

The Bishop of Birmingham's Conference for Clergy

@ The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick

Living Well

Re-creation in Christ

Our vision for the conference is:

*We come together
to be inspired, informed and refreshed
by the renewal of our relationships
with God, the creation and one another
in worship and prayer,
study of the Bible and reflection, teaching and sharing
and so to be resourced in God's mission
as co-creators, disciples and friends.*

*From Bishop David,
to all participating Clergy and Guests*

I am greatly looking forward to my first clergy conference as Bishop of Birmingham, and to sharing with you in these days of prayer, learning, conversation and fellowship. I am particularly grateful to the Conference Planning Group and Worship Planning Group for all their careful thought and preparation.



With these aims in mind, there are five strands to our programme:

Worship in small groups and as a corporate body, designed and led by members of the diocese, with Marty Haugen as our facilitator.

Bible Study led each day by Dr Paula Gooder, Canon Theologian.

Theological Input from Ann Morisy (living well together), Bishop James Jones (being stewards of creation), and Marty Haugen (re:creation through worship).

Cell Groups meeting each day, to offer prayer, share insights, give mutual support, and build up trust.

Fringe Events a range of exciting options through which participants can find refreshment, learning new ways of looking after themselves as whole persons – mind, body and spirit.

Details of the programme and the main contributors follow, together with details about the Cell Groups which are an integral part of our learning and worship together. Please prepare carefully for these.

Before Swanwick

Some practical issues:

Fees. Has your fee (£160 standard) been paid yet? If not please get it to Paul Wilson at the diocesan office as soon as possible.

Photos. Thanks to those who have returned photos for the board. These are helpful for conference attendees as we try to match the names and faces we feel we really ought to know! If you have not returned a photo we can fill in by using those on diocesan records but if you are unhappy about having this done in your case please let Linda Granner (0121 472 4330) know as soon as possible.

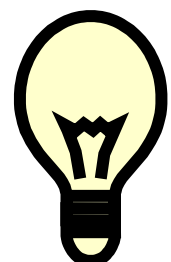
Married couples have the option of sharing a room with a modest discount. Please let John Barnett (0121 552 5005) know if you do **not** wish to share.

Have You:

- Decided which Fringe Events. (See pages 12 - 14). Sign up slips will be at reception (first come first served).
- Prepared for Cell Groups? (See pages 7 & 8)

Please bring with you a Bible, toiletries (towel provided but we have asked the centre not to provide soap), and an alarm clock.

On the theme of the environment please bring with you as a gift to the centre an 11 watt BC cap compact fluorescent bulb with bayonet fitting to encourage them in their energy saving.



Sports. There are greatly improved sports facilities since our last visit, with a 5 a side football pitch and a basketball court, both indoor, available for £30 per hour, and badminton courts at £5 per court. Please think about teams before coming to bring the necessary kit and cash, bookings at the centre office. Also available are volleyball, croquet, table tennis, pool, giant draughts, connect four, Play area with swings, slide and climbing frame and Labyrinth for prayer and meditation!

[In light of being ‘stewards of creation’ we have made the decision about bringing our own soap and bulb. There is also enclosed a leaflet to encourage further action both before and after the conference. Unfortunately we weren’t able to fully enact LOAF principles in time but have made this a requirement for next time.]

Getting to Swanwick

Travelling Instructions

By Bike

Please contact Revd Stephen Mayes (0121 747 2751) for further information.



By Rail

Our local station is Alfreton station on the Sheffield-Nottingham line, although trains are limited. It is about three miles from the station to the Hayes.



It may be easier to travel to Derby station, then catch a bus or taxi from Derby to The Hayes.

Alfreton and Derby station arrivals are recommended to pre-book taxis. Our recommended reliable taxi company is **Amber Taxis** 01773-836100. As a guide, Amber Taxis charge £22.00 from Derby station to the Hayes and £5.50 from Alfreton station to the Hayes.

By Bus

From Derby take the 91 or 92 to Mansfield and ask to be dropped opposite "The Gate" in Swanwick. Then walk down Hayes Lane, the conference centre is straight ahead - a five minute walk.



By Car (Hayes postcode DE55 1AU)

(there was not sufficient take-up for ordering a coach so please share cars for the journey)

The Hayes Conference Centre is only 5 miles from the M1.



From Junction 28 of the M1 take the A38 dual carriageway towards Derby.

Leave the A38 at the marked exit for the A615 Matlock / A61 Chesterfield and then take the B6179 towards Swanwick and Ripley at the roundabout.

At the traffic lights by the Church in Swanwick (2nd set of lights after turning onto the B6179) turn left towards Somercotes (B6016).

500 yards down the road past school buildings turn right signed Conference Centre into Hayes Lane.

The Conference Centre is straight ahead.

The Conference Programme

Monday Timetable

From 2pm Arrivals [*Main Reception*]

3:30 *Tea*

5:00 Opening Worship (Bishop David) [*Chapel*]

6:00 *Drinks Party*

7:00 *Dinner*

8:15 Bible Study (Dr. Paula Gooder) [*Derbyshire Hall*]

9:00 Cell Groups – introductions

9:30 Night Prayer in Cell Groups

Dr Paula Gooder

Paula is a Reader in the Birmingham Diocese and a lay Canon Theologian of Birmingham Cathedral. She studied theology at Oxford University where she also gained her doctorate specialising in 2 Corinthians 12. Since then she has taught first at Ripon College Cuddesdon and then at the Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education in Birmingham, where she is currently half-time Senior Tutor and Tutor in New Testament Studies. In the other half of her time she works freelance giving Bible studies, Retreats and Quiet days on Biblical subjects. She is a member of General Synod, Synod's Reader Review working party, the Women Bishop's legislative drafting group and the Faith and Order Advisory group.



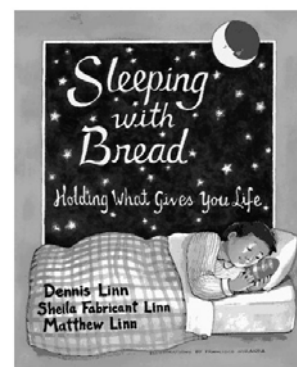
Swanwick Cell Group: Theme and Purpose

Cell Groups at Swanwick will give the opportunity for every member to share something from their own experience of life and work which relates to our conference theme of 'Living Well.' We hope that this will promote mutual understanding and support in ministry and mission across the diocese.

The approach we propose to use will be a form of Ignatian 'review of the day'*. This would include the following types of questions to help reflect on recent life and work:

- *For what moments have I been most grateful? For what moments have I been least grateful?*
- *When did I feel most alive? When did I most feel life draining from me?*
- *When did I have the greatest sense of belonging to myself, others, God and the universe? When did I have the least sense of belonging?*
- *What have been the high points? What have been the low points?*
- *Where has God been in all this for me?*

[*Inspiration drawn from the book
'Sleeping with Bread' –
Paulist Press USA 1995
available through SPCK for £9.50]



In the light of these sorts of questions, **please prepare** some brief notes (no more than 200 words) or an image on a piece of A4, or bring an object, to express what things in your recent life and ministry have been *enlivening and life affirming* for you and what has been *draining or life-sapping*. You may want to choose a range of different events or reflect on how one event has both been draining and affirming. You may want to focus on events in ministry or to include personal events too.

Each person is asked to bring 8 copies of the words or image for the group, which can be collected back afterwards. Each member of the cell group will have a 20-minute slot in turn; be prepared to speak for up to 10 minutes, sharing your insights as far as you are comfortable in doing so. This will allow the other group members another 10 minutes to respond with questions to help you and the group think through the issues you have raised without passing judgement, offering 'solutions' or personal anecdotes.

Each group will be asked to agree strict boundaries of confidentiality, and the group leader's task is to ensure that each of us has an opportunity to share something without criticism or correction. The sort of questions you might consider asking should help to clarify, help insight to develop, trigger a new perspective, or release insights and aspirations.

[Cell Group lists and locations will be in the Welcome Pack available on arrival]

Tuesday Timetable

08:00	Morning Worship [<i>Chapel</i>]
08:30	<i>Breakfast</i>
09:30	Ann Morisy - Living Well... locally [<i>Derbyshire Hall</i>]
10:30	<i>Coffee</i>
11:00	Cell Groups
Noon	Holy Communion in Cell Groups
1.00	<i>Lunch</i>
	<i>Free time until 5pm</i>
3.30	<i>Tea available</i>
5.00	Bible Study (Dr. Paula Gooder) [<i>Derbyshire Hall</i>]
6.15	Evening Worship [<i>Main Conference Hall</i>]
7.00	<i>Dinner</i>
8.15	Panel – Any questions? [<i>Derbyshire Hall</i>]
9.30	Night Prayer [<i>Chapel</i>]

Ann Morisy

Ann Morisy: Ann is a freelance community theologian, having worked in both rural and urban contexts. Ann was the Director of the Commission on Urban Life and Faith which produced the report “Faithful Cities”. Ann has written extensively on issues such as the spirituality of public transport; ageing, neighbourliness as a radical act and has written two best selling books on community ministry: “*Beyond the Good Samaritan*” and “*Journeying Out*” (Ann Morisy has suggested reading “The Art of Possibility” R S Zander and B Zander.)



Wednesday Timetable

- 08:00 Morning Worship Holy Communion [*Chapel*]
08:30 *Breakfast*
09:30 Bishop James Jones - 'Jesus and the earth'
(exploring the connections between theology and ecology,
Christianity and the environment.) [*Derbyshire Hall*]
10:30 *Coffee*
11:00 Bible Study (Dr. Paula Gooder) [*Derbyshire Hall*]
11:45 Cell Groups
1.00 *Lunch (then free time until 5pm)*
OPTIONAL FRINGE EVENTS
3.15 *Tea available*
5.00 Cell Groups
6.15 Marty Haugen – 'Our Life in Worship/Our Life in the
World: Making the Connections' [*Derbyshire Hall*]
7.00 *Dinner (sweet served as part of following activity)*
8.00 *Café Worship [Main Conference Hall]*
9.00 Comedian

The Rt. Rev. James Jones

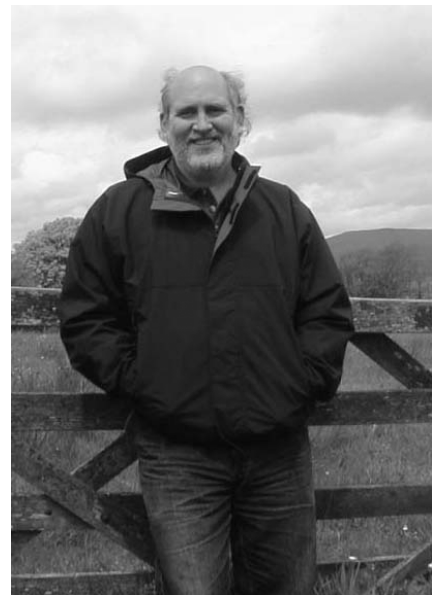
Over the last twelve years Bishop James has been deeply involved in Urban Regeneration. He also chairs the Governing Body of the faith-based St Francis of Assisi City Academy jointly sponsored by the Roman Catholic and Anglican Dioceses. It is the first Academy to take the Environment as its specialism. He lectures widely and broadcasts regularly on 'Thought for the Day'. He has written a number of books, the latest looking at the relationship between Christianity and the environment: "Jesus and the Earth" (SPCK 2003).



Working in partnership with a number of agencies including the RDA for the North West he has set up Operation EDEN which is an organisation working across the faith communities engaging local people in the holistic transformation of their local environment. Quoting the African proverb “We have borrowed the present from our children” he believes that young people are much more alert to the need to create cleaner, safer and greener communities. He is a member of the House of Lords, Chair of the Council of Wycliffe Hall in the University of Oxford, Co-President of Liverpool Hope University and a Vice President of Tear Fund.

Marty Haugen

Marty is a liturgical composer, workshop presenter, performing and recording artist & author from Eagan, Minnesota. Currently Marty serves as composer-in-residence at Mayflower United Church of Christ in Minneapolis and serves as adjunct professor at United Theological Seminary in New Brighton, Minnesota. For the past 25 years, Marty has presented hundreds of workshops and concerts across North and Central America, Europe, Asia and the Pacific Rim. He has over 30 recordings and more than 400 separate printed editions available through GIA Publications. Marty has served as an editor or consultant to a number of GIA hymnals and has been a contributor to hymnals or supplements for many denominational groups including the Church of England, the Church of Scotland and Roman Catholic groups in Great Britain, Canada and Australia.



Fringe Events (Wednesday Afternoon)

2pm – 3.15pm & 3.30pm -4.45pm

The following will be run **twice**:

Christian visual imagery (Yvonne Bell)

Yvonne Bell is a Christian Artist and Vestment Designer.

“Often when people want a personalised vestment or painting, we start the design process by finding out something about them or perhaps asking whether they have a favourite piece of scripture – this is our starting point in the workshop. And if you don’t have one (a verse) – find one. A few words or a verse that means something to you – that speaks to you. We will start with the words, turn them into visual images or shapes or colours, reduce them, cull them, play with them. We will work them up from there into a piece of artwork using pastels and black paper that speak to you personally. I will bring the pastels and paper – you bring yourselves and some words, and we’ll let the Holy Spirit bring the inspiration.”

Toy Story (Hilary Cooke)

Hilary has been a Methodist Minister for over 30 years and has spent over 20 years using and telling stories.

“I have explored the theological mysteries of ‘Frog and Toad’, ‘Can’t you sleep little bear’ and ‘Dogger’. I have spun Rainbow yarns to schools and congregations with Squidgy Pig, Warren the mouse, Timothy the tiger and the others who live in the imaginary playroom. A myriad of coloured characters teaching us to be real.”

Eco-congregation - Greening Church Life (Jo Rathbone)

Practical tips for greening church life - come and find out how to weave environmental issues into every aspect of church life, with lots of stories of things that other churches have done to inspire you. Come if you don't know where to begin, or simply want some more ideas.

Laughing Well ... and subversively (Revd Dr. John Breadon)

This workshop aims to reflect theologically on laughter and humour. Drawing from a wide range of examples - including Rabelais, Monty Python, Samuel Beckett, Armando Annucci, & Umberto Eco - the workshop aims to uncover the redemptive, messianic and faith-full potential of humour in a world where power is unequally shared and injustice rife. John has been Chaplain at St George's Post 16 Centre in the Diocese since Spring 2005. He tries to laugh as much as possible but is not very good at telling jokes.

Celtic Rhythms – a way to balance the day (Val Hicks)

The Celtic Prayer Blessing includes dawn, the middle of the day, sunset and night, the heavens, the earth and an inward focus. It can be used by an individual, or as a prayer blessing for homes, or a village or community. Celtic Rhythms would include the office, moments of prayer, creation, balance etc. – developing a lifestyle that is right for You. Less a workshop and more an experience this is the perfect complement to the wordiness of Common Worship. Cairns and candles enrich the afternoon.

Living Well with the Planet (Mr Ayman Ahwal)

The question of our responsibility to the planet gains momentum week-by-week. To help us reflect theologically on this profound subject we're delighted to welcome Mr Ayman Ahwal to the conference. Ayman, a Muslim, has long been motivated by the concerns of his faith to preserve the planet's fragile balance and fruitfulness. He's taken the lead on such diverse projects as saving the native forest of Malaysia to establishing an eco-village in the tsunami-hit province of Aceh. He's currently working on a film to encourage Muslim youth to care more for creation and convincing Imams to embrace the concept of 'Clean Medina' and the eco-mosque.

The following will be run just **once**:

Baking a church? (Barbara Glasson)

A discussion of the theology of experience, the emergence of church and the possibility of transformation – whilst up to your elbows in sticky dough! It's fun and challenging, and requires no cooking skills whatsoever! (numbers will be limited to 20 places)

Living Well in Community: Our relationships with those from other faiths (Revd. Dr. Toby Howarth & Mr Yann Lovelock)

The workshop offers participants a chance to grapple with some very topical questions relating to multiculturalism and community cohesion. The core of the session will take the form of a dialogue between two seasoned practitioners of interfaith dialogue - Toby Howarth and Yann Lovelock. Toby is a parish priest in the Birmingham Diocese and Interfaith Advisor to the Bishop of Birmingham. He has studied and worked in the USA, India and the Netherlands, and has made a special study of Shi'ite Muslim preaching. Birmingham-born Yann has spent much of his life as a writer, translator, part-time teacher and lecturer. A Buddhist since 1967, he is presently Secretary at Birmingham Maha Vihara Temple. Amongst other things, Yann is Vice Chair of West Midlands Faiths Forum and Interfaith Co-ordinator for the Network of Buddhist Organisations.

Deck-led Worship (Lorraine Dixon & Lee Hills)

This workshop offers participants an opportunity to explore and experience deck-led (or dj-led) worship. This style of worship is an attempt to worship God through the use of dance music. As in other forms of worship it is a journey to God who travels with us. This particular journey utilises dance music, culture and the decks as resources for the way.

Poetry (Nicola Slee)

Nicola Slee is a poet and theologian based at the Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education, Birmingham. She teaches in the fields of spirituality and feminist theology, and has a particular interest in women's contemporary poetry that addresses issues of faith and spirituality. As well as writing poetry herself, she regularly runs workshops on women's poetry and on creative writing.

Living Well in Everyday Life (Debs Mendham)

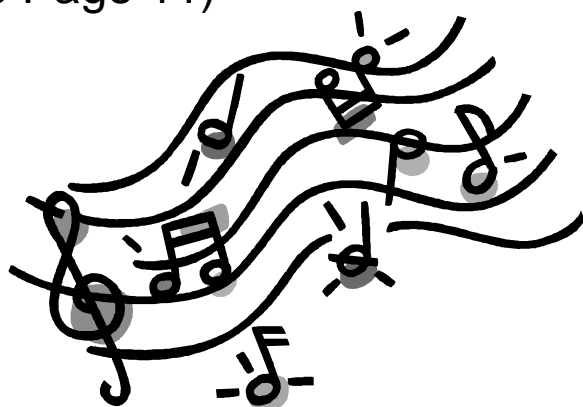
The stresses and strains of clergy life are obvious. What is not so obvious is the importance of looking into this issue at greater depth. This workshop will give participants the opportunity to discuss with colleagues - and with a highly-experienced therapist - issues relating to general stress management, work-life balance, self-support, the dynamic of contact and withdrawal, and the psychological demands of care-giving.

Debs is an experienced trainer, a UKCP-registered psychotherapist and a supervisor. She has also worked extensively in social services. She works out of the person-centred, Gestalt and Integrative therapeutic traditions.

Worshipping Well (Marty Haugen)

Singing facilitated by Marty.

(For information about Marty see Page 11)



Thursday Timetable

08:00	Morning Worship [<i>Chapel</i>]
08:30	<i>Breakfast</i>
09:30	Bible Study (Dr. Paula Gooder) [<i>Derbyshire Hall</i>]
10:30	<i>Coffee</i>
11:00	Cell Groups
Noon	Closing Eucharist at which Bishop David will Preside and Preach [<i>Derbyshire Hall</i>]
1.00	<i>Lunch</i>
	Departure

POST CONFERENCE

(to jot down your own actions for after the conference)