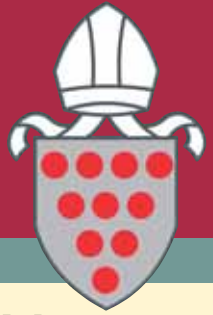


WORCESTER Diocesan News



March 2009

Mothering Sunday

What will you be giving your mother on March 22nd - a bunch of flowers, lunch or will you be doing the washing up, or will you be visiting a distant part of the country just to see her? Have you remembered that it is Mothering Sunday - Mother's Day as it is in America and other countries, or will 2009 be the first time you are without your mother on Mothering Sunday? It is one of the days in our calendar that moves in line with Easter, and is celebrated on the fourth Sunday in Lent; and for those of us who are lucky enough to have great mums, or try to be great mums ourselves, it's definitely a day to celebrate.

It is thought that the tradition of Mothering Sunday began about 400 years ago, where people in small villages made a point of going to their nearest big or 'mother' church or Cathedral. People who visited their mother church would say they had gone "a mothering." Young English girls and boys 'in service' were only allowed one day to visit their family each year, usually Mothering Sunday. Often the housekeeper or cook would allow the maids to bake a cake to take home for their mother. The most favoured cake was the 'simmnel cake', from the Latin 'simila', meaning fine, wheaten flour from which the cakes were made. It is a fruit cake with a layer of marzipan on top and 11 marzipan balls which represent the disciples minus the treacherous Judas. Sometimes a gift of eggs or flowers from the garden was allowed, or as the

servants walked back to their village they could gather flowers from the meadows on their way home.

These days people in Britain spend over £2.4 billion on flowers and plant gifts for Mothering Sunday. Working in 78 countries around the world to support mothers and grandmothers caring for young families, Mothers' Union members see first-hand the inequality of a world in which so many mothers struggle to feed, clothe and educate their families. Against that, lovely though they are, floral tributes suddenly lose some of their glamour.

Determined to do their bit to redress the balance, Mothers' Union raised over £120,000 when they launched their Make a mother's day campaign in 2007. Through their catalogue gifts such as, equipment for children's play centres for families facing separation or isolation and emergency relief kits for people around the world affected by natural disaster or conflict, are available which allow purchasers to contribute towards vital programmes which benefit a mum caring for her family in tough circumstances. If you are planning to spend some money on your mum, why not visit www.themothersunion.org to see if you could help someone else's mum too.

An article inspired by the Mother's Union

A Lovely Mum



Dear God

We thank you for mothers.

We thank you for all those who care for us
in quiet, often unrecognised ways;
we thank you for all those who care for others
in patience and love.

We are sorry for those times when we have failed
to care for others
and pray that you will teach us
to care as you do

and that you will hold all mothers
and carers
in the light of your presence
and guide them to you.

Amen.

Congratulations to...

Lynn Busfield who is to be licensed in Fladbury Benefice on Sunday 22nd March at 4:00pm.

Heather Hill who leads the Diocesan Health and Healing Group which Bishop John has appointed as the advisory group for the Church's Ministry of Healing. Contact Heather on 01527 67169, email: heather.hill@mypostoffice.co.uk

Robert Sprake who has been appointed as Deputy Diocesan Registrar following the retirement of Rob Alexander from full time practice at the end of January.

Goodbye to...

Carol Johnston (Marsh) who has left the Bishop of Dudley's office and has moved to Spain with her new husband who is a chaplain in Nerja. She will be missed by all those who benefited from her helpful, cheerful manner and efficiency.

Developing lay ministry in the diocese - 'Yes we can!'

The Church is rich in resources, and our main resource is ordinary people, like you and me. As Christians we are called by baptism to witness and service, and we exercise this day-by-day in our communities of family, friends, neighbourhood and work.

But amongst Christians some are called to specific ministries within or on behalf of the Church – the ordained clergy and licensed readers, who after fairly extensive training serve the parishes. We are now offering one year of training towards a new authorised lay ministry.

Training will be in one of the following areas: pastoral care, evangelism, worship leading, working with children and young people, administration. At the end of the year and after careful discernment those completing the process will be authorised by the Bishop to offer this ministry in their parish or benefice under the authority of their incumbent.

Now is the time to become talent-spotters, stirring up the gifts, either within yourself or your congregation. If you want to explore one of these ministries, or could see this in someone else, speak to your incumbent, or to find out more information contact me at the Diocesan Office.

Canon Robert Jones Director of Development rjones@cofe-worcester.org.uk
01905 732812



Obituary

John Simons died at the end of December after a long illness. An American priest within the American Ecclesiastical Church, he was responsible for arranging visits to England on behalf of his fellow clergy. He was licensed to serve in Pershore in the early 1990's where he became very involved with both the Church and the Town. He became somewhat inspirational, bringing the two aspects together in so many ways. John is survived by four children and his wife Nancy, who made her own serious contribution to Pershore.

Mission, Mission, Mission; Prayer, Prayer, Prayer

Since arriving in the Diocese just over a year ago I have emphasised that my priorities are mission, mission, mission (with apologies to Tony Blair). I have spoken at deaneries about the fact that you and I, as Christians, have the amazing privilege of participating in God's cosmic mission, which is nothing less than to reconcile the whole creation to himself in Christ.

Mission, as the Archbishop of Canterbury expressed it, is about 'finding out what God is doing and joining in'. It is by prayerful reflection that we shall be able to discern what God is doing and so be able to join in. That's why prayer and mission are so inextricably linked and that if we are to be focussed upon mission our accompanying priority must be prayer, prayer, prayer. Unless we seek constantly to deepen our own faith we shall not have anything of worth to share. Nor shall we be able effectively to be the Church for those who are not – or not yet – its members.

This Lent our society faces economic uncertainty on a scale not seen for a generation. I hope that, being rooted in prayer, we shall be able to articulate a vision which will bring hope: a vision based on something much more enduring than the materialism to which our society has become addicted, a vision rooted in relationship with the living God.

I was delighted that, in committing itself to mission, the Bishop's Council at a recent meeting came up with three priorities: providing opportunities for people to grow in prayer, enhancing the

quality of worship and equipping God's people to bear witness to Christ in their everyday life. Prayer – which is essentially relationship with God – must be the beginning and the end of this and I hope that we shall all renew our commitment to it this Lent.



St Paul suggests that we should be ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us (2 Corinthians 5.20). May our relationship with the Living God in Christ be so deepened that God may make his appeal through everything that we say, everything that we do and everything that we are and may God bless you richly in your Christian life and witness.

***Loving God,
You have called us to join in your great mission
to reconcile the whole creation to yourself in Christ.
Help us so to deepen our relationship with you in prayer
that you may be able to make your appeal through us and that we may be worthy ambassadors of him who died and rose again to save us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

Bishop John

Mission-shaped Church

From the 4th century, people's experience of life has brought them through the doors of our churches. They would come for baptisms, confirmations, weddings and funerals. They would come at times of joy, times of distress and times of national uncertainty. For sixteen hundred years, our mission task was simply to respond well to whatever it was that brought them through our doors.

With the ending of Christendom, and the onset of secularisation, our culture no longer brings people through the doors of our churches. In twenty-first century Britain, our mission task is to go to where the people are and to envisage how we can be church among those to whom we have gone.

The reality is that fewer than 20% of twenty year olds have had any meaningful contact with the church. This means that, for generations growing up without any church connection, we need to find fresh ways to proclaim our faith and fresh expressions of church.

A fresh expression is a form of church established primarily for the benefit of people in our changing culture who are not yet members of any church. It will come into being through principles of listening, service, incarnational mission and making disciples [i.e. good planting]. It will have the potential to become a mature expression of church shaped by the gospel and the enduring marks of the church, and for its cultural context. Barbara Glasson is a Methodist minister who moved to the centre of Liverpool around eight years ago. She had no congregation and no building as the large Methodist Central Hall had

been closed down six years before she arrived. Barbara began by walking the streets and trying to listen to the people in the city centre for a year or more. She ministered to the very poorest people, those on the margins and the edge. In her own words, she looked for 'where God was at work'. As Barbara listened, she had an idea not

to begin to gather people for a church service or a discipleship course or to listen to a sermon... but to bake bread. People came together to mix and to knead and to bake, to eat together and to learn new skills. In the simple act of baking and breaking bread, stories were told, friendships grew and a community was born. As the community formed, and opportunities for catching and learning about faith grew in very natural ways, the time for making bread was given a name: 'Somewhere Else'. The group meets in a flat above a bookshop. Eventually, the

faith found expression in worship at first midweek and now, occasionally, on Sundays. The Methodist Church in the centre of Liverpool is seeing an exciting and enduring resurgence.

Bishop Lesslie Newbigin once said that "the church has listened to the words of Jesus: "Come unto me" but has not listened to the words "Go into the world." Maybe now the church is listening to the call to 'Go into the world' and to proclaim and live out our faith afresh.

If you have any thoughts on 'Mission Shaped Church' The Venerable Roger Morris, Archdeacon of Worcester, would be pleased to read your comments.

r.morris@cofe-worcester.org.uk



Roger Morris

Growing For God

Out of the 140-odd sets of proposals the DAC reviews each year, many of which are for fairly routine matters of maintenance, it's exciting for all concerned when a parish submits an application for something a little bit special. Architect Graeme Beamish has now been responsible for two such projects, the award winning Ark extension to the church of St Laurence, Alvechurch, and now the St Andrew's, Malvern extension, totally different again but with that touch of Beamish style.

St Andrew's Malvern is a wonderful success story. Their church community has grown and grown, and with over seventy children attending contemporary worship, thirty of whom are teenagers. Following prayer the PCC decided that it was time to expand the building in order to accommodate the congregation and other groups which meet on the site.

Young people had been gathering in a caravan on the site for nearly five years, and so the community was delighted when it was granted permission to go ahead with this exciting new building work. Heather Williamson a Reader at St Andrews says, 'The older children and teenagers have the opportunity to develop their gifts through joining our worship and drama groups, and helping with our children's holiday club and such projects as Hope 08, and it's wonderful to see them stay and grow into maturity. It's great to be part of a church which doesn't have enough room for its children and young people!'

In a parish of about 4,000, St Andrew's plays a significant part in community activities and the church is used by many different groups on virtually every day of the week. The church has a superb website and offers a contemporary style of worship using multi

media and video links on a 3 metre square screen in his services. St Andrew's has always had a strong tradition of working with young people, but one can't help feeling that there is a something very special going on in his church.

The extension at St Andrew's is going to provide 6 extra rooms and toilets. The foyer will be an innovative glass structure offering a more welcoming approach than the older facade and the roofline will follow the contour of the Malvern Hills. The new rooms will be

different sizes in order to offer flexibility of use, and some of them will be partitioned so that once opened up there will be one room which can seat 60 people. Building is now underway, Bishop John will dedicate the building in September.



"Since the project was launched in

the autumn of 2007 to raise £750,000, it has been a faith stretching experience for us all. The response of God's people has been mind blowing. At the launch, £250,000 was promised, then a year and a quarter later another £340,000." The other £100,000 has been raised through grants.

He describes the project as 'investing for life, for the community, where the touch of God is for eternity and not just for the present time.'

The DAC is often supportive of radical and innovative proposals – if the design is right and the quality is appropriate, so if you have a far sighted idea for your church do get in touch with John Dentith on 01905 20537.

<http://www.standrewmalvern.co.uk/#/growingforgod/4523397420>

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

**Please note new Contact Details for the
Cathedral: 01905 732900 and
www.worcestercathedral.co.uk**

Events at the Cathedral in March

23 February—8 March

Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy (Woodbine Willie) 80th Anniversary Exhibition

Dean's Chapel

Saturday 7 March

Come And Sing With Nicholas Cleobury (for adults)

Further details and application forms available
from the Chapter Office: 01905 732900 or 01386
751578.

Wednesday 11 March

Worcestershire Young Musicians 2009

Further information from Worcester Arts
Education: 01905 333505
voicesandvisions@worcestershire.gov.uk. Tickets
£7 (concessions £5) from Worcester Live Box
Office: 01905 611417,
officemanager@worcestercathedral.co.uk.

Tuesday 17 March

Concert By RGS AO School - Faure Requiem

Further information from the school: 01905
613391.

20 March-19 April

Exhibition-Bald Statements

Dean's Chapel

Saturday 21 March 6.30pm

Organ Recital By Adrian Lucas, Organist of Worcester Cathedral and Master of Choristers 'The Way of the Cross'.

Tickets £10 available at the door.

Saturday 28 March

Spring Concert By Worcester Festival Choral Society

Brahms-Ein Deutsches Requiem.
Tickets £22.50-£6 with concessions from
Worcester Box Office Live: 01905 611427.

EASTER VIGIL AT HOLLAND HOUSE

"From darkness into light"

Come and keep this poignant vigil at Holland House on
Easter Eve. Beginning with a short act of worship at sunset
(8.00pm), we will keep the Vigil until sunrise (6.00am)
ending with a final act of worship in the grounds before
heading indoors for a well deserved cooked breakfast!
The programme of activities will centre on readings and
prayers in the Chapel, with other spaces in the House
offering live music (bring an instrument), DVD's (inc The
Passion) and quiet reflection.

Come for any part or all of the Vigil (including the Sunrise
service) and so move "from darkness into light". Suitable
for 16 year olds and upwards, please contact Holland
House for details or to book.

There is no charge for this event, although donations are
welcome.

Three Confessions Conference

17-19 April 2009, Holland House, Crothorne

The next in our series of biannual conferences will be on an
environmental theme: God's World – Our Responsibility.
Talks by experts on the Christian view of the environment,
the basic science and practical applications will be
complemented by various discussions. A small number of
residential places are available free of charge. Any one who
would like to attend or find out more information, please
contact Dr. David Hodgson on 01562-68331.



Notices

St Barnabas with Christ Church, Worcester – Music Director and Organist wanted

We are looking for a talented musician who will also wish to become part of our church community, open to introducing new styles and contemporary repertoire into our worship as well as the traditional. Are we asking for the moon? If not, please contact Sheila Bright on 01905 29281 for our full information pack.

Up for travel and adventure?

Thinking about joining the mission team for Peru? Put the evening of May 12th in your diary for a meeting at the Old Palace when you will learn all about this exciting opportunity – or call Margaret Rutter on 01905 732816

Worcester Diocese

Further Education Project

If you, or any member of your congregation have links of any sort with any of the 10 further education colleges in the diocese, please contact Peter Brownjohn. It would be really helpful to know of a network of people in our colleges as paid or volunteer workers in any role. 01384 400684 or 07759 831896 or pbrownjohn8@aol.com

2009 sees the 125th Anniversary of the Church of St Augustine of Hippo, Holly Hall Dudley

To mark this milestone a number of events are being held throughout the year.

Friday 20 March - 7.30pm - All former members of St Augustine's Mothers and Toddlers Group are invited to a reunion to share their memories and catch up with each other. Refreshments will be served.

Saturday 21 March - 10am - Children's Workshop to prepare for Mothering Sunday.

Sunday 22 March - 10am - Family Service for Mothering Sunday. More information: www.achurchnearyou.com/holly-hall-dudley-st-augustine.

Oakville Singers at St. Michael's Church, Stourport at 7:30pm, March 21. A concert in aid of church funds. The music will be a mixed variety including sacred and secular, folk and modern. Tickets £6.50, which includes an interval drink, from Jo Dillistone 01299 877778 or on the door.

Sunday Afternoon Organ Music by Paul Carr at Holy Trinity Parish Church, Wordsley. Admission free. Retiring collection. Further details www.paulcarr.co.uk

Sunday 1 March 2009 at 3pm - Mendelssohn's 200th

Anniversary: Organ Sonata no 2 in C minor and works by Langlais, Murrill and Stanford

Sunday 5 April 2009 at 3pm - Widor Organ Symphony No 7: Symphony VII in A minor

Sunday 3 May 2009 at 3pm - Mendelssohn's 200th Anniversary: Organ Sonata no 3 in A and works by Whitlock, Vieme and Buxtehude

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

Approximate Cost £1,400
based on two sharing single supplement £290
and includes flights, half board in good hotels, a licensed guide,
all entrance fees and tips

Organised by: Canon Pat Smith, The Old Palace, Deansway, Worcester WR1 2JE.
From whom further information is available
by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope.
Or download the information leaflet and booking form from the Diocesan Website

15th Annual Art Exhibition at All Saints' Church, Bromsgrove (during the Bromsgrove Festival)

24 April–2 May 2009: Mon–Sat 10–4pm,
Sunday 11.30–4pm

The hanging fee per work is £1.50. Works may be offered for sale or not as the artist wishes. On any sales artists obtain 80% of the selling price, 20% going to church restoration. The maximum entry from one exhibitor is 6 works. More information: Tony Turpin: 01527 86649 or anthony.turpin@btinternet.com for entry forms.

WARM DAY 10.00 am – 3.00 pm Tuesday 3rd March Holland House, Crophorne

Speakers: The Venerable Roger Morris and The Rt Revd Dr John Inge
"Can these dry bones live?"

Cost: £13 inclusive of sandwich lunch and refreshments (pay on the day)

Book through: Robert Latham 01905 748711
Robert@HallowChurch.co.uk

or
Richard Thorniley 01386 870527
richardgill@thorniley.fsnet.co.uk

Elektron 09 at St. Luke's Church, Evesham Road, Headless Cross, Redditch, Worcs, B97 4JX

Saturday 25 April 2009 starting at 7.30pm - Doors open 7pm. To raise funds for St. Luke's "Young In Spirit" young persons music group, the church will be hosting Elektron 09.

Elektron is an annual event, showcasing new and established acts in the fields of live ambient and electronic music, featuring from Nottingham: Modulator ESP; from Swindon: 4m33; from Bromsgrove: Electronic Percussion Group; from Redditch: Peter Tedstone. Tickets on the door £6. More information: www.virb.com/elektron or Peter Tedstone: 01527 66465.

Hagley Music Festival – 29 April to 3 May – featuring Tasmin Little (violin) with the Orchestra of the Swan; Ex Cathedra: The Little Big Time Band (lead members of the CBSO); Craig Ogden (guitar), Madeleine Mitchell (violin) and Michael Bennett (tenor); all performing at St John's Church, Hagley. Full programme and booking details from Mercian Travel in Hagley Village or 01562 884216.

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 pauldianamalvern@googlemail.com

Church Textiles – conservation or new. NADFAS Volunteers are willing to undertake projects under Conservator's guidance. More information: 07989 463859

Request for a professional cross at St Matthias and St George Church, Astwood Bank (preferably light in weight). Donation to any church able to offer up a suitable redundant cross. More information: Richard Porteous: 01527 542620.

Robin Sharples – story-teller

Robin will be performing the medieval story of "Floris et Blanchefleur" at St Peter's Church, Powick, on Thursday 2 April at 7.30pm. He weaves European and Middle Eastern tales around the story of Prince Floris, together with harp and guitar music. Tickets: £6.50 to include light refreshments. More information: Robin: 01531 630215, Peter Gedge: 01905 831089 or Sally Gurney: 01905 830756 - for The Friends of St Peter's.

MARCH DIARY

- 1 Sunday Afternoon Organ Music by Paul Carr** at 3pm (see page 7)
- 5 Lunch Box at Great Malvern Priory.** 'The Christian Tradition in C21st Romania'. Illustrated talk by Tim Gunter. 1pm. BYO lunch from 12.30pm. Coffee/Tea available. More information: 01684 561020.
- 7 Come and Sing with Nicholas Cleobury** (for adults) at Worcester Cathedral (see page 6).
- 7 'A Thoroughly English Evening Hall'** by The Friends of the Cathedral at Whittington Village Hall at 7pm. Tickets £14 for members - £16 for non-members. More information: 01905 732920.
- 7 Worcester Diocesan Assembly – Forward in Faith AGM** at St James' Lower Gornal at 2pm.
- 11 Worcestershire Young Musicians 2009.** (See page 6)
- 17 Concert by RGS AO School – Faure Requiem.** (See page 6)
- 17 Mothers' Union Action and Outreach Department** 'A Finger in every Pie'. Overseas, literacy training, Parenting courses, Prisons and Hospitals, premature and stillborn baby gowns and those famous knitted teddies who went to Uganda last year. Drop in to find out about these activities and how you can join in from 2pm at St. Peter's Centre, Pedmore, Stourbridge. More information: Jean Swift: 01562 883466
- 19 Lunch Box at Great Malvern Priory.** Concert by pupils from Malvern St. James. 1pm. BYO lunch from 12.30pm. Coffee/Tea available. More information: 01684 561020.
- 20 Reunion** of St Augustine's Mothers and Toddlers Group 7.30pm (see page 7)
- 20 March-19 April – Exhibition – Bald Statements.** (See page 6)
- 21 Organ recital by Adrian Lucas.** (See page 6)
- 21 Children's Workshop** to prepare for Mothering Sunday. 10am (see page 7)
- 21 Oakville Singers at St. Michael's Church,** Stourport (see page 7)
- 22 Family Service** for Mothering Sunday 10am. (see page 7)
- 25 Lady Day,** Evesham Deanery Mothers' Union Festival Service at All Saints Church, Lench. Preacher: Rev Fran Battin at 7pm.
- 28 Worcester Male Voice Choir** in aid of the Friends of Saint George's Church, Barbourne, Worcester at 7.30 pm in Saint George's Church. Tickets £8 (£6 concessions) on the door. More information: 01905 453521.
- 28 Spring Concert by Worcester Festival Choral Society.** (See page 6)

Worcester Diocesan News

Editor: Rachel Edwards.
Contact: Jacci Hunt at The Old Palace,
Deansway, Worcester WR1 2JE.
Fax: 01905 612302 or
Email: newsletter@cofe-worcester.org.uk.

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