**Weekly Prayer Focus: 12th May 2019**

**Southgate Church, Bury St Edmunds**

*Full Text*

Bury St Edmunds is a beautiful, historic market town in Suffolk. The town played a vital part in the drawing up of Magna Carta and the extensive Medieval Abbey was home to the shrine of King Edmund, making Bury an important place of pilgrimage, second only to Canterbury.

Southgate Church serves the Nowton Neighbourhood, an area of mixed housing, local shops and amenities to the south of the town. It is a single congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership between the Church of England, The United Reformed Church and the Baptist Union of Great Britain. They are currently seeking a minister.

The main hall in the community centre is home for Southgate’s Sunday morning worship, placing the church at the heart of the community, in a building with which many local residents are already familiar. The hope is that this makes it less daunting and challenging for people to pass through their doors than it might be in a more traditional building.

Other rooms in the community centre provide space for Sunday clubs for children and young people, and for prayer and ministry, before and after the service. The church centre is well used throughout the week by a wide range of groups, for all ages, from toddlers to more senior citizens. The church is a member of the Evangelical Alliance, with a vision to bring Christ to our Community, and actively supports the work of Churches Together in Bury St Edmunds and District.

Midweek groups include CoffeeStop, Friendship Club, Ladies’ Thursday Group, Friendship Club for people over 55, SPOTS (for parents, carers and toddlers), Youth Club and Liquid Sundae. The church also runs two lunchtime clubs in Hardwick Primary School, which between them reach out to Years 2-6.

**Prayer Focus**

* Please pray for us as we seek to appoint a new minister.
* We’re trialling Messy Church and have a session in June with the aim of developing a whole family outreach, so please pray for that. We’re confident about reaching children, but would like to reach parents as well.
* We’ve been blessed in our time of interregnum to receive visiting ministers and we’ve seen growth both in numbers and in individuals’ faith and we'd like your prayer support for that to continue.

*Short Text*

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