

DON - Diocesan Office Newsletter, February 2012

The Diocese of Peterborough, The Palace, Peterborough PE1 1YB. Tel: 01733 887000

An email for churchwardens, PCC secretaries & treasurers, planned giving officers, parish safeguarding officers, clergy & licensed lay ministers in the Diocese of Peterborough.

COMMITTEE'S OUTREACH MISSION FOCUS

The new Diocesan Mission & Pastoral Committee started work this month. Chaired by Bishop John, its purpose is "to further the outreach mission of Peterborough Diocese". Members include an experienced parish priest and a new pioneer minister (David Bird and Madeleine Albert), lay leaders from the worlds of business and education (John McMahon, Mike Hobbs, Peter Coatham), the two Archdeacons (Christine Allsopp and Gordon Steele) the Bishop's Officers for Mission Enabling and Mission in Society (Miles Baker, Robert Hill) and the Diocesan Secretary (Andrew Roberts).

The Committee has a particular emphasis on developing and implementing a strategy to foster growth and unity within the diocese. One of its' tasks will be to review every aspect of diocesan life and policy from the perspective of mission and to ask awkward questions about how effective we really are. The two Officers for Mission have very bravely offered to be the first areas of work to be reviewed by their fellow committee members!

After their first meeting, Bishop John said: "As I'm still beginning to find my way around the diocese I'm delighted to have been asked by Bishop Donald to chair this exciting new group which gives us an opportunity to shape our shared life towards sharing God's mission. It's a remarkable team of people and I look forward to discovering where God is going to lead us".



FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Twenty ways to save your parish money

Wednesday 2 May at 7pm at Bouverie Court, Northampton. A free introduction to the national Parish Buying scheme, led by National Procurement Officers Robert Kissick and Russell Stables. Booking essential by emailing paul.adams@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

New wedding and funeral fees

The recent General Synod meeting approved a new framework of fees to come into force for services taking place from January 2013. Wedding fees, including publication of banns, will rise from £296 to £415 and funeral fees from £102 to £160. The aim is to make the fees more transparent and uniform, while giving parishes control over items that would be considered extras; and to ensure that the charges reflect the cost of providing the services. The new fees include lighting and administration but not heating, organists, bellringers and vergers. For exact figures visit:

www.churchofengland.org/media/1385859/qs%201852%20-%2020parochial%20fees%202012.pdf

IN THIS ISSUE:

- ◆ Diocesan Mission & Pastoral Committee
- ◆ Finance & administration
- ◆ Churches & churchyards
- ◆ Jubilee & Olympics
- ◆ Notices
- ◆ Parish noticeboard
- ◆ People news
- ◆ Events
- ◆ Website links

Especially for Churchwardens

Briefing sessions for Churchwardens are being held both for anyone new to the role, and for existing Churchwardens who would like a refresher. The session will look at the role of Churchwarden from a spiritual and practical perspective. Speakers include Archdeacon Christine Allsopp, Dr Paul Middleton (DAC Secretary) and Dave Stevenson from insurers EIG. Free of charge.

Tuesday 11 September

9.30am – 12.30pm at Bouverie Court, Northampton

Thursday 13 September

6.30-9.30pm at St Peter's, Oundle

For details call 01604 887048 or email adulated@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Good deal on fire extinguisher service contracts

The Fire Extinguisher Service Contract for Churches – operated by Chubb Fire Ltd National Accounts Division, Manchester – has been extended for a further 3 years from 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2015. The basic unit price is £6.25, with a one-off charge of £1.50 per Service Visit. There has not been a price increase since 1994, so this is considered good value for money. All other existing prices have been held for the three years. Churches should ensure that when dealing with Chubb they are on the National Account Contract because agreements with Chubb local offices can be much more expensive. Further information can be obtained from Colin Domville on 01704 875 597 or by email to cbdomville@blueyonder.co.uk.

CHURCHES AND CHURCHYARDS

Making the most of your church building

Many people visit a church building for reasons other than worship. Some simply wish to enjoy the peace and quiet but others may need a little help to appreciate what they see.

If you don't already have a short guide or leaflet it is worth thinking about writing one. There is a new, not for profit website which aims to bring together churches needing a new written guide and potential volunteers interested in helping to research and write up the history of individual churches (www.churchguides.co.uk). It is even better, if you can, to get members of your own congregation involved, as they are more likely to be aware of the human stories which are such an important part of any church's links with its local community. There is also some good practical guidance on preparing materials for visitors on the Diocese of Coventry's Divine Inspiration website (www.divine-inspiration.org.uk).

A good starting point for a church guide is the church's Statement of Significance. This is a document which summarises the historical development of the church building and identifies the significant features that make major contributions to the character of the church. There is much helpful advice on preparing such a Statement at www.churchcare.co.uk/legal.php?GF and www.open.ac.uk/buildingonhistory.

Church buildings are wonderful treasures with a story to tell. If you would like to talk about how to make the most of your building, contact Paul Middleton at the DAC Office on 01733 887007 or dac@peterborough-diocese.org.uk.

Historic Churches Ride & Stride, Saturday 8 September

Churches are invited to open up to cyclists and walkers, and to sponsor those taking part in the Ride & Stride. See www.rideandstrideuk.org or (for Northants) www.nhct.org.uk. Half the money raised by participants in the Ride & Stride goes to the church they nominate, and half to the Historic Churches Trust.



Churches are normally open from 10am to 6pm and a list of open churches will be on the Trust's website - as will contacts for neighbouring counties for those feeling energetic or ambitious! Further details from Richard and Val Hartley on 01327 831162 or richardvalhartley@btinternet.com.

Archdeacon of Oakham's Collation on Saturday 25 February

The Collation of Gordon Steele as the new Archdeacon of Oakham is at 11am this
**Saturday 25 February
at Peterborough Cathedral**

Please let the Bishop's Office know, for catering reasons, if you plan to come along. Everyone is most welcome. Contact alex.low@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

More information at:
www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/downloads/press_steele.pdf

How to write a Statement of Significance for your church

Provisional dates:
9 July, 26 July, 10 September, 3 October.
9.30am – 12.30pm, venues tbc.

Details soon from 01733 887007
dac@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust grant scheme

The Trust makes grants in the region of £30,000 each year ranging from £500 to £5,000. They relate to a wide range of projects including restoration, conservation, heating, electrics, the creation of serveries and wcs and re-ordering.

If you think the Trust could help with a grant towards the cost of works you are undertaking in your church, please either contact Richard Hartley (01327 831162 or richardvalhartley@btinternet.com) or send in an application form which is available from the Trust's website at www.nhct.org.uk.

The criteria applied in considering grant applications are also set out on the website.

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

1. The Big Jubilee Thank You: This is a great opportunity to invite people into your church. It is a national Church of England project through which people can add their personal well wishes to a thank you letter to the Queen, from the diocesan bishop. Full details, including posters, signing sheets and a copy of Bishop Donald's letter are on the website at: www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/mission/jubilee2012.htm



2. Your church's royal connections: ChurchCare – the Church of England's online resource - is collecting stories about the regal links between churches, cathedrals and the monarchy. They are looking for tales of visits, burials, baptisms, commemorations, weddings, funerals, battlefields, blessings and more. They are especially interested in accounts involving Queen Elizabeth II, but stories can come from any period in history. The information will be used to create a Royal Trail, promoted via the ChurchCare website (www.ChurchCare.co.uk). The deadline for submissions is 1 May 2012. Details from ben.greener@churchofengland.org

3. A Jubilee Near You .com: Following the success of www.achristmasnearyou.com in promoting Christmas services, parishes will have the opportunity to promote their jubilee services and events on a new website www.ajubileenearyou.com. As with the Christmas site, events posted by parishes on their entry at www.achurchnearyou.com will be migrated to the jubilee site, to be launched at the beginning of May. If you are unsure who has permission to update your A Church Near You entry, please contact steven.hall@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

NOTICES

Pray One for Me - website live from Ash Wednesday

A new, year round CofE campaign has been launched on 22 February, to build on previous prayer-based Lent campaigns. *Pray One for Me* www.prayoneforme.org and its accompanying Facebook page will offer people the opportunity to post prayer requests online. If you or your group are using this site, do let us by emailing liz.hurst@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Certificate in Children's Ministry - book for September 2012!

The first students of the Certificate in Children's Ministry are now well into the course and very enthusiastic about it. It is not too early to begin thinking about whether this is something you would like to undertake when the course begins again in September 2012. Full details at: www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/downloads/childrensministry.pdf or call Rona Orme, Children's Missioner on 01604 887045.

General Synod on BBC iPlayer

Items from the February group of sessions of the General Synod are available on the BBC's iPlayer for seven days - the first 'episode' is at: http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b01c301s/Church_of_England_Synod_Loyal_Address/

The Olympic Torch in the diocese

The Olympic Torch is due in Northamptonshire on Monday 2nd July, probably calling at Northampton, Wellingborough, Isham, Kettering, Geddington, Corby and Dingley. It is due to arrive in Peterborough on the evening of Tuesday 3rd July. If your church is along the route and would like to discuss ways of getting involved and making the most of this mission and media opportunity, do contact Mission Enabler

miles.baker@peterborough-diocese.org.uk or Media Adviser derek.williams@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Bell ringing on St George's Day, 23 April

A campaign started two years ago to encourage bell ringers across the country to ring on 23 April to celebrate St. George's Day. Having missed a year due to Holy Week, ringers are encouraged to ring again in 2012. For more information contact Libby Alexander libby@ringingforengland.co.uk



STARBURST 2012 Saturday 12 May

A day conference for all those who work with children
10am to 4pm at All Saints Primary School, Northampton.

Keynote speaker: Ruth Hassall, Pastor of Discipleship at St John's Church, Harborne; former Leadership Development Adviser, Church Pastoral Aid Society.

Tickets: £10 per person.

Book on 01604 887048, Gillian.spokes@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

A flyer with more details is at: www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/children/starburst12.pdf

PARISH NOTICEBOARD



Wanted: Mission Praise

St Mark's Church in Kingsthorpe, Northampton, is looking for more copies, large print and normal print size, of the 1999 edition Complete Mission Praise by Peter Horrobin and Greg Leavers. If you can help please contact Ruth Gould, Churchwarden, on 01604 846508.

Offered: Ornamental railings and curtains

Cottesmore church has a set of railings, with blue curtains on runners (photo left), that it will soon no longer need. They are about 8 feet high and 16 feet long, made in three sections and bolted together. They would curtain off a corner area of about 6 feet by 16 feet. Anyone interested is invited to contact Cottesmore church on 01572 812202 or 01572 756647 email thehub2@btinternet.com.

PEOPLE NEWS

Warden at Launde Abbey

From 16 February the interim Acting Warden at Launde Abbey is Michael Covington. The Revd Tim Blewett, Warden for the past 8 years, has resigned and will be leaving on 31st March 2012.

For clergy announcements see: www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/appointments.htm

For current clergy and other vacancies see: www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/people/vacancies.htm

EVENTS

Wednesdays in Lent, Peterborough Cathedral Lent talks

1pm on Wednesdays. www.peterborough-cathedral.org.uk/lent.html

Thursdays in Lent, Christian Conversations for Lent

Starting 23 February, Interfaith Dialogue - Is it still needed? A conversation led by Sean Oliver-Dee Associate Researcher: Inter-Religious Affairs, Office of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Representative to the E.U. The series continues with: March 1st - The Right to Die: Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia. March 29th - Faith at Work: Does God come to work with you? 7.30pm at Bouverie Court, Northampton. Free. No need to book.

Friday 9 March, St Kyneburgha Rock Mass (on the theme of love)

7.30pm St Kyneburgha Church, Castor. A combined concert service of rock, pop and blues music at Castor Church followed by curry, beer (and soft drinks). All welcome – no minimum age. Collection for Teenage Cancer Trust. Entry free. Food tickets £3 or 2 for £5 from Parish Office on 01733 380900. www.castorchurch.co.uk

Saturday 10 March, A Day on Healing: The Strength to be Human

9am - 4pm at Peterborough Cathedral and St John the Baptist Parish Church, Peterborough PE1 1NH. Organised with the Acorn Healing Foundation etc. Healing Day information and booking form www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/downloads/healingday12.pdf. £20/£15 unwaged. Bookings to Eve Hastings on 01722 710487, ebhshel@btopenworld.com.

Wednesday 14 March, Once for All (Christian Aid)

7pm at Westgate Church, Peterborough PE1 1RG. Inspiration for how to make your Christian Aid Week a huge success, and time to meet your local Christian Aid team. Details from itate@christian-aid.org or 01733 345755.

WEBSITE LINKS

DIocese: www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk

DIOCESAN ANTI-CLASH DIARY: www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/downloads/DIARY.pdf

CHURCH SCHOOLS: www.peterborough-education.org.uk

REGISTRY (DAC & LEGAL MATTERS): www.peterboroughdiocesanregistry.co.uk