

WORCESTER Diocesan News



December 2009/January 2010

Margaret Rutter Visits Peru

The Worcester Diocesan Mission Team is heading out to Peru in August 2010, so I visited this autumn to begin planning that trip and to see the expansion of the diocesan social projects since my last visit. I also wanted to obtain a feel of the ministries the mission team will be working in; I

visited new projects, missions that were in the process of being built and those that have been completed since 2005, as well as old projects like the sewing projects that I haven't visited before.

On my first Saturday in Lima, I joined families from the Missions of the Ascension and the Transfiguration on their away day at a beautiful park just outside the south of Lima. It was great fun with worship, games and a delicious picnic. With the wonderful Peruvian hospitality it didn't take long before I felt at home; being with one of the church families reinforces one of the joys of belonging to the Anglican Communion.

One of the churches completed since my visit in 2005, is the Mission of Santa Maria Virgen. As we approached the church there were people and children everywhere. I thought it was another demonstration like the one that was happening in central Lima, but it turned out to be a welcome for me. 'Did they know it wasn't Bishop John who was visiting', I wondered, but as I stepped out of the car I saw the poster with my name on it. The celebration was for the opening of the new church garden and the unveiling of the central large wooden cross,



which I took part in. This was followed by a service of thanks giving; a very joyous and happy occasion and after my initial shock, one I enjoyed very much.

I was delighted to be able to spend an afternoon with the Arpillera sewing project.

The three groups obviously found it fun to come together as they sewed and chatted. For me it was an opportunity to see how they make the minute pieces that make up the nativity Christmas trees and to meet the women who make the ones that come to Worcester.

This year the diocese is celebrating the 160 year presence of the Anglican Church in Peru. Despite the celebrations it hasn't been an easy year for them with the harsh weather conditions in Juliaca and increasing demand on resources as the global economic state is causing a vast reduction in their income. Again I was impressed by the growth and outreach of this missionary diocese as they proclaim the Gospel of Jesus through their witness and ministries.

We are looking forward to our visit in 2010; there is much to learn and celebrate in Peru, and much to give to a nation which is struggling with so much hardship. I hope that across our diocese there will be continued support for the good work going on over there, and generosity as we think of those struggling to make life bearable this Christmas.

MISSION, MINISTRY AND MONEY

In parish churches and church groups all over the Diocese of Worcester, God's mission to his world through his Church takes place in often unspectacular and quiet ways, in green and leafy rural parishes and in the urban sprawl of the Black Country and all places in between. The Church of England, through its paid and unpaid clergy and volunteer ministers gets on with the job, worshipping God day by day and offering care and service to the people who live in its parishes. In times of celebration and joy, and suffering and death, the Church worships and teaches and ministers. Baptisms are celebrated and families welcomed. The faithful gather week by week at the Lord's Table and the festivals are times of community celebration and worship. Our young people are educated and cared for

and encouraged to enjoy themselves in God's Church. We support chaplains who minister to both agricultural and commercial communities within our diocese.

We are able to enjoy events like last year's Diocesan Assembly, the Big Church Little Church gathering at the County Showground and support the ongoing training for ministry and the encouragement to explore new ways of being the Church in this twenty first century.

All of this celebration of the life of God – Father, Son and Spirit – all of this celebration of the life of humanity – all of this ministry to the people of the diocese – all possible because of the generous financial sharing of the people of our parishes. So thank you!

Congratulations to ...

The Revd Julie James, who was non-stipendiary Priest of St John in Bedwardine, Worcester, has become non-stipendiary Associate Priest of The Flyfords Benefice.

The Revd Sheila Rosenthal, who was Assistant Curate of St Martin w St Peter in the Worcester South East Team Ministry, and has become Assistant Chaplain to St Richard's Hospice.

The Revd Matthew Baynes, Rural dean of Pershore and Rector of Bredon w Bredon's Norton, who has also become Priest in Charge of Overbury w Teddington, Alstone & Little Washbourne w Beckford & Ashton-under-Hill.

The Revd Terry Henderson, Rector of Elmley Castle w Bricklehampton & the Combertons, who has also become Associate Priest of Overbury w Teddington, Alstone & Little Washbourne w Beckford & Ashton-under-Hill.

The Revd Susan Renshaw, Vicar of Eckington and Defford cum Besford, who has also become Associate Priest of Overbury w Teddington, Alstone & Little Washbourne w Beckford & Ashton-under-Hill.

The Revd Andy Stand, who was Assistant Curate of St John Baptist, Bromsgrove, has become Vicar of St Peter's, Upper Gornal in the Gornal and Sedgley Team Ministry.

The Revd Rich Johnson, who was Associate Vicar at St Paul's, Auckland (Auckland, New Zealand), has become Associate Minister, St Nicholas & All Saints, Worcester.

The Revd Chris Wingfield, who was Rector of the North Samford Benefice, (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich), and has become Priest in Charge (Rector Designate) of St John Baptist, Bromsgrove.

The Ven Ron Hesketh, Vocations Adviser, has also become part time Coordinating Chaplain to West Mercia Constabulary.

Obituary

The Revd David Hartland, died 12 September 2009.

Hallmarks and Priorities: the Six and the Three

I wrote recently in the Diocesan News that, in committing itself to Mission, the Bishop's Council has identified three priorities:

- The deepening of our prayer
- The renewal of our public worship
- The equipping of people to share their faith

These three are the precursors of mission and evangelism: nothing godly will happen in our lives and in our church unless we are deeply rooted in prayer; if we want our churches to be 'joinable' we must do all we can to renew our worship and make it attractive; if we are to share our faith we must be equipped to do so.

Several people have asked me how these priorities fit in with the six identified by a group chaired by Professor Michael Taylor some four years ago which are:

- Worshipping God
- Working to rid the world of poverty
- Sharing the gospel
- Building inclusive communities
- Helping people to faith
- Caring for the earth

The answer was articulated in the publicity which surrounded last year's



Diocesan Assembly. It is that the above six are best understood as the hallmarks of a healthy church. They are, in other words, a 'litmus test' of our authenticity as Christians, signaling whether our church is gospel centred and doing what God would have it do.

The priorities identified by the Bishop's Council emerged particularly from the

imperative to 'help people to faith' since all mission and evangelism must stem from prayer and worship as well as speaking about Jesus. However, we do not only pray and worship in order to bring people to faith, we do it because that is what human beings were created to do. Prayer and worship should be as natural to us as breathing and eating and drinking – which is why the first hallmark of a healthy church is worshipping God.

The three priorities upon which we have determined to concentrate will help us to focus upon the mission and evangelism which are so necessary at the present time and, in so doing, enable the development of vibrant churches which exhibit the six hallmarks of healthy churches.

Bishop John

Authorised Lay Ministry Training

On Saturday, October 3rd over 150 people from across the diocese gathered at Bishop Perowne School in Worcester to begin their training for Authorised Lay Ministries. It was an exciting day full of anxiety and anticipation as each participant looked towards beginning a programme of training in leading worship, in pastoral care, in children's and youth work, in evangelism and in administration.



ALMtraining
being a community learning to serve

The Authorised Lay Ministry Programme is a one-year course of common and specialist modules which will enable many more people to offer their time and talents within their parish. It is clear that lay ministry comes in all sorts of shapes and sizes in parishes, and that there are in fact many local ministry teams of one kind or another in a variety of settings. Our hope is that this programme of training will supplement and inform that, as well as encouraging new forms of ministry to develop.

Bishop John says of authorised lay ministry, 'My experience elsewhere leads me to believe that training for particular ministries and the authorisation of people so trained can release gifts in new and exciting ways.'

By the time you read this everyone will have completed half of their specialist training course and between now and Easter they will share three one day workshops to consider the resources we have to support our Christian discipleship. One of these will be on the bible, another on the church and the third on the life of prayer. Each of these will be led by someone with a deep understanding of the subject matter for the day and will be an

enriching occasion for all involved. After Easter we will all return to our specialist groups to complete the training before gathering together a last time to think about how we can best put all we have learnt to use in the life of our parishes.

Even now it is exciting to think of how our parishes will be enriched by the 150 who have committed themselves to this work but we don't want to stop there. In October 2010 we hope that we will start over again with many more participants and so soon information packs will arrive in your parishes giving more details about the courses and how to apply to join one of them. Do look out for them to find out more. And better still why don't you find out who is already doing the training and ask them about it. We look forward to meeting many of you later in the year.

If you would like to find out more about ALM then go to:

http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/work_of_the_diocese/Whatsgoingon.php

A Treasured Lay Ministry

The history of church treasurers goes back at least to 457 B.C. when Ezra appointed guardians for the funds given for the work in Jerusalem. To those given the care of the Lord's goods Ezra commanded, "Ye are holy unto the Lord; the vessels are holy also; and the silver and the gold are a freewill offering unto the Lord God of your fathers" Ezra 8:28.

If it was important in the days of Ezra and of Christ to have someone to take care of church funds, it is essential today. The work of the church treasurer is a specialized, vital ministry. Hear from some of our own treasurers from around the diocese as they share their work.

Alan Hughes is the Deanery treasurer for Dudley and says,

'The main purpose of the Treasurer's role I suspect is seen by most, as being the one who balances the books, and pays the bills. In essence this is true, but perhaps it takes a special kind of passion and knowledge to ensure that as practically as possible the Parish can develop its mission and ministry, knowing that it is as financially secure.

From a personal point of view the work of the Treasurer is not difficult while the generosity of its members covers the financial needs of local outreach and mission. In the recent past we are seeing "Giving" remaining static or even falling below previous levels, while the demands on our resources continues in an upward direction.

The Treasurer's work is far from dull, and the challenge supporting successful mission and ministry in the local community is far more rewarding, far more important than balancing the books. Although the latter does have a place, and is important in its own right. '

Annette Humphrey became Church Treasurer at St John's, Greenlands, Redditch about 9 years ago.

'My challenge is to produce reports that are in the correct format, but are clear enough for all Church members to understand the financial situation of St John's. Although a lot of our costs are common to all churches – Parish Share, fuel costs, maintenance etc. – we aim to have a portion of our budget devoted to projects. These projects have included supporting overseas church leaders in training, funding wells, schools work, employing a Youth worker, and making improvements to our church hall. The projects show the priorities of our church. We have found that, when we show clear direction to our congregation, our members in turn are encouraged to identify with St John's in their giving of time and money.'

Stuart Smith, is treasurer of St Peter's, Martley and the Deanery of Martley & Worcester West

'A treasurer is a 14th century Anglo-Saxon word meaning "a guardian of a collection of treasures" or "an officer entrusted with the receipt, care, and disbursement of funds". I prefer to associate more with the latter definition as I believe that we should have a dynamic role in the organisation allowing the money to be received, looked after and used wisely to further the

activities of the organisation. Lively, active, community-centred churches should not have problems with raising money.

The treasurer role enables me to use my professional skills to good effect by relieving the clergy and other PCC members from administrative matters, to concentrate on the important tasks of mission and worship and, in a deanery capacity, to stimulate and encourage other treasurers and share high standards. I am also a passionate advocate of gift aid as part of giving to increase the funds available to the church'.



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 Evening Service

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

Tuesday 1 December - 7.15pm
Mencap Carol Service

Tuesdays 1, 8 and 15 December -
7.30pm, Advent Lectures In the Guesten

Thursday 3 December - 7.30pm Spirit
Of Christmas Supporting Muscular
Dystrophy Campaign. Tickets £20 - £10
(with concessions for children), 02078
034828 or [Worcester@muscular-
dystrophy.org](mailto:Worcester@muscular-dystrophy.org)

Saturday 5 December - 7.30pm A
Celebration of Christmas Worcester
Cathedral Chamber Choir Tickets £10
from [www.worcestercathedral
chamberchoir.co.uk/buyonline](http://www.worcestercathedral
chamberchoir.co.uk/buyonline)
or on the door (subject to availability)

Saturday 12 December - 7.30pm
Worcester Festival Choral Society Handel
- Messiah
Tickets £22.50 - £6 with concessions from
Worcester Live Box Office 01905 611427
or on the door (subject to availability)

Sunday 13 December - 6.30pm
Voluntary Choir Carol Service

Saturday 19 December - 7.30pm Joy To The
World, Gerald Finzi - In Terra Pax, Tchaikovsky -
Nutcracker Suite, Worcester Cathedral Choir,
Worcester Festival Choral Society and
Worcestershire Symphony Orchestra Tickets
£15 - £7 from Worcester Live Box Office 01905
611427 or in person from the Cathedral Gift
shop

Tuesday 22 and Wednesday 23 December
- 7.30pm, Worcester Cathedral Carol Services

Friday 24 December - 3pm, Crib Service,
Friday 24 December - 11.30pm, Midnight
Eucharist.

Saturday 25 December - 10.30am,
Christmas Day Eucharist,

Saturday 25 December - 4pm, Evensong
with Carols.

These services are extremely popular, we
welcome all and encourage them to arrive in
good time.

Sunday 10 January - 6.30pm, Epiphany
Carol Service

Turn Up For a Tour, From November to end of
April - Saturdays 11.00am and 2.30pm
(£3 per adult, accompanied children free)

What's On - December

Book Christmas Lunch at the cafe@theoldpalace

Why not book in for Christmas lunch at the Old Palace. On Wednesday December 9th, Cathy will be serving a traditional Christmas lunch - please book yourselves in as soon as possible. It's great value at £15 per head. Call Cathy on 01905 732827.

Christmas Menu - Prawn lime & dill bruschette, Local Roast Turkey with our own homemade cranberry stuffing & crispy smoked bacon with black pudding, crispy roast potatoes & seasonal local vegetables. Our own plum pudding with a hot whisky vanilla custard or crème fraiche or Luxury Vanilla ice with Cointreau soaked citrus fruits. Fresh filter coffee & warm mince pies. For vegetarians Luxury houmous served with crispy toast and Greek olives. Brie, mushroom & walnut tart with a herb crumble topping served with a creamy onion sauce. For an alternative to the Roast Turkey we offer (pre-ordered) Lamb Shank.

Pictorial Bible Atlas – The Revd John Allen has recently produced an informative and attractive Bible atlas to illuminate and edify Bible reading. It is available from Cover to Cover publishers.

Great Malvern Priory 'Lunchbox' - talks and music on Thursday lunchtimes in the Priory. Bring your own lunch at 12.30pm, coffee/tee available. Talk or concert starts at 1pm. 3 December: Christmas Concert by pupils from Malvern Parish School. More information: 01684 561020. PROGRAMME SPRING 2010: 28 January The Tradition of Wassailing. Talk by Keith Francis The History and Tradition of Morris Dancing in the Malverns

Saturday Concerts at Pershore Abbey
5 Dec: 7.30: Worcester Male Voice Choir
12 Dec: 7.30: Pershore Choral - More information: 01386 552918 or editor@pershoreabbey.org.uk

Flower Demonstration Evening – 1 December

Flowers and Faith for Christmas with Peter Brownjohn and surprise musical guests. St Mary's Church Kingswinford at 7.30pm. Tickets £6 - all proceeds to Birmingham Christmas Shelter for the homeless. More information: Margaret Penn 01384 270806.

Tewkesbury Chamber Choir – the latest choir on the scene having spent the last 18 months wowing audiences with their intimate, clear sound and evident enjoyment of their work. Extensive repertoire from Vivaldi to Mozart, Durufle to Glen Miller with a little of Rodgers & Hammerstein thrown in! Catch them performing at St Philip & St James Church in Hallow. 7.30pm Saturday 23 January 2010. Tickets £7 adults/£3.50 children to include glass of wine. More information: Vivien Moore 01905 640355 or Freda Davies 01905 424526.

Worcester Cathedral Chamber Choir

5 December – 'A Christmas Celebration' at 7.30pm at Worcester Cathedral. 13 March 2010 - a concert featuring Durufle's 'Requiem' and Elgar's 'The Music Makers' at St Martin's Church, London Road, Worcester. 7.30pm. Tickets for both these events are £12 (under 18's £10) available from www.worcestercathedralchamberchoir.co.uk, or by calling 07549 634068.

Vacancies for Choir - For further details visit the choir's website www.worcestercathedralchamberchoir.co.uk

Festival of Trees at Hanbury Church off School Road, near Droitwich Spa

4, 5, & 6 December - Christmas Trees in Church decorated by local businesses & individuals, music & refreshments. Daily from 10.00 am until 4.00 pm. Admission free. Donations welcomed. Part of Festival Walk between Church, Hanbury C of E First School & Jinney Ring Craft Centre.

Oakville Singers at St Andrew's Church,

Droitwich will be giving a concert of Christmas music which includes part of Handel's Messiah on Saturday December 5 in St Andrew's Church, Droitwich Spa at 7.30pm. The Conductor is Ivan Oliver, organist and choirmaster of Claines Church. Tickets on sale at the door.

DECEMBER

1 Flowers and Faith for Christmas with Peter Brownjohn and surprise musical guests. St Mary's Church Kingswinford at 7.30pm. Tickets £6 and all proceeds to Birmingham Christmas Shelter for the homeless. More information: Margaret Penn 01384 270806.

1 Advent Lectures in the Guesten (see page 6).

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

3 Great Malvern Priory 'Lunch Box' 1pm. Christmas Concert by pupils from Malvern Parish School. Bring your own lunch from 12.30pm. Teas and/Coffee available. More information: 01684 561020.

4 - 6 Flowers and Christmas Tree Festival for the Feast of St Nicholas at St Nicholas Church, Warndon Villages. To be opened by the Child Bishop at 7.30pm. Church open 10-6pm Saturday, 1-5pm Sunday. Service at 10am on Sunday. Refreshments available.

5 Worcester Male Voice Choir at Pershore Abbey. 7.30pm.

6 December: Music for Advent and Christmas including works by J S Bach, Handel, Gigout and Daquin, at Holy Trinity Parish Church, Wordsley. 3pm. Retiring collection to assist in funding the care and maintenance of the instrument.

12 Worcester Festival Choral Society concert, Handel's Messiah 7.30pm in Worcester Cathedral. Tickets cost £5.00 to £22.50 and are available from Worcester Live Box Office, Huntingdon Hall, CrownGate, Worcester, WR1 3LD. 01905 611427 - and at the Door on the Night

15 Lights of Love – at The Priory, Malvern (see page 7).

19 Joy to the World at Worcester Cathedral – Worcester Cathedral Choir, Worcester Festival Choral Society and Worcestershire Symphony Orchestra (see page 6).

22 Worcester Cathedral Carol Service (see page 6).

23 Worcester Cathedral Carol Service (see page 6).

24 Crib Service at Worcester Cathedral (see page 6).

24 Midnight Eucharist at Worcester Cathedral (see page 6).

25 Christmas Day Eucharist (see page 6).

25 Evensong with Carols (see page 6).

JANUARY 2010

23 Tewkesbury Chamber Choir at Philip & St James Church, Hallow (see page 7)

28 Great Malvern Priory 'Lunchbox' Bring your own lunch at 12.30pm, coffee/tea available. The Tradition of Wassailing. Talk by Keith Francis
The History and Tradition of Morris Dancing in the Malverns

Worcester Diocesan News

Editor: Rachel Edwards.

Contact: Jacqui Hunt at The Old Palace, Deansway, Worcester WR1 2JE.

Fax: 01905 612302 or

Email: newsletter@cofe-worcester.org.uk.

Deadline for copy: 18th January for March Edition

Printed by: Offset 55

Tel: 0121 707 9441.

The text of this publication is also available in large print on request to Rachel Edwards
01905 20537 or email
redwards@cofe-worcester.org.uk.