

WORCESTER Diocesan News



June 2009

The Wordsley Baby Memorial

by *The Revd Garry Ward, Team Vicar of Wordsley.*

“Some months ago I was approached by the Chaplains at Russell’s Hall Hospital for assistance. A lady had got in touch about the whereabouts of her mother’s baby who had died at birth many years ago. The Chaplains, together with midwifery staff, had tried in vain to trace the baby. They were unable to find any information in ward records or at any of the local funeral directors. Unfortunately I was also unable to find a grave or any record of the baby, though it is very likely that the baby was buried within the grounds at Holy Trinity, the birth having taken place at Wordsley Hospital.



Baby Memorial @ Holy Trinity Churchyard

This tragic story has highlighted the plight of many families who suffered the death of a baby during a period of time where mothers and their families often didn’t even see their babies and certainly had little information with regards to what happened to the body. Thankfully this does not happen now.

Whilst trying to help this family it became apparent that there is no local memorial for families, who in past years, have lost babies and do not know where, in our churchyard, they are buried. We felt that, as Holy Trinity was the parish church of Wordsley Hospital, this was an opportunity to provide a memorial for families to focus their personal memories and maybe even to help close a chapter of life/ death that has remained open and raw for many years.”

The memorial will take the form of a circular paved area next to the church, with a tulip tree at the centre. Around the base of the tree will be a circular bench and a plaque to commemorate the unknown babies buried there.

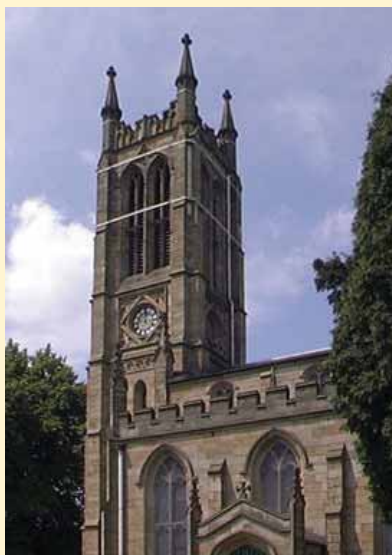
Since starting the appeal for £4000 at the beginning of January we have been

overwhelmed with people wanting to help and donate. We are already at £4500 (in March) and people are still wishing to donate.

I have been overwhelmed by the depth of feeling this memorial has generated and I am also very pleased that the church has been able to connect with the community on such an emotional level. This will become a place where people can be with God and their lost babies and I am sure it will bring new hope to many families within Dudley. One lady stated to me that she had waited and prayed for over twenty

years for someone to acknowledge her grief and to create this place for her.

A soon as the faculty is approved work will begin and we hope to have an open air dedication service later this year.”



Mission, Ministry and Money

from Alastair Findlay – Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance

The financial good news is that in 2008 we achieved a small surplus of £23,000, beating our stated objective to break-even. Compared to a deficit of £244,000 in 2007 this result is something for which we can all give thanks. We owe a debt of gratitude not only to each other, but also to our bounteous God, who makes all things possible when we work and walk in the name of Christ.

As we all know only too well, the world, national and local economies are now being pounded by the credit crunch and recession. Whilst we don't know what the impact of this will be on the Church in the diocese, it would be naïve in the extreme to pretend that it won't affect us. In 2008 we had to develop flexible processes of additionally monitoring our expenditure in the anticipation of Parish Share shortfalls, and that experience will help us in what are likely to be more difficult times ahead.

During the course of 2009 the Board of Finance will be reviewing the impact the

recession is having on our investment income, the ability of parishes to meet parish share and upon our costs. In the meantime I would urge us all to prayerfully consider our giving in proportion to our incomes. For some proportionate givers falling personal incomes either have or regretfully will become a reality and so this may mean giving less in cash terms; for others this recession will open new perspectives on values and the realisation of opportunities to respond with generosity.

I don't believe that we are called to be unrealistic or indeed uncritical about giving. Much progress has been made, and in the diocese we are each, on average, currently giving 2.8% of our incomes. However our First to the Lord giving goal is 5%. If we could plug this 2.2% gap, then income to the parishes could potentially increase by up to £4 million per annum, thereby enabling many parishes to not only confidently contribute their Share in full but also to have extra funds available for other mission.

Carers – the UK's Secret Service Carer's Week June 8 – 14

There are over 6 million unpaid carers in Britain looking after dependent relatives, friends or neighbours, whose contribution goes largely unnoticed and uncelebrated. CARERS' WEEK is for them, and for all of us to recognise and support what they do. Why not use our "Supporting Carers: A Resources Pack for Churches", which contains information and worship materials, to help your church focus on carers this week? Contact Richard Hyde at the Old Palace 01905 732819 or email rhyde@cofe-worcester.org.uk



Tues 9 June 10am-3pm: "Come unto Me" - a carers' day for spiritual refreshment at Holland House, Crophorne. Contact Helen Lubin 01905 26500.

Wed 10 June 10.30am-3.30pm: Conference on Carers' Issues. National speakers, local panel, lunch, information stalls & advice sessions. Worcester Race Course. Contact Sarah Edwards

SEdwards6@worcestershire.gov.uk
or 01905 26500 (Worcs. Association of Carers).

Thurs 11 June Day out for Carers at Evesham Country Park, Twyford, + information stall. Contact Worcestershire Association of Carers 01905 26500.

Congratulations

to **The Revd David Hoskin** who has been appointed Team Vicar of Christ Church, Quarry Bank, in the Brierley Hill Team Ministry.

to **Tony Attwood**, vicar of St. Barnabas' Church in Dudley who completed the London Marathon in support of the Church in Peru via USPG. Further contributions will be much appreciated, contact Tony on: an.attwood@btinternet.com

A Match of the Day Christian

My father-in-law was a Londoner, and treasured a cartoon from between the wars that contrasted the appeal of that city's three most famous Football Clubs. Above a drawing of fans flocking into each stadium was a simple explanation of each one's unique attraction:

"Arsenal – come here for the class football";
"Chelsea – come here for thrills and spills";
"Spurs – come here for a shilling".

I hope that most of us will be taking part in "Back to Church Sunday" this September. From quite small beginnings only a handful of years ago, it has grown into a large national event that gives those who are not regular churchgoers an excuse to come and see what we get up to, with no obligation to come back the next week. It also gives you and me an excuse to invite over friends and neighbours without feeling awkward or uncomfortable in doing so.

If you are going to take part we need to be clear in our own minds what we want people to come for. I hope we will encourage others to join us for their sake, not because having them in our Church will improve things for ourselves. Though I vividly recall, as a young vicar, being told by one congregation that they wanted a mission in order to bring in more people to do the jobs and pay the share. Needless to say, no mission happened. Doing mission will require us to reflect on why we ourselves come to Church. Are we Arsenal Christians - looking to be uplifted, Chelsea Christians – seeking entertainment, Spurs Christians – wanting it cheap and undemanding, or What?

Back when I was a parish priest, I started the practice of going once every six weeks to an ordinary Sunday service where I could simply be a member of the congregation. Often it meant arriving hotfoot from a service I had led elsewhere, but it was worth it. When I was made a Bishop I took the opportunity to increase it to one a month. It affirms for me my identity as a Christian; it sets me alongside others who are affirming the same basic



values, beliefs and practices so that our very presence encourages others; it invokes within me a particular awareness of God's presence and closeness that doesn't depart with the final blessing. Sometimes I come away with something quite unanticipated: a hymn that uplifts and stays with me; a memorable thought from a sermon that changes me; a mind-blowing sense of Christ's presence in the Sacrament. These are reasons that I can share, and that I can offer to others as reasons why they might come too.

Your reasons may well differ. What I want us all to do this summer is to reflect and seek to understand ourselves. It may even help if you find yourself worshiping in an unfamiliar church on your holidays. But what all these reasons share is that the experience of being part of a live act of worship touches us in ways that listening on radio, watching on TV or praying at home never could. If you're too frail, sick or housebound to come to Church, have the Church come to you.

To return to the football analogy – go watch whichever team you fancy, but don't be a Match of the Day Christian. And do invite a friend.

Bishop David

A Hidden Treasure

By the Revd Ian Spencer – warden of Holland House



I've always enjoyed stories about hidden treasure. There's something exciting about the prospect of finding a treasure trove that's lain undetected for years, perhaps right under our noses.

Worcestershire is blessed with many such treasures, and one of them is Holland House near Pershore; Retreat, Conference and Laity Centre, this stunning half timbered Tudor house and exquisite garden are neatly tucked away in the idyllic village of Cropthorne, on the banks of the River Avon. However unlike with some of Worcestershire's hidden treasures – you are very welcome.

The black and white thatched building positively sparkles in the sunshine, the blue scylla's, golden daffodils and green lawns wrap around it like royal robes; birdsong announces the discovery of these particular treasures in a fanfare of sweet and captivating melodies. As the seasons unfold the garden offers a different set of jewels with each month, including wonderful vegetables which are served up inside.

However it's not simply because Holland House looks and sounds so lovely that I call it a hidden treasure. It's also because of why it exists. It's true that you will find beautiful houses throughout Worcestershire and beyond, and you may visit them for a day, or perhaps stay a while; but so often you don't get to the heart of the treasure, and you always get the feeling that you're just passing through – just one of thousands of other customers or visitors. It's not so at Holland House. Its very purpose is to be a place that people can call "home" for the time they're there, be it a few hours or a few days. Not a hotel, not a museum, Holland House is a place where people can come and discover

hidden treasures by being freed from the distractions and pressures of everyday life.

Individuals come because they need space to consider life after redundancy, or to come to terms with illness or other sadness or fear. Friends come to enjoy some precious time together, and families come to celebrate important moments in their shared lives, perhaps with a special lunch or dinner, home cooked and locally sourced (sometimes from outside the back door). Businesses

come as well, to consider the next move, make plans and work on strategies within spaces that encourage free-thought and creativity, in an unpressurised and contemplative atmosphere

The difference, I believe, between Holland House and elsewhere, is that no matter what the purpose of your visit, you're unconditionally welcomed into the life of the House – not someone just passing through. The house can be a 'home' to anyone.

If you'd like to discover the hidden treasure that's Holland House and maybe your own treasures too, then have a dig around our website www.hollandhouse.org, email us at enquiries@hollandhouse.org, or telephone us on 01386 860330 to book an appointment for a cup of tea and a look around. We'd be delighted to see you and share a hidden treasure and our own good fortune at being here.

Ian Spencer
Warden of Holland House.



Readers – The lay ministry with one foot in the pew

By Graham Pharo – Reader in Training who will be admitted this June and licensed to Fladbury w Wyre Piddle & Moor & Crophorne w Charlton

I was confirmed in my rural Anglican parish as recently as November 2001. Various comments are made about vocation, but my 'calling' (as some may describe it) was not a blinding flash on the road to Damascus. Talking to people, I find that, for many, it is through the encouragement and support of others that we are prompted to progress in the exploration of our faith and follow the different paths which we take in our many and varied ministries. Now reaching the end of a two-year Reader Training Course, I still pinch myself and wonder at God's sense of humour!

One wonderful thing about our faith is the part others play in it; for me there have been meetings with a number of energising individuals - not least my course colleagues in Bishop's Certificate and Reader Training. Other Christians help to shape our faith; in turn, we can only hope that each of us is able to carry the torch, inspire others and, dare I say, bring joy and realism into our worship.

Those of us being admitted to Reader ministry this month come from differing backgrounds; some of us might be licensed to work in hospitals, prisons, or the commercial world. Like you reading this, we've each experienced some of life's batterings and emerged less than perfectly formed. We have established enduring friendships through sharing our stories, discussing course topics, even occasionally agreeing to differ. Our tutors

have brought their significant skills to our learning and, in my case, considerable patience! If you consider that you are moved to share your faith with others and develop your self-awareness as a basis for pastoral relationships, then Reader ministry may be for you. You will need an open and enquiring mind together with humour on a road to self-discovery. Acceptance for training is preceded by a discernment process.



Reader ministry has a unique role to play as the ministry of lay people becomes more and more significant. With one foot in the pew, we are well-placed to bring the relevance of the Gospel alive to those around us through our life experience and the joys and trials which have helped our faith to grow. Our main mission is being out there in the secular world amongst people who are not yet sharers of our faith. For me, it is being ready to react positively and come alongside people when you find an opportunity presenting itself - often when you

least expect it and when you may feel totally inadequate - sharing joys and sorrows.

In the end, we all need to own the faith we profess and be ready to add to our knowledge on a daily basis. As Readers, we don't believe in keeping it to ourselves.

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

22 May – 8 June Voices And Visions

An amazing exhibition of artwork in the
Cathedral Cloisters from schools from all
over Worcestershire.

3 – 26 June Exhibition – Darwin Today

in the Dean's Chapel

Thursday 25 June Pavilion Opera's Production of 'TOSCA'

For further information phone 01905 333265

Friday 27 June – 6.30pm Organ Recital by John Gearhart, St John the Divine, Houston, Texas

Tickets £10 available on the door

Turn up for a Tour

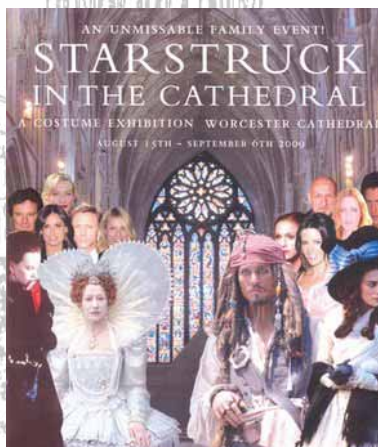
May to end of October Monday – Saturday
11am and 2.30pm. £3 per person,
accompanied children free. Pay for the Tour
at the Cathedral Shop

Tower Visits

11am – 5pm. 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

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



Notices

Come and visit Badsey, near Evesham, on our OPEN GARDENS weekend. This will be held Saturday and Sunday the 20 and 21 June, 2-6pm. There will be teas with homemade cakes or cream teas, book stall, craft and plants for sale, and a single rose competition in Church. All profits going to St. James' Church.

A Festival of Flowers at St Augustine's Church, Holly Hall, Dudley

to be held on 12, 13 and 14 June open 10am - 4pm Friday and Saturday 11.30am-4pm Sunday. Celebrating 125th anniversary of the church and parish.

£1 admission is £1 including programme. Refreshments available all day; email susanj.sharp@tiscali.co.uk

Open Day & Market at St. Peter's Church, Inkberrow: Saturday 27 June, 11am – 5pm. History tours, climb-the-tower, bellringing demonstrations, stalls, lunches and teas. Full details at www.cofe-inkberrow.org.uk.

Birmingham Conservatoire Baroque Orchestra – June 27 7.30 pm Great Witley Church

Centred on the music of Domenico Gabrielli (1651-1690) The orchestra, who will be featuring on a forthcoming channel 4 series, will use Baroque instruments and pitch under the internationally renowned expert, Dr Andrew King. Tickets £12

Festival of Music and Flowers at St Mary's Church, Longdon

.....celebrating the 10th anniversary of St Mary's Choir: 27-28 Flower Festival, 28 Family Worship Celebration at 11.15am, 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

Sunday Afternoon Organ Music by Paul Carr

at Holy Trinity Parish Church, Wordsley. Admission free. Retiring collection. Further details www.paulcarr.co.uk Sunday 7 June at 3pm Music for Trinity Sunday including J S Bach: 'St Anne' Prelude and Fugue in E flat

Jubilee Eucharist – St John the Baptist, Fladbury nr Pershore - 5th June, 7.30 pm.

Thanksgiving for the Ordained Ministry of the whole Church and marking the 50th Anniversary of the ordination of Frank Bentley – preacher Owain Bell. All welcome, reception to follow.

'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 (including a glass of wine) from Worcester Live Box Office tel: 01905 611427 or in person from the Cathedral Shop.

Teme Valley

Visit the lovely Teme Valley for afternoon tea. All proceeds to St Kenelms Church Fabric Fund. More information and to book: 01886 812701.

The Hooper Trust

The Hooper Trust was established to give financial aid to young people at school, college, or university who are under 25, are members of the Church of England, attend/have attended the Worcester Royal Grammar School, the King's School, Worcester or the Alice Otley School, Worcester. The trustees normally consider applications for financial aid in September every year. Application forms from Judith Nex at the Old Palace, tel 01905 20537 to be returned by 1 September. Registered charity no 527575.

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.

Pandemic Flu – training day for Clergy and Readers

- Wednesday, 1 July. 10am – 4pm at Bank Street Methodist Church, Brierley Hill. Pandemic Flu will have a major impact on our ministry of Clergy and Readers, both in terms of the pastoral care of sufferers and their families and also in the arrangements for funerals. This workshop will help us to understand the scale of the problem and how we can best respond as Christian ministers. Coffee and tea available. Please bring your own lunch. Please book by Monday, 8 June by contacting Judy Baker at the Old Palace, telephone number: 01905 732812: Email: training@cofe-worcester.org.uk

Study for a BA in Oxford while working as a Youth Worker in Churches in Worcester

A 3 year practical placement and degree in Youth & Community Work and Applied Theology

The successful candidate will:

- Assist and then lead an existing youth group
- Encourage and organise worship for young people
- Lead outreach work in churches that need encouragement with young people
- Have the opportunity to work alongside the chaplaincy team at Worcester Technical College

Post subject to a CRB enhanced disclosure and a successful interview with the Oxford Centre for Youth Ministry

**Details from the Revd Fran Binding:
01905 763378
fran@bindings.plus.com**



1 Bromsgrove Deanery Festival- Mothers' Union
7.30 pm St. Leonard's Beoley

6 Jazz in the Garden in aid of Martin Hussingtree Church Improvements. Bring a picnic and enjoy the sounds of George Huxley's Jazz Band in a country garden. Tickets £12.50. More information: Lorna Cameron 01905 457273.

6 Celebrating 170 years of Christ Church, Catshill. Wedding memorabilia and Flower Festival in the Church from 10am. Music by Blackwell Concert Band at 7pm. Come along with a picnic to enjoy an evening of music outside. (in the Church if wet).

6-7 Abberley Churches Open Gardens Weekend, 11.30-5pm. Varied collection of approx 10 gardens set against the beautiful Abberley Hills. Admission £6 (valid for both days). Coffee, lunches and teas at Abberley Village Hall from 10.30am.

7 Paul Mocroft – Baritone. Piano music by Mendelssohn and John Ireland and English songs. 5pm free – Great Witley Church

9 "Come unto Me" - a carers' day for spiritual refreshment at Holland House, Cropthorne. 10am—3pm. Contact Helen Lubin 01905 26500. (See page 7)

10 Conference on Carers' Issues. National speakers, local panel, lunch, information stalls & advice sessions. 10.30am-3.30pm Worcester Race Course. Contact Sarah Edwards SEdwards6@worcestershire.gov.uk or 01905 26500 (Worcs. Association of Carers). (See page 7)

11 Day out for Carers at Evesham Country Park, Twyford, information stall. Contact Worcestershire Association of Carers 01905 26500. (See page 7)

12 Carlo Curley returns – Organ spectacular 2009. 7.30pm at St John-in-Bedwardine Church, St Johns, Worcester, WR2 5BS. Mr Carlo Curley, will perform an "Almost All American" programme on the Church's 3-manual Nicholson organ. The audience will be able to see him at work via HD-Video Screen. Tickets £12 (unreserved seating), tel Worcester Live Box Office 01905 611427 or <http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/carloconcert>

13-14 Open Gardens at Ashton under Hill. 25 varied gardens open for viewing. 1-6pm each day. Entry: £4 per person, children free, valid for both days, includes free parking and a free courtesy bus service around the village. Refreshments: Lunches from 12.30, cream teas, afternoon teas. Further information: www.ashtonopengardens.co.uk or 01386 881778.

18 Retired Clergy Association Summer Outing. Visiting Warwick and Coventry. More information: 01384 373921.

20 Special Fete in the wedding field at Ombersley to celebrate 180 years of our church. 2pm. Come along and help us to celebrate

20 Summer Fete at St Luke's Church, Evesham Road, Headless Cross, Redditch from 2pm in St. Luke's Grounds and Memorial Hall Grounds. Live Music, Plants Stall, Produce Stall, Book Stall, Cake Stall, Ice Creams, Strawberry Teas, Tombola, Skittles. Under 10's Fancy Dress Competition, Face Painting and much more.

20 Music X Festival of Christian Music and Art returns to Malvern Priory Park 3-6pm, performed by local people and hosted once again by Phil Simpson. Organised by Churches Together in Malvern, entrance and all activities are free of charge.

21 Organ Recital by Don Timmins of Sedgley. Part of the monthly series at Holly Hall and is in aid of the Organ Restoration Fund, retiring collection and refreshments will be served afterwards. There will be a video link showing the performer at the console on a big screen. There are recitals held on the 3rd Sunday of every month at 3pm during 2009. For more details on both events please see the church website at www.achurchnearyou.com/holly-hall-dudley-st-augustine

23 Pershore Deanery Festival- Mothers' Union 7-30 pm Upton Snodsbury

25 Pavilion Opera's Production of 'TOSCA'. (See page 6)

26 -28 Fellowship of Contemplative Prayer Retreat: The Revd Canon Adrian Esdaile

27 Worcester Diocesan Assembly – Forward in Faith. 3pm Mass followed by Garden Party at Norwood, Brandheath Lane, Astwood Bank, Redditch

27-28 Wichenford Open Gardens, 11am until 6pm each day. 16 private gardens, lunches, teas and stalls. Proceeds shared between St Richards Hospice and various village organisations. The Parish Church of St Laurence will be open.

28 Family Worship Celebration to celebrate 10th anniversary at St Mary's Church, Longdon. 11.15am.

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