



Clergy and parishioners celebrating and continuing the faith in Halesworth



**Alive in Faith**  
Building a Sure Foundation for  
the Mission of Our Diocese



24

parishes have already played their part, over the last 12 months



5000

households have learnt about our plans in a personal way



136

volunteers have helped to make their campaign a success

**Alive in Faith** is focused on strengthening our Church for this and future generations. It is committed to: providing support to clergy in both formation and retirement, ensuring vibrant parishes and supporting those on the margins through social outreach.

Acknowledging the generosity of parishioners over the past years and decades, we still need additional funds to ensure a solid and strong Catholic community - one alive and hopeful in our faith and ability to live the Gospel.

We hope these newsletters keep you updated on the impact of your generosity, demonstrate your funds at work and highlight the tangible difference your support is making. Thank you!

## Parish Spotlight – Four More Projects Underway!

**Alive in Faith** has taken on a literal meaning at the Cathedral parish of St John the Baptist. With funds raised by the campaign, they are now facilitating a range of events aimed at exploring and deepening the parish community's relationship with God, essentially to become 'alive in faith.' This has already included:

- A three-day 'Walk with the Lord' residential retreat in Beccles for the catechists, young people and their families
- The Cathedral of Chronicles Camp which saw 37 children between the ages of 4-16 taking part in various activities such as treasure hunts, art and baking classes, and movie afternoons (*right*)
- A talk from a guest speaker on 'Becoming Intentional Disciples'

The parish is looking forward to strengthening their youth ministry further. A workshop on Godly Play has been planned and later this month, the youth group will travel to Buckden for the 'Live to the Full' retreat.

Three other parishes have also advanced their local projects:

- The Tabernacle at Felixstowe has been repositioned, and new altar supports and tile flooring have been fitted
- Canaan House in the Sheringham and Cromer parish, which provides shelter to vulnerable people in the community, is receiving extra, essential funding
- A new kitchen has been installed in the presbytery at King's Lynn (*right*)



***"I truly believe in the future of our Diocese. I hope that what we are doing now will equip the next generation of Catholics to evangelise and spread the word of the Lord, in the years and decades ahead. Individually, we can accomplish little, but collectively, and with God's grace, we can create a wonderful legacy."*** – Bishop Alan Hopes



## A Day in the Life of a Seminarian

Thanks to new commitments that parishioners and clergy are making, we will be able to train men, like Paul Spellman (*left*), who are answering God's call to serve. Previously a teacher for 16 years, Paul, is now returning to the Beda College, Rome to commence his second year of studies. He kindly answered some of your questions about the priesthood and life in the seminary.

**When did you receive your call to be a priest?** *I have felt called to the priesthood almost my entire life; I often describe it as an irritating itch that won't go away. Although I applied to my home diocese many years ago and spent time in a monastery, I knew that my calling was strongest when I approached Bishop Alan in 2013.*

**What happens in the seminary?** *Daily life begins with prayer around 7.30 am. Lectures are mainly in the mornings. On Wednesday afternoons we have philosophy for the first two years. We have singing practice every Saturday, early evening – first with the house choir and then the whole house together. Spiritual Direction is every three to four weeks.*

*In addition, we are encouraged to attend talks being given across the city. Pastoral opportunities are varied and include helping out in a soup kitchen or at a school that provides classes for refugees.*

*Breakfast and lunch are the two meals that we must attend everyday. It is not just about sharing food together, but also about the sharing of our lives and our experiences.*

**How important is the formation process?** *It is vital. It gives us time to reflect so we recognise where we need to develop, explore and grow so we can become better people at the service of the Lord, the Church and each other.*

**What are you most looking forward to – God willing – when you are ordained?** *Simple – serving the people and parishes of East Anglia; to look for, and find, God in the work that is going on across our Diocese, and to become an active part of that work.*

To read Paul's full interview, please visit: [www.rcdea.org.uk/alive-in-faith](http://www.rcdea.org.uk/alive-in-faith)

## Responding to 1,200 Years of Service

Five priests, between the ages of 78 and 89 are currently being supported by the Diocese. With a total of 266 years of service, it is only right and just that they are provided with accommodation and basic living assistance in their elderly years.

When ordained, a priest makes a vow to faithfully fulfill the duties of priestly life. At the same time, the Bishop promises to care for the new priest, throughout his entire ministry.

With the collective support of everyone across our Diocese, **Alive in Faith** will ensure we can additionally support over 20 men, who in total – God willing – will have given over 900 years of service by the time they reach the age of 75.

***“Let us be there for them, as they were here for us.”*** – Richard Felton, volunteer at Diss

## Reaching Out to the Most Vulnerable People in Our Communities

We are all encouraged by Pope Francis to be more outward looking. Helping others is a ministry of the Church and many of our parishes are dealing with real social challenges in their local areas.

A parish-led approach to social outreach through the Diocese is being encouraged by **Alive in Faith**. Parishes will soon be able to apply for grants to help initiate or expand the great works of charity they are already doing.

### Did you know?



**In Suffolk, more than 15,000 elderly people go a month or more without having a conversation with a family member, friend or neighbour**



**150 people were found sleeping rough between April and September 2015 in Norwich**



In June, Bishop Alan Hopes initiated a meeting (*above*) in Peterborough between representatives of the Catholic Church, local Police forces and the office of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commission. The round-table discussion revealed a horrifying number of cases of people being exploited, mainly in the fields and as sex workers. Potential initiatives were discussed, including helpline cards in different languages and setting up a safe house to help rehabilitate those who escape from slavery.

## Thank You for Your Continued Support and Interest!

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