

Departures

The Rev Val Plumb, Team Vicar, By Brook Benefice, left us at the end of August to take up a post in Somerset.

Canon Roger Clifton, Team Rector, Greater Corsham Benefice, retires on 1st November. Our prayers go with them both as they move away

Hospital Chaplaincy Team:

We have a team of five Chaplaincy Visitors going into Chippenham Hospital on Tuesday afternoons but could always use more people. If you are interested in this area of pastoral work please contact Rev Simon Tatton-Brown (01249 656834). Training can be arranged.

Ride and Stride

Every year on the second Saturday in September the sponsored Ride and Stride takes place to raise funds for the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust and the participants' churches. This year our Area Dean set off on this bicycle and managed to visit all 26 churches in the Deanery (In fact he visited 41 churches and cycled approx. 85 miles.) Ray Barker from Colerne visited 60 churches covering more than 100 miles in the process. Well done both! And congratulations to all intrepid walkers and cyclists who took part this year!



St Mary's Church Nettleton

The PCC of St Mary's asked the Deanery for funding to help with outreach. There is nowhere for people to meet in the villages of Burton and Nettleton so they are making an open space at the back of the church which can be used by the community. They have already been successful in obtaining grants from outside charitable bodies towards this work. The Deanery Leadership Team was pleased to be able to give a grant of £500 towards running "Messy Church" for all school-age children in the villages.

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Uganda Link:

The Celebrations of the 40th Anniversary of the Bristol/Uganda Link were most successful. All those who attended the Supper Party at Biddestone enjoyed a wonderful evening with the Anglican Youth Fellowship Choir who inspired us with their music and testimonies. The Service in the Cathedral brought people together from all over the Diocese and had us practically dancing in the aisles! Bishop Paul and his wife Maama Margaret from Mukono were our guests for the week and Bishop Paul, representing Archbishop Henry Orombi, was presented with a banner to take back to Kampala.



We were disappointed not to be able to respond to Bishop Paul's request to host a group this September. He had been anxious to follow up his very successful visit and for those who had been refused a visa to be able to come and see us at a later date. But there wasn't enough time or energy for us to arrange this second round of events coming, as it did, so soon after the May visit and it was agreed that we would invite them to visit us next spring.

However Bishop Paul has graciously invited Aurea Hart, Phil Townsend and Simon Tatton-Brown to represent the Deanery of Chippenham at the 25th Anniversary celebrations for the Diocese of Mukono in early December. One of the things we all learned from this recent visit to us was that our friendships in Christ are stronger than the tensions that have been threatening the Anglican Communion. These tensions haven't gone away but we found that as we worshipped and prayed together, we experienced a grace and a blessing that might not have been granted us had we not come together in friendship.

When Our Lord promised that when two or three are gathered together in his name, there he is in our midst. He didn't say that the problems we all face would go away. The cross of discipleship is something he calls us all to carry.

What I have found through the Chippenham-Mukono link is that we don't carry our crosses alone. We're like Simon of Cyrene to each other. As Simon's ministry was of service to Christ, so the ministry of Bishop Paul and his diocese in Mukono encourages us; and (we pray) our ministry and witness here likewise encourages our Ugandan friends. It's worth us English remembering that Simon of Cyrene was an African.

The Chippenham Deanery is beginning to plan for a Deanery Mission in 2012. My prayer for the Chippenham-Mukono link is that the friendships we enjoy across our different cultures, traditions (and experiences of Christianity) will feed into our Mission. As I talk with Bishop Paul in December about the visit from Mukono in the spring, I will be asking him how he thinks the visitors he wants to send us can help us. I would be very surprised if they did not have a valuable contribution to make as we do Mission together.

SIMON TATTON-BROWN

Bristol and Swindon Blue Wave

Cycling for life's sake ... 3rd—5th December 2009

Make your wishes count and join thousands of others in making your voice heard by cycling from Bristol or Swindon to London on the eve of the United Nations Climate Change Conference to join in the WAVE. Both Bishop Mike and Bishop Lee will be riding for some or all of the ride and we hope that many others will join us.

Please visit www.bristolbluewave.org.uk/ for full details.

Youth Café in Chippenham:

Three members of St Andrew's PCC put a successful bid together (with the support of Dan Jones, the Diocesan Youth Advisor) to fund a proposed Youth Café at St Andrew's. The plan is to provide a safe haven for young people to come and meet friends, take part in activities, and chill out—and also provide a bridge between their lives and church. The £1,400 grant will enable St Andrew's PCC to equip a space in the church hall to set up the café.

Commenting on the bid, members of the national Youth Evangelism Fund wrote, "What a positive and encouraging application this was."

Deanery Leadership

The Rev. Andrew Gubbins has been appointed as Deanery Missioner and Priest-in-Charge at St Peter's Church, Chippenham. He will be licensed at St Peter's on Saturday, 21 November, at 2 pm. His last post was in Leeds and he and his family will be moving to Chippenham during half term week. We look forward to welcoming him here.

Andrew will become part of the new Deanery Leadership Team. This team has been drawn from churches across the Deanery and will work alongside the Area Dean taking responsibility for decision-making and making the Diocesan Strategy "Releasing the Energy" work locally. The team members are: Rev. Simon Tyndall (Area Dean), Phil Townsend (both from North Chippenham Group of Churches), Rev. Sally Wheeler, Mary Menhinick, Nigel Lane (all from Greater Corsham Benefice), Rev. Simon Tatton-Brown (St Andrew's, Chippenham), Rev. Janet Anderson-Mackenzie (Box & Ditteridge), Marjorie Caie, Tim Smith (By Brook Benefice) and Aurea Hart (Marshfield). These people are passionate about making things happen in the Deanery so why not invite one of them to speak at your PCC meeting or at a service.

Bishop Lee Rayfield, Bishop of Swindon came to our last Deanery Meeting to speak about the Diocesan Strategy. God has gifted believers in different ways and the strategy is about releasing the energy of the whole Body of Christ, encouraging people to use these gifts in their local churches. You can read the Diocesan Strategy "Releasing the Energy" on www.bristol.anglican.org/ministry/strategy.

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." 1 Peter 2:9