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## PRESS RELEASE

### St Neots Air Cadets Parade for Banner Dedication and Commissioning of new Squadron Chaplain

Air Cadets and Staff from 2500 (St Neots) Squadron were on parade last Sunday (12<sup>th</sup> Oct) to commission a new Squadron Chaplain, and have their old Squadron Banner "Laid Up" in the Church and the new one Dedicated.

The Squadron formed up at the Royal Air Force Association HQ (RAFA) during the afternoon and marched to St Mary's Church, led by the Squadron Band, for a Service led by the Rev Dr Paul Andrews, Vicar of St Neots and new Chaplain of 2500 Squadron. Flight Sergeant Christine Homewood was the Banner Bearer. Also in attendance was the Mayor and Mayoress of St Neots Cllr Robert Eaton and Mrs Eaton, St Neots Town Crier and Toastmaster Mr Mike Blackburn, Bedfordshire & Cambridgeshire Wing Chaplain, Rev Steve Pullan, Wing Staff Officer - Squadron Leader Paul Thomson-Clark, members of RAFA, Parents, Families and Friends, former Air Cadets, Staff and Civilian Committee members of the Squadron.

During the Service The Rev Steve Pullan commissioned the Rev Dr Paul Andrews as the new Chaplain of 2500 Squadron, this was followed by Readings, which were undertaken by Cadet Cpl Amber King and Cadet Simeon Belfon. Cadets also renewed their enrolment promise and took the collection. On the march past following the Service the salute was taken by Sqn Ldr Paul Thomson-Clark.

Flt Lt David Webb, Officer Commanding the Squadron said "The Squadron's old Banner was purchased and dedicated in 1980 and had served at many local and national events, but has now seen better days and after 28 years there was a definite need for a new one. Cadets have raised funds by holding a raffle, bag-packing and we would like to express grateful thanks to RAFA and to parents and supporters of the Cadets for also raising the necessary funds. It has been a wonderful day and the weather was with us all the way".

Following the Parade light refreshments were served at the RAFA Club.

### **Margaret Bell**

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Photo 1 – Banner Blessing *from left to right* Rev Dr Paul Andrews, F/S Christine Homewood, Flt. Lt. David Webb, Rev Steve Pullan.

Photo 2 – On Parade

Photo 3 – Squadron March past

Photo 4 – Induction of new Chaplain *left to right* Rev Steve Pullan and the Rev Dr Paul Andrews.

Photo 5 – Banner Bearer – Flight Sergeant Christine Homewood.

*Photos courtesy of WMCO Crown Copyright 2008*



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