



# Volunteering Opportunities

## at St Edmundsbury Cathedral



**Contact :**  
volunteering@stedscathedral.org

**St Edmundsbury Cathedral**  
Angel Hill, Bury St Edmunds  
01284 748720

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# Thank you for your interest in becoming a volunteer

Around 80,000 visitors come to the Cathedral each year. People visit for many different reasons. For some it is a place of pilgrimage and prayer, somewhere to be inspired and renewed. For others it is purely to enjoy the beauty and peace of this historic building. For others it may be to join in with an event we are holding.

Whatever their reasons for visiting, we offer all a warm and unconditional welcome.

A vital part of that welcome are the many volunteers who carry out a variety of roles as part of our Visitor Ministry. Over 300 people volunteer here - important ambassadors, bringing a myriad of skills and expertise to their roles.

All volunteers are automatically members of the Guild of St Edmund. The Guild oversees all volunteer matters, including recruitment, safeguarding, health and safety and volunteer wellbeing. Each volunteering group has a representative on the Guild of St Edmund Committee, which is chaired by a volunteer, who is elected for a period of six years by the Guild at its Annual Meeting.

Training will be offered alongside existing volunteers for all roles. In addition all volunteers are required to undertake basic Safeguarding training.

We hope that you will be inspired by the role outlines in this booklet and will be in touch to find out more.

## Applying to be a Volunteer

Contact Georgia Small on [georgiasmall@stedscathedral.org](mailto:georgiasmall@stedscathedral.org)

As a first step, you will receive an application form then we'll invite you for an informal chat about the right volunteering opportunity for you.

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St Edmundsbury  
Cathedral



# Visitors, Pilgrims and Tourists

## Welcome Stewards

Be the 'face' of the Cathedral, offering a warm welcome to visitors on a daily basis. Key tasks include welcoming, directing, providing information about events and services. 2 hour shifts.

## Tour Guides

With detailed knowledge of the Cathedral, to lead hour-long tours for groups and individuals. An eight-week training course and exam take place as and when required. There is an ongoing monthly training programme.

## Tower Tour Guides

With detailed knowledge of the Millennium Project, to lead tours. Good physical health. Mostly at weekends. A training course and exam take place when required.

## LEGO builders

Encouraging visitors to donate to this major fundraising project. An interest in/knowledge of building LEGO is essential. In this role you are also key to welcoming visitors. 2 hour shifts.

## Tourist Information Point

Provide information for visitors to Bury St Edmunds. Role includes the ability to use till for sales of tour tickets and souvenirs. Excellent customer services skills essential. 3 hour shifts.

## Shop Volunteer

Assist customers with sales and ensure stock is maintained and well presented. 3 1/2 hour shifts.

## Chaplains

Be a 'listening ear' for visitors. To lead short prayers at 12 noon and 3 pm. Rota shifts of 3 hours from March to December.

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# Children & Young People

## Learning Hub Guides

Lead tours and activities for school and children's groups. Advanced Safeguarding training required, plus training course and exam.

## Young Families

Host parents/guardians with babies and toddlers at the weekly gathering. Fridays 10 am to 11.30 am.

# Worship and Liturgy

## **Wardens and Deputy Wardens**

Ensure the smooth running of all services.

## **Server**

Assist with the liturgy. Various ceremonial roles including carrying the cross or acolytes. Mostly Sundays.

## **Bellringer**

Ring the bells for services and special events. Practice night: Tuesdays. Beginners welcome. Full training given.

## **Sunday Morning Coffee**

Prepare and serve drinks after the 10 am Eucharist. Sundays only

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# Events

## **Concert Stewards**

Assist concert goers with finding their seats. To sell programmes and tidy up after the performance. Occasional.

## **Events Stewards**

Assist with organisation of events, ensuring smooth operations and safety of visitors.

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# Creative

## **Gardener**

Maintain the gardens - weeding, planting, pruning. Physical work. Tuesday mornings, 3-4 hours.

## **Flower Arranger**

Provide floral arrangements in the Cathedral.

## **Woodworker**

Assist with occasional projects which require woodworking skills.

## **Sewing and Needlework**

Assist with occasional projects, including mending vestments and making resources for children's work.

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# The Cathedral

St Edmundsbury Cathedral is Suffolk's cathedral, situated in the heart of Bury St Edmunds open and available to everyone.

As a physical place it is the cathedra, the seat of the Bishop, a centre of worship and mission, and is a symbol of the aspirations of the wider diocese.

As a spiritual place it is a focus for pilgrimage and pastoral care. As a place of heritage, located on the historic Abbey of St Edmund site, it is a window into key moments from the past thousand years.

As a cultural place it is a venue for learning and exploration, for artistic and musical imagination and experimentation.

As a convening place it gathers communities in debate, questioning and discussion.

St Edmundsbury Cathedral is the sum of all these: a gathering place for communities of the our diocese and county, and for pilgrims and visitors from farther afield.

**The Cathedral is open daily**

**Entry is by donation**

**All are welcome**



# A Brief History of The Cathedral

1020	Foundation of the Benedictine Abbey
1065-97	Abbot Baldwin builds St Denys Church
1121-48	Abbot Anselm replaces St Denys with church dedicated to St James
1400s	New chancel built
1503-51	New Nave built, designed by John Wastell, Master Mason and resident of Bury St Edmunds
1711	Medieval chancel replaced
1860-70	New chancel built, work of Sir Gilbert Scott. Pitched roof added to Nave
1914	Creation of the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich (previously West Suffolk was in Diocese of Ely and East Suffolk in Diocese of Norwich) St James Church becomes a Cathedral
1943	Stephen Dykes Bower appointed as Architect for the Cathedral
1959-61	West Porch and Cloisters added
1963-70	New Quire, Chapels and Crossing added
1988	Stephen Dykes Bower retires as Cathedral Architect
1988-90	Cathedral Centre including Song School built
1994	Stephen Dykes Bower dies and leaves £2 million to Trustees for the completion of the Cathedral
1997	Millennium Commission grants £5.15 million for the completion of the Cathedral to the design of Hugh Mathew
1997	Appeal launched to raise the remaining funds for the Project
1999	Work starts on the North Transept
2005	Millennium Tower completed
2008	Cloisters and Chapel of the Transfiguration opened
2009	Cathedral changes its dedication to become the Cathedral Church of St James and St Edmund
2010	Vaulted ceiling inside the Millennium Tower is completed
2010	New organ built by Harrison and Harrison of Co. Durham
2015	Refurbishment of the former Refectory, now Pilgrims' Kitchen
2015-16	Refurbishment and renaming of Pilgrims' Kitchen & Edmund Room