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Messy Church launched at Wereham



Messy Church has been launched at Wereham parish. This is the first time it has taken place in this rural group of parishes.

Some 25 children of all ages attended the after school event taking part in arts and crafts, storytelling, worship and drama – all followed up by a sausage and mash supper.

The new project has been enabled with a grant of £960 from the diocesan Local Mission Projects Fund.

Parish priest, the Revd Barbara Burton, said: “We are delighted that so many children of all ages and some of their parents attended this first session. It’s been a continuation of work with families in our local community

following a revamping of our Christmas carol services to involve more children who do not normally attend church. That was successful with attendance numbers rising from about 10 in the previous year to 209 at last year’s carol service.



“Being enabled to set up Messy Church helps us to continue to support families in our community, and I much look forward to seeing how this benefits us all.”

Ely’s Director of Mission, the Revd Peter Wood, said: “Wereham parish church has seen an increasing number of baptisms and were keen to continue to develop their work with families. At the same time, the Village Hall Committee had begun to



recognise that school aged children were not being sufficiently provided for. So the concept of Messy Church has been welcomed by both groups – the children have been given a place to socialise and the church an opportunity to continue its work with these families.”

Further information about the Local Mission Projects Fund and how to apply, can be found here: [http://](http://www.ely.anglican.org/mission/lm-projects-fund.html)

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The Archdeacon of Cambridge retires

The Ven John Beer, Archdeacon of Cambridge, has retired after a long and flourishing ministry in the diocese.

In his tribute at John's leaving service on 2 March, Bishop Stephen spoke of 'the remarkable and redoubtable John Beer' who 'made God real for so many people, myself included'.

John has been Archdeacon of Cambridge since 2004, before which time he was Archdeacon of Huntingdon and Wisbech. He has served in various commuter parishes of the diocese and has spent a significant amount of his ministry being involved with colleges at Cambridge University.

He was Chaplain of Fitzwilliam College and New Hall from 1974-1980, Fellow of Fitzwilliam College from 1977, and has also been Director of Ordinands, Director of Studies for new clergy and Readers, and taught in the Cambridge theological colleges and Cambridge University. He became a Bye-Fellow of Fitzwilliam College in 2001 where he is the wine steward.

Prior to ordination John read Theology at Pembroke College, Oxford, during which time he represented the University at tennis, and then worked for some years in Advertising, Marketing and Finance at Rowntrees.

The bishop paid tribute to John's work and witness to the wider Christian world – particularly his work with the Lutheran Nord Kirche in Germany.

The bishop gave thanks to God for all the vocations that John has nurtured over the years. And finally 'for the bereaved and for the joyful that you have prayed with; for the transformative power of your preaching and teaching, and for the liveliness and joy you have brought to all of us.'

The full text of Bishop Stephen's tribute can be found at: http://www.ely.anglican.org/news_events/news_items/12Mar14.html

Bishop Stephen's Lent Challenge



It is fast becoming a "tradition" that each year Bishop Stephen issues a "Lent Challenge" to all the schools of the diocese to observe Lent in a meaningful way.

This year there is a particular emphasis on prayer and worship, but each week children will also be doing something very practical relating to themes such as "our families", "our community" and "our world", as well as sharing the news of Lent and Easter. The Lent materials are all available on www.stir-up.org.uk

Pictured are children from Brington School who have taken up this year's challenge.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Ely Cathedral – Honorary Canons

Five new Honorary Canons and one Lay Canon and one Etheldreda Canon - Evensong on Tuesday 13 May 2014.

Honorary Canons:

The Revd Canon Linda Church, Director of Ministry

The Revd Dave Male, Diocesan Fresh Expressions Advisor

The Revd Dr Jessica Martin, Priest in Charge of Duxford, Hinxton and Ickleton

The Revd Annette Reed, Vicar of The Paxtons with Diddington and Rural Dean of St Neots

The Rt Revd Rowan Williams DD, Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge - Evensong on Tuesday 25 November 2014.

Lay Canon:

Mrs Sarah Squire, President of Hughes Hall, Cambridge and Member of the Ely Cathedral Chapter

Etheldreda Canon: Professor Eamon Duffy, Professor of the History of Christianity, University of Cambridge

The Revd Stephen

Bowring has been appointed Priest in Charge of Spaldwick, Easton and Barham and Woolley and was licenced on 16 February. This is in addition to his present post as Vicar of The Kym Valley benefice.

The Revd Jason Taylor has been appointed Priest in Charge of Ellington and Grafham and was licenced on 16 February. This is in addition to his present post as Priest in Charge of Brampton.

The Revd Canon Nicholas Moir has been appointed as Priest in Charge of Cambridge St Clement. He will be licenced on 19 July. This is in addition to his present post as Vicar of Chesterton St Andrew and Rural Dean of Cambridge North.

The Revd Stephen Anderson has been appointed Associate Priest (to be known as Priest Vicar) of Cambridge St Clement. He will be licenced on 19 July. Stephen holds at present Permission to Officiate in the diocese.

Whole school at ashing service



On Ash Wednesday, some 100 children came forward for ashing in a special service held at Brighton Church of England Primary School.

Bishop Stephen, and parish priest, the Revd Brenda Stewart, led the service with children of all ages contributing through the readings and prayers, and also providing the music.

The bishop said: "It was a privilege to join with all these children to mark the beginning of Lent. Every one of them came forward, as well as parents who were present and some teachers.

"This is a school with which the parish church works very closely,

and the fruit of that is evidenced in the strong sense of Christian ethos and the happy and confident children that are there."



The Revd Brenda Stewart said: It's wonderful having a church school at the heart of my group of rural parishes. Both as governor and parish priest I am welcomed as part of the school family and it is such fun to be able to drop by and join in with what's going on. "We were all thrilled that Bishop Stephen was able to be with us for our Ash Wednesday service at the



Ashes to go

Clergy in St Neots took the Ash Wednesday ceremony of receiving the cross on the forehead in ash to the streets of their town.

Revd Paul Andrews, Vicar of St Neots, and Revd Debbie Noonan, Rector of Eynesbury prayed for and anointed people that they met.

Revd Andrews said: "The tradition of making the sign of the cross in ashes on the forehead is a symbol of the start of Lent. We are offering prayer and ashing on the streets of our town as a visible sign of Christian witness. And to give those who have no opportunity to go to church to receive the ministry of Christ's forgiveness as Lent begins."



The Revd Susan Simpson has been appointed as Rector of Somersham, Pidley-cum-Fenton, Old Hurst and Woodhurst. She will be licenced on 10 September. Susan at present is Curate at Soham and Wicken. Her last Sunday will be 10 August.

The Revd Christopher Lowe has been appointed as Minister to the Orchard Park Mission Initiative, to be known as The Leader of the Mission Initiative. Chris was licenced on 25 February.

It is with great sadness that we announce the death on 8 March of **the Revd David Payne**, who had permission to officiate in the diocese.

Connecting Seminar - a new approach to mission

At the end of January a seminar was held to explore new ways of developing mission.



Over 90 people attended the event in

Cottenham and heard about new and distinctive ways in which churches were engaging with their local communities. These outreaches often started from very simple ideas, but were successful because the churches had listened to the people in their communities, and were meeting their needs.

The Ugly Duckling Company presented some of the new resources they have developed to encourage parishes to ask questions about life and faith.

Revd Peter Wood, Director of Mission, said: "The morning was very well received by those who came. We heard many stories and were encouraged by the enthusiasm of those sharing what they were doing. Connections were made between different groups of people.

"At least 14 churches went away planning to use some of the resources from Ugly Duckling, but most importantly a conversation was started about sharing faith and engaging with groups of people who are not currently part of any church."

Clergy stewardship day

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64 members of diocesan clergy attended the Stewardship Day on the 25 February hosted by Bishop Stephen. John Preston, the National Stewardship Officer, offered inspiring workshops with presentations on all aspects of stewardship with special relevance to clergy. Topics included

such things as preaching and teaching about money and tools and techniques to use to raise and save money. Paul Evans spoke about developing the diocesan vision and practical steps we can all take as we move forward on our collective journeys.

John's Presentation centered round God, Money & Generosity. What does it mean for me?

We were asked to consider a counter cultural approach to this theme, such as relinquishing the pride of ownership and acknowledging that everything belongs to God. Our giving should reflect God's giving to us in profusion of abundance – more than we can possibly imagine. Our giving should be spontaneous, but it should also be planned. It should be



proportionate, but not limited and it should be sacrificial, yet joyful. There are over 2000 verses in the bible that relate to wealth, money or possessions. Members of the Church of England give on average just over 3% of their income to the Church. In global terms we are in the top 8% of the wealthy on the planet. This calls us to pause and to consider our priorities in our lives as Christians today.

A link to the presentations is available at <http://www.parishresources.org.uk/ely2014/>

WHAT'S ON

Imprisoned, Healed, restored, Forgiven? Exploring Criminal Justice Monday 24 and 31 March and Monday 7 April at The Michaelhouse Centre in Cambridge. Starts at 12.45pm.

'Little Chapter' of the Sacred Heart of Jesus - Friday 4 April, 2 May and 6 June at Cambridge St Benedict. Starts at 1pm.

Hand in Hand - A Women's Day for the East of England on Saturday 29 March at All Saint's Church, Milton. Starts at 9.00am. Book online at www.allsaintsmilton.org.uk or contact All Saints Church Office on 01223 441007.

Early Good Friday on Tuesday 8 April at Ely Cathedral Presbytery starting at 9.00 am. This a special event for clergy and licensed lay ministers.

Archdeacon visitations service & swearing in on Wednesday 7 May at Ely Cathedral starting at 7.00pm.

Organ Recital by Marc Murray on Saturday 10 May at All Saint's Church, Elton. Starts at 7.30pm. Contact milton_chris_j@btinternet.com for more information.

Cursillo - Peterborough Diocese Clergy Taster Day on Tuesday 20 May. For more details please contact pbcursillo@gmail.com for an application form.

Flower Festival and Tower Tours on Saturday 17 May at All Saint's Church, Elton. Contact milton_chris_j@btinternet.com for more information.

Beachamwell Village Open Gardens on Sunday 1 June at 12 noon. For more information please contact 01366 328774 or williamsoldies@gmail.com.

The Emergent Christ on Friday 6th and Saturday 7 June at St Luke's Church, Norwich. Starts at 4.30pm. Ilia Delio is the guest speaker. For more information please contact Nicholas Vessey on 01603 416973 or nicholas@vessey.net or got to www.norwichmeditation.co.uk

Obituary of The Venerable James Rone

The Ven Jim Rone died in January after a long illness. A requiem mass held for him in Ely Cathedral on 10 February was packed. The Archdeacon of Cambridge, the Ven John Beer, prepared an obituary for Jim for the Church Times. It is now reproduced below in full.

Jim came to the diocese in 1982 from the diocese of Oxford having had a career in finance before ordination. His first post was as priest in charge in the parishes of Fordham, and, a little later, Kennett.

In 1989, he left to become a Canon Residentiary at the cathedral, and in due course, Canon Treasurer, before his appointment as Archdeacon of Wisbech in 1995.

One of his many roles was as an Bishop's Adviser for Hospital Chaplaincy, but he also provided invaluable financial guidance and support to the Finance Committee and its associated committees. He served on numerous other diocesan committees, and was well-known in Cambridgeshire and West Norfolk as a kind and attentive pastor to laity and clergy alike.

On his retirement in 2002, he maintained his links both with Ely and the diocese, as his wife, Mary, continued her work in the Diocesan Office, and had a particular care for the liturgical life and pastoral care of Bishop Woodford Retreat House over the years.

He loved the diocese of Ely, its people and its cathedral and, at a time of major change in the Church of England and its parishes, he remained open to the need for a more realistic approach to mission, while being skilled and gracious in managing change.

As a priest with strong affiliations to the Anglo-Catholic tradition in the Church of England, he was meticulous, yet unfussy, deeply devotional and disciplined, and above all faithful to his Lord, particularly at times when long-term illness made his life more than a little difficult. Supported by his beloved Mary, he loved life and the giving of himself to other people, and he was an encourager, a priest who sought to bring out the best in others, often in times of conflict and change.

In retirement, he loved to watch cricket and rugby, and to be part of the wider Ely community.

As we express our great sympathy to Mary and her family, we rejoice in, and give thanks for, Jim's distinguished and kind-hearted contribution to the life of the diocese.

Bishop John Flack delivered the sermon at Jim's mass. You can find it here:
http://www.ely.anglican.org/news_events/news_items/11feb14.html

The Ven Jim Rone was a clerical member of the Ely Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers and eight members of the association rang a quarter peal at St Mary's Church Ely to celebrate his life and work on the morning of 10 February.

Those involved were: Alan Winter, Marion Robinson, Janet Garnett, Sheila George, Simon Smith, Nick Elks, Phillip George and Barbara Le Gallez.



Church Fete on Sunday 8 at The Hall, Church Lane, Burrough Green. BBQ and Beer Tent from 1.00pm, Stalls from 2.00pm.

Messy Cathedral - The Sequel on Saturday 7 June at Ely Cathedral. Starts at 10.00 am. For more information please contact Julia Chamberlin on 07837 699016 or julia.chamberlin@ely.anglican.org.

Open Gardens on Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 June at Fenstanton. Starts at 1.00pm. For further details please contact ian@fenstanton.net

Celebrating 150 years - Christchurch Parish Church on Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 June. Starts at 12 noon.

Blessing the plough and giving thanks for our farmers



A special service to pray for farmers in our region, and for farming communities around the world was held in St Nicolas Church, Hail Weston on Plough Sunday.

Bishop Stephen Conway, joined by farmers and their families, blessed an early twentieth century plough that had been brought into the church.

The bishop said: "Plough Sunday is a welcome opportunity to give thanks to God for our farmers and their vocation to provide our food. It is also exciting to celebrate the development of farming technology from the

horse-drawn plough to GPS guided machinery.

"We are an innovative region and I pray that what God inspires us to learn here will bring benefits to struggling and hungry farming communities around the world."



Rachel Beeson appointed Deputy Director of Education

Rachel Beeson has been appointed Deputy Director of Education for School Effectiveness.

Rachel was previously head teacher of All Saints Inter-Church Academy in March and brings with her a wide variety of experience gained from working in schools, many of them church schools, throughout Norfolk and Cambridgeshire.

For the last eight months, she was working alongside the education department as a Patch Adviser and providing school improvement support to church schools within the diocese.

Welcoming Rachel to her new position, Director of Education Tricia Pritchard said:

"Rachel joined us at the end of February and has brought a wealth of experience of primary education as a head teacher and nationally accredited local leader in education.

"She is very well placed to assist us in ensuring that children in all our church schools have access to a high quality of education within an environment which reflects our Christian values and the communities that the schools serve."

Rachel said: "This is a really exciting time in Ely diocese where education focus is so forward looking and innovative. With the creation of the Diocesan Multi Academy Trust and the development of school to school support, I am delighted

to be taking a lead in school effectiveness. I look forward to better getting to know the people across the family of church schools in the diocese."

