

Book now

Catholic Vision (see above) is planned for May 16th at the Cathedral. It will be a point of renewal, encouragement and coming together for Catholic congregations, priests and lay leaders throughout the diocese.

There are 200 places available and the cost will be £5. You can download the booking form at www.tiny.cc/64CMF or call Simon on 0161 828 1410.

School Book Scam

Parishes in Manchester are being targeted by the School Book Scam. The scammers will often call clergy informing them that they need payment for books they agreed to sponsor. Pressure for payment is made with threats of legal action. Call the police if you get such calls and inform your Archdeacon. Google 'School Book Scam' for more information.

Parish Vacancies

Clergy interested in any of these posts should contact their archdeacon. Please bear in mind that others may already be looking at these posts, and that the rights of patrons must be respected.

Manchester Archdeaconry

Crumpsall St Mary with St Matthew (Priest in Charge)
Gorton (Team Vicar)
Newton Heath (Incumbent)

Bolton Archdeaconry

Atherton, Hindsford and Howe Bridge Team Ministry: Team Vicar
An active benefice in Leigh Deanery with large numbers of occasional offices. Responsibility for at least one church in the Team and chaplain to one of the five church schools. Modern Catholic tradition.

Elton St Stephen: Priest in Charge

An active benefice in Leigh Deanery with large numbers of occasional offices. Responsibility for at least one church in the team and chaplain to one of the five church schools. Modern Catholic tradition.

St Andrew, Hillock and St George, Unsworth:
Priest in Charge

Spiritual Companionship Course

A 12-session Spiritual Companionship Course will begin on Tuesday 8 September, from 10.00am – 4.00pm meeting every fortnight until March at Katherine House, Singleton Road, Salford. The course also includes a three-day retreat at Hynning, near Carnforth from Monday 23 to Thursday 26 November.

The total cost is £300. Clergy can claim part of the cost from their in-service allocation; laity can apply for a laity development grant. People can pay in instalments, and we can offer some financial support where necessary.

If you are interested please contact David Sharples, 0161 708 9366 or ddo@bishops court.manchester.anglican.org, for more details and application form.

There will be interviews at Church House on Thursday 28 May and Monday 1 June.

A second course will begin in January 2010 meeting on Saturdays. More details to follow.



A diocesan weekend of prayer will take place this September from Friday 11 to Sunday 13 September. It is called Lord Teach us to Pray. More details and resources to follow.

St John the Evangelist, Crawshawbooth and St Mary & All Saints', Goodshaw: Priest-in-Charge
Communities of 1,800 and 2,800 respectively at the northern edge of the Diocese in Rossendale Deanery. A variety of activities for adults and children in both villages. Links with County Primary School. Tradition: Open Evangelical (Goodshaw), Central (Crawshawbooth).

Turton Moorland Team Ministry: Team Vicar at St Anne Turton and St James Edgworth
Walmsley Deanery. Active rural communities with a choral tradition at St Anne's and a focus on families at St James. Flexible, central tradition, with priorities of leadership, evangelism and stewardship.

Rochdale Archdeaconry

Rochdale St Aidan (Sudden): Heywood and Middleton Deanery
An experienced parish priest is sought who can help congregations recognise and grasp the opportunities for working in partnership to serve at St Aidan's Sudden (at the moment in Rochdale Deanery) and All Souls Heywood both central modern catholic. She/he will be able to manage change effectively and creatively and inspire others to work towards a common vision.

St Thomas' Moorside: Oldham East Deanery
Mixed housing, including a large estate that is due for regeneration. Good congregation of all ages enjoys a

Staff changes

Gerry Riley, who, as Buildings Officer has looked after clergy houses, has retired to enjoy gardening and his hobby as an actor. Look out for him in the next pantomime in Glossop! **Lynn Wild**, Buildings Officer for Schools, is leaving to work for an architect practice in Hollinwood as client liaison manager.

Barbara Summers has worked as PA to diocesan secretaries at Church House and head of the secretariat, ensuring the smooth running of administrative services. She will become the Bishop of Manchester's PA. Barbara will be transferring the skills, discretion and wisdom, that she has used on behalf of the diocese, to Bishops Court where she will be part of small team and a familiar voice on the telephone.

Your Choir at the Bridgewater Hall?

Would your church choir like to sing hymns at the Bridgewater Hall? On June 1st at 7.30pm the Bishop of Manchester will conduct a brass band at an Evening of Celebration. With guest speakers and a chance to fill the Bridgewater with music. Call Judith from the Mothers' Union on 0161 828 1427 and leave your details. Choir members will need to be at the Bridgewater by 7pm and use the stage door. More details from Judith.

Church Website of the Year

Surefish.co.uk and Church Times have launched a competition to find the Church Website of the Year. Why not nominate your site for one of the six awards by visiting www.surefish.co.uk?

St Paul Oldham: Oldham West Deanery
Congregation has a commitment to engaging with a fairly deprived and multi-faith community in partnership with New Deal. Theologically and liturgically middle of the road and open, with weekly Communion services.

South Rochdale Team (St Mary's Balderstone): Rochdale Deanery

A Team Rector for this Team of three churches, who is evangelical, has a passion for mission and is able to recognize and nurture the gifts of others. St. Mary's parish is made up of mixed housing, including two estates, and a large Business Park.

Whitworth and Facit: Rochdale Deanery
Someone to develop further this joint benefice in the northernmost part of the Archdeaconry, who appreciates traditional patterns of worship but is also open to embracing the new. Building bridges between the churches and their two schools would be an important focus, along with outreach.

Medlock Head Team: Oldham East Deanery
A Team Vicar is sought for the Medlock Head Team in the former deanery of Saddleworth who is inclusive and feels comfortable working collaboratively with the Team Rector and lay colleagues. The parish is looking for someone who is spiritual, has a pastoral heart and is able to motivate others. She/he will be responsible for two of the three



The Church House

The Briefing

- Serving the Community
- Growing Congregations
- Increasing Giving



comeasyouare

'Come as You Are' is the winning slogan for Back to Church Sunday this year.

Material is available to order now with the basic pack costing £20 for prayer cards, posters and a DVD or two more expensive options which throw in t-shirts and a Fairtrade starter tea and coffee pack (see flyer enclosed with this mailing or check out the diocesan website).

If you have not done Back to Church for a while then you may want to use this year's theme as it is sure to prove very popular.

Build a welcome seminar

If you want to discover the secrets of developing a culture of welcome then please sign-up for the event with the 'man from John Lewis'. (See 'Secrets of a John Lewis welcome' story below.)

Secrets of a John Lewis welcome

At a free seminar in May there is a chance to discover how John Lewis succeed in increasing their Sunday attendance from hundreds to thousands by doing no more than making people feel welcome.

Such lessons can then be applied to the welcome your church give newcomers who attend everything from Sunday services, Back to Church Sunday to Weddings and Funerals.

The session will be led Mark Hope-Urwin who used to work for the John Lewis Partnership where he successfully taught staff the techniques of providing a warm welcome, resulting in visitor numbers shooting through the roof.

Mark now works for Birmingham Cathedral and is the UK's first ever cathedral Director of Hospitality and Welcome. The session takes place on 18th May 1.45-3.45pm in Manchester Cathedral. Free entry. To book call Helen Fallone 0161 828 1411 or helenfallone@manchester.anglican.org.

Free church website seminar

The Diocesan Communications Department has organised a training seminar for those who want to set up, or improve their existing website. The session is provided by www.churchedit.co.uk, a company that has helped hundreds of churches around the UK see the potential of the web as a great communication tool. The free seminar will last about 2 hours.

What you will learn

How to plan your church website
What your church site should contain
How to get your site found by Google
How to create sites without technical knowledge.
The seminars will run on:

June 23rd at 90 Deansgate, 1.30-3.30pm
June 23rd at 90 Deansgate 7.30-9.30pm.
Booking: Call Helen Fallone 0161 828 1411 or helenfallone@manchester.anglican.org

Sign the anti-BNP pledge



The Bishop of Bolton with other faith, community and business leaders, signing the anti-BNP pledge. Visit www.hopenothate.org.uk/manchester

Getaway Guide 2009

Designed for full-time Christian workers, this guide contains over 30 properties in the UK, France, Spain and Turkey. Extra reductions are given when booking through the Guide. Tel: 0845 434 0021.

Time to give out the Bishop's letter

By now you should have collected your Bishop's letters with the pop-out prayer card for distribution on or around the 26th April. Enough were printed do that every member of the congregation can have one. Sermon outlines and magazine articles can be downloaded from the following page: www.manchester.anglican.org/finance.



BeatMetalTheft.org



Keep hold of your roof!

Last month over 100 people attended a briefing session on the best way to reduce metal theft from church buildings. Included with this mailing you will find a guide handed out at the events.

More copies are available by request or you can download it and posters to warn off thieves at www.BeatMetalTheft.org