

**EVENTS
FEBRUARY 2005**

Diocesan confirmations

The Bishop of London will administer the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation in St Paul's Cathedral, during the Easter Vigil, at 7pm on Saturday 26 March. Clergy wishing to present candidates should inform the Liturgical Secretary at St Paul's Cathedral no later than Friday 11 March of each candidate's name, date of birth, address, date and place of baptism, and the name of presenting priest and parish.

There will be a rehearsal for candidates in the Cathedral at 5.30pm on Saturday 26 March.

For more information contact Susan Charles, e: liturgicalsec@stpaulscathedral.org.uk, or t: 020 7246 8354.

Treasurers' Training Day

This half-day training course will cover the basics of being a PCC Treasurer, including Common Fund and Diocesan Finance Statements for Parishes, Annual Returns/Accounts, Basic Procedures/Expenses/Fees, and Expansion of the new Finance Booklet.

Saturday 12 February at London Diocesan House, 36 Causton Street, London SW1P 4AU. Coffee will be served at 10am and the course will run from 10.30am until 1pm.

To book a place, contact Theresa Moses as above, e: theresa.moses@london.anglican.org or t: 020 7932 1247. Please supply your name, parish and contact details.

Party leaders to address churches in run-up to General Election

Michael Howard and Charles Kennedy will address Britain's churches in the run-up to the General Election in a series of groundbreaking live webcasts organised by the Christian movement, Faithworks. Both leaders will speak about the role that the Church and other faith groups can play in encouraging trust within Britain's communities, as well as addressing the question, is faith important for building trust in 21st Century Britain.

Churches and individual Christians are encouraged to meet together to view the lectures from their nearest broadband-connected computer. Web-based discussion notes are being made available for small groups and there will be an opportunity for viewers to text their questions to the speakers on the night.

For full details and information about how to view the webcasts, visit www.faithworks.info/lectures.

Tsunami appeal concert

This concert, conducted by Jeremy Summerly and featuring an assembly of top performers, will include Mozart *Requiem*, Barber *Adagio for Strings*, Tippett *Five Negro Spirituals*, Brahms *How lovely are Thy dwellings*.

29 January, 7.30pm at St Luke's Church, Sydney Street SW3. Tickets are £15 in advance or £20 on the door. To enquire, t: 07967 222 034. To book tickets send a cheque payable to 'DEC Tsunami Earthquake Appeal' with your contact details to Tsunami Concert Appeal, 37 Regatta Point, 38 Kew Bridge Road, Brentford, Middx TW8 0EB.

Teaching biblical narrative today

Despite ingredients of God, drama and violence, a major University of Exeter research project found the verdict of most pupils on the Bible by was "important but not personally relevant". Radical new approaches developed from the university's Biblos Project will be highlighted at a seminar on 17 March. Peter Wilby, Editor of the *New Statesman*, will add his own provocative voice in the opening address.

The one day seminar is open to the teaching profession and all concerned with teaching children and young people about the Bible. It will tackle the key questions of how teaching of the Bible in RE can become more relevant to young people's experiences

The event will be held at St Paul's Centre, Robert Adams Street, London, W1U 3HW. Attendance is free of charge, but places are limited and need to be booked in advance online at www.biblesociety.org.uk/biblos or by calling Bible Society on 01793 418100 or e: events@biblesociety.org.uk.

Anglicanism and the Western Christian Tradition: Continuity and Change

This exhibition – the first to be held at the Vatican by a non-Roman Catholic organisation – is now open for viewing at Westminster Cathedral.

Creating a user-friendly Church

How well is your church communicating with its congregation and with those people you want to reach? Consider church notice boards, parish magazines, disabled access, signage, web sites, basic media relations and appointing a parish press officer at this one-day workshop on 22 April. More details are available at www.commstraining.cofe.anglican.org.

Diocesan Ministry Department courses

Pre-retirement Course - 1 February, 10am-3.30pm, for those nearing retirement (and their spouses), with lots of good advice from experts on sensible preparation.

Exploring Vocation - 5 February or 18 June, 11am-3.30pm. To explore the concept of vocation in its narrower and wider senses. (Religious, priest, NSM, permanent deacon, reader, lay minister, Church Army, schoolteacher...) To understand how the discernment process works in the Diocese of London – how we try to discern the nature of God's calling. To appreciate the distinctiveness of the Church of England by considering its origins and nature.

Refresher Day on Preaching – Wed 2nd March, 10 - 3, for clergy & Readers, at Causton Street, led by the Director of Training, Nick Mercer.

To apply for any of these courses, contact Nick Mercer, e: nick.mercer@london.anglican.org or t: 020 7932 1236.

What makes trade fair?

The pressure to change the global economic system is gaining momentum. 'What makes Trade Fair?' is a weekend conference organised by the Ridley Hall Foundation in partnership with the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity. It will bring together businesspeople, NGOs/charities and interested academics to explore the theological, ethical and economic issues underlying ideas of trade justice, as well as sharing ideas for practical action.

The conference will include ample time for group discussion but will include substantial and stimulating input on *Hearing the Bible afresh, Making connections between past and present, Subverting global capitalism?, Campaigning for trade justice, Moving the fair trade agenda forward, and Taking further action.*

8-10 April. The cost of attending the conference is £145 (residential) or £95 (non-residential). To register, contact Richard Higginson, t: 01223 741074, e: rah41@cam.ac.uk, or Janine Stewart, t: 01223 741082, e: jmps2@cam.ac.uk. For full details of the conference see 'Faith in Business' at www.ridley.cam.ac.uk.

Prayer vigil for Iraq elections

A vigil is being held at St Alban's, Fulham Fields, on 29 January, with participation from the Syriac Orthodox congregation there. The vigil will begin at 6pm with Evening Prayer and continue to 9pm. Any prayers you may wish to offer, or any encouragement you can give, would be most welcome. Fuller information is available at www.starcourse.org/iraq.

Community Ministry workshops

3 March: Fundraising for Community Projects with Maggie Durran. Diocesan House, Causton Street. 10.30-14.00. Cost: £15

10.15 Coffee

10.30 The 'how to' of fundraising for community projects: preparing information that meets the requirements of potential funders

11.30 Sources of funding and how to do the research, including recommended books websites and advice

12.30 Lunch

13.00 Planning the future: setting out a programme over several years to ensure that a foundation of planned fundraising provides sustainability

Each of these sessions will include opportunities for questions and discussion.

14 April: Appreciative Inquiry Workshop. Diocesan House, Causton Street. 10.00-16.00. Cost: £20

An opportunity to discover how Appreciative Inquiry can inform and help us to discern a parish vision. The day will be led by experienced consultants and clergy who are involved in this process and will include Vision Building, Mission Action Plans, Use of buildings, Community Audits and appropriate partnerships in the wider community. More details will follow.

Please book as soon as possible with Carroll Potter, t: 020 7932 1127 or e: carroll.potter@london.anglican.org.

Fairtrade Fortnight

1-13 March. Consider organising an event – a coffee morning, wine tasting or food festival – or run a stall serving Fairtrade tea and coffee after church to show the wide range of Fairtrade products now available.

Fairtrade Fortnight is a key opportunity to remind congregations, friends and colleagues about the impact of Fairtrade on five million producers and their families who currently supply Fairtrade products. It is also a good time to make others more aware of the growing range of Fairtrade food and products.

For resources for churches and a Church Action Guide, see www.fairtrade.org.uk or t: 020 7440 7676. More information about how to become a Fairtrade Church is available at www.traidcraft.org.uk.

'Personal and Moral Discipline'

The Revd Dr Edward Norman, Emeritus Fellow of Peterhouse, formerly Chancellor of York Minster and Reith Lecturer, will give three talks on 'Personal and Moral Discipline' at St Andrew by the Wardrobe on 27 February, 6 & 13 March. Tea will be at 4pm, the talk at 4.30pm followed by Choral Evensong, sung by a visiting choir.

For more information, contact The Revd Dr Alan Griffin, t: 020 7248 7546.

The Church of England Guild of Vergers – Training Conference 2005

27 June – 1 July. All who do the work of a verger, with or without the title, are most welcome. The conference will include speakers, workshops, an outing, trade stands, fun, fellowship, and a rich diet in Chapel and Refectory.

Details can be obtained from Richard Falla, 8 Selborne Road West, Barbourne, Worcester WR1 3JG, t: 01905 612031.

Youthwork The Conference

This annual event, which aims to equip Christian youthworkers, has been extended to two separate weekends in 2005. The conference will take place in Southport from 11-13 November and in Eastbourne from 18-20 November. The theme will be focusing on The Main Thing - Why do we do what we do? For details of the conference visit www.youthwork.co.uk/conference, t: 0870 060 3327, f: 0870 060 3328 or e: info@youthworkconference.co.uk.

The Power of God for Salvation – one gospel for a complex world?

Our contemporaries like to speak about many ways to the same God. This philosophy is applied to the different religions of the world but also to different versions of Christianity. Some would even argue that there are various gospels in the New Testament, which are applicable to different cultures and situations.

Oak Hill College's Annual School of Theology for clergy and full-time Christian workers will seek to explore the theology of the gospel in various strands of the New Testament, to help to teach the gospel in all its dimensions to believers, and so equip the Church to evangelise more effectively in a post-modern world.

27 April. The cost of the course is £25 to cover registration, lunch and refreshments. Contact Peter Wood, t: 020 8449 0467 ext. 227, or e: peterw@oakhill.ac.uk, for more details.