



PRESS RELEASE

The Bishop of Huntingdon, accompanied by her lurcher Tilda, will join Cathedral clergy, staff, and members of the community for an Advent Sleepout to raise awareness of homelessness.

On Friday night of 12 December, Bishop Dagmar, along with her dog, Tilda, will be joining Canon James and Canon Jenny, plus several members of the Cathedral team and members of the community, for the annual Advent Sleepout at Ely Cathedral. Those participating will have the option to sleep outside in the Processional Way courtyard or inside Ely Cathedral's magnificent 14th century Lady Chapel. The event, which has been jointly organised jointly by Ely Cathedral and the Diocese of Ely, aims to simulate the experience of sleeping rough, highlight the struggles faced by the homeless, and generate funds through sponsorship and donations.

The Right Reverend Dagmar Winter, Bishop of Huntingdon & Acting Bishop of Ely, is keen to increase awareness of the challenges homeless people face and to raise funds for charities involved in effectively supporting homeless people. "Especially now with the cold setting in, we often feel a bit helpless when we encounter homeless people on our streets. It is important to see them, acknowledge their presence and greet them, and then to support and donate to those who are best placed to offer the help required for dealing with what are often complex issues. We are fully aware that one chilly night sleeping in the safety and shelter of Ely Cathedral, bears absolutely no resemblance to rough sleeping, but we do hope to highlight the complex and devastating issue of homelessness."

This sleepover costs only £10 to register as an adult and only £5.00 to register a child (who must be 10 years or over). Hot & cold drinks will be provided throughout the night and a there will be a light breakfast in the morning. Details of what to bring and further information is available on the Cathedral website - <https://www.elycathedral.org/events/advent-sleepout>

All the money raised will directly benefit the Cambridge Churches Homeless Project (CCHP) and the national charity, Crisis. The Cambridge Churches Homeless Project are a local organisation who exist to help the churches of Cambridge engage with and support, people experiencing homelessness in the city.

For anyway wishing to support these charities and the life changing work they do, please donate via the dedicated 'Sponsor Me' page. <https://sponsorme.charitiestrust.org/event/5f2c73e6-b1e9-4e38-bde4-56920bdb7519>

ENDS –

Image - Bishop Dagmar with Tilda and Canon James Reveley who will be participating in the Advent Sleepout at Ely Cathedral on 12th December. (Credit Ely Cathedral)

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.

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*, *The Crown* and, more recently, *Maestro*.