

**EVENTS
AUGUST 2005**

Diocesan Confirmation

There will be a Diocesan Confirmation at St Paul's Cathedral at 11am on Saturday 5 November. Clergy wishing to present candidates should contact Mrs Susan Charles, Liturgical Secretary, at St Paul's not later than Monday 3 October.

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

Contextual Theology Centre

The Centre is holding a series of events at the Royal Foundation of St Katharine this autumn. Full details are online at www.theology-centre.org/events.htm or from the Administrator (t: 020 7780 1600).

7-8 September: Transforming Communities: Contextual Theology and the Congregation. Two days of consultations, focusing on national issues and issues in London. Speakers include Ken Leech (community theologian), Vincent Rougeau (University of Notre Dame), Guy Wilkinson (Archbishops' Council Advisor on Inter-Faith Issues) and Uzoamaka Agyare-Kumi (National Co-ordinator, Catholic Association for Racial Justice). Contact the Administrator to register.

6 October: London Citizens' Church Leaders' Caucus: "The Gospel and Human Formation". A group for clergy involved, or interested, in community organising. They meet from 10.30am to 1pm and lunch is then available (please register for this in advance). This year's meetings are all on the theme of 'Formation' - continuing to respond to Archbishop Rowan Williams' lecture to the network.

9 November: Urban Theology Forum. This is a new group which meets once a term, and provides a forum for discussion on issues in urban ministry, such as exchanging resources; sharing insights and concerns; and reflecting on London as a context for ministry. They meet from 10.30am to 12.30pm. The speaker will be the Revd Dr Andrew Davey (Archbishop's Council Board of Social Responsibility).

Gospel Reflection Group. This meets on the last Thursday of each month from 11am to 1pm to discuss the forthcoming Sunday Gospels in the local context. (The group produces a bulletin for parish use called Gospel for Today, which is online at www.theology-centre.org/resources.htm.)

Make Poverty History: Set them free

From 16-23 August, as part of the Make Poverty History campaign, St Mary's, Sunbury-on-Thames, will be open for prayer. The church will be the focus in the area of Spelthorne for all who are concerned to seek actively to end poverty.

The Revd Paul Davies will be living in the church for the week and confined to the church boundary living on bread and water as a sign of solidarity with the many in the world who have little to eat and are imprisoned by poverty.

Churches of all denominations in the deanery have been invited to lead half-hour prayer times. Everyone is invited to the church and will be welcomed to share in the times of prayer and the meals during the week.

Courses at St John's, Nottingham

Leading Children. A completely revised version of the training programme for Christians who want to develop their skills in leading children, to keep in touch with their culture and see them valued as members of the body of Christ. A distance learning course incorporating a residential weekend.

Certificate of Higher Education in Theology and Vocation 2005-2007. A substantial course, accredited with Open University, combining distance learning with three short residential periods. Starts 9-11 September. Flexible alternatives for those who cannot commit themselves to the full course.

Fit for the Purpose (Vocation). An opportunity for anyone who knows God is calling them (not necessarily to ordination!). Choose either a residential weekend or a short distance learning course or both. 16-18 September 2005 or 31 March-2 April 2006.

For further details, contact St John's College, Chilwell Lane, Bramcote, Nottingham NG9 3DS, t: 0115 925 1114, e: ext.studies@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk or visit www.stjohns-nottm.ac.uk.

Remember, remember...

Remember, Remember... is a crackling new play about Guy Fawkes and his co-conspirators, to mark the 400th anniversary of the Gunpowder Plot. To light up our not-so-new age of terror. Presented by Riding Lights Theatre Company, this production is playing at St Gabriel's Church, Walm Lane, Cricklewood, NW2 4RX on Wednesday 5 October at 8pm.

Tickets are £8 (£5.50 concessions) and are available from the box office by t: 0845 961 3000. More details can be found at www.ridinglights.org.

Get out more: Church Army Sunday

'Get out more' is the theme for Church Army Sunday on 25 September. Its focus is the role of churches in outreach to the wider community, and the Church Army's hope is that local churches might plan a community activity on or immediately before Church Army Sunday.

Practical tips on how churches can equip themselves and a range of fact sheets are available at www.churcharmy.org.

Come and Meet the Melanesian Pilgrims - on a Mission to UK

Since arriving in April a party of 25 Melanesian Brothers (including Br Nathan from Papua New Guinea) and Melanesian Sisters, Anglican Franciscans & Sisters of the Church has impressed thousands in Chester & Exeter Dioceses with song, dance and drama. Meet them in their final week in UK on:

Saturday 30 July, 5.30pm. Evening Prayer at St Mary Abbots with Bishop Roger Jupp (formerly Popondota in PNG) followed by bring (if you can) and share supper and a presentation about the peace-keeping role of the Communities in the Solomon Islands. Drinks provided. For more information or to indicate that you will attend, e: pngcpluxton@aol.com.

Sunday 31 July, St Martin in the Fields, at the 10am Eucharist and 6.30pm. Performance of "The Passion of Our Lord." More information is available from e: liz.griffiths@smitf.org.

Monday 1 August at St Michael's Convent, Ham Common. 7pm performance of "The Passion of Our Lord" More information is available from e: anita.csc@fish.co.uk.

Resources from the Society of Mary and Martha at Sheldon

Sheldon specialises in providing resources for people in ministry and/or their spouses, although resources are open to everyone unless otherwise stated.

12,000-mile Service weeks: 2–7 October or 6–11 November. These speciality weeks for clergy and/or spouses enable you to join in as much or as little as you please, including workshops, guided walks and daily prayers. One to one time available. £325 fully inclusive.

Icons: 10–11 October. Two stand-alone days that can also be combined for a mini-retreat. A taster day exploring the possibilities of painting/writing icons as an aid to reflective prayer, plus a quiet day based on the same theme. £48 includes 1 night. Additional nights available.

Massage for beginners: 12–13 October. A great way to pamper yourself and your partner or a friend. Practical introduction to the techniques of massage in a relaxing and supportive environment. £104. Book in pairs. Can also stay additional nights for a longer break.

The Treasures of Darkness: 21–25 November. Pre-Advent Retreat led by Barbara Mosse. £160.

Further details are available from the Society of Mary and Martha, Sheldon, Dunsford, Exeter EX6 7LE. t: 01647 252752, e: smm@sheldon.uk.com or visit www.sheldon.uk.com.