

Diocese of York Newsletter

News from
the Church of
England
between the
Humber and
the Tees

March 2015

Leading Your Church Into Growth

As part of our goal to make and nurture disciples, the Diocese is holding a four day pilot conference on growing the church. This course, especially tailored for the Diocese's vision of Generous Churches Making and Nurturing Disciples, and our Five Marks of Growing, will be led by the nationally renowned *Leading Your Church Into Growth* team.

Now in its twentieth year, *Leading Your Church Into Growth* is specifically designed for clergy and lay leaders from across different traditions and denominations who are looking for help and encouragement in leading their churches into growth.

The Revd Graham Thornalley, Team Vicar of the Howden Team Ministry said, "*Leading Your Church Into Growth* is simply one of the best training courses I've ever been on, and it works! I've been able to actually use what I learnt and our churches have seen growth as a direct result of this course."



The Diocese is holding a pilot *Leading Your Church Into Growth* course in Scarborough from Monday 21 to Thursday 24 September 2015, with a view to holding more courses in 2016.

For the pilot conference in September 2015, every Deanery will be represented, and your incumbent has received full information about the course. If you think *Leading Your Church Into Growth* would help your benefice, please speak to your incumbent.

Psalm 23 – out of date and irrelevant?

Psalm 23, with its picture of God as a shepherd offering his reassuring presence in all situations, has offered encouragement to millions of people over the years. But how much longer will this be so . . . ?

Recently, I took a family funeral and my 21 year old cousin asked if she could read in the Service. I thought I was being sensible by asking her to read Psalm 23. But the night before, she asked me “What is that reading all about?” We looked at it together and the mistake I had made became all too apparent.

A meaningless Psalm

Like most 21 year olds, my cousin has rarely been to church and has little knowledge of the Christian faith. As we read the Psalm together I realised she barely understood a word of it. Why would she, for instance, know that a ‘Shepherd’ is a frequent image for God and why should she have any awareness of how shepherds went about their work – all the references to ‘green pastures’, ‘still waters’ and ‘right paths’ meant nothing to her and she hadn’t a clue why ‘a rod and staff’ would comfort anyone! She was also concerned about why she was reading about ‘enemies’ at a funeral. The language towards the end was totally meaningless to her – she had no idea of the meaning or significance of ‘anointing a head with oil’, a ‘cup overflowing’ or ‘dwelling in the house of the Lord’.

An uncomfortable challenge

My cousin is not unintelligent but she is ‘unchurched’. Like most of her generation, and many who are older than her, church is a strange place and the language and concepts of the Christian faith mean very little to her. The fact is, that nearly all that is familiar to those attending church, is alien to her. The conversation was an uncomfortable reminder of the challenge the Church faces.

Imagination & Courage

Our parishes are full of people like my cousin and we will need imagination and courage to find ways to engage meaningfully with them as we seek to ‘make and nurture new disciples’. Whilst we shouldn’t underestimate the challenges, we should also be encouraged that this is happening in many places and believe that God can do this where we are too. Let us pray that God, by his Spirit, will grant us all the imagination and courage we need to engage with those around us – that many more will discover that the Lord is their Shepherd.

The Ven Andy Broom, Archdeacon of the East Riding

Wydale Hall - under construction

Is Wydale Hall only just being built? No. Are we undergoing construction work? Well we've had the roof re-done at the Emmaus Centre and we are going to have the windows in the library re-glazed but no, we're not doing anything major.

But we are under re-construction! I started as General Manager in January, and my desire is to build up the spiritual life of Wydale as well as the hospitality and business life, seeking to be a "Prayerful Community Renewing the Church's Mission".

We also have a newly formed Vision Team who are working with the staff and I to develop and hone the spiritual life of the centre. The team is chaired by Bishop Graham Cray (who until recently was Bishop of Maidstone, Archbishops' Missioner and leader of Fresh Expressions for the Church of England).

We are focusing at the moment on the Core Priorities for Wydale. Of course we will continue to be a welcoming place of hospitality, warmth, a place for you to come for retreat and refreshment, to enjoy good company, food and lovely surroundings. But 'on the front of our bus' now is a desire to be a ministering community with Jesus at the centre. We have started having Morning Prayer most days at Wydale at 8.30am in the small chapel. We want to be a place of prayer and renewal. A tool of mission for the Diocese of York and beyond. We don't know exactly what this looks



like, but we welcome your ideas and we will keep you in touch.

Our staff are working hard to keep things running well but we would value any volunteer help. Do you have a heart for what we are doing? Do you like the sound of our new vision? Could you spare a few hours to help with gardening, or house maintenance, or administration or other work in the Hall? We would love to hear from you if you would like to be part of the wider community here at Wydale – do call me on 01723 859270 or email mark.rance@wydale.org if you are interested.

This is an exciting time – do come with us, pray for us and share in our work in whatever way you are able to.

*Mark Rance, General Manager of
Wydale Hall*

#Washday

#washday is a new Church of England project for Lent 2015.

Partly inspired by last summer's highly popular "ice bucket challenge" where people nominated each other to have a bucket of icy water poured over them for charity, #washday is all about taking part in practical social action during Lent and Holy Week

#washday is a new take on Maundy Thursday. Traditionally, church people have washed people's feet – or more recently offered free shoe-shining on the streets – on Maundy Thursday, as a way of telling the story of the Last Supper.

So with #washday, go and help your community by washing anything and everything – it could be washing windows for people who would find that difficult, cleaning cars, washing clothes for homeless people, or washing up mugs in an office.

You can do your washing on Maundy Thursday itself, during Holy Week, or at some other point during Lent if that is easier.

It's a chance to use your imagination and think how you can make a real difference in the community. You may like to connect the campaign with fundraising for a water-based charity such as WaterAid.

You can share photos or videos of what you are doing on www.washday.org, and also Tweet using the hashtag #washday. #washday is a great opportunity to tell the Easter story in a fun and creative way, showing that Christians are willing to get their hands dirty in the service of others.

It's a simple idea and works for all ages. There are suggestions of how to get involved on www.washday.org.



Real Easter Eggs



Introduced in 2010, The Real Easter Egg was initially turned down by supermarkets as they were unsure that a 'faith egg' would sell. How wrong they were. Last year, in a national poll, the Real Easter Egg was voted the UK's favourite Fairtrade egg and more than a million Real Easter Eggs have been sold.

The Real Easter Egg is still the only Fairtrade egg with a copy of the Easter story in each box. There is also a charitable donation for every 150g egg sold. More than £140,000 has been donated from sales. It also supports farmers and producers in the developing world by using Fairtrade chocolate.

David Marshall, who heads up the Meaningful Chocolate Company, said; "The Real Easter Egg campaign

aims to establish giving a Real Easter Egg as a tradition. We can be found in Tesco, Waitrose and Morrison's. However, we make very little from supermarket sales so we do rely on direct sales from churches and schools. Last year we sent more than 400,000 eggs through the post. This is a very positive example of putting our faith into practice so I hope churches will support this year's Real Easter Egg campaign by visiting www.realesteregg.co.uk and ordering."

Each year the content of the Real Easter Egg changes. This year blue egg has a unique 3ft storybook/banner, the Premium Peace Edition contains an olive wood key ring made in Bethlehem and there is a dairy free dark chocolate egg.

Aspire Academy opens in Hull



Archbishop Sentamu officially opened Hull's Aspire Academy on 19th January - the first alternative provision academy school in Hull built to cater for vulnerable pupils and those at risk of exclusion. Aspire Academy is one of only 16 alternative provision academies in the UK, and builds on the success of Archbishop Sentamu Academy.

The Rt Revd Paul Ferguson, Bishop of Whitby and Diocesan Ambassador for Education said, "Archbishop Sentamu Academy is one of the Diocese's four secondary academies, and it has been doing great work for children in East Hull. Over time, our team there realised there was scope to give more help and support to vulnerable pupils and those at risk of exclusion, so Aspire Academy was born. Although it isn't a Church of England Academy, the Diocese was instrumental in its creation, and it is part of Sentamu Academy Learning Trust. We hope and pray it will serve more and more young people in Hull."

Andrew Chubb, Executive Principal of Archbishop Sentamu Academy, who has pioneered the development of the new Academy, said, "Through combining the expertise we have at Archbishop Sentamu Academy with Aspire's specialist facilities, I believe we have a winning combination that gives all our young people the chance to flourish. Aspire will give them fantastic opportunities to turn things around and reach their full potential."

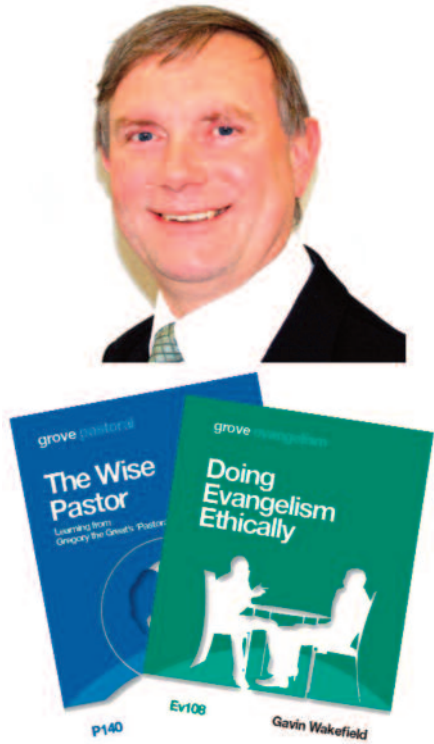
Archbishop Sentamu said, "It has been said you can judge a society by how it treats its most vulnerable members and Aspire is an Academy that seeks to support those most in need in its learning community. I am delighted to be officially opening Aspire and my prayer for students, staff, governors and friends of the Academy is that you will have the courage to Aspire and transform not only your lives, but the lives of all you meet, for the good of all. Go for it!"

New Grove Books from Gavin Wakefield

Our Diocesan Director of Training for Missional Ministry, the Revd Dr Gavin Wakefield, has written two new titles for Grove Books: *Doing Evangelism Ethically* and *The Wise Pastor: Learning from Gregory the Great's 'Pastoral Rule'*.

Doing Evangelism Ethically is a much needed examination of the ethics of evangelism. Evangelism is central to the great commission that Jesus gave to his followers, to make disciples of all nations. Yet in some circles it has become a dirty word, with objections of arrogance, coercion and manipulation levelled against some of its forms. In such a context, formulating an ethical approach to evangelism has never been more vital. Gavin's timely study examines some of the concerns raised by critics, and sets out key principles for ethical evangelism. He argues that ultimately, evangelism will respect the person when Christians are themselves grounded in the love of God and seeking to become ever more Christlike disciples.

In *The Wise Pastor: Learning from Gregory the Great's 'Pastoral Rule'* Gavin explores how appropriate and wise leadership is vital in any type of pastoral ministry, and all the more so in times of change. Gregory the Great's 'Pastoral Rule' was written in just such a context of unsettled times and, partly due to its unfamiliarity, can offer new and unique insights to



us today. Gavin explores the life of Gregory before exploring his influential work in depth, drawing out wisdom and advice for leaders and their pastoral practice. This book is a must for anyone in church leadership, or who exploring a vocation to ministry.

You can find Gavin's books online at www.grovebooks.co.uk or by emailing sales@grovebooks.co.uk. Titles, normally 28 pages, cost £3.95 post-free in the UK.

Church Wifi

When Andrew Lloyd Webber made the suggestion that churches should have Wi-Fi, and announced he would be asking the government for financial help with installation, little did he realise that a tiny Ryedale Church is already ahead of the game. Butterwick Church (near Brawby) was fitted with broadband access before Christmas when the local residents decided they'd had enough of slow internet access.

Billy Garrett who with his son Glenn runs 'Quiet PC' in Brawby did the villagers' connections to 'Beeline' and suggested to Selwyn Jones who lives two doors away from the church that he could also put a router in the church. After a speedy contact with churchwardens Mary Tate and Jill Hopkins the installation was made.

“It was a chance to bring the church into the 21st Century, so the answer was yes please,” explains Mary Tate. “We've just had the church restored, and when the Archbishop of York asked us at our celebratory service what we were going to do with the building we decided that we needed



more than one service per month. We're starting a new gathering for the community, on the second Sunday of every month at 6pm, which will provide time for reflection and meditation, having internet access means we can expand the concept to bring in ideas and people from all over the world, it's very exciting.”

Having the internet access means it can be used by a wider community, “There are pockets in our area where farmers and people running small business are often frustrated by slow broadband”, comments Jill Hopkins, “and we are open to them contacting us with a view to benefitting from the church's router.”

Churchwardens training days

Don't forget, there are two churchwardens' training days coming up in 2015: York Archdeaconry churchwardens will be meeting on Saturday 27th June at Bishopthorpe Palace, and East Riding churchwardens will be meeting on Saturday 12th September - venue to be confirmed.

On the move

The Revd Stephen Roger Drury, (Assistant Curate in the Benefice of Seamer with East Ayton) has been appointed as Priest-in-Charge (SSM) of the Benefice of Scarborough St Columba.

The Revd Anne Freestone, (PTO in the Dioceses of Durham and West Yorkshire & The Dales and Officiating Chaplain to the Military (OCM), Catterick) has been appointed as Chaplain to Castle Howard. Ms Freestone will retain her post of OCM, Catterick in addition to the Chaplaincy.

The Revd Alistair John Rycroft, (Leader of the St Thomas Mission Unit under a Bishop's Mission Order) has been appointed additionally as Priest-in-Charge (SSM) of the Benefice of York St Thomas with St Maurice.

The Revd Tessa Stephens, (Assistant Curate in the Benefice of Hipswell with Colburn and Scotton in the Diocese of West Yorkshire and The Dales), has been appointed as Church of England Chaplain to Teesside University and Associate Minister of the Benefice of Linthorpe St Barnabas.

The Revd Irene Wilson, (Assistant Curate, Kingston Upon Hull, Holy Trinity), has been re-appointed as Assistant Curate of the Benefice of Kingston Upon Hull, Holy Trinity.

The Revd Michael Sinclair, (Priest in Charge (SSM), Lastingham with Appleton-le-Moors, Rosedale and Cropton), has retired.

The Archbishop has granted Permission to Officiate to the Revd Canon Patricia Wick of Filey; previously of the Diocese of Maridi in the Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan and Sudan.

Barry Heritage and Michael Shearing

It is with regret that we report the deaths of the Revd Barry Heritage, and the Revd Michael Shearing.

Mr Heritage died on 21 January. He served as Vicar of Elloughton and Brough with Brantingham from 1989-1993 and then as curate of York, St Paul from 1993-2000, after which he had PTO. From 1976 to 1989 he was the NE Area Secretary of

CPAS and lived during this time in York. Mr Heritage was 80 and is survived by his wife Pat and son Christopher.

Mr Shearing was a retired vicar who ministered in County Durham and retired to Norton. He died on Wednesday 10 December. Mr Shearing was 75 and leaves his widow, Sylvia.

What's On

Sun 1 Mar - William Temple Association, York Group 'Pie in the Sky When You Die? A Biblical Vision of Heaven', 7.30pm, Room SK037, Skell Building, York St John University

Thurs 5 Mar - End of Life and the Churches at St Cuthbert's, Marton, Middlesbrough and St Nicholas Parish Hall, Beverley. Contact training@yorkdiocese.org

Thurs 5 Mar - Website and Social Media Surgery, 7.30pm, St Mary's Boston Spa. Contact comms@yorkdiocese.org

Fri 6 – Sun 8 Mar - 'Rhythms & Thresholds in Woman's Life' Holy Rood House, Thirsk. Contact 01845 522580 or enquiries@holyroodhouse.org.uk

Fri 6 – Sun 8 Mar - Girls Weekend 2015 at the Emmaus Centre, Wydale Hall. A weekend for girls aged 12-16 for fun, fellowship & great food, plus activities and discussions all in a warm, relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Contact hiedewilson@hotmail.com

Sat 7 Mar - "Step Forward" hosted by Archbishop Sentamu at Bishopthorpe Palace. For anyone aged 18 – 30 who is considering ministry in the Anglican Church - www.stepforwardanglican.org.uk

Mon 9 – Weds 11 Mar - Yorkshire

Spice Break-Away 2015 at Wydale Hall. For spouses of ordained and lay ministers. Join us for time away for fellowship, teaching, refreshment, companionship and mutual understanding. Contact yorkshire.spice@yahoo.com, 01904 634196, or visit www.yorkshirespice.org.uk

Fri 13 – Sun 15 Mar - 'Called To Listen' Advanced Course of Christian Listener Training, Wydale Hall. Contact training@yorkdiocese.org

Sat 14 Mar - 'Conversations' - Created for Relationship: Despair or Delight, Elizabeth Jordan, Old Malton Priory, 10am. Contact 01653 692370 or pcrebinson53@gmail.com

Sat 14 Mar - Ensemble integral to Hull Bach Choir perform Monteverdi: Vespers (1650), with English Cornett & Sackbut, at Trinity Methodist Church, Hull, 7.30pm. Contact 01482 654567 or visit www.hullbachchoir.org.uk

Mon 16 Mar - Prayer and Worship (for those involved or have a heart for the homeless, addicted, lonely and marginalised) St Cuthberts house of prayer, York, 1.30pm

Mon 16 – Fri 20 Mar - Women's Spirituality Spring course, Holy Rood House, Thirsk. Contact 01845 522580 or enquiries@holyroodhouse.org.uk

Thurs 17 Mar - Website and Social Media Surgery, 7.30pm, St Barnabas Linthorpe. Contact Eleanor Course on comms@yorkdiocese.org.

Weds 18 – Fri 20 Mar - Lent Retreat at Wydale Hall with Sister Pauline Wheeler and Joan Sargent. Contact 01723 859270 or retreat@wydale.org

Weds 18 Mar - East Yorkshire Organ Day, Hull City Hall. Contact herog@btinternet.com

Weds 18 Mar - Ebor Lectures on Theology and Public Life, Fiona Miller, York Minster, 7pm. Contact 01904 876474 or eborlectures@yorks.ac.uk

Thurs 19 Mar - Website and Social Media Surgery, 7.30pm, St Clements w St Mary Bishophill, York. Contact Eleanor Course on comms@yorkdiocese.org.

Sat 21 Mar - 'Trauma of Sexual Abuse' Holy Rood House, Thirsk. Contact 01845 522580 or enquiries@holyroodhouse.org.uk

Sat 21 Mar - One Mission Study Day, Persecuted Communities of Faith, Lidgett Grove Methodist Church, York, 3pm

Sat 21 Mar - Stamford Bridge Singers' Spring Concert, Howden Minster, 7.30pm. Sacred and non-sacred pieces from a wide range of composers including Stanford, Schubert, Sullivan, Sibelius and Sondheim. Contact 07775 564311 or www.stamfordbridgesingers.co.uk

Mon 23 Mar - Giving in Grace training. The Trinity Centre, North Ormesby from 10.00am -12.00pm; The Village Hall, Stockton on the Forest from 2.30pm - 4.30pm; St Nicholas Church, Beverley from 7.30pm - 9.30pm. Contact archdeaondavid@yorkminster.org or 01904 557278

Date for your diaries - Cleveland Matters

For 2015, Bishop Paul is launching a series of talks in the Archdeaconry of Cleveland, to help people gain a Christian perspective on matters of current interest, under the title 'Cleveland Matters'. It is planned that the venues will be in different parts of the archdeaconry in turn.

Please save the date for the first event: Archbishop Senatmu will be speaking on Friday 24 April at 7.30pm, at St Barnabas Church, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough TS5 5JR.

Freewill Offer dates

Here's a list of the important dates in the Freewill Offering process for 2015, to give PCCs time to plan when they will make their offer to the Common Fund. We hope this helps in planning your meetings for 2015.

- March/April - Spring meetings for Deanery Financial Advisers, Rural Deans and Lay Chairs
- April/May - Deanery Financial Advisers, Rural Deans and Lay Chairs meet with PCC representatives at Deanery level
- Early May - Communications on Freewill Offers will be sent to PCCs to guide them as they make their offers to the Common Fund
- May to July - Time for PCCs to reflect on their offer for 2016. Many PCCs have found it helpful to schedule one or two meetings during this period to discuss their offer
- Friday 31 July - All 2016 offers need to be submitted to Diocesan Office by this date. This deadline is vitally important in order to ensure that the budget for the Diocese is fixed in time
- September to October - The 2016 Budget is put together by the Finance Team at Diocesan House and the approval process begins, with reviews of the budget by the Finance Sub-Committee, Diocesan Board of Finance, and Diocesan Synod
- Saturday 7 November - Diocesan Synod votes on the final 2016 budget

Diocese of York News March 2015

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Deadline to include items in the April issue is Monday 2 March.

The Diocese of York News may be copied for use in Parish Magazines etc, and may be downloaded as a pdf file from www.dioceseofyork.org.uk.

Contact Eleanor Course as above to receive an e-mailed download link for each new issue.