



Winter
2009-
2010



Worcester Chaplaincy for Agricultural & Rural Life

ACTION PACKED YEAR AHEAD

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2010 is set to be an action packed year with all sorts of different events to enjoy and benefit from. These are designed to provide something for everyone and range from practical activities to academic studies.

Plough Sunday

The Diocesan Plough Service will be at All Saints Church, Burcot Lane, Bromsgrove on Sunday 10th January at 10am. We are delighted to have the Reverend Graham Jones, the National Rural Officer for the Methodist and United Reformed Churches as guest speaker. The Young Farmers clubs will be bringing their usual contribution and the Church Warden from All Saints says that they want to make this the best Plough Sunday Service that this diocese has ever seen!

Lent—a time for growth

To mark the 20th anniversary of the Faith in the Countryside report we have the opportunity to trial a new six session course— " Sustaining Faith in the Countryside. " It has been written with the needs of small churches in mind .

The first session covers how buildings can be an asset instead of a drain. The second session looks at finding volunteers for all those jobs and suggest what you might do when you can't find them.

The third session looks at worship. The fourth considers the working of a benefice or group. Session five is facing the future and the final session is on evangelism.

The course has been circulated through diocesan mailing and if anyone wants a copy let me know or download from www.cofe-worcester.org.uk



It has been written with the needs of small churches in mind.

Countrytastic

This event organised by the Three Counties Agricultural Society takes place at the Malvern Showground on the Thursday after Easter, this year the 8th April.

Started just 2 years ago this has been an enormous success in providing experiences to children that link them to food and farming. More information from www.threecounties.co.uk/countrytastic/

The church has been present every year and is one of the “ must visit ” stalls for children and their



parents.

Previous years activities have included egg decorating, hot cross bun decorating, seed planting, pancake making..... Children get a leaflet explaining the spiritual significance of bread, wine, eggs, pancakes...

It is an enormously good opportunity to bring Christian faith into contact with a large number of people many of whom have little contact with the church. Plans are starting to form for this year.

Any volunteers to help, please be in touch! By the end of the day you will be utterly exhausted with an aching back but feeling immensely satisfied.

Rogation

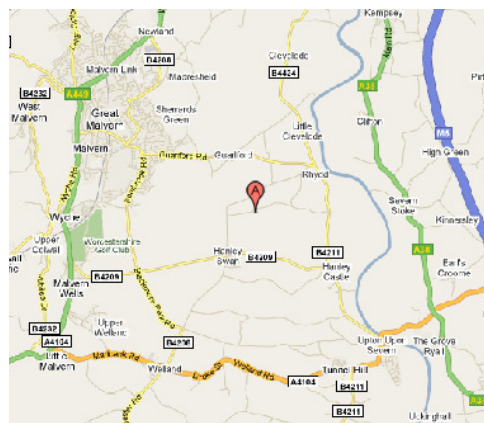
Last year 's Rogation Service at David Glover 's farm was described as “ thought provoking and memorable ” and “ even the teenagers enjoyed it! ” The previous service on Dave Goodwin's farm was equally well received.

This year we come back south in the county to Francis and Di Harcombe 's farm at Broadacres Farm Hanley Swan.

It will be on the evening of Tuesday 11th May (so won 't clash with any church 's Sunday service).

The “ service ” will be a short walk around their farm looking at some of the things they do and learning

about some of the issues that they face and how they have responded to them. Each stop will included a short reflection, prayer and hymn.



We shall build on last year 's involvement of the Young Farmers and include a stock judging competition. Which of the cows do they think are the best milker and why?

After the “ service ” there will be a pig roast and chance to socialise.

Previous services have been described as fascinating and this year 's will be just as good. It helps to connect faith to the food we eat and those who produce it.

Everyone is welcome to this, particularly people from towns and villages who have little contact with farming.

Three Counties Show

Opportunities to welcome, listen and learn at the Three Counties Show. The show is 18th to 20th June. The church has a marquee where we welcome visitors, offering refreshment and hospitality to show goers. As well as daily worship it provides an oasis of peace in busy show. Could you offer a ministry of welcome during the show?

We don't just wait for people to come to us, but we have chaplains who are out



Big Little Church Again!

Following the success of Big Little Church in 2006 we are again giving small churches an opportunity to come together and celebrate in a big way the benefits of being small. Small churches punch above their weight! This event celebrates that and provides an opportunity to learn from each other and to be encouraged.

It will be on Sunday 29th August 2010 in the Severn Hall at the Three Counties Showground. We are delighted to have Rev Martyn Pearcey, Principle of Cuddeston College Oxford, as keynote



and about in the Show listening to the concerns of exhibitors and traders. Could you offer half a day to listen?

The Show also provides an opportunity to learn. Clergy, Lay Readers or others in a position of church leadership are welcome to spend half a day encountering current issues in agriculture. This

is done by escorted visits round the show looking at livestock and machinery hearing at first hand from the exhibitors and traders about the joys and challenges they face. We also visit organisations like the National Farmers

Union This provides an introduction to some of the current issues in agriculture. Previous participants have spoken very highly of the day.

For more information about the training or to be a show chaplain or a welcome in the tent, please be in touch.



We couldn't have chosen a better date! It means we are celebrating the joy of being a small church at a time when churches are likely to be at their smallest!

So, if your vicar is going on holiday and your Church Warden is going to Green Belt they can go off safe in the knowledge that they don't have to arrange cover for services while they are away. Simply cancel what you are doing that Sunday and come and enjoy the encouragement of meeting with small churches.

speaker. 29th August is of course not only in the middle of the holiday period but also a bank holiday weekend and the one when Green Belt meets.

Happy Birthday to RABI

RABI, the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution, is 150 years old next year and to celebrate this milestone we anticipate that Rt Rev John Oliver, former Bishop of Hereford and Chaplain to RABI, will be the preacher at the County Harvest Festival Service. This takes place in early October (date pencilled in but yet to be confirmed).

For several years the collection from that service has been donated to RABI. It is a grant-making charity that supports members of the farming community facing need, hardship or distress. In this county they support 33 long term beneficiaries.

Faith and the Future of the Countryside

This is a major ecumenical conference exploring the future sustainability of communities and their churches.

It marks 20 years since the publication of the Faith in the Countryside report. It will take place from 3rd-5th November at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick in Derbyshire.

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Keynote speakers so far include Professor Michael Winter from the University of Exeter, Professor Mark Shuksmith from the University of Newcastle, and the conference will be Chaired by Rt Reverend Alan Smith, the Bishop of St Albans.

There will be 20 seminars within the four conference themes of rural communities, environment, economy and rural church.

More information from www.rural20.org

Chaplaincy at Pershore College

After several years of chaplaincy to Pershore College, Matthew Baynes has decided that increased parish responsibilities arising from pastoral reorganisation, he has several more villages under his care, means that he has to relinquish the role.

Matthew has diligent as chaplain and provided wise counsel to the CARL committee. His contribution in the period before I was in post was particularly valued.

However the good news is that Matthew has a curate, Christine Turpin, and under Matthew's supervision she will be taking on the chaplaincy role.

Money is available—bid for it now!

The LEADER project is up and running and giving grants to projects that

- Increase the ability of the rural population to fully engage in their communities.
- Improve access to facilities for the most isolated rural communities.
- Enhance social inclusion through recreational opportunities with a specific emphasis on

young people.

- Protect and realise the full potential of the natural and built environment.

Churches are eligible to apply, so if you have a good community project get in touch or visit www.worcestershire.gov.uk/leader for more information.

Grant sizes vary but for exceptional projects up to £75,000 can be awarded.

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