

NOW THAT I have reached the marker of 50 years as a priest in the CofE and my 80th birthday, I plan to celebrate by cycling a minimum of 800 miles around East London and Essex.

I will be 'prayer cycling', expecting to meet many non-church folk and share with them about Jesus and pray for all the parishes I visit. It will be a sponsored ride in favour of Fellowship Afloat and Tapestry, with whom I have worked as a trustee for 39 years and 24 years respectively.

I'm hoping to share the Gospel, raise some money and encourage church members, especially seniors, to engage in pioneer mission and evangelism (see more on this overleaf). Be assured of prayers for God's Blessing and Enabling.

Hugh Dibbens - Evangelism Adviser in Diocese of Chelmsford.

FROM BISHOP STEPHEN COTTERELL: Young men dream dreams, but old men have visions, and what a visionary Hugh Dibbens is! While many men might consider their 80th birthday an opportunity to slow down, Hugh is speeding up and cycling around East London and Essex to share the message of the gospel and raise money for charities whose work he supports. He has my admiration and support. May this adventure be richly blessed. +Stephen

Fellowship Afloat is an outdoor activity centre based on a lightship, moored in Tollesbury, on the River Blackwater estuary. We welcome 2,000 young people a year to stay on board. It is a life-enhancing place and gives the opportunity to learn sailing and hear about Jesus. We are currently upgrading the ship so that we can accommodate 3,000 a year!

Tapestry in Havering provides services for older people, especially those with dementia, and offers support for carers. Sadly, funding for this from the NHS and the local authority has been cut.

Do please pray for me and the people of East London and Essex that we may all know God more deeply. If you felt able to join in sponsoring me as I look for much-needed funds for Fellowship Afloat and Tapestry, do please get in touch with me or use the JustGiving links shown below.

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Fellowship Afloat: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/hugh-dibbens Tapestry: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/hugh-dibbens1