

Diocesan information



Bulletin

Resources

[Document library](#)

[Links](#)

[Reading list](#)

| [Bulletin](#)

[Parish magazine editors](#)

Job opportunities

Branding guidelines

Care of buildings

Using the press

Contact details

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

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

Bishop's Comment

What Makes a Good City - 3/10/2008

Tonight I revisited a favourite old home to speak on 'The Soul of the City' at a lecture in memory of J.B. Shelton of Coventry.

Shelton was, like me, both a keen historian and a follower of Jesus Christ, and it was an honour to be asked to speak at the 50th Annual Lecture as well as a pleasure to return to Coventry where I was Vicar of Holy Trinity, the City Centre church, for seven years.

The question of what makes a good city, good communities and a healthy society has been at the forefront of my mind over the last few weeks during which I have speaking about values at the launch of Be-Birmingham (formerly the Birmingham Strategic Partnership) and at the Conservative Party Conference.

During my lecture in Coventry I will speak about six values that have underpinned the city for the last 500 years. They were faithful, peaceful, free, prosperous, progressive and flourishing – the term I use for living well together.

Be-Birmingham also has six key areas on which it focuses. In many ways they overlap with the values I explored in Coventry. They are; economic success, safe, clean, healthy, high quality of life – including housing and culture – and the opportunity to contribute.

Faith communities would feel able to contribute to all those objectives and they remind me that so many of our values are influenced by our Christian heritage not least the principles of justice, environmental concerns and work on behalf of others.

The values in themselves are not highly contentious and most would agree they are some of the elements that lead to a happy and harmonious city. What is more difficult is knowing how to deliver these values in a productive way.

Last week, as some of you may have heard, I was on the streets doing some market research asking people what would bring them back to church – or what they like about church if they are already regular worshippers.

The results were fascinating but one of the things that came over was that people like a church that knows what it believes, can connect its values to 21st century Britain and help teach right from wrong, particularly to young people.

However people also wanted a church that could respond to them as individuals. A personal eulogy at a funeral was much appreciated as was a vicar who personalised a wedding service or coped with a bride being half an hour late. Impersonal services and off the peg ceremonies did not rate well with the public.

As a city, I think we need the same balance. We need strong coalitions and alliances that work together to implement our shared values and secure the future sustainability of this city and region.

At the same time we need to ensure we can provide responsive services for people who live in this region – particularly those people who are vulnerable, frail or isolated and more likely to fall through gaps in provision.

And within this both top-down and bottom-up approach, I believe churches and faith communities can and do play a vital role, both on the ground caring for those in need and in the coalitions and alliances that shape our values, our strategies and our region.

Bishop David, Bishop of Birmingham.

[Top](#)

Topical Comment

Briefing – The Economic Downturn

The intention of this paper is to reflect the experience of CIGB's chaplains and to contribute to the reflection and action needed to respond to the current economic turmoil. In the past CIGB has done significant work with unemployed people in the 1980's and at the close of Rover. Responding to those adversely affected by economic change may need to move up the churches' agenda in ways we have not foreseen.

No one can have missed the credit crunch and the economic downturn. Commentators don't always agree about the length and depth of the 'crisis' and as things seem to change daily the full impact is not yet fully known. The situation is both international and national but the churches need to be aware of local impacts as well as, if they are to respond appropriately with pastoral support and informed

comment.

Practical consideration will need to be given to how churches can support people experiencing

- financial hardship due to rising costs including fuel poverty and debt
- increased levels of anxiety & work related stress
- redundancy and unemployment

Theological consideration will need to be given to the new context

- pastoring in a time of anxiety
- hope and the lack of hope
- living simply and joyfully
- reflection on the realities of unfettered free market capitalism and the impacts of money becoming a commodity rather than an expression of value.

1. Commentators observe that after a long period of growth, instability in the banking sector is now affecting the 'real economy'. The contrast between 'banking sector' & 'real economy' says something about where we are. It has been suggested that the long period of stability lead to the finance sector developing more and more complex products & structures, including hedge funds & futures markets, so that few, outside the sector, can understand what is really happening. This has happened at a time when de-regulation has been promoted.

2. As money became a commodity, rather than an indicator of value, the markets depended more and more on 'confidence' because money as a commodity is inherently unstable. Now that confidence is lost with real consequences.

3. People have become defined as 'consumers' & houses as investments as well as or rather than homes. This 'commodification' of life has skewed our relationships with material things in ways that have effected values and behaviours.

4. While economic stability allowed us to believe that everything would be alright, the loss of stability is increasing levels of anxiety for individuals, families and companies.

5. People in poverty have always known anxiety but the current insecurity/ instability is effecting an increasing range of people in a variety of ways including those approaching pension age, young workers wondering if they'll ever be able to retire, or young home buyers. The sense of uncertainty, even when the impact is indirect, is affecting everyone.

6. Some people can draw on the experience of other times, for instance the 1970's or the experience of war but for many people under 45 that is not relevant. It's possible that they may be less resilient in facing the current situation.

7. There is a critique to be made of Western free market capitalism

that has separated money from a product, separated the top earners from the rest of the economy, failed to pay producers a fair return & which has been built on waste & the careless use of resources.

8. Into this the Christian faith can offer a message of well founded hope, can uphold the treasure which is to be found in the person & can offer the possibility of living simply and joyfully.

Current situation in Birmingham/ Solihull

There are few large employers left in Birmingham/ Solihull although there are sites such as the city centre, the airport/ NEC, where a large number of people are employed by a number of companies and sectors such as retail and financial services. Car manufacture has a remnant of 'mass employment' with 6000 people at Land Rover.

Consequently, apart from potentially in car manufacture, any loss of jobs is like to be in comparatively low figures in any company. This has the benefit that redundancy may not affect whole communities but the risk that redundancies are hidden & people are not supported. Nevertheless, unemployment is rising nationally with all its attendant issues for individuals, families and communities. Redundancies are already happening in construction & in other industries – some of which were planned before the current downturn became so obvious.

Apart from redundancies many companies are reporting lower sales, lower profits and higher prices. At the moment this does not seem to have lead to an immediate widespread reduction in investment, training and development but the fear must be that if the situation worsens investment in the future may become more difficult. Many companies are looking to 'good house keeping' looking for cheaper solutions or deferring 'non- essential' activity.

*Barbara Hayes Churches
Industrial Group Birmingham Co-ordinator*

[Top](#)

News

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: "Despite the credit crunch and environmental concerns many people will continue to celebrate Christmas with a consumption binge. Shops are now filling up with Christmas gifts, decorations and Advent calendars and the pressure is beginning to build to overspend, buy unnecessary presents and to secure the 2008 must-have gifts.

"Consumers are already anxious that they will have less money to spend this year while retailers, even in the City's wonderful shopping centres, will be concerned that the economic downturn is bad for business. But with the environmental dangers of over-consumption and the threat of debt becoming more and more prevalent it is essential that our gifts are not wasted and over-budget but wanted and affordable.

"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.

"There is no doubt that, at heart, the ecological crisis is a spiritual crisis. We've run up huge financial debts but also taken more from creation than is sustainable, " said Operation Noah's Mark Dowd. "Advent is a time of waiting and a perfect time to reflect on how we, as Christians, can provide leadership and help God's people get back on track."

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

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

Multi-faith training for trainee ministers

29 September 2008

A vicarage in Handsworth is being used as a base for training vicars, ministers and overseas mission students in a move to help promote understanding of working for the church in a multi-cultural and multi-faith setting.

The Handsworth Contextual Theology Project is a partnership between the Diocese of Birmingham and the Queen's Ecumenical Foundation which trains ministers from the Anglican, Methodist and URC churches as well as students from across the world.

St Michael's Vicarage just off the Soho Road will be the base for three students as well as being used for non-residential teaching and placements. The new scheme was piloted last term and will be launched officially at a special Eucharist on Thursday October 2nd at 7.30pm in St Michaels Church, Handsworth. The Bishop of Birmingham the Rt Revd David Urquhart will preside at the Eucharist and the Revd George Wauchope from the Queen's Foundation will preach.

The Revd Dr Rowena Pailing, priest-in-charge of St Michael, will teach some of the courses alongside tutors from Queens. She said: "We are really pleased these students will be studying in our parish, living among us and gaining a deeper understanding of our vibrant and diverse setting. Parishoners are delighted that the vicarage is being used for the good of the Church and for the future generations of clergy. Many of them are looking forward to sharing their experiences of life in Handsworth with the ordinands and students."

Dr David Hewlett, Principle of the Queens Foundation, said: "We are delighted to be able to work with Rowena and the parish of St Michael's as well as the Asbury Methodist Circuit and the Superintendent minister the Revd Helen Jobling to offer students another dimension to their training. The pilot term has gone very

smoothly and students have already benefitted from living and studying in the Handsworth context."

Co-Director of the Centre for Ministerial Formation, the Revd Helen Cameron, said: "This project is exciting not just because it allows students to be formed in the very culturally rich, diverse community of Handsworth but that it is also helping to encourage ecumenical learning and co-operation."

Ordinands based in the vicarage will be placed with Anglican and Methodist churches in Handsworth, Winson Green, Lozells and Newtown. Representatives from those churches, all those studying at the Queen's Foundation, interfaith representatives and delegates from community projects are expected to attend the service on Thursday evening.

Photo: (left to right): The Revd Dr Rowena Pailing (Priest in charge, St Michael, Handsworth); Alison Richards; Carys Woodley (both Queen's students who lived at the Vicarage last term); Olga Thompson (churchwarden, St Michael, Handsworth); the Revd Helen Cameron; the Revd George Wauchope (both tutorial staff at Queen's).

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

Asian Christians in UK to Demonstrate over Killings in Orissa as

26 September 2008

PRESS RELEASE FROM INDIAN CHRISTIAN CONCERN

Asian Christians in UK to Demonstrate over Killings in Orissa as Violence Continues

Continuing violence against India's Christian minority has prompted leaders of Britain's Asian Christian community to organise a prayer march to the Indian High Commission in London and a petition to Downing Street. The march will take place through London on Saturday 4th October.

Ashok Masih Mattu is Chairman of rally organisers, Indian Christian Concern. He commented:

"As Asian Christians, we pray for peace in India. We are grieved by the violence taking place there. We condemn both the killing of the Hindu leader Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati in Orissa and the violent retaliation against Christians in Orissa, Karnataka, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh. We urge the Indian Government to bring to justice the organisations responsible for inciting the violence. India is a free, democratic country with constitutional freedom to practise belief and expression of thought without resorting to violence. We also urge the British Government to raise our concerns with the Indian

government"

Three states ruled by Hindu nationalists - Karnataka, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh - as well as communist ruled Kerala are struggling to stop attacks on Christians and their places of worship. At least 25 people have been killed in the past month and around 50,000 Christians have been forced to either flee into the forest or enter refugee camps.

Samuel Masih is General Secretary of Indian Christian Concern. He calls on British Asian Christians and all others concerned at the violence to join the march and pray:

"Everyone is requested to pray for peace in India, for an end to terrorist attacks and an end to the violence being inflicted on Christians. As many people as possible are requested to join in the peaceful, prayerful procession."

The violence has been condemned by Pope Benedict and on Sunday Roman Catholic bishops urged the European Union to treat persecution of Christians worldwide as a humanitarian emergency. However, since then there have been further attacks, with The Times of India reporting further anti-Christian violence in Kandhamal in Orissa. Vandals also stoned three more churches in Karnataka's state capital, Bangalore.

Chairman of South Asian Concern and former London Mayoral candidate, Ram Gidoomal CBE will be participating in the prayer march. He said:

"India has a long tradition of religious harmony and constitutional guarantees of religious freedom. This is under increasing pressure because of sectarian forces and terrorist attacks. We are concerned for the peace and stability of the country. The recent attacks in different places have seen many priests and other Christians tortured and killed. Their homes have been burnt and churches destroyed. Nuns have been raped. People have been forced to flee from their homes and are now living in fear of their lives. Rumours and counter-rumours are being spread. This is all the work of a few extremist groups who are destroying the fabric of India. The vast majority in India are peace loving people who respect life. We pray for an end to this violence."

The march will take place on Saturday 4th October 2008 in central London.

The assembly point is Richmond Terrace, just off Victoria Embankment. The procession will start at 2:00 pm. Petitions will be handed in at the Indian High Commission in Aldwych and also at the Prime Minister's Office (10 Downing Street).

ENDS

Christians account for about 2.5 percent of India's 1.1 billion

population, while more than 80 percent of Indians are Hindu.

Naxalites, (Maoist insurgents), have been blamed by the Indian police for the killing of Hindu radical leader Swami Laxmananand Saraswati and his four associates, but the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), of which Swami Saraswati was a local figurehead, has responded, along with the Bajrang Dal, by launching a devastating series of attacks on Christian targets, including murders, rape and widespread destruction of property, and publicly inciting further hatred against Christians.

Promoted and Published by Calvary Church E.A.C.F. Trust., 12 Albert Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, B21 9JY.
Tel.0121 554 0551 Registered Charity UK No.292351

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

Stand Up and Take Action

25 September 2008

'Stand Up and Take Action' is a mass action in which millions worldwide take a stand against poverty.

Last year, 43.7 million people in 127 countries took a stand. This year, don't just stand, take action as well. Make sure politicians and decision makers hear our call that they act on our demands.

The Birmingham Event is at 2pm on Saturday 18th October in Victoria Square. Please wear a white headband.

There will be some drummers, actors and a stilt walker to make this a festive occasion. So please come! Please ask those in your place of worship, school, workplace or elsewhere to join with us and/or hold their own event. You can register your event and upload numbers directly to the Stand Up and Take Action website at www.standagainstopoverty.org

Further details can be obtained from the Jubilee Debt Campaign website www.jubileedebt.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

Bishop swaps mitre for clipboard to find out what people really think about church

22 September 2008

The Bishop of Birmingham, the Rt Revd David Urquhart, picked up his clipboard and set out to discover what people in the Birmingham region really think about church as he travelled around the West Midlands on Thursday September 18th.

Bishop David carried out some market research in Shirley, Oldbury and Paradise Forum, Birmingham City Centre as the Diocese of Birmingham prepares to welcome thousands of new worshippers on Sunday September 28th, Back to Church Sunday. It is hoped some of the interviews will be used in a training DVD to help Christians understand some of the ways in which the Church of England is perceived. The Bishop met shoppers, city centre workers, parents at a church school and Sandwell Council staff in Oldbury.

More than 100 Anglican and Methodist churches in the Birmingham region are taking part in Back to Church Sunday, which is a national initiative to encourage people who have given up the habit of regular Sunday worship to give the church another go. Birmingham Diocese piloted the scheme last year in 14 churches. 400 people went back to church - many of whom have remained as part of the congregation.

Churches will be offering a specially warm welcome on September 28th with many laying on a meal after the service, special activities for children and help for people not used to following the structure of a service.

As Bishop David started the survey he said: "Each year millions of people come to church for a wedding, baptism or funeral or come into contact with the church community through a community project, school or mission event. I want to find out how people in this area perceive the church and what we can do to help people rebuild or strengthen their connection with their parish church.

"We know people find it easier to come to a church when they know they won't be the only newcomer. That is part of the success of Back to Church Sunday. We also understand that simple things can be off-putting like piles of books and papers, not knowing which door to come in through or being unsure where to sit. On Back to Church Sunday churches will be ensuring that it is as easy as possible for someone who does not know the building or the pattern of worship to come in, meet people and join in the worship.

"I now hope to find out what else we can do to make it easier for people to come back to church - and to hear what we are already doing well so we can develop those things and share ideas among all our churches. "People sometimes think that the church is like a club that exists for its members but Back to Church Sunday is a good reminder to us all that the church exists to fill its neighbourhood with the love of God demonstrated by the life and death of Jesus Christ."

Details of some of the churches taking part in Back to Church Sunday in the Birmingham Diocese can be found at www.back2churchsunday.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

Update from the Church of England

22 September 2008

Church of England marks Darwin's contribution to science as bicentenary approaches

The Church of England has developed a new section of its website to mark the approaching bicentenary of Charles Darwin's birth in 1809, and the 150th anniversary of the publication of 'On the Origin of Species' in 1859. As media interest grows in the bicentenary, the pages analyse Darwin's faith and his relationship with the Church of England. A new essay by the Revd Dr Malcolm Brown, Director of Mission and Public Affairs, gives a personal view of Darwin's contribution to science, whilst warning of social misapplications of his theories. Read the full story [here](#).

Halloween Choice campaignjoin in the fun

The Bishop of Middleton is to launch the first ever national 'heroic job poll' in Manchester on **17 September**. Children of all ages are being invited to visit www.HeroVote.org and vote for the job they consider to be the UK's most heroic from a list of 25 jobs to choose from and they include taxi drivers, supermarket workers, journalists, doctors and parents. The poll closes on 27 October 2008, when the UK's most heroic job will be revealed.

The national Hero Poll is part of the HalloweenChoice.org campaign, which is working to shift the celebration of Halloween away from the anti-social supermarket produced version of the festival, into a more fun event. This year it is being run in conjunction with The Children's Society. Church and school resources are available at www.halloweenchoice.org More information: David Marshall in Manchester on 0161 828 1421 or Ben Wilson 020 7898 1464.

Don't Stop at the Lights: Church year plan on tackling climate change

The Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams and the Bishop of London the Rt Revd Richard Chartres have commended a new guide from the Church of England which offers church leaders a template for a year-long programme of practical action to reduce their congregations' carbon footprints, as energy prices head upwards. The book, [Don't Stop at the Lights](#), launched by Church House Publishing, includes sermon ideas and extensive bible study notes

drawing on ancient theological themes which aim to reconnect the church to the natural world and the roots of its faith. More details [here](#)

'For richer for poorer'- wedding couples demand vows

Couples preparing for their wedding day want the vows to be at the heart of their planning more than anything else – according to new research by the Archbishops' Council's Weddings Project. Extensive research among newly weds – published in the *Church Times* – also reveals 9 out of 10 rated their church wedding experience as good to excellent. The findings coincide with the launch of the Church of England Marriage Measure, which means couples have more churches to choose from after October 1. Read the fully story [here](#)

Dr Williams meets with Chief Rabbis of Israel

The Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams met with the Chief Rabbis of Israel this autumn. The Most Revd Dr Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, Chief Rabbi Shlomo Amar and Chief Rabbi Yonah Metzger of Israel met in Lambeth Palace. The Chief Rabbis were supported by Mr Oded Wiener, Director General of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel, whilst the Archbishop was supported by the Rt Revd Michael Jackson, Bishop of Clogher and Co-Chair of the Anglican Jewish Commission, and the Rt Revd Suheil Dawani, Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem. Full details of the communique [here](#)

Recognise contribution of faith groups to community cohesion, Government urged

Speaking at a Westminster Central Hall event organised by Youth for Christ, the Archbishop of York Dr John Sentamu highlighted the work of Christian organisations saying they were making a vital contribution in local communities and was often at the forefront of the provision of community services. Full story [here](#)

'Moody Monday' survey reveals weight of September stress

The Church of England has taken the unprecedented step of taking out advertising space in a major newspaper to soothe commuters travelling into work this morning – as schools and workplaces get back to the daily grind after the summer holiday season. Read the prayer and tap into the results of the 1,000 strong survey [here](#) which shows that one in three want to make changes to improve their lifestyle this autumn.

Christingle anniversary this December ..., in 1968 John Pensom of The Children's Society first introduced the Christingle service to the Church of England as a symbol of Christ's light and love. Forty years on and 6,000 churches, schools and groups around the country join the celebrations each year from Advent through to Candlemas. Now is the time to start thinking about how your local church might join in the anniversary celebrations - to find out about free resources to help you organise your own special celebration, click [here](#) or call 0845 600 8585 for more information.

Tenth annual increase in GCSE Religious Education results

Religious Education has grown in popularity among GCSE students again this year with results more successful than ever. The Church of England had posted prayers on its website for all those receiving exam results at the beginning of the summer and considering their future options. Among subjects with more than 100,000 entrants, RE has remained at the top of the charts for

increasing entrants, with a 4.7 per cent increase since last year. For the full story and to read the prayers click [here](#)

Who do you think you are?

This recent high-rating episode of the BBC series on the family of actress Patsy Kensit featured her visit to Lambeth Palace Library in search of her clerical ancestor James Mayne, who was awarded a Lambeth degree by Archbishop William Howley in 1832. As Curate of Bethnal Green from 1823 to 1842 Mayne was responsible for one of the most socially deprived parishes in England with some 60,000 souls. He officiated each year at some 800 christenings, 180 marriages and 670 funerals.

The full story told by Richard Palmer, the Lambeth Librarian, can be read [here](#). The episode received the highest ratings of the [series](#).

New bishop for Birmingham

The new Bishop of Aston (Birmingham Diocese), announced in September by Downing Street, is to be the Revd Andrew Watson, 47, currently Vicar of St Stephen's East Twickenham in London Diocese.. The appointment is one of the most senior Church of England posts in Birmingham and Andrew will work closely with the Bishop of Birmingham the Rt Revd David Urquhart. Andrew a former youth worker has a keen interest in China - which he has recently visited; he also enjoys music, walking, reading, photography and keeping chickens More details on the appointment [here](#).

Tribute to former Bishop of Ripon

The Archbishop of York has paid tribute to the former Bishop of Ripon the Rt Revd the Rt. Revd. David Young, who has died aged 76. Read the full text [here](#)

Archbishop of Canterbury news:

- Dr Williams has expressed profound distress at the extreme violence being used in Orissa following the murder of Hindu leader, Swami Lakshmananda Saraswati. Full details [here](#)
- Dr Williams has sent a letter to the bishops of the Anglican Communion setting out his personal reflections on the Lambeth Conference held this summer in Canterbury and attended by more than 600 bishops from across the Anglican Communion. The full text of the letter can be found [here](#)
- The Archbishop joined Susan Hitch on BBC Radio 3 Literary Proms to examine conflicting ideas about spiritual regeneration and existentialism as embodied in the characters of his literary hero, the Russian novelist Fyodor Dostoevsky. Details [here](#)

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

Small Advertisements

10 September 2008

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

02 September 2008

The Revd Douglas White
Chaplain, Compton Hospice (Lichfield)
To be: P/t Chaplain, Marie Curie Hospice, Solihull (July)

The Revd Dr John Breadon
Chaplain, St George's Post 16 Centre
To: Receive Bishop's Permission to Officiate (October)
To also be: National Advisor for Further Education (Oct)

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

The Revd Leslie Lewis
Bishop's Permission to Officiate
To: Resign this appointment (Sept)

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

Prayer Calendar Available on-line

22 August 2008

The Autumn 08 Diocesan Prayer Calendar is available to download. To download the prayer calendar click [here](#).

Date Posted : 01/01/1900

[Top](#)

Courses

The Training in Jungian Analytical Psychotherapy

New Intake for September 2009. The training will bring together the development of personal insight, intensive and well-grounded academic study and practices of observation. The capacity to link

insight, observation and theory is the kernel of good practice; its education is the purpose of this training.

This four-year course includes personal Jungian analytical psychotherapy, lectures and seminars, supervised clinical work, infant observation, annual essays and psychiatric placement. Teaching is on Saturdays in Birmingham.

Successful completion will lead to UKCP Registration (PP Section) and Professional Membership of the West Midlands Institute of Psychotherapy.

For further information, including a training brochure and application form, please contact: - Sue Harford, Administrator, Jungian Training Committee, PO Box 955, Doncaster, DN10 4WR Website: www.wmip.org

Please note that the application period opens on 1st October 2008 and the closing date for applications is 31st January 2009.

West Midlands Institute of Psychotherapy is a Company Limited by Guarantee Company Registration No. 2883306 Registered Charity No. 1031011
Member of UK Council of Psychotherapy

Venue:

Cost:

Organised by: Jungian Training Committee. West Midlands Institute of Psychotherapy

For more information, contact: Sue Harford

Telephone: 0870 7518828

E-mail: jtc@wmip.org

Birmingham Churches Together Training Opportunities

BCT Training provides learning opportunities for those who facilitate or support the learning of adults, young people and families.

We focus particularly on providing the skills and knowledge needed to assist those who find learning difficult. Quite often those who are best placed to encourage adults back into learning are those who have struggled themselves.

Visit: www.birminghamchurches.org.uk/training

Venue: BCT: Training, All Saints' House, 172 Herbert Road, Small Heath

Cost: £25 per session

Organised by: BCT Training

For more information, contact:

Telephone:

E-mail: training@birminghamchurches.org.uk

Group discussion course for Lent 2009

'These three... Faith, Hope and Love' is based on the three great qualities celebrated in 1 Corinthians 13. This famous passage begins and ends in majestic prose. But the middle paragraph is practical and demanding. St Paul's thirteen verses take us to the heart of what it means to be a Christian.

Participants on the CD/audiotape: Tom Wright (Bishop of Durham); Abbot Christopher Jamison (Abbot of Worth); Anne Atkins (Writer and broadcaster); Dr David Hope introduces the course; Professor Frances Young (Closing Reflections)

The 5 session titles are:

	Session One -
Believing and Trusting	Session Two -
The Peace of God	Session Three - Faith into
Love	Session Four - The Greatest of
these	Session Five - All shall be well

Details of the new course, including biographies of the contributors, sound clips and sample pages, are available at http://www.yorkcourses.co.uk/cgi/shop/shop.cgi?cart_id=&page=courses

Secure online ordering & latest special offers & discounts at www.yorkcourses.co.uk

Venue:

Cost:

Organised by: York Courses Ltd

For more information, contact:

Telephone: 01904 466516

E-mail: info@yorkcourses.co.uk

[Top](#)

Events

Carrs Lane Lectures on Radical Christian Faith

02/10/2008

Date: 02 October 2008

Venue: Carrs Lane URC, Birmingham

6 pm - 7.30 pm. The overall theme is 'Theologies of the Excluded' Daphne Hampson 'Exclusion on account of gender'. Professor Daphne Hampson is Professor Emerita of Divinity at the University of St Andrews where she held a chair in Post Christian Thought.

Cost: £4.00

Organised by:

For more information, contact:

Name:

Telephone: 0121-643 6151

E-mail: office@carrslane.co.uk

Wholeness and Healing Service with Communion

04/10/2008

Date: 04 October 2008

Venue: Birmingham Cathedral

Time: 9 - 10 am. With the Revd Canon Henry Burgess.

Cost:

Organised by: Birmingham Cathedral

For more information, contact:

Name: Carol Currier

Telephone: 0121 262 1840

E-mail: carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com

Bob Hartman - Stories & the Art of Storytelling

04/10/2008

Date: 04 October 2008

Venue: St Paul's Church, Walsall Road, Hamstead, B42 1ER

Time: 10am 3pm Time: 10.00am - 3.00pm BOB HARTMAN has been working for over twelve years as a performance storyteller for children using his dynamic and interactive style to entertain audiences on both sides of the Atlantic. He loves to help children (and adults!) create their own stories on the spot. Whatever the occasion, Bob's storytelling sessions are always exciting, engaging and, above all, interactive! Please book in advance. Website: www.stpaulshamstead.org.uk

Cost: Cost: £5.00 (bring your own lunch)

Organised by:

For more information, contact:

Name:

Telephone: 0121 357 8941

E-mail:

Treading Lightly Together - An Eco Advice Day for Faith Communities

05/10/2008

Date: 05 October 2008

Venue: Banqueting Suite, Birmingham Council House, Victoria Square

Time: 1pm-5pm. Over the next year 'Faith & Climate Change' are going to be looking more practically at ways in which we, and the buildings we worship in can monitor our energy use and reduce it. Taking the messages of sustainability and putting our faith into action. The afternoon will consist of practical workshops on 'energy audits' as well as a chance for you or a group of interested people from your place of worship to work through an action plan with a trained facilitator. If you are interested in calculating your carbon footprint over the year - please bring along past bills for the last year and we'll help you calculate your losses over the forthcoming year.

Cost:

Organised by:

For more information, contact:

Name: Maud Grainger

Telephone: 0121 632 6909

E-mail: multifaith@birminghamfoe.org.uk

Harvest Celebration

05/10/2008

Date: 05 October 2008

Venue: St John's School Hall

Start: 10:30am - 11:30am To see more details

<http://www.facebook.com/n/?event.php&eid=42874205055>

Cost:

Organised by: St John's Sparkhill

For more information, contact:

Name:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Asylum Seekers Vigil in the Churchyard

06/10/2008

Date: 06 October 2008

Venue: Birmingham Cathedral

Time: 5 - 6 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

07/10/2008

Date: 07 October 2008

Venue: Birmingham Cathedral

Time: 1.10 - 1.40 pm. With The Revd 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 with the St Philip's Singers

08/10/2008

Date: 08 October 2008

Venue: Birmingham Cathedral

Time: 1.10 - 1.50 pm.

Cost:

Organised by: Birmingham Cathedral

For more information, contact:

Name: Carol Currier

Telephone: 0121 262 1840

E-mail: carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com

Faithful Youthwork in a City of Faiths

08/10/2008

Date: 08 October 2008

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

Time: 10:30 – 3:30. Two days training for Christian youth workers to gain a basic understanding of different faith communities in Birmingham. Wednesday 8th October: 'Same City Different Faiths' This day will include some basic teaching on Islam, Sikhism and Hinduism. It will also involve visits to a Mosque, a Gurdwara and a Temple. Wednesday 19th November: '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'. The days will be led by Dr Andrew Smith, leader of Youth Encounter for Scripture Union. Please book.

Cost: Cost £10 per day or £15 in total if both days are booked in advance

Organised by: Helen Tomblin

For more information, contact:

Name: Jelena

Telephone: 0121 426 0435

E-mail: jelena@birmingham.anglican.org

Faith and Finance Forum

08/10/2008

Date: 08 October 2008

Venue: St Faith and St Laurence Church Harborne On the corner of Croftdown Road and Balden Road

Start: 7.30-9.30pm What are the crucial questions facing people today in the relationship between their faith and finance/ Come and listen to a range of speakers putting across their perspective. Chaired by Ven Hayward Osborne—Archdeacon of Birmingham. Speakers Rev Patrick Gerard—worked as a Business Planning Manager and Commercial Negotiator for British Gas in the UK, India and Brazil, before commencing ordination training in 2004. Canon John Nightingale—retired last year as Vicar of Rowley Regis. Simon Lee—is a solicitor at Anthony Collins. Muhammad Imran — is the Development Education Manager at Islamic Relief. There will be input from the speakers, time for refreshments and then a further session for questions and discussion. All are welcome

Cost: free entry, donations plate

Organised by:

For more information, contact:

Name: Contact Rev'd Priscilla White

Telephone:

E-mail: priscillawhite.harborne@btinternet.com

Carrs Lane Lectures on Radical Christian Faith

09/10/2008

Date: 09 October 2008**Venue:** Carrs Lane URC, Birmingham

6 pm and end at 7.30 pm. The overall theme is 'Theologies of the Excluded': 'Theology of those excluded because of their colour' Dr Mukti Barton teaches Black and Asian Liberation Theology and the Bible and Liberation at The Queen's Foundation. All welcome.

Cost: £4.00**Organised by:****For more information, contact:**

Name:

Telephone: 0121-643 6151

E-mail: office@carrslane.co.uk

Growing with God 2: Building Bridges - Empowering Children's Leaders

11/10/2008

Date: 11 October 2008**Venue:** Carrs Lane Church Centre

9.00am - 4.00pm Growing With God 2 is for everyone who is enthusiastic about their work with children: · Volunteer helpers & leaders · Paid children's, family & youth workers · Bishop's Certificate students · Readers & Clergy Sometimes children's work can feel isolated from the wider life of the church and local community. This conference aims to strengthen our foundations and build bridges with children between generations, within the church and with the wider community.

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

Name: Jelena Cammack

Telephone: 0121 426 0435

E-mail: J.Cammack@birmingham.anglican.org

Tuesday Talks

14/10/2008

Date: 14 October 2008

Venue: Birmingham Cathedral

Time: 1.10 - 1.40 pm. With The Revd 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

Changing Attitude - "On being Anglican"

14/10/2008

Date: 14 October 2008

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

Start: 7.30 pm The Revd Dr Andrew Smith, Vicar of All Saints, West Bromwich "On being Anglican" The media describe those opposed to homosexuality in the Church as "traditionalists". But what is the Anglican tradition and how should it inform the debate and the way we treat each other?

Cost:

Organised by:

For more information, contact:

Name: Michael Conway-Jones

Telephone: 0121 246 1697

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

Holy Communion Service

15/10/2008

Date: 15 October 2008

Venue: Birmingham Cathedral

Time: 1.10 - 1.50 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

16/10/2008

Date: 16 October 2008

Venue: Birmingham Cathedral

Time: 1.10 - 1.50 pm. With Canon Henry Burgess.

Cost:

Organised by: Birmingham Cathedral

For more information, contact:

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

Springs Dance Company presents Living the Eucharist.

16/10/2008

Date: 16 October 2008

Venue: Birmingham Cathedral

Start: 7.30 pm. Springs Dance Company bring their exciting new work 'Living the Eucharist' www.SpringsDanceCompany.org.uk

Cost: free

Organised by: Springs Dance Company

For more information, contact:

Name: Joanne Lyons
Telephone:
E-mail: sjowennetje@hotmail.com

Carrs Lane Lectures on Radical Christian Faith

16/10/2008

Date: 16 October 2008

Venue: Carrs Lane URC, Birmingham

6 pm - 7.30 pm. The overall theme is 'Theologies of the Excluded' .
'Theology of those excluded by their sexuality' Professor Lisa
Isherwood is Professor of Feminist Liberation Theologies at the
University of Winchester. All welcome.

Cost: £4.00

Organised by:

For more information, contact:

Name:

Telephone: 0121-643 6151

E-mail: office@carrslane.co.uk

Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Arrival of Empire Windrush and Black History Month

18/10/2008

Date: 18 October 2008

Venue: St Paul, Balsall Heath Edward Road and Mary Street
Birmingham, B12 9JU

Time: 9.30am-2.00pm (with lunch) We will take pride in our cultural roots and learn about Black people in the Bible and in history. Come with your friends and family if possible, in the dress that reflects your cultural roots, to rejoice in the diversity of God's creation. For a reply card please ring Andrea at the Diocesan Office.

Cost:

Organised by: Black & Asian Network

For more information, contact:

Name: Andrea Stevens

Telephone: 0121 426 0429

E-mail:

Centenary celebration organ recital by Roy Massey

18/10/2008

Date: 18 October 2008

Venue: St Michael's Church Handsworth

Start: 7.30pm Celebrating 100th birthday of historic (virtually original condition) 3 manual Norman and Beard organ. Including music by Johann Sebastian Bach, Samuel Wesley, Henry Purcell, Percy Granger, Charles Marie Widor. Tickets on the door or in advance from Mr K Thompson.

Cost: Tickets £6/£5 concessions

Organised by:

For more information, contact:

Name: Mr Thompson

Telephone: 07950 156355

E-mail:

Taize Service

19/10/2008

Date: 19 October 2008

Venue: St.James Church, Church Road, Shirley B90 2AX

Start: 6 pm. Taize Service lead by an ecumenical group of musicians
All are welcome.

Cost:

Organised by:

For more information, contact:

Name: Revd. Sue Height

Telephone: 0121 705 6586

E-mail:

Asylum Seekers Vigil in the Churchyard

20/10/2008

Date: 20 October 2008

Venue: Birmingham Cathedral

Time: 5 - 6 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

21/10/2008

Date: 21 October 2008

Venue: Birmingham Cathedral

Time: 1.10 - 1.40 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

Choral Communion with the St Philip's Singers

22/10/2008

Date: 22 October 2008**Venue:** Birmingham Cathedral

Time: 1.10 - 1.50 pm.

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

Name: Carol Currier

Telephone: 0121 262 1840

E-mail: carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com

Carrs Lane Lectures on Radical Christian Faith

23/10/2008

Date: 23 October 2008**Venue:** Carrs Lane URC, Birmingham

6 pm and end at 7.30 pm. The overall theme is 'Theologies of the Excluded': 'Redundant to the economy - redundant to the church?' The Revd Kathy Galloway is the Leader of the Iona Community. All welcome.

Cost: £4.00**Organised by:****For more information, contact:**

Name:

Telephone: 0121-643 6151

E-mail: office@carrslane.co.uk

A day conference to debate 'The Diaconal Church' Beyond the mould of Christendom

23/10/2008

Date: 23 October 2008**Venue:** The Queens Foundation, Somerset Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham

Time: 9.30 to 4.00 pm. This conference will debate the diaconal model of church presented in David Clark's seminal book Breaking the Mould of Christendom – kingdom community, diaconal church and the liberation of the laity (Epworth, 2005) and discussed by a number of eminent scholars in The Diaconal Church (Epworth, 2008). Some

issues we will be discussing: Is 'the mould of Christendom' still holding us captive? Does the diaconal church offer us a significant model of the future church? What might a diaconal church look like in practice? Are 'fresh expressions' supported or challenged by a diaconal model of church? Speakers include: David Clark (Author of Breaking the Mould of Christendom)

Cost: Cost: £25 (including lunch and refreshments)

Organised by:

For more information, contact:

Name: David Clark

Telephone: 01629 810172

E-mail: david@clark58.eclipse.co.uk

Families for Peace are organising their annual Memorial Service

25/10/2008

Date: 25 October 2008

Venue: St Martin in the Bullring

Time: 12:00 -13:30 To remember and celebrate the lives of all loved ones who have passed. To Assemble and encourage bereaved families. To assemble our diverse communities to collectively declare our unity and strength against violence in all its forms. To declare to perpetrators of crime that there can be forgiveness and healing and a chance for them to change their ways. To encourage all who are working for peace to stand together.

Cost:

Organised by: Families for Peace Ltd

For more information, contact:

Name: Ms Gleen Reid

Telephone: 0121-327-6209

E-mail: familiesforpeace@hotmail.co.uk

Birmingham Early Music Festival 2008 Concert

25/10/2008

Date: 25 October 2008

Venue: Birmingham Cathedral

Time: 7.30 - 10.00 pm.

Cost:

Organised by: Birmingham Cathedral

For more information, contact:

Name: Carol Currier

Telephone: 0121 262 1840

E-mail: carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.com

Consecration of the New Bishop of Aston

28/10/2008

Date: 28 October 2008

Venue: St Paul's Cathedral, London

The consecration of the Revd Andrew Watson, Bishop of Aston elect, as Bishop.

Cost:

Organised by:

For more information, contact:

Name: Bishop's Office

Telephone: 0121 427 1163

E-mail: c.wright@birmingham.anglican.org

Holy Communion Service

29/10/2008

Date: 29 October 2008

Venue: Birmingham Cathedral

Time: 1.10 - 1.50 pm.

Cost:

Organised by: Birmingham Cathedral

For more information, contact:

Name: Carol Currier

Telephone: 0121 262 1840

E-mail: carol.currier@birminghamcathedral.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

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

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:

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Top](#)

Vacancies

Incumbent - St Gabriel Weoley Castle

Salary: Diocesan incumbent stipend plus housing
Closing date for applications:10/10/2008

For further information

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

Assistant Minister (House for Duty) - Diocese of Coventry

Salary:
Closing date for applications:17/10/2008

For further information

Contact name:
Telephone: 01926 812383
E-mail: michael.greig@hotmail.co.uk

[Top](#)

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

[Site map](#) Website designed by [Morse-Brown Design](#) and [Penguin Boy](#)