

# Parish Report September 2015

## Councillor

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### **Much-loved and respected Sudbury priest The Reverend Canon Gregory Webb, 60, dies**

A “much-loved” and “respected” priest who was at the heart of the Sudbury community has died from cancer. The Reverend Canon Gregory Webb, 60, priest in charge at St Gregory’s church in Sudbury and Rural Dean for the Sudbury Deanery, passed away peacefully on Friday at home surrounded by his family. Tributes have been pouring in for Rev Webb, who was the driving force behind a £250,000 makeover at the 14th century St Gregory’s Church, including new toilets and a kitchen area.

Sudbury Mayor Jack Owen said he did “so much for the community”. He said: “I think he was a remarkable man. He always had a smile on his face. He was very well-respected by all sides and there wasn’t a nasty thought in his mind.” He added: “If you like, he was the person I think everybody looked up to as being the leader of the local Churches Together [group]. This is a great loss to the community.”

The Right Reverend Martin Seeley, Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, said: “I am immensely sad that Greg has died, and with so much ahead for him, Jackie and the family, as well as for St Gregory’s. “I have known Greg for several years and have valued his wisdom and counsel. He bore his illness with an extraordinary equanimity and I was humbled each time I visited by his gentle spirit and profound faith.”

The Venerable Dr David Jenkins, Archdeacon of Sudbury, said Rev Webb was “much loved”, “respected”, very popular with his fellow clergy and lay people alike and a “generous hearted, deeply spiritual man”.

Rev Webb had devoted almost 25 years of his life to serving Suffolk communities, including in Bury St Edmunds. He served as Curate at St George’s in Bury from 1991 to 1994, as Priest in Charge at All Saints in the town from 1994 to 2002, and as Team Rector of All Saints, St John’s and St George’s churches from 2002, as well as Rural Dean of Thingoe Deanery in the Bury area from 2001.

In the Sudbury area Revd Webb was Priest in Charge of St Gregory’s with St Peter and Chilton for seven years, leading a congregation with a Sunday attendance of more than 100 people and serving a large town parish. He was involved at the heart of Sudbury life, with the major civic events in the community and as governor of both St Gregory’s and Tudor Primary Schools.

His colleague at Sudbury, the Reverend Helen Mitchell, Associate Priest, said: “Greg was a lovely man and a wonderful priest, an inspiring preacher and leader and a caring pastor. The depth of faith with which he approached his death has in itself been an inspiration to the congregation of St Gregory’s and we will miss him so much; as will so many people in the town of Sudbury where he was well known and well-loved.”

Reverend Webb was married to Jackie, a teacher, with three grown up children who are all married, and had five grandchildren. His funeral is being held at St Gregory’s Church on Thursday, August 20, at noon. People are able to leave messages of condolence or light a candle at the church in his memory. Messages can also be left at [facebook.com/stgregorychurchsudbury](https://www.facebook.com/stgregorychurchsudbury) or visit [www.stgregorychurchsudbury.co.uk](http://www.stgregorychurchsudbury.co.uk) and follow the link.

### **New Vaccination Programme Launched to protect against Meningitis**

Public Health Suffolk are welcoming the start of the new MenACWY vaccination programme, offering teenagers protection against meningitis and septicaemia. GPs will be inviting all teenagers aged 17 and 18 (born between 1 September 1996 and 31 August 1997) for the vaccine. It’s important that anyone who plans to go to university this year gets vaccinated before they leave. This group are at increased

risk of getting meningococcal disease, as many of them will be mixing closely with lots of new people at university, some of whom may unknowingly carry the meningococcal bacteria. As well as Men W, the vaccination also protects against other forms of the disease – meningococcal disease types A, C and Y – which can also be fatal or cause long term complications for those affected.

Councillor Tony Goldson, Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member for Health said: “There are over 17,000 17 and 18 year olds living in Suffolk and I encourage all eligible teenagers to take-up the vaccination offer when they are contacted by their GP. Those aged 19 to 24 who are also first time university entrants can also contact their GP for the vaccination. Meningitis can be deadly and survivors can often be left with severe disabilities as a result of this disease so this vaccine will save lives and prevent permanent disability. I would advise everyone to familiarise themselves with the signs and symptoms of meningococcal disease and seek urgent medical advice if they have any concerns. The disease develops rapidly and early symptoms can include headache, vomiting, muscle pain and fever with cold hands and feet. Trust your instincts – don’t wait for a rash to develop before seeking urgent medical attention. This vaccine programme is being introduced in response to a growing increase in cases of a highly aggressive strain of meningococcal disease, group W. Cases of MenW have been increasing year-on-year in the UK, from 22 cases in 2009 to 117 in 2014. It is currently responsible for around a quarter of all laboratory-confirmed meningococcal cases in England. Professor John Watson, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, said: “Protecting young people as they embark upon one of the most important periods of their life is crucial, particularly when they are at risk of catching the potentially deadly meningococcal disease. We know that there has been a steady and rapid increase in the MenW strain of meningococcal disease since 2009 in the student population. Which is why GP’s will be inviting teenagers aged 17-18 to come in to get the vaccine.”

Sue Davie, Chief Executive of Meningitis Now, said: “As a charity dealing with the consequences of the disease on a daily basis I would plead directly to parents to make sure that their children gets the Men ACWY vaccination. We are particularly concerned with those going to university or college in the autumn as they are at a higher risk from what has been called ‘freshers’ flu’. It is critical that young people are not complacent about the disease and they take the necessary steps to protect themselves, stay vigilant and seek urgent medical help if they suspect it. This is a cruel disease; it does not discriminate and could significantly alter the future outlook for young people if they are not protected or meningitis aware.”

### **Facebook, Twitter and Instagram are cause of nearly 2,000 crimes in Suffolk including rape and harrassment**

Serious crimes ranging from rape, theft, harassment and fraud have been linked to abuse of social media, say Suffolk police. Between January 2011 and July 8 this year, the force recorded 1,956 crimes involving social media. The figures, released under Freedom of Information laws, have steadily risen since 2012 when 359 offences were recorded, increasing to 389 in 2013, 442 in 2014, and 400 in the first six months of this year.

Out of these crimes, only 177 offenders were charged, and in 1,670 cases, suspects were either not identified or no further action was taken.

A Suffolk Constabulary spokesman said complaints about alleged crimes linked to the use of Facebook, Twitter and Instagram had increased with the sites’ popularity. “People have a right to publish their views and images but when these become indecent, threatening or offensive then the individuals they affect also have the right to report them,” he added. “The public has a responsibility to keep their comments on social networks within the law. If they are not then the police will assist with any prosecution.”

During the period, 331 of the crimes involved victims aged under 16, five of whom were aged 10 or under. In September 2013, a boy was charged for possessing an indecent photograph of a girl under the age of 10 via Facebook. In January 2014, a male purportedly caused or incited a female aged under 10 to engage in a sexual act through the use of Instagram – a suspect was not identified. In December, police were told a girl aged 10 or under was harassed on Facebook by a 21-year-old woman but it resulted in no police action.

Suffolk Constabulary linked the rape of a girl aged under 10 to Facebook in July but a suspect was not identified. The fifth involved a young boy who allegedly received a death threat on Facebook but a date and suspect were not recorded. Almost 250 of the known suspects in the 1,956 crimes were aged under 16. Gordon Jones,

Suffolk County Council's cabinet member for children's services, said cyber-bullying was a "real concern" for young people. A county council survey showed online aggression, including cyber-bullying, discrimination and homophobic bullying, doubles between the ages of 10–11 and 14–15. "We work closely with schools to ensure young people are aware of the potential dangers of being online," he added. "I would urge any young person who is concerned about or experiencing any form of online bullying to speak out and talk to their parents, teachers or another trusted adult."

The site that has seen the most crimes linked to it by a vast majority (1,448) is Facebook, followed by Twitter (36) then Instagram (30). Facebook and Instagram declined to comment on the issue but both stressed they had a number of tools in place to safeguard its users. Twitter also gave no comment. Out of the victims who were identified, 1,336 were female and 534 were male. Only 16 of the victims were over the age of 60, the oldest was 75.

An NSPCC spokeswoman said keeping children safe online was "the biggest child protection challenge of this generation. Parents have a key role to play in their children's online lives but we know some feel out of their depth," she added. "It's important to have open, honest conversations – talk to your child about their favourite sites and what they like doing online. Building trust and openness keeps everyone safe. Keep your knowledge up-to-date – having the right information at your fingertips will help you feel confident and in control."

The charity has a 'Net Aware' tool on its website which offers a guide to the social networks, sites and apps children use. Advice to parents who suspect their child may be a victim of cyber abuse includes explaining what bullying is and asking if they are being bullied, let them know they can talk to you or another trusted adult, help them find things to do that make them feel good to build their confidence and talk to their school.

### **Suffolk GCSE Results Rise**

More of Suffolk's 16-year-olds achieved expected levels of GCSE attainment this year, it has emerged today. Provisional results collated in Suffolk suggest around a 4% rise in the number of students getting five or more A\*-C grades, including English and Maths. It means 56% of Suffolk's year 11s got the expected level of attainment. The validated figure for 2014 was 52%.

The results also saw a significant improvement for disadvantaged pupils – these are children looked after and pupils eligible for free school meals. The early results reported to Suffolk County Council indicate 72% of schools have seen a rise in the attainment of pupils who are disadvantaged.

Councillor Lisa Chambers, Suffolk County Council's cabinet member for education and skills, said: "Early indications show a significant rise in the number of GCSE students gaining five or more good A\*-C grades, including English and Maths. We are particularly pleased to see a substantial improvement in results for disadvantaged pupils across Suffolk; this rapidly closes the gap in attainment for this group. This remains an important focus of our action plan for school improvement. The overall rise in students meeting our expected attainment levels is testament to the hard work and commitment of heads, governors, teachers, parents and, most importantly, students. We will continue to work with, and challenge, schools to drive up educational attainment. Ofsted has recognised that our Raising the Bar vision and strategy is moving us in the right direction, and we are implementing our action plan to increase the speed of improvement".

*These figures are based on self-reported data from schools and academies to Suffolk County Council. The results are subject to validation by the Department for Education in the New Year.*

### **Council Leader meets members of SAY on International Youth Day**

Suffolk County Council leader Colin Noble marked International Youth Day by meeting representatives of the Suffolk Assembly of Youth to discuss civic engagement. The Suffolk Assembly of Youth (SAY) is a network of young people in Suffolk who share the issues important to them and work to improve services for young people. SAY aims to make real changes through influencing local decision-makers. At the meeting held at West Suffolk House, Bury St Edmunds, Councillor Noble held a question and answer session which touched on a wide range of issues including:

Mental health

Lowering the voting age

Improving the understanding of politics

Ways of improving youth services in the county

Amongst those attending were Toby Jeffery, Member of Youth Parliament – Bury St Edmunds Constituency, representatives from the Christian Resource Centre youth group from the Howard Estate Bury St. Edmunds, and young people currently participating in National Citizenship Service.

Suffolk County Council Leader Colin Noble said: "International Youth Day provides the perfect opportunity to promote civic engagement to our county's youngsters. The engagement and participation of youth in community politics and public life is essential, we need their voice to be heard. Our communities only become stronger when people from all walks of life come forward to take leadership roles or give their time to run voluntary and community groups. I hope I can play a part in giving our younger people the skills and confidence they need to play a vital part in our civic society"

International Youth Day is a United Nations initiative that was first celebrated in 1998. The annual event is now marked on 12 August each year and aims to celebrate the contribution youths make to society. This year's theme is youth civic engagement – emphasising the role played by the involvement and inclusion of young people in building social cohesion and community well-being. More information on the Suffolk Youth Assembly can be found at [www.thesource.me.uk/SAY](http://www.thesource.me.uk/SAY)

### **You can leave your cap on and recycle more say Suffolk Councils**

The Suffolk Waste Partnership is encouraging residents to recycle aluminium screw tops from glass bottles, along with the glass bottles on which they came. The 'Leave Your Cap On' campaign aims to increase the recycling of aluminium screw tops and collars by encouraging people to screw the tops back onto the empty glass bottles before taking them to one of the many glass recycling banks located at sites throughout Suffolk.

With the summer festival season in full swing councils across Suffolk are keen to encourage householders to get in the habit of saving their bottle tops to boost recycling rates. To kick the campaign off, eye-catching stickers have been placed on the council's bottle banks at recycling sites across the county. The 'Leave Your Cap On' campaign highlights the importance of recycling the aluminium closures which, like all aluminium and glass packaging are 100% recyclable; so every screw top and bottle deposited in a glass bank can be transformed into something new, including more bottles, drink cans, mobile phones and even car parts.

Speaking about the new aluminium recycling campaign, Cllr Clive Arthey, chair of the Suffolk Waste Partnership, said: "The SWP are always looking for ways to improve recycling. Aluminium is a valuable recyclable metal and can be recycled over and over again. Thanks to modern methods, it is now easy to recover the tops from glass bottles, so they can be taken to the bottle bank with the tops on and we can all help to recycle even more."

Rick Hindley, Executive Director of the Aluminium Packaging Recycling Organisation (Alupro) said: "The market for aluminium bottle closures is growing rapidly, particularly for wine bottles, so it is important that we get in the habit of recycling them so that the aluminium can be re-melted and re-used. Simply screwing the top back on the empty bottle before recycling is the simplest and easiest way for people to do their bit in recovering this valuable, sustainable and recyclable material.

Rebecca Cocking, Head of Container Affairs at British Glass, who are part-funding the Alupro campaign in association with the European Aluminium Foil Association's (EAFA) Closure Group, said: "We see this as an excellent campaign that both informs and helps the consumer to recycle as much as possible. It also highlights the important role bring banks play in getting good quality glass back into the system, helping saving energy and raw materials."

So when you next recycle your empties from your summer barbecue, remember you can 'Leave Your Cap On.'

### **Crack On Foundation brings unwanted electrical goods back to life**

Thetford based social enterprise, Crack On Foundation, has partnered with Suffolk County Council and FCC Environment, to rescue discarded electrical items. Since April, the pilot scheme has seen more than 200 small electrical items such as DVD players, games consoles, garden tools and vacuum cleaners diverted from the waste stream at the Mildenhall household waste recycling centre (HWRC).

The HWRC is operated by leading waste and resource management company FCC Environment. The items were then tested, repaired and resold at Crack On Foundation's shops in Suffolk and Norfolk, helping to raise funds for the social enterprise.

Mark Byford, CEO of Crack On, said: "The trial has gone really well and the quality of the items is high, with many only needing a simple repair. People coming to our shops now request electrical items, the public's perception is extremely positive."

Cabinet member for Environment and Public Protection, Councillor Matthew Hicks, said: "We are delighted at the success of the trial with Crack On. We are very keen to increase reuse at our household waste recycling centres and to support third sector organisations at the same time. Crack On Foundation has done a great job of identifying suitable items and increasing awareness of reuse amongst our customers. Through the trial, the Council has gathered useful information about how it can increase reuse of small domestic appliances and has decided to extend the trial."

Steve Bell, Reuse Development Manager at FCC Environment, said: "The aim of the trial was to determine the social, environmental and economic benefits from the reuse of items from the small Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment stream. Unwanted electrical goods are reused instead of going to waste, and local residents can buy items at great prices while supporting a local foundation. FCC Environment is pleased to be supporting Crack On Foundation which delivers help, support, coaching and mentoring to young people." –

See more at: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/show/crack-on-foundation-brings-unwanted-electrical-goods-back-to-life#sthash.RV6pFa6l.dpuf>

### **Launch of the new First Endeavour Annual Ticket**

Suffolk County Council has partnered with First Buses to launch a new range of tickets in and around Ipswich, which will benefit Endeavour Card holders. The First Endeavour Annual ticket will allow anyone between the ages of 16-19 who has a Endeavour Card to purchase an annual ticket, but pay for it in monthly instalments.

This scheme has a number of benefits for Endeavour Card holders who sign up such as:

- Spreading the cost of an annual ticket over 12 smaller payments
- Fixing the cost of your travel for the whole year
- Unlimited travel on any First services
- Simple to join and you can cancel at the end of any month
- Tickets are posted directly to your home

This scheme will allow students to not only travel on First services to and from school, but will also allow them to use public transport outside of school hours and includes unlimited travel at weekends and during school holidays. The scheme is not limited just to students, people can take advantage of all the benefits just by being a 16-19 Endeavour Card holder.

Further information on the Endeavour Card scheme, including how to apply can be found here:

<http://www.suffolkonboard.com/endeavour-card/16-19-card>

Suffolk County Councillor James Finch, cabinet member for Highways and Transportation said: "I am very happy we have partnered with First Buses to offer our residents this deal. The annual ticket will enable younger people unlimited travel around the Ipswich area whilst being able to spread the costs, making it more affordable for them to travel into town and access the wonderful amenities Ipswich has to offer."

Steve Wickers, Commercial Director, First Eastern Counties Buses said: "We are delighted to partner with Suffolk County Council to promote the Endeavour Card scheme with discounted travel to young people within Ipswich and its surrounding areas. I hope more people take advantage of this scheme and enjoy the experience of using our recently refurbished buses."

See more at: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/show/launch-of-the-new-first-endeavour-annual-ticket#sthash.UEFcdiAl.dpuf>