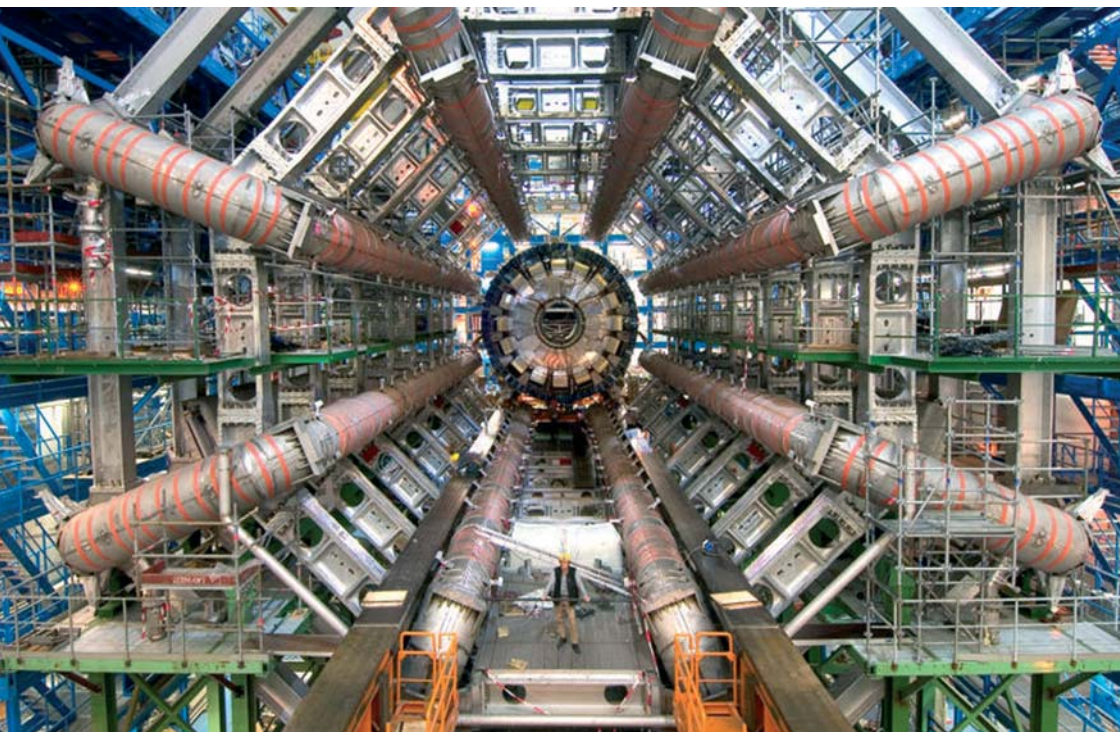


Diocese of Manchester : United in prayer, together in mission

When faith and science collide

Finding common ground between divinity and Darwinism



Meeting needs

From drop-in centres to silver surfers



Money matters

Focus on New Year funding and grants

**BISHOP NIGEL'S
THOUGHT FOR
THE MONTH**



In the midst of conflict

AMONG our world-wide diocesan links is our Mothers' Union link with North Kivu.

Their bishop and his wife visited Manchester before the Lambeth Conference.

North Kivu is at the heart of a long and terrible conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

During the last ten years 5.4 million people have lost their lives as a direct result of combat.

But still it goes on. Villagers live in constant fear, wondering which militia will attack them next - killing their men, raping women and girls, kidnapping children to be soldiers or sex-slaves.

In a letter to our MU only a few weeks ago the Bishop and his wife wrote: "We have experienced suffering that we have never known before.

"When our women and girls have been raped, we fail to know what to say or what to do. We are overwhelmed."

Where in the pecking order of our diocesan links North Kivu stands is of little consequence. They need help.

If you or your parish have not yet decided on a Lent Appeal for 2009, please give to North Kivu (via Bishops Court or our MU Office at Church House).

Above all, please pray for our brothers and sisters suffering there.

Highlights for the New Year

NEXT autumn Manchester Cathedral will host an art exhibition 'Art for God' highlighting the beauty of our church buildings and their spirituality.

Artists are invited to submit a piece of art that illustrates how God speaks through local church buildings and worship. Your inspiration may be personal experience or church heritage.

Further information and application forms from gimabox-stgeorge@yahoo.co.uk.

Leading Your Church into Growth

A day of teaching, encouragement and inspiration will be held at St Paul's Kersal Moor, M7 3QH on Saturday February 21.

Following on from the 'Leading Your Church into Growth' residential courses, the LYCiG team is running a day course for clergy to come with their leaders, PCCs, etc. and it will cover issues such as becoming a mission church, basic mission strategies, effective evangelism and making Sunday attractive.

The cost of the day is £6 (please bring your own lunch). Call Robin Gamble on 01274 419754.

Refreshed and renewed

A Praxis Day for clergy and lay worship leaders will be held on Tuesday February 3 at Manchester Cathedral, from 10am to 4pm

The aim is for those attending to be refreshed and renewed, to make connections between the rhythm of life, the rhythm of the Christian seasons and the rhythms of worship, and to reconnect with the transforming power of worship to change lives.

The day costs £15 (Praxis members: £12) and registration is in the cathedral from 9.30 am. To book a place contact the Revd Trevor Latham The Rectory, Walton Village, Liverpool L4 6TJ Tel: 0151 525 3130, e-mail: trevor.latham@talktalk.net.

Parish Mailing at your fingertips

The clergy mailing is now available for the first time online. Parishioners and clergy can download any of the content, which will be available for three months from the date of issue. Click on the Mailing button at www.manchester.anglican.org.

Fundraising training and grants

A SMALL team within the Church and Society Department is dedicated to helping parishes fundraise for buildings or community-based projects. Training and support on finding sources of finance is available all year, and the diocese administers a range of grants.

Sue Heil, Resources Officers, says: "We recognise that raising funds can be daunting, so we offer a programme of sessions and support to get you started. In the first ten months of 2008 parishes were successful in bidding for £784,000 from external sources, excluding English Heritage. Many of these parishes take advantage of the training we offer."

Fundraising Training : Free and accessible

All sessions are free and take place at Church House, open to all parishioners and clergy. Morning sessions 9.30am -1pm, Afternoon sessions 2pm - 4.30pm

☐ **STEP 1 : Introduction to Fundraising and Grantnet.** Gives an overview of fundraising, diocesan grants and their criteria.

Jan 13 am, April 28 am, June 4 pm

☐ **STEP 2 : Getting Your Project off the Ground.** Following Grantnet training, this session will help people carry out a Parish Audit and set up a project which will involve the local community.

Feb 17 pm, May 11 am, June 16 pm

☐ **STEP 3 : Making a Good Application (Hints & Tips).** Feedback and support for groups who have already drafted an application. **March 25 am**

MORE HELP

Funding Advice Days. Alongside the training sessions, Dian Leppington, Parish Resources Advisor, offers 50-minute sessions where parishes can discuss individual funding needs.

Jan 15, March 3, April 23, June 18

Contact Helen Falconer to book your training or funding advice slot on 0161 828 1412.

Parish Audits, Community Development - Mike France, the Church and Community

Development Officer, is happy to provide support to parishes considering an audit, and is available for help and advice.

Statistics - Alison Peacock, the Mission Planning Officer, offers help for parishes looking at statistical evidence to support a grant application, or help with their audit.

MESSAGEBOARD

We have set up a messageboard on the diocesan website for issues around funding. You can use it to ask questions such as:

☛ Has anyone applied for funding from a particular trust fund? Would they share their experience with us? To register, go to www.manchester.anglican.org, click on Church & Society, and then on the Grant Handbook button.

DIOCESAN GRANTS

The diocese administers a number of grants that are available to parishes in need. Full details, application forms and deadlines for applications are available in the Grants Handbook on the diocesan website.

Parish Mission Fund Grants of up to £25,000 are available for new mission initiatives. Parishes are expected to have paid their Share to be eligible for a grant.

Pastoral Fund - The Parish Share resources this fund which provides grants and loans to help fund church building repairs. Parishes are expected to have paid their Share to be eligible for a grant.

Church Urban Fund - Grants are awarded for parishes in areas of deprivation to help with projects involving the local community.

St Martin in the Field - The diocese receives money from the Radio 4 St Martin's appeal. It can make grants of up to £150 for someone in dire need – e.g. for fuel, food or clothing. Grants are paid via parish accounts.

St Agnes - Grants of up to £200 can be paid for women and children in need. The criteria are similar to St Martin's grants.

Celebrating children in the church

2009 marks the 30th anniversary of the United Nations' International Year of the Child.

This is an ideal opportunity for churches to adopt 2009 as a celebration of children and childhood by:

- Reviewing your work with children and young people
- Celebrating their contribution in the life of the Church and beyond
- Reviewing your children's ministry vision.

Revd Steve Dixon, Diocesan Children's Officer, says: "Most important is the opportunity this gives us to raise the profile of children's work in parishes.

CHILD FRIENDLY CHURCH

CRUX reported on the award of the first Child Friendly Church in the diocese, St Katharine's, Blackrod, last year.

Congratulations to St Paul's, Kersal, which has become the second church to receive the award.

It was presented by Diocesan Director of Education, Maurice Smith, and the bright logo will signify that children can expect to be valued at St Paul's as central members of the church community.

Child Friendly Church : Summary of criteria

1. A parish Child Protection policy is in place and being implemented
2. The church buildings offer a safe environment
3. On-going training and support for leaders is in place
4. There are nurture groups for children and young people
5. There are opportunities for children to be included in child friendly church services
6. Suitable materials for under fives are available in church



"If you've been thinking that you really need to 'do something' about some aspect of your children's ministry, then 2009 could be the year."

There are two initiatives we are encouraging parishes to look at. One is the Bishop's Certificate in Children's Ministry (Level 1) scheme. The other is the Child Friendly Church Award.

The Bishop's Certificate Level 1 is an enjoyable, user friendly package comprising six sessions. Other than for the Child Protection element, participants don't have to leave the comfort zone of their own parish or the people they know.



7. Children and young people are seen as equal members of the church community
8. Feedback is obtained from children and young people
9. There is a vision for children's work
10. There are outreach opportunities.

Visit www.manchester.anglican.org to download the Child Friendly Church pack and for details of the Bishop's Certificate.

For more information on children's ministry, talk to Steve Dixon on 0161 828 1433, or e-mail stephendixon@manchester.anglican.org. See also www.yearofthechild2009.co.uk

Doreen celebrates 40 years at the console

THE community of St Peter's, Westleigh held a surprise party in honour of Doreen Hayes, to celebrate her 40th year as organist. Doreen was thanked for her faithful service ministry of music and she was presented with a Long Service Award Certificate signed by Bishop Nigel.

Parishes can request the services of an organist on the diocesan website. Click on Resources for Parishes, and then Organists to find one, or to advertise your services if you are an organist looking for a church.



Robin says farewell

Robin Gamble writes : "AFTER seven years it is time to leave Manchester. Time to leave a diocese where priests and laity, bishops and archdeacons, Cathedral and 90 Deansgate have all been so encouraging, generous and affirming towards me. Time to leave a diocese which is doing so much to share the Good News of Jesus and grow His church What a great time it has been, and what wonderful people to work with.

I thank you all for your support and companionship. More than this, I thank you for your friendship and love. I leave with a sense of sadness, but also of deep joy."

Some of the initiatives Robin has been involved in over the years : Sharing the Good News, Leading your Church into Growth, Run the Race, Real Christmas, Enquirers' groups, Jesus the Evangelist, Back to Church Sunday, Plan for Growth, The Sending God, Narnia at the Cathedral, Team Manchester and Seven, Mission Weekends, Toolbox, Liberals and Evangelism, The Da Vinci Mass, God Friday, Silver Service, Experience Easter, Shake this Place, Luv 'Em.

READER SELECTION

From 2009 there will be two selection days each year. The training course will begin in September for both. Selection dates for 2009 are Saturday Feb 7 (closing date for applications Fri Jan 9) and Saturday June 6 (closing date Fri May 8). Application forms are available from and returnable to the Archdeaconry Reader Chaplains.

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Working together and winning awards

PARISHES across the diocese are involved in serving their communities through a whole range of projects that meet specific needs. With Poverty and Homelessness Action Week at the end of this month, we feature some projects that meet the particular needs of the most vulnerable in our society.

☐ **ST LUKE'S, HALLIWELL** runs a Drop-in Centre for homeless people, now in its tenth year.

The project received CUF last year, and is an independent trust and has attracted generous funding from Lloyds TSB and small amounts of funding from Bolton MBC and the Andrew Christian Trust.

The Drop-In Centre operates from the Church Hall, and is particularly focused on helping people experiencing homelessness, debt and long-term unemployment, alcohol and drug dependency or social isolation by offering practical and life skills support.

It offers free meals, clothing, bedding and emergency blankets, washing and showering facilities, haircuts, foot care sessions, information and support filling in forms and free use of the phone.

There's also specialist practical support: a treatment room is run by the NHS; there is advice on drug misuse and treatment; counselling; debt advice, and spiritual support.

Rob Bakewell, Centre Manager, explains, "Over the past 12 months the Drop-in has continued to offer much needed support to over 300 vulnerable people, providing 11,500 free meals, 150 emergency food parcels and 1000 items of clothing. In the course of a year we deal with 1200 requests for support.

"Our work reduces the isolation of single people, some of whom are particularly vulnerable. We also help people access resources such as benefits and housing.

"What people appreciate most is the opportunity to meet others face to face. One client recently said bluntly, "If it weren't for places like this a lot of us would be in a wooden box. It makes a great difference."



☐ **HOLY TRINITY, COLDHURST** in Oldham has developed a gardening project for homeless people. With the help of CUF and Parish Mission funding, a part-time development worker has been employed for the past year to run the project.

Fr Nick Smeeton, Team Vicar, says, "When our project worker started in the parish we quickly identified two key issues. Firstly, the church needed to be a niche player - not duplicating the work of other larger and more experienced agencies.

"Secondly, the definition of 'homeless' needed to be wide, and to encompass all those in poor housing or in danger of becoming homeless.

"Our plan for delivery was to partner the parish with other organizations including the Barnardos Asha project. We also wanted to provide something that was distinctively 'home-grown'. This will be the gardening project.

"Through our project worker we are

Silver surf's up in Hollinwood!



COMPUTER courses are underway for senior members of the community in The Canon George Community Hall at St Margaret's, Hollinwood, thanks to a grant from Age Concern and the help of the PCC.

Fr David Hawthorn, Parish Priest, says, "The courses teach the senior students how to use computers and how to access the internet.

"Those attending are given the oppor-

tunity to learn in a friendly environment and ask questions without feeling embarrassed. The IT was installed earlier this year with a grant from SRB6 and is proving popular with many user groups."

❑ **CONGRATULATIONS to St Margaret's, and to Contour Housing. They won the 2008 Award for Bridging Cultures in recognition of public and private sectors working together to support community projects.**

Out of the brambles will come forth beauty ...

already providing gardening workshops to groups including asylum seekers and young people, and we have also been involved with the Primary Care Trust's 'Digging for Health' scheme.

"Over the coming months we hope to turn a price of scrub land next to the church (*right*) into a community garden. Again partnerships (e.g. with Groundwork) will be important. When the scheme is in full swing it will at the same time provide educational and nutritional benefits to clients, and also improve the local environment".



Science and Religion: The vital debate

AS THE ATHEIST BUS CAMPAIGN, BACKED BY RICHARD DAWKINS, TAKES TO THE STREETS, WE SAY 'SCIENCE DOESN'T MAKE RELIGION REDUNDANT'

WHY doesn't Synod do something about Science and Religion? Why doesn't it do more to refute the idea, promoted by prominent atheists, that the amazing advances we have seen in science in recent years somehow make religion redundant or God a delusion?

This question led to a small group of scientists in the diocese, convinced of the importance of science but knowing that it has no answers to the deepest questions of human existence and purpose, meeting and preparing papers for a debate.

Scientific advances challenge how we understand our faith. There is nothing new in this as Galileo discovered in the 17th century,

when the fact that the earth orbits around the sun came into conflict with an over-literal Biblical interpretation. But groups such as the Faraday Institute help us to understand how to relate science and religion.

Many scientists, who are Christians, are fully committed to both their science and their faith and see no conflict between them.

Last year, Diocesan Synod overwhelmingly passed a motion affirming the compatibility of belief in God and an understanding of science. It urged the House of Bishops and all dioceses to robustly promote a better public understanding of the compatibility of science and Christian belief. This will eventually be debated in General Synod.

It is important that each of us is challenged to look afresh at how we relate our faith and trust in God to our understanding of the world in which we live so that we can approach both with integrity. A right appreciation of both science and faith could help us understand that our universe is both stranger and more wonderful than we could otherwise imagine.

Peter Capon, Reader at Holy Trinity Platt, Rusholme, a retired University Scientist and a member of General Synod.



The massive size of the LHC project can be clearly appreciated as a scientist rides past. (This picture and front cover courtesy of CERN)



THE SOCIETY of Ordained Scientists is a dispersed religious order for those who are ordained and have significant experience of science, engineering or medicine. In founding the Society, which has over 100 members, the late Revd Canon Dr Arthur Peacock, a Templeton Prize winner, wanted to express a commitment to the academic dialogue between faith and science, within a spiritual frame work.

Associate membership is open to lay people who have an interest in the science/religion debate. If you are interested, please contact Revd Robert Buckley, e-mail revrobort@athertonparish.co.uk

The 'God Particle' : Not just a moment, but eternal

ONE of the most dramatic ideas of modern science is the Big Bang. The Big Bang was not a cosmic explosion at a point in time in empty space, but the beginning of space and of time itself.

Revd Robert Buckley writes : Last September the eyes of the world were on the CERN laboratory near Geneva, waiting for the moment that would spell a new frontier in high-energy physics.

For the first time protons were circulated in the world's largest and highest energy particle accelerator, the Large Hadron Collider (LHC).

Experiments using the LHC will attempt to discover what happened at the first moment of the universe. At that point science has been unable to give a description of the initial conditions of the expansion of the universe.

Theoretical physicists have proposed the existence of a particle called the Higgs Boson (referred to as the 'God Particle') at this point of time, which is able to give all other particles mass.

If science is unable to describe the initial moments, is this where God comes in to set the universe off? This argument is as weak as the "God of the Gaps" philosophy as it shrinks God as human knowledge expands.

The experiment in September was halted due to overheating of the superconducting magnets, and the LHC will not be operational again until later this year.

There is a growing appreciation that the structure of the universe seems to be sensitively tuned to the existence of life.

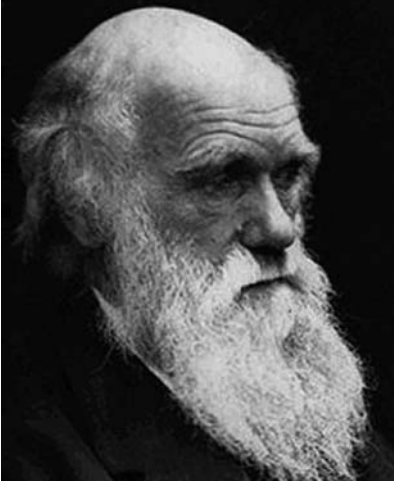
We therefore need both scientific and religious beliefs to do justice to our understanding of God's world.

The work of a scientist is one of discovery and worship. One of the most exhilarating experiences for a scientist is to learn something that no human has understood before, to have a chance to see the glory of creation, its intricacy and beauty.

No wonder, many years ago the astronomer Kepler described cosmology as "Thinking God's thoughts after Him".

SCIENCE AND RELIGION

Demonising Darwin gets us nowhere near the truth



THE Church of England has developed a new website to mark the bicentenary of Charles Darwin's birth in 1809, and the 150th anniversary of the publication of 'On the Origin of Species' in 1859.

www.cofe.anglican.org/darwin reveals that Darwin was surrounded by the influence of the Church his entire life. He trained to be a priest in Cambridge and was inspired to follow his calling into science by a clergyman who had a strong interest in botany.

Writing on the new website, the Revd Dr Malcolm Brown, Director of Mission and Public Affairs, says: "When a big new idea emerges which changes the way people look at the world, it's easy to feel that every old idea, every certainty, is under attack and then to do battle against the new insights. The Church made that mistake with Galileo, and has since realised its error.

Some church people did it again in the 1860s with Charles Darwin's theory of natural selection. So it is important to think again about Darwin's impact on religious thinking, then and now.

"If Darwin's ideas once needed rescuing from religious defensiveness, they may also now need rescuing from some of the enthusiasts for his ideas.

"A scientist has a duty to the truth: a scientist is called to be fearless in discovering the way the world works. But 'Darwinism' has become something bigger than Darwin's own theories, and raises many moral questions."

He asserts that a healthy balance between the mystery of faith and the wonders of scientific discovery is essential.

"There is no reason to doubt that Christ still draws people towards truth through the work of scientists as well as others," he writes, "and many scientists are motivated in their work by a perception of the deep beauty of the created world."

**Want to explore Christian faith?
Thinking about Confirmation?
Aged 15-16?**

Spend 8 days in Finland
with young people
from the Dioceses
of Manchester
and Tampere



**July 22-29
2009**

Limited places - so act now!

Find out more from your
diocesan youth officer
on 0161 828 1460
or JohannaPearson@manchester.anglican.org

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Manchester

... and a very happy New Year

says BISHOP CHRIS



THE GREETING on many of our Christmas cards: '... and a very happy New Year' may seem to have a rather hollow ring to it as 2009 dawns.

Over the last few months, the news has been dominated by the global financial crisis, and the potential implications for us as a nation, and as individuals.

For some of you reading this, and certainly for others in the parishes of our diocese, the much spoken of recession is already biting - job losses, home repossession, increased fuel bills being just some of the effects. It's a worrying time for many.

A different drumbeat

And all this is in addition to the existing day-to-day concerns that make up our lives: about our families and friends; health issues; maybe worry about something we've done wrong, and coping with the burden of guilt.

Not much chance of 2009 being a 'happy new year' it seems!

But surely as Christians we ought to be bringing a different perspective to what's happening in these uncertain times.

A heartening headline

Not in the sense of an ostrich-like, head in the sand approach, or one that sees faith as some kind of sedative inoculating us against each day's challenges. Isn't there a different drumbeat to march to, than the one set by the headlines of doom and gloom?

It seems to me that the clue lies in seeing faith in Christ not as a solution to life, but as a way of living it. Faith doesn't free us from questions or even our share of suffering, in whatever form.

Rather it affirms meaning in our lives, and through the struggles, we find that different perspective - God with us (remember the meaning of Emmanuel) in the middle of all the worry and uncertainty.

One of the New Testament verses I often return to is Jesus' promise in St John 10.10: "I have come that you might have life ... life in all its fullness".

As we move into 2009, I believe this is the headline of hope we should be proclaiming and living out as individuals and Christian communities.

Life in all its fullness not meaning a trouble-free, painless life, but life lived to the full, embracing its mysteries, agony and beauty.

A positive response

A response to Jesus' offer to give us the inner courage to face the future in the way he would have us travel, and a commitment as the people of God to be aware of, and offer hands-on help to, those most affected by the current 'climate'.

There's nothing new about living in uncertain times, whether at global, local or personal levels, which is why Jesus' words from the Sermon on the Mount about worry, might be good ones for us to have before us each day of 2009:

'Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness ... therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough troubles of its own' (*Matthew 6. 33,34*)

*The Rt Revd Chris Edmondson
is Bishop of Bolton*

'On the streets' in a good cause

LIZA FAWCETT is one of 37 Street Pastors coming to the end of their training and has been working on the streets since April of last year.

Five years ago Liza moved from one of the most sought-after places to live - Chorleywood - to live in Harpurhey. Since then she has been part of the local Christ Church family.

At first she thought her age might be against her until she found out she was not the oldest Street Pastor! Since then Liza's disarming personality and her smile has broken into many difficult situations as she took on this new calling.

Those who are older have what Street Pastors call the 'granny factor'! When young people don't feel they can talk to their parents, it is often to an older role model they feel most able to turn.

Liza feels that the uniform, training, working in pairs, and their ethos have made Street Pastors a welcome part of the community.

"Though the Christian faith is at the heart of what we do and why we do it, it is not at



LIZA FAWCETT : At 83, she's a Street Pastor with the vital 'Granny Factor'

the forefront of what we say. Street Pastors are not about preaching but a practical demonstration of the love of God."

Street Pastors are addressing needs as well as anti-social behaviour and youth problems, and are having a positive effect on reducing crime. Liza, has been in the thick of it - everything from consoling tearful teenage girls with a loving arm in the aftermath of knife crimes, to cleaning up criminal damage.

These incidents might sound scary but trained Street Pastors take them in their stride. Liza says: 'There are lots of opportunities. I

would say, if you are thinking of becoming a Street Pastor, go for it.'

● DO YOU FEEL you have what it takes? There will be an introduction weekend on February 20-22 in Longsight. This is a must for those who want to be part of a team, but the weekend can also be useful for those who are undecided. They can come, listen, learn and reflect without commitment.

We're looking for

12 people to give
12 days and
12 nights over a period of
12 months

...to serve in your community
 as Street Pastors

Do feel that you have
 what it takes to be a
 Street Pastor?



Greater Manchester training course starts with an introduction weekend 20-22 February 09 in Longsight. This is a must for those who want to be part of a team but also the weekend can be used for those who are undecided to come along without committing themselves to anything. Places must be booked in advance. For more information, application pack or to invite us to speak at your church contact Peter 0790 610 2522; manchester@streetpastors.org.uk

Happy birthday Fairtrade!

AS 2009 dawns, it's good to reflect that the worldwide fairtrade movement continues to get stronger, with parishes in the diocese continuing to play their part in spreading the message, taking practical action to advance principles of social justice.

Divine inspiration

2008 marked the tenth anniversary of Divine, the fairtrade chocolate company. Divine is co-owned by a large group of cocoa farmers from across Ghana. Not only do the farmers get a fair price, but they are also able to reinvest the healthy profits in their local communities.

Starbucks raises the bar

This coffeehouse chain, already the world's largest FT coffee licensee, has committed to doubling the amount of ethically-traded beans it buys in 2009. This will be worth £40m, with yet more millions pledged to



support programmes in growers' communities.

It's great news for the campaigners and institutions calling for trade to be used to help people out of poverty - rather than trap them in it.

And it couldn't come at a better time for the families of more than 100,000 poor-country farmers who stand to benefit, as the combined impacts of climate change, rising food prices, and exposure to global economic instability loom.

Meanwhile, back in the UK

Fairtrade Fortnight offers us an excuse to pester supermarkets to stock products that promise their growers a decent deal.

Ask them about Ubuntu cola made with Malawian sugar - a new FT brand struggling to establish itself in the UK.

Badgering supermarkets works! The range of new products carrying the mark continues to grow.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT
23 February - 8 March 2009

GOING BANANAS!

LOOK OUT for a world record attempt at mass banana eating (Going Bananas for Fairtrade) on March 6 and 7, an opportunity for your whole church community to devise social events based around this fair-trade icon.

Parishes are also being encouraged to purchase fairtrade flowers for Easter and Mothering Sunday in 2009; and we are hoping to announce a diocesan fairtrade event in Bury.

As we wrestle with the current economic difficulties, let us not lose sight of how



our local actions impact globally. Fairtrade works. No wonder we still want more of it.

IAIN HODCROFT, Fairtrade Task Group
(adapted from a Christian Aid article)

CATHEDRAL DIARY

If you have queries regarding events at the Cathedral, ring 0161 833 2220.

TIMES OF SERVICES - SUNDAY : Morning Prayer 8.45am (said); Holy Communion 9am (said); Sung Eucharist (Common Worship - sung - Cathedral Choir) 10.30am; Evensong (sung - Cathedral Voluntary Choir) 6.30pm.

WEEKDAYS : Morning Prayer 9am (Mon-Sat); Holy Communion 1.10pm (Mon-Fri), Evensong 5.30pm (said Mon & Fri, sung Tues, Wed & Thurs), Evensong 3.30pm (sung, Sat only).



EVENTS during JANUARY & FEBRUARY

JANUARY

- Sun Jan 4** 4pm Epiphany Procession
Mon Jan 5 5.30 pm Evensong (Deaf Church)
Tues Jan 6 12.30pm Julian Prayer Group
Wed Jan 7 12.45 pm Turning of the Leaves
Thurs Jan 8 12 noon Mothers' Union Prayer (Lady Chapel)
Sat Jan 17 - Fri Feb 13 Stain Glass Exhibition
Tues Jan 20 1.10 pm Chethams Concert
Wed Jan 21 12.30 pm Turning of the Leaves
Tues Jan 27 12.30 Julian Prayer Group
 1.30 pm Retired Clergy Association (Chapter House)

- Thurs Jan 29** 12 noon Forward in Faith/
 Women's Chapter Eucharist
 7pm Theological Society
 Lecture. 'Out of the Deep'
 (Lecturer: Chris Baker)

FEBRUARY

- Sun Feb 1** 6.30 pm Organ Recital : La Nativite du Seigneur
Wed Feb 4 12.30 pm Turning of the Leaves (Regiment Chapel)
Tues Feb 10 1.10 pm Chethams' Concert
Tues Feb 17 12.30 pm Julian Prayer Group
Wed Feb 18 12.30 pm Turning of the Leaves (Regiment Chapel)

OBITUARIES

The Revd Gordon Frederick Dowden has died age 82. He served as a priest in Hulme from 1958 to 1978, was Area Dean of Hulme (1973-78), Alton (1979-82), and then Ardwick (1982-90) and Chaplain of Ancoats Hospital.

Robin Usher, his last curate during his time at the Ascension, Hulme, writes: "GFD was solid, thoughtful, learned, caring, and deeply spiritual. He made a great and lasting impression on many priests trained by him".

His pastoral concern extended beyond the parish to embrace the spiritual direction, counselling, and befriending of many in the diocese.

A published poet he was a humble man. When offered an honorary canonry, he said: "I'm not sure that taking on a title without any accompanying work is what we're all about."

The Revd Gordon Smethurst has died aged 75. Gordon joined the architectural partnership of Bradshaw, Gass & Hope in Bolton, and became a senior partner.

He was licensed as a Reader at St Peter, Halliwell. Ordained in 1982, he served as a non-stipendiary minister at St Margaret's, Halliwell and St Maxentius, Bradshaw before becoming Assistant Chaplain at Bolton Royal Infirmary. In 1995 he moved to Westhaughton & Wingates where he covered a two-year interregnum before retiring in 2003.

Derek French, Priest in Charge at St Margaret, Halliwell, recalls: "As well as giving true and faithful service to the people in his care, Gordon continued to use his skills as a designer and wood-worker for the benefit of the parish".

He was also a trustee and then chairman of the Bolton Deaf Society.

Small Ads

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