

fursey pilgrims

Special Event

'CELEBRATING SAINT FURSEY'

with Norwich Cathedral Choirmen

Saturday 14th June 2014

[St Mary's Parish Church, Aldeby, Norfolk](#)

The celebration began with an introductory talk given by Fursey Pilgrim the Revd Canon David Abraham entitled 'Who was Fursey? Why Aldeby?'. To read a transcript of the talk click [here](#). Vespers of St. Fursey was then sung by Choirmen of [Norwich Cathedral](#) using the medieval Office for celebrating St. Fursey under the direction of Alexander Turner. The Officiant was the Revd Canon Peter Doll, Canon Librarian of Norwich Cathedral. The choir sang in the original Latin and plainsong close to the church's north transept's Saint Fursey Chapel. This chapel is the only known medieval dedication in England to this first missionary to East Anglia. It was also almost certainly the first time that this service, which comes from a French manuscript, will have been sung in Aldeby to honour their special saint. The manuscript dates from 1256, and was researched, transcribed and translated by [Dr Ann Buckley](#). Among her other appointments, Dr Buckley is a Research Associate at the Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at Trinity College, Dublin. She has published widely on liturgies for Irish saints in the Middle Ages, medieval song, and music in Ireland before 1600. For further information on the discovery click [here](#). To end the celebration, refreshments were served by members of the Aldeby congregation.

The celebration, which was jointly sponsored by the Aldeby Parochial Church Council and the Fursey Pilgrims, also marked the official launch of our second Fursey Primary Source '[NOBILITATE VIGENS FURSEUS](#) - The Medieval Office of St Fursey'. Nobilitate contains the entire music and Office for a feast of St Fursey with the Latin text and a parallel English translation, together with a transcript of Dr Buckley's [2011 Fursey Lecture](#) on the Office. Our celebration today used the First Vespers part of this Office.

A restoration programme for St. Mary's north transept and Saint Fursey's Chapel was completed in 2009. The Fursey Pilgrims were present for the first act of worship held there for a decade on Sunday the 24th May in that year. For details click [here](#).