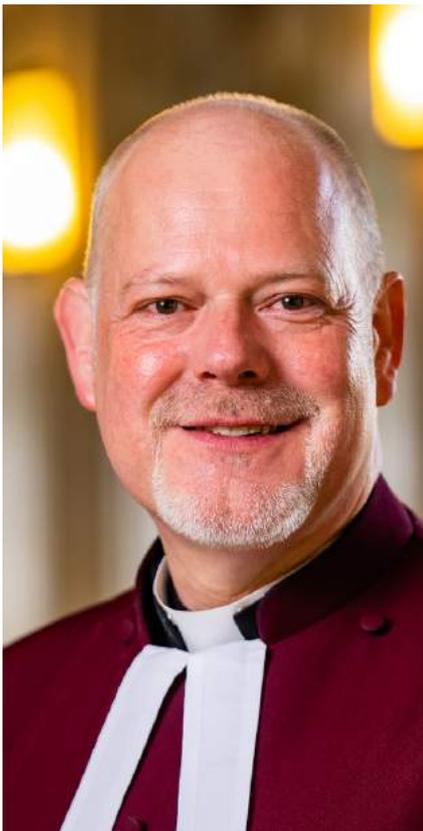


# St Edmundsbury Cathedral



## Annual Review 2022

# 2022 Overview from The Dean



My Spiritual Director has been encouraging me in the practice of identifying moments of desolation and consolation, rooted in Ignatian spirituality. Desolation, accompanied by feelings of frustration, gloom, despondency, doubt and fear; consolation, by love, mercy, faith and hope. The one, obviously journeys away from God, the other towards God, and crucially, the external circumstances notwithstanding.

2022 has provided ample opportunities for feelings of desolation: war in Ukraine, economic and cost of living crisis, the death of a beloved Queen, climate emergency...the impulse to avoid news programmes becomes ever more appealing! And yet sometimes lightening the gloom, moments of consolation, some reminding of those virtues of love, mercy, faith and hope: the celebrations of the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth in May, the many events to celebrate the two year delayed Millennium of the Abbey of St Edmund, welcoming thousands of visitors to festivals: beer and cider, flowers, concerts, art.

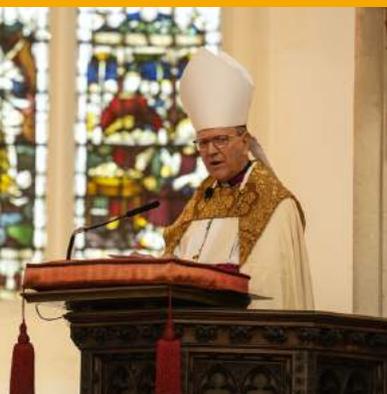
The unique and privileged world of a cathedral provides, even in darkest hours, space in which to light a candle of hope, prayer, and solidarity. As I write, we are preparing to host the third vigil of solidarity for friends from Ukraine and their Suffolk hosts. The swiftly organised vigil in solidarity, a week after the invasion a year ago, the bittersweet celebration of Ukrainian Christmas, and tomorrow, the anniversary of the invasion. Once again, the cathedral will provide a space which holds grief and anger and somehow places them in the heart of God.

Over the past year we have seen both international and national crisis and turmoil, and setbacks and frustrations at the cathedral. When desolation seeps into the consciousness, the many examples of human resilience, grace, commitment, hard work and good humour which have provided that necessary consolation which roots us back into the Godward journey. Wonderful generosity in the giving of time, energy and money from the cathedral and wider community; the fantastically hard working and dedicated staff team and growing band of volunteers; worship, welcome, care and connections, these have been the moments in which light has shone and faith has put us back on our feet.

Dean Joe.

Contents:

- 3 Worship
- 4 Mission
- 5 Hospitality
- 6 Sustainability
- 7 Finances
- 8 2022 in pictures



# Worship

The Cathedral seeks to offer occasional innovative and experimental worship and also to breathe new life to our wonderful inherited traditions of liturgy which have fed and nurtured many generations of Christians. All of our main worship is accessible online, to ensure that those who are unable to be here physically can be connected to our worship spiritually.

Our regular round of worship continues to include weekly meditation and mindfulness and a weekday healing service. In addition to this regular round of worship, the Cathedral hosted numerous special services for the county, community and diocese, including services to mark the Platinum Jubilee – and then the death – of our late Queen, and services to draw people together following the Russian war against Ukraine.



Our Vision for Young Worshipers enables and supports children and young people both to grow and to lead us in our liturgical life. A dedicated team of leaders and helpers continue to run Junior Church during the 10.30 am service on Sunday mornings. With its special focus on children and families, the weekly 40-minute 9.00 am All-Age Eucharist is helping us to grow younger and deeper in faith. Children and young people have been baptised, admitted to Holy Communion and Confirmed this year.



Our annual pilgrimage to Kvelaer returned, after a pandemic-forced break, in October 2022. The Right Reverend Martin Seeley became the first of our Bishops to visit Kvelaer. Bishop Martin was joined by his wife Canon Jutta Bruek, Canon Matthew Vernon, the Reverend Emma Haggard and the pilgrim coordinators Lorna Brook, Geoffrey House and Stewart Alderman.



Following a period of much change in our music department, the boy and girl choristers continue to make fantastic progress. Thanks to hard work forming important links with many local schools, recruitment is healthy, and both our front rows are currently full. Our back row has developed too, thanks to the appointment of three professional Vicars Choral. The Cathedral Choir undertook two highly successful tours: Wells and Bath, and Leipzig, workplace of J. S. Bach.

The important work of the Cathedral's 'InHarmony' Music Outreach Project has continued under Richard Hubbard's leadership: InHarmony is one of the Cathedral's flagship projects which makes the essential connections between the Cathedral and wider diocese.

# Mission

A new social action group was introduced in 2022 to oversee the Cathedral's wide-ranging activity in the community. This year, progress was made with the Hope Into Action project and a family, supported by the Cathedral, should move into a house in Bury St Edmunds in the first quarter of 2023. Faithful volunteers ensure the Cathedral continues to support local foodbanks as well as the churches in our link Diocese of Kagera, Tanzania.



Our new Together on Tuesdays service began for people who find traditional services challenging to attend because of age-related, neurological, or physical problems, and those living with dementia. The Cathedral marked Dementia-Friendly Sunday for the first time in May 2022 as we continue working towards being more dementia-friendly.

During February half term a successful Learning Hub Teach Rex event and surrounding family activity days resulted in over 500 children and adults enjoying a dinosaur experience. During 'Cathedrals at Night' in October, families were able to explore their artistic talent by textile painting, drawing on a graffiti wall and began sewing a St Edmund banner to hang in the Cathedral during Edmuntide. During 2022, the Learning Hub connecting with around 2,500 children and adults.



The Pastoral Support Team delivers the formal pastoral care within the Cathedral community. This includes home visiting, the First Tuesday Lunch Club, monthly Communion Services in local residential homes, the annual Remembering Together Service (for those who have experienced the death of a child), and the weekly Young Families group.



2022 saw The Yard evolve into a hospitable and purposeful space, with the support of an enthusiastic team of paid and unpaid helpers of all ages. Today we have a clean, warm and welcoming garden room with a pre-loved kitchenette and colourful, hand painted murals. We have introduced valuable wildlife habitats and run eco-activity sessions during school holidays. Together we enjoyed a thoroughly creative, inclusive, and fulfilling year, meeting the needs of our emerging young community and the requirements of our funders.

The Yard supported 45 young people in 2022, many of whom return time and again. Our Emoji survey results indicate that 80% of young people's mood and wellbeing improved after time spent at The Yard.

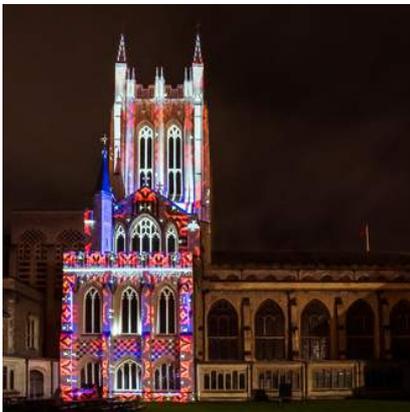
# Hospitality

To great acclaim, the Cathedral fulfilled its part in the town-wide 1000 year celebrations of the founding of the Abbey of St Edmund by King Cnut in 1020. These culminated with the St Edmund Weekend celebrations during which we hosted the Edmund Lecture delivered by former Lord Chancellor David Gauke and co-delivered the St Edmund Weekend Spectacular, a light and sound show. Earlier in the year we led pilgrimages and hosted *Abiding Wisdom*, various concerts, and an exhibition of manuscripts from the Abbey's Scriptorium.



This year, we welcomed back Bury Bach Choir who performed at the Cathedral for the first time since before the lockdown. We were also extremely privileged to host the National Bell Ringing Competition qualifiers. In June we welcomed the brilliant Ora Singers, whose performance kicked off The Aldeburgh Festival. We also saw the return of the East Anglian Beer and Cider Festival, which was very successful for both us and local charities.

The Christmas Market was again a huge success for The Cathedral. The Cathedral was part of the town partnership to deliver different Christmas events, starting from the light switch on in November and ending with town festivities in mid-December. We also hosted Cathedrals at Night, Vaughan Williams 150th Anniversary concert from the Suffolk Philharmonic Orchestra, and G4.



Visitor numbers rose above and beyond pre-pandemic figures and we welcomed nearly 77,000 people, not including the large numbers attending special events such as the Christmas Market. Guided tours and Tower tours ran from Easter to the end of October, and it was good to welcome back a number of larger tour groups, an area of our work which had been slow to recover after the pandemic. The excellent 'Threads Through Creation' exhibition from July to September was a huge draw, bringing many extra visitors to marvel at the exquisite textile panels.



This year also saw us reaching the halfway mark on the LEGO model. As well as the Dean placing the 100,000th brick, the Learning Hub welcomed over 80 children as part of our tie-in activities.

The Guild of St Edmund, the Cathedral's body of volunteers now has over 300 volunteers who undertake a wide range of roles, enabling us to offer a warm welcome to all visitors and supporting the mission and ministry of the Cathedral.

# Sustainability

We have been working with West Suffolk Council and English Heritage, as members of The Abbey of St Edmund Heritage Partnership to develop an important project proposal application to put to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF). By the end of 2022 the project proposal was agreed with all partners and was ready for submission in early January 2023 to the NLHF as an expression of interest.



2022 welcomed the refitting of the Cathedral Shop. This involved modernisation of electrics, lighting, heating, flooring and new purpose-built display units. The result has been a shopping space that is fit for purpose. Feedback from customers has been unequivocally positive and we have seen a 28% increase in average spend. Sales throughout the year have been positive and have exceeded pre-pandemic turnover and August, September, and October saw record sales.



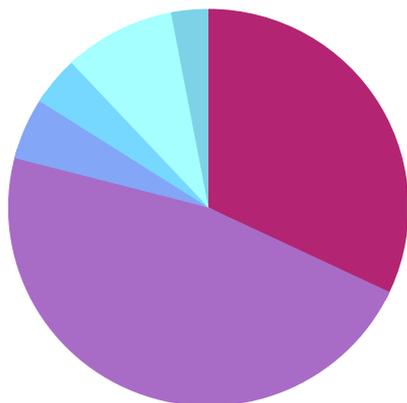
Pilgrims' Kitchen had a very good year. Serving more customers than ever, they are seeing sales 19% higher than in the last pre-pandemic year of 2019 and total sales for the year being the highest ever achieved. The outside marquee has continued to be a real asset allowing for an extra 16 tables between April and October and is one of the key reasons for the large increases in sales.



In fundraising, we continue to establish an in-house function. The aim for 2022 was to retain and grow our Patrons, which we achieved with a 95% renewal rate and 12 new Patrons joining the scheme. It was wonderful to connect again with Patrons face-to-face and events included a trip to Lambeth Palace Library followed by Evensong at Westminster Abbey and drinks reception with the Dean of Westminster. In February 'The New Chairs Appeal' launched. Thanks to generous support from our donors, the target of £140,000 was reached and enables us to transform the nave with 600 chairs making a more inclusive and flexible space.

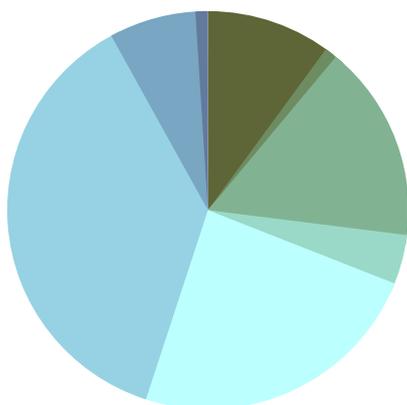
Building projects this year have included the gradual replacement of lighting and heating across our buildings (as part of our drive to reduce carbon emissions), including our Cathedral Tower floodlighting. On the subject of environmental sustainability, Eco St Eds has been building on our achievements from the previous year. We have achieved gold status in three of the five categories of the Eco Church Gold award. The categories left require us to undertake considerable work with buildings and heating sources, which will take time to achieve.

# Finances 2021



## Income 2021

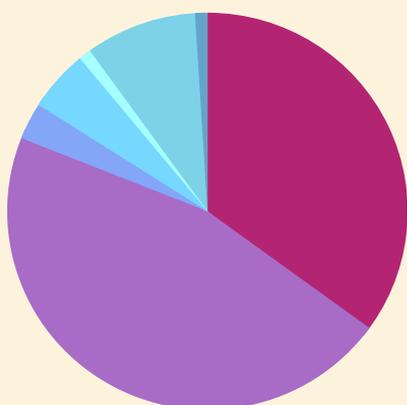
Church Commissioners	32%
Cathedral Community	47%
Visitors	5%
Events	4%
Lego	0%
Commercial Property	9%
Enterprises	3%



## Expenditure 2021

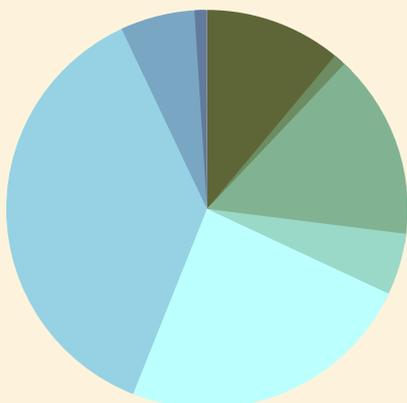
Vergers	10%
Clergy & Liturgy	1%
Music	16%
Learning Hub	4%
Cathedral Property	24%
Administration	37%
Visitor	7%
Events	1%
Enterprises	0%

# Finances 2022



## Income 2022

Church Commissioners	35%
Cathedral Community	46%
Visitors	3%
Events	5%
Lego	1%
Commercial Property	9%
Enterprises	1%



## Expenditure 2022

Vergers	11%
Clergy & Liturgy	1%
Music	15%
Learning Hub	5%
Cathedral Property	24%
Administration	37%
Visitor	6%
Events	1%
Enterprises	0%

These pie charts are included for information purposes only. They are not a definitive picture of how various strands of work are performing financially. Copies of St Edmundsbury Cathedral's statutory annual report and audited accounts are available on request from the Cathedral.

# 2022 in pictures



St Edmundsbury  
Cathedral



[stedscathedral.org](http://stedscathedral.org)