The two great commandments of Jesus Christ are to love God, and to love our neighbours as ourselves. We can fulfill them by using our church buildings, both old and new, as a real Christian presence in every parish, not only for regular worship but also in practical ways that truly serve others.

In Suffolk we have many fine parish churches and they are so often the only building open in the village when post office, shop and school have gone.

To mark the Centenary of the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich and to leave a meaningful legacy that continues the tradition of generosity that our Churches have shown through generations, our Diocese has created the Centenary Fund in partnership with the Suffolk Community Foundation to revitalise our church buildings and local communities.

We now have a fantastic new opportunity for the Fund to help make our church buildings work for the benefit of the whole community. Alternatively, or in addition, the Fund is available for Church community projects which may not necessarily involve the church building.

Take a look through this folder to find out whom the Fund will support and about the ways you can make a difference through your giving to the Fund. As an individual, you may want to make a one-off or regular donation to the Fund, or your Parochial Church Council may decide to hold a special collection each year.

Perhaps you are a trustee of a charity that has ceased to give grants. If so, it may be possible, with the agreement of the Charity Commission, to wind up the charity and place the assets within the Centenary Fund. By supporting this Fund you will be joining with previous generations in building a lasting legacy for the next century. Please support the Fund with your gifts and prayers and by spreading the message as widely as you can.

Canon Michael Wilde
Chairman of the Centenary Fund Committee