



# ELY CATHEDRAL

## CATHEDRAL AND COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

November 2025

Dear members of the Cathedral congregation and community,

### THE DEAN'S RETIREMENT



It was recently announced that Mark Bonney is to resign the Deanery of Ely next year. He will have served as Dean of Ely for fourteen years having taken up the role in 2012, and his retirement in July 2026 will mark forty years as an ordained priest. Mark's last day at the Cathedral will be Sunday 28 June with an official retirement date of 31 July 2026.

Reflecting on his forthcoming retirement Mark says

"It has been the most enormous privilege and joy to be the Dean of Ely for the past thirteen years. The Cathedral is a vibrant Christian community of which I have been proud to be a part. It has also been wonderful to share in the feast of activities that happen – wonderful exhibitions, concerts and fairs. Above all it is the people who worship, work and volunteer here that make it the very special place that it is, and who I will miss the most. I will be always grateful for the support of everyone through the years I have been here and there's a particularly good team in place across the board at the moment.

It is the longest I have lived anywhere, so when July next year comes I will miss Ely enormously, but I am sure the time is right and I will watch from a relatively short distance (we will move to Isleham) as you continue 'joyfully proclaiming the love of God, in worship, outreach, welcome and care!'"

The appointment of a new Dean of Ely will be taken forward by the Church's senior appointments team in coordination with the Acting Bishop, and the new Bishop of Ely, when they are known.

### ADVENT, CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY

The new seasonal booklet detailing services and events over the forthcoming weeks is now available in hard copy from the Cathedral. Services are also listed here: [Advent and Christmas Services - Ely Cathedral](#).

### FUNERALS

Christine Kerswell's funeral will be at 1.00pm on Tuesday 11 November in the Cathedral. Chris had been a regular member of the Cathedral congregation and a volunteer for school visits. We were greatly saddened also to hear of the death of Bev Sweet, a faithful member of the congregation and of ECOS, and a strong supporter of the Guiding movement. We will announce details of her funeral when they become available.

### HARVEST SUPPER THANKS

Thank you to those who prepared and served food at the Harvest Supper and to all who supported it. We raised £270 for the Ely Foodbank.

## INEQE SAFEGUARDING AUDIT

Thank you to everyone who has already completed the Cathedral Worshipping Community survey for INEQE. They have received over eighty responses for this part of the audit, but if you have not yet completed this survey, please do so using [this link](#). If there are children in your family who attend services or events at the Cathedral or if you wish to complete the survey as a victim or survivor of abuse, the other Ely surveys are on [this link](#), and please do. Thank you very much for being part of this important audit.

## CHRISTMAS LUNCHES



Ely Community Lunches is again providing home delivered Christmas fayre and sit-down Christmas dinners for anyone who might otherwise be on their own. They are holding the nominal ticket price at £10 for each meal, with the remainder of the cost funded by generous donations from the local community and businesses. This year's Christmas Day meals will be served at The Lighthouse in Lynn Road and Ely Methodist Church in Chapel Street. The Christmas Eve deliveries are sent out between 11am and 1pm. Please use [this link](#) for tickets (or phone 07579 783228) or [this link](#) to make a donation to help subsidise these meals. Cash donations may be made in person at the Cathedral's Ticket and Information Office between 10.00am and 4.00pm or at The Lighthouse Church Office.

## CHRISTMAS WARMTH AND CHEER

Donations of winter coats, sleeping bags and blankets would be welcomed at the Lighthouse Church office on Lynn Road for distribution to those who are experiencing homelessness over the winter. The ministers of Christians Together in Ely are working to coordinate our response to those in need with warm spaces, food distribution and washing facilities. Meanwhile, St Mary's is hosting the Ely Toy Bank and donations of 'good as new' toys for children up to 15 years old can be taken to locations including City Cycle Centre and Waitrose until Tuesday 9 December. The Toy Bank will be open at St Mary's on Friday 12 December from 3.30-5.30pm and Saturday 13 December 10am-1pm.

## ADVENT SLEEPOUT

You are welcome to join Bishop Dagmar, Canon Jenny, staff members and me at the Advent Sleepout on Friday 12 December. All donations will be split 50/50 between two charities supporting homeless people. Register to join us on this link [Advent Sleepout - Ely Cathedral](#) or use it to help us get to our target of £1,000 in sponsorship.

## A PRAYER

Blessed art thou, O Lord,  
who hast nourished me from my youth up,  
who givest food to all flesh.  
Fill our hearts with joy and gladness,  
that we, always having all sufficiency in all things,  
may abound to every good work in Christ Jesus our Lord,  
through whom to thee be glory, honour, might, majesty, and dominion,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

*The Clementine Liturgy.*

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Reveley', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Canon James Reveley

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