BURY DROP IN

St Edmundsbury Cathedral



Choral Evensong celebrating the ongoing work of Bury Drop In

Sunday 25 October 2026, 3.30pm

Welcome to St Edmundsbury Cathedral

St Edmundsbury Cathedral is Suffolk's Cathedral. It is a place of worship and mission; a place of welcome and hospitality, serving the Diocese, County and beyond. Rooted in the foundation of the ancient Abbey of St Edmund, we hold our Benedictine principles close. Built on that heritage, the Cathedral today continues to proclaim the Christian faith through our work in worship, mission, hospitality and sustainability, underpinned by our values of faith, welcome, compassion and confidence.

St Edmundsbury Cathedral is part of the **Inclusive Church** Network. As such, we believe in a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate on grounds of age, disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality.

St Edmundsbury Cathedral is committed to **environmental action** and is a 'Fairtrade Cathedral'. This order of service is printed on recycled paper.

St Edmundsbury Cathedral is committed to the **safeguarding**, care and nurture of everyone within our community. If you have any concerns about your own or another's welfare, please contact our Cathedral Safeguarding Officer, Tanya Dawson, at tanyadawson@stedscathedral.org or on 07736 994036. Alternatively, you can speak to any of the clergy or wardens on duty here today.

To assist you at today's service, please take note of the following information.

Accessibility

- An induction loop system is in operation.
- The order of service indicates whether to sit, stand or kneel. However, please feel free to do whichever is most comfortable for you.
- Large-print orders of service are available.

Photography, Filming and Live-streaming

- For safeguarding reasons, members of the public are not permitted to take photographs or video recordings during the service.
- 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.
- 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 ensure your mobile phones are turned to silent.

Bury Drop In

Bury Drop In is a vital lifeline for many people in crisis. It offers a nutritious homecooked meal, a safe place to rest, emergency provisions, and signposting to local services. In this service we give thanks to God for Bury Drop In and for all those who support their work; we pray for all who are homeless; and we remember, by name, those from the Bury Drop in community who have died in the past year.

Thank you for joining us for this special occasion, to reflect on the journey and look forward to the future of the work being done to support homeless and vulnerably housed people in Bury St Edmunds.

Your support can help keep this vital service open for people who have nowhere else to turn. With your help, your donation can provide meals, emergency provisions, and a safe, welcoming place for people experiencing homelessness. Please donate at burydropin.org/get-involved/donate or scan the QR code below:



Music at today's service is provided by the
Damian Singers

The Order of Service

All stand as the procession enters.

The Canon Precentor gives

The Welcome

All remain standing to sing

The Processional Hymn

We bring you, Lord, our prayer and praise
that every child of earth
should live and grow in freedom's ways,
in dignity and worth.

We praise for such a task begun
to serve each other's need,
for every cause of justice won,
for every fetter freed.

Our prayers are for a world in pain
where force and fear prevail,
the plough becomes the sword again,
and hope and harvests fail.

Alike our prayer and praise express
the wants of humankind,
that those in bondage and distress
their larger freedoms find.

So may we still maintain the fight
till earth's oppressions cease
before the universal right
to liberty and peace.

In Christ we learn to love and care
and spread his truth abroad;
and in his Name we lift our prayer:
'Your kingdom come, O Lord.'

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926-2024
Music: Wiltshire*, George Thomas Smart, 1776-1867*

All remain standing as the Canon Precentor 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 those who 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.

All remain 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, Herbert Sumsion, 1899-1995

All sit as the choir sings

The Psalmody

O Lord, thy word : endureth for ever in heaven.

Thy truth also remaineth from one generation to another :
thou hast laid the foundation of the earth, and it abideth.

They continue this day according to thine ordinance :
for all things serve thee.

If my delight had not been in thy law :
I should have perished in my trouble.

I will never forget thy commandments :
for with them thou hast quickened me.

I am thine, O save me : for I have sought thy commandments.

The ungodly laid wait for me to destroy me :
but I will consider thy testimonies.

I see that all things come to an end :
but thy commandment is exceeding broad.

Lord, what love have I unto thy law :
all the day long is my study in it.

Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies :
for they are ever with me.

I have more understanding than my teachers :
for thy testimonies are my study.

I am wiser than the aged : because I keep thy commandments.

I have refrained my feet from every evil way :
that I may keep thy word.

I have not shrunk from thy judgements : for thou teachest me.

O how sweet are thy words unto my throat :
yea, sweeter than honey unto my mouth.

Through thy commandments I get understanding :
therefore I hate all evil ways.

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.

Words: Psalm119.89-104

All sit as HM Lord-Lieutenant of Suffolk and Patron of Bury Drop In, Mr Mark Pendlington, reads

The First Reading

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 as the choir sings

The Magnificat

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: Magnificat in A, Charles Villiers Stanford, 1852-1924

All sit as a Bury Drop In volunteer reads

The Second Reading

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 as the choir sings

The Nunc Dimittis

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: Nunc Dimittis in A, Charles Villiers Stanford, 1852-1924

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 Catholic 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

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

The Collect of the Day

Grant, we beseech thee, merciful Lord, to thy faithful people
pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins,
and serve thee with a quiet mind; 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, Herbert Sumsion, 1899-1995

All remain seated as the choir sings

The Anthem

Many waters cannot quench love,
neither can the floods drown it. Love is strong as death.
Greater love hath no man than this,
that a man lay down his life for his friends.
Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree,
that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness.
Ye are washed, ye are sanctified,
ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus.
Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation;
that ye should shew forth the praises of him
who hath call'd you out of darkness into his marvellous light.
I beseech you, brethren, by the mercies of God,
that you present your bodies, a living sacrifice, holy,
acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Words: Song of Solomon 8.7; John 15.13; 1 Peter 2.24;
1 Corinthians 6.11; 1 Peter 2.9; Romans 12.1
Music: John Ireland, 1879-1962

All remain seated for

The Address

The Reverend Canon Matthew Vernon
Canon Pastor and Sub Dean

All remain seated or kneel as the Reverend Robert Green leads

The Act of Remembrance

During the last year a number of the Bury Drop In family have died. Today we give thanks to God them. We remember with gratitude the friendship they shared, the experiences they brought with them, and the unique gifts and personalities through which they enriched our community.

We remember:

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

Jay
Jamie
Lee
Gavin
Cynthia (volunteer)

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

God of heaven,
we commend to your loving care
those whom we have known and loved.
You created them in your image,
you knew them completely,
and you loved them without end.
Grant them your peace;
let light perpetual shine upon them;
and receive them into the embrace of your eternal love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

All stand as the Canon Pastor and Sub 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 to sing

The Hymn

The kingdom of God is justice and joy,
for Jesus restores what sin would destroy;
God's power and glory in Jesus we know,
and here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.

The kingdom of God is mercy and grace,
the lepers are cleansed, the sinners find place,
the outcast are welcomed God's banquet to share,
and hope is awakened in place of despair.

The kingdom of God is challenge and choice,
believe the good news, repent and rejoice!
His love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross,
our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.

God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal,
in Jesus begun, in heaven made whole;
the heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call,
and all things cry glory to God all in all!

Words: Bryn Rees, 1911-1983
Music: Paderborn*, German folk melody included in Gesangbuch, Paderborn, 1765*
arr. Sydney Hugo Nicholson, 1875-1947

All remain standing as the Canon Pastor and Sub Dean gives

The Blessing

All remain standing as the procession departs and the organist plays

The Organ Voluntary

Imperial March
Edward Elgar, 1857-1934

Giving

Any donations given at today's service will go to Bury Drop In.
Please give as generously as you can.

If you do not carry cash you can donate using one of the contactless giving points or by scanning the QR code below.

If you are a UK taxpayer, please consider using a Gift Aid envelope (remembering to fill in your details and sign it) or making a written declaration allowing the Chancellor to add 25% to your gift.
In this way a gift of £5.00 becomes £6.25 at no extra cost to you.

Thank you for your generosity.



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