

Connect



DIOCESE OF
BATH & WELLS

Changing Lives, Changing Churches for Changing Communities

Pastoral Care



As 'Changing Lives' develops and becomes more and more part of the bloodstream of every part of diocesan life, clergy have to take a fresh look at the way they exercise their ministry.

Working in local ministry teams and groups is different from being a solo parish priest, and brings new pressures to bear.

The diocese has a good track record of encouraging clergy to look for support systems and ways of developing and understanding their ministry. A new package of proposals coming from the report of a working party chaired by

Bishop Peter of Taunton builds on this record. The first aim of the proposals is to provide better and more appropriate resources for our ordained ministers, both in terms of pastoral and spiritual care, and in continuing ministerial and professional development. The second objective is to create an ethos in the diocese in which individual clergy take responsibility for their own well being and development as an example of good practice.

The proposals are in line with forthcoming changes to clergy terms of service and were fully endorsed by the Bishop's Council in January. They include 'essential' elements of support to be provided for all ministers. This covers ministerial review, spiritual direction, focussed continuing ministerial development, provision of appropriate professional

pastoral care for clergy and families, and Bishop's home visits in Lent. There is also a set of 'desirable' elements of support for ministers to choose as appropriate. These are better take up of supervision, consultancy, coaching and mentoring (through a diocesan directory of resources), regular times spent with colleagues in local ministry groups, and – a new development – work based learning groups set up in each Archdeaconry. These proposals were accepted enthusiastically at Diocesan Synod on 28 March.

More details will be coming out in a special communication.

Bishop Peter of Taunton

1100th Update



1100th youth pilgrims take a well earned break

Bishop Peter's walk around the diocese is now only weeks away. It really will be a historic event and for those who join him a unique place in that history. The website www.bw1100.org now includes details of all of the routes. You could even buy your anniversary polo shirt to wear on the Progress, as of course we expect the sun to shine! Watch out for the full range of anniversary goods for sale at the forthcoming Archdeacon Visitations, or order from the website.

Registration forms for the Walk to Wells (19 September) are now available online. We hope to raise thousands for

our diocesan Zambia Link Kit for Kids initiative and The Children's Society. The walk promises a great spectacle of large groups of walkers arriving in Wells from all corners of the diocese, and a very special evening's entertainment and refreshments at the Bishop's Palace will complete the day.

More details on the Day of Celebration, 4 July, are now online including how to book for music workshops. The local press have started to cover the day's preparation and the feeling of anticipation is building for this unique and un-missable event.

Message from the editor

Many thanks to those of you who sent me comments last month, it was great to hear the positive and the constructive! This month there is wider circulation and again your feedback is welcomed and vital.

Please get in touch to comment or with content for future issues (deadline 1 May). Please let me know if you wish to be added or removed from the circulation. We are encouraging electronic use of Connect to reduce costs and environmental impact

but hard copies can be sent to those unable to access email, the internet or receive a printed version from a colleague (Connect can be printed in black & white). Please contact Karen Bowers on 01749 685145 Karen.bowers@bathwells.anglican.org

Changing Lives – A Property Department Insight

The implications of the Changing Lives programme include the best use of resources, re-allocation of the centres for ministry, working in local ministry groups; alongside pragmatic factors such as the changes in numbers of clergy available. These all have a knock on effect on the property department, and a profound impact on the diocese's vision for provision of housing and parish amenity.

The main thrust of the department's work is to ensure incumbents and curates in training have a good standard of house provision, that the houses are in the right location and they are best placed to serve ministry into the future.

To this end change is inevitable. Many older houses, and those built since the war (to the 1970s) need to be upgraded to meet the needs for clergy and their families, and to ensure diocesan assets are managed efficiently to achieve value for money. Many upgrades raise questions from parishes, but they are real evidence of change and commitment to continuing ministry.

The department is currently debating the replacement of 'category C' houses; these are very large, have large gardens, are expensive to maintain for repairs

and from day to day for the incumbent. Replacements of course have sentimental and practical implications for Parishes, but in the true spirit of Changing Lives there must be a positive approach.

This also applies to other planning schemes for the parish facilities required for Changing Lives e.g. administrators' offices. These schemes, in conjunction with the Fund for Church Growth, can provide a support service for a new incumbent who may have additional Parishes and need practical support.

Sensible rationalising of all Diocesan properties will generate income to support other aspects of mission and training for example, and will also reduce day to day costs thereby minimising Common Fund increases and any call on reserves. This is sound management of assets.

This is only part of the bigger vision of Changing Lives. Tolerance and acceptance are necessary to achieve the vision and I hope this brief outline clarifies the property and asset management elements required as part of the restructuring of the Church for strengthening its future.

Paul Toseland, Diocesan Surveyor

Diocesan Synod March 2009

Well, my first diocesan synod. The presidential address set the scene, starting with a view from space to remind us of our common world. +Peter was warmly thanked and the room came together wonderfully. Indeed later there was almost a cheer from everyone for the Readers in attendance, following a very impressive group presentation on behalf of Readers Council. All this, and overwhelming support (after a lively debate) for the pastoral care proposals (covered on Page 1), also affirming 'no one alone'.

It was mentioned by one speaker 'I am 40 and think I could be the youngest person here – I hope not' (apologies if I am paraphrasing). Well he was not quite right, speaking for myself even if only just. My first reaction was why it matters what age people are; it is attitudes, faith, skills and knowledge that count and I often find myself looking to those older than myself

to inspire me. However I understand an underlying anxiety about age and the future of the Church.

At another point a positive call was made for growth; 'what about the young families, (their children being in faith schools) where are they?' This was within the debate on the recommendations of a financial review concerned with financial sustainability through the next 5 years or so. The varied proposals relate to both cost control and income increases. But of course the speaker was right, real sustainability in the long term must be about new churchgoers rather than maintenance.

I left the synod with far greater insight; particularly the challenges of combining finance and faith and of bringing together work and people in parishes and local communities into the wider community and work of the diocese as a whole.

The Rev. Jonathan Lloyd



The Reverend Jonathan Lloyd, Priest-in-Charge of Charlcombe with Bath St Stephen, has been appointed

Archdeacon of Germany and Northern Europe (Diocese in Europe).

The Diocese in Europe has been described as perhaps the most eccentric diocese of The Church of England - it covers one sixth of the world's land mass and nine time-zones! It is a thriving and growing diocese, with many refugee communities amongst its congregations.

Jonathan and his wife Sue move in July to Copenhagen, where he will also be Chaplain of St Alban's Church. "We will be sad to leave Bath and Wells, this is a wonderful diocese with wonderful people. But I look forward to new challenges and new contexts for mission and ministry.

The challenges are deep - in particular the economic disaster in Iceland, and the United Nations COP15 Climate Change Summit in Copenhagen this December. The congregations I will pastor are not just ex-pat communities. For example, In Finland there is a single congregation of 600 Anglicans who are Sudanese refugees who worship using the Book of Common Prayer in Arabic. There are many cultural and spiritual paradoxes to be found in the Diocese in Europe.

I am looking forward to it greatly."

Changing lives, changing churches, changing communities certainly is accepted as 'what we do', but the question is now 'where next' (more on that next month!).

Karen Bowers (age 38.5)

The full text of Bishop Peter's address is available on www.bathwells.org.uk.

Archdeacons' Visitations



The annual Archdeacons' Visitations take place during May. Archdeacons Nicola, John and Andy will meet churchwardens and clergy. For full details please go to www.bathandwells.org.uk and search for "visitations".

Administrators

And in the Church God has appointed... those with gifts of administration... (1 Cor 12 : 27-29). When Nick Denison and I found ourselves working together with administrators in Bath Deanery last year, we didn't realize that this was going to be the first of many workshops to support the work of administrators and parish and PCC secretaries. Their work is crucial to the mission and ministry of the Church and the Church has been slow in recognising the spiritual capacity of this role.

The aim of these workshops is to affirm administrators, PCC and parish secretaries in their role, provide a wider context than the parish or benefice for this work, consider the importance of working collaboratively and look at the possibility of developing a network of support.

*Jennifer Cole, School of Formation.
Tel 01749 685115*

Diocesan Board of Finance: Investments

As part of its stewardship of financial resources, the Board of Finance has carried out a review of its investments.

It has been decided to switch approximately half of the Board's investments, currently held by CCLA CBF Church of England Funds, to its investment advisor and stockbroker, Charles Stanley, for direct equity investment. The value of the total investment portfolio held by the Board at 31 December 2008 was just under £10m.

Since the end of 2005 Charles Stanley has managed the Board's corporate bond and UK gilt portfolio.

The effect of this switch is primarily in a more active management of the Board's equity investments which it is hoped will lead to an overall rise in investment income.

The Chairman of the Board of Finance, Dr Wyn Williams, commented "we have a responsibility to ensure that our investments are managed in the most effective manner for the benefit of the

40th Anniversary of the admission of women Readers: 9th May

It would have been a momentous milestone in the worship and ministry of the Church of England when women first appeared in chancels and pulpits wearing the blue scarf of a licensed Reader. Forty years may sound a long time, and yet 1969 doesn't seem that long ago!

Praise God that so many women have responded to a call to Reader ministry since then and have so enriched the whole offering of the Church.

We, along with the Central Readers' Council, encourage all Readers and clergy to highlight this anniversary and we hope that our women Readers will be asked to preach in their churches on 10th May. It will be an opportunity to speak about the ministry and witness our Lord does through them: it can enlighten and inspire others – even prompt a new sense of calling.

It gives me and all of us fresh opportunity to thank our women Readers for their very significant, active and committed service to Our Lord and this diocese.

John Reed, Warden of Readers

Diocese as a whole. We are looking forward to working closely with Charles Stanley who have an impressive track record of working with a number of other Dioceses".

It should be noted that the Board fully supports and adheres to the Ethical Investment Policy of the Church of England and that the switch of investments to Charles Stanley will not affect this.

Nick Denison, Diocesan Secretary

On the ground



Hey Jen. You OK? Good night eh?

I found this great video on me phone this morning. It's me in the gutter being helped up by a bloke in a blue anorak. I'll send it you if you want.

Looks like I fell off me shoes. Tell the

truth they were a bit high and were giving me right gip after a few hours. But it was Lynne's birthday an you gotta make an effort for a birthday. How you gonna pull if you ain't got good shoes on? Still I don't 'member falling. But I must of.

I like the bit where I keep saying it's OK I can get up and then falling over again cos I'm trying to video myself getting up so I only have one hand free. What's that all about then? D'you reckon someone spiked the drinks?

Anyway we'd had a few glasses of wine and then started doing the shots and one thing led to another and we were off to a club and then I can't remember. I think I went in a taxi and now it's tomorrow and I'm in bed with a head and this weird video.

Do you believe in angels Jen? Can't say I do. Anyway angels don't wear blue anoraks. Can you see what it says on his back? Street something.

I used to think that lying on your back in the gutter was a sign of a good night out but it looks cold. Can't believe I can't remember anything and still managed to video being rescued. I may have to have me mobile surgically removed one day, God's truth.

What's that? You've 'eard of them? Street pastors? Well that's just daft. Who'd volunteer to spend a night out in the cold helping people who get out of their skulls and fall off their shoes? I don't know anyone who'd do that. Sounds like a quick way to get beat up. Why would anyone do that without being paid?

Still, I'd like to say thank you. I'll have a word round see if anyone knows the guy. I don't think he saw me at my best.

See you.

Sooz
Somerset, April 2009

Things you may not know...

Prayer & Spirituality

Looking for a visiting speaker, or someone to lead a Quiet Day or Study Day? The diocesan prayer & spirituality group could help you make contact with the right person. We have a list of local speakers, with a wide variety of special interests and skills. In the first instance please contact Sarah Sheppard, tel 01225 421580, email bernina@givemail.co.uk.

Bath and Wells Cricket Team

The diocese has it's own cricket team, and as summer nears what better way to forget the stresses of ministry than an afternoon of leather on willow? We play in the Church Times Cup alongside a number of friendlies, with games on Monday afternoons or weekday evenings. This season we round off with the 1100th anniversary match at the county ground. The team is open to both clergy and licensed laypeople, to find out more please contact David Keen (01935 422286).

Back to Church Sunday

Last year 37,000 people were invited and welcomed back by 3,000 churches countrywide. This year's Back to Church Sunday (www.backtochurch.co.uk) is 27 September and the diocese has again signed up to take part. Helen Hickman is

the diocesan contact for information and to request an order form for the packs available (order by 22 May). Call Helen on 01749 685104 or email cfm@bathwells.anglican.org

Wells Cathedral

The two lay members of the Wells Cathedral Chapter will be retiring in April and it is being proposed that their number be increased to three such members. As a result the Cathedral Council have issued a notice to amend the Cathedral constitution accordingly.

Church Buildings

"Churches and Faith Buildings: Realising the Potential" identifies funding and support for faith groups that will enable them to adapt their buildings for community use and build on their capacity to engage at local and regional level (www.cofe.anglican.org).

Exploring Spirituality

The course details and registration form are now available for 2009/10 starting in the Autumn. For further details please see www.bathandwells.org.uk

SW together on the environment

The six South West dioceses, plus Oxford, have met (hosted by Bath &

Wells) and agreed a common approach to a number of environmental issues. The meeting generated many ideas on working together on energy procurement, production and conservation, and a working party was set up to take ideas forward. It is likely that common procurement of utilities, to be both environmentally sensitive utilities and offering savings, will be organised within 12 months.

Mission Shaped Ministry

There are 4 information/taster events for the forthcoming 'Mission Shaped Ministry' course. They are at 2-4pm or 7-9pm on 29 April at The Old Deanery, Wells, BA5 2UG and 30 April at St Luke's Church, Hatfield Rd, Bath, BA2 2BD. The course is nationally recognised and designed for all Christians concerned in any way about the Mission of God in today's world. More details on the course available on www.bathandwells.org.uk, by emailing cfm@bathwells.anglican.org or please call Helen Hickman on 01749 685104

Christian Aid Week 10-16 May

This year's Christian Aid Week focuses on the Democratic Republic of Congo. More information and resources for download can be found at www.christianaid.org.uk