



ELY CATHEDRAL

CATHEDRAL AND COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

December 2025

Dear members of the Cathedral congregation and community,

ADVENT, CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY



The seasonal booklet detailing services and events over the forthcoming weeks is now available in hard copy from the Cathedral. The booklet can be downloaded from the Cathedral Website here: [Advent-Christmas-Epiphany-2025.pdf](#). Many of these services will be livestreamed. An easy way to find them is to click on the 'live' tab on the Cathedral's YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/@Ely-Cathedral>.

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 <https://www.elycathedral.org/events/advent-sleepout>. The same page links to our 'sponsor me' site and thank you to everyone who has enabled us to exceed our target of £1,000 in sponsorship!

THANK YOU FOR THE FAIR

The Christmas Gift and Food Fair was a great success again this year and was enjoyed by hundreds of stall holders, visitors, staff and volunteers. Around 4,000 glasses of mulled wine were served and approximately 18,000 visitors joined us over the three days. Thank you to everyone who helped to make it happen.



PAIRS OF HANDS REQUIRED

Peter Houghton is seeking some volunteers to insert Gift Aid envelopes into the Christmas Orders of Service. This will be done around 18 or 19 December in Powcher's Hall. Please contact Peter for further information or to offer help on 01353 699750 or peter.houghton.06@gmail.com.

FUNERALS

Bev Sweet's Requiem will be at 1.00pm on Tuesday 9 December at the Cathedral. For those unable to attend in person, the livestream link is: <https://youtube.com/live/TC-uej0CuDc?feature=share>.

Grace Tweddle's Funeral will be at noon on Wednesday 17 December at the Cathedral.

David Stazicker's Funeral will be at St Mary, Mepal, at 3.00pm on Wednesday 10 December. A Memorial Service will be held in the Cathedral in January.

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. Enquiries about volunteering between 10-13 December should be directed to the Vicar, phil.marsh@stmarysely.org, who will be pleased to hear from you.

CHRISTMAS CHARITIES

These three charities have been selected in consultation with the Congregational Forum to be the recipients of our collections at the special services in Advent and Christmas:



Ely Baby Bank is a charity that receives donations of baby-related items which are then sorted and displayed for families to freely select according to their needs. The charity also provides infant formula and nappies. The service is accessible to all members of the community and is offered entirely free of charge. www.elybabybank.com

Mothers' UNION The Mothers' Union is a women-led, international Christian movement dedicated to ending poverty, violence and social injustice in communities in the UK and around the world. MU has four million members across more than eighty countries and celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2026. We will be donating to the Ely Diocesan fund. www.mothersunion.org



The Friends of the Holy Land. This charity funds a mixture of sustainable and immediate relief work in the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan. It works in partnership with key Christian denominations in its mission to secure a resilient and enduring community in the region. www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk

A PRAYER

God of all hope and joy open our hearts in welcome,
that your Son Jesus Christ at his coming
may find in us a dwelling prepared for himself;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever. Amen

A New Zealand Prayer Book.

With best regards,

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

Canon James Reveley

Residentiary Canon for Congregation and Community 01353 660302 james.reveley@elycathedral.org.