

WORCESTER Diocesan News



March 2010

The Good News about Evangelism

Evangelism is a word that can bring groans from some and excitement from others. But why? Evangelism is about sharing a story, sharing the story of the good news of Jesus Christ, his Birth, Death, Resurrection, Ascension and the promise of his return. It is a story that changes lives and brings hope, and one that needs a response.

Many will feel comfortable with good pastoral care and good social programmes, which are also a necessary outworkings of our faith. These in themselves are Evangelism, they are opportunities to share the good news through deeds, which pleases our Father in heaven. But we also have a responsibility to share the good news in word too. We are called to give account of the hope that is within us yet this often holds fears for us.

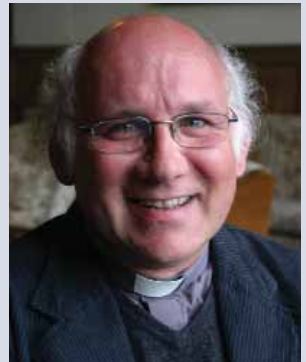
It is my hope that together we can learn from each other about the ways that Evangelism is making a positive impact upon the church and the communities it serves. I would also hope that we can grow in confidence in our faith, not to 'bash' people with, but to enable us to share that hope within us that it might become their hope also.

There is much good practice in Evangelism across our diocese, this we want to encourage

and learn lessons from that will be of benefit to others. There are those involved with Fresh Expressions, and those looking for new ways to reach out into their communities with the love of God. Together we can explore what is relevant to the area in which you live and work.

Along with Archdeacon Roger we hope to set up a local Diocesan College of Evangelists to encourage those with the gift of Evangelism and enable Evangelistic projects to be resourced. On the Authorised Lay Ministry course this year, it has been a great encouragement to see this gift being developed in those on the Evangelism course. Back to Church Sunday, The Marriage project, and other initiatives will be explored this year to enable parishes to use natural ways of faith sharing in helping others find the relevance of faith in Christ for themselves.

**Revd David
Sherwin
Diocesan
Adviser in
Evangelism**



Bishop David recently attended the 40th anniversary celebration of the ordination of priesthood of Geoff Johnston, who married the Bishop's former secretary, Carol Marsh; they emigrated to Spain in 2009. Carol and Geoff live in Nerja on the Costa del Sol and Geoff works in two parishes there. Geoff has served many years as a priest in the Diocese of Worcester in particular he has been the Vicar of St. Francis, Dudley and has also previously served at St Margaret's Hasbury in the Halesowen team.



Curate in Trainingfor the London Marathon.

Bruce Thomson has Bishop John's blessing to run the London Marathon this year. In an email to Bruce, Bishop John said, "It's a great thing you are undertaking. The Lord delighteth not in any man's legs but may he give you strength in his service."

Bruce asks "So why am I doing this? Before becoming a curate I worked for World Vision and had responsibilities for community projects in different parts of the world including Zimbabwe. In 2005 I witnessed the destruction of a community by Robert Mugabe's men. I prayed much about this but needed to do something practical. After some sleepless nights I decided I had to run to raise £10,000 for Christian Aid's work in Zimbabwe.

Please pray for strength in my legs as I run around 25-30 miles a week to get myself in shape for April 25th. Please sponsor me by visiting my 'Justgiving' page <http://original.justgiving.com/brucethomson> or send a cheque made out to Christian

Aid to Revd Bruce Thomson, Wichenford Oak, Wichenford, Worcester WR6 6YY.

If you wish to see a longer rationale for what I'm doing and/or would like to know how Christian Aid will spend the money, please email me at beagle67@btinternet.com and I will send you a document with pictures of the community work that your sponsorship money will help fund".



Goodbye to ...

The Revd Stuart East who has left his post as Rector of Peopleton & White Ladies Aston, Churchill & Spetchley & Upton.

Living Lent

When asked to sum up the law and the prophets, Jesus gave us what are referred to as the two 'great commandments', to love God and love one another. Everything we do as Christians should be measured against those commandments.

The two belong together, of course. Increasing our love of God should strengthen our commitment to our fellow human beings whom he has made in his image. Likewise, loving others inevitably brings us closer to God since, as St John puts it, 'those who live in love live in God and God lives in them.' It could well be argued that the best measure of the worth of any spirituality is whether it increases our charity.

In the initiative **Love Life Live Lent** the Church of England is encouraging us to do something positive every day as well as focusing our attention upon prayer. It is an excellent initiative in which we are asked to undertake a simple act of generosity each day in Lent rather than giving up something. The cumulative effect of these acts could be huge, transforming not only ourselves and our church, but the world. As the Archbishops of Canterbury and York put it:

Together we can build better communities. Together we can lighten our load on the planet. We show God's love in these things. Why not start today?

Why not, indeed? Love Life Live Lent is a simple but significant way of involving ourselves in God's mission which is what we, as a Diocese, have committed ourselves to do. If we really

immerse ourselves in it we shall find that we are making good progress with the three priorities upon which the Bishop's Council has asked us to work: deepening our prayer, renewing our worship and equipping ourselves and one another to speak of our faith – and we shall be doing the latter without even uttering a word.

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in our joys and in our sorrows we may know your presence to bind together and to heal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Bishop John



Love Life Live Lent

Lent is the period of seven weeks before Easter when Christians prepare to remember the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Lent can be traced back to as early as the 3rd Century and takes its duration from the time that Jesus spent in the wilderness after His baptism. For Christians today it's a time to remember our faults, a time of penitence and reconciliation, for some it is also a time to get ready to affirm their individual faith through baptism or confirmation.

Over the last few years the Church of England has promoted a new and interesting way to observe Lent. Instead of giving something up,



the Love Life Live Lent campaign has sought to transform communities by getting people to do something generous, fun and kind together. So instead of giving up chocolate or going on a detox, it encourages people

to undertake a simple act of generosity each day. The actions are small, like giving up your place in a queue or skipping a meal and giving the money to charity, but they make a real difference in homes, families and communities. Love Life Live Lent began in Birmingham in 2006 and since then over 250,000 people nationwide have participated. If you would like to join in go to:

<http://www.livelent.net/>

Mission, Ministry & Money



If you keep your food in a refrigerator, your clothes in a wardrobe, sleep in a bed and have a roof over your head you are richer than 75% of the world's population. If you have a bank account you are one of the top thirty percent of the wealthiest people. Eighteen percent of

all people struggle to live on one US dollar a day and fifty three percent live on two dollars.

Many, if not most, things are relative. But even relatively speaking most of us who read this Worcester Diocesan News are comparatively affluent.

Stephen Green, Chair of HSBC, and an Anglican priest, writes "What are the specific

obligations to the wider world of those who are in the top half of the scale of world income? Of anyone, who from a global perspective, counts as wealthy?.....The answers certainly include extensive giving - and the ancient biblical principle of tithing (i.e. donating 10 per cent of earnings) is surely not enough in the case of the affluent who earn more - and often far more - than needed for any definition of a reasonably comfortable life. 'What is enough?' is a question that demands an individual, personal response. But the litmus test is surely whether it is both real and significant and feels like a costly personal commitment in response to the challenge."

Last year the Church of England's General Synod recommended its report 'Giving for Life' for use in its parishes. It's ten years since 'First to the Lord' made its appearance and this latest offering intends to encourage and enable church members to take an holistic look at how they use their incomes. At its heart, it's about Discipleship. How does being a Christ-follower affect the way I live?

TTT Time

An extract from an article written by Mark Greene of the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity. Would TTT Time work for your church?

‘During a normal Sunday worship service, perhaps as little as once a month, the leader interviews one of the congregation for two minutes. He/she asks the interviewee two, three, or maybe four questions about their daily occupation, about what they will be doing TTT – ‘This Time Tomorrow’. The questions can be really simple: What do you do? What are your challenges/joys? How can we pray for you?’

It’s usually best to start with people doing ordinary work in ordinary places, and to include people whose daily occupation may not be paid – a housewife, or a retired person involved in a variety of purposeful activities.

This simple practice tends to have a range of transformative benefits.

First, it acknowledges, affirms and honours the interviewee. It tells them that what they do every day is important to the leader, important to the church, and important to God. It makes the ordinary person the hero – you can tell a

church’s culture by its heroes and who it chooses to celebrate.

Secondly, as TTT follows TTT, month by month, the whole congregation recognises ever more deeply that ordinary Christians doing ordinary things are important to God – even if some people never get to share from the front. These stories and prayer requests become part of the way the church does life together, part of the culture. And you can tell the culture of a church by the stories it tells and the prayers it prays.

Thirdly, TTT creates new conversations. It gives people who didn’t know the interviewee an easy way to talk to them, and perhaps to share similar challenges or pertinent insight or encouragement.

Fourthly, it not only triggers new conversations it triggers a new kind of conversation. Issues that are often considered to be off the spiritual agenda – work, futility, failure, success, daily relationships, mission in daily life – issues that people feel that they can’t really talk about at church are validated as legitimate topics for conversation and prayer. In sum, TTT serves to build a community concerned with all of life.

And imagine how it might feel for you to have the whole church praying for you in your daily occupation for the very first time. Imagine the difference it might make to you on your frontline, and the frontlines of the people in your church’.

Read more about the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity at:
<http://www.licc.org.uk>

Photographs courtesy of Andy Newson and Stuateam



Worcester Cathedral

Services Daily (except Wednesday):
7.30am Matins, 8am Holy Communion,
5.30pm Evensong (except Thursday when
Evening Prayer is said).

Tuesday: 1.05pm Prayers for Healing.
Wednesday: 8am Matins, 8.30am Holy
Communion, 1.05pm Holy Communion: Friday
11.30am Holy Communion.

Sunday Services

7.30am Matins and 8am Holy Communion,
10.30am The Cathedral Eucharist,
4pm Evensong, 6.30pm Evening Service

Contact the Chapter Office on 01905 732900,
or email: info@worcestercathedral.org.uk
for further information

Details of all events and services can be
found at www.worcestercathedral.co.uk or
telephone: 01905 732900.

Events at the Cathedral

**Turn up for a Tour - From November to end
of April - Saturdays 11am and 2.30pm** (£3
per adult, accompanied children free)

**2–21 March, Display for Megan Baker
House** (Conductive Education), Dean's Chapel

**Tuesdays 23 February–23 March–7.30pm
Lent Lectures** in the Guesten 15 College
Green— more information: 01905 732900

**Saturday 6 March–10am–4.30pm Come
and Sing** – Advance booking essential.
more information: 01905 732900 or visit
www.worcestercathedral.co.uk

Saturday 13 March–6.30pm Organ Recital.
Tickets will be available on the door.

**Tuesday 16 March–7.30pm RGS Worcester
Concert - Carl Orff - Carmina Burana:
choral concert.** More information: RGS
Worcester 01905 613391

**Saturday 20 March–7.30pm Worcester
Festival Choral Society Concert - Vaughan
Williams–A Sea Symphony, Richard Strauss–
Four Last Songs.** Soprano—Alwyn Mellor,
Baritone—Paul Carey Jones, with Chameleon
Arts Orchestra. Conductor—Adrian Lucas.
Tickets £22.50—£6 with concessions. From
Worcester Live Box Office 01905 611427

**Wednesday 24 March–7.30pm
Worcestershire Young Musicians
Concert 2010.** Tickets £7.50 (£6.50
with concessions) from Worcester Live
Box Office 01905 611427
www.worcesterliveboxoffice.co.uk

A large retrospective exhibition
(c. 200 works) of paintings by Timothy
Vivian will be held from April 24th to
Sunday May 9th. Auction on Friday May
7th. All proceeds from the sale will go to
Christian Aid. Mr. Vivian is a PCC
member at Pershore Abbey.

**Saturday 29 May–7.30pm Worcester
Sounds** Worcester Cathedral's renowned
past and present musicians come
together to present a thrilling musical
extravaganza including popular works by
Bach, Elgar, Handel, Lambert, Parry and
Tomkins. Directed by Adrian Lucas, in aid
of Worcester Cathedral's Music Appeal.
For tickets and information call 01684
892277 or book online at [www.malvern-
theatres.co.uk](http://www.malvern-theatres.co.uk) Tickets £50 (includes
celebrity supper), £20, £18, £16, £14, £10
and £6.50

What's On - February

Great Malvern Priory 'Lunchbox'- Thursday Lunchtimes from 12.30-1.30pm.

Talks/concerts starts at 1pm. Bring your own lunch at 12.30pm, teas/coffees available. Everyone very welcome to come along with friends. 11 March - Concert by Pupils from Malvern St. James. 25 March - "Go West" Talk by Sandy Marchant. The Story of the Teme Valley Pilgrimage Project

Sunday Afternoon Organ Music - Monthly Series with Paul Carr at Holy Trinity Parish Church, Wordsley, Stourbridge DY8 5RU - Sunday 7 March 2010 at 3.00pm: 'J.S. Bach'

The annual programme devoted entirely to the music of J.S. Bach

Worcester Philharmonic Orchestra Concert at Pershore Abbey - 2.30pm - Saturday 6 March 2010

Beethoven ~ Egmont Overture Op 84, Chopin ~ Piano Concerto No1 in E minor Op 11, Soloist - Janine Smith, Beethoven ~ Symphony No 6 in F Op 68 "Pastoral". More information: 01386 552918 or editor@pershoreabbey.org.uk

Worcester Cathedral Chamber Choir 13

March 2010 - a concert featuring Durufle's 'Requiem' and Elgar's 'The Music Makers' at St Martin's Church, London Road, Worcester. 7.30pm. Tickets £12 (under 18's £10) available from www.worcestercathedralchamberchoir.co.uk, or by calling 07549 634068. Tickets for both these events are £12 (under 18's £10) and are available as above.

Tim Bridges - Parish Churches in and around Worcestershire 2010

A new nine week course starting on Thursday 8 April. Come and find out about the history, architecture, fittings and social history of some of our parish churches. More information: Sylvia Cliff 01299 851266. Enrolment will take place on the first night at Elmbridge Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Thursday 8 April.

Gardens Open at Little Malvern Court - Little

Malvern Court gardens open Monday 3 May 2-5pm. 10 acres spring bulbs, flowering shrubs, water garden, ponds. Also teas, plants and book-stall. Music and flowers in the church. Proceeds shared between NGS and Little Malvern Priory. Admission £5, children 5 -14 50p.

Easter Concerts at Great Witley Church

Recitals at 5 o'clock - entrance free, retiring collection. 2 April (Good Friday) The Crucifixion by John Stainer. 4 April (Easter Day) An Easter Celebration with Sarah Westwood (soprano) and Paul Mcroft (baritone) Mozart Exultate Jubilate Vaughan Williams, Five Mystical Songs.

Saturday 1 May 2010 at St. Mary's Church - Kidderminster - Come and Sing Messiah.

Ann Lyman on 01299 404226 or e-mail : lymanhughes34@aol.com and Jim Pearman on 01562 632172 or e-mail : jim@pearman.com

St. John's Parish Church Halesowen at 7-30pm on Saturday March 13th. Winter in Majorca

- Michael Lunts, a professional actor and composer takes on the role of Chopin in the period of his life spent in Majorca, and plays some of his best loved compositions written during his stay on the island. Tickets will be available from Margaret Pickford on 0121 501 2443 at £10 for adults and £8 for children under 16. The ticket price includes interval refreshments.

20th March Hallow Parish Hall WR2 6LD 7.30pm. **'Life in a Kenyan Slum'** An evening with Alison Clarke, who visited Kenya for **Christian Aid**, last year. Tickets £5.00 Adults & £2.50 Children, from Doreen Jeeves 01905 640953. All proceeds to Christian Aid.

The World's Best News - the World's Worst Communicators?

A free training day for Parish Communicators will be held in the Old Palace on Thursday April 22nd. Come along and find out how to get your parish news into the press and improve parish communication. Led by John Butterworth, freelance journalist and ex-newspaper editor. Please contact Sue Gromski to book your place (01905 732812) or email: sgromski@cofe-worcester.org.uk

Tuesdays 23 February - 23 March -

7.30pm Lent Lectures in the Guesten 15 College Green— more information: 01905 732900 (see page 6)

2–21 March, Display for Megan Baker House (Conductive Education), Dean's Chapel (see page 6)

6 Come and Sing at Worcester Cathedral. 10am – 4.30pm. For further information telephone 01905 732900 or visit www.worcestercathedral.co.uk

6 Worcester Philharmonic Orchestra Concert at Pershore Abbey 2.30pm (see page 7)

6 Worcester Diocesan Assembly - Forward in Faith – Mass at 2pm followed by AGM at St James' Lower Gornal.

6 Choral Concert with the Hills Singers - 7.30pm at St. Leonard's, Newland, The Chapel of the Beauchamp Community. Entry price £6.00 available on the door, to include a programme and a soft drink or glass of wine during the interval. More information: 01684 579186.

7 Sunday Afternoon Organ Music with Paul Carr. 'J.S. Bach' The annual programme devoted entirely to the music of J.S. Bach

11 Great Malvern Priory 'Lunchbox' concert by Pupils from Malvern St. James.

13 Worcester Cathedral Chamber Choir at St Martin's Church, London Road, Worcester (see page 7)

13 March—6.30pm Organ Recital. Tickets will be available on the door. (see page 6)

20 Worcester Festival Choral Society:

Vaughan Williams A Sea Symphony, Richard Strauss Four Last Songs at Worcester Cathedral. 7:30pm. Tickets £5-£22.50. (see page 6)

25 Great Malvern Priory 'Lunchbox' "Go West" Talk by Sandy Marchant
The Story of the Teme Valley Pilgrimage Project

25 Sung Eucharist for the Annunciation - 6pm at St. Leonard's, Newland, The Chapel of the Beauchamp Community.

28 Procession of Palms and Sung Eucharist. 11am at St. Leonard's, Newland, The Chapel of the Beauchamp Community.

Worcester Diocesan News

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