

Diocesan information



Bulletin

[Bishop's Comment](#) | [Topical](#)
[Comment](#) | [News](#) | [Courses](#) | [Events](#) | [Vacancies](#)

Bishop's Comment

Resources

[Document library](#)

[Links](#)

[Reading list](#)

| [Bulletin](#)

[Parish magazine editors](#)

[Job opportunities](#)

[Branding guidelines](#)

[Care of buildings](#)

[Using the press](#)

[Contact details](#)

The value of creative waiting

This time of year is an interesting season for those of us who follow the Church calendar with its festivals, Saints Days and its rhythms of fasting and feasting. Today is All Saints day, when we remember the huge number of people whose lives have been an example to us as Christians, whether they lived two thousand years ago or whether they follow Jesus Christ in our contemporary society.

In one month's time the Church will be beginning to mark the season of Advent – the time of fasting and intense prayer before the feast of Christmas. It is a time when the church celebrates waiting as an essential part of human experience as we look forward with expectation not only to the birth of a child who revealed the human face of God but also to the time when Jesus will return and we experience the fullness of God's reign of love, justice, joy and peace.

Waiting is often seen as something to be avoided in the 21st Century. We have fast-food, instant communication and tend to live our lives at a breath-taking pace. But nature shows us that times of waiting are creative, it is the time when things can grow, change and be transformed.

This year learning to wait with expectation and hope seems more important than ever. For many of us the credit crunch means that we will have less to spend this year and the temptation to borrow rather than to wait and save for something will be enormous.

While consumers are anxious about their budgets, retailers, even in this region's wonderful shopping centres will be concerned that the economic downturn is bad for business.

But this year it is essential gifts we buy are not wasted and over-budget but wanted and affordable. That is why we are holding a special event called the Big Green Give-Away on the last weekend of November to encourage people to see that the value of our gifts does

not depend on how much money they cost.

We are asking people to stop before they shop and think of other ways of celebrating Christmas. Most of us have unused gifts or mistake-buys at home that could make a great gift for someone else such as a DVD, a once-read book, an unwanted toy or unopened toiletries. Others of us could give a gift we have made – a photograph, a cake or a painting. Or for close friends and family a gift of time such as a babysitting voucher or some help in the garden for a neighbour.

At Christmas we remember the gift of Jesus – the most wonderful gift to humanity - was not wrapped in cellophane or badged with a designer label.

On November 29th pilgrims will walk to Birmingham Cathedral carrying with them their gifts which will be given away to shoppers in the city. I hope you can join us then – either to give or receive a gift that cost nothing but represents the love and generosity of the living God.

+David

This article was first published in the Birmingham Mail, Saturday 1st November 2008.

[Top](#)

Topical Comment

Destitution among asylum seeker and refugee families

One of my main inspirations as Bishop of Birmingham is from the prophet Isaiah chapter 58:1

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
 you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
 you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
 the restorer of streets to live in.

These words are written on my stole and have shaped my 20 years of ministry. They came back to me recently with shocking clarity when I read The Children's Society's report on destitution among asylum seeker and refugee families, *Living on the edge of despair*, (February 2008)

We all know people are homeless. A knock on the door asking for money, chance encounters on the High Street or a conversation over coffee can bring us face to face with poverty, addiction, mental health issues and destitution.

Yet what I found shocking about the report, based on research in Birmingham was that children and young people were sleeping in hostels which were not designed for families, they were growing up in households without food, heating or toys, and pregnant women could not afford to eat or get to hospital to have their baby.

This is an intolerable breach. Children, young people and families are falling through the gaps in our welfare systems - especially those who have been refused asylum. They are left vulnerable, many are depressed and their outlook is bleak. They fear returning to a country like Zimbabwe or Rwanda but they have no rights, no help nor any way of contributing to the economy if they remain in the UK.

Birmingham and the region is well-served by charities and community groups which support a large number of refugees and asylum seekers. For example, Restore is a project of Birmingham Churches Together which was started in 1989 and helps to welcome asylum seekers to the region through a network of befrienders, holiday schemes, social events and advocacy while raising awareness of the issues, particularly among the church community.

These befrienders, project workers, volunteers and good neighbours are standing in the breach. Some of them are probably inspired by the Old Testament prophets who remind us that our sacrifices are unworthy and our worship worthless while the alien is oppressed and the stranger is exploited.

But what more can we do to repair the breach? The breach caused by the asylum system and policies which struggle to process people in their thousands and cannot always cope with the fullness of their humanity, their relationships and their vulnerability.

How can we stop families, children and young people falling down the cracks when a Government Act (section 9 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 2004) can ban local authorities from supporting a family if they feel they are not taking 'reasonable' steps to leave the UK.

The Children's Society research found that most of the families they interviewed - 10 out of thirteen - did not receive adequate legal representation as they claimed asylum. We need to make the system work for the stranger who is struggling to speak a foreign language and to negotiate an unfamiliar bureaucracy and engage with officialdom from a position of powerlessness.

There are structural problems to address. We need a co-ordinated and robust approach that involves the Home Office, the Immigration and Borders authorities and the local authority departments so families are tracked and cannot simply disappear off the edge into a shadow-lands of destitution, fear and exploitation.

We must not allow ourselves to sleep easily while children are sleeping rough on our doorsteps. We must keep their humanity fully

alive in the front of our mind and not allow stereotyping and stigma to strip them of the dignity given to them by their creator, our loving God. And we must do everything we can to offer hospitality and practice generosity in the name of Christ.

In Birmingham we are delighted that The Children's Society has dedicated funding and project workers to focus on providing support to destitute refugee and asylum seeking children.

Working with the Church and other voluntary agencies in the region the charity will undertake case work, help families to get legal advice and provide crisis grants for those in the most extreme circumstances.

I hope this new development will augment the valuable work already done by so many parishes, groups, projects and churches who feel the injustice is intolerable and compassion is the only possible response.

Perhaps you could join them by standing in the breach and helping to restore the streets. A simple act is to call for change in the structures by joining others to end the abject poverty and destitution of refused asylum seekers through the Still Human Still Here campaign at <http://www.stillhuman.org.uk>. Or you could support a local project, donate food, clothing, nappies and other basics; or offer a stranger a bed for the night.

Most importantly we can all remind ourselves and others that our scriptures, our traditions and the example of Christ all compel us to love the stranger, to honour children and to speak up for those without a voice.

*+David Bishop of
Birmingham*

[Top](#)

News

Warm welcome for new Bishop of Aston

03 November 2008

Christians from across the region will gather in Birmingham Cathedral next Saturday (November 8th) to welcome the new Bishop of Aston, the Rt Revd Andrew Watson.

More than 500 people are expected at the service of welcome when Bishop Andrew will be introduced to the Diocese formally by the churchwardens from his former parish, St Stephen's Twickenham.

Amongst those welcoming the new Bishop will be children from St Mary's Moseley Primary School, Multi-faith and Ecumenical

Representatives, the Lord Lieutenant of the West Midlands, the Deputy Lord Mayor and Mayoress of Birmingham, the Mayor and Mayoress of Sandwell, the Mayor and Mayoress of North Warwickshire and the Mayor and Mayoress of Solihull.

Bishop Andrew will preach at the service which will be led by the Bishop of Birmingham, the Rt Revd David Urquhart.

The welcome service follows the ordination of the Rt Revd Andrew Watson as Bishop in St Paul's Cathedral, London on Tuesday October 28th. The service was led by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Dr Rowan Williams and during the ceremony nearly twenty Bishops prayed for Bishop Andrew who was also anointed with oil. Bishop Andrew composed a musical setting of George Herbert's poem 'Love bade me welcome' for the occasion.

Bishop Andrew said: "It has been an amazing week. The service in St Paul's Cathedral was an awesome occasion which made me feel part of a church which is both traditional and historic as well as contemporary and very much alive.

"I am now looking forward to the more informal welcome service here in Birmingham which marks the beginning of my ministry in this city and region and gives me a chance to meet people who will soon become both colleagues and friends."

Bishop David said: "I am very pleased Bishop Andrew is in Birmingham ready to hit the ground running. He has a strong track record as someone who knows how to build up and strengthen the life of the church.

"I am looking forward to working with him and I am sure he will, like me, feel very much at home in the city and region of faiths."

All are welcome to the service of welcome at 11 am on Saturday November 8th in Birmingham Cathedral.

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

Solihull girl scoops top BBC choral award

03 November 2008

Alice Halstead, a 14 year old choir girl at St Alphege Church, Solihull and a pupil at King Edward's VI High School for Girls, Birmingham, has won the coveted title of "BBC Radio 2 Young Chorister of the Year 2008". On Friday 31 October 2008, four boys and four girls competed in St. Paul's Cathedral, London, after being successful in reaching the competition final by coming through a rigorous selection process from hundreds of entries, representing the finest religious choral talent from across the United Kingdom.

Alice said: "Just to reach the final was amazing. The experience of singing solo in that massive cathedral in front of so many people was awesome. I was so excited when the two winners, myself and Harry Bradford from the Chapel Royal, were announced. We had to compose ourselves quickly to sing a duet to finish off the evening. Now I am really looking forward to singing during the year in concerts and broadcasts around the country. It's certainly going to be a busier Christmas than I was expecting!"

The all girls' choir at St Alphege Church was set up in 2002 alongside the well established boys' and men's choir. St Alphege has had a boy finalist in the competition several times over the past thirty years, but Alice is the first girl from St Alphege to reach the final and the first winner from the church. Taster sessions for young boys and girls (aged seven and above) interested in joining the choir and becoming the next potential winning choristers take place on Tuesday 11th November at 5.30pm for boys and on Wednesday 12th November at 6pm for girls.

The children in the St.Alphege choirs receive a first-class free training through the musical, social and intellectual challenges they encounter. There are also open rehearsals for ladies and men later in November. For more details, contact Director of Music Nigel Stark on 0121 705 1074.

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

Harborne church celebrates 150 years with history exhibition

03 November 2008

St John's Church, on Harborne High Street, will celebrate its 150th anniversary in November by hosting a local history exhibition. The church is organising a series of activities and events during its anniversary week from Sunday 9 November, also including a climate change evening and celebrations for children and youth.

Photos in the exhibition will show the church's original building on St John's Road, which was bombed during World War II, as well as a wide range of images with places and people in the parish over the past one and a half centuries.

The history exhibition will be introduced by Beryl Beavis, who has been a member of St John's since 1942, following a lunch for past and present members on Monday 10 November at 2pm. In the evening there will be a talk by local historian Dr Edward Chitham at 7:30pm.

The exhibition will be open each day until Saturday 15 November, with morning sessions from 10am to 12pm on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, as well as afternoon openings at 2pm to 4pm from Monday until Friday.

Also taking place during the week is a climate change evening from 8pm on Tuesday 11 November, with the 'Power of Community' film followed by a discussion. A youth event will be held on Friday evening, and 'The Big 150 Kids Bash' for children on Tuesday evening.

The celebrations conclude with services open to all visitors at 9am, 11am and 6:30pm on Sunday 16 November, including a visit by The Rt Revd David Urquhart, Bishop of Birmingham, for the evening service, with Tim Hughes leading the worship.

For more details about St John's 150th anniversary celebrations visit www.stjohns-church.co.uk/150th.

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

Update from the Church of England

30 October 2008

Thousands turn to CofE online prayer and advice for credit crunch

As the financial situation across the globe worsened during October thousands have turned to online prayer and advice provided by the Church of England. Many of those affected by the credit crunch have looked for easy-access support on the Web during the current difficulties boosting traffic by more than 70 per cent to a Church of England website section focusing on debt advice. Over the second weekend of October the prayer section had 3,300 hits. Read the full story [here](#)

Prayer for the current financial situation

Lord God, we live in disturbing days:

across the world,

prices rise,

debts increase,

banks collapse,

jobs are taken away,

and fragile security is under threat.

Loving God, meet us in our fear and hear our prayer:

be a tower of strength amidst the shifting sands,

and a light in the darkness;

help us receive your gift of peace,

and fix our hearts where true joys are to be found,

in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Wedding show welcome

Clergy chatted and offered advice to thousands of brides-to-be at the National Wedding Show at the NEC in Birmingham this month as part of the continuing wedding-welcome by the CofE. Since the law changed on October 1 couples are able to arrange a wedding at many more churches across the country. The team equipped with a set of top tips for clergy working at any wedding show was led by the Bishop of Leicester, the Rt Revd Tim Stevens. Read the full story [here](#). For full details of the launch of the Marriage Measure on October see separate story [Wider choice for wedding couples](#)

Parents should have the opportunity to choose faith-based schools, shows survey

The majority of the population – including those who do not see themselves as Christian – agree that parents should be able to choose a state-run school for their child based on their own religious, moral or philosophical considerations, a major survey has found. But the poll also reveals that the Church still has to work on demonstrating fair admissions procedures in its popular schools. The survey, conducted by Opinion Research Business, was released in the middle of October the same week that saw the opening of two new Church of England academies in Scunthorpe and East Hull. Read the full story [here](#)

'Back to Church' a national success

Thousands of people accepted an invite to go 'back to church' at the end of September. More than 30,000 people of all ages enjoyed a range of special services led by 3,000 local churches across the country on 28 September following a mass co-ordinated effort led by the Church of England to encourage churches to offer an extra-special welcome to newcomers and 'returners'. Back to Church Sunday began in Manchester Diocese in 2004. For the full story and background on this year's campaign click [here](#)

Archbishop of Canterbury's new book on Dostoevsky published

Read national media comment from the *Guardian*, the *Times Literary Supplement* and the *Daily Telegraph* on the book: *Language, Faith and Fiction* (Pushkin House). Direct links below or go to www.archbishopofcanterbury.org

- [Cross purposes - Guardian](#)
- [The Archbishop's Dostoevsky - TLS](#)
- [Where Rowan Williams meets Dostoevsky - The Telegraph](#)

Recovering and in good spirits – the Archbishop of York

On Monday 6 October, following a return from an official four day visit to Ghana, Dr Sentamu was diagnosed as suffering from a case of virulent gastroenteritis. He was subsequently admitted to University College Hospital in London where he is now receiving treatment for a severe form of salmonella poisoning. The full statement can be found [here](#)

New term brings new Church education specialist team

The appointment of three senior members of the staff of the Board of Education, the body responsible for developing education policy for the national Church, have been announced. The appointments are:

- Dr Rob Gwynne to become Head of School Development and Deputy General Secretary to the National Society
- The Revd Dr John Breadon to become The Churches' National Adviser for Further Education
- The Revd Dr Stephen Heap to become National Adviser for Higher Education. Read the full story [here](#)

Halloween Choice heroes – who is yours?

The Bishop of Middleton, the Rt Revd Mark Davies, has launched the first ever poll to find the UK's 'most heroic job' as part of the Church's Halloween Choice campaign. It is the third anniversary of the campaign led by the Diocese of Manchester which explores how to support and resource those parents and

children who wish to mark Halloween in a positive, less “gruesome”, way. It is being run with the Children’s Society. Read the full story [here](#)

Evangelical leaders share best worship practice

The Church of England has hosted the first in a series of consultation events with worship leaders from leading evangelical Anglican churches. The event explored how churches within the evangelical tradition can make the most use of the worship resources available to them and share from each others’ experiences and experiments, as well as from the wider Church. The event ‘Worshipping the God of the Gospel’ was held at Ridley Hall Theological College, Cambridge. For full details click [here](#)

Archbishop of Canterbury – click below for news items or see main website www.archbishopofcanterbury.org

Sermon at the 750th anniversary of the consecration of Salisbury Cathedral, details [here](#)

Article on the financial crisis in The Spectator, details [here](#)

Sermon for the International Mass at Lourdes, text [here](#)

Celebrations for the 400th anniversary of poet John Milton, sermon text [here](#)

Dr Williams, gave the opening address, at a conference he convened entitled ‘A Common Word and Future Christian-Muslim Engagement’.

Details [here](#)

Archbishop of York – click below for news items or see main website www.archbishopofyork.org

Dr Sentamu calls for Joint Action to Achieve “Education for all” at UN Emergency Summit, full story [here](#)

“Bank Robbers”, Dr Sentamu labels HBOS short sellers, details [here](#)

Dr Sentamu attends United Nations to urge global deal, details [here](#)

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

Small Advertisements

27 October 2008

Church organ and musical instruments wanted for church in Malawi

St Thomas's is a large church on the edge of the capital city Lilongwe, the parish priest is Fr Joseph. It is a very active church and the Diocesan offices for Lake Diocese are on the same site. They are looking for a church organ and any other equipment (eg. speakers, keyboards, mixer and drums).

A container will be sent to Malawi and will be loaded at Castle Bromwich on Friday November 21st. Please contact Paul Wilson at the Diocesan Office (0121 426 0400) as soon as possible if you are able to help.

Priest from South Africa looking for exchange

I have heard from a friend who is a priest near Joburg in S Africa that he is looking for an exchange with a priest in UK for 2-3 months next summer 2009. His name is Don Thomson and I have stayed with him a few years ago. He has a pleasant bungalow rectory and responsibility for three churches. There are other clergy assisting plus well-instructed lay people. Don is now 66 and nearing retirement. Please contact me for further details - Martin Tunncliffe at martin.tunncliffe@tesco.net

Church wishes to borrow Alpha banner

If you have an Alpha banner we can borrow, please contact The Revd Henriette Howarth, Associate Vicar St Christopher's Church Springfield, Tel. 0121 777 1989 / 07986947739 henhow@tiscali.co.uk

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

Notification of Appointments

27 October 2008

The Revd Andrew Fisher
Priest in Charge, St Philip and St James Hodge Hill
To be: Chaplain, Alexandra Hospital Redditch (Worcester) (December)

The Revd Elcineide Chappell
Honorary Chaplain, Birmingham Children's Hospital
To be also: SSM Assistant Priest, St Martin in the Bull Ring (December)

The Revd Linda Granner
Assistant Curate, St Bartholomew Edgbaston and St George Edgbaston
To be: Priest-in-charge, St Mary Hobs Moat (December)

The Revd Jayne Crooks
Assistant Curate SSM, Kings Norton Team Ministry
To be: Team Priest, Kings Norton Team Ministry (November)

The Revd Anupama Kamble
P/t Chaplain, Aston University
To be: Team Vicar, Caludon Team Ministry (Coventry) (December)

Alison Taylor
To be: Ordinand to assist in the Parish of St John Sparkhill (August until 31 July 2010)

Richard Sudworth
To be: Ordinand to assist in the Parish of St Christopher Springfield (September until 31 July 2010)

The Revd Malcolm Jones
 SSM Assistant Curate, St Paul Birmingham
 To be: Priest-in-charge, St Richard Heathfield (Chichester) (October)

Resignation

The Revd Vivien Baldwin
 Chaplain to the West Midlands Police
 To resign this appointment (January)

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

Obituary - The Reverend Bill Hopley

27 October 2008

The funeral of Bill Hopley took place in a packed Worcester Cathedral on October 17th, when many friends together with colleagues from church and police gathered with his family to give thanks to God for his life. Bill, who was based in Birmingham as Chaplain to West Midlands Police from 1993 to 2006, was born and brought up in Worcester. After a short while working in insurance, he was ordained and served as Curate in Kidderminster, following on as Industrial Chaplain there and in Worcester, and serving also as part-time Chaplain to West Mercia Police and the local fire brigade.

He absolutely revelled in his time with West Midlands Police, with ready access to all ranks in the service, but relishing the chance to get alongside serving officers in the motorway car chases, the helicopter searches, and the often intimidating situations of street disorders. He was warmly welcome in all the local police stations and among support staff, contributed significantly to police management discussions, and was available to all with his sympathetic listening and down-to-earth spirituality. His flair and energy were recognised when he became also the National Coordinator of the National Association for Chaplains to the Police. He established the National Police Memorial Day – making sure it was a religious occasion – and inducted and encouraged newly appointed police chaplains around the country. He retired from this ministry aged 56, ready to embark on new activity supporting the work of Worcester Hospital.

We in Birmingham saw Bill in his prime: his directness, his humour, his commitment - a man of action keen on sport and fitness and loving every minute of his work and ministry. We did not see his battle with cancer diagnosed after he retired from Birmingham and took up new work, the painful and complicated discomforts of the treatment he required, his long stretch in hospital from Boxing Day last year, and his immense courage and strong faith when severely tested. He died in St Richard's Hospice on October 10th.

We thank God for his servant Bill, and remember in our prayers his wife Jane and their children.

*Hayward Osborne Archdeacon of
Birmingham*

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

Book Review: Skills for Collaborative Ministry

16 October 2008

Skills for Collaborative Ministry – Sally Nash, Jo Pimlott, Paul Nash
2008 SPCK (£12.99)

In this new book, the authors bring together insights and expertise in collaborative ministry from a range of contexts, including parochial ministry, youth work, chaplaincy and adult education. Their big argument is that whatever the structures people are working in, the same skills are needed to enable a group of people to work together fruitfully in a collaborative way. They also stress the long-term commitment and perseverance required to establish a way of working together that for many in churches and other organisations will be new and little understood.

Beginning with an overview of collaborative ministry, the authors then explore group work processes and facilitation skills, arguing that these are the foundations on which all collaborative ministry is built. Further chapters then focus on the particular skills needed to work in a shared way - skills around reflecting; vision-building; teamwork; supervision; conflict; diversity and evaluation. Many of the chapters contain practical exercises and tools to help develop the particular skill in question and all the chapters conclude with points for reflection, discussion and action. There is a general bibliography, plus additional reading linked to every key topic.

This book, the authors of which include both ordained and lay ministers from the diocese of Birmingham, is important practically, both for the way it highlights the wide range of skills needed for effective collaborative ministry and for its realistic expectations about the length of time that is needed to establish a different way of being together. People working in many different kinds of structures will find it a helpful resource.

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

Helping You Prepare Your Building For Winter

16 October 2008

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) is holding a National Maintenance Week, Friday 21 November – Friday 28 November. This year SPAB's campaign to offer practical information and support to anyone who cares for a property is supported by leading UK builders' merchant Jewson.

Now in its sixth year, National Maintenance Week aims to provide homeowners and people who care for public buildings such as churches, village halls and local authority venues, throughout the UK, with practical tips and advice on how to prepare their building to face the worst that winter can bring.

Relevant to properties of all ages, not just ancient ones, the annual campaign is designed to introduce people to the simple, economic and achievable maintenance steps they can take in autumn to stave off costly major faults and damage at a later date.

SPAB's dedicated website www.maintainyourbuilding.org.uk is packed with helpful tips including a downloadable 'Top to Toe' ten-minute home MOT checklist. This is an essential starting point for anyone daunted by maintenance and unsure just where to begin.

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

Theft of metal from churches

13 October 2008

We have received a letter from Ecclesiastical, dated 26 September 2008, in connection with theft of metal from churches and would like to draw your attention to the following two paragraphs from this letter:

"As you will be aware Ecclesiastical sent SmartWater protection kits to all churches insured with ourselves in November 2007. To date, only 3000 churches have registered with SmartWater and I would be grateful if you could encourage parishes to both use the kit and ensure that it is registered. Registration is essential otherwise stolen metal cannot be traced and may hinder a prosecution by the Police. It is also very important to ensure that the signage advising that SmartWater has been used is displayed in prominent positions.

If a parish has lost the original kit a replacement can be purchased at a heavily discounted price, from our Churches Purchasing Scheme (CPS) by calling 845 458 4584. Where further kits are also required when CPS can also provide these, again at a discounted price."

Please see the links below to the Ecclesiastical and the SmartWater websites:

http://www.ecclesiastical.com/ourproducts/insurance/churchinsurance/church_searchresults%2fsearchresults%2fsearch.aspx

<http://www.smartwater.com/Home.aspx>

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

Free World Leprosy Day 2009 materials available

08 October 2008

World Leprosy Day 2009 is on Sunday 25th January 2009. Please set aside a Sunday in 2009 to remember those affected by leprosy – it doesn't have to be on World Leprosy Day, but it would be great if it could be observed on that day.

There are currently as many as four million people affected by this disease and it is vital that they are not forgotten. World Leprosy Materials, including sermon notes and a powerpoint presentation, congregational prayer cards etc are available to order free of charge from the Leprosy Mission, telephone 01733 370505.

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

Helping Anglican Schools and Hospitals in Malawi

02 October 2008

Birmingham Diocese has had a link with the Anglican Church in Malawi for over 40 years, and many visits in both directions have taken place. Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world but the church is involved in a wide range of work that relieves suffering and helps to build a stronger future, including in health care and education.

Many families desperately want education for their children but classes in Malawian primary schools are grossly oversized - over one hundred children with one teacher is quite common, and they are very under resourced - in particular there are hardly any textbooks. We are now appealing through you to teachers in LA schools, pharmacists, indeed any one that could help. Please see the examples below.

The Rev'd Richard Tucker, with help from others, is arranging for a container of goods to go from Anglican Christians in Birmingham and others including Birmingham Children's Hospital, to the Diocese of Upper Shire, one of four in Malawi.

The first container left Birmingham in January 2008 and arrived in April to great rejoicing. We are now ready to launch the next container. It will be loaded on Friday 21st November, 9am-6pm at the same place as last January, the yard off Chester Road, Castle Bromwich, adjacent to Castle Bromwich Hall.

The cost of shipping the container comes to several thousand pounds (£6000+ in January). To cover this we have to ask for a small donation of £5 per cu. ft. or equivalent for each box sent from Birmingham.

Please ask our co-ordinator Jan Beare, tel 258 2294 or email jan.beare@blueyonder.co.uk for further details.

Ways in which your church or its members can help:

Headteachers and Teachers: Sort out surplus textbooks, especially sets, or library books; Invite a speaker in to show pictures of Malawi to a class or assembly and launch an appeal.

Possible gifts from children and families: Used sports equipment, clothing and football boots; Used clothing for babies and children; Used toys, not needing electric power (nor too bulky or they will be expensive to send); Pens, colouring books etc, which can be used to fill up a box.

Pharmacists and other health professionals: Sterile bandages still in date; Used spectacles; Used crutches etc. Professional rules forbid the sending of any drugs returned unused.

Any Church Members: Used sewing machines, especially manual (old Singers are very popular); Used woodworking or other tools; Used computer equipment. You as donor must be able to satisfy yourself that any confidential or sensitive information has been erased beyond recovery from hard drives. If giving a printer, please send at least one (compatible) ink cartridge.

Any items sent out must be describable as 'used' to avoid incurring Malawian customs duty, but need to be in usable condition.

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

'Stop before you shop' urges Bishop of Birmingham

30 September 2008

Shoppers in the West Midlands are being urged to stop before they shop – or pray now and buy later – as the Diocese of Birmingham prepares for a day of Advent Action on Saturday November 29th.

On one of the busiest shopping days of the year, Birmingham Cathedral will host the big green give-away offering an extra present to those passing through the Cathedral grounds. The Diocese is now recruiting 'pilgrims' to bring gifts to the city centre that can be given away to shoppers who will then be asked to give away the freebie to a friend or neighbour as a Christmas present.

Birmingham Diocese is organising the day in partnership with Operation Noah, an environmental organisation who are spearheading the Reclaim Christmas campaign which includes a drama written for school-age children, resources for churches, events at Exeter Cathedral and other Christian communities. More details at <http://www.operationnoah.org>.

The Rt Revd David Urquhart, Bishop of Birmingham, said:
"We are asking people to stop before they shop and think of other

ways of celebrating Christmas this year. Most of us have unused gifts or mistake-buys at home that could make a great gift for someone else such as a DVD, a once-read book, an unwanted toy or unopened toiletries. Others of us could give a gift we have made – a photograph, a cake or a painting. Or perhaps a gift of time such as a babysitting voucher, a dinner out with an old friend or some help in the garden for a neighbour.

“We want to remember the value of a gift is not measured by how much money it cost. At Christmas we remember the gift of Jesus – the most wonderful gift to humanity – was not wrapped in cellophane or badged with a designer label. We also want to remind people that creation, including our planet and the environment, is a gift from God which we need to care for and nurture as a matter of urgency.”

On November 29th pilgrims will walk to Birmingham Cathedral carrying with them their gifts for the give-away. There will be a short service of lament at 10.45am led by the Bishop of Birmingham. TV presenter Mark Dowd of Operation Noah will preach at the service which will be followed by the Green Give-Away.

9.00 am – Pilgrims gather at household recycling centres around the city for a very short act of worship

9.30-10.30 am - Pilgrims walk/bus/cycle to the city centre bringing things from their home that they have never used

10.45 am – Short service of lament in Birmingham Cathedral

11.15 am onwards – All the donated goods are given away to people shopping in the city centre – with the request that they use them as a Christmas present for a friend or neighbour

2.30 pm - Screening of God is Green documentary presented by Mark Dowd

4.00 pm - Evensong – a celebration of creation and creativity

What we need ...

Pilgrims and Musicians/singers

For more information about the Advent Action please contact Jessica Foster at Jessica@birmingham.anglican.org

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

Can you help our Church schools?

22 September 2008

We are looking for people who might be interested in being a Governor of one of our schools. If this is something you would like more information on please contact Peter French on 0121 426 0418.

Also we are looking for people who would be willing to sit as members of appeals panels (these are for people who who are appealing to get their child into a particular school). The commitment here is to attend one training session and to sit on one or two panels a year (so its a commitment of no more than 3 days per year). If you would like more information on this do contact Peter French on 0121 426 0418.

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

[Top](#)

Courses

Free Lent Course 2009 available from this month from the Leprosy Mission

The Leprosy Mission is producing a six-week Lenten course for 2009, entitled God's Upside-Down World. This will be free to download from the website www.leprosymission.org.uk from late October, or contact us if you would like to receive a copy by post.

Venue:

Cost: free

Organised by: Leprosy Mission

For more information, contact: Leprosy Mission

Telephone: 01733 370505

E-mail:

[Top](#)

Events

Asylum Seekers Vigil in the Churchyard

03/11/2008

Date: 03 November 2008

Venue: Birmingham Cathedral

Start: 5 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

04/11/2008

Date: 04 November 2008

Venue: Birmingham Cathedral

Start: 1.10 pm. With 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

Unite's Faith Worker's Branch - Refresher & Taster/Introductory day for New Representatives

04/11/2008

Date: 04 November 2008

Venue: Unite the Unite, 35 King Street, Covent Garden, London WC2E 8JG

Start: 10:30 am. Unite's Faith Worker's Branch continues to develop and we want to encourage many more members to play an active role in the Branch. In order for existing representatives to re-new their accreditation, we are asking all representatives to refresh their training before the end of 2009, and to come on this training if they have not been through any training in the last year. Please book before: 25th October 2008

Cost:

Organised by: Unite the Union

For more information, contact:

Name: Maureen German

Telephone:

E-mail: Maureen.German@unitetheunion.com

Responding to the needs of Destitute Asylum Seekers and Refugees

04/11/2008

Date: 04 November 2008

Venue: Christ Church, 953 Pershore Road, Selly Park, Birmingham

The Children's Society are launching a new initiative with resources to tackle the destitution suffered by so many refugee or asylum seeker families. Come and learn more about this project and, as importantly, to share your experiences. There will also be time to hear about other church initiatives supporting these families. The event will take place on November 4th at Christ Church, from 10.00am to 12.30pm, with lunch. This is an open event so please let volunteers or other parish workers know about this event. If you would like to join us e- email your contact details to: hilary.elliott@childrenssociety.org.uk. For more information about The Children's Society's work in the diocese with this or other groups of children and young people, please visit www.childrenssociety.org.uk

Cost:

Organised by: The Children's Society/Diocese of Birmingham

For more information, contact:

Name: Hilary Elliott

Telephone:

E-mail: hilary.elliott@childrenssociety.org.uk

Holy Communion Service

05/11/2008

Date: 05 November 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

An Evening with Carl Chinn

06/11/2008

Date: 06 November 2008

Venue: St Mary's Church, Moseley

Time: 7:30pm-10:00pm Carl will be giving a talk on the history of Birmingham with time for questions at the end. This is the launch event for the fundraising efforts towards the proposed visit to Cape Town, South Africa in August 2011. The Robed Choir and St Mary's

Singers have been invited to be the Choir in residence for a week at St George's Cathedral and this will provide an exciting opportunity for all involved. Refreshments will be available.

Cost: Tickets £5 - Available from the Benefice Office or on the door.

Organised by: Friends of St Mary's Choirs and Music

For more information, contact:

Name: Benefice Office

Telephone: (0121) 449 2243.

E-mail:

Growing Gifts, Autumn Practical Workshops

08/11/2008

Date: 08 November 2008

Venue: St Lukes Church Centre, Birmingham

Time: 9:30 am to 3:30 pm Topics will include Worship in Residential Homes for the Elderly; a Myers Briggs Type Indicator Workshop; and Building Community through emotional caring. For more information or to request a brochure please contact Andrea at the Diocesan Office.

Cost: Enrolment fee £10

Organised by:

For more information, contact:

Name: Ms Andrea Stevens

Telephone: 0121 426 0429

E-mail: a.stevens@birmingham.anglican.org

Mothers' Union Council

08/11/2008

Date: 08 November 2008

Venue: Carrs Lane Church Centre

Start: 10.15 am.

Cost:

Organised by:

For more information, contact:

Name:

Telephone:

E-mail:

WELCOME TO THE NEW BISHOP OF ASTON

08/11/2008

Date: 08 November 2008**Venue:** Birmingham Cathedral, Colmore Row

A welcome service for the new Bishop of Aston, the Revd Andrew Watson. All are invited to this event but Bishop's Croft needs to be informed of numbers

Cost:**Organised by:** The Diocese of Birmingham**For more information, contact:**

Name: Christine Wright or Pam Rhodes

Telephone: 0121 427 1163

E-mail: c.wright@birmingham.anglican.org;p.rhodes@birmingham.anglican.org

Explore teaching - free event at Birmingham University

08/11/2008

Date: 08 November 2008**Venue:**

The Explore teaching event is a one-day event at Birmingham University for the benefit of Christians who are considering (the possibility) of going into teaching as a career. It is part of the Transforming Lives project (www.transforminglives.org.uk), whose aim is to encourage and help Christians take up teaching as a vocation. The aim of this event is to promote the idea of a career in teaching as whole-life Christian discipleship. We are partnering with Footprints Theatre Trust on this to produce an interactive, fun and challenging day. The events are sponsored by several Christian trusts so we are able to offer them free to participants; and that includes a proper hot buffet lunch! There are only 100 places in total, so it is best to book as early as possible. For more information or to book go to www.transforminglives.org.uk/conference Please spread the word among Christian 6th formers, students, or Christians contemplating a change in their career.

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

Name:

Telephone:

E-mail: www.transforminglives.org.uk

A World of Difference - Garth Hewitt in Concert

08/11/2008

Date: 08 November 2008

Venue: St David's Church, Shenley Lane, Northfield, Birmingham B29 4HH

Start: 7.30 pm. A World of Difference takes inspiration from one of Garth's most successful songs, looking at the divisions in the world between rich and poor, those who are valued and those who are not. Through songs, meditations and pictures Garth will consider how we can make a difference to street children in Durban, South Africa; the poor in Nicaragua; the Dalits of Tamil Nadu, India; and the people of Bethlehem, sharing stories from Amos projects in these four parts of the world.

Cost: £7

Organised by: Snowgoose Training

For more information, contact:

Name:

Telephone: 01527 878677

E-mail: simon@snowgoosetraining.com

Reunited - An Alternative Christmas

08/11/2008

Date: 08 November 2008

Venue: St. Martins in the Bullring

Time: 7pm - 9pm Bishop David will be there and we'll be looking at what it's like for people living in Bethlehem today and hearing about the issues of the situation in Israel and Palestine. Our speaker for the evening will be Charlotte Marshall from Christian aid. Charlotte will show an audio visual slide presentation examining the realities of life for ordinary Palestinians as a result of the Israeli occupation. Al Zaytouna Nottingham Dabke Group will be performing contemporary and traditional Palestinian Dance (Dabke) and music. They'll also be doing a workshop so you can learn some of the moves to impress your mates! Our worship group for the evening will be the amazing local band 'Highrise' who are sure to be brilliant and are tipped to become huge in the next few years! There'll be an opportunity for you to get creative and produce some protest art.

Cost:

Organised by:

For more information, contact:

Name: Helen Tomblin

Telephone: 0121 426 0433

E-mail: helen@birmingham.anglican.org

Social Dreaming Matrix and Climate on the Couch

08/11/2008

Date: 08 November 2008

Venue:

Social Dreaming Matrix led by Laurie Slade, a UKCP Registered Psychoanalytic Psychotherapist. Climate on the Couch, Unconscious Processes in Relation to Our Environmental Crisis. Mary-Jayne Rust, a Jungian analyst and an art therapist. What are the archetypal themes of our ecological crisis? Can insight into unconscious processes help us, collectively, to respond to the precarious situation we find ourselves in? Are we, for example, in the midst of a giant eating problem? It is easy to feel overwhelmed by the crises we face, and this can paralyse our thinking and ability to act. In this talk I will first explore some collective themes in our relationship to nature, to the wild, and to the body. Then I will give some examples of how these issues emerge in the therapy relationship, and how we might respond. Visit: www.wmip.org

Cost:

Organised by:

For more information, contact:

Name: Administrator

Telephone: 0870 7518828

E-mail: jtc@wmip.org

Approaching Apocalypse

10/11/2008

Date: 10 November 2008

Venue: St Martin in the Bullring Church, Birmingham City Centre

A one hour show which brings the Book of Revelation alive for a 21st Century audience. It's called 'Approaching.Apocalypse' and it can be seen from Mon 10th - Fri 14th November at 8pm and Saturday 15th November at 6pm. Described as '...an awe-inspiring glimpse into one of the most enigmatic texts in history', 'Approaching.Apocalypse' is an event which invites anyone who wishes, to have a unique encounter with the Book of Revelation. For one hour, the audience will be surrounded by a soundtrack of readings and music devised by a contemporary composer and an award winning documentary producer. They will see images from the Book of Revelation created by a specialist in digital visualisation. The text is a new translation and is read by some of the UK's leading actors. The images for this are the result of more than ten year's work and their creator has gone back to the original Greek text, and then used digital illustration techniques to generate pictures which correlate as accurately as possible with the text itself. It is believed that this is the first time anyone has ever undertaken such a task. The artists involved offer no interpretation of the text, but rather, invite you to come along and

engage with the Book of Revelation for yourselves afresh. Tickets can be bought from: www.birminghamboxoffice.com 0121 303 2323. Pre-booking is essential. See our website at: www.approachingapocalypse.com

Cost: adults £7, concessions £5. Pre-booking essential
Organised by: The Approaching Apocalypse Team

For more information, contact:

Name:

Telephone:

E-mail: ask@approachingapocalypse.com

Retirement: Promised Land or Barren Wilderness?

11/11/2008

Date: 11 November 2008

Venue: Leveson Centre in Temple Balsall, near Solihull

Time: 11.00 am – 3.15 pm. In a recent survey, fewer than 50% of people chose the word 'happy' to describe the way they felt on the first day of retirement. A surprising one in ten felt anxious, sad or lost. The day will begin with two reflections on retirement. They will be followed by Colin and Alison Johnson, who will look at the various factors such as health, finance and personal psychology which crucially affect the shape of retirement and whether it becomes a promised land or a barren wilderness. This seminar is intended for those approaching retirement, those struggling with being retired, those rejoicing in the retired life and all those who work with retired people! Visit: website www.levesoncentre.org.uk

Cost: £40 - £50 (inc. refreshments and sandwich lunch)

Organised by: The Leveson Centre

For more information, contact:

Name:

Telephone: 01564 778022

E-mail: leveson.centre@virgin.net

Tuesday Talks

11/11/2008

Date: 11 November 2008

Venue: Birmingham Cathedral

Start: 1.10 pm. With 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

Holy Communion Service

12/11/2008

Date: 12 November 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

Ministry Beyond the Church Building - A training day for Readers

15/11/2008

Date: 15 November 2008**Venue:** Trinity Centre, Sutton Coldfield

Time: 9.30am – 3.45pm ABOUT THE DAY Whether in paid employment, working at home or as a volunteer, Christians are working out their faith and their ministry. Yet the connections between the overtly Christian work of worship and the activities of other work can remain hidden or undervalued. This day will explore those connections, to resource Readers' own ministry and to help them resource others. Exploring the history, theology and practical connections between our shared vocations and our many vocations. Please contact Andrea Stevens for information or to book before 17th October.

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

Name: Andrea

Telephone: 0121 426 0429

E-mail: a.stevens@birmingham.anglican.org

Beethoven: Missa Solemnis

15/11/2008

Date: 15 November 2008

Venue: Symphony Hall

Start: 7.30pm What's loud, fast, and high and requires huge amounts of energy and stamina? Answer: Beethoven's Missa Solemnis. If you have not experienced a very large choir in "full flow" this is the ideal opportunity, and if you are familiar with Missa Solemnis you will know this is an occasion not to be missed. The City of Birmingham Choir joins forces with the Bristol Choral Society, and the CBSO for this performance, conducted by Adrian Lucas. Find out more at: www.citychoir.org.uk To book: call or book online at www.thsh.co.uk For concessions and discounts see www.citychoir.org.uk/TicketBooking.htm

Cost: Tickets are available from £10 - £35.50

Organised by:

For more information, contact:

Name: THSH box Office

Telephone: 0121 780 3333

E-mail:

Asylum Seekers Vigil in the Churchyard

17/11/2008

Date: 17 November 2008

Venue: Birmingham Cathedral

Start: 5 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

18/11/2008

Date: 18 November 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

Choral Communion Service

19/11/2008

Date: 19 November 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

Birmingham University Singers Concert

19/11/2008

Date: 19 November 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

Clergy discipline. Ecclesiastical Law Society London Lectures

19/11/2008

Date: 19 November 2008

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

Time: 5.30 - 6.30 pm. Speaker: John Rees, provincial registrar and partner in Winckworth Sherwood.

Cost: Free

Organised by: Ecclesiastical Law Society

For more information, contact:

Name: James Behrens

Telephone: 020 7242 6105

E-mail: jbehrens@serlecourt.co.uk

Faithful Youthwork in a City of Faiths

19/11/2008

Date: 19 November 2008

Venue: Youth Encounter Centre. 172 Woodlands Road Moseley. B13 9NY

Time: 10:30 – 3:30. Training for Christian youth workers to gain a basic understanding of different faith communities in Birmingham. 'Same City Different Cultures' This day will include the chance to visit and explore a predominantly Asian area of the city and to reflect on what people have seen and experienced. There will also be a session on 'Mission and Ministry amongst people of Different Faiths'. Led by Dr Andrew Smith, leader of Youth Encounter for Scripture Union. Please book in advance.

Cost: £10

Organised by: Bishop's Adviser

For more information, contact:

Name: Jelena

Telephone: 0121 426 0435

E-mail: jelena@birmingham.anglican.org

Wholeness and Healing Service

20/11/2008

Date: 20 November 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

Choral Evensong with The Fountain Singers

22/11/2008

Date: 22 November 2008

Venue: Birmingham Cathedral

Time: 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

Feed the Children Gospel Concert

22/11/2008

Date: 22 November 2008

Venue: Birmingham Cathedral

Start: 7.00 pm.

Cost:

Organised by: Birmingham Cathedral

For more information, contact:

Name: Carol Currier

Telephone: 0121 262 1840

E-mail: carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com

Story-telling

22/11/2008

Date: 22 November 2008

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

Time: 9.30 am - 3.30 pm. Learning, listening to and telling stories. Led by Simon Airey. The day will involve looking at personal stories, biblical stories and folk tales. Please book in advance.

Cost: £8.00/ £4.00 concessions

Organised by: Paul & Barny's Place

For more information, contact:

Name: Colin Darling

Telephone: 0121 686 1983

E-mail:

Night Prayer by Candlelight

23/11/2008

Date: 23 November 2008

Venue: Birmingham Cathedral, Colmore Row, Birmingham, B3 2QB

Start: 7.00 pm. The contemplative Office of Compline sung by the Lay Clerks of the Cathedral. "The perfect way to end the weekend and start the week"

Cost: Free admission

Organised by:

For more information, contact:

Name:

Telephone: 0121 262 1840

E-mail:

Sacred Britain: New Horizons - The Churches Tourism Association 2008 Convention

24/11/2008

Date: 24 November 2008

Venue: The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire

This year's programme will explore key themes Pilgrimage. International – Let's be inspired to think what we can create today. And find out what's happening elsewhere. Multifaith collaboration – Let's hear from projects that are opening up their buildings to wider audiences. Let's hear from leading figures on how best to get together to inform the public about our great heritage of sacred buildings of all faiths. Celebrating places of worship and welcoming visitors – How to 'show-off' your building to visitors: its history, its stories, its specialness, training in best practice and finding out what's available. Come along and enjoy keynote speakers like Sir Roy Strong on the future of the country church. You'll be offered a choice of practical workshops. You'll get fresh ideas from people who have already blazed a trail and made their place of worship a "must see" experience for visitors. You'll meet like-minded friends. You'll learn more about free entries on national websites, the ASPIRE project, and local initiatives to make faith buildings more accessible. Keep an eye on www.churchestourismassociation.info for further details

Cost:

Organised by:

For more information, contact:

Name:
Telephone:
E-mail: [Visit: www.churchestourismassociation.info](http://www.churchestourismassociation.info)

**Changing Attitude - AGM and reflection with Barry Naylor
on setting up Open & Welcoming Congregations.**

24/11/2008

Date: 24 November 2008

Venue: St Monica's Hall, The Old Church, Church Road Edgbaston
B15 3DX

Time: 7.30 pm Barry is a Canon of Leicester Cathedral, Urban Canon
and Parish Priest of the Abbey and Holy Spirit Team Ministries.

Cost:

Organised by:

For more information, contact:

Name: Michael Conway-Jones
Telephone: 0121 246 1697
E-mail: ca.bham@yahoo.co.uk

Growing Gifts, Autumn Practical Workshops

25/11/2008

Date: 25 November 2008

Venue: The Trinity Centre, Sutton Coldfield

Time: 9:30 am to 3:30 pm Topics will include Worship in Residential
Homes for the Elderly; Working with Small Groups; and Building
Community through emotional caring. For more information or to
request a brochure please contact Andrea at the Diocesan Office.

Cost: Enrolment fee £10

Organised by:

For more information, contact:

Name: Ms Andrea Stevens
Telephone: 0121 426 0429
E-mail: a.stevens@birmingham.anglican.org

Tuesday Talks

25/11/2008

Date: 25 November 2008

Venue: Birmingham Cathedral

Start: 1.10 pm. With 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

Holy Communion Service

26/11/2008

Date: 26 November 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

World Aids Day Wall of Love in the south aisle

28/11/2008

Date: 28 November 2008

Venue: Birmingham Cathedral

11.30am on Friday 28 November through to 8.30am on Tuesday 2 December 2008. Wall of Love and Lighting of Candles

Cost:

Organised by: Birmingham Cathedral

For more information, contact:

Name: Carol Currier

Telephone: 0121 262 1840

E-mail: carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com

Advent Action - the Big Birmingham Green Give-Away

29/11/2008

Date: 29 November 2008

Venue: Birmingham Cathedral

A day of action to Reclaim Christmas working with Operation Noah. The day includes worship at household recycling site, a service of lament at Birmingham Cathedral and the chance to give away all the unwanted presents, books, DVDs, etc that many of us have at home. 9.00 am – Pilgrims gather at household recycling centres around the city for a very short act of worship 9.30-10.30 am - Pilgrims walk/bus/cycle to the city centre bringing things from their home that they have never used 10.45 am – Short service of lament in Birmingham Cathedral 11.15 am onwards – All the donated goods are given away to people shopping in the city centre – with the request that they use them as a Christmas present for a friend or neighbour 2.30 pm - Screening of God is Green documentary presented by Mark Dowd 4.00 pm - Evensong – a celebration of creation and creativity

Cost: n/a

Organised by: Diocese of Birmingham/Operation Noah

For more information, contact:

Name: Jessica Foster

Telephone: 0121 426 0438

E-mail: jessica@birmingham.anglican.org

Advent Procession by Candlelight

30/11/2008

Date: 30 November 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

The Positively Red Lantern Parade

01/12/2008

Date: 01 December 2008

Venue: Birmingham Cathedral

The Parade will arrive at the Cathedral for approximately 7.00pm. 2-3 members of the parade will then come into the Cathedral and the main candle will be lit, this will then join the parade and continue onto the Town Hall.

Cost:

Organised by: Birmingham Cathedral

For more information, contact:

Name: Carol Currier

Telephone:

E-mail: carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com

Signs of Trafficking and Responses in the West Midlands

12/12/2008

Date: 12 December 2008

Venue: Carrs Lane Church Centre, Carrs Lane, Birmingham City Centre

Time: 9.30am – 3.45pm You are invited to participate in this regional event bringing together people from a range of sectors and agencies who may come into contact with trafficked people. The event aims to: provide information about signs of trafficking to individuals and groups; examine and challenge the culture in which trafficking takes place; develop collaboration and joint actions in response to trafficking in the West Midlands. Workshops will also take place. Please book before: 25th November 2008 with Methodist and Central Mission, 0121 233 1915 Email: centralmission@btconnect.com

Cost:

Organised by: This event is being organised and supported by a broad coalition of agencies.

For more information, contact:

Name: Stephen Willey

Telephone: 0121 767 2911

E-mail: stephen.willey@necgroup.co.uk

Practical Support for Surviving Modern Life

29/01/2009

Date: 29 January 2009

Venue: The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire

A far-reaching programme of talks, workshops and training events led by leading professionals and academics. They will cover a wide variety of topics and issues immediately relevant and newsworthy to modern-day living. These include: · Protecting vulnerable church members from offenders, protecting children and making churches safer places (David and Pauline Pearson) · Diversity in the counselling room: issues unique to African-Caribbean marriage counselling (Lurliene Miller) · The core issues of sexual abuse, and supporting survivors (Rebecca Mitchell, herself a survivor of abuse) · Pastoral care: what are we equipped to do, and should pastoral care be organised or organic (Teresa Onions) · Supporting people through

bereavement (Amanda Georgiou) · Am I good enough for him?
 Women's choices in partnerships (Joanne Robinson) · Anxiety
 disorders: A CBT approach to anxiety, panic and more complex
 trauma (DR Rob Waller) · Couple counselling and the challenges it
 presents for the "one to one" counselling style (Christine Tufnell) A
 full programme of events is available upon request, or may be viewed
 at: <http://www.acc-uk.org/pdfs/acc6pages.pdf>

Cost:

Organised by: The Association of Christian Counsellors (ACC)

For more information, contact:

Name: Debbie Hyde

Telephone: 07956 320 486

E-mail: debbie.hyde@oasismedia.co.uk

Annual Pilgrimage: Stratford-upon-Avon to Coventry Cathedral

29/07/2009

Date: 29 July 2009

Venue:

Around 200 members of all ages and denomination from at least 7
 European countries will be gathering in Stratford-upon-Avon to walk
 in small groups towards Coventry, ending in a final service in
 Coventry Cathedral on August 6th. Newcomers are welcome. See
www.cdsf.org

Cost:

Organised by: The Pilgrims of St Francis

For more information, contact:

Name: Gill Myall

Telephone: 0121 443 5198

E-mail: gillmyall@hotmail.com

[Top](#)

Vacancies

Hospital Chaplain - Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust

Salary:

Closing date for applications:05/11/2008

For further information

Contact name: Rev Nick Ball (0121 424 1369) or Rev Andrew Ball (0121 424 7676)

Telephone:

E-mail: nicholas.ball@heartofengland.nhs.uk or andrew.t.ball@heartofengland.nhs.uk

Youth Pastor - Kinver, Staffordshire

Salary: £ 20,000 (plus benefits)

Closing date for applications:07/11/2008

For further information

Contact name:

Telephone:

E-mail: jobs@ad33.org.uk

**Vacancy for Clerk to the Governing Body -
Tanworth-in-Arden CE Primary School**

Salary: Between £6.91 - £8.41 per hour depending on relevant experience.

Closing date for applications:20/11/2008

For further information

Contact name: Pat Saunders

Telephone: 01564 742406

E-mail:

**Parish Resource, Stewardship & Income
Generation Officer - Diocese of Birmingham**

Salary: Salary, £30,000 – £35,000 depending on qualifications and experience, plus pension scheme membership.

Closing date for applications:21/11/2008

For further information

Contact name: Trish Beck
Telephone: 0121 426 0402
E-mail: trish@birmingham.anglican.org

PA (p/t) to the Suffragan Bishop of Aston - Diocese of Birmingham

Salary: Salary £16,952-£17,932 FTE pro rata depending on qualifications and experience, plus pension scheme membership.
Closing date for applications:21/11/2008

For further information

Contact name: Trish Beck
Telephone: (0121) 426 0402
E-mail: trish@birmingham.anglican.org

Administrative/Finance Officer - St Mark's Community Project, Smethwick

Salary: Salary £8 per hour.
Closing date for applications:12/12/2008

For further information

Contact name: Nina Rogers
Telephone: 0121 552 2176
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