

## Diocesan information



### Bulletin

#### Resources

[Document library](#)

[Links](#)

[Reading list](#)

| [Bulletin](#)

[Parish magazine editors](#)

#### Job opportunities

#### Branding guidelines

#### Care of buildings

#### Using the press

#### Contact details

[Bishop's Comment](#) [Topical](#)

[Comment](#) [News](#) [Courses](#) [Events](#) [Vacancies](#)

## Bishop's Comment

### Easter – a day of hope

Only three months since Christmas and the hope of new birth, we are now thinking about the death and resurrection of Jesus, the man whose brief life revealed the full nature of God.

While most of us will have rejoiced at the arrival of a baby, few of us will have been close to the experiences we think about during Holy Week and Easter - crucifixion and resurrection. Yet I believe these events resonate with our deepest realities as individual human beings and as an international community in the 21st century.

Living through the passion of Christ each year can take us on a journey to the deep truths of human existence and encourage us to live hopefully.

On Good Friday we think about extreme suffering, physical pain, death and bereavement.

For some it may be the day on which we identify with people suffering in wars and violent conflicts. Places that occasionally surface on the news but where death, destruction and injury are commonplace for example: Darfur, Zimbabwe, Afghanistan, Iraq, Israel/Palestine.

It may be the day on which we face the truth of our own mortality and the inevitability of death for those on whom we depend to some degree for our own happiness. Confronting our own fears of death, in the hope of resurrection, can be liberating for us – allowing us to take new risks, accept challenges and live life as an adventure.

Then comes Holy Saturday, a day I regard as unique. It is the one day in the year when we remember Jesus' absence from the created

world, as he lay dead in a sealed tomb. It is the day on which we think about a world without God, empty and desolate.

I also believe that we need to confront our own emptiness. It might be the void brought about by loneliness and the ending of an important relationship. Or perhaps it is the dissatisfaction when we have achieved what we want to achieve but we are not yet fulfilled and happy.

This kind of emptiness can lead us to prayer – taking time to seek deeper realities, to still the loud voices in our heads driving us to success, wealth and consumption and to receive the deep peace that comes from knowing we are loved by the one who made the world and cares deeply for all he has created.

Each year I am deeply moved by the renewed hope contained in the Easter story of the resurrection as the women meet the risen Christ. In Matthew's gospel it says they clasped his feet and worshipped him. In John's story Mary cries out in delight when she recognizes the risen Christ. Luke tells of how the risen Christ walks alongside bewildered, grieving friends giving them new understanding and purpose, a spirit of joy, confidence and love.

We may feel this kind of hope is far from us or we may confuse it with the happiness we have found in our daily lives. Let us take time at Easter to reflect and remember that God's love is greater than suffering, or emptiness, or confusion and is offered to each one of us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

+David Urquhart, Bishop of Birmingham

[Top](#)

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## Topical Comment

### Transforming Church- Presidential Address

**The Journey So Far:** In July this Synod will receive the Annual Accounts and Reports of the Birmingham Diocese. They record a remarkable achievement of faithful people in the service of Jesus Christ. There you will find described the raising and spending of some ten million pounds.

At the heart of all the activity this represents you would expect parish life to be pre-eminent: the support of some 180 stipends and on-costs; training courses and events; mainstream programmes (e.g.

youth, children, interfaith, minority ethnic Anglicans, regeneration, evangelism, communication, overseas links); pioneer initiatives; schools and education; chaplaincies of all kinds.

The Diocesan support for parish life (Church House, Registry, Chancellor, Statutory Bodies, Cathedral) is designed to work hard and travel light. This includes Bishop's Croft! We are well served by highly energetic and professional staff.

In recent years, a strategic approach to the allocation of resources in Jesus' service, 'Called to a New Kingdom' has meant a refocusing of clergy posts and a reshaping of some parishes. The Centenary celebrations of 2005 were also stimulating and reflected to some extent the 'six discernable calls'.

After a period of consolidation we are now preparing for an even greater challenge, 'Transforming Church', for growth and development. As background we have had the questions 'What is Church?' 'What is Church in Birmingham?'

For those whose expectations have not yet been fulfilled I mention Habakkuk 2:3 'though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay'. I have looked, listened, prayed, hinted and am now declaring!

#### **Getting Ready- Platform 9 and three quarters**

With the expected arrival of (a yet unknown) Bishop of Aston in September we can do more in the Bishop's staff to help develop policy proposals. Nonetheless, more important than central direction is the willingness of local Christians in their parishes to participate in what God is doing. This will mean transformation of our deeply held patterns of familiar service, which may involve a higher level of risk than we are used to. We might well want to seek outside help.

Before we look too quickly at our own area of interest or responsibility we must keep our heads up so as to see together as clearly and as far as we possibly can.

#### **On the Way**

Three perspectives are important if we are to understand what is being asked of us by way of participation.

**God's Mission.** You will have often heard me quote 'it is the God of Mission who has a Church, rather than the Church of God that has a Mission'. We see in Jesus' pattern 'The Son can do nothing by himself: he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does' John 5:19

So we need to spend time in the next five years ensuring we are conformed to and transformed by God's agenda.

**Kingdom of God.** Our statutory role as Diocesan Synod is necessarily limited to the Church of England in Birmingham and Region. Nonetheless Jesus is described as going ‘throughout Galilee... preaching the good news of the Kingdom, and healing...’ Matthew 5:23 We need to be aware of God’s territory and rule, beyond the C of E and be prepared for the Holy Spirit’s transforming effects on our lifestyle and priorities.

**Church of God.** We have a major responsibility as disciples in the Church of England to enable the local Church to flourish. Jesus said ‘I will build my church and the gates of Hell will not prevail against it’ Matthew 16:18. Are we making space in our Councils and planning groups to ensure that our parish, community life and working lives are engaged with the Mission of God and are signs of His Kingdom?

Mapping: leadership; authority; power; inspiration

As we get underway, suggestions about the effectiveness of Forums, Deaneries and other existing parts of our institutional life and ideas for better ways of delivering our response to God’s Mission will emerge very quickly. Participation and Delivery rather than Meetings and Control will characterise flourishing contemporary Church.

In the next few weeks Bishop’s Council and the Area Deans will both have residential gatherings to explore the longer-term vision and strategy for our part of God’s Mission and Kingdom. I wonder whether a Lay Conference in 2009 would also be an opportunity for encouragement in this direction.

The Bishop’s Core Group, which also meets regularly with the Directors and Advisers, will have a transformed agenda raising our sights from management to policy development.

The Bishop of Birmingham will oversee three streams of policy development for God’s Mission: Mission Resources (money and deployment); Mission Learning (training and disciple making) and Mission Operations (parish development, programmes and pioneer projects). Key questions such as ‘What size does God want us to be?’ ‘What are the outcomes of our training courses?’ ‘How can the Church grow?’ will help us make transforming proposals for action.

### **Vision**

I believe that everyone in Birmingham and Region, some one and a half million people, should have the opportunity to encounter Jesus Christ and make their minds up about him. This ambition will mean a mighty movement of prayer and action in collaboration with all Christians. (See Stephen Spencer ‘Christian Mission’ SCM).

During Lent I have seen many expressions of this during visits I have made to places including the Hope Hut, Lickey Hills; Young Disciples, Lozells; Children’s Hospital, City Centre; St Saviour’s School, Alum

Rock; Lunch Club for the Elderly , Tile Cross; Christian Solicitors, Anthony Collins; Midweek candle-lit gathering, Kings Norton; Mum's and Toddlers, and Mosque, Springfield; Aluminium Factory, Garrett's Green; Community and MP, Chelmsley Wood; Prayer labyrinth, Harborne; Holy Communion, Solihull.

Now, the parishes across the Diocese must play their full part in a myriad of expressions of the Good News.

'Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom. And we all...beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into his likeness...' 2 Corinthians 3: 18

+David Urquhart 15th March 2008 Birmingham

[Top](#)

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## News

### **Fast for one day for an indebted country**

28 March 2008

We are still looking for clergy and church leaders prepared to fast for one day for a particular country in need in the run up to the 10th anniversary of the Birmingham G8 summit

So far we have had volunteers to fast for Kenya, Egypt, Pakistan, Lesotho, Jamaica and Tajikstan. A full list of the countries and a suggested date for a fast is at the end of this article.

The Fast will be launched jointly by the Diocese of Birmingham and Jubilee Debt Campaign at a special service at St Martin in the Bull Ring church on April 12th at 2pm.

Jubilee Debt Campaigners are holding a series of events to mark the 10th anniversary of the Birmingham G8 Summit. Journey to Justice will be held in both the ICC and Centenary Square and includes events suitable for families and young people.

Please could anyone willing to fast for a country chosen by Jubilee Debt Campaign let me, Jessica, know either on 0121 426 0438 or [jessica@birmingham.anglican.org](mailto:jessica@birmingham.anglican.org)

A list of countries and dates are below.

DATE - COUNTRY

Saturday 12 April - Liberia

Sunday 13 April - Nepal  
Monday 14 April - Bangladesh  
Tuesday 15 April - Cambodia  
Wednesday 16 April - Belize  
Thursday 17 April - Kenya  
Friday 18 April - Panama  
Saturday 19 April - Moldova  
Sunday 20 April - Grenada  
Monday 21 April - Papua New Guinea  
Tuesday 22 April - Haiti  
Wednesday 23 April - Ukraine  
Thursday 24 April - Yemen  
Friday 25 April - Angola  
Saturday 26 April - Ecuador  
Sunday 27 April - Philippines  
Monday 28 April - Egypt  
Tuesday 29 April - Djibouti  
Wednesday 30 April - Vietnam  
Thursday 1 May - Marshall Islands  
Friday 2 May - Tajikistan  
Saturday 3 May - Peru  
Sunday 4 May - Armenia  
Monday 5 May - Mongolia  
Tuesday 6 May - Indonesia  
Wednesday 7 May - Dominica  
Thursday 8 May - Pakistan  
Friday 9 May - Morocco  
Saturday 10 May - Azerbaijan  
Sunday 11 May - Georgia  
Monday 12 May - Tunisia  
Tuesday 13 May - Lebanon  
Wednesday 14 May - Paraguay  
Thursday 15 May - Lesotho  
Friday 16 May - El Salvador  
Saturday 17 May - Jamaica

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

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**Request for Feedback from the Communications  
Department**

28 March 2008

We would like your help to evaluate this year's Lent initiative and plan for Back to Church Sunday 2008.

**TOO DEEP FOR WORDS**

As we plan for next year and evaluate the impact of this year's initiative it would be really helpful to hear stories and insights from people who participated in the Bishop's Lent initiative this year. We have heard that lots of churches preached on prayer and many found the open day a useful exercise. But do give us your perspective - we are happy to hear both positive and less positive feedback!

#### **BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY**

We are in the process of designing materials for churches wanting to take part in B2CS this year. The pilot in 13 churches last year was a great success in lots of ways and we do hope lots (all) of churches will come on board.

At the moment we are assuming that A3 posters will be the best size for people to use as the Lent posters did seem to be too big for many people. However if you would like A0 Landscape poster do let me know as we will be producing some - the more we do the cheaper they become.

Also - please don't forget to sign up for the Back to Church Sunday Training. Dates are on the events calendar.

Finally - Happy Easter to you all.

Please contact me by e-mail: [jessica@birmingham.anglican.org](mailto:jessica@birmingham.anglican.org) or leave me message on 0121 426 0438.

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

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#### **Maundy Thursday Sermon**

28 March 2008

Clergy from across the Diocese gathered for the annual Chrism Service on Maundy Thursday in Birmingham Cathedral.

The service included the blessing of the oils used at baptism and to anoint people seeking healing and the renewal of vows made at ordination.

Bishop David presided at the service, the Ven Dr Brian Russell, Archdeacon of Aston, preached.

For a copy of the sermon click [here](#).

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

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## Small Advertisements

26 March 2008

### Britain's Best Dish 2008 - AUDITIONS

What's YOUR signature dish? Are you a keen amateur cook with an original, mouth – watering starter, main-course or pudding? And could YOUR dish win you £10,000?

Come and "pitch your dish" to a panel of well known food experts.

Auditions across the UK taking place soon for the

TV show: BRITAIN'S BEST DISH 2008

Please register your details on our phone line

09011 22 33 11 or email [bestdish@itv.com](mailto:bestdish@itv.com)

Calls cost 25p from a BT landline. Calls from other networks and mobile operators may be higher.

Lines close on 20th April 2008. Terms and conditions available at [itv.com/terms](http://itv.com/terms)

### Office Space for Rent

The Additional Curates Society occupy premises in Spitfire Road, Erdington, and they also contain a number of high quality offices, a purpose built chapel and loading bay and storage facilities as well as a shop front area where goods are displayed for the public to call in and extensive free parking - available for rent by another Christian group.

Contact: Father Darren Smith at ACS, tel: 0121 382 5533 or email: [fr.smith@additionalcurates.co.uk](mailto:fr.smith@additionalcurates.co.uk)

### Theological Books needed

The Ecumenical Research Institute in Sibiu, Romania, is building a theological library in English. This is an Orthodox/Lutheran/Anglican initiative, and the only known institution of its kind in Eastern Europe. If you have books you could donate, please let me know, as I hope to send a consignment out later this year. For details, contact Rev. Geoff Kimber on 0121 598 9093 or [geoff.kimber@gmail.com](mailto:geoff.kimber@gmail.com)

### Events venue - St Paul's Centre, Bordesley Green

An ideal venue for training events, meetings, conferences, awaydays and presentations. Flexible meeting spaces to accommodate 2 to 150 people in an impressive and stimulating building. In-house catering - special dietary requirements accommodated.

For more information call Mandy Stanton on 0121 684 2150, email us

at [stpaulscentre@crossover619.co.uk](mailto:stpaulscentre@crossover619.co.uk) or go to  
[www.stpaulscrossover.org.uk](http://www.stpaulscrossover.org.uk)

Premises needed to use as community centre

We are looking for premises to use as a community centre in central Birmingham, preferably B10, B11, B12, B13, B14, B28. We would like it to be able to accommodate approx 200 people, to have halls and also smaller rooms for various extra curricular and vocational activities.

If you think you may have something that could suit us, please contact Mrs L.Rouabah, MENACA, PO Box 7662, Birmingham B28 9HR Tel: 0121 777 4157

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

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### **Notification of Appointments**

23 March 2008

The Revd Denise Jones  
Chaplain, Birmingham Women's Health Care NHS Trust  
To be: Team Vicar in the Bridgnorth Team (Hereford) (July)

Brother Alan  
SSF  
To be: Guardian of Alnmouth Friary (Newcastle) (March)

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

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### **SHOES SHINED TO REFLECT THE LOVE OF GOD**

20 March 2008

Commuters walking past the Cathedral this Thursday, March 20th, were offered a 21st Century footwash as the Bishop of Birmingham, the Dean and church leaders from across the Diocese shone shoes for passers-by.

The Cathedral shoe-shine was organised to celebrate Maundy Thursday - the day when Jesus washed his disciples' feet at the Last Supper - on the evening before his crucifixion. It is also the day on which all the clergy from the Diocese gather in the Cathedral to renew their ordination vows.

Bishop David said: "Maundy Thursday is the day on which the church remembers the passover meal Jesus shared with his friends and followers. That meal was the foundation for the meal we still share in churches today - Holy Communion. But before that meal Jesus washed the dusty, dirty feet of his companions and spoke about the need for leaders to be humble like a servant - a model the church has also tried to follow for the last 2,000 years.

"The shoe shine is just a small demonstration that people who follow Jesus are prepared to roll up their sleeves and serve their communities. During my Lent visits around the Diocese I have been very pleased to meet many wonderful people whose faith inspires them to serve those around in ways which transform both communities and individual lives."

Some 200 clergy gathered in St Phillips Cathedral on Maundy Thursday. The service will include the blessing of oils used for baptisms and for anointing people seeking healing and the renewal of clergy ordination promises.

During Lent, the 40 days of preparation for Easter, Bishop David has been traveling around the Diocese praying with people in schools, workplaces, hospitals, churches, playgroups and lunch clubs as part of the diocesan initiative "Too Deep for Words - Praying with Jesus."

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

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## **Update from the Church of England**

17 March 2008

### **Archbishop of Canterbury: shock and sorrow at murder of Archbishop Paulos Faraj Rahho**

Dr Rowan Williams has expressed his deep shock and sorrow at the appalling murder of Paulos Faraj Rahho, the Chaldean Archbishop of Mosul whose body was discovered on March 13. "Our prayers are daily with the people of Iraq, especially with the vulnerable Christian community, and particularly today with the Chaldeans and Archbishop Paulos' family". Background [here](#)

### **Church welcomes transitional Gift Aid relief**

The Church of England has welcomed the transitional relief arrangement announced in the Budget for Gift Aid claims by charities over the next three years. In the Budget speech, the Chancellor, Alistair Darling, announced a transitional rate of relief of 22 per cent from 2008/09 to 2010/11. Details [here](#)

### **Schools Admissions Code: Church backs Minister**

Responding to a statement from Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families Ed Balls, this morning, the Rt Rev Stephen Venner, Bishop of Dover and acting Chair of the Board of Education, said: "The Church of England

welcomes the Minister's intention to tighten up on rules to ensure schools meet the requirements of the Admissions Code 2007." Details [here](#)

#### **Balance your household budget - it's a matter of life and debt**

The Church of England has launched an easy-to-use interactive online resource for working out a household spending budget, with helpful prayers for guidance, emphasising that the Bible teaches us to be content with what we have, rather than find satisfaction from over-spending. Details [here](#)

#### **Opposition to forced marriage**

The Church of England has reaffirmed its belief that forced marriage is wrong both morally and legally. Responding to a Home Office consultation on 'marriage to partners from overseas', the Rt Rev Tom Butler, Bishop of Southwark, said the Mission and Public Affairs Council strongly affirmed that principle, as reflected in the consultation document, and agreed that the minimum age that someone could sponsor a marriage partner from abroad or be sponsored as a spouse should be raised to 21 years. Details [here](#)

#### **Church launches briefing on secrets of a successful marriage for those saying 'I will'**

Help is at hand for newly engaged couples preparing for their wedding day and planning the rest of their life together with a new course soon to be offered by the Church of England. Details [here](#)

#### **Government consultation on blasphemy: Archbishops' response**

As the Government publishes its amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill to abolish the blasphemy laws, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of York have made public their response to the Government's consultation. Details [here](#)

#### **Archbishop of York launches Kenya appeal**

Following Dr Sentamu's visit to Kenya last month he has launched an appeal to support the work of the country's Churches the wake of the violence. Details [here](#)

#### **New Bishop of Coventry announced**

The Queen has approved the nomination of the Reverend Canon Doctor Christopher John Cocksworth BA, PhD, PGCE, Principal of Ridley Hall, Cambridge, for election as Bishop of Coventry. Details [here](#)

#### **Church encourages Government warning to gambling industry**

The Church of England has welcomed the Government's decision not to license a regional supercasino. It has also encouraged Culture Secretary Andy Burnham MP to issue a warning to the industry that he will enforce a statutory levy to fund research into and treatment of problem gambling. Details [here](#)

#### **Deaf pioneers graduate at Chester**

A pioneering partnership between the Archbishops' Council of the Church of England and the University of Chester came to fruition on Saturday 8 March when the first cohort of Deaf students were presented with their certificates by

the University Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Mrs Dorothy Marris. Details [here](#)

#### **'Cross of Nails' comes to London**

Saint Andrew's Chapel at the Anglican Communion Secretariat, Westbourne Park, London, has been designated a "Cross of Nails Centre" by the Dean of Coventry, in the presence of members of the Primates and Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) Joint Standing Committee . Details [here](#)

#### **Archbishop of Canterbury opens Manorhead Supported Housing**

Dr Rowan Williams officially opened the Church of England Pensions Board's new showpiece retirement home, Manorhead Supported Housing, at Hindhead near Haslemere in Surrey last month (25 February), at a special ceremony also attended by the Bishop of Guildford, Rt Revd Christopher Hill, and the Mayor and Mayoress of Waverley, Councillor Maurice and Mrs Mary Byham. Details [here](#)

#### **Archbishops visit Cambridge**

Dr Rowan Williams and Dr John Sentamu made a joint visit to Cambridge last month. During the visit Dr Williams and Dr Sentamu visited the Oakington Immigration Detention Centre and the Emmaus Community at Landbeach. The Archbishop of Canterbury delivered two lectures entitled 'What Difference Does it Make? - The Gospel in Contemporary Culture' and 'Faith, Reason and Quality Assurance: Having Faith in Academic Life'. In addition Dr. Williams attended a seminar with local clergy and Diocesan staff at St George's Church in Chesterton to discuss the subject of 'New Churches for New Communities'. Detail [here](#)

Photos of the visit and texts of the lectures will be published on the Archbishop of Canterbury's [website](#) in due course.

#### **Farewell tributes to the Bishops of Truro and Sheffield**

The Archbishop of Canterbury gave a farewell speech at the General Synod to mark the retirement of the Bishop of Truro, the Rt Revd William Inge and the Bishop of Sheffield, the Rt Revd Jack Nicholls. Full transcripts here: [Truro](#) [Sheffield](#)

#### **Two new suffragan bishops for Manchester Diocese**

The Revd Chris Edmondson, 57, is to be the next Bishop of Bolton and the Ven Mark Davies, 45, is to be the next Bishop of Middleton Downing Street announced last Monday (March 10). Details [here](#)

#### **Church House Publishing announces new distribution partner**

Church House Publishing has today announced that, from 1st May 2008, distribution of its range of books and other products will transfer to Norwich Books and Music. Details [here](#)

#### **It's not only words: worship changes lives for the better, says Church**

The central importance of worship in the life of the Church is emphasised in a new book published today by Church House Publishing. Details [here](#)

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

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### **Greening Birmingham Churches**

17 March 2008

The above event was held on 11th March and was an opportunity to exchange ideas on creation care worship, greening churches and community outreach.

To read a summary of what is practically occurring in our region's churches, and for more green ideas please click [here](#).

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

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### **Bishop Takes Message On-Line as Lent Visits Continue to Inspire**

17 March 2008

The Bishop of Birmingham has taken his Easter Message on-line as he continues his Lent visits as part of the Diocesan Prayer Initiative, Too Deep for Words. Bishop David's message, recorded on ITV Local, can be viewed [here](#).

Following his visit to the Central Studios the Bishop visited Kings Norton candlelit church initiative held each Wednesday evening from 7pm to 9pm. The peaceful, reflective atmosphere brings in people from across the community who want space and time to pray quietly.



Bishop David adds a prayer to the prayer tree at Kings Norton Church.



Bishop David and Candlelit Church organiser Jess Boulton welcome Christian, Nathan and Scott.

On Thursday Bishop David visited St Saviour's School Alum Rock where he led two assemblies and met children in the classroom.



Bishop David then called into a lunch club at Tile Cross where he spent time chatting with diners and staff.....



..... and washing up!



Bishop David said: "During the last week I have met so many people who are inspired by their faith to serve the people around them.

It is exciting to see how many people and organisations are sharing the love of God in words and action –offering care and support where it is most needed, using Church buildings creatively and bringing hope, peace and joy to their communities."

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

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### **Add your voice this Christian Aid Week, 11 - 17 May**

13 March 2008

This year the first Sunday of Christian Aid Week falls at Pentecost. Christians across the globe will be celebrating the wonder of God, the source of love, living in us.

Christian Aid are offering to help ignite your church so that they see God's vision for a better world, and get them dancing in the aisles as they discover what their prayers, gifts and actions can achieve.

On the free Empowering People DVD-rom you'll find all you need to bring the voices of people like Rekha, who is campaigning in Bangladesh for her village's right to clean water, and of Musah, who says what would make him happiest would be if every child in Ghana could go to school. Bring your community closer to poor communities around the world and transform lives.

You'll also find a new worship song to warm up your singing and worship material for different expressions of church.

To order your free DVD-rom call 08080 005 005 or visit [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

### **The Church must celebrate creation - a response**

13 March 2008

In the recent article 'The Church must celebrate creation' (Church Times 8 Feb 08) David L Edwards calls for a new festival which can unite people from all three Abrahamic religions to pray and work for the future of the planet.

The following response has been sent by the Bishop of Wakefield, Chairman of the Liturgical Commission:

As David reported, he is not alone with this wish since churches in Europe, Australia and the US, have already begun to celebrate Creationtide and I am writing to report that plans are already being taken forward here.

The Church of England's Liturgical Commission was asked to reflect upon this and supports the initiative originally taken by the Ecumenical Patriarch and the proposal endorsed by the European Ecumenical Assembly that there should be a celebration within the period 1 September to 4 October to be 'dedicated to prayer for the protection of Creation and the promotion of sustainable lifestyles that reverse our contribution to climate change'.

Plans have already begun to be made in the CofE, which include a major celebration at St Paul's Cathedral. Hopefully other cathedrals and indeed all parish churches will choose at least one Sunday during this time to find ways of participating.

These are still early days. Along with David Edwards we would encourage all churches to see A Time for God's Creation as an opportunity to show how caring for creation should be core-business for Christians.

We hope that in 2008 we shall experience the beginnings of worship which will reflect both the concern and joy we share and glory in as we celebrate and conserve Creation.

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

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### **Bishop's Prayers Reach New Heights**

09 March 2008

The Bishop of Birmingham took his prayers to a higher level this week as he joined a roofer at work in Balsall Heath.

This week Bishop David has prayed his way from Balsall Heath to Balsall Common, visiting Christians in their place of work as well as visiting schools, hospitals and churches as part of the Diocesan initiative for Lent 08 'Too Deep for Words'.

This week the Bishop has visited two secondary schools - one in Balsall Common and one in Moseley - Touchwood Shopping Centre, Birmingham Children's Hospital as well as meeting roofer Paul Yeomans at work on Riverside House in Balsall Heath.

Next week Bishop David will be praying with his Youth Council, visiting a mentoring project, leading a primary school assembly in Saltley and dropping in to a lunch club in Tile Cross.

Across the Diocese of Birmingham people are being encouraged to pray each day with the help of a booklet giving suggestions for prayer. Churches across the Diocese have also been asked to open for a full day of prayer during Lent, from sunrise to sunset.

Bishop David said: "I have met some wonderful people as I have travelled the length and breadth of the diocese meeting people who's lives embody the Gospel of Jesus Christ bringing hope, joy and peace to their communities.

"Seeing these people with a passion for their neighbourhoods, communities and workplaces combined with a life of prayer and commitment to Christ has been a deep inspiration to me over the last few weeks.

Dates of churches open for prayer and the daily prayer suggestions from the Too Deep for Words Booklet are available at [www.birmingham.anglican.org](http://www.birmingham.anglican.org)

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

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## Junior Church Football League

07 March 2008

The West Bromwich Junior Church Football League, ([www.wbjcfl.co.uk](http://www.wbjcfl.co.uk)) affiliated to the Birmingham County F.A. are now accepting new teams at the following age groups for the forthcoming season 2008/2009.

Under 10 (School years 4&5 from Sept 2008) 7-a-side

Under 12 (School years 6&7 from Sept 2008) 7-a-side

Under 14 (School years 8&9 from Sept 2008) 11-a-side

Under 16 (School years 10&11 from Sept 2008) 11-a-side

All matches are played on Saturday mornings at the Holly Lodge School, Holly Lane Smethwick, B67 7JG, located 5mins from Junction 1 M5.

This is an ideal project to do with other churches in your area forming new and developing existing inter church relationships. It is a great opportunity for the children in your church to invite friends along to participate in a well organised sports activity.

For further information please contact the League Secretary, Derek Jones on Tel: 01384 560456 / Mob: 07973 617844 / Email: [derek@wbjcfll.co.uk](mailto:derek@wbjcfll.co.uk)

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

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## Dancers needed for new musical

07 March 2008

Christian Music Ministries announces the new musical by Roger Jones, ROCK, the story of Simon Peter is now finished and will be released later this year.

Tickets for the premiere of Rock at the Adrian Boult Hall on Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd November are available from the CMM office on 0121 783 3291.

We are urgently looking for dancers for the Rock tour. Auditions are in April. Please contact CMM for further details or see the web-site [www.cmm.org.uk](http://www.cmm.org.uk) or e mail [events@cmm.org](mailto:events@cmm.org) for more information.

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

---

[Top](#)

---

## Courses

### Faith Guides Certificate

The Faith Encounter Programme has pioneered a new specialist training programme for 'Faith Guides' since October 2007. The Certificate has been accredited by the Institute of Tourist Guiding at Level 2. The second course will commence in April 2008. The programme focuses on a fixed site guiding qualification, with a special emphasis on the interpretation and presentation of the relevant faith.

In addition, trainee Faith Guides have the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of their own Faith.

The programme includes :

- Knowledge of a specific faith and place of worship
- Interpretation and presentation skills
- Customer care and risk assessment
- Sensitivity to visitors of all faith backgrounds
- Guiding school groups
- Preparation of resource materials
- Planning of a site specific guided tour

The course will take place one evening a week from 1800 – 2100 hours, plus 2 one-day workshop sessions. It will be offered on a part time basis over a period of 12 weeks and will include several training visits to places of worship.

**Venue:** Dhammatalaka Buddhist Peace Pagoda, Osler Street, Ladywood, Birmingham B16 9EU (access by bus 66 or 8).

**Cost:** £100 per trainee but concessions are available

**Organised by:** The Faith Encounter Programme

**For more information, contact:**

**Telephone:** 0121 456 5839

**E-mail:** [ruthtetlow@btinternet.com](mailto:ruthtetlow@btinternet.com)

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### MA and Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Theology

Would you like to evaluate your theological moorings? Are you interested in current developments in Christian thought and practice? Do you want to study at a higher level than before? Do you want to be part of a lively community from across the World Church?

We are keen to support such aspirations, and we know how important it is that clergy and church workers have the chance for professional development.

Validated by the University of Birmingham. Particularly suited for Professional Development. Full or part- time study available. Course structures enable choice and flexibility. Courses can lead to further, more advance studies.

These awards are available to those with previous theological qualifications. Those with second class degree in theology or religious studies are eligible. If you have a degree in another subject, and some theological education, you may also be admitted, with our agreement. The course, taken part time, usually lasts 2 years.

Website : [www.queens.ac.uk](http://www.queens.ac.uk)

**Venue:** The Queens Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education, Somerset Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2QH

**Cost:**

**Organised by:**The Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education

**For more information, contact:** Rosemary Maskell

**Telephone:** 0121 454 2600

**E-mail:** [r.maskell@queens.ac.uk](mailto:r.maskell@queens.ac.uk)

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### 3D Course

We are just beginning to plan for the next session of the 3D course which will start in September 2008. If you feel your Parish would benefit from holding a course, please get in touch with the Ministries Forum.

**Venue:**

**Cost:**

**Organised by:**Ministries Forum

**For more information, contact:** Jelena Cammack

**Telephone:** 0121 426 0435

**E-mail:** [jelena.cammack@birmingham.anglican.org](mailto:jelena.cammack@birmingham.anglican.org)

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### Leading your Church into Growth 2008

A 4 day course for clergy & lay leaders from across different traditions and denominations who are looking for help and encouragement in leading their church into growth.

**Venue:** York - 9 - 12 June Swanwick - 3 - 6 November

**Cost:** £225 per person inc full board with all course resources.

**Organised by:****For more information, contact:** Tracie Hunt**Telephone:** 01274 604904 / 07799845954**E-mail:** [Tracie.Hunt@englandbasketball.co.uk](mailto:Tracie.Hunt@englandbasketball.co.uk)**Encountering Spiritual Companionship**

16th April, 21st May 2008 (10.00 am - 4.00 pm). This course, which is now in its fourth year, is designed to enable participants to explore both key elements of their faith and a variety of different Christian traditions of prayer and spirituality. It will allow people to ask the central question of how you relate life and faith to God, through prayer and reflection.

Visit [www.launde.org.uk](http://www.launde.org.uk)

**Venue:****Cost:** Price: £160.00 for 4 sessions of £55.00 each.**Organised by:**Launde Abbey**For more information, contact:****Telephone:** 01572 717254**E-mail:** [laundeabbey@leicester.anglican.org](mailto:laundeabbey@leicester.anglican.org)

[Top](#)

## Events

**Domestic Violence Awareness**

29/03/2008

**Date:** 29 March 2008**Venue:** Paul & Barny's Place, 151 Castle Road West, Oldbury, West Midlands B68 0EL

Trainer - Diane Yates, Sandwell Organisation Against Domestic Abuse. Many women (and some men) may not, at first, recognise that they are in a domestic abuse situation. This training day is to make us all more aware of what may be happening to our neighbours. We will explore how we can create together a climate for change where a perpetrator's behaviours are challenged. We will see how we, as a community, can support victims and enable them to become survivors.

**Cost:** £6.00/£3.50 Concessions

**Organised by:**

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Colin Darling

Telephone: 0121 686 1983

E-mail:

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**Shine: A service of praise and worship**

29/03/2008

**Date:** 29 March 2008

**Venue:** St David's Shenley Green

Start: 6 pm. For all youth and youthful orientated people of all ages and denominations. With a 'bring and share meal' after.

**Cost:**

**Organised by:**

**For more information, contact:**

Name: J A Bevan

Telephone:

E-mail: [PhilatelicGuru@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:PhilatelicGuru@hotmail.co.uk)

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**Caring for Creation - All faiths for peace, justice, sustainability**

29/03/2008

**Date:** 29 March 2008

**Venue:** Oxford Town Hall

10.30 - 5.00 pm. An inter-agency and interfaith day conference and festival, showing the links between peace, justice and sustainability and finding ways we can make a difference. Visit:

<http://ccnd.gn.apc.org>

**Cost:**

**Organised by:** Christain Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

**For more information, contact:**

Name:

Telephone: 020 7700 4200

E-mail: [christians@cnduk.org](mailto:christians@cnduk.org)

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### **The Laughing Sole comedy club**

01/04/2008

**Date:** 01 April 2008

**Venue:** The British Oak, 1364 Pershore Road, Stirchley

Start: 8.30 pm. Visit: [thelaughingsole.org.uk](http://thelaughingsole.org.uk) A spectacular evening of comedy - headlining Jo Enright. Also featuring Craig Deeley and comedy poet Rachel Sambrooks. Compere Mrs Barbara Nice.

**Cost:** Tickets £5

**Organised by:** The Laughing Sole

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Helen Tomblin

Telephone:

E-mail: [info@thelaughingsole.co.uk](mailto:info@thelaughingsole.co.uk)

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### **Church Schools. Ecclesiastical Law Society London Lectures**

02/04/2008

**Date:** 02 April 2008

**Venue:** Serle Court, 6 New Square, Lincoln's Inn, London WC2A 3QS

Time: 5.30 - 6.30 pm Speaker: Paul Barber, director of Catholic Education

**Cost:** Free

**Organised by:** Ecclesiastical Law Society

**For more information, contact:**

Name: James Behrens

Telephone: 020 7242 6105

E-mail: [jbehrens@serlecourt.co.uk](mailto:jbehrens@serlecourt.co.uk)

---

### **Holy Communion Service**

02/04/2008

**Date:** 02 April 2008

**Venue:** Birmingham Cathedral

Start: 1.10 pm.

**Cost:**

**Organised by:** Birmingham Cathedral

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Carol Currier

Telephone: 0121 262 1840

E-mail: [carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com](mailto:carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com)

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**Wholeness and Healing Service with Communion**

05/04/2008

**Date:** 05 April 2008

**Venue:** Birmingham Cathedral

Start: 9.00 am. With Canon Henry Burgess

**Cost:**

**Organised by:** Birmingham Cathedral

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Carol Currier

Telephone: 0121 262 1840

E-mail: [carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com](mailto:carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com)

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**Calling all Volunteer Youthworkers (Anglican): V.ACTIVE**

05/04/2008

**Date:** 05 April 2008

**Venue:** Diocesan Office

Start: 10-3pm. Helen Tomblin, Bishop's Adviser for Youth Ministry would love to meet with you to encourage/support/train and for you to all share together the joys and frustrations of your youthwork. Lunch will be provided. Please let [jelena@birmingham.anglican.org](mailto:jelena@birmingham.anglican.org) if you can attend along with any dietary requirements.

**Cost:**

**Organised by:** Helen Tomblin

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Helen Tomblin

Telephone: 0121 426 0400

E-mail: [helen@birmingham.anglican.org](mailto:helen@birmingham.anglican.org)

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**Asylum Seekers Vigil in the Churchyard**

07/04/2008

**Date:** 07 April 2008  
**Venue:** Birmingham Cathedral

Start: 5.00 pm.

**Cost:**  
**Organised by:** Birmingham Cathedral

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Carol Currier  
Telephone: 0121 262 1840  
E-mail: [carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com](mailto:carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com)

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**Changing Attitude - a joint meeting with the Council of Christians and Jews**

07/04/2008

**Date:** 07 April 2008  
**Venue:** Woodbrooke College, Bristol Road

Start: 7.45 pm. "Gay and Lesbian in Church and Synagogue"  
Exploring what it's like to be gay or lesbian in different religious traditions.

**Cost:** Donation of £2 requested to cover meeting costs  
**Organised by:**

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Stephen Barton  
Telephone: 0121 429 2176  
E-mail: [ca.bham@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ca.bham@yahoo.co.uk)

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**Tuesday Talks**

08/04/2008

**Date:** 08 April 2008  
**Venue:** Birmingham Cathedral

Start: 1.10 pm. With Canon Peter Howell-Jones.

**Cost:**  
**Organised by:** Birmingham Cathedral

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Carol Currier  
Telephone: 0121 262 1840

E-mail: [carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com](mailto:carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com)

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### **Spring Breakfast with the Bishop**

08/04/2008

**Date:** 08 April 2008

**Venue:** Hotel du Vin, Church Street, Birmingham B3 2NR

Time: arrive from 7.30 for prompt start at 8.00am The Right Reverend David Urquhart, Bishop of Birmingham will talk on the theme 'BP to Bishop'

**Cost:** £15 per person

**Organised by:** Chaplaincy Plus

#### **For more information, contact:**

Name: Chris Dinsdale

Telephone: 0121 236 9742

E-mail: [chris.dinsdale@chaplaincyplus.org.uk](mailto:chris.dinsdale@chaplaincyplus.org.uk)

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### **Holy Communion Service**

09/04/2008

**Date:** 09 April 2008

**Venue:** Birmingham Cathedral

Start: 1.10 pm.

**Cost:**

**Organised by:** Birmingham Cathedral

#### **For more information, contact:**

Name: Carol Currier

Telephone: 0121 262 1840

E-mail: [carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com](mailto:carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com)

---

### **Wholeness and Healing Service**

10/04/2008

**Date:** 10 April 2008

**Venue:** Birmingham Cathedral

Start: 1.10 pm. With Canon Henry Burgess.

**Cost:**

**Organised by:** Birmingham Cathedral

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Carol Currier

Telephone: 0121 262 1840

E-mail: [carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com](mailto:carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com)

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**Choral Evensong - Visiting Choir (Interdum Singers)**

12/04/2008

**Date:** 12 April 2008

**Venue:** Birmingham Cathedral

Start: 3.30 pm.

**Cost:**

**Organised by:** Birmingham Cathedral

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Carol Currier

Telephone: 0121 262 1840

E-mail: [carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com](mailto:carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com)

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**Praise and Worship Conference**

12/04/2008

**Date:** 12 April 2008

**Venue:** St. Paul's Church, Belcher's Lane, Birmingham

A day conference for all those involved in the music ministry, or who love worshipping God through song Visit: [www.cmm.org.uk](http://www.cmm.org.uk)

**Cost:** £10

**Organised by:** Roger Jones and Christian Music Ministries

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Christian Music Ministries

Telephone: 0121 783 3291

E-mail: [events@cmm.org.uk](mailto:events@cmm.org.uk)

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**Mothers' Union Display - Mothers' Union Projects in the Diocese**

14/04/2008

**Date:** 14 April 2008  
**Venue:** Birmingham Cathedral

**Cost:**  
**Organised by:** Birmingham Cathedral

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Carol Currier  
Telephone: 0121 262 1840  
E-mail: [carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com](mailto:carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com)

---

**Tuesday Talks**

15/04/2008

**Date:** 15 April 2008  
**Venue:** Birmingham Cathedral

Start: 1.10 pm.

**Cost:**  
**Organised by:** Birmingham Cathedral

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Carol Currier  
Telephone: 0121 262 1840  
E-mail: [carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com](mailto:carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com)

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**Retired Clergy Meeting**

15/04/2008

**Date:** 15 April 2008  
**Venue:** Birmingham Cathedral

Start: 10.30 am.

**Cost:**  
**Organised by:**

**For more information, contact:**

Name:  
Telephone:  
E-mail:

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**Holy Communion Service**

16/04/2008

**Date:** 16 April 2008

**Venue:** Birmingham Cathedral

Start: 1.10 pm.

**Cost:**

**Organised by:** Birmingham Cathedral

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Carol Currier

Telephone: 0121 262 1840

E-mail: [carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com](mailto:carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com)

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### **Child Protection Training Sessions - Working Safely with children and young people**

17/04/2008

**Date:** 17 April 2008

**Venue:** St Thomas, Garretts Green

Start: 7.00 pm. How to provide a safe physical environment when working with children and young people in church settings. For those who work directly with children and young people.

**Cost:** £10.00

**Organised by:** Diocesan Office

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Jenny Harris

Telephone: 0121 426 0437

E-mail: [jenny@birmingham.anglican.org](mailto:jenny@birmingham.anglican.org)

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### **Equip & Refresh: The 1-day Alpha Conference**

19/04/2008

**Date:** 19 April 2008

**Venue:** Crowmoor Baptist Church, Shrewsbury, SY2 5JJ

Start: 10 - 4.45 pm. Designed to help you run Alpha effectively and is a great opportunity to meet and share ideas with other people running Alpha locally. [www.uk.alpha.org](http://www.uk.alpha.org)

**Cost:** £15.00

**Organised by:** Shropshire Alpha team

**For more information, contact:**

Name:

Telephone: 01952 550749

E-mail: [alphashropshire@btinternet.com](mailto:alphashropshire@btinternet.com)

---

**'HANDS' The theme for Mothers' Union Annual Festival Service**

19/04/2008

**Date:** 19 April 2008

**Venue:** Birmingham Cathedral

Start: 11 am. It will be a lively service suitable for all ages and Rev Canon Andrew Gorham will be speaking. You are invited to bring a card cut-out of your hand. All welcome.

**Cost:**

**Organised by:** Mothers' Union

**For more information, contact:**

Name:

Telephone: 0121 643 0938

E-mail: [office@mu-bham.fsbusiness.co.uk](mailto:office@mu-bham.fsbusiness.co.uk)

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**Songs of Praise followed by cheese and wine**

20/04/2008

**Date:** 20 April 2008

**Venue:** St Mark's Church, Stockland Green

Start: 6.00 pm. To celebrate the 80th Anniversary of St Mark's Church.

**Cost:**

**Organised by:**

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Karen Jennens

Telephone:

E-mail: [sj012a8149\\_3@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:sj012a8149_3@blueyonder.co.uk)

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**Child Protection Training Sessions - Child Protection Awareness Raising**

21/04/2008

**Date:** 21 April 2008

**Venue:** St Paul, Bordesley Green

Start: 7.00 pm. This course aims to address specific issues related to child protection in a church setting. For anyone who co-ordinates, supervises, leads or assists work with children and young people.

**Cost:** £10.00

**Organised by:** Diocesan Office

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Jenny Harris

Telephone: 0121 426 0437

E-mail: [jenny@birmingham.anglican.org](mailto:jenny@birmingham.anglican.org)

---

**Asylum Seekers Vigil in the Churchyard**

21/04/2008

**Date:** 21 April 2008

**Venue:** Birmingham Cathedral

Start: 5.00 pm.

**Cost:**

**Organised by:** Birmingham Cathedral

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Carol Currier

Telephone: 0121 262 1840

E-mail: [carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com](mailto:carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com)

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**Choral Communion Service - St Philip's Singers**

23/04/2008

**Date:** 23 April 2008

**Venue:** Birmingham Cathedral

Start: 1.10 pm.

**Cost:**

**Organised by:** Birmingham Cathedral

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Carol Currier

Telephone: 0121 262 1840

E-mail: [carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com](mailto:carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com)

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### **'In Harmony' Faure's Requiem Concert**

26/04/2008

**Date:** 26 April 2008

**Venue:** Birmingham Cathedral

Start: 7.30 pm.

**Cost:**

**Organised by:** Birmingham Cathedral

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Carol Currier

Telephone: 0121 262 1840

E-mail: [carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com](mailto:carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com)

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### **Healing Ministry Training Day**

26/04/2008

**Date:** 26 April 2008

**Venue:** Aston Parish Church

Start: 9.30 am. With Mark Marx. There will be teaching on: Theology of Healing; Kingdom & Commission; Power & Authority; How to Minister; Values for Healing; Taking Healing Ministry out of the Church on to the streets; Questions. Tea & coffee provided, please bring packed lunch.

**Cost:** £12

**Organised by:** Birmingham Diocesan Renewal Network & New Wine Networks

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Anita Brown

Telephone: 0121 327 3880

E-mail: [anita@astonnechellscofe.org.uk](mailto:anita@astonnechellscofe.org.uk)

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### **Restore Fun Fundrasing Day**

26/04/2008

**Date:** 26 April 2008

**Venue:** St Philip's Cathedral

Time: 11.30 - 1.30 pm. Many Voices - a multilingual sponsored sing

and read. This is a great way to include our refugee and asylum seeker friends as our aim is for a group of participants to contribute songs and readings in as many languages as possible. We are therefore looking for musicians, singers, readers, music and songs.

**Cost:**

**Organised by:** Restore

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Jeremy Thompson

Telephone: 0121 766 8764

E-mail: [befriend@restore-uk.org](mailto:befriend@restore-uk.org)

---

### **Choral Evensong with the Royal Society of St George**

27/04/2008

**Date:** 27 April 2008

**Venue:** Birmingham Cathedral

Start: 3.30 pm.

**Cost:**

**Organised by:** Birmingham Cathedral

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Carol Currier

Telephone: 0121 262 1840

E-mail: [carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com](mailto:carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com)

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### **Tuesday Talks**

29/04/2008

**Date:** 29 April 2008

**Venue:** Birmingham Cathedral

Start: 1.10 pm.

**Cost:**

**Organised by:** Birmingham Cathedral

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Carol Currier

Telephone: 0121 262 1840

E-mail: [carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com](mailto:carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com)

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**Holy Communion Service**

30/04/2008

**Date:** 30 April 2008

**Venue:** Birmingham Cathedral

Start: 1.10 pm.

**Cost:**

**Organised by:** Birmingham Cathedral

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Carol Currier

Telephone: 0121 262 1840

E-mail: [carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com](mailto:carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com)

---

**Back to Church Sunday training event**

30/04/2008

**Date:** 30 April 2008

**Venue:** Holy Trinity Smithwick

Start: 2 pm

**Cost:**

**Organised by:**

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Sally Bossingham

Telephone: 0121 262 1852

E-mail: [missionforum@birminghamcathedral.com](mailto:missionforum@birminghamcathedral.com)

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**Back to Church Sunday training event**

01/05/2008

**Date:** 01 May 2008

**Venue:** Central Birmingham

Start: 7.30 pm.

**Cost:**

**Organised by:**

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Sally Bossingham

Telephone: 0121 262 1852

E-mail: [missionforum@birminghamcathedral.com](mailto:missionforum@birminghamcathedral.com)

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### **Sri Lanka-Britain - making sense of Partnership in 2008**

01/05/2008

**Date:** 01 May 2008

**Venue:** The Queen's Foundation, Somerset Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2QH

Start: 2.30pm. You are also welcome to attend the Service at 12.00 and/or lunch (£5) at 1.00pm if you wish. Programme 10.30 Friends of SOCMS Annual Meeting 11.15 Joint meeting of Friends of SOCMS & Queens to form united Friends group 12.00 Ascension Day Eucharist 13.00 Lunch 14.30- 16.30 A dynamic presentation on intercultural mission in 2008. Please register attendance for all or part of the day by 23 April.

**Cost:** There is no charge for the presentation but a contribution of £5 is requested if you wish to stay to lunch.

**Organised by:**

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Ruth Padley

Telephone: 0121-452-2614

E-mail: [r.padley@queens.ac.uk](mailto:r.padley@queens.ac.uk)

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### **Open Day at St Stephen's House, Oxford**

03/05/2008

**Date:** 03 May 2008

**Venue:** St Stephen's House, 16 Marston Street, Oxford OX4 1JX

Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm Web: [www.ssho.ox.ac.uk](http://www.ssho.ox.ac.uk) Tea and coffee – available from 10.00am Tours of the College – 10.30am and 11.15am Sung Eucharist – 12.00 noon Buffet lunch – 1.00pm Vocations addresses – 2.00pm to 3.00pm An opportunity for those exploring lay ministry, ordained ministry, or the religious life to put questions to a panel of vocations advisers. Studying at Oxford – 2.00pm to 3.00pm Find out information about the range of courses that the college offers. Tea – 3.00pm Evensong and Benediction – 3.30pm Throughout the day there will be displays about the life of the House and a Theology book stall.

**Cost:**

**Organised by:** St Stephen's Hs

**For more information, contact:**

Name:

Telephone: 01865 247874

E-mail: [enquiries@ssho.ox.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@ssho.ox.ac.uk)

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**Birmingham City FC Zip Slide**

03/05/2008

**Date:** 03 May 2008**Venue:** Birmingham City FC

Zip Slide and raise funds for The Children's Society !! The fee for each participant on the Birmingham City FC Zip Slide event is £35.00. This fee includes all venue preparation, qualified and professional instructors, all equipment and registration and management on the day. Join in the fun and help vulnerable Children. Website: [www.childrenssociety.org.uk](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk)

**Cost:****Organised by:** The Children's Society**For more information, contact:**

Name: Allan Baldwin

Telephone: 01827 897954

E-mail: [aab@childsoc.org.uk](mailto:aab@childsoc.org.uk)

---

**Back to Church Sunday training event**

06/05/2008

**Date:** 06 May 2008**Venue:** St David Shenley Green

Start: 7.30 pm.

**Cost:****Organised by:****For more information, contact:**

Name: Sally Bossingham

Telephone: 0121 262 1852

E-mail: [missionforum@birminghamcathedral.com](mailto:missionforum@birminghamcathedral.com)

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**St Alban's Summer Lectures 2008: The Tractarian Divines**

07/05/2008

**Date:** 07 May 2008

**Venue:** St Alban & St Patrick Highgate Stanhope Street/Conybere St  
B12 0YF

Start: 7.30 pm. John Keble & the Ethos of the Oxford Movement Fr  
James Pereiro

**Cost:**

**Organised by:** St Alban's

**For more information, contact:**

Name:

Telephone:

E-mail:

**ANGER: A day workshop for Readers, Commissioned  
Members of Pastoral Care Teams and Clergy**

08/05/2008

**Date:** 08 May 2008

**Venue:** The Old Hall, Temple Balsall

Start: 10am – 4pm. Led by The Revd Susannah Izzard The workshop will be of interest to those working with individuals in a pastoral context, and also to those who have a preaching and teaching ministry in church communities. There will be a charge of Certificates of attendance will be available for those who charge this training as a working expense to PCC's. Those who wish to apply for a place should contact Andrea Stevens before Friday 11th April.

**Cost:** £10.00 per participant (including lunch).

**Organised by:** Ministries Forum

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Andrea Stevens

Telephone: 0121 426 0429

E-mail: [a.stevens@birmingham.anglican.org](mailto:a.stevens@birmingham.anglican.org)

**Match, Mismatch and Rematch: An exploration of the  
Interactive Processes between Parent and Baby, and  
Therapist and Parent.**

10/05/2008

**Date:** 10 May 2008

**Venue:** Birmingham

Time: 10 - 12.45 pm. Contemporary Jungians in Practice. Please book in advance. Visit website: [www.wmip.org](http://www.wmip.org)

**Cost:**

**Organised by:** Jungian Training Committee

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Sue Harford

Telephone: 0870 7518828

E-mail: [jtc@wmip.org](mailto:jtc@wmip.org)

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### **Back to Church Sunday training event**

17/05/2008

**Date:** 17 May 2008

**Venue:** St Mary's Acock's Green

Start: 2.30 pm.

**Cost:**

**Organised by:**

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Sally Bossingham

Telephone: 0121 262 1852

E-mail: [missionforum@birminghamcathedral.com](mailto:missionforum@birminghamcathedral.com)

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### **Not for Sale Sunday - Churches Alert to Sex Trafficking across Europe**

18/05/2008

**Date:** 18 May 2008

**Venue:**

Clergy will be interested to know that free quality downloadable resources are now available on our website [www.notforsalesunday.org](http://www.notforsalesunday.org) • addressing 'Demand' • releasing resources • raising awareness • educating for a change • confronting sexual exploitation

**Cost:**

**Organised by:**

**For more information, contact:**

Name:

Telephone:

E-mail:

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### **Journey to Justice**

18/05/2008

**Date:** 18 May 2008

**Venue:** International Convention Centre

Start: 2.30 pm. Its purpose is: to celebrate the 10 years since the Birmingham Human Chain, to discover the impact of debt cancellation so far and to demand a lasting solution to the debt crisis. For details and booking telephone or visit [www.journeytojustice.org](http://www.journeytojustice.org) Other events will be taking place in the Centenary Square, from 12.30pm onwards; speakers will include Shahid Malik, the first British-born Muslim MP and a Minister at the Department for International Development (DFID). Materials for Education and Worship are to be offered in pack form for all faith groups, by the beginning of April. Other materials can be found on the [WWW.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk](http://WWW.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk)

**Cost:** Tickets are available at £10 each (£5 concessions).

**Organised by:**

**For more information, contact:**

Name:

Telephone: 0560 150 7359

E-mail:

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### **Back to Church Sunday training event**

21/05/2008

**Date:** 21 May 2008

**Venue:** St Margaret's Short Heath

Start: 7.30 pm.

**Cost:**

**Organised by:**

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Sally Bossingham

Telephone: 0121 262 1852

E-mail: [missionforum@birminghamcathedral.com](mailto:missionforum@birminghamcathedral.com)

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### **2008 Conference on Bible and Justice**

29/05/2008

**Date:** 29 May 2008

**Venue:** Sheffield

This 4 day conference will bring together scholars from around the world to explore how the ancient texts of the Bible can play an active role in addressing twenty-first century social concerns. The purpose of the conference is to foster discussion about the relevance of the Bible to modern social issues, and promote bridges between the academic field of biblical studies and the various endeavours for a just world. Please visit our website for more information and registration. [www.sheffield.ac.uk/bibs/bibleandjustice/](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/bibs/bibleandjustice/)

**Cost:**

**Organised by:**

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Rev Matthew J M Coomber

Telephone:

E-mail: [bibleandjustice@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:bibleandjustice@sheffield.ac.uk)

### **Bishop's Study Day for Clergy**

04/06/2008

**Date:** 04 June 2008

**Venue:** St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham

From 10am to 1pm - details to follow

**Cost:**

**Organised by:** Clergy Continuing Ministerial Education

**For more information, contact:**

Name: The Reverend Mark Pryce

Telephone: 0121 426 0400

E-mail: [M.Pryce@birmingham.anglican.org](mailto:M.Pryce@birmingham.anglican.org)

### **Summer & Autumn Retreat**

11/08/2008

**Date:** 11 August 2008

**Venue:** Shallowford House, Stone, Staffs

Six days, individually-guided in the Ignatian tradition 11th – 18th August or 3rd - 10th November with some places available for a

shorter retreat (Mon – Fri or Fri – Mon)

**Cost:** £43 per 24 hours. Some grants available.

**Organised by:**

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Revd Rob Hingley

Telephone: 0121 357 4534

E-mail: [Rob.hingley@btinternet.com](mailto:Rob.hingley@btinternet.com)

### **Retreat in the Sinai Desert**

19/09/2008

**Date:** 19 September 2008

**Venue:** Sinai Desert, Egypt

Retreat with a rhythm of worship and fellowship, silence and prayer. Optional walks and camel rides, and a visit to St Catherine's Monastery and its unique art collection. Led by The Revd Paul and Mrs Diana Hunt.

**Cost:** £1300 (approx)

**Organised by:** The Hunt's

**For more information, contact:**

Name: Paul or Diana

Telephone: 01684 578803

E-mail: [cpchunt@onetel.com](mailto:cpchunt@onetel.com)

[Top](#)

## **Vacancies**

### **Administrative Assistant (p/t) - Diocesan Board of Education**

**Salary:** Salary c£14,361 FTE pro rata depending on qualifications and experience, plus pension scheme membership

**Closing date for applications:** 11/04/2008

**For further information**

**Contact name:** Trish Beck  
**Telephone:** (0121) 426 0402  
**E-mail:**

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## **Assistant Youth Adviser P/T - Diocese of Birmingham**

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**Salary:** £10,000 pa  
**Closing date for applications:**18/04/2008

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### **For further information**

**Contact name:** Jelena  
**Telephone:** 0121 426 0435  
**E-mail:** [jelena@birmingham.anglican.org](mailto:jelena@birmingham.anglican.org)

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## **Rector - St George Newtown**

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**Salary:**  
**Closing date for applications:**25/04/2008

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### **For further information**

**Contact name:** Clerk to the St Martin's Trustees, c/o Martineau Johnson Solicitors  
**Telephone:** 0870 763 1330  
**E-mail:** [stephen.claus@martjohn.com](mailto:stephen.claus@martjohn.com)

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[Top](#)

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Diocese of Birmingham, 175 Harborne Park Road, Harborne, Birmingham, B17 0BH  
Tel: 0121 426 0400 email: [website@birmingham.anglican.org](mailto:website@birmingham.anglican.org)

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