



St Edmundsbury
Cathedral



Choral Evensong celebrating the tenth anniversary of Bury Drop In

Sunday 26 October 2025, 3.30pm



Welcome to St Edmundsbury Cathedral

We come together today in prayer, worship, remembrance and thanksgiving as we celebrate the tenth anniversary of Bury Drop In. We give thanks for its work, and for all those who support the work of the Drop In with time, talent, gifts sponsorship and energy. We give thanks and pray for all who seek to support the homeless and to bring them to wholeness, self-sufficiency and peace.

As we celebrate and give thanks, we also remember before God all those who have coped with homelessness and have died. We remember them, and the grief of their families and friends who carry the burden of pain, loss and guilt.

We pray, too, for the world: our politicians, leaders and those who influence our national life, and for the creation of a more just society where all can flourish, reach their potential and lead lives of joy and fulfilment.

The music at today's service is provided by the
Wingrave Singers

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*We wish to inform you that photographs, video or livestream footage in which you may appear **could be used by the Cathedral at any time and appear in the public domain including social media.***
Please note that this service will be livestreamed on YouTube.

If you do not want to appear in this please inform a warden or verger.

The order of service indicates whether to sit or stand, however please feel free to adopt the posture that you feel most comfortable with.

Bury Drop In has been a vital lifeline for many, offering everything from a warm meal and a safe place to rest, to signposting individuals to critical services. This service will include a remembrance of those who have died in the last year as well as celebrating the achievements of the Bury Drop In over the last ten years, reflecting on how the charity has impacted the lives of people experiencing homelessness. Community members, supporters, volunteers, and guests are all invited to join in this special occasion, to reflect on the journey and look forward to the future of the work being done to support the most vulnerable in Bury St Edmunds. We are seeing an increase in the number of people needing our vital service. You can make a big difference, even the smallest contribution will go a long way. Visit our website at burydropin.org/donate or scan the QR code.



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Order of Service

All stand as the procession enters. Then, the Dean gives

The Welcome

Everyone remains standing to sing

The Opening Hymn

**Beauty for brokenness, hope from despair,
Lord, in your suffering, this is our prayer.
Bread for the children, justice, joy, peace,
sunrise to sunset your kingdom increase!**

*God of the poor, friend of the weak,
give us compassion, we pray:
melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain.
Come, change our love from a spark to a flame.*

**Shelter for fragile lives, cures for their ills,
work for the craftsmen, trade for their skills.
Land for the dispossessed, rights for the weak,
voices to plead the cause of those who can't speak.**

**Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear,
cities for sanctuary, freedoms to share.
Peace to the killing fields, scorched earth to green,
Christ for the bitterness, his cross for the pain.**

**Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and streams,
plundered and poisoned: our future, our dreams.
Lord, end our madness, carelessness, greed;
make us content with the things that we need.**

**Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame,
until your justice burns brightly again;
until the nations learn of your ways,
seek your salvation and bring you their praise.**

Words: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950

Music: Graham Kendrick, arr. John Barnard, b. 1948

Everyone remains standing as the Dean gives

The Bidding

We meet together in the presence of Almighty God and of the whole company of heaven to offer our worship and praise and thanksgiving, to bring to God the needs of the world and its peoples, and to ask for mercy and peace in our lives and the lives of all those with who we have to do. Especially at this time we give thanks for Bury Drop In and for all those who support their work; we pray for all those who are homeless and we remember those who have coped with homelessness and have died. We pray, too, for our politicians, leaders and those who influence our national life, and for the creation of a more just society where all can flourish, reach their potential and lead lives of joy and fulfilment.

Everyone remains standing as the Canon Precentor and choir sing

The Opening Responses

O Lord, open thou our lips.
And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.
O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.
Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's Name be praised.

Music: Preces and Responses, Thomas Tomkins, 1572-1656

All sit for

The Psalmody

Psalm 119.1-16

Blessèd are those that are undefiled in the way:
and walk in the law of the Lord.
Blessèd are they that keep his testimonies:
and seek him with their whole heart.
For they who do no wickedness walk in his ways.

Thou hast charged:
that we shall diligently keep thy commandments.
O that my ways were made so direct:
that I might keep thy statutes!
So shall I not be confounded:
while I have respect unto all thy commandments.
I will thank thee with an unfeigned heart:
when I shall have learned the judgements of thy righteousness.
I will keep thy ceremonies:
O forsake me not utterly.
Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way:
even by ruling himself after thy word.
With my whole heart have I sought thee:
O let me not go wrong out of thy commandments.
Thy words have I hid within my heart:
that I should not sin against thee.
Blessèd art thou O Lord:
O teach me thy statutes.
With my lips have I been telling:
of all the judgements of thy mouth.
I have had as great delight in the way of thy testimonies:
As in all manner of riches.
I will talk of thy commandments:
and have respect unto thy ways.
My delight shall be in thy statutes:
and I will not forget thy word.

All stand.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

The Old Testament Lesson

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes.

Send out your bread upon the waters, for after many days you will get it back. Divide your means seven ways, or even eight, for you do not know what disaster may happen on earth. When clouds are full, they empty rain on the earth; whether a tree falls to the south or to the north, in the place where the tree falls, there it will lie. Whoever observes the wind will not sow; and whoever regards the clouds will not reap.

Just as you do not know how the breath comes to the bones in the mother's womb, so you do not know the work of God, who makes everything.

In the morning sow your seed, and at evening do not let your hands be idle; for you do not know which will prosper, this or that, or whether both alike will be good.

Light is sweet, and it is pleasant for the eyes to see the sun.

Even those who live for many years should rejoice in them all; yet let them remember that the days of darkness will be many. All that comes is vanity.

Rejoice, young man, while you are young, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Follow the inclination of your heart and the desire of your eyes, but know that for all these things God will bring you into judgement.

Banish anxiety from your mind, and put away pain from your body; for youth and the dawn of life are vanity.

Remember your creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come, and the years draw near when you will say, 'I have no pleasure in them'; before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return with the rain; on the day when the guards of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the women who grind cease working because they are few, and those who look through the windows see dimly; when the doors on the street are shut,

and the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low; when one is afraid of heights, and terrors are in the road; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along and desire fails; because all must go to their eternal home, and the mourners will go about the streets; before the silver cord is snapped, and the golden bowl is broken, and the pitcher is broken at the fountain, and the wheel broken at the cistern, and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the breath returns to God who gave it. Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher; all is vanity.

Besides being wise, the Teacher also taught the people knowledge, weighing and studying and arranging many proverbs. The Teacher sought to find pleasing words, and he wrote words of truth plainly.

The sayings of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings that are given by one shepherd. Of anything beyond these, my child, beware. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God, and keep his commandments; for that is the whole duty of everyone. For God will bring every deed into judgement, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.

Ecclesiastes 11, 12, NRSV

Here ends the first reading.

All stand for

The Magnificat or Song of Mary

My soul doth magnify the Lord:
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded:
the lowliness of his hand-maiden.

For behold, from henceforth:
all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me:
and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him:
throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm:
he hath scattered the proud
in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat:
and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things:
and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy
hath holpen his servant Israel:

as he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed, for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

Music: Truro Service, Gabriel Jackson, b. 1962

All sit for

The New Testament Lesson

A reading from the second book of Timothy.

You then, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus; and what you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well. Share in suffering like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving in the army gets entangled in everyday affairs; the soldier's aim is to please the enlisting officer. And in the case of an athlete, no one is crowned without competing according to the rules. It is the farmer who does the work who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in all things.

2 Timothy 2.1-7, NRSV

Here ends the second reading.

All stand for

The Nunc Dimittis or Song of Simeon

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation,
which thou hast prepared: before the face of all people;
to be a light to lighten the Gentiles:
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Music: Truro Service, Gabriel Jackson, b. 1962

All remain standing and turn to face east for

The Apostles' Creed

All **I believe in God the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth:
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, dead, and buried,
He descended into hell;
The third day he rose again from the dead,
He ascended into heaven,
And sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
From thence he shall come
to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
The Holy Catholick Church;
The Communion of Saints;
The Forgiveness of sins;
The Resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.
Let us pray.

All sit or kneel as the Canon Precentor and choir sing

The Lesser Litany

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. Amen.

The Responses

○ Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.
And grant us thy salvation.
○ Lord, save the King.
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
Endue thy ministers with righteousness.
And make thy chosen people joyful.
○ Lord, save thy people.
And bless thine inheritance.
Give peace in our time, ○ Lord.
Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, ○ God.
○ God, make clean our hearts within us.
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collect of the Day

○ God, forasmuch as without thee we are not able to please thee; mercifully grant that thy Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Second Collect, for Peace

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Amen.

The Third Collect, for aid against all perils

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Music: Preces and Responses, Thomas Tomkins, 1572-1656

All sit for

The Anthem

All wisdom cometh from the Lord,
and is with Him forever.
Who can number the sand of the sea
and the drops of rain and the days of eternity?
Who can find out the height of heaven,
and the breadth of the earth and the deep and wisdom.
Wisdom hath been created before all things
and the understanding of prudence from everlasting.
The word of God most high is the fountain of wisdom,
and her ways are everlasting commandments.
To whom hath the root of wisdom been revealed?
Or who hath known her wise counsels?

There is one wise and greatly to be feared,
the Lord sitting upon his throne.
He created her, and saw her and numbered her,
and poured her out upon all his works.
She is with all flesh according to his gifts,
and he hath given her to them that love him.
The fear of the Lord is honour and glory and gladness,
and a crown of rejoicing.
The fear of the Lord maketh a merry heart
and bringeth joy and gladness and a long life.
Teach me O Lord the way of thy statutes:
and I shall keep it unto the end.
Give me understanding and I shall keep thy law;
yea I shall keep it with my whole heart.
Make me go in the way of thy commandments:
for therein is my desire.
O stablish thy word in thy servant: that I may fear thee.
Behold my delight is in they commandments.
O quicken me in thy righteousness.

Words: sf Ecclesiasticus 1 & Psalm 119

Music: Philip Moore, b. 1943

All remain seated for

The Address

The Reverend Robert Green
Chair of Trustees, Bury Drop In

All remain seated as the Dean leads

The Act of Remembrance

During the last year a number of the Bury Drop In family have died. Today we remember them with thanksgiving to God and for all they contributed to the drop in through their friendship, their life experiences and personalities.

We remember:

As each person is remembered by name, a candle is lit

Roger
Darren
Becky
Scott
Fay
Sarah
Laticia - Angel
John
Chris
Anatoly
Mike (Former Trustee and founder member)

God of heaven, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
each of these people we loved and cared for,
you made and knew and loved with an infinite love.
Grant them your peace,
let perpetual light shine upon them,
and hold them in your everlasting arms,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

All remain seated or kneel as the Canon Pastor and Sub Dean leads

The Prayers and The Grace

**All The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore. Amen.**

All stand as the Dean leads

The Act of Commitment

Jesus said 'In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?'

John 14.2

The vision of Bury Drop In is 'to care for and inspire homeless people as we work to ensure everyone has a place to call home.' Just as Jesus prepares for us a heavenly home, so the Drop In works to ensure everyone has a place to call home here on earth.

As volunteers and supporters of Bury Drop-In, I ask:
Will you love and respect both guests and volunteers,
working as a team and serving with excellence,
to ensure that everyone has a place to call home?

All

With the help of God, we will.

All remain standing for

The Final Hymn

**Thy hand, O God, has guided
thy flock, from age to age;
the wondrous tale is written,
full clear, on every page;
our fathers owned thy goodness,
and we their deeds record;
and both of this bear witness;
one Church, one faith, one Lord.**

**Thy heralds brought glad tidings
to greatest, as to least;
they bade men rise, and hasten
to share the great King's feast;
and this was all their teaching,
in every deed and word,
to all alike proclaiming
one Church, one faith, one Lord.**

Through many a day of darkness,
through many a scene of strife,
the faithful few fought bravely,
to guard the nation's life.
Their Gospel of redemption,
sin pardoned, man restored,
was all in this enfolded:
one Church, one faith, one Lord.

And we, shall we be faithless?
Shall hearts fail, hands hang down?
Shall we evade the conflict,
and cast away our crown?
Not so: in God's deep counsels
some better thing is stored;
and this was still their message:
one Church, one faith, one Lord.

Thy mercy will not fail us,
nor leave thy work undone;
with thy right hand to help us,
the victory shall be won;
and then, by men and angels,
thy name shall be adored,
and this shall be their anthem:
one Church, one faith, one Lord.

*Words: Edward Hayes Plumptre, 1821-1891
Music: Thornbury, Basil Harwood, 1859-1949*

All remain standing as the Dean gives

The Blessing

All remain standing as the procession departs and the organist plays

The Organ Voluntary

Prelude and Fugue in A minor BWV 536
J.S. Bach, 1685-1750