

News from around the Diocese of Ely

WHAT'S ON

Saturday 26th November -  
 Sunday 4th December  
 Christmas Tree Festival  
 Cambridge The Ascension -  
 St Giles. More details at  
[www.churchatcastle.org.uk](http://www.churchatcastle.org.uk)

Friday 2nd December  
 Christmas Quiz Night 7pm  
 St John's Church,  
 Stanground

Saturday 3rd December  
 Celebrate Nicholas Ferrar  
 Day 10.30am  
 Little Gidding Church

Saturday 10th (10am-5pm)  
 & Sunday 11th (12 noon -  
 5pm) December  
 Christmas Tree Festival  
 Holy Trinity Church,  
 Balsham

Wednesday 14 December  
 Farewell Evensong at  
 5.30pm for Canon Vanessa  
 Herrick.  
 Ely Cathedral

Diocesan Office  
 Christmas &  
 New Year  
 The Diocesan Office  
 will be closed from 12.30pm  
 on Friday 23rd December  
 and will re-open on Tuesday  
 3rd January 2012.

[www.ely.anglican.org/  
 news\\_events/events.html](http://www.ely.anglican.org/news_events/events.html) for  
 details of all events.  
 DIOCESAN & CHURCH OF  
 ENGLAND NEWS For all  
 news go to  
[www.ely.anglican.org/  
 news\\_events/](http://www.ely.anglican.org/news_events/)



Photos: Bishop Stephen breaking ground at Stanground with Stephen Betson, Canon Malcolm Griffiths, David Hicks and representatives of the local council and the contractors

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## Breaking the ground at the new Church of England Primary School, Cardea

Wednesday 9th November saw the groundbreaking ceremony at St Michael's Church of England Primary School in Cardea, Peterborough, the official start of the construction. Bishop Stephen turned the first turf watched by local church members and council officials.

The Bishop said: "All the partners were present, all wreathed in smiles. I was there to dedicate this space and thank God for the abundant lives we know these children will have in the new school. I dug the ground with a spade and then posed with the digger, but they didn't let me loose with the controls. It was a great beginning and great to see the building work start."

The school, which will be attended by 200 pupils, is due to open in September 2012.



## Diocesan Safeguarding Officer

Graham Shorter, Diocesan Secretary, is delighted to announce the appointment of Sarah King, currently the Bishop of Ely's Assistant Secretary, as **Diocesan Safeguarding Officer**. Yvonne Quirk will be continuing in her role as the **Bishop's Safeguarding Adviser**.



Sarah says "I am delighted to have the opportunity to develop the support provided to parishes in the diocese and especially with our Safeguarding Co-ordinators who play a vital role in safeguarding our vulnerable groups."

Sarah will commence this new role on 3 January 2012 and she will be based at the Diocesan Office. In the first instance all calls for Sarah from January should be on 01353 652701.

# Schools' Cathedral Days



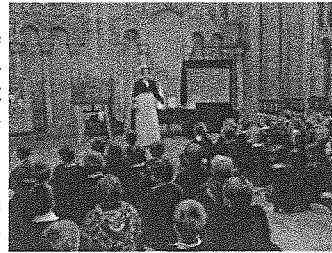
Every October Ely comes to a standstill as coaches full of excited primary age children arrive at the Cathedral for a day of activities and worship. A total of 2,500 children attend these big schools' events over just four days.

This October the theme was "birthdays" as schools are celebrating two hundred years of mass education and, of course, the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the King James Bible. In the morning the children travelled back 200 years to the time of their Regency ancestors, finding out about the life some of their forebears would have lived, with workshops on themes such as life in

Nelson's Navy, crime and punishment, the rigours of washday and, naturally, life in the first church schools.

For many children two hundred years ago the first book, and perhaps the only book, they would read would have been the Bible, and today's pupils heard the words of the KJV being read as well. To make sure that they really understood the message, the Bible stories were then re-enacted by members of the local Open the Book teams.

Each of the days concluded with a service of worship under the Octagon led by Canon Alan Hargrave and Bishop David – and then the schools poured out of the Cathedral, and Ely was gridlocked once more!



## A Christmas Near You

This year dioceses are promoting a special website where people can find a carol service or Christmas Services. The site is <http://www.achristmasnearyou.com>. To get your events onto that site simply add them to A Church Near You and they will be automatically added.

If you haven't already put your church's details on A Church Near You it is well worth signing up for this. You don't have to be very technical – if you can send emails and shop online you could use this website and it's free. Just go to <http://www.achurchnearyou.com> and click on the register tab to get started.

## Church Housing Trust



Charity No: 802801

**CHURCH HOUSING TRUST offers year-round support for some of the most vulnerable homeless people**

There are many charities who work with homeless people in the winter months, but Church Housing Trust's support for some of the most vulnerable people throughout the country continues throughout the year and includes women's refuges, projects for young people, ex Service personnel, specialist housing for people with drug, alcohol and mental health problems, and projects for ex offenders.

Over 70 hostels, supporting over 3,000 people, are located in many areas of England and Church Housing Trust's funding provides more than just a welcome pack for a new arrival at a hostel. It can contribute towards training in skills that will help someone get a job, or learn vital life-skills such as cooking and budgeting. Funding is used for outings and therapeutic activities, training and counselling, and, when someone is ready to move on from the hostel, for household items for their resettlement back into the community.

At this time of year Church Housing Trust provides funding to help make Christmas a special time for hostel residents. The festive season can be a lonely and depressing time for homeless people with no

friends or family with whom to celebrate, and funds are used to provide a Christmas meal and a small gift for each resident.

Church Housing Trust has always had a close link with the Church of England and we could not carry on our work without the loyal support of churches and individual Christians.

You can find out more from our website: [www.churchhousingtrust.org.uk](http://www.churchhousingtrust.org.uk) where you can also see a video introduced by Bishop Christopher Mayfield, in which three homeless people describe their experiences.

Church Housing Trust supports some of England's most vulnerable and disadvantaged people, helping them get their lives back on track and reintegrate into mainstream society. It is only through the generosity of our supporters that we are able to fund these activities. Please consider us when you are planning your charitable support this year.

**Church Housing Trust, PO Box 50296, London EC1P 1WF Tel: 020 7269 1630**  
**Email: [info@cht.dircon.co.uk](mailto:info@cht.dircon.co.uk)**  
**[www.churchhousingtrust.org.uk](http://www.churchhousingtrust.org.uk)**

Church Housing Trust raises charitable funds to support Riverside ECHG (formerly English Churches Housing Group's) work with homeless and vulnerable people.

## COMINGS AND GOINGS

The Revd Kevin Fitzgibbon has been appointed as Priest in Charge of Doddington with Benwick and Wimblington in addition to Chrstchurch, Welney and Manea.

The Revd Dr Julie Norris has been appointed Rural Dean of Granta Deanery.

The Revd Professor David Thompson has been appointed Ecumenical Adviser for the Diocese of Ely.

The Revd Rosemary (Rosie) Ward has been appointed Rector of Sawtry and Glatton Institution and Induction on Tuesday 24th January 2012 at 7.30pm.

The Revd John Fellows has been appointed House for duty at Balsam, Weston Colville, West Wickham and West Wratting and Great & Little Abington and Hildersham. Licensing details to follow.

The Very Revd John Irvine is to become Associate Vicar at Cambridge Holy Trinity. Licensing details to follow.

The Revd Nick Devenish has been appointed to the post of Team Vicar of Carmel Priory and Field Broughton in the Diocese of Carlisle. Details to follow shortly.

For more details see [www.ely.anglican.org/news\\_events/media/announcements/](http://www.ely.anglican.org/news_events/media/announcements/)