



Our DIOCESE

A monthly snapshot of Church of England life around Derbyshire

NOVEMBER 2009

Derby Cathedral Embroidery Workshop

The Workshop will feature in the December/January issue of the national magazine 'Workbox'. This is published on 22 November and available at newsagents for £3.25.

11 Day Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

21 – 31 October 2010 with Archdeacon David Garnett and Revd Clive Thrower

Full-board, all entrance fees, gratuities, local guide. (Flying from Manchester). £1540 based on 2 people sharing. Single room and travel insurance extra. ABTA fully covered with McCabe Travel.

For information and booking, please contact either Revd Clive Thrower (01629 814863, 5 Vernon Green, Bakewell, DE45 1DT, clive@thrower.org.uk, or the Ven David Garnett (01246 582130, The Vicarage, Edensor, Bakewell, DE45 1PH, davidcgarnett@yahoo.co.uk

HOST

Are you thinking about who might come for Christmas this year? Some of the adults from overseas who are currently studying at UK universities would love to spend a couple of days at Christmas in a real home, rather than on a deserted campus. It is interesting to share family customs with people for whom it is all quite new; or, if you are going to be alone, one or two guests from China or India (for example) might even supply a reason for 'doing Christmas properly'. HOST has been linking students with hospitable volunteers for 22 years, at Christmas and also weekends throughout the year. See www.hostuk.org or call HOST's volunteer regional organiser Ruth Pelly on 01335 330555. HOST is a registered charity backed by the Foreign Office and many universities.

TSSF at St Mary's Bridge Chapel, Derby

The Third Order of the Society of Saint Francis (TSSF), Derby Group, will be meeting in Saint Mary's Bridge Chapel, Derby. Meetings on Wednesday evenings will begin at 7.30pm with a Eucharist which will include a Franciscan Homily, then refreshments followed by a 'Local Group TSSF Meeting' and finally Compline, finishing by 9.30pm. All are welcome for the Eucharist and refreshments, and those who wish to find out more about the TSSF are welcome to stay for the rest of the evening. If you have not visited Derby's 14thC Bridge Chapel, then it is an opportunity to do so.

Dates of meetings: Nov 25th (2009) & Feb 10th, April 14th, June 9th, Sep 8th, and Nov 10th (2010). For more information please contact 01332 332945, john-smart@Uko2.co.uk

Amnesty Greetings Card Campaign, St Peter's, Derby, 5 December

Derby Group of Amnesty International will hold their 2009 Greetings Card Campaign and Write-a-thon for Prisoners of Conscience in St Peter's City Centre Church on Saturday 5 December. All are invited to call in between 10am and 4pm to sign cards to people imprisoned for the non-violent exercise of freedom of expression, and other human rights. There will also be letters of appeal on behalf of others who have suffered human rights abuses. Make a note of the date now - more details from tomkin@heage.plus.com.

Is there something you would like to see or say through **Our Diocese**? Send ideas, comments, or submissions by 1st of the month for the following month's issue to:

**Communications Office, Derby Church House, Full Street, Derby DE1 3DR
Tel 01332 388680 or Email: communications@derby.anglican.org**

Submissions will be published at the discretion of the Communications Officer

www.derby.anglican.org

Bishop Alastair writes...

CHRISTMAS SIGHTS

Although the church prepares for Christmas in Advent, most of society is well into this process by November. Planning, preparing and procuring provisions are all aimed at fulfilling a particular perspective.

Providing a Picture

When I was on holiday in Spain in the summer, I visited some amazing places – castles, cathedrals, mosques, civic buildings. In each, as I stopped to take in something of the wonder and almost miraculous creativity of the past, I seemed to be surrounded by people with digital cameras. Each place of wonder was captured by technology, and in a way that appealed to the individual creating the picture. A parable of our time – each person has the power to provide their own picture of the world – to construct what they choose to see, to create a private, personal view.

Perception as Reception

Modern people perceive what we choose to notice, value, ponder - a process of exercising control over creation, over others. When we bring this way of living and seeing to Christmas, we want to ensure a similarly controlled environment. Baby in the crib, lights on the tree, turkey on the table. Jesus is part of the picture, as we choose to notice and frame Him.

But there is another kind of perception. Not one we create and control, but a gift received – a

new insight, hope, awareness, enlightened by the power of mystery, difference, something beyond our imagining.

The gift of new life

Too often Christmas is another exercise in our own creation and control. It can be a sign of a religion focused on framing Jesus as seems to suit us best. In fact Christmas is about the gift of sight. Learning to see in the mystery and miracle of a baby born, a person heralded by angels and adored by the wise, the powerful, the poor and the peasantry. Not a sight to be simply captured on a card, or in a service, an image we create and control. Rather, Christmas is a moment to approach in awe, stillness, open to noticing new and amazing things in this story of struggle, new birth, hope, asylum seeking and fleeing from terror.

May we use our long run up to Christmas to make serious time and discipline for looking carefully at this moment given to us from another age, but powerful with eternal truth about the mystery of life that God offers to those who are willing to notice.

May we use November to really get Christmas in our sights. Then God's gift can be readily received, and we will be changed for ever.

The Bishop's message is also available on the Diocese of Derby website: www.derby.anglican.org



CHURCH *in action*

2009 FROM ANALYSIS TO ACTION

November Saints

All of the saints are remembered of course on All Saints day which falls this year on a Sunday! It is followed the next day by a commemoration of All Souls. Later in the same week the church commemorates Richard Hooker (3rd November) and Leonard the hermit along with William Temple (6th November) before Bishop Willibrord on the 7th. It is of course Remembrance Sunday on 8th November, starting a week when Margery Kempe (mystic), Bishop Leo the great, Bishop Martin of Tours and Charles Simeon are commemorated. The list continues with Margaret, Edmund, Hugh, Elizabeth and Hilda of Whitby, before King Edmund's commemoration on 20th November. St Clement's day is November 23rd, Catherine the 25th, and the month finishes with a celebration of the life of St Andrew the Apostle on 30th.

Bishop's Badge Awards

16 people received the Bishop's Badge at a special service in Derby Cathedral on Sunday 4th October. The candidates come from all over the Diocese of Derby, and the badges recognise their distinguished service to the church and community. The recipients are:

Sheila Bagguley - St Mary & St Laurence, Bolsover
Helen Bousie - St Alkmund and St Werburgh, Derby
Brian Horsley - St Lawrence, Great Barlow
Edward Latham - Lay Chair, Alfreton Deanery
Margaret Perkins - Christ Church, Belper
June Robinson - St Mary & St Laurence, Bolsover
Mark Russell - St Philip, Chaddesden
Linda Sainsbury - St Alkmund & St Werburgh, Derby
Catherine Schurer - St Anne, Baslow
Joan Smith - St George & St Mary, Gresley
Roy Witham - St John the Baptist, Winster
Tracey Ely - St Mary, Boulton
Kat Witham - Diocesan Youth Council
Ann McGovern - School Secretary, Dinting Vale
CE VA Primary School

Di Fretwell - Chair of Governors, Crich Fritchley CE VA Primary School

John Howarth - Head server, Derby Cathedral
Bishop Alastair said: *"I have been heartened and inspired by the human stories behind these nominations; examples of exceptional Christian ministry and quiet devoted service."*

Choristers' Awards

Peter Gould, Master of the Music at Derby Cathedral is pleased to be able to publish the following successful awards to choristers from the Derby Diocese. They will receive their ribbons and medals from the Dean and Bishop of Derby at Evensong in Derby Cathedral on Sunday 8th November at 6pm.

Dean's Awards:

Anna-Marie Edmunds, Olivia Barnard (merit), St Matthew, Darley Abbey

Rachel Beardmore (merit), Helen Collins (distinction), Matthew Jankinson (distinction), Derby Cathedral

Brian Smith (merit), St Giles Matlock

Emma Anderson, Annie Wilkins (merit), Hazel Dean (merit), Samantha Brooks, Jack Wilkins (merit), St James Barlborough

Bishop's Award:

Louise Francis (merit), St Giles Matlock

Rosalyn Marshall, Katherine Alcock, Jodi Gossage (merit), Eleanor Robinson (distinction), Samuel Foxon (merit), Derby Cathedral

Tobias Stables (merit), Gordon Stables (distinction), Sally-Anne Palfreyman, Steve Palfreyman (merit), St James Barlborough

Last Call For the Faith & Football Event

As reported last month, you and members of your church are invited to be actively involved with a "Faith & Football" event on 28 November

2009 at Derby County Football Club. Come and watch Derby take on Reading and then join us in the Pedigree Suite for a light food and drinks reception and hear a short, interesting talk on why we should be considering God, especially as the Christmas season approaches.

This event will be a fantastic chance to build stronger links within local church communities as well as a great day out for people of all ages. Please think and pray carefully about who you could invite along to this opportunity to both hear the Gospel and watch a top football match. We particularly want to encourage you to use this once in a lifetime event to invite your non-Christian friends, and not to use it as a day out for the church family.

Tickets are £35 for two tickets. If, after your initial purchase of two tickets, you need a single ticket, this is available at £17.50. There are also concessions for under 21s and over 60s and reduced prices for season ticket holders. To book your tickets, or for further information on prices, please contact Tony Lormor on 01332 667598. We really look forward to meeting you on the 28th!

Bishop Alastair, The Rev'd Tony Luke (Derby County Chaplain), The Rev'd Andy Hutchinson

Prayer of the Month

Lead me from death to Life,
from falsehood to Truth.
Lead me from despair to Hope,
from fear to Trust.
Lead me from hate to Love,
from war to Peace
Let Peace fill our heart,
our world, our universe.

November diary

Cards for Good Causes, Derby

An outlet for charity cards will again be located at St Peter's City Centre Church in St Peter's Street, Derby. Trading begins on Wednesday 14 October and ends on Wednesday 16 December. Open 10am to 4pm, Monday to Saturday.

Alternative Christmas Market, Allestree, 14 November

Fed up with the crush of Christmas shopping and hate the commercialism of it all? How about buying some virtual presents this year? A goat for a family in India or 100 school dinners for children in Africa? Come along on Saturday 14th November, 10am to 12.30pm to an Alternative Christmas Market at St Nicholas Church, Allestree Lane, Allestree, Derby and see the gifts on offer from local and international charities. Also refreshments and cake stall.

Concert, Mickleover, 14 November

On Saturday 14 November there will be a Concert by The Ashbourne Singers in All Saints Parish Church, Mickleover at 7.30pm. Tickets £6 inc. refreshments. Contact 01332 513733.

St Osmund's Chat Room, Derby, Sunday 15 November

The Chat Room takes place in the Church Hall on Sundays between 7am and 9pm – an informal coffee bar atmosphere, with bring and share nibbles, offering a chance to ask the Vicar questions and a special guest. On Sunday 15th November the guests will be John and Nellie Gerightly from Birmingham - John is a guitarist and Nellie sings. If you would like to attend, please ring 01332 571329 or email jean.stosmunds@btinterne.com to book a place.

Concert in aid of the Bishop's Harvest Appeal, 18 November

On Wednesday 18 November, the Rev'd Mark Broomhead (Pioneer Minister in the North Wingfield Team Ministry) will be performing at a heavy metal concert at SS Augustine, Chesterfield at 7.30pm to launch Sanctum's heavy metal Christmas CD. Contributions from each CD sale will go to the Harvest appeal.

Christingle Service, Spondon, 29th November

The Rev'd Eleanor Berry, Associate Priest at Spondon, and Derby Diocesan President for The Children's Society, invites you to a Christingle celebration service at St Werburgh's, Spondon, Derby, on Sunday 29 November, 3-4pm, in aid of The Children's Society. It is hoped to make the celebration a large, joyful occasion. A Christingle will be provided for all attending, and in order to help with planning, Eleanor would be grateful to know by 16 November if you plan to attend (e.berry80@ntlworld.com, 01332 675265).