



DIOCESE OF ELY

Celebrating the 900th anniversary of Ely Diocese

2009 promises to be a very special year in Ely Diocese as together we celebrate this special anniversary.

- The anniversary reminds us that 'the Diocese' is the collection of parishes to which we belong.
- It gives us an opportunity *to look back with thanksgiving* for God's faithfulness in that time and to express our thanks for the faithful people of our parishes in each generation.
- It is also be an opportunity for us *to look forward and to think creatively* about how we pass on the Christian faith to future generations.

It is hoped that all parishes are taking time in 2008 to plan initiatives that will reach into their communities in 2009 and then be built on into the future. As each parish plays its part and takes the opportunity to mark the 900th anniversary in this way so the Diocese celebrates. The use of the Ely 900 logo, incorporated into all publicity and used in all communications will provide a visual sign of our working together.

There will also be a number of ways that parishes can join in wider celebrations, including:

- major services at the Cathedral in January and November
- a day of celebration on Saturday June 20th (Etheldreda's Day)
- a special Children's Event
- an Ely 900 Rave in the Nave youth event
- Diocesan-wide projects – becoming a Fair Trade Diocese, Shrinking our Carbon Footprint, supporting a Diocesan-wide World Mission project
- linked events with the University of Cambridge (celebrating its 800th anniversary in 2009) including a conference on the history of the Diocese, and other opportunities to hear some excellent speakers on contemporary issues.
- a History of the Diocese will be published in 2009.

A selection of liturgical material will also be available to enable parishes to hold services to mark the launch of this year of celebration in the worshipping life of the church.

Details of all these and other activities will be communicated via the Ely 900 newsletter and website.

If your church isn't yet talking about what it is doing for 2009 please get the discussion started.