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Bishop's Comment

Why Faith Must Stay in the Marketplace

In the last few weeks faith, and more particularly, the Church of England, has found itself under scrutiny. Its position in contemporary Britain and its influences on society have been questioned and challenged.

Commentators and critics seized the chance to call for the separation of state and church, but what they really seem to be asking for is a society where faith becomes invisible; a society in which religion is a private affair between God and an individual.

Many sociologists believe that this kind of spirituality – where personal faith and professional responsibility are separated- is one consequence of the 16th Century Reformation – the movement which gave birth to the Protestant church.

Five hundred years later during a long period of 'Enlightenment' Christians no longer feel that their faith is part of mainstream culture.

Fewer civic buildings remind us of the grandeur of God by replicating the style of a cathedral, abbey or monastery. Holidays have become tied up with consumption, indulgence and status rather than communal celebrations and observances of holy days.

But British society is still, at the moment, flexible enough to recognise that people of faith can be both loyal citizens and devout followers. Sikh men are excused the wearing of motorcycle helmets, Christian doctors can opt out of carrying out abortions and shop workers are allowed to refuse to work either on a Sunday or on the Sabbath.

This kind of recognition is not only good for the people of faith but also for society as a whole. By respecting the beliefs and values of those of us who seek to live out our faith through our work, our ethics, our relationships and our economics, society allows us to contribute whole-heartedly – driven by our faith to care for the sick, to campaign for justice and to give a helping hand to those who find life tough.

Of course it is quite possible for care and campaign without being motivated by faith. But it would not be possible for people of faith to participate fully in a system that ignored or stifled their voices.

How could a Christian MP vote according to their conscience if they were ordered to leave their faith at home and come to work without it? In fact very few jobs would be open to those who were being asked to live a double life where faith was treated as a secret or private hobby.

Of course some states and nations have tried to create a 'God-less' society. I recently participated in a meeting of Chinese scholars and Christian thinkers in London. The interest in religious meaning and motivation in one of the largest, rapidly developing market economies of the 21st century, is a wake up call for those in the West who think religion is unnecessary for a successful society.

Closer to home I have been visiting all sorts of neighbourhoods and individuals on foot – often wearing my cassock (my uniform as a church leader) as part of our Lent initiative. Being visible in shopping centres and other public spaces, the reaction I have had from people of all communities, is overwhelmingly positive.

In Birmingham we have the privilege to live in a place where several faiths are practiced devoutly. Faith shapes our communities, our neighbourhoods, our schools and ultimately our public arena. The success of this city and region will not be found by ignoring God or putting faith away into the privacy of homes and places of worship but by taking God seriously in our planning, our policies and in all our public spaces.

The Rt Revd David Urquhart
Bishop of Birmingham

22nd February 2008

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Topical Comment

Make Space for Faith to Play Its Part in Birmingham

In the light of the reactions to what many seem to think that Archbishop Rowan William said in his lecture last week on Civil and Religious Law in England, we would like to share our perspectives on what he actually said, and the implications of his ideas for Birmingham.

The main issue that the Archbishop raised was how we deal as a society in Britain with the fact that for many of us, our deepest motivations and loyalties are religious. We are loyal to our nation and our city, and we are also loyal to our faith. And we see this double loyalty as something creative and positive both for us as individuals as well as for our city and nation.

When the English state incorporates religious motivations and loyalties, it is at least partly in recognition that it was people of faith who pioneered much of what we hold so dear in our society. Legal provision for Faith schools recognises the role that people of Faith played in pioneering universal education in our country. Legal accommodation for medical staff who cannot in conscience practice abortions recognises the crucial role played by people of faith in that profession. Would we want Christian, Muslim or Hindu teachers, nurses and doctors to feel that they had to leave their faith behind when they came to work, as if their Faith had nothing to contribute to their service?

What Archbishop Rowan said in his lecture was that this process of accommodation needs to continue if it is to meet the changing needs of our society. Our city of Birmingham is a good case in point. The changing demographics of our city have raised the profile of religion significantly over the last years. Our city council is leading the way nationally in recognising the contribution that Faith communities play in our city in delivering statutory services and in reaching some of the most vulnerable members of our society.

As Faith leaders in our city, we have been involved over the past year in a project called Faiths for the City that brings together our Faith communities, the University of Birmingham and various partners in the city to continue this process of 'renegotiating' the place of religion in our city. We were recently involved in a discussion with the Chamber of Commerce about the role of Faith in business. Wise employers are increasingly seeing that if they are to attract the best people in an increasingly multi Faith city, they need to understand the

religious affiliations and motivations of employees as well as customers.

They will not signal to a devout Sikh, for example, that he would be better off without his turban and beard, because they know that with the beard and turban comes also the doctrine of seva or service, and a commitment to honesty and integrity in the workplace. It is a similar wisdom in English law that has recognised sharia compliant banking codes knowing that they bring an increasing amount of much valued investment to our nation and city.

The Archbishop was emphatically not advocating the setting up of parallel legal systems. He was rather pleading that our different religious affiliations and their expressions be 'invited to the table' so that we can all have a debate about whether and how they fit in our developing society. A hugely important element in that debate will be the extent to which the rights of vulnerable people as well as women will be upheld and advanced. But let's have that debate out in the open rather than turning a blind eye to practices that may be at odds with our values and laws.

Birmingham has a record of leading the way in Britain in dealing with both religious and cultural diversity. The attitude of this city has been, 'you're welcome whatever your background; just show us what you can contribute.' Many of the fathers and mothers of our city were motivated by a deep faith. As our city continues to grow and flourish, let us continue to make space for faith to play its part.

Bishop David Urquhart and Dr Mohammad Naseem

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News

Notification of Appointments

03 March 2008

The Revd Nigel Hand
 Priest-in-Charge, Christ Church Selly Park
 To be: Residentiary Canon, Birmingham Cathedral (June)

The Revd Freda Evans
 Vicar, St Barnabas Kingshurst
 To be: Team Rector of Erdington, St Barnabas Erdington (June)

Notification of Resignation

The Ven Frederick Hazell

Bishops Permission to Officiate
To resign this appointment (February)

Petertide Ordinations

The following are to be ordained Deacon on 29 June by the Bishop of Birmingham.

Anthony Platts
To serve as SSM Assistant Curate, St James Hill

Jane Platt
To serve as SSM Assistant Curate, St Boniface Quinton

Jaisher Chaudhary
To serve as SSM Assistant Curate, Handsworth Group

Carole Camp
To serve as SSM Assistant Curate, St Andrew Chelmsley Wood

Karen Larkin
To serve as Assistant Curate, St Peter and St Paul Coleshill with Maxstoke

Timothy Meathrel
To serve as Assistant Curate, St John Harborne

Stephen Taylor
To serve as Assistant Curate, St John Sparkhill

Emma Sykes
To serve as Assistant Curate, St Martin in the Bull Ring

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

Bishop prays his way in Lent initiative

03 March 2008

The Bishop of Birmingham is praying his way around the region as he visits Christians in their places of work or learning as part of the Diocesan initiative for Lent 08 'Too Deep for Words'.

During the third week of Lent Bishop David visited a nursery and a Mosque in Springfield, met local MP Caroline Spelman at Chelmsley Wood and had lunch with staff at Anthony Collins Solicitors in Birmingham City Centre.

This week (from March 3rd) he is visiting Birmingham Children's

Hospital, Touchwood Shopping Centre in Solihull, residents at the Lady Katherine Leveson foundation in Temple Balsall, two secondary schools and a roofer at work in Balsall Heath.

During the six weeks of Lent, Bishop David is visiting schools, hospitals, churches, lunch clubs and community projects to pray with people as they go about the everyday lives.

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.

Too Deep for words was launched on Tuesday Feb 5th when the Bishop opened the Hope Hut in the Lickey Hills - a shelter surrounded by countryside and woodland that has been turned into a hermitage for people wanting to pray, walk and contemplate.

Bishop David said: "It is a wonderful opportunity to go and meet people who are living deeply faithful lives in this city and region. My visits are a very clear reminder to me of the seam of prayer which underpins this area and energises all our business and activities.

A list of open churches and the prayer suggestions from the Too Deep for Words booklet are available on the diocesan website www.birmingham.anglican.org

Too Deep For Words is part of the contribution the Diocese of Birmingham is making to Hope 08 - a movement of churches who want to engage more fully with their neighbourhoods during 2008. Details at www.hope08birmingham.org

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

Edgbaston Church offers a feast for eyes and ears on Palm Sunday Evening

03 March 2008

Music and art are being used by an Edgbaston church to mark the beginning of Holy Week – the week in which Christians remember the days the leading up to the crucifixion of Christ, his death and his resurrection.

On Sunday 16th March at 6.30pm at St George's Edgbaston in Westbourne Crescent the Barbirolli String Quartet will perform Haydn's Seven Last Words of Christ. The music will be accompanied by a display of artwork by Gillian Lever, an artist with a gallery in Cheltenham. Evensong will be held in the church at 5.30pm before

the concert.

This is the first time the church has been used for a concert and exhibition following work to allow more flexible space within the Church. Pews have been removed at the front of the nave which has created a performance space, in which the art will be displayed.

Organiser Thomas Kirby said: "The Passion of Christ has inspired many composers to write some of their most moving music. In 1786, the Cathedral clergy in Cadiz commissioned Haydn to write music to accompany their Good Friday service. Haydn's brief was to write seven musical meditations, which were to be interspersed with Christ's utterances."

Thomas Kirby will join the Quartet on viola to play a Mozart Quintet. Following a short interval with drinks the Quartet will perform the Haydn piece.

The Barbirolli Quartet, which was formed in 2003, has gained a strong reputation for their performances. They are 'Quartet in Residence' at the Peel Hall, University of Salford. Previous and future performances include appearances at The Barbican, The Wigmore Hall, The Chelsea Festival and the Cheltenham Festival.

Gillian Lever, who lived in Birmingham for several years, painted her canvases whilst reflecting upon the words of Christ and listening to Haydn's music.

She said: "Music that evokes a spiritual realm through the abstract language of sound has provided me with a rich source of inspiration in recent years. I search for the expression of such mystery through the physicality of paint."

For more information or to buy tickets please call Thomas Kirby on 0121 456 3423 or email him at 7lastwords@googlemail.com. Ticket prices: Adults: £7.50, Concessions: £5

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

Prayer Calendar Available on-line

27 February 2008

The Spring 08 Diocesan Prayer Calendar is available to download. To download the prayer calendar in date order click [here](#). To download in booklet form click [here](#).

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

Update from the Church of England

25 February 2008

Archbishop of Canterbury's New Year message - God 'doesn't do waste'

"By this stage of the holiday season, I imagine you might be looking with dismay at your overflowing rubbish bin, or the mountain of debris piling up outside your back door. Food, drink, presents – they all come with more and more packaging. Even the most eco-conscious of us is likely to have a bit of a bad conscience after Christmas." The full text of the message may be found [here](#).

The message is also available on [youtube](#)

Archbishop of York's Sunday Mirror column 'Long To Reign Over Us'

"This week the Queen became Britain's oldest ever Monarch. When she was born it was not thought that Princess Elizabeth might become Queen. However the abdication of Edward VIII in 1936 led to the enthronement of Elizabeth's father George VI, whose death in 1952 led to the ascension of Queen Elizabeth II." The full article may be found [here](#).

Archbishop of Canterbury's statement on Zimbabwe

In response to reports that some Anglican church services in Harare had been disrupted by state officials, the Dr Williams condemned unequivocally the use of state machinery to intimidate opponents of the deposed bishop of Harare, Nolbert Kunonga. Details [here](#).

Check your spending - it's a matter of life and debt

The Church of England has compiled a Post Christmas Debt Check for consumers worried about how much their wallets have been hit by Christmas and New Year spending. Details [here](#).

Church responds to draft Anglican Covenant

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have submitted a Church of England Response to the draft Anglican Covenant. Details [here](#).

University chaplains are giving master classes in social cohesion, say faith groups

A major report commissioned by the Church of England and supported by many of the main faith communities in the UK offers a tutorial in the valuable work of university and college chaplains up and down the country. It calls on Higher Education Institutions and the government to continue to invest in chaplaincies to help them further their significant contribution to social cohesion, at a time when 43 per cent of young people in England and Wales have experienced higher education. Details [here](#).

Dioceses consulted on housing assistance for retired clergy

The Church of England is to consult dioceses and individuals on how it can best support retired clergy in need of housing assistance after a life of service to the church, as in recent years house price growth has outstripped the increase in average earnings. Details [here](#).

Churches encouraged to look to the ultimate role model on Education Sunday 2008

In a world of competing role models, Jesus' powerful challenge to 'come and see' is at the heart of Education Sunday 2008. Details [here](#).

Church Commissioners tune in to Time Team's 'Street of the Dead'

The 13 January edition of Channel 4's new series of Time Team was filmed on one of the Church Commissioners' farms near Bishop Auckland, in County Durham. The dig took place in April 2007 on Binchester Hall Farm, the site of one of the largest Roman forts in the country.

People and Places - Voices of the Church of England

The latest edition of the Church of England's 'People and Places' podcast features three more short interviews with people who work within the Church. The Revd Katie Tupling talks about what it's like being a priest with a disability serving in the Derbyshire Dales; Premier Radio's Cindy Kent interviews the Church of England's Director of Mission and Public Affairs, Malcolm Brown; and **the Bishop of Birmingham's Adviser for Youth Ministry, Helen Tomblin, reveals why she set up the Laughing Sole clean comedy club.** To listen to People and Places, click [here](#) or search via [this link](#).

2008 Tailor made communications training programme starts soon

The 2008 Tailor Made Communications Training programme gets underway on 20th February, with 'How to get your church noticed', a day designed to help parish churches raise their profile in their local community. Also coming soon are our popular magazines and newsletters course on 21st February, ideal for anyone who needs to give their publication a facelift, and our beginner's guide to creating a website on 4th March. More information on all our courses can be found [here](#) or by calling 020 7898 1465.

Some of the courses in the 2008 programme have filled up already, so if you are interested in our training please contact us as soon as possible.

If you have a team of staff or clergy that you'd like to train together, or you have a specific issue that you would like some help with, we can arrange bespoke training for you. This can take place either at the Training suite at Church House Westminster or, if you would

prefer, at your base or another location of your choosing. For more information and to discuss your requirements please call 020 7898 1465 or email comms.training@c-of-e.org.uk

Elections to Church of England bodies

Detailed results of recent elections to various Church of England bodies may be found [here](#).

Christmas round-up

Christians share gift of faith with their friends this Christmas as thousands congregate at nation's cathedrals
More than 140,000 people were expected to attend a Church of England cathedral for a service on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day this year, following a 7.5 per cent rise in worshippers between 2005 and 2006. Details [here](#).

Archbishop of Canterbury - Joy of Christmas is about God's love for creation

"The joy of Christmas teaches us that God's relationship with the human race is primarily one of love for his creation," according to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

In his Christmas Sermon, delivered at Canterbury Cathedral, Dr Williams said that "our capacity to avoid this reality contributes to our confusion". The full text of the message may be found [here](#).

Archbishop of York calls for action against 'God being violated' in Zimbabwe and Darfur

In his Christmas sermon at York Minster, Dr John Sentamu has said that "the message of Christmas challenges our complacency, our prejudices, and our misconceptions about God and humanity." The full text of the message may be found [here](#).

Archbishop of Canterbury - Pause for Thought on Terry Wogan, BBC Radio 2

"We sing quite a bit about 'Tidings of comfort and joy' at this time of year. But it would be a pity if we felt Christmas ought to be a time when we turned our faces away from uncomfortable things in our society. Surely it ought to be a time when we summon up courage to confront a few issues – simply because it's a time when we are more conscious than ever of the good things that have been given to us, material good things to celebrate with, and also, if you're a Christian, the biggest gift of all, the birth of Jesus." The full transcript may be found [here](#).

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

Host a tea party for the elderly

25 February 2008

Contact the Elderly is a national charity that has been bringing older, isolated people together for 'cakes and company' for over 40 years. The charity helps to relieve the loneliness of frail older people who live alone by arranging small group outings one Sunday afternoon a month.

Volunteers with cars each collect one or two elderly members every month and the group of 8 to 10 members plus volunteers meet for Afternoon Tea in the house of a volunteer host. They visit a different home each month and over the months friendships develop. This is a completely free service.

Briefly, for each group we need more: Hosts – who each host a Sunday Afternoon Tea once every year in the host's own home. Hosts do need a downstairs toilet. Volunteer Drivers - who each need their own car, and would need to be available one Sunday afternoon every month for the get-togethers.

Please contact Pamela Walker Regional Development Officer (West Midlands). Contact the Elderly. Tel: 0121 603 1331 (Mon, Tues, Wed).

Visit: www.contact-the-elderly.org.uk

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

Easter 2008 Lectionary Queries

25 February 2008

Several people have commented on a printing error on page 27 of the CHP Common Worship 2007-08 Lectionary. The readings given there are those for Year C, as opposed to Year A.

The correct provision is:

Principal Service#

Acts 10.34–43 or Jeremiah 31.1–6

Psalm 118.[1,2] 14–24

Colossians 3.1–4 or Acts 10.34–43

John 20.1–18 or Matthew 28.1–10†

The reading from Acts must be used as either the first or second reading

3rd Service

MP Psalms 114, 117

Exodus 14.10–18, 26—15.2

Revelation 15.2–4

2nd Service

EP Psalm 105 or 66.1–11 Song of Solomon 3.2–5; 8.6,7

John 20.11–18 if not used at the Principal Service or Revelation 1.12–18

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

Getaway Guide

25 February 2008

This annual guide is designed for full-time Christian workers, and contains over 30 properties in the UK, France, Spain and Turkey. Good value holidays and some extra reductions are given when booking through the Guide. Most are self-catering, but some offer bed and breakfast.

Copies are available from Claybury International, The Pixmore Centre, Pixmore Avenue, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire SG6 1JG. Tel: 0845 434 0021. email: admin@claybury.com The Guide costs £4.00 and Claybury will send an invoice with your copy.

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

Copyright Solution

25 February 2008

Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI) was originally established to provide a copyright solution for churches wanting to reproduce the words of hymns and songs for their times of worship.

Today they also provide copyright cover for showing films, playing, performing or recording music, photocopying from authorised publications and, with increased usage of the Internet, legally downloading song lyrics and music. They also work hard to ensure, through a system of reporting, that copyright owners are fairly rewarded for their work.

The Church of England is keen to ensure that all its churches are acting in accordance with copyright law, and every parish is therefore being encouraged to complete a CCLI Healthcheck – a short questionnaire about activities undertaken that might have copyright implications.

Click here for a copy of the Healthcheck form.

<http://www.ccli.co.uk/resources/health-check.cfm?country=gb>>

For more information contact the CCLI Sales Team on:

Tel: 01323 436103 Email: sales@ccli.co.uk

Website: www.ccli.co.uk.

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

Small Advertisements

22 February 2008

A small office, suitable for up to three people, will be available at The HUB, Kings Heath, in April. Based in our modern, well maintained building, the office is fully serviced and rental includes use of the kitchen facilities. On site conference rooms are also available. Rental is £7000.00 per annum. If you would like to view the office please contact Cliff Cotterill cliff@hubhazelwell.org.uk

Mathematics for GCSE & A-level

Private Tuition offered in your own home by experienced tutor. Please contact Stephen Skewes, tel: 0121 477 3914 or email: sl.skewes@btopenworld.com

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

Comfort and Care

18 February 2008

Marie Curie Nurses provide free nursing care to terminally ill patients in their own homes. Last year, Marie Curie Nurses cared for more than 18,000 patients at the end-of-life, in their own homes, helping them to remain with the people they love.

Marie Curie Nurses work more than 1 million hours each year in patients' homes, but we still only reach half the people who need our care. By remembering terminally ill people and Marie Curie Cancer Care in your prayers, your church can help raise awareness of our work and bring comfort and care to those who need it.

Please help us to reach more terminally ill people in 2008 – in this our 60th anniversary year.

Marie Curie Cancer Care has put together a simple pack to help support you and your communities with end-of-life issues. To order your pack, call 0800 716 146 or visit www.mariecurie.org.uk/faith

The pack includes:

- Worship resources – a selection of prayers, hymns, readings and group exercises relevant all year round
- Intercessions and readings to support prayers for the terminally ill and their families on Passion Sunday, the 5th Sunday of Lent (March 9, 2008)
- Information on the work of Marie Curie Cancer Care
- Practical resources for end of life care
- Contact details of other helpful organisations

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

Lent Launched Prayerfully

08 February 2008

Bishop David Urquhart was launching 'Too Deep for Words – Praying With Jesus' with a series of events on Shrove Tuesday (Feb 5th) and Ash Wednesday (Feb 6th) – the beginning of the 40 days of Lent which are associated with fasting, prayer and preparation for Good Friday and Easter.

On Tuesday Feb 5th the Bishop visited the Lickey Hills where opened the Hope Hut – a shelter surrounded by beautiful countryside and woodland that has been turned into a hermitage for people wanting to pray, walk and contemplate.



The Hope Hut is an initiative of Lickey Church who were inspired by the Cadbury family who gave the Lickey Hills Country Park to the people of Birmingham so they could reflect and relax in the hills.



Bishop David with Steve Squires (l) and the Revd Philip Swan both of Lickey Church

Bishop David formally opened the hut at 10am on Tuesday. The hut will remain open for prayer for the whole of Lent and can be booked by individuals, churches or groups who wish to retreat to the hills for prayer (although booking is not essential, and people are free to drop in anytime).

Some comments following the launch:

The response from both the church and the community has been fantastic. A constant flow of people have been using Hope Hut for prayer, reflection or just to shelter from the rain and rest a while!"

STEVE SQUIRES - Lickey Church Community Worker

"I think a lot of people will stop out of curiosity..., and maybe a little seed of hope will be sown in their minds."

SANDRA MASON

- Lickey Church

After the launch of the Hope Hut Bishop David spoke about prayer at

the regular Tuesday Talks held at Birmingham Cathedral each week from 1.10pm to 1.40pm.

From 2.30pm, Bishop David was at St Martin's in the Bull Ring listening to people's hopes for the city and region in order to help shape his own prayers over the next 40 days.



Scotch pancakes and refreshments were available at the church and visitors were asked to post their prayers on a board in the church.



On Wednesday morning, Bishop David visited a prayer labyrinth at St John's Church Harborne before leading a Mass at St Michael's Handsworth at 9.30am.

Following the service the Bishop walked through Handsworth and Lozells with Christians from the area.

The Bishop visited St Francis Church in Handsworth where the Vietnamese Congregation were preparing for Chinese New Year.



From St Francis the walkers were welcomed to St Mary's convent near-by.



Some of the walkers in the chapel at St Mary's Convent. From the convent the walkers made their way to the site where the New Testament Church of God are re-building.



Prayers were also said at a shop on Lozells Road where regular services are held and outside the Lozells bookshop.



The final stop was a Young Disciples where the walkers heard from staff members and prayed for the project.



The Bishop went on to take a service at St Paul and St Silas church in Lozells and the walk finished at Russells Restaurant on Lozells Rd.



The Bishop finished the day with an evening service at St Alphege Parish Church Solihull at 7.30pm.



Bishop David with Father Roy Murray and Canon Tim Pilkington at St Alphege Parish Church, Solihull



On Saturday (February 9th) the Bishop talked to and prayed with 500 young people at the Diocesan youth service, Re-United, which is held once every two months at St Martin in the Bullring church.



Bishop David said; "We are starting Lent with a busy schedule which will literally have me on my knees as I pray with hundreds of people from different parts of the Diocese.

"However I am also making sure that I respond to the call to do less and to spend more time focussed on God, enjoying his gaze of love experienced in silence and stillness.

"During Lent we remember that Jesus was driven into the wilderness to pray and that was preparation for his astonishing life, lived in complete obedience to God.

"I am simply asking people to spend two minutes of every day in prayer this Lent as we journey together into a deeper understanding of the love of God revealed in Jesus."

During Lent, Anglican churches in the Diocese of Birmingham are open for at least one full day to welcome people wanting to call in and pray. A list of open churches and the prayer suggestions from the Too Deep for Words booklet are available [here](#)

Too Deep For Words is part of the contribution the Diocese of Birmingham is making to Hope 08 – a movement of churches who want to engage more fully with their neighbourhoods during 2008. Details at www.hope08birmingham.org

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Courses

Faith Guiding Course

Joseph Chamberlain College in Birmingham will offer a new specialist training programme for 'Faith Guides' in March 2008 The Certificate will be accredited by the Institute of Tourist Guiding at Level 2.

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 guides will have the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of their own Faith.

Programme Content

The programme will cover:

- Interpretation and presentation skills
- Customer care
- Sensitive and effective communication
- Health and safety
- Preparation of resource materials
- Planning of a site specific guided tour
- Knowledge of a specific Faith and place of worship

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 training visits to places of worship.

Applications are invited from practising members of any recognised Faith community. There are no specific entry qualifications for the course, apart from the ability to communicate well in English.

Applicants will be required to attend an informal open evening to meet course tutors.

Application forms are available from Joseph Chamberlain College. In addition to completing the form, applicants need to include a

reference from a recognised Faith leader in their own community.

Information re bursaries : Co-ordinator, Faith Encounter Project, 0121 456 5839 ruthetlow@btinternet.com

Application forms (part time) from Joseph Chamberlain College.

Venue:

Cost: £420 per trainee but bursaries are available on application to the Faith Encounter Project

Organised by: Joseph Chamberlain College

For more information, contact:

Telephone: 0121 446 2200

E-mail: community@jcc.ac.uk

Building Peace

5 Wednesday evenings during Lent, exploring peace and peace-making, close to home and across the world.

Wed 13th Feb

Building peace with the Bible.

Noel Moules, Director, WORKSHOP

Wed 20th Feb

Building peace the disobedient way

Chris Cole, Director, the Fellowship of Reconciliation

Wed 27th Feb

Building peace with young people

Tim Evans, CEO Worth Unlimited

Wed 5th Mar

Building peace in Palestine

Marwan Darweish, Peace and Conflict Advisor, Responding to Conflict

Wed 12th Mar

Building peace with Planet Earth

Jo Rathbone, Co-ordinator, Eco-Congregation

All sessions are from 7-8.30pm.

Voluntary donations will go to the peace-building organisations represented by the speakers.

Venue: St Mark's Londonderry, Thimblemill Rd / Hales Lane, Smethwick B67 6LP

Cost:

Organised by:

For more information, contact: Al Barrett

Telephone: 0121 429 1149

E-mail: vicar@stmarkslondonderry.org.uk

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

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

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Events

**Cured by Love? Technique and personality in
Psychoanalysis and Sport**

01/03/2008

Date: 01 March 2008

Venue: Birmingham

Time: 10 - 12.45 Visit website www.wmip.org Bookings must be made in advance.

Cost:

Organised by: Jungian Training Committee

For more information, contact:

Name: Sue Harford

Telephone: 0870 7518828

E-mail: jtc@wmip.org

Asylum Seekers Vigil in the Churchyard

03/03/2008

Date: 03 March 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

Tuesday Talks

04/03/2008

Date: 04 March 2008

Venue: Birmingham Cathedral

Start: 1.10 pm. The Revd 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

Choral Communion - St Philip's Singers

05/03/2008

Date: 05 March 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

Reclaiming the Night Creative thinking about evening and night worship

06/03/2008

Date: 06 March 2008
Venue: Birmingham Cathedral Colmore Row

10.30 a.m. – 3.30 p.m. (Registration & Coffee from 9.45 a.m.) With: The Rt. Revd Gordon Mursell, Area Bishop of Stafford, The Very Revd John Irvine, Dean of Coventry and The Revd Canon Adrian Daffern, Precentor, Coventry Cathedral. Our speakers will open up theological, liturgical and scriptural contexts, as well as offering night-visionary snapshots of church communities who are using ancient traditions and contemporary resources to bring their evening worship alive. Full details and booking form in the document library
<http://www.birmingham.anglican.org/upload/pdf/Praxis.pdf>

Cost: £15, 12 for affiliate members of praxis, £10 for Birmingham Diocesan Clergy
Organised by: Praxis Midlands

For more information, contact:

Name: The Rev'd Peter Furber
 Telephone: 01684 574 106
 E-mail: peter@furber.me.uk

Study Day: Spirituality in Health and Social Care Practice

06/03/2008

Date: 06 March 2008**Venue:** Birmingham City University, Edgbaston Campus, Westbourne Road Birmingham B15 3TN

Start: 9.30am -3.30pm This event will promote discussion about the nature of spiritual care in practice, how this links to education and explore concrete solutions for the provision of spiritual aspects of care. This event will be of particular interest to Faith providers, (eg hospital chaplains) of all faiths Health and social care students and practitioners Service users and carers, Academics and researchers Bookings on a first come, first served basis.

Cost: free**Organised by:** Birmingham City University**For more information, contact:**

Name:

Telephone:

E-mail: clare.l.scammell@kcl.ac.uk

Changing Attitude - "The Hope within us"

06/03/2008

Date: 06 March 2008**Venue:** The Church of the Ascension, School Road, Hall Green B28 9DX

Start: 7.45 pm. Led by the Revd Geoffrey Herbert. An opportunity to share the good news that the Bible has for us all. Please come with a passage in mind which you have found helpful. As we share these, we'll be looking for common themes which express the hope that Changing Attitude has.

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

Name: The Revd Stephen Barton

Telephone: 0121 429 2176

E-mail: ca.bham@yahoo.co.uk

Isolation

08/03/2008

Date: 08 March 2008

Venue: Paul & Barny's Place, 151 Castle Road West, Oldbury, West Midlands B68 0EL

Challenging the exclusion of older people from everyday life •
Affirming the experience of older people • Integrating older people in the wider community • Combating loneliness, isolation and the fear of loneliness • Challenging social structures that create dependency • Promoting health and active ageing. Trainer Sue Howard, Older Peoples Policy Officer

Cost:

Organised by:

For more information, contact:

Name: Colin Darling

Telephone: 0121 686 1983

E-mail:

Cathedral Chorus Event - Rutter Requiem

08/03/2008

Date: 08 March 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

Tuesday Talks

11/03/2008

Date: 11 March 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

Greening Birmingham Churches

11/03/2008

Date: 11 March 2008**Venue:** Selly Park Baptist Church

Start: 7.30pm. A unique opportunity to exchange ideas on creation care, worship, greening churches and community outreach. For Christians of all denominations. All Welcome If your Church would like to share their experiences on the night, please call Maud to talk this through. Visit www.enviro.aero for all you need to know about aviation and the environment.

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

Name: Maud Grainger

Telephone: 0121 632 6909

E-mail: multifaith@birminghamfoe.org.uk

Holy Communion

12/03/2008

Date: 12 March 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

Wholeness and Healing Service

13/03/2008

Date: 13 March 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

Redemption Song - Riding Lights Theatre Company

14/03/2008

Date: 14 March 2008

Venue: Ladywood ARC, St. John's and St. Peter's Church, Ladywood, B16 8TF

Start: 7.30pm A communal experience of theatre and worship

Cost: Tickets: £8 £5 concessions

Organised by:

For more information, contact:

Name: Keith Hebden/Richard Tetlow

Telephone: 0121 454 0973

E-mail:

Alcohol Addiction

15/03/2008

Date: 15 March 2008

Venue: Paul & Barny's Place, 151 Castle Road West, Oldbury, West Midlands B68 0EL

Time: 9.30 - 12.30 pm. Understanding, listening and communicating well in the context of alcohol addiction. Trainer - Deryn Bishop from Sandwell Aquarius. Book in advance.

Cost: £4.00 / £2 concessions

Organised by:

For more information, contact:

Name: Colin Darling
Telephone: 0121 686 1983
E-mail:

Drug Addiction

15/03/2008

Date: 15 March 2008

Venue: Paul & Barny's Place, 151 Castle Road West, Oldbury, West Midlands B68 0EL

Time: 1.15 - 3.45 pm. Understanding, listening and communicating well in the context of drug addiction. Trainer - Sue Chreston from Sandwell Drug Concern. Book in advance.

Cost: £4 / £2 concessions

Organised by:

For more information, contact:

Name: Colin Darling
Telephone: 0121 686 1983
E-mail:

The Barbirolli String Quartet performing Haydn's Seven Last Words of Christ

16/03/2008

Date: 16 March 2008

Venue: St George's Edgbaston in Westbourne Crescent

Start: 6.30pm Evensong will be held in the church at 5.30pm before the concert.

Cost: Adults: £7.50, Concessions: £5

Organised by:

For more information, contact:

Name: Thomas Kirby
Telephone: 0121 456 3423
E-mail: 7lastwords@googlemail.com

A sequence of music and readings for Passiontide

16/03/2008

Date: 16 March 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

Asylum Seekers Vigil in the Churchyard

17/03/2008

Date: 17 March 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

Holy Week Eucharist

17/03/2008

Date: 17 March 2008
Venue: Birmingham Cathedral

Start: 7.30 pm. Preacher: The Dean

Cost:
Organised by: Birmingham Cathedral

For more information, contact:

Name: Carol Currier
Telephone: 0121 262 1840
E-mail: carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com

Bereavement

17/03/2008

Date: 17 March 2008

Venue: Paul & Barny's Place, 151 Castle Road West, Oldbury, West Midlands B68 0EL

Time: 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm. Understanding, listening and communicating well when someone has been bereaved. Trainers - Iris Downey and Vicki Johnson Book in advance.

Cost: £4 / £2 concessions

Organised by:

For more information, contact:

Name: Colin Darling

Telephone: 0121 686 1983

E-mail:

Easter Corporate Communion

18/03/2008

Date: 18 March 2008

Venue: Birmingham Cathedral

Start: 2.00 pm.

Cost:

Organised by: Birmingham Cathedral

For more information, contact:

Name: Carol Currier

Telephone: 0121 262 1840

E-mail: carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com

Holy Week Eucharist

18/03/2008

Date: 18 March 2008

Venue: Birmingham Cathedral

Start: 7.30 pm. Preacher: Assistant Dean

Cost:

Organised by: Birmingham Cathedral

For more information, contact:

Name: Carol Currier

Telephone: 0121 262 1840

E-mail: carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com

Choral Communion - St Philip's Singers

19/03/2008

Date: 19 March 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

Holy Week Eucharist

19/03/2008

Date: 19 March 2008

Venue: Birmingham Cathedral

Start: 7.30 pm. Preacher: The Dean.

Cost:

Organised by: Birmingham Cathedral

For more information, contact:

Name: Carol Currier

Telephone: 0121 262 1840

E-mail: carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com

**Sung Eucharist - Renewal of Ministerial Vows and
Blessing of the Oils**

20/03/2008

Date: 20 March 2008

Venue: Birmingham Cathedral

Start: 10.30 am.

Cost:

Organised by: Birmingham Cathedral

For more information, contact:

Name: Carol Currier

Telephone: 0121 262 1840

E-mail: carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com

Holy Week Eucharist

20/03/2008

Date: 20 March 2008

Venue: Birmingham Cathedral

Start: 7.30 pm. Preacher: Assistant Dean

Cost:

Organised by: Birmingham Cathedral

For more information, contact:

Name: Carol Currier

Telephone: 0121 262 1840

E-mail: carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com

Sung Morning Prayer

21/03/2008

Date: 21 March 2008

Venue: Birmingham Cathedral

Start: 10.00 am. Preacher: The Dean

Cost:

Organised by: Birmingham Cathedral

For more information, contact:

Name: Carol Currier

Telephone: 0121 262 1840

E-mail: carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com

The Three Hours

21/03/2008

Date: 21 March 2008

Venue: Birmingham Cathedral

Start: 12.00 noon. Preacher: Bishop Maurice Sinclair

Cost:

Organised by: Birmingham Cathedral

For more information, contact:

Name: Carol Currier

Telephone: 0121 262 1840

E-mail: carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com

The Easter Liturgy

22/03/2008

Date: 22 March 2008

Venue: Birmingham Cathedral

Start: 7.30 pm. Preacher: Bishop David Urquhart.

Cost:

Organised by: Birmingham Cathedral

For more information, contact:

Name: Carol Currier

Telephone: 0121 262 1840

E-mail: carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com

Holy Communion

26/03/2008

Date: 26 March 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

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:

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**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 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

Young People and Money

23/04/2008

Date: 23 April 2008

Venue: St John's Church Hall Sparkhill

A one day training course that delivers financial capability training to those working with 'NEET' young people. The course is designed to improve their confidence by equipping them better to support their young people in becoming financially capable. To book a place on a training day or for further information visit the Young People and Money website: www.youngpeopleandmoney.co.uk Topics covered on the Young People and Money training day include: The psychology of young people and money; Income, budgeting and banking; Credit; Skills to engage young people in financial matters; Debt management. Please contact: Nigel Brookhouse, Narthex Sparkhill, Young People and Money Course, St John's Church, St Johns Rd, Sparkhill, Birmingham B11 4RG before 26 March.

Cost: free

Organised by:

For more information, contact:

Name:

Telephone:

E-mail:

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

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

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

Cost:
Organised by: The Children's Society

For more information, contact:

Name: Allan Baldwin
Telephone: 01827 897954
E-mail: aab@childsoc.org.uk

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 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

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

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

Cost:

Organised by: Jungian Training Committee

For more information, contact:

Name: Sue Harford

Telephone: 0870 7518828

E-mail: jtc@wmip.org

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

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 • addressing 'Demand' • releasing resources • raising awareness • educating for a change • confronting

sexual exploitation

Cost:

Organised by:

For more information, contact:

Name:

Telephone:

E-mail:

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

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/

Cost:

Organised by:

For more information, contact:

Name: Rev Matthew J M Coomber

Telephone:
E-mail: bibleandjustice@sheffield.ac.uk

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Vacancies

Priest in Charge: St Leonard Frankley and St Christopher Holly Hill

Salary: Diocesan incumbent stipend
Closing date for applications: 14/03/2008

For further information

Contact name: Archdeacon of Birmingham
Telephone: 0121-426 0403
E-mail: archdeaconofbham@birmingham.anglican.org

Business Manager - Acacia Family Support p/t

Salary: £15 per hour
Closing date for applications: 15/03/2008

For further information

Contact name: Peter Long
Telephone:
E-mail: peterlong_uk@yahoo.co.uk

Development Worker - Job Marston Project, Hall Green

Salary:
Closing date for applications: 20/03/2008

For further information

Contact name:

Telephone:

E-mail:

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

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