

WORCESTER Diocesan News



November 2009



Andrew Mottram has started work as our Heritage Buildings and Community Development Officer in the Diocese of Worcester.

This is the first appointment in the West Midlands as part of the English Heritage 'Inspired' programme, which helps congregations who are struggling to maintain the historic places of worship in their care. English Heritage is providing £1.5 million to part-fund 30 Support Officers for congregations of any faith or denomination. The scheme will help best practice in conservation and management of historic places of worship to be shared across the country.

In our diocese this is made possible by a funding partnership of English Heritage, Dudley Community Partnership, Worcestershire County Council, Worcestershire and Dudley Historic Churches Trust, the Countess of Beauchamp Charitable Trust and the Diocesan Social Responsibility Fund.

Andrew's role is in part to help individual congregations (and in particular those responsible for churches identified as priorities for support) to understand, maintain and make best use of their buildings and land, in and for their communities. He will be helping diocesan

'Inspired!'

and local authority bodies take a strategic approach to the increased use and conservation of historic places of worship.

Andrew Mottram was part of the team which redeveloped All Saints Church in Hereford which, along with the new Café @ All Saints, opened to critical acclaim in 1997. The 'new' All Saints was subsequently described by English Heritage as 'the iconic example of church redevelopment'. Following his time as Priest in Charge at All Saints, Andrew was for 5 years director of Ecclesiastical Property Solutions, which provided help and support to hundreds of churches in England and Wales.

Andrew said, 'I am passionate that church buildings should be servants of people; both as places of worship and mission for the church community, but also places of meeting for the wider community. I have been advocating the creation of the Support Officer role ever since we re-opened All Saints in 1997. I am very pleased that English Heritage now has the funds to roll out the scheme across the country and also very pleased to be appointed to serve in Worcester Diocese.'



Andy Burnham, then Secretary of State for Culture Media & Sport, and Robert Higham, Diocesan Secretary, at the national launch of English Heritage's Inspired! Programme at the time our funding application had been approved.

MISSION, MINISTRY AND MONEY

My wife and I have very recently become grandparents and I'm surprised by how this new role has affected me! One aspect that I'm aware of is a growing desire to give presents to my lovely grandson! And this is true for both of us. We'll be out shopping and we'll spot little clothes that seem to cry out to be bought for Joshua. 'Oh! He'll look so cute in that!' It's as though our overflowing love needs to find expression; at best, isn't that what giving presents is about? Not a duty but a joy.

It's no different with God. He gives to us, always has, out of loving joy and not out of duty. The creation itself is sourced in the overflowing love of God. The Word made flesh is sourced in the love of God – 'God so loved the world that he gave'

And once we have experienced that love for ourselves – experienced God's love and not just hearing about it – we'll be a bit like new grandparents. We'll want to respond in giving.

God intends that experience and that response to be at the heart of the mission and ministry of his Church. Both mission and ministry are intended to be rooted and grounded in our response to the experienced love of God. Having experienced it for ourselves we want it to flow out to others; and it's only through the Church that that love is both expressed and named. Mission and ministry are sacramental signs of God's loving care for creation and humanity as part of it.

Canon Mel Smith

Congratulations to ...

The Revd David Hoskin, formally Team Vicar at St Mary's, Kingswinford who has been appointed Team Vicar at Brierley Hill.

The Revd Joseph Ayok-Loewenberg, who has been appointed Team Vicar at St George's, Kidderminster.

The Revd Rich Johnson, who has been licensed as Associate Priest for St Nicholas and All Saints, Worcester.

And Church Army **Captain John Bentley** who celebrated his first year running the ABC Community Project in Bromsgrove. John's efforts over the first year have positively affected the lives of many people living in the Charford area who are struggling in the difficult economic climate. As well as the regular church services, John holds a monthly "Messy Church" – a vibrant and colourful event where local children and their families come to paint, cook and interact. John also takes one of the Brownie and Guide meetings once a month, and runs regular family teaching events during the holidays. In addition to the gatherings in church John has established creative connections with other local groups and associations to further help and support the local community, including a relationship with the New Start Project which gives out food parcels in the area. The next big project for Captain John Bentley at St Andrew's Church is the "Garden Project" where currently unused land at the back of the church will be turned into disabled-accessible growing space, available for use by the local community, to educate, promote self sufficiency and give a sense of belonging and involvement to those in the area – for more information call Captain John Bentley on 01527 577136 or email captjohn59@live.co.uk



The Ladies Who Came In From The Cold

Forget the SAS, CIA or MI5, the most successful undercover operation I have ever witnessed was carried out by the MU. Picture the scene - a church hall somewhere in England - tea cup in hand, the Mothers' Union branch secretary approaches the incumbent. "Vicar", she whispers, "we've decided to infiltrate the Townswomen's Guild".



simply a reaching out in friendship to people sufficiently similar to themselves as to make it natural and easy – and then some clear stepping stones that allowed a person to grow into a deeper faith a bit at a time.

The research many of you helped me with at

And they did. Over the next few years a steady trickle of women, who had long been active in the Guild, but never part of church, were first admitted as MU members and then prepared for confirmation. By comparison with Spooks or Smiley, it may have lacked some of the drama – to the best of my knowledge nobody was assassinated – but as an effective example of evangelism it was peerless.

The plan made perfect sense. Both the MU and the Guild did similar sorts of things: outings; meetings; visiting speakers. By joining the Guild my MU members were simply doing more of what they enjoyed. As they did it they were making friends with non-churchgoers who might well enjoy MU meetings. Having got used to the MU they might well like to come to church. Having got into the habit of church, they might wish to explore their faith more deeply and express that through confirmation. There was no hard sell of the Christian Faith,

Harvest two years ago is beginning to bear fruit. I've been able to identify that people who came to church regularly are quite likely to also be involved in other groups and organisations in the local community. I've also seen how people who only came to church rarely say that they have friends in the church congregation that they know from other community activities. I'm convinced that it is these networks and contacts that should be the starting point for our spreading the Good News in our parishes. Some years ago I saw a chilling statistic that suggested that within a handful of years of starting to come to church many people lose touch with their non-church groups and friends. My MU ladies deliberately went the other way, committing themselves to be part of a non-church organisation. It worked. The evidence from my Harvest research is that it could well work for you too. And none of my secret army was doing anything other than what they enjoyed.

Bishop David

Your new Diocesan Synod



“How sharing faith in Jesus can be encouraged across our diocese” was the main subject at our Diocesan Synod in March 2009.

The Worcester Diocesan Synod is a democratically elected body representing people across the diocese; 59 clergy members are elected by the clergy and 59 lay people are elected by the lay members of deanery synods who in turn are elected from every parish. Together with these 118 elected members the synod is completed with the inclusion of both Bishops, the Dean of Worcester, both Archdeacons, the Chancellor, our six elected General Synod members, as well as the Chairs of the Board of Finance, the Board of Education and the Diocesan Advisory Committee, and some members co-opted for particular roles that they have in the diocese.

The word synod comes from Greek and means 'meeting' or 'assembly'. In our diocese we have a Diocesan Synod and thirteen Deanery Synods; nationally the Church of England has a General Synod. Our Diocesan Synod meets three times a year and more information of our own and the national synod is available on the website: http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/work_of_the_diocese/informationandresources.php

During the three year life of the last synod, some of its business covered diocesan policy and giving practical encouragement on:

- evangelism
- Church buildings and tourism
- fresh expressions of Church
- global warming and environmental strategy
- care of vulnerable adults and people with disability
- a FairTrade Diocese

as well the regular business of setting annual budgets and the governance of diocesan work. Following elections over the summer our new Diocesan Synod meets for the first time on 2nd November. Please pray for its members gathering from across the diocese as they discuss the Church's role in the wider world's financial situation, as well as deciding a diocesan budget for 2010.

A PRAYER FOR THE SYNOD'S MEMBERS AND WORK

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel in our Diocesan Synod for the renewal, resourcing and mission of your Church. Teach and guide in the discernment of your ways, and grant us all the courage and the grace to walk in them; for your honour and glory through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Churches Unite for Street Pastors in Stourbridge



An overview of this Initiative from Clive Dudridge, Chair and Acting Co-ordinator, Stourbridge Street Pastors.

Since June of this year, Street Pastors have been patrolling the town of Stourbridge on Saturday nights, between the hours of 10pm and 3am Sunday. The team is there to offer help to people, often worse for wear from a night out. This can be anything from assisting someone to a taxi, a friendly chat, a drink of water to helping an individual sober up, or giving directions. If the opportunity to talk about Christian matters does occur we are delighted and many people have asked about church and spiritual matters, but the main emphasis is to provide practical help, care and being Jesus on the streets. We wear a very distinctive uniform and have all undergone training.

Street Pastors first began in London in 2003 and there are now 3000 street pastors nationwide in over 100 locations. The vision is to be an interdenominational response to urban problems and already there is evidence of a positive outcome and a reduction of crime.

There are many teams of Street Pastors in the UK, and the project is run by a Christian charity,

the Ascension Trust. In Stourbridge it has been set up by a coordinator and management team under the umbrella of 'Churches Together in Stourbridge', with currently 14 volunteer Street Pastors from 7 different churches and traditions.



Those involved in the project have been very excited about it and there has been much support from many parties, including partnership with the local authority and the police. Indeed, the launch on the 5th of June was attended and endorsed by leaders of the churches, local authority officials, the Mayor of Dudley, Councillors, the Chief Superintendent of the Police and representatives of Ascension Trust.

In Stourbridge, it has been received very well and good relationships have been established on the streets at night with other agencies, venue staff and management. The revellers themselves have commented "we are glad you are here", "we feel safer that you are around" and "I feel better, to know that people like you are prepared to do this" and we have even had a grateful thank you for seeing someone

home safely, when we saw them again a few weeks later. The Street Pastors themselves have been encouraged by the response "I am so amazed that people are generally really grateful and receptive" and "it's great fun and I have got to know lots

of new people from different church backgrounds and realise that we have a great deal more in common than I thought."

A key to its success is prayer. As well as the regular prayer evenings for the town and Street Pastors, there is a growing prayer group at the base who stay to pray whilst the team is out, in communication for any immediate needs, and also provide a hot drink at break time.

If you would like to get involved, the training begins in Stourbridge again in October 2009, so do please contact on the email address below. If interested in starting Street Pastors in another area please access the website or feel free to join us on the streets as an observer to sample it for yourself!

Stourbridge@streetpastors.org.uk
www.streetpastors.org.uk



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

Forthcoming Concerts in the Cathedral:

Worcester Festival Choral Society
**Sat 14 November 2009 - Scarlatti St
Cecilia Mass and Duruflé Requiem -**
Tickets £5.00 to £22.50 available from
Worcester Live Box Office, Huntingdon Hall,
Crowngate Worcester: 01905 611427 or at
the door on the night.

**Saturday 12 December 2009 - Handel
Messiah -** All concerts 7:30 pm in the
Cathedral, tickets £5 - £22.50.

**24 October - 29 November exhibition of
work by the Cathedral stonemasons -
Dean's Chapel.**

**7 - 30 November Exhibition by John
Newling - Stamping Uncertainty -**
Chapter House.

**Saturday 21 November, 7.30pm - Concert
By the Worcester Cathedral Chamber
Choir, Haydn - Creation**
Further information from -
www.worcestercathedralchamberchoir.co.uk

**Friday 27 & Saturday 28 November
10.00am - 4.00pm, Sunday 29 November
12.00 - 3.30pm Christmas Fayre in The
Cloisters -** Festive Gift and Craft Stalls
Refreshments including seasonal mulled
wine and mince pies. Recitals and Young
Enterprise Stalls on Saturday.

**Sunday 29 November, 6.30pm candlelit
advent carol service -** everyone welcome.

*Turn up for a Tour- from November to end
of April (Saturdays 11.00am and 2.30pm)*

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

Forthcoming events at Holland House:

**5 November: Sausage and Sparklers, 19
November: Christian Aid Lunch, 29
November: Advent Supper and Carols.**

The 7 days of O antiphon will be celebrated
at Holland House starting with a day of
prayer and reflection on 17 December for O
Sapient a. 'O Wisdom, coming forth from the
mouth of the Most High, reaching from one
end to the other, mightily and sweetly
ordering of all things: come and teach us the
way of prudence.'

More information:
enquiries@hollandhouse.org
www.hollandhouse.org

What's On - November

Great Malvern Priory 'Lunchbox' talks and music on Thursday lunchtimes in the Priory.

Bring your own lunch at 12.30pm, coffee/tea available. Talk or concert starts at 1pm. 5 November: 'A Week in Westminster' - Talk by Canon John Atkinson
19 November: 'Clerkenwell Markers Revisited' - Talk by Michael Shiner about his new book
3 December: Christmas Concert by pupils from Malvern Parish School. More information: 01684 561020.

9th Annual Poppy Festival

All Saints' Church Wribbenhall, Bewdley. 10am to 4pm each day from the 7th to the 11th November. Sunday services are 9.30am Eucharist and 4.15pm Evensong with British Legion and Civic procession. A two minute silence will take place at 11am on the 11th. Displays by local companies and parishioners. Tea and coffee available.

Sunday Afternoon Organ Music with Paul Carr

at Holy Trinity Parish Church, Wordsley. 3pm. Retiring collection for the organ. 1 November: Mendelssohn's 200th Anniversary: Organ Sonata no 6 in D minor and works by Spicer, Dupre and Bossi - 6 December: Music for Advent and Christmas including works by J S Bach, Handel, Gigout and Daquin.

Salvation Army Band Concert

At The Bridge - (formerly St. Luke's Church) Evesham Road, Headless Cross, Redditch, Worcs B97 4JX on Saturday 21 November 2009 at 7.30pm. More information: 01527 542281.

Saturday concerts at Pershore Abbey

14th Nov: 7.30: Pershore Choral, 5th Dec: 7.30: Worcester Male Voice Choir
12th Dec: 7.30: Pershore Choral, Tickets available on the door or call 01386 552071.

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 and all proceeds to Birmingham Christmas Shelter for the homeless. More information: Margaret Penn 01384 270806.

The St Edburga, Leigh Flower Festival

is to take place on 18, 19 and 20 June 2010, in the historic 12th century Norman church & 13th century Tithe Barn. Floral displays, Concert, Craft Fair, Pre-view Wine Reception, Teas & Lunches.

St Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Broadway

seeks a dynamic and enthusiastic Organist and Choirmaster to continue the expansion of the music within our growing Parish Church. Duties include the training of the choir; playing for the weekly Eucharist throughout the year, the 6pm Evensong during the summer months only and for major church festivals. There are also 10 to 12 weddings and a number of funerals during the year. A competitive salary in line with RSCM rates, additional fees for extra services and holidays are negotiable with the vicar, Terry Mason. Please contact him for further details on 01386 852352 or email broadwayvicarage@tesco.net

Give A Good Childhood This Christmas -

You can play your part in spreading the message of the ground-breaking 'The Good Childhood Inquiry' this year by organising a Christingle service in the Diocese of Worcester and help to raise vital funds for The Children's Society. For your free Create-a-Christingle worship pack or for details of how to get involved. call 0845 300 1128 or visit www.christingle.org.

Festival Of Healing -

Worcester Cathedral on Saturday 7 November, the author Dr Sheila Cassidy will be leading a morning Workshop and also speaking during the Healing Service at 2pm, at which Bishop John is the celebrant. Registration is at 9.30 at the Chapter House; donation of £5 (cash) on the day to cover expenses. Please book through Sue Amer, 01562 66625 or email suecelticamer@tiscali.co.uk

Holy Trinity Team Redditch Christmas Tree Festival

Friday 4 Dec to Sunday 6 December - 9.30-4.30 on Fri and Saturday, 12-4 on Sunday at St Stephen's Church. Proceeds to 'Help for Heroes' and Mission of the Holy Trinity Team Redditch. More information: 01527 526032.

15th Roadpeace European Service of Remembrance

for all those affected by road deaths and injuries. The service will be held at St Ambrose Church, Kidderminster on Sunday 15th November 2009 at 6.30pm. Further details from Revd Canon Paul Brothwell tel. 01299 823495.

Cassocks needed - 2 or 3 dark red/ claret coloured adult male cassocks needed, in good condition. Please contact Clare Furey, Choir Leader, Feckenham Saint John the Baptist, if you can help. Tel (01527) 894849 or email clarefurey@pec.org.uk

For Sale - 30 wooden stacking chairs - contact Alison Vincent at the Old Palace on Worcester 01905 732802.

- 1 Sunday Afternoon Organ Music with Paul Carr** at Holy Trinity Parish Church, Wordsley. 3pm. Mendelssohn's 200th Anniversary: Organ Sonata no 6 in D minor and works by Spicer, Dupre and Bossi.
- 3 Worcester Diocesan Assembly - Forward in Faith:** Mass at 7.30pm at St James' Lower Gornal followed by an address.
- 5 Great Malvern Priory 'Lunchbox' - 'A Week in Westminster'** - Talk by Canon John Atkinson. 12.30pm.
- 5 Sausage and Sparklers at Holland House**
- 7 Traidcraft Christmas Fair** in St Anne's Church Centre, Bewdley. 10am-4pm. Wide range of fairly traded gifts, crafts, jewellery, household items, Christmas cards etc and foodstuffs. Refreshments, including lunches. More information from Elaine Barbour on 01299 400617
- 7-11 9th Annual Poppy Festival** (see page 7)
- 14 Scarlatti St Cecilia Mass and Duruflé Requiem** at Worcester Cathedral (see page 6)
- 14 Save the Children Bazaar**, 10-12noon at St Martin's Parish Centre, London Road, Worcester.
- 14 Remembrance, a meditation in music and poetry.** St Mary's Chamber Choir, William Thiery, cello; music by Ballard, Bruch, Faure and Elgar, at St George's RC Church, Sansome Place, Worcester. 7.45pm.
- 19 Great Malvern Priory 'Lunchbox':** 'Clerkenwell Markers Revisited' - Talk by Michael Shiner about his new book.
- 19 Christian Aid Lunch - Holland House**
- 21 Salvation Army Band Concert** at The Bridge - (formerly St. Luke's Church) Evesham Road, Headless Cross, Redditch, Worcs B97 4JX on Saturday 21 November 2009 at 7.30pm. More information: 01527 542281
- 21 Annual Parish Bazaar** at St Michael's Church, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove, 2-4pm. Lots of stalls - Father Christmas will be visiting - refreshments. Admittance 25p, children free.
- 29 Advent Supper and Carols - Holland House**

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Editor: Rachel Edwards.

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

Fax: 01905 612302 or

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

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01905 20537 or email
redwards@cofe-worcester.org.uk.