



DIOCESE OF
LICHFIELD

GOING FOR GROWTH!

Edition 122

- 28th September 2006

The Bulletin

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The Broadcasting Bulletin

Items for inclusion by
email please to:
bulletin@lichfield.anglican.org

Whats On listings to:
events@lichfield.anglican.org

The next edition is scheduled
for Wednesday 4th October.

New legislation and regulations for all churches

Two new pieces of legislation come into force shortly which will affect ALL churches in the area of fire safety and charity registration.

The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 will repeal and replace over 100 pieces of previous fire safety laws and comes into effect on the 1st October. While basically constituting "tidying-up" legislation, the order does impose new obligations on churches and PCCs - and local Fire Authorities can take action against a "responsible person" if the regulations aren't being followed.

The regulations are not onerous - for example churches do not have to have fire alarm systems, fire exit signs, emergency lighting or outward opening doors - so long as a risk assessment has been carried out showing that these are not necessary.

The Ecclesiastical Insurance Group have prepared some guidance notes about the new regulations and these can be downloaded from The Intranet, along with a guide to arson prevention. The guidance notes contain links to Government websites where further information can also be obtained.

Remaining on The Intranet is the checklist for churches and places of worship which has been produced for use by the West Mercia Arson Task Force - and although prepared by a senior officer of the Shropshire Fire Service, they have also been approved and recommended for use by both the Staffordshire and West Midlands Fire Services. It is recommended that a competent person works through the check list at least once a year.

Finally, on fire prevention, a reminder from EIG that Dry Powder Extinguishers should not be used - or placed - in churches. Whilst effective at fighting fires, the powder is extremely corrosive. One church is facing a bill of more than £300,000 after vandals set off a dry powder extinguisher in their church. To prevent corrosion causing damage to the church it is being thoroughly cleaned - requiring the erection of scaffolding and the stripping of the pipe organ.

The EIG recommend a combination of Water and CO2 extinguishers be made available for use in churches - these must, of course, be checked regularly.

The Charities Act will require PCCs with incomes over £100,000 to register with the Charity Commission on the expiry of the current temporary exception on 1st October 2007.

The Charity Commissioners offer a streamlined registration process for charities with 'standard governing documents' and have agreed that section 2 of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 and the Church Representation Rules are such a document.

Work is taking place with the Charity Commissioners to produce suitable guidance notes and application forms and these will be made available in due course. PCCs should therefore take no action on this new requirement until they receive further information from the Diocese.

Bulletin & Website Updates

As stated in the last edition of *The Bulletin*, all Lichfield Diocesan websites have been moved to a new server.

We had anticipated short-term difficulties with access to the sites for the 24 to 48 hour period after the migration, but, unfortunately, we also experienced unexpected difficulties caused by the way the Diocesan computers access the websites.

In effect, this meant that updates to the Intranet and website were only visible to staff and not accessible to people not using diocesan internet connections.

These technical problems led to the delay to last week's Bulletin.

This has finally been rectified and the Intranet has now been fully updated to show the new content.

Updates include new information about fire safety regulations, updates to the vacancies and what's on sections, the October prayer diary and a new portal for the Social Responsibility team.

All parishes who have websites hosted by the diocese should check to ensure that the correct version is showing and that their FTP details are working.

Please note that all old parish website files - those still stored on "lichfield.anglican.org" will be deleted at the end of October.

All parish websites should now be stored only on the new portal: "churches.lichfield.anglican.org"

In case of difficulty please contact Gavin Drake on 01543 - 425425.

If your parish has a website which is hosted elsewhere please ensure that details are sent to Andrew Cooper, the database administrator for inclusion in the online directories.

What's On (and what's *not* on!)

ON - Rural Churches Day

The Stoke Archdeaconry are holding a day of support and encouragement for rural churches and their congregations.

"*We Plough The Fields*" will feature worship, teaching, sharing and encouragement and will be led by the Rt Revd Dr Gordon Mursell, Bishop of Stafford; Dr Jill Hopkinson, the Church of England's national rural officer; and the Revd Peter Walley, Chaplain to the Bishop of Lichfield.

There is good news for rural congregations from a recent analysis of church attendance in our area. This suggests that rural congregations, and in particular the smaller ones, are faring better than those in the urban areas.

But Bishop Gordon says: "being part of a small rural church can often feel like a picture suggested by that well known harvest hymn 'We plough the fields and scatter'.

"Much of the time life can appear lonely and hard as we plough what can appear to be a lone furrow in the hope of scattering the good seed that can grow. That growth comes from God enriching our efforts."

He added: "'We plough the fields' is a day of encouragement; a day to be reminded that there are many rural people living out their faith in North Staffordshire. A time to be able to share the joys of being part of a small congregation, and a time to hear what others are doing to head for growth. All this enveloped in worship and the eucharist."

The day will include worship and Bible study led by the Bishop Gordon; an opportunity to share joys and hopes with like minded people; information about likely changes in rural communities; local people telling their stories about mission and ministry; pointers to resources and concluding communion

There is no charge for the day. Tea, coffee and cakes will be provided but participants should bring a packed lunch.

A flier giving more information about the day can be downloaded from the "What's On" section of The Intranet.

It would be helpful if you could express your interest by the 5th October by filling in the form on the flier and returning it to the Archdeacon of Stoke's office.

ON - Set All Free

2007 marks the bi-centenary of the passing of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act and a year of campaigns is being planned to help put an end to all modern-day forms of slavery.

Churches Linked Across Staffordshire and the Potteries (CLASP) are holding an information and briefing morning on Saturday the 7th October at Trinity Methodist Church in Stafford Town Centre with Richard Reddie, project director of the Set All Free campaign.

ON - Historic Churches Lecture

Susan Rowe, who ran the 'Rural Churches in the Community' programme, will give the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust autumn lecture at 7:30pm on Thursday 26th October at The Methodist Church in Broad Street, Ludlow, talking about "The Rural Church of tomorrow".

ON - Selwyn Lecture

A final reminder that the Revd Dr Graham Tomlin will deliver this year's Selwyn Lecture at Lichfield Cathedral on the 18th October.

Described as 'an accomplished theologian and great fun,' Dr Tomlin is the author of 'Spiritual Fitness: Developing Character in a Consumer Society', and in his lecture he will critique the whole notion of physical fitness and ask, tongue in cheek, what churches can learn from gyms.

The Selwyn Lecture is one of the red-flag days within the diocese and provides an opportunity not only for clergy and laity to come together for teaching and study, but also for networking and catching up with old friends and colleagues from across the diocese, as the Revd Preb Colin Thomas, a regular attender at Selwyn Lectures, explained: "I have always tried to come to the morning or evening lectures and have encouraged our Parish staff and congregations to do the same. I see each of these yearly occasions as a great opportunity to hear gifted speakers with often in-depth theological and practical experience.

"Each year has tried to focus on a mission or pastoral aspect of ministry from different Christian theological understandings. It is an opportunity in our busy Parish life to set aside this time to better equip and understand our ministry in a rapidly changing world.

"It is also good to renew friendships and have fellowship over a cuppa with those we don't see very often in such a large Diocese as Lichfield. It must be good because people from beyond our own Diocese - they know where good things are to be found!!"

The Revd Pam Freeman, another regular at the Selwyn Lectures, agreed, saying: "I find the lectures to be though provoking and stimulating. The one Gerry Hughes did was particularly so. I find the lectures that are relevant to issues of the day and living the life of faith in today's context especially good. As long as the lecturer is a good speaker who can engage with both interested lay people and clergy, who are the ones who often have to make the connections, the lectures are very worthwhile."

For more information - or to confirm attendance - please contact Janet Wallis in the Ministry office on 01543 - 306222 or by email: janet.wallis@lichfield.anglican.org.

OFF - Going for Growth

The Wolverhampton Area Going for Growth day, originally planned for Saturday 14th October 2006 has been postponed. It will now be held on Saturday 10th March 2007.

Please notify this change of date to everybody who might need to know.

OFF - ClergySafe Seminar

The ClergySafe Seminar, scheduled to be held on the 3rd October 2006 at Albrighton has been cancelled through lack of interest. If you have concerns over personal safety and would like tips on improving your vicarage or church please contact National Churchwatch on 01749 344992.

Gazette

Clergy Movements

The Revd Rod **CLARK**, Team Vicar of Christ Church, Cobridge in the Hanley Team Ministry; to be also Associate Priest of St Luke's, Wellington, Hanley

The Revd Mark **IRELAND**, Lichfield Diocesan Missioner and Team Vicar in the Walsall Team; to be Vicar of All Saints Wellington with St Catherine Eyton

The Ven John **HALL**, Archdeacon of Salop and Vicar of Tong; to be also Chairman of the Lichfield Diocesan Pastoral Committee

The Revd Dr David **HEYWOOD**, Area Sector Minister for Stoke Deanery and Ministry Development; to be Lecturer in Pastoral Theology Ripon College, Cuddesdon (Oxford)

The Revd Dr Hannah **LEWIS**, NS Associate Minister in the with Central Telford Team and Outreach Worker with Shropshire Christian Association with Deaf People; to be Team Leader for Pastoral Services among Deaf People (Liverpool)

The Revd Peter **LISTER** has retired as Director of Education wef 13th Sept 2006; becoming Education Consultant to the Board of Education until 15 January 2007

The Revd Karen **LOWTHER**, Full Time Team Vicar of The Holy Ascension, Lower Farm in the Bloxwich Team Ministry; to be Half Time

The Revd Preb Bob **PAYNE**, Sessional Chaplain at HMP & YOI Stoke Heath, Sessional Chaplain at HMP & YOI Swinfen Hall and Prebendary of Curborough in Lichfield Cathedral; to be Sessional Chaplain at HMP & Remand Centre Foston Hall and Sessional Chaplain at HMP & YOI Swinfen Hall.

The Revd Gay **PYE**, PTO in Stafford Deanery; to be Resident Minister at Rosthwaite & Grange-in-Borrowdale (Carlisle)

The Revd Peter **SELLICK**, Resident Minister of St Mary Magdalene Charlemont Farm, West Bromwich in the Benefice of All Saints; to be also Sandwell Churches Link Officer. The Revd Richard **TRETHEWEY**, Curate of Biddulph; to be Associate Vicar of Knowle St John (Birmingham)

The Revd Garry William **WARD**, Curate of Wednesfield St Thomas; to be Team Vicar of Wordsley St Clare (Worcester)

Lay Movements

Mrs Jennifer **McNEIL**, Lay Project Worker at The Branch, West Bromwich St Philip resigned wef 4th August

Mr Oli **NICHOLLS**, Sandwell Churches Link Officer; has resigned to take up a new post with The Big Lottery Fund

Retirements and Resignations

The Revd Preb Colin **THOMAS**, Vicar of Brownhills with Ogley Hay and Prebendary of Bobbenhull in Lichfield Cathedral; will retire wef 30th November 2006 and is appointed Prebendary Emeritus of Lichfield Cathedral from 1st December 2006.

The Revd Ian **WILLIAMS**, Vicar of Lichfield Christ Church and Secretary of the Lichfield Diocesan Redundant Churches Uses Committee; will retire wef 8th December 2006.

Deaths

The Revd Roy **WHITELEY** died on 24 August 2006

Vacancies

The Vacancies section of The Intranet has been updated.

A variety of positions are currently being advertised from a pioneer leader of a new missional community in West Bromwich, to an Incumbent-Elect of Weston Rhyn.

Ordinations

The following people will be ordained Deacon by the Rt Revd Jonathan Gledhill, Bishop of Lichfield, at Lichfield Cathedral on 1st October 2006 and appointed to the positions indicated.

Mrs Linda **BEECH**, Non Stipendiary Curate of Lapley and Wheaton Aston and of Blymhill with Weston-under-Lizard

Sister Susan (Sue) **BOYCE** CA, Non Stipendiary Curate of Rushall

Mrs Christine **BROAD**, Curate of Newchapel

Sister Linda **DUCKERS** CA, Curate of Leek and Meerbrook

Mrs Ethney **ELLWOOD**, Ordained Local Minister of St Peter Marchington

Mr Robert **FARMER**, Curate of St Chad Lichfield

Miss Sarah **GILES**, Curate of Central Telford

Mrs Vivienne (Viv) **HATTON**, Curate of Heath Town

Captain Andrew Ronald **KNIGHT** CA, Resident Minister with responsibility for Bradwell St Barnabas, Wolstanton

Mrs Margaret **MATTOCKS**, Curate of Tettenhall Regis

Mr Shaun **MORRIS**, Curate of The Westlands

Mr Peter **NISBECK**, Non Stipendiary Curate of Newcastle under Lyme with Butterton St Thomas

Mrs Elizabeth (Liz) **ROE**, Ordained Local Minister of Rushall

Mr Charles **RUXTON**, Ordained Local Minister in Meole Brace

Mrs Paula **SMITH**, Curate of Walsall St Matthew

Dr Leonie (Lee) Marjorie **WHEELER**, Curate of Welington Christ Church and of Hadley Holy Trinity

Coming, Going and Staying

Consistory Court

The Diocese of Lichfield has a new Chancellor and Deputy Chancellor following the retirement of Judge John Shand.

The former Deputy Chancellor, Judge Marten Coates, is the new Chancellor; and Judge Sybil Thomas is the new Deputy.

Her Honour Judge Sybil Thomas was called to the Bar (Gray's Inn) in 1976. She was authorised to sit as an Assistant Recorder in 1993 and appointed a Recorder in 1997. She was appointed a Circuit Judge, assigned to the Midland Circuit, in November 2005.

His Honour Judge Marten Coates was called to the Bar (Inner Temple) in 1972. He was appointed an Assistant Recorder on the Midland and Oxford Circuit in 1989, and a Recorder in 1993. In 1997 he was appointed a Circuit Judge, and also Deputy Chancellor of the Diocese of Lichfield.

Mission Office

There are to be changes to the Mission Office with the departure of Diocesan Missioner Mark Ireland and his PA Jane Burke.

Jane is leaving to become secretary of a Roman Catholic school in Lichfield.

While Mark is leaving to become Vicar of All Saints Wellington with St Catherine's Eyton. He said: "I remember that when Alan Smith handed the role of missioner over to me he

said it was the best job in the Church of England, and now I know he was right! It has been a wonderful privilege to work with parishes and deaneries of every tradition and see the many ways in which God is growing his church and his kingdom across the diocese."

Mark leaves his current role on 30th November and will be inducted on the 6th January 2007. Jane Burke leaves on the 19th October.

Longest Priest

Congratulations to Father Raymond Bristow who this month celebrated a record-breaking 70-years since his priesting at Lichfield Cathedral in 1936.

Father Raymond continues to hold the Bishop's Permission to Officiate and still takes services regularly at St James' Church in Norton Canes. He is officially the longest-serving priest in the Church of England.

The Bishop of Ebbsfleet, the Rt Revd Andrew Burnham, said: "I pay tribute to Father Raymond's amazing and dedicated achievement of 70 years as a priest. His lifetime as a priest reminds us that there is no calling more wonderful, no better way of living your life."

The Rector of Norton Canes, the Revd Neil Hibbins added: "It's rather humbling in this new century to stand at the Altar with an Edwardian!"

Charlesworths Electrician. Congleton

Parishes preparing for electrical works and considering using Charlesworth Electricians of Congleton, Cheshire, are advised to speak to the DAC for advice first.

Central Services Review

It is still possible to make your views known about the centrally provided services. The quick survey is available online at lichfield.anglican.org/survey. If you have not already done so please take part and ensure your voice is heard as centrally provided services are reviewed.

Snippets

Foundations for Ministry

The Diocese of Lichfield's one-year Foundations for Ministry course has been developed to be the first stage in theological training for those called to any kind of ministry in the church.

Shrewsbury Anglican Deanery is offering an expanded version of this course which is available to members of all churches in the Shrewsbury area. For further details please contact the Revd Richard Spencer on 01743 244891 or email: rds@htbv.org.uk

Jesus the Messiah

The Revd Dr R T France, formerly vice principal of London Bible College and principal of Wycliffe Hall, Oxford and the author of 'Matthew, Evangelist and Teacher' and the Tyndale commentary on Matthew is giving a series of talks headed Jesus the Messiah at Holy Trinity Church, Belle Vue. Details of the talks (on 6th October, 3rd November and the 8th December) can be found on the What's On Guide on the Internet.

Aireshelta

The diocese has an aireshelta available for hire - basically an inflatable semi-circular open tent which can be used as a shelter or stage area for children's holiday clubs, village greens, shopping centre displays, outdoor services, tourist centres, carol singing in the high street and many other similar (and dissimilar) events.

The aireshelta is stored at Dovedale House in Ilam and is packed into a trailer which can be hitched onto a suitably equipped car. Hire charges start at £20 per day (£40 for the 1st day). Call Dovedale for more information on 01335 350365.

Probation Service

Staffordshire Probation Services are looking for seven new board members and a chair to take up office in April 2007 in place of current members who have served a maximum six year period of office.

The closing date for applications is 23rd October for board members and 16th October for the board chair. Further information is available online at www.probationboard.co.uk or by phone: 0845 450 3283

Table sale

12 sturdy tables - "priced to make you happy!" are available from Penn Fields Parish in Wolverhampton. The tables (72cm high, 179cm width, 74cm depth) are suitable for garage, greenhouse, computer or train set and are just £10 each. For more information call 01902 - 341943.

Sexual Health Crisis

The Bishop of Lichfield will host a conference on the sexual health crisis among young people from 1:00pm on Monday 13th November at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital. It will be for clergy, lay leaders and health professionals. Please make a note of it in your diary - more details will be included in the next edition of The Bulletin.

Stolen Churchware

Sutton Coldfield police station is holding an amount of church silverware which was handed into them on 20th August and remains unclaimed - or reported missing! The items include a chalice marked with the medal of the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament.

If these might be yours, please contact Sutton Coldfield Police on 0845 113 5000

Broadcasting Bulletin

from the Archbishops' Council's Communications Unit

Saturday 30 September

Flog it! - 5.40pm BBC2
visits Canterbury Cathedral to see its architecture and restoration.

Sunday 1 October

Bells on Sunday - 5.43am R4
From St Peter and St Paul, Lingfield Surrey.

Something Understood - 6.05am R4
Surface Noise. Tom Robinson considers the atmospherics that accompany our lives; where meditation and prayer are more possible.

Sunday - 7.10am R4
Religious and ethical news, presented by Roger Bolton.

Sunday Worship - 8.10am R4
A harvest celebration from St Martin-in-the-Fields, led by Rev Nicholas Holtam.

Heaven & Earth with Gloria Hunniford - 10.00am BBC2
Coronation Street's William Roache looks at the weeks ethical stories; plus one man's efforts 'to help save the planet'.

Sunday Half Hour - 8.30pm R2
Roger Royle reflects on poverty and riches as he looks ahead to the feast of St Francis of Assisi.

Songs of Praise - 6.10pm BBC1
Katherine Jenkins talks to Sally Magnusson about her love of music, reflects on her faith, and performs some of her favourite hymns.

Panorama - 10.15pm BBC1
Sex crimes and the Vatican investigates allegations that a secret church directive is being used to silence victims of child sex abuse.

Monday 2 October

Daily Service - 9.45am R4 LW, Freeview & DAB
Led by the Rev Dr Bert Tosh

The Invention of Childhood - 3.45pm R4
6/30 How did the Puritan ethos affect children's lives after the Reformation?

Beyond Belief - 4.30pm R4 FM
Ernie Rea and his guests explore the place of faith in today's world.

A Seaside Parish - 7.00pm BBC2
2/8 series three. Following the Boscastle floods, the Rev Christine Musser is invited to the tsunami-hit coastline of Thailand.

Tuesday 3 October

The Choice - 9.00am R4
Michael Buerk talks to Mark Dowd, whose boyhood dream was to be a Dominican friar but who chose to leave the order when he fell in love.

Daily Service - 9.45am R4 LW, Freeview & DAB
Led by Conan Noel Vincent.

The Invention of Childhood - 3.45pm R4
7/30 Michael Morpurgo explores how the Puritan ethos affected family life.

Wednesday 4 October

Daily Service - 9.45am R4 LW, Freeview & DAB
Led by Mgr Tony Rogers

The Invention of Childhood - 3.45pm R4
8/30 Michael Morpurgo explores the expansion of boy's education.

Choral Vespers - 4.00pm R3
For the Feast of St Francis of Assisi from the Montserrat Abbey, Spain.

The Moral Maze - R4 8.00pm
New series, 1/11 with Michael Buerk.

Thursday 5 October

Daily Service - 9.45am R4 LW, Freeview & DAB
Led by Clair Jaquiss.

The Invention of Childhood - 3.45pm R4
9/30 Michael Morpurgo explores the regression in girl's education in the 16th/17th century.

My name is... - 8.00pm R4
3/3. Mohammed. A window into the rich and varied life of Britain's faith communities through the compelling personal stories of people who share the same name but lead very different lives.

Friday 6 October

Act of Worship - 9.45am R4 LW, Freeview & DAB
Led by the Rt Rev Stephen Oliver

The Interview - 3.00pm R4
5/5 The Good Shepherd – when a church is threatened with closure, the pastor sets out on a recruitment drive and meets an unlikely would-be parishioner.

The Invention of Childhood - 3.45pm R4
10/30 Michael Morpurgo explores the story of the Poor Law.

York Minster - 8.00pm BBC2
6/6. The summer barbecue turns a canon into an aspiring rock god and the Synod arrives in York.

Prayer for the Day - Daily 5.43am R4

Pause for Thought - Daily 6.15am and 9.15am R2

Thought for the Day - Daily 7.48am R4

Don't forget your BBC local radio station:
BBC Radio Derby BBC Radio Shrewsbury
BBC Radio Stoke BBC Radio WM

and local and national Christian radio:
Cross Rhythms City Radio Day One Radio
UCB Premier Christian Radio