

WORCESTER Diocesan News



May 2009

The Course of True Love

'When our friends heard we were going on a marriage course, they said things like "What on earth do you want to do that for?" and "You are the last couple who needs to do a marriage course" and "After 35 years, you must be joking!' said Anne and Mike Eglington, who have recently completed the course.

The marriage course is a one-evening-a-week, eight week course, which is run by David and Rosemary Webster in the coffee house of the Lyttelton Well, next to Great Malvern Priory, South



Worcestershire. A candle-lit supper is provided to start each evening, and then marriage course video material from the Holy Trinity Brompton Marriage (HTB) Course is shown. The Marriage Course written by Nicky and Sila Lee who are on the staff at HTB (the church which began the Alpha Course), have been married for over 20 years and have written 'The Marriage Book'. They run the course three times a year in London and have over 100 couples each time. After watching the video, couples are able to discuss issues privately, with David (a recently retired GP) and Rosemary (a trained counsellor) as facilitators where necessary; there is no group discussion. Topics covered are building strong foundations, the art of communication, resolving conflict, the power of forgiveness, parents and in-laws, good sex, love in action and what makes a marriage work.

David says, 'The course is appropriate for marriages of any duration, and couples who have been married a few weeks to 40 years! It

is appropriate for good marriages that want to be even better, and marriages with problems. We can accommodate a maximum of eight couples per course, and it costs £60 per couple, including the 8 meals and the course material. Over the years we have had very positive feed-back, especially along the lines "We just wish we had done this years ago ..."

Anne & Mike Eglington commented 'even after 35 years, we managed to learn new things about one another and our relationship. We had the opportunity to learn better how to listen to one another and to find out whether what we thought was important to the other person was actually the case! It earmarks time for you to spend together - "Marriage Time" - and encourages you to put a regular "date" together in your diary to have fun'.

'We would recommend any couple to book in for the next course this autumn. Dinner out every Monday for eight weeks hosted by David and Rosemary is a treat for everyone - you cannot but enjoy it'.

David and Rosemary also run marriage preparation days, for To-be-weds and Newly-weds. If you are interested in the course contact the Websters on 01684 833239 or email: namirembe@btinternet.com



Mission, Ministry and Money

The Diocese of Worcester covers 671 square miles and comprises 180 Church of England parishes with 260 church buildings, of which 205 are listed. In the diocese we:

- Give access to pastoral care to a population of 812,000 whatever a person's beliefs or affiliations
- Provide for the pay and housing of 105 clergy, the training of clergy and lay people, including 172 Licensed Readers who, with 176 retired clergy, between them, in addition to weekly services and pastoral care, carry out 1,300 marriages and marriage blessings 4,470 funerals and burials 3,290 baptisms and thanksgivings.
- Support the life of 106 church schools and promotes R.E., worship and spiritual development in all schools
- Train upwards of 360 youth and children's workers and advise on Child Protection
- Support chaplaincy in local colleges, industry and commerce, local government, hospitals, the rural community, and prisons.

Each year in June the deaneries host a Diocesan Budget Consultation roadshow. This year is no exception - and anyone is welcome to have their say about how diocesan money may be spent. Ask your Rural Dean or Deanery Treasurer for the date and venue.

Congratulations to....

The Revd Lynn Busfield who has become Priest in Charge at Fladbury with Wyre Piddle and Moor and Crophorne with Charlton.

Christine Penney who has been appointed the new librarian of the Hurd Library at Hartlebury Castle. Christine has over 40 years of experience of working on historic books and archive collections and has been a committee member of the Friends of Hartlebury Castle and the Hurd Library since its formation in 2007.



Jean Rogers



Jean Rogers who has been appointed as secretary to Bishop David.

Authorised Lay Ministry

On quite a number of occasions over the past year I have reiterated my conviction that God is calling priests to be more episcopal, in the sense of giving oversight, in order that the people of God might be enabled to recover their priesthood as part of the priesthood of all believers to which St Peter refers in his first letter. That priesthood will be exercised in many and various forms: one of them is Authorised Lay Ministry, training for which will be available from October.

This training, which will be for a year, will be offered for ministry in five different specialisms: Pastoral Worker, Evangelist, Children and Youth Worker, Worship Leader and Administrator. Information giving details of it has been sent to every parish from the Department of Training and Development. I hope that everyone in the Diocese will reflect upon what it is that God is calling them to, what is their particular vocation, which may or may not be Authorised Lay Ministry.

How do we discern what God would have us do? By prayer, by reflection and through wise counsel. Essentially, it is a matter of both gifts and calling: we need both. There would be little point in me pursuing a vocation as a teenage tennis star – because of both my age and the standard of my tennis. I just do not have the gifts. On the other hand, I might have the gifts but not the calling. As a teenager I delighted in taking cars apart and putting them back together again (though taking them apart came more naturally than putting them back together). I would like to think that I would have made a reasonable car mechanic but that was not my calling. We need the gifts and the calling and then, finally, we need to have that calling confirmed by the wider church.



I encourage you strongly to pray, reflect upon and consult about your calling. As you do so, be sure that God has something which he wants you to do, a task which belongs to you alone. In the words of a meditation by Cardinal Newman: 'God has created me to do him some definite service; He has committed some work to me which he has not committed to another.'

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the
Church is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for all your
faithful people,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your name
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus
Christ. Amen.

Bishop John

ALMtraining
being a community learning to serve

The All New - Café@TheOldPalace

Alterations at the Old Palace in Worcester are nearly complete. As well as the work funded by the Church

Commissioners for the Bishop's offices, the kitchen has been brought up to modern standards,

paid for from a trust fund. So we can, once again, offer a full catering service to everyone from around the diocese.

We are now able to offer a new exciting menu, which features, home-made soups with bread, delicious paninis, a healthy salad bar and a hot "Chef's Special".

Ingredients are sourced locally and meals are made fresh on the day.

We offer "Cappuccino" coffees to have with home-made cakes each week day from 10am. The Café is also licensed, so you can enjoy our choice of Fairtrade wine with your lunch in a relaxing setting.



We are very keen to extend an invitation to all, to come and see the new café in the heart of town. Our beautiful building is a relaxing haven away from the high street, yet on its doorstep. We are very keen to encourage everyone to come in and remind

themselves of the lovely building which is there for all to enjoy. All are welcome so cut out the voucher below and treat yourself and a friend to a coffee and a piece of cake, in a quiet and convenient setting.

The newly refurbished kitchen also means that the catering service is fully operational for weddings, parties, meetings and conferences. So, if you are planning an event, do ask for a quote – 01905 20537.

WR1 2JE – off Deansway, Worcester.

Café@TheOldPalace

Open Monday to Friday for everyone from 10 am – 3 pm with lunches being served from 12 noon to 2 pm

Voucher

Café@TheOldPalace – B.O.G.O.F (buy one get one free)

Purchase a cup of coffee and a piece of cake and get the same again for free with this voucher. Valid until 30th June 2009

Rogation



fishing. CARL (Chaplaincy for Agricultural and Rural Life) is having its Rogation event on Monday evening (18 May) at Yew Tree Farm in Frankley, North Worcestershire. The evening will start with a tour around the farm, talking to the farmer about why each area is significant and what happens there, plus a biblical reflection, prayer and song. This will be followed by a pig roast.

Rogation Sunday is a time for asking God to forgive sins and to bless the land for the coming growing season, when the crops are just starting to come through and the livestock are turned back out into pasture after the winter.

In Mediaeval times, parishioners would walk around the parish, bearing a cross and banners, asking for the saints to intercede with God on behalf of the crops, livestock, and

It's an opportunity for everyone to come and find out something of what farming is about. Last year's group was so stirred up by what they saw that they started a campaign against milk prices.

If you would like to join in the Rogation event in Frankley, please contact Robert Barlow on 01886 821339 or rbarlow@cofe-worcester.org.uk

A Very Good Friday at Hallow Church

At Hallow Church on Good Friday, a "workshop" event provided a thoroughly engaging morning for 100 children from the United Benefice of Hallow, Grimley and Holt. Sessions of lively informal worship, led by a band of local musicians, alternated with a carousel of themed creative activities leaving everyone with a range of experiences to remember and a number of items to take home including chocolate nests, Easter gardens and cards, home-made candles and painted egg-cups.

Dramatised readings were also delivered, giving children an opportunity to try out their performance skills. Mary Anne Keyes, one of the coordinators of the event and also the

Reader at Hallow Church, commented: "Families, even those who don't come to church, like the idea that their children will learn why Easter is such an important festival to Christians. The bible accounts describing the events leading up to the resurrection of Jesus are full of characters with whom we can all identify. The event is also a great opportunity for an enthusiastic team from the church to share their talents, skills and experiences whilst working with children. We all really enjoyed ourselves."

Contact: Mary Anne Keyes (Mrs); makeyes25@hotmail.com; 01905 24989 if you would like to know more.

Worcester Cathedral

Services Daily (except Wednesday):
7.30am Matins, 8am Holy Communion,
5.30pm Evensong (except Thursday when
Evening Prayer is said).

Tuesday: 1.05pm Prayers for Healing.
Wednesday: 8am Matins, 8.30am Holy
Communion, 1.05pm Holy Communion: Friday
11.30am Holy Communion.

Sunday Services

7.30am Matins and 8am Holy Communion,
10.30am The Cathedral Eucharist,
4pm Evensong, 6.30pm Compline.

Contact the Chapter Office on 01905 732900,
or email: info@worcestercathedral.org.uk
for further information

**Details of all events and services can be
found at www.worcestercathedral.co.uk or
telephone: 01905 732900.**

Events at the Cathedral

Friday 1 May – 7.30pm - Vernon Handley Memorial Concert By the ESO

Laura Jellicoe (conductor) with
Michael George (baritone) Biiis—
Two Fanfares
Elgar—Cockaigne Overture Finzi
—Let Us Garlands Bring Vaughan
Williams— Job - Tickets from
ESO Box Office—01386 791044

**Saturday 2 May – 6.30pm
Organ Recital by Christopher
Allsop, Assistant Organist of
Worcester Cathedral** - Tickets
£10—available on the door

Saturday 9 May – 10.00am – 4.00pm Sounding God's Praises

A Diocesan Event for all singers
and instrumentalists involved in
music for worship in local
churches. Advance booking
necessary—for further
information telephone 01905
20537

**22 May – 28 June
Voices And Visions** A
wonderful and colourful exhibition
of Art work from schools in
Worcestershire

Friday 29 May – 7.30pm

Organ Extravaganza Sir David Willcox and
Nicholas Cleobury join past and present
musicians of Worcester Cathedral for a musical
extravaganza in aid of the Music Appeal.
Using multiple musical instruments, players
and choirs, the evening looks set to invoke a
feeling of Fiesta mixed with the Proms, in an
aural and visual feast of classical and modern
works. For full details, call Lucinda Wray-Wear
on 01905 732912

Christian Aid Service for the beginning of
Christian Aid Week, including the
commissioning of collectors and others
actively involved in Christian Aid events during
the week, in the Cathedral at 6.30 pm on
Sunday, 10th May.

Holland House

Help! Holland House has a 3" (wide) paschal
candle in need of a stand! If anyone has a
stand that could be donated to the chapel, it
would be very gratefully received. Croptorne
Walkabout - May 3 & 4, Praying the Way - May
15 to 17, Quiet Garden Day - May 21 – New
Monthly Tuesday Lunches start 14 April 2009 –
become a new friend of Holland House and
help raise money for new bed linen for the
House - contact The Revd Ian Spencer on
01386 860330.

Notices

Feckenham Flower and Garden Festival

This triennial festival to raise funds for our Parish Church will be held on the weekend of Saturday the 9 and Sunday 10 May 2009, from 12-6pm. Approx. 25 gardens open, flower festival in Church, plant sales, WI teas and barbeque/pig roast. Ample parking. Admission £4 per adult. More information: Catherine Fisher 07931 338291 or www.feckenham.com

The Worcestershire and Districts Change Ringing Association will be hosting the **112th Annual General Meeting of the Central Council of Church Bellringers** from 22-26th May. Based in Worcester, over two hundred representatives worldwide will meet and enjoy a full programme of ringing at towers throughout the County.

Sunday Afternoon Organ Music by Paul Carr

at Holy Trinity Parish Church, Wordsley. Admission free. Retiring collection. www.paulcarr.co.uk

Sunday 3 May 2009 at 3pm, Mendelssohn's 200th Anniversary: Organ Sonata no 3 in A+ other works.

Great venue for great music – Pershore Abbey

The Songmen, an a capella men's voice group, will be singing a mixture of 16th & 17th Century sacred music, folk songs, barber shop - and Beatles, on 2nd May at 7.30. Two weeks later on 16th May the Pershore Choral and the West Midlands Symphonia will be performing the powerful and dramatic oratorio, Mendelssohn's Saint Paul.

Great Witley Church - May 23rd 7.30 pm Music for 2 pianos and organ

with Peter Cowdrey and John Jenkin. World premiere of Cowdrey's La Foleya, a musical description of the fountains and church. Also music by Handel, Mozart and Brahms. Tickets £12; information: Tel: 01905 426998 or 01299 896608

Still Waters Quiet Garden at St Mary's Church, Kyre

2009 Still Waters theme 'Gardens'. Each session starts and finishes with a short meditation. The time between is to use as you wish. **Sundays 3-4.30pm (Welcome from 2.30pm)** 31 May. 01885 410431 or mdk46@phonecoop.coop

St Barnabas with Christ Church, Worcester – Music Director and Organist wanted

Contact Sheila Bright on 01905 29281

Pew Runners: Red, 24 various lengths 6ft - 12ft. More information: Pershore Abbey 01386 552071

Robins Woods Library – Librarian Required

The Librarian's duties will include overall responsibility for the selection and cataloguing of books, and engaging with and co-ordinating the team of committed Volunteers. The Robin Woods Library aims to effectively resource local Christians, and is open weekdays from 10am to 2pm. The ecumenical library recently moved into the newly refurbished Methodist Centre, New Road, Stourbridge. There is a new computer system that will allow borrowers online access to the catalogue, and increase communication with our other diocesan library in Worcester.

If you wish to discuss the role please contact the current Librarian, Sophia Popham, on 01384 376444, or the RWL Chair Revd Ron Curtis, 01384 392401. Application should be made by sending your CV, together with a covering letter explaining your interest in the post, to Revd Ron Curtis, 34 South Road, Stourbridge, DY8 3YB, or email rev.ron@btinternet.com, to be received by 31 May 2009, with interviews in June.

Diocesan Holy Land Pilgrimage led by Bishop John

30 April to 10 May 2010 – in the steps of Jesus around beautiful Galilee, Jerusalem, the Holy City of three religions – visit Masada-desert fortress and 'last stand', relax floating in the Dead Sea, daily worship at the sacred sites. Sunday worship with Arab Anglicans. More information: Canon Mel Smith at the Old Palace, Deansway or visit the Diocesan Website – www.cofe-worcester.org.uk

Due to the large number of adverts submitted at this time of year we are only able to publicise those happening in this month. I apologise for any disappointment – if you would like an advert put onto the Diocesan Website please send your events to mstevens@cofe-worcester.org.uk

2 Plant Sale at St Bartholomew's Church, Tardebigge – 11 am.

2, 3 & 4 Hallow Church Flower Festival open 10am till dusk Saturday and Monday. Sunday 12noon till 5pm. "SAINTS & SINNERS". Programmes £3.

3 Sunday Afternoon Organ Music by Paul Carr at Holy Trinity Parish Church, Wordsley. Admission free. Retiring collection. Mendelssohn's 200th Anniversary: Organ Sonata no 3 in A and works by Whitlock, Vierne and Buxtehude

4 Gardens Open at Little Malvern Court 2-5 p.m. . Teas, plants, bookstall, flowers & music in Little Malvern Priory. Admission: £4.50, children 50p. under-5s free.

7 Worcester Diocesan Assembly – Forward in Faith. Mass at 7.30pm at St Peter's, Crabbs Cross.

7 Julian Meetings at St Stephen's Church, Droitwich Road, Worcester, 1pm.

9 The Ridgeway Choral (from Tring, Herts) - St. Matthias' Church, Malvern Link at 7.30pm. The proceeds will be shared between the Air Ambulance and St. Matthias. Tickets £5 (under 18s free) at the door 01886 832460.

9 West Mercia Police Band in concert at St Philip & St James Church, Hallow. 7.30pm. £7.50 to include a glass of wine and nibbles. Vivien Moore 01905 640355.

9 - 10 Feckenham Flower and Garden Festival. 12-6pm (see page 7)

12 Mothers' Union: Stourbridge Deanery Festival, Pedmore 2.30pm.

13 Retired Clergy of the Diocese: Eucharist and Reception at the Cathedral. 11am. Thanksgiving for the Ministry Retired, their spouses, clergy widows and widowers. More information: 01905 21397.

13 Mothers' Union: Action and Outreach 'A Finger in Every Pie'. Overseas, literacy training, Parenting courses, prisons and hospitals, holidays. Broadwas Village Hall - 6-9pm.

14 Mothers' Union: Kidderminster/Stourport Festival, St Barnabas, Franche 7.30pm.

14 Step into Stillness. St Nicholas Church, Pinvin - for a time of reflection. More information: 01386 552375 or 01386 553190.

15 Helen Barrett – The Lady Loves Jazz at St. Luke's Church, Evesham Road, Headless Cross, Redditch, More information: 01527 65845.

15-17 Celebration of Marriage Weekend. Part of the 125th Anniversary Celebrations at St Augustine's Church, Holly Hall, Dudley. 10am-5pm

16 Organ Recital by James Luxton of Birmingham Conservatoire at St. Augustine's Church, Holly Hall, Dudley. Free 3pm. www.achurchnearyou.com/holly-hall-dudley-st-augustine

19 Mothers' Union: Martley/Worcester Festival, St John the Baptist, Claines 2.30pm.

20 Mothers' Union: Dudley Festival Service, St Peters, Cradley.

22-26 The Worcestershire and Districts Change Ringing Association AGM at The Warriors Sixways Rugby Centre (see page 7)

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