

WORCESTER Diocesan News



February 2010

Stourbridge Foodbank – feeding the most needy

Stourbridge Foodbank seeks to feed people in crisis by providing a three-day emergency supply of food to needy families and individuals. In the first six months of this year alone the project has fed over 1100 people (including 400 children), which is a donation of 7,800 kg of food. The project started two years ago by Chawn Hill Church, part of the Pioneer Churches, and had to move away from its roots in Chawn Hill to St John's United Reformed Church in Stourbridge, because they quickly outgrew their premises through the way that many churches, including Anglican ones, have joined in.

The scheme works for those in need, sometimes people who don't normally access services; they can obtain vouchers via professional, voluntary and statutory sectors, which they can cash in for a temporary supply of food at the Foodbank. Designed as a short-term measure to give people going through a crisis breathing space to sort themselves out, they are also offered a hot drink, a meal and an opportunity to talk to Foodbank volunteers in a comfortable setting. Homeless people are offered a few important toiletries that many of us take for granted.

The Foodbank is supported by congregations from all local denominations who supply food and toiletries on a weekly basis and also assist

as volunteers in the local distribution centre at St John's in Stourbridge. The project has now grown to include centres at Brierley Hill, Netherton and Halesowen. There's also a plan to open a centre in Dudley in the near future, although this will require £7,500 to refurbish kitchen facilities at The Broadway (the proposed site).

Wendy Fryatt who began the foodbank after a visionary dream says, 'Jesus urges us to care for our neighbours, you bring what you have and Jesus does the rest – a homeless man whose tent was stolen was fed here and is now volunteering to feed others; a young mum with her 5 month old baby who were homeless, wrote to us and said: "Thank you for the food you gave me last week.

It really helped me settle into a new place without having to worry about food."

The Charity is always looking for donations and volunteers and full details of what items can be used by the Foodbank is available online from: blackcountryfoodbank@yahoo.co.uk or telephone 07531 508839. If every family in a church in the borough of Dudley gave just one item from the foodbank's shopping list, every week, there would be enough to feed those in need.



This is your Training and Development team!

From left to right: Sheila Banyard, Sue Gromski, Stephen Winter, Robert Jones, Doug Chaplin, Georgina Byrne and Ron Hesketh.



Sheila's and Doug's roles are executed in addition to their day jobs, and Georgina and Ron are part time.

If you are interested in knowing more about:

- Calling to Reader ministry
- The Authorised Lay Ministry training programme 2010/2011
- Bishop's Certificate courses

- Calling to the ordained ministry
- Ordination training
- Lay training for your parish
- In-service training for ministers and clergy

Please contact us via Sue Gromski at the Diocesan Office on 01905 732812 or training@cofe-worcester.org.uk

'Say One For Me' on Ash Wednesday'

The Bishop of Worcester launched 'Say one for me' on Ash Wednesday 2009. With simple prayer cards and a collecting box, he invited the media to a job centre in Redditch, one of the areas most seriously hit by the recession. That evening he read out the box full of prayers on the altar at Worcester Cathedral, adding his prayers for all people hit by unemployment and job insecurity.

"I want to let people know that God is watching over them and cares for them however difficult their situation" Bishop John Inge reported in the Guardian. This year Bishop David will take a turn to collect prayers in the north of the diocese. Look out for 'Say One for Me' in the news this month.



Congratulations to ...

Revd Pat Harvey who has become Curate in Charge in the Teme Valley South.

The Revd Beryl Pritchett, who has become an Associate Priest of the Brierley Hill Team.

The Revd Biddi Kings who has become NSM Associate Priest in the Bowbrook Group.

The Revd Sheila Rosenthal who has become Chaplain to Evesham Community Hospital.

Obituary

Roy Hearnshaw who has been a very active member of Bromsgrove Deanery Synod. He leaves a wife and his two children

God's timetable

This strange little period between Epiphany and Ash Wednesday, is one that the Church doesn't seem to know what to do with. The extension with the introduction of Common Worship of the "white" season up to Candlemas on February 2nd, feels more like an attempt to plug an embarrassing gap than a



serious addition to the Church's year. The difficulty is that between the stories of Jesus' infancy and the account of his 40 day retreat in the desert lie some three decades of almost total silence. From the earliest centuries writers have tried to fill that blank – often with fanciful and bizarre tales of miraculous doings. Later on artists painted him patiently labouring in Joseph's workshop, whilst his forthcoming passion was heralded in apparently innocent aspects of the picture. But, by and large, we have grown accustomed to just rushing past the gap; seeing Jesus age from infancy to 30 in the blinking of an eye.

Even by today's standards, when half the population are still in full-time education beyond their teenage years, 30 is pushing it. By the yardstick of his own generation, Jesus was well into middle age. His contemporaries were beginning to celebrate the emergence into manhood of their sons, and arranging the marriages of their older daughters, yet Jesus apparently has nothing to show for his years on earth. It has been argued that these decades represent a period of intense inner growth, or that they were

necessary for Jesus to have fully taken upon himself the human condition. But not, I fear without so distancing Jesus from the ordinariness of humanity as to lose what the incarnation means.

No, uncomfortable as the notion is to our modern busyness, I don't see how we can avoid the

conclusion that these were years of waiting. The time was not ready. The gap between the right moment for the Saviour's birth and the proper time for Him to embark on proclaiming the Good News was a full thirty years. God's timetable in this, as so often, being radically different from what you and I would consider efficient or necessary.

Like the time between the planting of the seed and its germination, these 30 years are not a time of wasting, but of waiting. And so they are for us too. When we have done all we can, prepared to our best, we wait. That waiting is ever vigilant, but it is still a time when action will not do. God's timetable cannot be pushed.

So in this dark and cold season of the year, before we take up the disciplines of Lent, let us wait with the Christ whom himself waited. Not in the hope or expectation that God will thereby break in upon us, but simply because that is what Christians and Christ, do.

Bishop David

Putting Life into Worship by the Rev'd Doug Chaplin

I was quite surprised to find that our local Waitrose normally gets a mystery shopper visit and report once a week. I get the impression that this is normal for most supermarkets. They want us, their customers, to have a good shopping experience, and they put a lot of effort into it.

Shortly after I found this out, the Bishop asked me to take up the role of worship advisor, working on our diocesan priority of developing good worship. This coincidence made me think. How do

we find out whether people have a good experience of worship in our churches? How do we improve that? And, to be blunt, what is “good worship” anyway?

Some people will say that we simply can't

prescribe what “good worship” is. It will depend entirely on what our particular tradition is, and the sincerity with which we approach God. Diversity and sincerity are both very important, especially in our Anglican tradition. Nonetheless, I think we can identify some features of “good worship”.

It is about experiencing the presence of God. We may aim to do that by finding the right mix of prayer, praise, music, silence, and so on. We may look for the balance of Word and Sacrament and the use of both traditional and contemporary approaches. It may also be about very practical matters like making sure people can hear the readings, or are not so cold that they can't concentrate. But the question “Do we help each other experience God?” is a very important one to ask.

Good worship is about participation. The audience for most of the service is not the

congregation but God. Everyone present is an actor, a worshipper. Some roles include reading, others leading prayer, or accompanying songs. Some will be very visible, others in the chorus. Others again will just say “Amen” clearly. How well do we encourage participation?

A third marker is that good worship is related to real life. Picture an iceberg, with only a small part showing above water. Church services are the visible bit of our attempt to direct our

whole lives to God by offering him our work, relationships, leisure, action and prayer (St Paul says “present your bodies, as a living sacrifice ... which is your spiritual worship” Rom 12:1 NRSV.) Is church worship an escape from

real life, or a way of finding strength and encouragement to go out and live God's mission?

Those are some big questions, and I hope we can help each other ask them. There are materials available to help parishes explore how “good” worship is in some of the ways I've outlined here, even including ways of doing a “mystery worshipper” style of review. I hope we all want to improve the quality of what we offer God, and help each other experience God's presence. Contact training@cofe-worcester.org.uk if you want to explore how I or my colleagues can help you do that.

Doug Chaplin is a Vicar in the Droitwich Spa Team, Diocesan Director of Reader Training, Diocesan Worship Advisor and the author of *Leading Common Worship Intercessions* Church House Publishing 2009.



Photograph courtesy of Keith Colley

Salt 'n' Light – Diocesan Youth Event

For many young people in small youth groups around the diocese, both rural and urban, diocesan events, like Salt 'n' Light have a powerful impact, whether or not they have already made a commitment to faith or have seen the difference that faith makes to those around them. The mix of those who have already been confirmed and those exploring it at these events has made these events an important step in the



journey of faith for many young people, be those the first tentative steps or leaping bounds in God's service.

Salt 'n' Light began by combining elements of both Rock the Cathedral and Walk the Walk. On a Saturday in September last year, The Old Palace and St Helen's church were transformed into joint venues for the Worcester Diocesan Youth Council's new Salt 'n' Light event. After some fun and games to get the afternoon going, the youth council organised three workshops, linked to the theme of the day, for the other young people who came; Light of the World, In Yer Faith and Firm Foundations. The Youth council wanted to help other young people in the diocese to live out their faith not just on Sundays but all the time, as salt and light in their schools and communities. The workshops involved making a prayer wall, prayer wristbands, and glass candle holders using pebbles, sand and salt to encourage them in prayer, living out their faith and being sure of the foundations they have for their lives.

Bishop John shared in the day and joined with the young people who have made their personal commitment to faith before him, during the confirmation services around the diocese. After sharing a meal together, an important part of any Christian community, the young people then moved to St Helen's church for an evening of music and worship. The local

youth band Formal Affair kicked off the evening before Jon Pedley, chair of the youth council spoke about the way William Wilberforce had been an excellent example of someone who was Salt and Light to those around them. He encouraged the young people to do the same, saying, "May the Wilberforce be with you!" The evening was rounded off with a chilled out set from the band Til We Have Faces, who featured at last year's Rock the Cathedral (as The Relentless Craving).

Youth projects around the diocese have recently been given £16,000 by the Youth Evangelism Fund, boosting the work of groups everywhere. Sarah Brush, the Diocesan Youth Officer is delighted, 'The young people have come up with some inspiring ideas for sharing their faith with other young people and the church has matched their considerable creativity with some solid funding to help them bring their ideas into reality.'

In Redditch, a group from the newly formed 'The Bridge' in Headless Cross have been given £3,000 for an expressive arts project which will pay for music lessons for some of the disadvantaged members of the local community. In Worcester, 'WASP' were given £1,500 to run a 3 week summer café in a town centre church and in Upton on Severn.

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

2 - 28 February - Exhibition - 100
Years of Girl Guiding in the Dean's
Chapel.

Thursday 4 February 2010, 6.00pm

The Worcester Lecture. The first ever
Worcester Lecture, a lecture jointly
sponsored by the University of
Worcester and Worcester Cathedral.
The lecture, to be held annually, will
explore the matters of ethics in public
life. Dame Anne Owers, Chief Inspector
of Prisons and Chair of Christian Aid, will
deliver the first Worcester Lecture. Her
topic will be 'The moral performance of
prisons – ethical issues for prisons and
society'. Further details will be available
from the Chapter Office 01905 732900.

Saturday 20 February: 10am - 4pm -
Worcester Re-enactors come to
Worcester Cathedral for Living History
Day in the Cloisters.

Saturday 6 March: 10am - 4.30pm.

Come and Sing. For further information
telephone 01905 732900 or visit
www.worcestercathedral.co.uk

Worcester Festival Choral Society:

20 March 2010: Vaughan Williams A
Sea Symphony, Richard Strauss Four Last
Songs. 7:30pm. Tickets £5-£22.50.

**TURN UP FOR A TOUR from
November to end of April – Saturdays
11am and 2.30pm**

(£3 per adult, accompanied children free)

Holland House Events

16 February - 'Tuesday Lunch' speaker to be Mr Barker the owner of Tilitridge
Vineyards Upon-upon- Severn

9 March - 'Tuesday Lunch' speaker to be Roger Umpellby 'The Kitchen Garden
Today'

29 to 30 March - The Revd Ian Spencer 'Passion Tide' retreat

29 March - A dinner and speaker on 'Edward Lutyens' the esteemed garden
designer.

What's On - February



20-21 February: Snowdrop Weekend at St Leonard's Church, Beoley near Redditch

(on B4101) some 2 miles NE of Redditch.

Saturday – Church and churchyard open from 10-4pm. Sunday – Services at 8,

9.30 and 10.45am – please come. Church and churchyard open from 12-4pm. Refreshments available all day. Exhibition in church. More information Ralph Richardson 01527 544994.

Great Malvern Priory 'Lunchbox' - Thursday Lunchtimes from 12.30-1.30pm.

Talks/concerts starts at 1pm. Bring your own lunch at 12.30pm, teas/coffee available. Everyone very welcome to come along with friends.

11 February - Concert by Malvern College including the Jazz Band

25 February - The Benedictine Rule. Talk by Abbot Stuart Rees of Burford Priory

11 March - Concert by Pupils from Malvern St. James

25 March - "Go West" Talk by Sandy Marchant The Story of the Teme Valley Pilgrimage Project

Sunday Afternoon Organ Music - Monthly Series with Paul Carr at Holy Trinity Parish Church, Wordsley, Stourbridge DY8 5RU

First Sunday in each month at 3pm. Admission to these recitals is free. A retiring collection is taken to assist in funding the care and maintenance of the instrument. A view of the organ console is usually projected onto a large screen at the front of the church, giving excellent views of the performer. Further details: www.paulcarr.co.uk

Sunday 7th February at 2010 3.00pm: 'Old with New'

A programme of organ works written during the last two decades alongside works from the 17th 18th and 19th centuries

Sunday 7th March 2010 at 3.00pm: 'J.S. Bach'

The annual programme devoted entirely to the music of J.S. Bach

Worcester Philharmonic Orchestra Concert at Pershore Abbey

2.30pm - Saturday 6 March 2010, Beethoven ~ Egmont Overture Op 84, Chopin ~ Piano Concerto No 1 in E minor Op 11, Soloist - Janine Smith, Beethoven ~ Symphony No 6 in F Op 68 "Pastoral" - More information: 01386 552918 or editor@pershoreabbey.org.uk

Worcester Cathedral Chamber Choir

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 £12 (under 18's £10) available from

www.worcestercathedralchamberchoir.co.uk, or by calling 07549 634068. Tickets for both these events are £12 (under 18's £10).

St George's Church - a Waterloo Church

"St George's - a Waterloo Church" is the title of a new Kidderminster local history book charting the history of one of the largest churches in the Diocese.

The book has been compiled and written by Melvyn Thompson whose association with St George's choir started near the end of the Second World War.

Priced at £12.99 the book is available [post free] by contacting Melvyn Thompson on 01562 67077 or St George's Parish Office 01562 822131. **All profit from book sales will go to the St George's Restoration Fund.**

Community Transport in the Church - Bewdley

St Anne's Church in the centre of Bewdley is the base for a Community Transport service covering the whole of a North West Worcestershire. It is backed by 50 volunteer drivers who support anyone in that area who cannot use public transport or their own for essential journeys. Every day of the week disadvantaged and disabled passengers are taken to medical, social, and day-care appointments, guided in if necessary, and taken home afterwards; if you can help please contact at cthld@gotadsl.co.uk

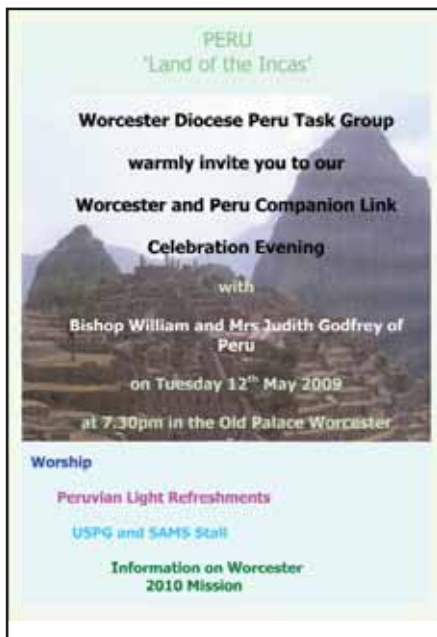
All Saints Church, Bromsgrove, B60 1AF - invites everyone to join in a Sing-In of Fauré's Requiem on Saturday March 6th 2010

conducted by **Henry Fairs, FRCO**, with soloists from the Birmingham Conservatoire. Rehearsal from 2 - 5 pm. Performance 6.00 - 7.00 pm (bring a sandwich) All are very welcome - no experience necessary. Charge: £5.00 Music will be provided. Funds raised will go towards the necessary replacement of church heating. To book (cheques payable to All Saints' PCC), or for further details:

Mike Carrick, 29 Malvern Road, Bromsgrove, B61 7HE mike.carrick@zen.co.uk 01527 873135

CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING PROGRAMME

Venue	Day	Month
HALESOWEN Lapal, St Peter B62 0BH	Weds 10 MORNING 10 – 12 noon	FEBRUARY 2010
WORCESTER St Martins, London Road	Mon 17 MORNING 10 - 12 noon	MAY
MALVERN St Andrews, Church Hall	Weds 9 7.30 - 9.30 pm	JUNE
STOURBRIDGE St Peters, Pedmore	Weds 15 7.30 - 9.30 pm	SEPTEMBER
BROMSGROVE St John the Baptist Church Hall	Weds 20 7.30 - 9.30 pm	OCTOBER
BREDON Church Rooms	Weds 17 7.30 - 9.30 pm	NOVEMBER



FEBRUARY

- 4 Worcester Diocesan Assembly – Forward in Faith** - Mass at 7.30pm at St Peter's Crabbs Cross.
- 7 Sunday Afternoon Organ Music with Paul Carr 'Old with New'**
- 11 Great Malvern Priory 'Lunchbox'** - Concert by Malvern College including the Jazz Band
- 25 Great Malvern - Priory 'Lunchbox'** The Benedictine Rule. Talk by Abbot Stuart Rees of Burford Priory
- 27 Great Malvern Priory Organ Recital** by Nicholas Woods. 12 noon. Retiring Collection. Details: www.malvernprioryorgan.org.uk

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