

Before you leave today...



Visit the Cathedral Shop for angels you can take home with you



Stop off in Pilgrims' Kitchen for an angel cookie



Visit the Treasury for a free Ancient Library exhibition on angels in print



Join us for free family activities 19 & 20 December from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm

Where else can you see angels in Bury St Edmunds

Other churches in the area have angels too! Visit St John's Church in Bury St Edmunds (St John's Street, IP33 1SP, look for the tall spire) to discover a wealth of angels in carvings and stained glass. The church is open from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm Monday - Saturday, 9.00 am to 6.00 pm on Sundays.

Holy Innocents Church, Great Barton (Church Road, Great Barton, IP31 2QS) is taking part in Inspiring Angels. Make a visit and enter a competition to name Holy Innocents' "Lonely Angel" (the one angel in the rafters that still has a head - the others were sawn off during the Reformation!). Open daily, 10.00 am - 4.00 pm.

St Mary's Church on Honey Hill has the largest number of carved and stained glass angels in the diocese. You can also visit their 8ft Angel Gabriel! St Mary's Church will be open Sundays 2-4pm and Monday to Saturday 10.30 am - 3.00 pm.



Inspiring Angels

Follow the trail and find the angels at
St Edmundsbury Cathedral



St Edmundsbury
Cathedral



Angels appear many times in the Bible and there are many to find here in St Edmundsbury Cathedral.

What are angels?

The word angel means ‘messenger’. In the Bible, angels bring all sorts of messages. Probably the best known angels are the ones linked to the Christmas story. An angel tells Mary that she is to have a baby and angels tell the shepherds that the baby has been born. Many of our favourite Christmas carols mention angels, such as ‘Hark the Herald Angel sings’, Later ‘cherubs’ - small, winged childlike figures - became popular on statues and in art.

Follow this trail and see how many angels and cherubs can you find?

1



Start with the creation window, made by Clayton and Bell. Then, move to the Great West window above the font. The Jesse window shows the family tree of Jesus. At the very top of the window you will find the two archangels Michael and Gabriel and there are other angels interspersed with saints and Old Testament figures.

2



Look at the majestic statue of James Reynolds, MP for Bury St Edmunds from 1717-1725. He was also Baron of the Exchequer. His statue is flanked by two cherubs – one holding a skull, to remind us that we will die one day.

3



Over the main entrance to the Cathedral, you will find a golden angel. This used to be on the top of the old organ, which used to be in the West Gallery. The gilded cherub was discovered in an antique shop in Belgium and was restored to the cathedral by a private benefactor.

4



There are angels everywhere in the windows on the north and south aisles. You will need to look up high to see most of them as they are in the small windows right at the top. But can you spot the angels appearing to the shepherds (window 2)? What about the angels with some old fashioned instruments (dulcimer, lyre, shawn and positif) in window 4? There are other windows on the south side with angels holding instruments linked with the crucifixion of Jesus.

5

Look out for Abraham with 3 angels in window 3 and alongside him Jacob dreaming of angels ascending the ladder to Heaven. Further along the north aisle you will find Elijah being fed manna from Heaven by angels (window 8).

6



Up above you on the Nave Ceiling is a host of angels. There is an angel at the end of each hammerbeam. This ceiling was added in the Victorian period, replacing a dark oak flatter ceiling.

11

Look out for many more angels in other windows. Plus, there are plenty of angel wings on the kneelers. These are used to denote churches dedicated to All Saints or St Michael. Mildenhall is the only one with an actual angel on it – making reference to the beautiful angel roof you will find if you visit the church.

10



Our very special Crib Angels were made in our Link Diocese of Kagera in Tanzania by Letisia and Betirida in 2021. They then travelled with some Cathedral volunteers all the way to us in Bury St Edmunds.

9



Behind the altar in the Edmund chapel is a fine reredos with a central painting of Mary, Jesus and St Anne. It dates from 1510. Just above the painting you will find some very Victorian looking cherubs.

8



Brian Whelan's modern depiction of the martyrdom of St Edmund in the Lady Chapel includes some fun angels taking Edmund's soul up to Heaven.

7



Note the angels on the stalls from St Peter's, Birch in Essex, which were designed by Stephen Dykes Bower. When the church was made redundant they were gifted to the Cathedral by the Diocese of Chelmsford.



SCAN HERE for more information and photos on each item in our angel trail.

