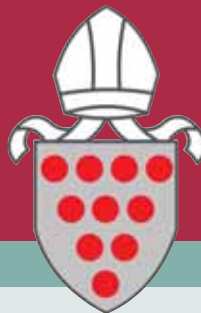


# WORCESTER Diocesan News



February 2008



## Off the C.U.F

The Church Urban Fund is a not for profit organisation supporting social action in the

poorest areas of England. Local people working at a local level put their faith into action in the places where they live, and do extraordinary things for the good of others. By partnering with other organizations CUF is able to make a real difference to the day to day effects of poverty, advocating on behalf of faith communities and their work at grass roots, giving grants, developing research and championing causes related to poverty. CUF uses the Church of England's diocesan structure to ensure that local knowledge is used to give people and projects the best support.

Set up in 1987 by the Church of England, Church Urban Fund was a practical response to the 1985 'Faith in the City' report from the Archbishop of Canterbury's Commission on Urban Priority Areas. 'Faith in the City' highlighted the

social turmoil that many of England's inner city areas were experiencing, confronting the Church with a great challenge: not to retreat from the problems found in cities, to look to tackle the roots of poverty, and to aim to make a tangible difference in deprived communities. Traditionally focused on urban areas, it now also funds projects in rural areas of deprivation.

Twenty years on, the Fund has invested more than £60 million in over 5,000 local faith-based projects in the poorest areas of England.

C.U.F has provided grants for these projects within the diocese.

**The Where Next Association in Redditch** offers people with learning difficulties and other special needs, the opportunity to experience the real world of work. The project gives its clients the chance to earn respect, both amongst their peers and their community, and create income to enable the project's work to continue.

Graham Clark, general manager said 'The Association offers our clients the experience of real commercial surroundings and is much more than just a training facility or a day centre.'



**Oldington and Foley Park Community Network, Kidderminster** – CUF contributed towards the cost of the Network's Finance Officer for an Advice Shop, After School and Holiday Club, a café and a recycling workshop.

**The Tolly Community Centre, Christ Church, Tolladine, Worcester** - home for a number of community organisations and activities including antenatal and senior citizen groups, lifelong learning, advice and welfare support, health services and art activities. CUF has provided two grants – for the building and for landscaping.

**St Luke's Cradley Heath Drop in Centre** – in collaboration with Barnardos and the Sandwell Borough Council this provides meeting facilities inside the back of the church. CUF made a grant to help with the reordering of the building.

You can find out more about The Church Urban Fund or how to donate at [www.cuf.org.uk](http://www.cuf.org.uk) or call John Paxton on 01905 732819, if you wish to apply for a grant.

## Congratulations to the Bishop's Certificate Holders

On a cold and wet November night, 65 people were awarded their Bishop's Certificate. The service took place in the Chapter House of Worcester Cathedral, and was led by the Rt Revd David Walker, Bishop of Dudley.

Judy Baker, Training and Development Co-ordinator said, 'It was a lovely occasion and I was delighted to see so many people enjoying the service and the fellowship of their certificate colleagues.'

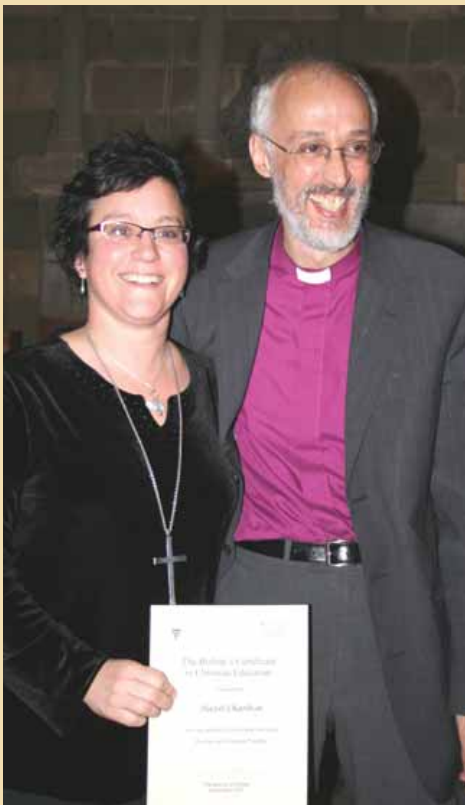
Bishop David delivered an insightful and entertaining address paraphrasing Donald Rumsfeld's remarks on the 3 types of knowledge; that which we know, that which we know we don't know and that which we don't know that we don't know. He then added a fourth, things that other people know and linked all four to the experiences of learning through a Bishop's Certificate course.

Groups had travelled from all over the Diocese to collect their awards, but Delroy Gardner who had studied with the Brierley Hill Group took the unofficial award for the furthest travelled; he had returned from his new home in Cyprus, especially for the occasion.

The Bishop's Certificate is a 30 week course designed to help people learn more about worship, encouraging and inspiring faith, working together in a group.

One participant remarked that it was the 'best £20 I've ever spent'.

If you are interested in joining the next Bishop's Certificate Course then please contact Judy Baker on 01905 732812 or email [jbaker@cofe-worcester.gov.uk](mailto:jbaker@cofe-worcester.gov.uk) before the end of September 2008.



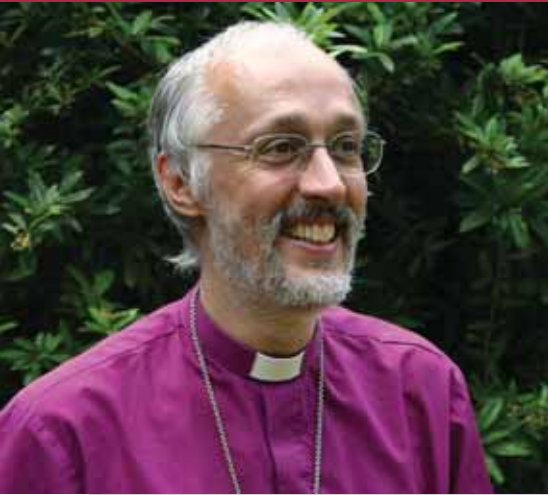
## Congratulations

**The Revd Penelope Dent**, currently Assistant Curate in St Nicholas Parish Church, North Walsham (Norwich), who is to be Vicar in the Redditch Holy Trinity Team Ministry (Worcester).

## Obituary

**Revd Percy Lutton** died peacefully at home on Monday 12 November 2007, in Oswestry, Shropshire, aged 83. He and his wife Kathleen came over from Ireland in 1949 when he was appointed curate of St John's, Dudley. He was vicar of St Mark's, Stambermill, until they moved with their children, Peter and Susan, to All Saints' Wribbenhall in 1961. He became rector of Castlemorton, Birtsmorton, and Hollybush in 1980 and retired in 1989. Despite eye problems he enjoyed his 'busman's retirement' and was active until the day he died. He was a good and faithful servant who will be greatly missed.

# Stewards of God's Creation



It seems hardly yesterday that we placed the wise men in our Christmas crib scenes and yet, with Easter almost as early as it can be in 2008 the beginning of February sees us already into Lent. I don't think I'd want it like that every year, not least for the sake of the parish clergy who have barely had time to catch their breath before launching into Holy Week preparations, but maybe once in a while it does us good to still have Christmas in mind at this point. For, whilst the strongest reason for our penitential disciplines must be that this is the world Jesus died for, we should also go into Lent mindful that this is the world Jesus was born for and lived in.

Christians have rightly picked up in recent years on a wider concern in European society about environmental issues. It is often expressed as the need to preserve the planet for our children and grandchildren. I hope that we fully share

in that imperative, as stewards of God's creation. But we have other and even stronger reasons for reverencing the earth.

Jesus' becoming flesh and blood changes the nature of all flesh and blood; Jesus taking physical, material form changes the nature of every atom and molecule in creation. Everything on earth shares something of the divine, even if that reality is well hidden from view.

What should be the keynote of our Lenten penance this year? Let me suggest that it should be our failure to recognise and reverence, both the creation around us and the human beings who populate it. All is indwelt by God. This is what St Francis of Assisi was proclaiming in his great Canticle of the Creatures; praising God for sun, moon and earth itself; for plants, animals and humanity.

When we exploit the planet for our own ends we are not only wasting valuable resources that succeeding generations have need of, we are guilty of demeaning the world that Jesus came to dwell in. When we treat other people badly we are insulting the flesh that Christ himself shared. Instead, let us commit ourselves this Lent to living in a world changed forever and enriched forever by the incarnation of our Lord.

**Bishop David**

# Thinking About Water....

Each year on 22 February, the Girl Guiding movement all over the world celebrates World Thinking Day. World Thinking Day was first created at Guiding conference in 1926 in America, when conference attendees decided that there should be a special day when Girl Scouts and Girl Guides all around the world think of each other and give thanks and appreciation to their "sister" Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. The delegates chose 22 February as the date for Thinking Day because it was the mutual birthday of Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scout movement, and his wife Olave, who served as World Chief Guide.



This year's theme is 'Think about Water', focusing on water's importance to health and on the issues of access to clean water and water conservation, an issue close to the hearts of the 1st Pershore Brownies whose town was deluged in the floods of 2007. Sam Andrews Brown Owl at the Pershore pack, which she founded in 1997, is dedicated to giving young girls the opportunity to flourish and have fun in a caring and creative environment.

'All the girls that come here have a wonderful time, making, playing, sharing and listening. Brownies is a great opportunity for girls to

make friends and practise some of the Christian teachings about treating people with respect and consideration, as well as learning about their community and world.'

She laughs at the prospect of thinking about water next February, 'We are quite good at that in Pershore anyway, we have already had to move premises once as a result of flooding, but we will definitely be turning our attention to those in the world for whom obtaining clean, safe water is a real issue.'

The 1st Pershore Brownies, along with others across the diocese and nation will be learning that our bodies, which are nearly 70 per cent water,

need water to stay healthy and function properly. Clean water is also necessary for hygiene and personal needs as well as for cooking and cleaning our homes and schools. However, over one billion people – one-sixth of the world's population – lack easy access to safe water and proper sanitation, leading to disease and death.

Guides, Brownies and Rainbows (the guiding movement for girls from 5 to 7 years), from across the district will come together to celebrate Thinking Day, and Sam is looking forward to sharing the experience with her colleagues and her girls.



# Acute Need

It's about a year since the problems facing chaplains in the Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust were in the headlines and during the intervening time, my colleagues and I have been extremely grateful for all the prayerful support we have received.

The Acute Hospitals Trust is responsible for chaplaincy services at the Worcestershire Royal, the Alexandra and the Kidderminster Hospitals; its chaplaincy team serving those hospitals is now working well with reduced resources, and recovering from difficult times.

There is an active chaplaincy serving patients, their relatives and the staff at all three hospitals. The Revd Judith Thompson is based at the WRH and the Revd Max Shepherd is based at the Alexandra. There is no longer a part-timer specifically allocated to the Kidderminster Hospital but Judith and Max cover that site on an ad hoc basis. The Trust also has an arrangement with the Roman Catholic Archdiocese for the provision of RC chaplaincy as required. Additionally, we have made every effort to develop contacts with leaders of other faith communities with a local presence.

The mainstay of our new ways of working has been to add to our volunteer reserve through recruitment, training and development. New

volunteers have come forwards to enable patient care to continue, albeit in a different form. Volunteers fill several roles: some are wheelchair pushers, assisting patients in attending hospital services; some are pastoral visitors to patient bedsides; some are clergy, who serve as honorary chaplains; some are clergy and Readers who help us to maintain 24-hours on call cover, so that the spiritual needs of all patients can be attended to night and day.

We are immensely proud of our volunteers and the wonderful ways in which they rally to ensure spiritual and pastoral care continues and that no patient is bereft of support when they need it. The Chairman and Chief Executive of Worcester Royal Hospitals NHS Trust have confirmed that chaplaincy provision at the Trust is secure for the future.

If you would like more information about becoming a volunteer with the chaplaincy team, do please get in touch with me at the number below, or contact my WRH colleague, the Revd Judith Thompson on (01905) 760124.

**The Revd Max Shepherd, Chaplaincy Team Leader, Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust - Direct dial: (01527) 505723**

# 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.

For further details contact the Chapter Office:  
01905 28854, [info@worcestercathedral.org.uk](mailto:info@worcestercathedral.org.uk)

Details of all events and services can be found  
at [www.cofe-worcester.co.uk](http://www.cofe-worcester.co.uk)

## Events at the Cathedral

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### **Saturday 2 February 2008,**

11.30am–3.30pm.

### **Diocesan Assembly - Celebrate the Feast of Candlemas.**

To book, contact the diocesan office on 01905 20537

### **Friday 30 May 2008,**

10am–5.15pm.

**St Wulfstan Day School** – held in the King's School Theatre. To include:

#### **4 Talks –**

#### **Worcester: The Cathedral & City at the time of Wulfstan**

(Christopher Guy, Worcester Cathedral Archaeologist)

#### **The Anglo-Saxon Churches of the historic Diocese of Worcester**

(Tim Bridges)

**St Wulfstan: His Life and Times** (Professor Nicholas Brooks, University  
of Birmingham)

**The Legacy of St Wulfstan** (Dr Katherine Lack)

Followed by a Tour of St Wulfstan's Cathedral. Price £20 including tea, coffee  
and packed lunch. Prior booking essential – 01905 28854.

# Events in February

## **Challenging Racism & Extremism - For clergy and Diocesan Office staff**

**Tuesday 26 February 2008, 9.45 for 10 am to 1 pm, followed by light lunch at Droitwich Methodist Church, Worcester Road, Droitwich**

This will be an opportunity to exchange information and experience and to reflect on how to address these critical issues in our own individual ministries, work and localities.

The day will be led by Mike Mason a retired Methodist Minister who is Chair of Dudley's Community Cohesion Alliance. He will be supported by Andrew Wickens, Vicar of St James, Dudley and Matthew Baynes, Rector of Bredon and an Associate CARL Chaplain.

Paul Singh from Dudley's Centre for Equality & Diversity, Chair of its Far Right Monitoring Group, and Steve Sparrow, Development Officer for Dudley Borough Interfaith Network will share their experience with us.

Racism and extremism are very real threats to the future stability of our society and must be of concern to all of us, whether we live in communities containing people from other races and faiths or not.

For more information, please contact Mike Mason: [mike.mason@brierleyhill.org](mailto:mike.mason@brierleyhill.org)

To book a place, please contact Judy Baker by email [jbaker@cofe-worcester.org.uk](mailto:jbaker@cofe-worcester.org.uk), or telephone 01905 732812, or by post at The Old Palace, Deansway, Worcester, WR1 2JE.

## **Voluntary Clerical Help Required**

The Mothers' Union, in the Diocese of Worcester, are seeking voluntary clerical help in preparing the rotas, on a three monthly basis, for the people who assist with the Play scheme at Brockhill Prison. The task requires a computer, access to emails and some letter writing. This is an opportunity to support a worthwhile project from your own home. All the information will be provided and expenses paid. More information Jenny Barton, Diocesan President, 01886 821538.

## **Benefice Secretary Required**

For Hallow and Grimley with Holt to work a minimum of eight hours per week. Basic computer skills and accurate typing essential. More information: Revd Robert Latham on 01905 748711.

## **Organist / choir leader required for St Barnabas Church, Kidderminster**

To further develop musical life of the church. 2 Sunday services, occasional offices + weekly choir practice. Enthusiastic choir of adults and children enjoy varied repertoire. RSCM rates. More information: Rev Dr Fiona Haworth 01562 748016 or [haworth@fish.co.uk](mailto:haworth@fish.co.uk)

## **Advance Notices**

### **Sunday Afternoon Organ Music at Holy Trinity Parish Church, Wordsley, Stourbridge - Monthly Series with Paul Carr.**

First Sunday in each month at 3pm. Admission 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. More information: [www.paulcarr.co.uk](http://www.paulcarr.co.uk).

### **Sunday 3 February:**

#### **Organ Music of J.S. Bach -**

including Passacaglia in C minor, Preludes, Fugues and Chorale Preludes.

### **Sunday 2 March:**

#### **Transcriptions -**

A programme of music not originally written for the organ.

### **Sunday 6 April:**

#### **Variations -**

Various themes treated in interesting ways ranging from Sweelinck in the sixteenth century to Briggs in the twenty-first century.

### **Worcester Diocesan Assembly Forward in Faith**

### **Saturday 8 March**

**AGM.** 2pm at St James', Lower Gornal.

### **Peru Links Celebration**

**Saturday, 12 April 2008** in St Michael and All Angels Parish Rooms, Stourport.

# Forthcoming Events

## Churches Together in Bromsgrove – Forthcoming Event:

### May 2-5

**CTIB** visit to Holland to Bulb Fields at Keukenhof, and to Amsterdam. More information and to book contact Kath Halfpenny as soon as possible 01527 873100

**The NewStarts project** takes donations of tinned or dry food, and re-usable items such as furniture, household appliances, bedding, curtains and floor coverings. Paint and decorating materials which are in reasonable condition and quality (e.g. half a tin or more) are also acceptable. Telephone 07851 555595 to speak directly to one of the project volunteers, or 01527 579150 ext 0. Large bulky items will be collected. Small household items and food can be given to your church's CTIB representative or taken during

office hours 9.30–3.30 Tue - Friday to the offices of New Song Community Church, 11 Kidderminster Road, Bromsgrove (near St. John's surgery). The project is a charity and financial donations are welcomed. (Other possibilities: Network Furniture Project: 01562 513399; or British Heart Foundation which can collect furniture and electrical goods: 08444 994163).

Donations of Food for the Homeless can be handed in at the **Bromsgrove Basement Project**, New Road (tel: 01527 832993). Mondays and Wednesdays 11–2 pm, and Fridays 1–4.30 pm or leave a telephone message at the office and you will be contacted.

For more information contact: Mike Carrick, 29 Malvern Road, Bromsgrove, B61 7HE. Tel & Fax 01527 873135.

## Diary - February 2008

**2 Diocesan Assembly - Celebrate the Feast of Candlemas** at Worcester Cathedral. 11.30am – 3.30pm. To book, contact the diocesan office on 01905 20537.

**3 Sunday Afternoon Organ Music** at Holy Trinity Parish Church, Wordsley, Stourbridge - Monthly Series with Paul Carr. (See page 7)

**11 Fifth in the series " Bible and Science". "Creation and Evolution"** 7.45 for 8pm. Richard Wood will speak and video clips from relevant lectures on evolution may also be shown. Venue: Hallow Chapel, Moseley Road, Hallow, Worcs. All welcome. More information: Geoff on 01905 641987 or Richard on 01905 615765.

### Worcester Diocesan News

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