

PRESS RELEASE

The Archbishop of York celebrates 1350 years of worship at Ely Cathedral.

Ely Cathedral will be celebrating the 1350 years of the founding of Ely by welcoming The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York, to preach during a weekend of celebratory worship and fabulous floral displays.

On Saturday 24 June everyone is invited to attend a special anniversary service which will be led by The Bishop of Ely with The Archbishop of York preaching. The Cathedral Choirs will be in full voice and accompanied by Prime Brass performing well known hymns and choral music.

The Dean of Ely, The Very Revd Mark Bonney said *"We're so looking forward to welcoming the Archbishop of York, who is an inspirational preacher, to our celebrations on 24 June. An occasion to rejoice together as a Cathedral, City and Diocese, giving thanks for heritage of faith and service that was started by St Etheldreda 1350 years ago, and which sustains and inspires us into the future. A great reason to celebrate! Please do join us."*

From Friday 23 June to Monday 26 June the Cathedral will be decorated with floral displays in honour of Saint Etheldreda, whose feast is being celebrated. There will be a large floral tribute at the entrance to the Cathedral depicting Etheldreda's arrival to Ely by boat in 673, plus several other arrangements throughout the building including flowers at the shrine of Etheldreda near where she was buried following her death on 23 June 679.

Other services over the weekend include a Festival Evensong with Procession at 4.00pm on Sunday 25 June where the Cathedral Choirs will perform Parry's *I was glad*, and music by Vaughan Williams.

For information about the weekend, and details of other 1350 anniversary celebrations, please visit Ely Cathedral website www.elycathedral.org

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Image - The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York (No credit required)

About Ely Cathedral

Highly regarded by historians and architects from all over the world for its beauty and size, Ely Cathedral is widely acknowledged as 'one of the wonders of the Medieval world'. Visible for miles around, the Cathedral is often referred to as 'The Ship of the Fens'.

The present building dates from 1081 and is a remarkable example of both Romanesque and Norman architecture. In addition to its unique Octagon Tower and magnificent Lady Chapel, Ely has the third longest nave of any UK Cathedral. The Cathedral's role today is not so far removed from its days as a Benedictine monastery and offers regular daily worship with a special emphasis on choral music. It still maintains a resident choir of 22 choristers and 6 lay clerks and so continues the tradition of choral evensong every day of the week during term time.

As well as being a major visitor attraction, the Cathedral serves as a cultural focal point for East Anglia by providing a unique venue for the arts & music, for exhibitions, concerts and theatre. Most recently Ely has gained global recognition a prominent film location including *Elizabeth: The Golden Age*, *The Other Boleyn Girl*, *Macbeth*, *The King's Speech* and *The Crown*.