

# WORCESTER Diocesan News



February 2009

**‘During my first few months here I have made a point of visiting all the deaneries in the diocese for a day. It has been a rich, enjoyable and hugely inspiring experience: I have been immensely impressed by all the good work that is being done in the communities of our diocese by the church and by the skill and commitment of so many people who are proclaiming God’s love in Jesus in word and deed’ - Bishop John.**

Here are some first hand accounts from some of the deaneries that have welcomed him over the past few months.



“Bishop John visited the Droitwich Deanery in October; it was a great success and enjoyed by many. The day included visits to 'Sure Start' local farms, lunch with churchwardens, time with clergy and an evening reception wine & cheese

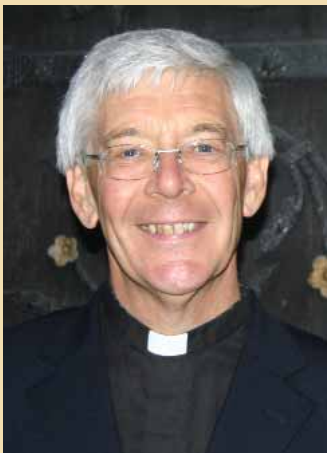
followed by an open forum which was attended by over 90 people. The Bishop spoke about the future of the church and the ministry of all. One of the highlights of the day was the Bishop’s visit to Wychbold church where he joined the young families for musical activities. He joined in the choruses and sang in rounds then tucked into tea with over 60 children” –

“In Pershore Deanery, Bishop John was very warmly welcomed by delighted children from the Defford-cum-Besford CE First School, where he explained to the children what it was like to be a bishop. He then visited the new Pershore Hospital where he visited patients and was shown the new facilities by staff. The afternoon was rounded off with a JAM session (Jesus and Me) with Revd Don Sloggett & very happy young children from St Barnabas School, Drakes Broughton. The Bishop’s warmth and enthusiasm made for a great day for all concerned.”

“Bishop John met with staff members from Dudley’s Centre for Equality & Diversity (CfED). The Centre addresses race equality and community cohesion within the Borough and has recently begun a project offering mentoring support to refugees across the West Midlands region. While visiting the Centre, the Bishop was presented with a t-shirt by Kenneth Rodney, CfED’s Chief Executive Officer. The T-shirts were designed by pupils of Thorns Community College in Quarry Bank, as part of community cohesion work undertaken with the centre’s staff. The t-shirts address issues of racism with a soccer theme, following CfED’s profiling of the Kick Racism out of Football campaign. But the black and white t-shirts also happen to show off Bishop John’s longstanding loyalty to Newcastle United!”



## Congratulations to...



*The Revd Stuart Currie*



*The Revd Barry Gilbert*

Bishop John is pleased to announce that **The Revd Stuart Currie** and **The Revd Barry Gilbert** have accepted his invitation to become Honorary Canons of Worcester Cathedral. They will be installed on February 8th in the Cathedral.

## Goodbye to...

**The Revd Olwen Woolcock** who has left to take up an appointment in Leicester

**The Revd Peter Furber** who has retired from Malvern Christchurch

**The Revd Jenny Furber** who has retired from her work as a NSM in Malvern Link.

## The Bishop's Certificate

Every year men and women from across the diocese work hard to gain their Bishop's Certificate in Theology. They meet weekly for thirty sessions in good weather and bad and many are prepared to travel some

distance to attend their group. Often people speak of it as being a life changing experience and many who never thought that study could be for them want to learn more and

more about their faith. The climax of the course comes when the certificates are presented in the Chapter House of the Cathedral in an occasion never to be

forgotten. This year on a cold November evening, Bishop John presented the certificates for the first time and spoke movingly on how essential it is for Christians to learn with their hearts as well

as their heads. On that cold night this ancient and beautiful place felt so warm and welcoming.



If you would like to do the Bishop's Certificate or find out more about

it, please contact The Rev Stephen Winter (01905 732812) or perhaps your parish might like to run a group next year. It could well change your life too.

# The God of Plenty

In times of recession we develop a mindset of scarcity. Even the majority of us, who have not lost jobs or seen our income reduced, feel pressure to cut back. That's no bad thing – putting the brake on the drive for ever greater and greater personal consumption fits well with the Christian Gospel. And as we pay off our Christmas credit card bills there is a proper Lenten discipline about making economies. But it matters hugely that we don't focus our efforts in the wrong directions.

We must pick the right things to cut back on, not the things that least affect our lifestyle. In times of plenty we reward ourselves with all sorts of little extras: more holidays or trips to far flung locations; more fashionable clothes and accessories that we throw away sooner; expensive products when a cheaper version would do. Over time these become habits, and so both less obvious to us and much harder to give up. Insidiously, we even begin to feel that we have somehow earned or deserve them rather than accepting them as good fortune. Charities are rightly concerned that many of us will respond to the present situation by cutting back on what we give before we cut back on what we spend on ourselves. At the very time when the poorest are feeling the world economic downturn more acutely than everyone else and governments have less

to spend on welfare, there is a real fear that charity income will be hit hard as we all protect that weekend winter break rather than the needy at home or abroad.



And we need to recognise that scarcity is a purely material phenomenon; it doesn't apply to God. God remains the God of plenty; the one who will give us far more than we can desire or deserve; the one who calls us to generosity so that he can be generous with us. What often holds us back is another facet of the “lifestyle” problem that hampers our ability to deal with economic change. We've grown comfortable with particular ways of being church that no longer fit our resources or our opportunities. The challenge, in finding patterns of mission and ministry or the future, in planning pastoral structures that are fit for purpose and in identifying and releasing the gifts of God's people, is the same as our personal economic challenge. We need to look first to what we can give, not to how we can avoid the personal impact of change.

And then God will bless us.

**Bishop David**

# Putting the Change into Ringing

Living in this country, whether in a large city or a small village, you will probably have heard the sound of church bells. It's a sound that can stir up many emotions, the joy of a wedding, the sadness of solemn bells rung at times of loss and reflection and mild panic if you are late for church.

Bells have been rung since the early Middle Ages when they first became popular as a means of communicating with a large number of people; perhaps some of you will remember that type of mass

communication from the end of World War II when bells were rung in celebration following the ban on ringing. Bells were also very useful before everyone had access to a watch or clock.

Worcester Cathedral has had bells since medieval times, and the ringers of the Cathedral have brought things right up to date with their unique teaching centre for ringing. The teaching centre is a flexible facility where it is possible to learn how to handle a bell or the advanced ringing methods on twelve or more bells. The centre is state of the art using computer technology which includes a virtual ringing simulator for teaching in the privacy and quiet of the Cathedral bell tower. It works



like a flight or driving simulator. The future of bell ringing is not certain and this new centre, which is actively supported by the University of Worcester, the King's School, Bishop Perowne College and the City is a wonderful asset to have within our reach. The teaching centre is part of a renaissance in the teaching of bellringing as a heritage activity.

The centre is available to the whole Diocese and will also be rolled out to schools and colleges. The skills used in bell ringing improve our maths and rhythm skills and therefore

it is thought that the centre will also be very popular with schools, especially those who offer the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. The Cathedral Guild of Bellringers offer courses throughout the year and can also 'teach the teacher' so that groups can book the facility for practice nights or outings and as it does not disturb the neighbours it can be used at any time of day or night.

If you are interested in learning more about this unique facility then please contact Mark Regan on 01905 354339 or [markregan@arcubus.com](mailto:markregan@arcubus.com) to find out more.

# Healthcare Adviser – The Revd Clive Parr



keep an eye on these developments and to advise Bishop John accordingly.

Worcestershire Acute Trust and the Mental Health Trust are currently hoping to move towards Foundation Trust status (Dudley Hospitals have already achieved this). This will give them more responsibility for providing and developing local services and make them more accountable to

Having spent most of my working life as a manager in the NHS I was both surprised and delighted when Bishop John asked me to become his Honorary Healthcare Adviser. I was ordained in 2003 and thought my links with the NHS had long since ceased. The job is part-time and I combine it with my other part-time non-stipendiary post as an Assistant Priest in the Bredon Hill Group of Parishes.

We have a network of Hospital and Hospice Chaplains across the Diocese and one of my tasks is to support them in their ministry and assist in appointing new Chaplains. By no means are all Chaplains Anglicans, but there is agreement amongst the various Christian denominations that Bishop John should have responsibility for liaison and he meets them all from time to time. Chaplains have a good knowledge of all the major religions as they can often be the only point of spiritual contact at a crucial time. This year hospital chaplaincy was re-launched as the department of the spiritual and pastoral care, The Revd Andrew Fisher has recently been licensed as Chaplain to the Alexandra Hospital in Redditch; he remarks “the role of hospital chaplains and chaplaincy volunteers to be able to draw alongside such those coming to the hospital is vitally important.”

Currently I am visiting hospitals and hospices to get to know the chaplains and this also brings me into contact with managers who I’ve found to be very supportive of the vital work our chaplains are undertaking amongst both patients and staff.

The NHS is a constantly changing scene with new Government initiatives of one sort or another almost every year. Part of my role is to

local people. When I met representatives of the two Trusts, both drew attention to their ambition to recruit a large group of ‘members’, some 5000 each, to act as sounding boards about the standard of existing services and the development of new ones; attend meetings and discussions; take part in surveys and consultations and be involved in the election of the Council of Governors for the Trusts. Many church members are already involved as volunteers in hospitals and hospices and I know both Trusts would welcome people of all ages willing to volunteer as ‘members’ (Contact details are 0800 783 0335 (Acute Trust) and 01905 681517 (Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust). Applications from young people, 16 and over for the Acute Foundation Trust and 14 and over for the Mental Health Foundation Trust would be particularly welcome. Please do get in touch if you feel you can help.

Clive Parr  
(Contact details: 01386 710700;  
cw.parr@btinternet.com)

## What’s your story?

If you or your parish have an interesting tale to tell, something which might inspire or uplift others across the diocese please let us know about it.

The Diocesan News is for you, and about you, so make it work for you.

redwards@cofe-anglican.org.uk –  
01905 20537

# 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.

**Please note new Contact Details for the  
Cathedral: 01905 732900 and  
[www.worcestercathedral.co.uk](http://www.worcestercathedral.co.uk)**

## Sunday Services

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

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) or tel 01905  
732900

## Events at the Cathedral in February

### 3–22 February

#### **Exhibition By Jo Field, Kathy Priddis And Becky Newell**

Dean's Chapel

#### **Saturday 21 February: 11am – 4pm Living History In Worcester 'After the Battle of Worcester 1651' - Civil War at the Cathedral with Worcester Re-enactors**

Historical talks in the Guesten including the Battles  
of Worcester and Tewkesbury, Musketeers and  
Pikemen Drilling on College Green, Wounded  
Soldiers in the Cloisters

### 23 February: 8 March

#### **Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy (Woodbine Willie) 80th Anniversary Exhibition**

Dean's Chapel

### Saturday 28 February: 7.45pm

#### **Elgar Chorale Concert With English Symphony Orchestra And St Peter's Singers, Leeds**

Symphony No 1 and The Music Makers. English  
Symphony Orchestra with Catherine Wyn-Rogers.  
In support of St Richard's Hospice, Worcester.  
Tickets £30–£5 available from the ESO Box Office:  
01386 791044

## March

### Saturday 7 March

#### **Come And Sing With Nicholas Cleobury (for adults)**

Further details and  
application forms available  
from the Chapter Office:  
01905 732900

**Holland House** - Winter  
special offer of £25 per  
person per night bed and  
breakfast available Mon -  
Thurs for the following weeks  
2nd to 6th Feb and 16th to  
19th Feb.

# What's On

## Faith And Fitness

Thursday 5 February

**An evening with Rosemary Conley**, author and TV personality. Rosemary will be talking about all aspects of keeping fit and about her Christian faith. The evening will also include music from singer/songwriter Chris Eaton and refreshments. ALL proceeds from ticket sales are going to charity. To be held at 7.30pm at St Marys Church Kingswinford. Tickets £8 each to include refreshments. More information and tickets: Margaret Penn 01384 270806

## St John the Baptist Church Kidderminster,

Organ Recital in recognition of 100 years service of the Nicholson organ - Saturday 7 February 2009, 7pm start - Organist: Chris Strickland. Tickets £5 to include glass of wine. Proceeds in aid of the church restoration fund. Tickets available from Doreen Baker – 01562 752507

## 'A Thoroughly English Evening Hall'

The Friends of the Cathedral are holding 'A Thoroughly English Evening Hall' on Saturday 7 March 2009 at 7pm. The event is being held in Whittington Village Hall. Tickets £14 for members and £16 for non-members can be obtained from the Friends' Office: 01905 732920.

## Sunday Afternoon Organ Music by Paul Carr at Holy Trinity Parish Church, Wordsley.

Admission free.

Retiring collection.

Further details

[www.paulcarr.co.uk](http://www.paulcarr.co.uk)

Sunday 1st February 2009 at 3pm

## Organ Works by J.S. Bach

including Sinfonia to Cantata 29, Prelude & Fugue in D, and Chorale Preludes

Sunday 1st March 2009 at 3pm

**Mendelssohn's 200th Anniversary:** Organ Sonata no 2 in C minor and works by Langlais, Murrill and Stanford

Sunday 5th April 2009 at 3pm

**Organ Symphony Widor: Symphony VII in A minor**

## Snowdrop weekend

Sat & Sun

21 & 22 Feb

Place: St Leonard's Church, Beoley, nr Redditch, 4th Annual Snowdrop Weekend. Church & churchyard open all day.

Exhibition,

refreshments. Usual

Sunday services at 8.00 am, 9.30 am and

10.45 am. Any enquires: Ralph Richardson Tel: 01527 544994.



## An 8 day Spiritual Journey Through Jordan

(with McCabe Pilgrimages)

May 2-9, 2009 including Petra, Mt. Nebo, the Dead Sea. Led by the Revd. Paul and Diana Hunt from Malvern. Cost £1235. More information: 01684 578803 or email: [pauldianamalvern@googlemail.com](mailto:pauldianamalvern@googlemail.com)

**Church Textiles** – conservation or new.

NADFAS Volunteers are willing to undertake projects under Conservator's guidance. More information: 07989 463859

## Diocesan Lent Course

- Part of our Assembly Follow Up and building on the success of last year's Lent Course, for Lent 2009 we offer you a free five week Course, introduced by Bishop John and, at his request, developing two themes – spirituality and faith-sharing. For more information please contact [LentCourse@cofe-worcester.org.uk](mailto:LentCourse@cofe-worcester.org.uk)

# FEBRUARY DIARY

**Sunday Afternoon Organ Music by Paul Carr at Holy Trinity Parish Church, Wordsley.** 3pm. Organ Works by J.S. Bach including Sinfonia to Cantata 29, Prelude & Fugue in D, and Chorale Preludes

3—22 **Exhibition** by Jo Field, Kathy Priddis and Becky Newell in the Dean's Chapel (see page 6)

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

5 **Lunch Box at Great Malvern Priory.** 'A week in Westminster Abbey'. Canon John Atkinson. 1pm. BYO lunch from 12.30pm. More information: 01684 561020.

5 **Faith and Fitness.** An evening with Rosemary Conley at St Marys Church Kingswinford (see page 7)

7 **Organ Recital** at St John the Baptist Church, Kidderminster (see page 7)

19 **Lunch Box at Great Malvern Priory.** Recital. Vanessa Gunter (flute). Barry Stone (piano). 1pm. BYO lunch from 12.30pm. More information: 01684 561020.

21 **Living History In Worcester - 'After the Battle of Worcester 1651' - Civil War** at the Cathedral with Worcester Re-enactors 11am—4pm (see page 6)

23 February— 8 March

**Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy (Woodbine Willie)**

**80th Anniversary Exhibition** in the Dean's Chapel (see page 6)

28 **Malvern Priory Organ Recital.** 12 noon. Carleton Etherington (Tewkesbury Abbey). Retiring collection. Works by Hovland, Mendelssohn, Best, Peeters.

28 **7.45pm Elgar Chorale Concert with English Symphony Orchestra** And St Peter's Singers, Leeds. 7.45pm (see page 6)

## Worcester Diocesan News

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