

**INFORMATION  
MARCH 2005**

**Mystery Worshipper Sunday - Advance Warning**

The satirical website Ship of Fools, is intending to hold a mass Mystery Worshipper Sunday in London on 24 April. A series of mystery worshippers is being recruited to visit churches in central and greater London and report back on how it was for them. All the reports will be published and publicised two weeks later 'giving a unique snapshot of what church was like in London over one 24-hour period'. The reporters are briefed to give the low-down on what it's like to be a visitor in London churches on that Sunday. They will report on some set questions: How hard is the pew? How long is the sermon? How fairly-traded is the coffee? How warm is the welcome? etc. as well as making general observations. Reporters remain incognito and leave only a calling card in the collection plate as a sign they have visited.

Two weeks after Mystery Worshipper Sunday, the results will be announced at an awards ceremony on Tuesday 10 May - the opening day of the National Christian Resources Exhibition at the Sandown Park Exhibition Centre, Surrey. Subject to sponsorship of individual awards, the organisers hope to present awards for Best Overall Church, Best Sermon, Warmest Welcome, Best Use of Music, Best Service Against the Odds (for small, inner-city congregations), Best Fairtrade-Conscious Church, Best Church Magazine.

To view past Mystery Worshipper reports please visit [www.shipoffools.com](http://www.shipoffools.com).

**Parishes encouraged to use the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme**

This scheme enables reclaim of the full 17.5% VAT payable on repairs and maintenance undertaken to listed church buildings since 1 April 2004. All such work carried out between 1 April 2001 and 31 March 2004 is also eligible for a refund amounting to 12.5%.

The Scheme is scheduled to cease in March 2006. Although an estimated £100m per year is spent on repairs and maintenance, the Scheme's administrators paid out only £6.5m in VAT refunds for eligible projects in England between 1 April 2004 and 31 January 2005. Although the Church of England accounts for over 90% or more of the total, this figure does include sums paid to other faith groups in England with listed church buildings. This suggests that eligible works are being carried out on listed church buildings and no application is being subsequently made for a refund. Churches run the risk of losing the Scheme as a result of poor take up.

The Church of England VAT Group urges all parishes who have undertaken repair works to listed church buildings costing in excess of £1,000 to ensure that a claim is made under the Scheme for a VAT refund following completion of the works. Please view the details at [www.lpwscheme.org.uk](http://www.lpwscheme.org.uk). Queries about eligibility, filling in the application or any other matter can be directed to the Scheme administrators on t: 0845 601 5945 or e: [nptcallcentreuk@cslplc.com](mailto:nptcallcentreuk@cslplc.com).

**The London Eucharist**

This congregational mass setting by Huw Williams, Sub-Organist and Assistant Director of Music of St Paul's Cathedral, was commissioned in celebration of the 1400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Parishes in the Diocese are offered a 'free trial' of the music until July 2005. If your church would like to continue to use the setting then there will be a small, one-off charge of £15 for the SATB version and £10 for the congregational version. This 'licence' allows churches to make as many copies of the music as required.

If you would like to receive a copy of the setting then please contact the Communications Department at Diocesan House or e: [communications@london.anglican.org](mailto:communications@london.anglican.org).

### **The Art and Christianity Enquiry 2005 Awards**

The ACE/RIBA Award for Religious Architecture: a £3,000 award for a work of architecture or landscape design that makes an outstanding contribution to the external environment. A new design or a re-ordering of existing structures or open spaces are eligible. Buildings of any faith tradition are eligible.

The ACE Award for a Commissioned Artwork in Ecclesiastical Space: a £3,000 reward for a permanent commissioned artwork which addresses its context within a Christian worship space.

The ACE/REEP Award: £2,500 for an artist working with a school to design a garden which includes artwork incorporating text. £500 will also be awarded to the school.

The ACE/MERCERS International Book Award: a £3,000 award for a book which makes an outstanding contribution to the dialogue between religious faith and the visual arts. The subject matter may relate to any major religious tradition, and to any visual medium.

The deadline for submissions is 31 May 2005. Entry forms are available from Laura Moffatt, t: 020 8533 6522, e: [awards@acetrustorg](mailto:awards@acetrustorg), or at [www.acetrustorg/ACEAwards.html](http://www.acetrustorg/ACEAwards.html). For entries to the ACE/REEP Award please visit [www.reep.org](http://www.reep.org).

### **Universal Beneficent Society**

This charity supports nearly a thousand elderly people across the UK through financial assistance and friendship. The charity provides committed quarterly annuity payments, emergency grants in times of urgent need, bedding and food parcels and gifts at Christmas time. It also provides volunteer visits whenever possible. The UBS helps those over 70, living in their own homes (rented or owned), having limited savings and receiving their state benefits. The assistance provided is without distinction of class, creed, race, gender, sexuality or religion and does not affect state benefit entitlement.

For further details of eligibility requirements or general information, contact Universal Beneficent Society, 6 Avonmore Road, London W14 8RL, t: 020 7605 4263, e: [ubs@independentage.org.uk](mailto:ubs@independentage.org.uk) or visit [www.u-b-s.org.uk](http://www.u-b-s.org.uk).

### **The Christian Building Trust**

The Christian Building Trust was set up to build churches, hospitals and schools for Christian communities to run. So far seven churches have been built in the Diocese of Madak in the Church of South India at a modest £3,400 each. These double up as schools for all. The Trust is also in the process of building doctors' and nurses' housing at St Luke's Hospital Hiranpur, Diocese of Bihar, Church of North India.

The Trust asks that churches consider having a collection to aid its work. For more details contact The Christian Building Trust, PO Box 27, Llangefni LL7 7BZ.

### **Chantmarle Christian Resource and Education Centre**

This newly-opened Christian resource centre and retreat in the heart of Dorset has six various sized seminar rooms, accommodation and sports facilities. These include a heated indoor 25-metre pool, tennis court and a nine-hole recreational golf course. For a further look visit their website at [www.chantmarle.co.uk](http://www.chantmarle.co.uk).

### **Simply Hymns**

Simply Hymns specialises in the production of CDs containing hymn music for use where live accompaniment is not available. As the CDs are produced to individual requirements only the tunes required are charged for. A pre-recorded CD of 20 general hymn tunes is also available. Visit [www.simplyhymns.com](http://www.simplyhymns.com) for further details and to request a sample CD.

## **Get ready for the General Election**

At the last five General Elections, churches across the country have joined together to host 'Question Time' meetings for candidates standing for election. These are significant all-party meetings. Voters can question candidates, and both politicians and voters have the opportunity for genuine debate on neutral territory.

Free material to help prepare for a constituency meeting is available at [www.churcheselection.org.uk](http://www.churcheselection.org.uk), where there are downloadable materials to help with planning and organising meetings, links to other useful sites, and where to find churches' briefings on issues you might want to raise with candidates.

## **Youth minister vacancy**

The Roxeth Team wishes to appoint a youth minister and leader for Soul Survivor, Harrow. The main responsibilities of this post are to develop the vision for youth ministry in the Roxeth Team, to lead and equip young people in mission to others, and to nurture and disciple the community of Soul Survivor Harrow. The successful applicant will be a proven leader with a lively faith, a passion to see young people come to faith in Jesus and to live out that faith in mission to others. The salary is £18,000 per annum, with accommodation provided.

To arrange an informal visit contact James DiCastiglione, t: 020 8621 0786 or e: [JamesDicas@hotmail.com](mailto:JamesDicas@hotmail.com). For information packs and application form contact Revd Mark Philps, Team Rector, Christ Church, Roxeth Hill, Harrow HA2 0JN, t: 020 8423 3168 or e: [MPhilps@aol.com](mailto:MPhilps@aol.com). The closing date for applications is 3 May and interviews will be held on 22-23 May.

## **PEOPLE**

### **Into the Diocese**

The Revd Ben Rhodes, Chaplain's Assistant at Lewisham Hospital, Diocese of Southwark, is to be Senior Church of England Chaplain at St Bartholomew's Hospital and The London NHS Trust and Associate Priest at St Bartholomew the Less (01/05) and Assistant Hospitaller of St Bartholomew's Hospital.

The Revd Jane Morris, Incumbent of St George's Team Ministry, Diocese of York, is to be Incumbent of St Gabriel and St Michael, Cricklewood (21/17), from 1 May.

The Revd Stephen Dando, Incumbent of St Mary, Illingworth, Diocese of Wakefield, is to be Incumbent of St Lawrence, Eastcote (25/02), from 13 June.

### **Within the Diocese**

The Revd Peter Cowell, Lead Trust Chaplain at St Bartholomew's Hospital and The London NHS Trust, is also to be Incumbent of St Bartholomew the Less (01/05) and Hospitaller of St Bartholomew's Hospital, from 21 March.

The Ven Peter Delaney, Archdeacon of London, is now also NSM Priest in Charge of St Stephen, Walbrook (01/22).

The Revd Roland O'Garro, NSM Curate at St Augustine, Kilburn (02/02), is to be NSM Curate at St Mary, Willesden (21/09), from 13 March.

The Revd Russell Ogston, Assistant Chaplain, Homerton Hospital (05/99), is now full-time Trust Chaplain.

The Revd Liz Moody, Curate at the Uxbridge Team Ministry (25/15), is to be Associate Vicar at St Mary with St Christopher, Hanwell (23/04), with special responsibility for St Christopher from 28 May.

The Revd Adrian Guthrie, Curate at St Giles, Ickenham (25/11), is to be Rector of St Giles, Ickenham, from 4 July.

**Out of the Diocese**

The Revd Michael Stevens, Incumbent of St Bartholomew the Less (01/05) has retired. He continues to be Preacher and Deputy Master of Charterhouse.

The Revd John Cowling, Incumbent of St Olave, Hart Street (01/19), has retired.

Dame Dorothea Mary Haviland OSB, of the Community of St Mary at the Cross for 72 years, died on 6 January having professed in 1935.

The Revd Richard Fermer, Curate at St John, Palmers Green (18/11), is now working with USPG in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

Brother David Francis Darling SSF, Licensed Preacher Under Seal, has resigned.