

WORCESTER Diocesan News



July/August 2009

Bring me Sunshine

The Revd Eva McIntyre, vicar of All Saints Wilden and St Michael and All Angels, Stourport on Severn, is a great believer in a healthy mind. During Lent this year the parishes explored the subject of 'a quiet mind'; how the mind can affect our relationship with God and with each other. The parish has a long standing ministry for healing with monthly prayer sessions and the availability of anointing and laying on of hands. Eva has a particular interest in mental health, which of course touches so many of us in different ways.

Having shared some of her own experiences of struggle and also of working with vulnerable women in prison ministry, Eva has found that people were beginning to open up to her about their own issues. With a team of volunteers, she decided to hold a whole weekend event, in order to focus on the issue of mental health and give people a chance to talk, reflect and think about their own lives. It's not easy to ask people to come to a mental health event, so they flooded the town with bright leaflets calling the event 'Bring Me Sunshine' and inviting everyone to come to St Michael's and All Angels. Congregation members were also encouraged to come along and bring a friend who might need a little sunshine.

The free event comprised several different elements and was designed to with a wide audience in mind.

"We were absolutely delighted that people came and enjoyed the day in good numbers. Some were Church regulars and others weren't. It was amazing to see people so keen to receive what was on offer!" said Eva. **"The people who worked on the event were wonderful – the way they made people feel welcome and safe and all with positive, smiling faces."**



With one in four people suffering mental health problems in any one year, it is vital that the church reaches out to help, when and where it can. The Diocese of Worcester's Social Responsibility team is able to respond to government policy documents, inform parishes about health policy issues and organise occasional training and support, so do get in touch with the Diocesan Health and Healing Group, led by Heather Hill - 01527 67169.

Eva was delighted with the outcome of the 'Bring me Sunshine' event and said, 'The biggest sign of success was on people's faces; they looked light, bright and happy! We will certainly be doing this again.....and again!!' One visitor to St Michael's said 'Put it like this, I'm smiling - and I don't often smile!'

All Change?

All of us are having to navigate through a time of significant change. Our challenge – as Christians - is to discover a vision for the church in the 21st Century that is authentic and faithful and helps us become all we are called to be. Between 2004 and 2016 we know that the number of stipendiary clergy in the diocese will reduce by up to a quarter. This is simply the result of more people retiring than are entering training.

At the same time there is significant growth in the numbers of people offering and being trained for a wide range of other recognised ministries, both ordained and lay. Over the past year the deaneries have been developing varied and imaginative plans to address the changing situation and the reduction in stipendiary clergy.

The Archdeacons and the Diocesan Secretary have been working with church councils as new patterns of ministry emerge, working out

prayerfully the mission God has for us all, and re-forming the legal frameworks of parish, deanery and diocesan life.

Not small change!

Along with a reshaping of ministries has come increased costs in funding, with the Stewardship & Resources Officer, the Archdeacons and Diocesan Secretary have been working with church councils who, for a wide range of reasons, were falling behind with their Parish Share. In 2008 Parish Share Plans were being developed with at least seven parishes with total Share arrears of some £250,000. Building on that, more plans are now on the way.

As in all aspects of mission, it comes down to being open to God and responsive to his amazing generosity.

Bishop's Certificate 2009/10

Around 60 people across the Diocese of Worcester are doing the Bishop's Certificate this year. No essays to write but a chance to get to know your faith better alongside a group who want to do the same thing with you. Interested? Then contact Stephen Winter at swinter@cofe-worcester.org.uk or phone on 01905 732812.

Congratulations to...

The Revd Andrew Hazlewood who has become Priest in Charge of Wollaston, whilst continuing his role as Incumbent at Pedmore.

The Revd Diana Farmer who has become an MSE (minister in secular employment) at Wollaston.

Goodbye to....

The Revd Nigel Marns from St John's Bromsgrove who is leaving to work in the Truro Diocese.

The Revd Elizabeth Smith who is retiring from St Mary's, Sedgley through ill health.

The Revd Wendy Moore who is to leave her position as Incumbent of Bromsgrove All Saints, retiring to be licensed as House for Duty Team Vicar at Ashdon and Hadstock in the Saffron Walden Team Ministry.

We apologise to visitors with the "Buy One Get One Free" voucher that they were unable to redeem the voucher as the café was still closed. The opening has been delayed due to difficulties we have been experiencing with getting the service providers to move and repair supplies. It is hope the Café will be open by the beginning of July when the vouchers can be redeemed.

Faith of our Forbears

What will come out of the present financial crisis? My hope and prayer is that God will bring good out of it – for the church and for our society as a whole. As I see it these two are inextricably linked.

The Archbishop of York has recently pointed out that it's really not possible to talk about Englishness without talking about Christianity since, historically, Christianity has been at the heart of this nation. Virtues such as kindness to neighbours, fair play and common decency are not, of course, unique to the Christian faith – just as they are not unique to England – but these virtues have become embedded into our social fabric and heritage as a result of the Christian faith and its influence on society. In fact, pretty much everything that is of value in our society derives from the Christian faith. Though we need to welcome the richness that other faiths bring to this country the Archbishop calls the English to 'recognise collectively the enormous treasure that sits in our cultural and spiritual vaults.'

Our task, as those who hold to the faith of our forbears, is to help people do just that. These are challenging times for the church as they are for everyone in our society but they are times of great



opportunity. I detect a new willingness on the part of very many people to engage with things spiritual as they reject the shallowness and superficiality of a society based on wealth and celebrity. I pray that we, as Christians, will be given grace to dig deep into the well-springs of our faith in order to find the grace and strength to proclaim Jesus to a society which desperately needs to learn of his love – and which is more prepared to hear of him now than it has been for some considerable time.

Loving God, thank you for the wonderful Christian heritage of this nation. We pray that, in the power of the Spirit, you will enable us to help people to reconnect with it and so to find the abundance of life that only Jesus can bring. We pray in his precious name. Amen.

Bishop John

Going to the Chapel....?

Providing the church and Vicar are available, you can marry in church on any day of the week.

To simply marry in church, all that is legally required can cost less than £350.

Amazing Grace is the favourite hymn for weddings

A wedding is legal only if it happens between 8am and 6pm

You don't have to be christened to get married in church

'For richer for poorer' is still the most wanted vow by brides and grooms to be.

<http://www.yourchurchwedding.org/planner/> - plan your own church wedding service



Emma and Chris Price were married by the Revd Georgina Byrne at St Kenelm's Church, Romsley in the parish of Halesowen. Emma remembers a very uplifting and personal service, full of love, laughter and happiness. Having lost her Dad, the whole family were delighted by the beautiful, warm and relaxed atmosphere which brought him into the service too; a candle was lit during the ceremony to celebrate his life as Emma and Chris began theirs together.

There's now more choice about which church to marry in.

Many people like to marry in a church away from where they live because it has a special significance for them. An engaged couple can now do just that if either of them can show just one of the following connections with the parish;

- that one of them was baptised in the parish concerned or was prepared for confirmation in the parish.
- has at any time lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months or has at any time regularly gone to normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months.

- that one of their parents, at any time after you were born, has lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months or has regularly gone to normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months.
- that a parent or grandparent was married in the parish.

Even if you cannot demonstrate any of the above connections, the church wants to help people explore whether it may still be possible to marry in a church that they feel is special.

‘We Do!’

Church weddings are declining. We are competing against an increasingly wide range of venues and research shows that many people, even if they'd like a church wedding, feel that churches are unapproachable and that they'll seem hypocritical even asking about getting married in church because they aren't regular attendees. We want to change that perception and let couples know that they can have their dream church wedding, especially now that the rules are more relaxed. As one way of doing this, the dioceses of the West Midlands are planning an advertising campaign, based around the words often attributed to the wedding service - 'We Do'. In the Church of England – we do think you can get married in church, even if you've never been before, we do hope that you'll come and talk to the vicar at your dream church and discuss the options, we do think it's possible to get married on a budget and we will make you feel welcome and part of our family. Look out for the forthcoming posters for your church.



Vicky and Paul Bundy were married at Hanley Castle church recently. They had a fantastic day, which included a very personal wedding ceremony conducted by Canon Wookey, who they describe as very accommodating. Paul comments, 'We couldn't have asked for a better vicar, we really felt that we

could just chat to her, she was brilliant.' Paul read a poem to Vicky before their vows, watched by their two dogs, who were given the front pew and referred to in the service.

The Revd Duncan Ballard recently married Heather and Tristan Lewis, at St Mark's Worcester. Heather said, 'everyone commented on how good the service was. We were made to feel very welcome, and now we feel that we are part of the church congregation.' Heather felt that getting married in church made it more of an event, and a 'proper' wedding, with readings and hymns, which they were able to choose. She would 'definitely recommend a church wedding,' and says that it has hidden benefits.

‘Wedding Fayres’

A growing area of ministry in the community for churches is weddings. The Worcester South East Team has a first-class package of marriage preparation, wedding service and pastoral care following the service. Recent research has shown that 53% of people believe that church is the 'proper' place to get married, but only 22% actually marry in church, and many couples believe they don't qualify. The two PCCs wanted to say, "Yes, you can!" to as many couples as possible. Our first Wedding Fayre was in the Fownes Hotel, in February. The Church of England stand looked very impressive, and certainly held its own in a marketplace of competing sights and sounds. We estimate we spoke to over 100 parties. Of the

couples who did stop and talk, the overwhelming majority said that they had already decided upon a church wedding, and were rather pleased (and perhaps proud?) to be able to talk about their choice. Having a vicar on hand to answer technical questions and to reassure and encourage certainly helped.

The event was a wonderful opportunity to talk to couples about their plans for the future and to show that the church was really concerned with them, wherever they decided to have the ceremony. The church should be seen to be saying "Yes" more often!

The Revd Ashley Collishaw – Vicar of All Saints, Worcester City.

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

Turn up for a Tour- From
May to end of October,
Monday – Saturday 11am and
2.30pm. £3 per person,
accompanied children free.
Pay for the Tour at the
Cathedral Shop.

Tower Visits 11am –
5.00pm: The Cathedral tower
is open to the public on
Saturdays from Easter to the
end of October, Bank
Holidays and Monday –
Saturday during school
holidays (weather permitting).
£3 adults, £1 children, £6
family ticket.

**‘Music for a Summer’s
Evening’** A violin and piano
recital given by Michael
Bochmann and Michael
Blackmore. At 7.30pm on
Friday 17 July in College Hall,
Worcester Cathedral in aid of
the Worcester Cathedral
Music Endowment. Tickets
£15 to include a glass of wine
from Worcester Live Box
Office tel: 01905 611427 or in
person from the Cathedral
Shop.

An Unmissable Family Event! Starstruck In The Cathedral

A costume exhibition in Worcester Cathedral
15 August – 6 September 2009. A dazzling array of
up to 100 costumes worn by major stars in a series
of BAFTA and Oscar award-winning films, TV and
theatre productions! There will also be additional
events related to the exhibition, see the Cathedral
website for further information. £7.50 (adult), £6.
(concessions), £5 (children 5-17 yrs), under 5’s free,
£20 family (2+3) Advance booking – 01905 732900,
visits@worcestercathedral.org.uk or via the website
www.worcestercathedral.co.uk

Saturday 11 July – 12.30pm. Free Lunchtime
Recital by Jubilate Chamber Choir, Cheltenham

3–24 July Exhibition of Work by Students From
Worcester College Of Technology

Friday 25 July – 12.00 noon. Free Lunchtime
Recital by ‘Voices In Harmony’

Saturday 1 August – 6.30pm. Organ Recital by
George Castle Cathedral Sub Assistant Organist.
Tickets £10 Available on the door.

1 – 31 August Exhibition by Robert Koeing –
‘Odyssey’

What's On - July/August

Pershore Plum Fayre ends a month-long Festival culminating in the Bank Holiday Monday celebrations which sees Teddy Bears jumping from the Tower (with a parachute). Pershore Abbey will be hosting **Abbey Blaze** from Thursday 27 to Monday 31 - an exhibition of Flowers, Fruit and Embroidery. Do come and bring a group - there is an entrance charge of £2.

St Chad's Church in Coseley - 125 year Anniversary with a week-long programme of events from Saturday 11 to Saturday 18 of July. The church will be full of displays, including flower arrangements and bridal dresses. Entrance by programmes purchased at the door. Homemade refreshments will be available. Sunday 12 July there will be a service of Thanksgiving for marriage. Other events planned for that week include a concert by Bramford Primary School Choir on Monday 13, Sung Mass with The Guild of the Servers of the Sanctuary on Tuesday 14 and a performance by the West Midlands Concert Band on Friday 17th July. Tickets can be purchased from www.stchads coseley.co.uk. ahowes@another.com and 01902 882285.

Festival of Music and Flowers at St Mary's Church, Longdon in celebration of the 10th anniversary of St Mary's Choir: 4 July Thomas Trotter in Concert at 7.30pm - Organ recital with choral items from St Mary's Choir. More information: Tel: 01684 833152 or wendythom@gmail.com

Model Railway Exhibition at St Laurence Church, Alvechurch, B48 7SB
(half mile from station) **Saturday 11 July - 10.30am- 4pm, £2 adults, £1 children**
Layouts and Trading stalls to suit all tastes, Gauges N to O, both tinplate and scale. Photographic display, Dolls House, General stalls, Refreshments, All proceeds to church funds; More information: David Richmond 0121 445 3569.

Night on the Town in Midnight Walk
Saturday 18 July, in aid of St Richard's Hospice. 10 mile midnight walk from County Hall in Spetchley. Registration form from the Fundraising Dept on 01905 763963 or visit www.strichards.org.uk. Registration, £10 or £15 to include breakfast and participants are encouraged to get sponsorship.

Joseph's Coat Of Many Flowers A festival of flowers and music at St Faith's Church, Overbury, 29-30 August, 11am-5pm, together with a stitching and quilting exhibition, open gardens and refreshments. Admission £5 (under 16s free). On Friday 28 August a Joseph Sing-a-long will be held in the church at 7pm. Tickets £5 adults, £2 u16s (family ticket £12). More information: Faith Hallett 01386 725206 - faith@whitcombassocs.co.uk.

An opportunity to Visit Uganda in February 2010

Travel in a small group with others from the Diocese, some of whom are regular Africa visitors, and gain a first-hand experience of the church in Uganda. The principal destination will be Rushere in North Ankole Diocese, staying with local people. Cost: between £750 and £1000: more information from Canon Peter Burch (01386 853837), Beryl Bremner (01905 453616) or Revd Stephen Owens (01299 2666580).

Diocesan Holy Land Pilgrimage led by Bishop John

30 April to 10 May 2010 - in the steps of Jesus around beautiful Galilee Jerusalem, the Holy City of three religions - visit Masada-desert fortress and 'last stand', relax floating in the Dead Sea, daily worship at the sacred sites. Sunday worship with Arab Anglicans. More information: Canon Mel Smith at the Old Palace, Deansway or visit the Diocesan Website.

Singers Wanted

A group of ex-cathedral choristers from St Paul's London invite local people to join them for a week of singing - 16 to 21 August 2009 at St Peter's Church, Bengeworth, Evesham in a programme of mainly church music. Rehearsals: Sunday 4pm, following by bring and share supper. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10am to 12 noon. Concert Friday 21 at 7.30pm in aid of Chernobyl Children's Project. More information: The Quiristers Chorus, 01386 710599 or fran@livingpasttimes.co.uk.

Diocesan Chorister Awards 2009

The strict closing date for entries this year will be 26 September. Entry forms available from R J Gay, Education and Training Officer, 22 Shire Way, Droitwich, Worcs, WR9 7RQ. Tests will be 3, 7, 10 and 17 October.

Holland House Quiet Garden Days

Thursday July 16 and Thursday August 20.

Saturday 18 July

Young People's Song Writing Workshop - Experts will help you to write your own song, record it on CD and then perform it to family and friends- 9.30am to 5.45pm. £7.50 per person including lunch and a personal copy of the CD.

Thursday 30 - 31 July

"Praying the Way" Gentle summer walks along the Wychavon Way guided by Revd Tony Wherry £120 per person for the two nights including all meals and accommodation.

Monday 3 and 4 August

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND the Reverend Mark Townsend - With 'The Gospel of Falling Down Retreat' (details and price to be advised).

Friday 28 - 30 August

CARM- Poetry and Prayer Retreat lead by Chaplain Clive Harper, Tutor Diana Walls
£130 per person for the two nights including all meals and accommodation.

Contact The Revd Ian Spencer on 01386 860330.

Diocesan Mission Team to Peru in 2010

Want to know more/ Have your questions answered - Members of the Peru Task Group will be in the Old Palace from 7 - 9pm on July 8th. Come and join us for coffee and see and hear more about what the mission team will be doing and have your questions answered.

DIARY

JULY

4 Thomas Trotter in Concert at St Mary's Church, Longdon. 7.30pm. More information: Tel: 01684 833152 or wendythom@gmail.com

4 – 6 'Banners and Blooms' – displays of flowers and textile banners on theme of 'Celebration' at Lansdowne Crescent Methodist Church, Malvern WR14 2AW. Open Sat and Mon 10–12.30pm in aid of Lyttelton Well, Malvern. Tel 01684 561307 www.lansdownemethodist.org.uk

5 Organ Music by Paul Carr at Holy Trinity Parish Church, Wordsley. Admission free. Retiring collection. Further details www.paulcarr.co.uk 3pm Mendelssohn's 200th Anniversary: Organ Sonata no 4 in B flat and works by Lemare, Lefebure-Wely and Harris

8 Mothers' Union Diocesan Festival Service in Worcester Cathedral 7.30 pm Theme 'The Cost of Relationships'. Preacher - Rt. Revd David Walker, Bishop of Dudley.

10 125 years of St. Augustine's Church at Holly Hall -7pm Barn Dance and BBQ. For tickets and more information please phone 01384 261026 or email hollyhallparishchurch@hotmail.co.uk

11 4pm Service of celebration and Sung Evensong St Augustine's

12 10am Sung Eucharist 4pm Picnic and Songs of Praise in Vicarage Garden

11 St Clement's Church - The Sauce City Jazz Band – 7.30 pm Tickets £5 available from Church or on the door.

15 Worcester Diocesan Assembly – Forward in Faith. Mass at St Chad's, Coseley, 7.30pm.

18 'Listen to the Band' - the West Mercia Constabulary at St John in Bedwardine Church, Worcester at 7.30 pm. Tickets £6. Refreshments available. Proceeds to the Bell Tower Appeal Fund. More information: 01684 893397.

AUGUST

2 Organ Music by Paul Carr at Holy Trinity Parish Church, Wordsley. Admission free. Retiring collection. 3pm Further details www.paulcarr.co.uk Organ Encores Including works by J S Bach, Handel, Mozart, Strauss and Widor

8 Mary Summer Day Service at Ronkswood Church at 2.30pm.

14, 15 and 16 Festival of Hartlebury Flowers and Pursuits in St James Church, Hartlebury. Refreshments, including lunchtime barbecues. 'Songs of Praise' at 6.30pm on Sunday 16. More information: 01299 251211.

29-30 Joseph's Coat Of Many Flowers – Flower Festival 11-5pm. Stitching and Quilting exhibition, open gardens, refreshments at Overbury – all in aid of St Faith's Church. Tickets £5 (u 16s free). See page 7

AFRICA CELEBRATION 2009

Joy from Africa

Introduced by the Bishop of Worcester, John Inge with Tanzanian visitors

Sharing with and learning from parishes and schools in Africa

All are welcome on **Thursday 24 September 7:00pm** **Bishop Perowne College** Merrimans Hill Road, Worcester WR3 5LE

Refreshments and Registration from 6:30pm

Further details: 01905 453616

Board for Mission DIOCESE OF WORCESTER

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.

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