



The Foundation of St Edmund

Supporting the mission and ministry of St Edmundsbury Cathedral



St Edmundsbury
Cathedral



From the Dean

For a number of years now the Chapter of St Edmundsbury Cathedral have been discussing the establishment of a Foundation of St Edmund to develop the resources to support the outreach of our beautiful Cathedral Church, and I'm delighted that we have reached the point when we can launch the Foundation. Other Cathedrals around us have done the same, like Ely, Peterborough, and further afield, St Paul's in London, creating a charitable arm that enables donations and fundraising to be carried forward to secure the future.

What better time to launch the Foundation than the celebration of ten years since the Tower was completed?

We go from strength to strength as a Cathedral under the direction of a Chapter which cares that the worship we offer is of the highest standard, and that we reach out to children and to the communities of Suffolk as fully as we are able. We are keen to develop the way we might resource the music and the arts of the County, building upon talent and expertise that we have. The Foundation will enable all sorts of new enterprises to happen over the years to come, and we are already grateful for the generosity of those whose donations have enabled us to come this far.

The Foundation is served by an excellent Trustee body, chaired by Bishop Graeme Knowles, and on behalf of Chapter, I am grateful for the hard work that has resulted in the progress made to date. We can look to the future with confidence, inspired by the leadership and vision that continues to be a hall mark of our wonderful Cathedral.

We celebrate the ten year birthday of the Tower that now looks so splendid and enhances the beauty of the town and environs of Bury St Edmunds, grateful for the generosity of so many donors in the past.

Thank you for what has been, and thank you for what is yet to be.

With every blessing

Frances Harro



The Foundation logo is taken from the stone and flintwork E found on the Millennium Tower parapet



From the Chairman



On each of the signs as you enter Bury St Edmunds there is a strap line which reads “Bury St Edmunds – a jewel in the crown of Suffolk”. I think it is no boast to say that the Cathedral Church of St James and St Edmund must rank as the jewel in the crown of Bury St Edmunds!

Every Dean and Chapter of the cathedrals of England is faced with maintaining the worshipping life, work and mission of their cathedral, as well as being charged with the task of maintaining the building itself.

The twentieth century history of the founding of our diocese and the creation of the cathedral has been one of “forever building”, to quote T S Eliot. The building campaigns of the 1960’s, the 1980’s and most recently the appeal to raise the tower, have resulted in a “jewel” of a cathedral. We have much to thank God for in the enthusiasm and drive of successive Provosts and Deans, together with dedication of hard working lay people and the generosity of successive generations, who by their exertions have helped to create the magnificent cathedral we inherit today.

Now the Dean and Chapter have set up the Foundation of St Edmund to assist it in fundraising for the future life, work and mission of the Cathedral.

The Foundation is a stand-alone registered charity. Its trustees are drawn from a wide variety of backgrounds. In our fundraising we will look beyond the County, both nationally and internationally, seeking fresh funds without competing with other fundraising efforts in the Diocese.

Our task as trustees will be to respond to the Dean and Chapter’s requests for the funding of projects which are over and above the every-day, working life of the cathedral. We hope that you will be inspired to be part of our work!

President: The Very Revd Dr Frances Ward
Chairman: The Rt Revd Graeme Knowles CVO

Trustees: Mr Tim Allen, Mrs Karen Soons, Mr David Spark, Mr George Vestey DL, Revd Peter Wolton
Chapter Trustees: Mr David Cockram, The Revd Canon Matthew Vernon

**The establishment and initial work of the Foundation of St Edmund
has been made possible by generous donations.**



Projects

Tower Tours

From the top of the Cathedral Tower there are unrivalled views of Bury St Edmunds. Looking east, the ruins and footprint of the great Abbey of St Edmund are stunning. Looking west, the medieval grid of the town is clearly visible. In all directions, the town and countryside beyond are an inspiring sight.

Finite resources when the Tower was built meant that incorporating public access to the Tower was not possible. Ten years on, the Cathedral Chapter have developed plans to allow the public to climb the Tower, just as other Cathedrals offer tower tours to their visitors. The Foundation of St Edmund is supporting the Chapter in this aim. The project requires the expertise of architects, engineers and safety consultants. Income from the visitors paying for Tower Tours will contribute towards the overall financial viability of the Cathedral.

Each stage of our Tower's development has been made possible by generous donations: building the Tower, its completion with the vaulted ceiling, and its illumination. Similarly, the Cathedral needs external funding to make Tower Tours possible. The Foundation of St Edmund will fund the total cost of around £75,000.

Music Outreach

As part of developing the musical life of the Cathedral, the Chapter aims to begin a Music Outreach Programme to share the musical expertise of the Cathedral with parishes in Suffolk. This will include the many styles of church music as well as Anglican choral music around the Diocese, to enrich congregational singing and resource music groups and bands. The project will require additional staffing and an initial feasibility study. The Foundation of St Edmund has chosen to support this exciting project and full details will be available soon.

