

BISHOP NIGEL CONSECRATES POLSTEAD CHURCHYARD EXTENSION

The Rt. Rev. Nigel Stock, Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, consecrated the extension of Polstead churchyard on Wednesday 8 December. The service, attended by over fifty residents and guests, took place in the church and then in the churchyard, where Bishop Nigel, accompanied by the Rev. Jackie Sephton and the churchwardens, consecrated the four corners of the extension.



Following the consecration, Bishop Nigel conducted a further service dedicating the recently re-ordered South Aisle to Saint Cedd, who is said to have preached under the Gospel Oak, in what is now the garden of Polstead Hall, in 653AD.

Afterwards, those present joined the PCC for tea and Bishop Nigel met those attending, including Mrs Elsie Braybrook, who recalled attending the consecration of the last extension of the churchyard, as a girl of fourteen, in 1934.

The land for the extension was gifted to the church in 1969 by the late Mr Stringer, a previous owner of Polstead Hall, and used for grazing until needed. The PCC would like to thank all who helped to achieve the extension, which involved a full archaeological excavation of the site and in total cost over £25,000, and in particular:

The Friends of Polstead Church, for generous funding support;
Mr Henry Engelheart, for generous help in defining the boundary of the extension and help in clearing the site;
Mr Nick Peasland, Assington, for survey and planning services;
Mr Toby Owles, for generous donations towards the cost of the estate fencing;
Mr Kevin King and members of his family, for manufacture and installation of the estate fencing and the generous gift of the kissing gate;
Mr Simon Hayter, Scotland Place Farm, Stoke by Nayland, for cultivation and sowing; and
Mr Martin Carr, Sparling, Benham & Brough, Solicitors, Colchester, for legal services.

Anne Lewis Bill Wigglesworth
Churchwardens