

# SOCIAL NEWSLETTER

January 2026

**Hello everyone**, and welcome to the first issue of our Social Newsletter for 2026. In this edition we look back over what we did last year, as well as looking forward to what we have planned for 2026.

As always, do please let us know if you have any views or thoughts about our Parish Social Newsletters

Contact: [pat.fuchter@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pat.fuchter@hotmail.co.uk) 07867 318438

**Review of 2025** - Another wonderful year of community and friendship both within our own parish and more widely with the Christian community in our area! You have shown your love in so many ways:

**Sharing our continuing spiritual journey** – Many of us last year were blessed to be present at services in our parish to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Marriage! The Confirmation of four of our young men was particularly special as Bishop Peter's first visit to our parish, and he joined us for a wonderful reception afterwards.

*Bishop Peter with our newly confirmed boys*



We also had an excellent (if somewhat hot!) Pilgrimage to Bury St Edmunds led by Fr Peter; and an inspiring few weeks for the Season of Creation culminated in many people joining the active Spiritual journey – Via Creationis – in praise of God's creation around the grounds of OLSE

**Coming together in companionship** – Our regular Teas and Coffees after Sunday Mass at OLSE and the Wednesday Mass at St Cecilia have continued to be well attended and very much appreciated as weekly opportunities to get together and catch up.

*Many also came together from both churches to take part in the annual Christmas Tea outing in December.*



A fantastic new initiative was introduced by Nick Mansell last year – the WhyBeLonely Social club met each month for afternoons of fun, music, companionship and refreshments. Sadly, Nick passed away in October, but this well-loved monthly event will continue to be held in his memory.

Also sadly, in 2025, we said goodbye to the Sisters on the sale of St Teresa's Convent in Hunstanton. They had been a large part of our parish life for many years and shared much with us both spiritually and socially. They will be sorely missed!

## **Fundraising**

*Just some of the delicious cakes you donated for the Coffee Morning in October in support of Ukrainian orphans*





We came together for a number of fundraising events last year: the Pancake evening in February, the Strawberry Fayre in June, A Coffee and Cake sale morning in October and in December, the Advent Fayre -which included some handmade Christmas gifts



In total, we raised a sum of £2455 which you generously donated for The British Red Cross, Ukrainian Orphans, and King's Lynn Night Shelter, as well as for our own Parish funds.

**Sharing our gifts and skills with our parish** – We wanted to celebrate the many people in our parish who give their time, knowledge and skills to ensure that we can continue to do all the things we do. We discovered that nearly half of our congregation contribute in some way – often behind the scenes. Many of them attended and enjoyed the lunch put on for them. We hope to be able to get the group together again this year.

*A celebration of and for Parish Volunteers*



**Ecumenical events** – Our relationship with others in the Christian community also continued to grow last year. In the Holy Father, Pope Francis' last Jubilee Year: Pilgrims of Hope, it was particularly special that all the other churches fully supported our proposal to base that year's Faith Services and meals around the theme of Hope.

We also took part in the joyous Songs of Praise (and picnic) on Hunstanton Green. And earlier in the year in the Ecumenical Lenten Soup programme – our own service and soup session raised an additional £145 which we donated to the local foodbank.

We hope that our fellowship with the Christian Community in our area can be further developed this year, and very much encourage everyone to look out for opportunities to take part in joint events.

## **What's happening in 2026**

You will find a full calendar of all planned events, services, meetings etc for this year on the noticeboards in both our churches.

We hope that you will be able to attend as many of these as possible. If you haven't previously attended a parish event and are not sure what to expect, why not chat to other parishioners to find out more? In particular, any member of the Parish Steering Group will be able to give you more information:

**OLSE** – Anne Brereton, Sukie Elliott, Pat Fuchter, Asia Hutchinson, Paul Mulligan, Pat Nevin

**St Cecilia** – Patricia Barkess, Chris Davey, Lorna Hutchinson, Maureen Vernon, Andrew Wordsworth

The monthly Steering Group meetings which are held alternately at OLSE and St Cecilia include discussing plans for all our social events and is open to all parishioners. We always need help and support with each of our events and would very much welcome any new interest. **So please do look out for further information about events and have a think about whether you could offer your knowledge and skills to make them a success.**

The things to look out for in the coming weeks:

**Parish Pancake Evening** – Tuesday 17 February 4 -6pm at St Cecilia, Dersingham. If you can help with this in any way, please contact Lorna Hutchinson.

**Ecumenical Lenten Lunches** – These will take the form of a short service followed by a light (soup and roll) lunch and be held every Friday during Lent – hosted by one of the churches in our area. Our own contribution will take place on Friday 6 March in collaboration with St Edmund church in Hunstanton. It will be held at St Edmund's church which can more easily accommodate larger numbers for a meal.