitors brought our total number of visitors to 87,545.

Junior Church, Penny Bentley

Junior Church has continued to support children and young people to express their faith, enjoy appropriate activities, have fun together and participate in worship with the adult congregation. It is led by a team of 18 adults who work on a rota in teams of three. The leaders meet all together once a term to review and improve their work and to plan future developments. Around twenty children and teenagers aged from three to fourteen come to Junior Church during the Parish Eucharist on Sundays. They spend the first half of the service in the Discovery Centre, enjoying stories and activities, and then return to their families during the offertory hymn to share in the second half of the Eucharist.

In July four more children were admitted to Communion in a special ceremony at the Parish Eucharist. This followed a programme of preparation for the children in Junior Church sessions and on a Saturday morning with their parents.

Children sometimes show their work to the congregation at the end of the 10 o'clock service. On Remembrance Sunday the children presented clay poppies they had made at the altar during the service. In four services during the year, including Mothering Sunday and Harvest, Junior Church children and young people play a prominent part in the liturgy, reading, leading the intercessions and gathering round the altar for the Eucharistic Prayer.

In July children and parents greatly enjoyed a summer party in Matthew and Kate Vernon's garden. At Christmas Junior Church presented a Nativity play, this year with a script written by Bishop Graeme Knowles, in which the congregation greatly enjoyed the appearance of John the Baptist and the gifts of individual stars to all worshippers. The children also decorated one of the trees in the Christmas Tree Festival. And in January fifty-four children, family members and friends, after a bring-and-share lunch at Philip and Janet Banks' house, enjoyed the Cinderella pantomime at the Theatre Royal.

Library, Margaret Hartley

The *Cathedral Library* continues to be blessed with good volunteers who have enabled it to continue to provide a reliable, efficient and friendly service to all its members as well as to people who just call in.

The Cathedral library did not purchase many new books this year. However we did buy a new computer which Chris. Nicholls kindly installed. This has made the use of the catalogue in the library and also library administration much more efficient.

Mothers' Union (MU), Brian Lillistone

Our regular monthly meetings in the Discovery Centre on 3rd Tuesday of each month continue to attract an average of 15 -20 members and visitors and our speakers have covered subjects dealing with the world wide work of the Mothers' Union, the life of the Cathedral and the wider Church.

Branch members have been active in the life of the Cathedral with visiting the housebound and organizing tea parties for older members of the congregation. We also regularly visit Manson House for Communion and Coffee. We have also been involved with Prison Sunday and other special events.

We continue to collect food for the Vineyard Church Food Bank and to knit hats for the Mission to Seafarers to distribute at Felixstowe. Once again a good number of Christmas present boxes were filled for the Samaritans Purse Appeal. Members also arrange the Flowers in the Lady Chapel where we now have a Mothers' Union Noticeboard.

We have given money to support the MU's Away From It All scheme to give needy local families a holiday break and the MU's overseas work. Money raised from providing refreshments at Chapter 4 has again enabled us to support the MU in Kagera via Valerie Moore.

For more details of the Mothers' Union contact Rosemary Dale on 747368

Cathedral Shop, Jane Harrison

Last year saw a packed twelve months for the Shop. This started with the Magna Carta exhibition which brought in crowds of extra custom to the Shop. For this event we selected ranges specific to the Magna Carta including a Pitkin guide we commissioned on the Magna Carta with the Bury St Edmunds connection. Events such as this draw in a lot of visitors who might not usually visit the Cathedral or the Shop so it was a great opportunity to promote us and the ranges we sell, hopefully generating some repeat custom to.

Easter saw the shop decorated in eggs and chicks. Sales were good as customers purchased cards and gifts and we supplied a lot of local Churches with Palm Crosses and Paschal Candles. We also promoted the Real Easter

Egg. It is important for us to get the right mix of products in the shop to not only reflect that we are a Shop but also a Cathedral Shop.

As the weather picked up so did the tourist season and visitors increased. During the summer we had a stall on the lawn of Pilgrims' Kitchen for the Flower Festival. We also had our regular stall during the Christmas Fayre.

With all these different events we are all kept very busy in the Shop and it is thanks to all the volunteers who make it possible with their continued support and loyalty to the Shop.

Sunday Coffee, Valerie Moore

Sunday morning coffee after the 10 am service and before the 11 am service continues to be popular. During the first part of this year we have met upstairs in the Lecture Room where there has been lots of space to move around and also chairs for those who wish to be more sedentary. It also provides a space for fundraising stalls. We have also been able to serve coffee elsewhere for discussion groups during Lent.

In May we hope you be able to return downstairs to the Pilgrims' Kitchen when we are able to make use of the lawned area again. We shall continue to review the arrangements throughout the year.

Tourist Information Point, Sarah Friswell

In June 2014 the Cathedral took over the running of a Tourist Information Point (affectionately known as the TIP!) in the space which had been used most recently as the second hand book shop. This came about because St Edmundsbury Borough Council decided to combine its main Tourist Information Centre with The Apex booking office in Charter Square. Perceiving a need to maintain tourist information provision on Angel Hill, the Cathedral offered to run an office, under the supervision of Sarah Friswell, but with volunteer assistants. In a very short space of time this small office has proved its worth and it is now open daily, offering a range of information leaflets, maps, souvenirs to buy, event information and the chance to book on a guided tour of the town (daily at 2 pm from May to September).

One advantage of offering this service is that it draws visitors to the Cathedral and we hope that there will be a positive spinoff with increased visitor numbers and sales in the Shop and Pilgrims' Kitchen.

Wardens, Stewart Alderman and Liz Steele

It has been a year of change within the Wardens' team. In April 2014 and after six years of playing a leading role in a time of significant change for the Cathedral, Pam Pitts and Tony Kimber stood down as Cathedral Wardens' having completed their term of office. Liz Steele and Stewart Alderman were elected as the new Cathedral Wardens' at the APCM.

We also said goodbye to David Sparks after completing six years as a Deputy Warden which created two vacancies for Deputy Wardens'. It was very encouraging that a good number of our community expressed an interest in these roles and in July we were delighted to welcome Shirley Warrington and Keith Elliott as Deputy Wardens'.

The team have been kept busy with the usual number of large annual services where the Cathedral fulfils its role in the county and the diocese along with other significant occasions that have filled the calendar such as the Diocesan centenary service, RAF homecoming, the first Eucharist of Carl our curate and many more.

During the year the Wardens' Team have taken on additional duties to ensure that congregations at all services receive the best possible welcome when they join us in worship. We now warden weddings and the monthly evensong services that are led by the St Cecelia Juniors and the colts and probationers. We would like to thank our fantastic team for all of their hard work, commitment and support.

We are also extremely grateful for all of the assistance given by those who act as sides people and who do the readings at both the Sunday 10am and evensong services. As ever we would welcome hearing from others who would like play a part in the services and if anyone would wish to help with collections or do readings from time to time then do please let Liz or Stewart know.

Welcome Stewards, Liz Rowlands and Jacky Radford

The first three months the rota is limited to two sessions on Wednesdays and Saturdays and one on Sunday afternoons. In October, December and the first week of January we have two sessions a day but every day. During the Christmas Fair we have four sessions every day, and try to have two people on duty, as it gets very busy. Although several members of the stewarding rota choose not to take part in the winter months the sessions are

reasonably easy to fill, apart from the very hectic days of the Christmas Fair and Christmas, when personnel are stretched in many different directions.

Once April arrives we are back to the full rota of 4 sessions every day apart from the first sessions on Sunday mornings. The rota becomes more difficult to fill and inevitably there are some sessions left blank (usually 1600 to 1800) in spite of the best efforts of Jacky and myself, and extra times undertaken by many of our volunteers. Other problems arise particularly when other major events are taking place and again everyone is fulfilling several roles within the Cathedral community.

In 2014 we had the excitement of a Cathedral without any scaffolding for the first time in many years. We assisted at the Centenary Celebrations, the Flower Festival, Christmas Tree Festival and the visit of Lincoln's copy of the Magna Carta. The Schools Art Exhibition also provided us with a lot to look at during our stint in the West End. Some of us also ventured East to admire the rest of their work so brilliantly displayed.

Thanks must go to all the volunteers for their time and effort. The Cathedral would be a much less friendly place without a steward and their welcoming smile and conversation.

Young Families, Carl Melville

Young Families continues to go from strength to strength. This year has seen a huge boom in new families coming to the group. We have purchased some really good new toys as some of the old ones were getting a bit worn and tired. As well as this someone donated some nearly new floor toys. Many of the families that come along later seek baptism in the Cathedral.

We are aware that many families that come along come from very different backgrounds. A clergy member is usually present at each gathering. But the help from Christine Trendall this year has been paramount to the groups running, so thank you Chris! We do need some more helpers to help once or twice a month to ensure the running of this group every week.

Young Families is a relaxed group for families to come, for children to play with toys, for parents to catch up and meet one another. Once a month we have a short Pram Service in the Cathedral, which includes a story and some singing. All are welcome to come along, Fridays at 10 am in the Lecture Room.