

A quarterly newsletter offering ideas and information to strengthen the mission of our parish churches in the contemporary world



‘Opening the Doors....’



Poverty Resources to help your pastoral outreach—page 2

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RESOURCES SWAP SHOP! Send in your creative liturgies, your book recommendations, tell us about your ideas, projects and successes in YOUR parish.....

How inclusive and welcoming is your church to people with learning disabilities? Canon Bob Brooke is commending to parishes a new resource to help you in this important part of the church’s mission.

Bob writes ~

The General Synod at its meeting in July 2009 commended to dioceses and parishes the guidelines contained in **“Opening the Doors”** on best practice for the inclusion of people with learning disabilities in the life and work of the Church.

There is an introductory DVD and a 68 page book of guidelines. The Archbishop of York in the foreword to the book describes it as an invitation to the church to walk on holy ground. He says that many of the stories and experiences found in the book show the profound revelation of God’s grace in Christ that true strength and wisdom is to be found in what many would describe as weakness and foolishness. In attempting to define learning disability, the guidelines refer to the social model of disability and introduce the slogan “Nothing about us without us.” The document includes many stories about real people who have learning disabilities including some sections where they speak for themselves about their experience of the church.



There is a section on theology which makes the point that people with a learning disability, along with all human beings, are made in the image of God. They, like everybody else, are capable of having a relationship with God, of revealing something of God to others and are entitled to be treated with dignity and understanding. People with learning disabilities are not to be

seen simply as objects of charity, not to be patronised and helped out of pity but to be accepted as partners, as fellow members of the body of Christ and as such to be given an opportunity to discover and exercise their gifts within the church.



A large part of the guidelines offers practical advice. There is a section on supporting families with young children with learning disabilities and including them in the life and activities of the church. There is a section on preparation for confirmation and admission to communion. Some advice and practical help is offered on preparing couples with learning disabilities for marriage and there is a section on bereavement and funerals. There is quite a large section on including people with learning disabilities in the everyday life of the parish. Two people who are themselves on the autistic spectrum contribute material on helping church members have some insight into the world of a person with autism and offer ten simple things that can make life easier for autistic people in church. A young woman with autism also appears on the DVD explaining how hard it can be sometimes for her to encounter other people on her way into church. There is a section on support for parents and another on appropriate language. There is a large resource section which includes information about specialist groups and helpful organisations as well as useful websites and publications.

Copies of the book and DVD are being made available to every parish in the Diocese. For more information contact Bob Brooke (details on page 4)

Adrian Alker, Director of Mission Resourcing

Inter faith week**15-21 November**

This is a government initiative supported by faith leaders, encouraging parishes, schools, community groups to take part by organising events in your area. For ideas on what to do, see useful resources at www.interfaithweek.org.uk

You can also contact our **Interfaith Officer, Revd Canon Charles Dobbin** (see page 3)

WEBCHECK!

HAVE A LOOK AT WWW.SHELDON.UK.COM FOR RETREATS, QUIET DAYS, READING WEEKS in 2010 WITH THE SOCIETY OF MARY AND MARTHA

Poverty Resources

Jesus talked more about money than we often care to remember. He lived in a society where the vast majority of people were poor and a small minority held the power which wealth and status provided. Today we live in a grossly unequal world and a United Kingdom which has seen the gap between rich and poor widen. In our own diocese there are huge differences in wealth across our communities. What has the Christian church to say about these matters? A great deal! and there are many resources to help us.

One of the main sources is **Church Action on Poverty (CAP)** and their website has much to offer you (www.church-poverty.org.uk) as does their newsletter (tel 0161 236 9321 for more information) Some ideas from CAP:

Just Church is a set of downloadable resources, which can be used as a course for small groups, designed to help you embed a concern for poverty and social justice in the life of your church community. Go to www.justchurch.info

Read : **The Wee Yellow Butterfly** by **Cathy McCormack**, which lifts the lid on the forces that affect people's lives. Published by Argyll Publishing and on Amazon.

Find out more about **Get Fair**, a national coalition, campaigning to end poverty in the UK

And why not go to the **conference at Leeds Church Institute on November 23 : Enough is Enough : Ethics and Finance after the Crisis of 2008** (more information ring 0113 245 4700)

Remember!

30 January—7 February 2010 is Poverty and Homelessness Action Week. Is your church doing anything? For more resources visit www.actionweek.org.uk



Finally, why not join a local CAP group or start one! Contact our Urban Officer, Kathryn Fitzsimons for more

LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE AT THE DIOCESAN OFFICE

We are gradually restocking the centre with new books and books donated from the collections of retiring clergy etc. These books are catalogued on our 'heritage' system and can be identified on the diocesan website. We are also working to produce author and category complete lists which again will be put on the website or can be sent to you as an email or in hard copy form. To borrow any book you must register through Sue Rusholme (details page 4) who works in the centre. Please call in and browse at your convenience and if you wish a book to be sent to you we can arrange to post it or drop it off at certain locations in the diocese. Recent acquisitions include (suggestions always welcome) :~

The Thoughtful Guide to Faith (Tony Windross), To Heal a Fractured World (Jonathan Sacks), The Case for God (Karen Armstrong), Between the Monster and the Saint (Richard Holloway), Reader Ministry Explored, Together and Different (Interfaith engagement), Paul for Today (Neil Richardson), God and Community Cohesion (Alan Billings), Evaluating Fresh Expressions (Martin Percy), Profiles of Jesus (Roy Hoover), Prayers for a Privileged People (Walter Brueggemann), plus many more!



Scripture Gift Mission happily supplies churches with packs of themed booklets designed through biblical passages to be of help to your church visitors or your pastoral visitors.

Visit the website for more information :
www.sgmlifewords.com

Council for Mission Task groups

A number of different task groups address issues of importance to the Church's mission in the world. Below are reports from two such groups.....

Environment Task Group

Currently the group is working in partnership with other denominations and faiths, Christian Aid, Christian Ecology link, the Leeds Church Institute and secular bodies such as Leeds City council, to present to all parishes a strategy with measurable targets to reduce our carbon footprint. This strategy will be launched in the New Year. In the meantime all parishes are encouraged (some are already leading the way!) to make use of the excellent resources produced by the Church of England's Shrinking the Footprint campaign and by Eco congregation. See

www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org

www.ecocongregation.org

If you wish to join us on the task group, you would be very welcome! AA

JOIN US IN LONDON ON DECEMBER 5TH FOR THE WAVE

Copenhagen. It's vitally important that we get a fair, ambitious and binding deal.

In Yorkshire, Cafod, Christian Aid, Leeds Justice and Peace, and TIDAL have joined together to charter a train to take you to the London march, there and back in comfort. Leaving from Bradford [06.50], Leeds [07.20] and Doncaster [07.56], and leaving Kings Cross at 18.55. £30/£20 – limited under 5s free. For more info and to book go to: www.leedscopnet.info/wave-express or ring Richard at Tidal: 0113 3917917paces.

Other Resource Ministers

Ecumenical Officer :Revd Dr Colin Cheeseman Tel: 0113 266 9747 Email: colin.cheeseman1@ntlworld.com

Interfaith Officer: Revd Charles Dobbin Tel: 0113 268 4598 Email: cdobbin@aol.com

Sri Lanka Companion Link Officer Mrs Barbara Belsham Tel: 0113 273 7192 Email: barbara5@talktalk.net

World Development Officer Revd John Rutter Tel: 01765 605638 Email: john@jcrutter.plus.com

DMEAC –Diocesan Minority Ethnic Anglicans Concern Group

The group aims to raise awareness of racial justice issues, to initiate and promote appropriate development and change and to affirm and celebrate difference.

Within the Church at large, within the parishes in this diocese and within our contemporary society, we would seek to strive for true equality and mutual respect for people who differ in their racial background.

The work of this group range from the concern that black and minority ethnic clergy and laypeople are appropriately represented at all levels in our church structures to a wider concern for racial justice in our cities, towns and villages.

For more information contact Dorothy Stewart. Email : dotelartuna@hotmail.com



(Picture courtesy of CTBI Racial Justice Sunday 2009)

COMING UP.....

Defending Youth Rights, an event organised by and for young people: Royal Armouries, Leeds, 17 Nov. Key note speakers Shami Chakrabati, Director of Liberty, Moaz-zam Begg, a British Muslim held in Guantanamo, and Michael Mansfield QC Free entry for young people. Contact admin@justwestyorkshire.co.uk or tel. 01274 542222

Beyond Disability, Creating a more inclusive and enriched church A day to help your church better understand the needs of disabled people. Wednesday 25 Nov at Wakefield Baptist Church, Belle Isle Avenue, Wakefield WF1 5JY To book contact Ruth Smith on 0113 350 8070

And finally don't forget the St Wilfred's Lecture in the Cathedral at 7 pm on Thursday Nov 19 when the speaker is Dr Inderjit Singh OBE, who gives a Sikh perspective on the role of the church in contemporary society, the theme of this year's lectures.

Diocese of Ripon and Leeds The Mission Resourcing Team, at your service

Urban Officer **Revd Canon Kathryn Fitzsimons**

Tel: 0113 248 5011

Email: kathrynfitzsimons@hotmail.com

Kathryn works with parishes in the urban priority areas of Leeds to develop their mission to the local area.



Rural Officer **Revd Canon Leslie Morley**

Tel: 0191 372 0385

Email: leslie.morley@virgin.net

Leslie's role is to support rural parishes in their mission and ministry, and to help the diocese as a whole to understand the changes in rural life and agriculture that affect us all.



Chaplain for People with Learning Disabilities

Revd Canon Bob Brooke Tel: 0113 270 2829 Email: bob.brooke@hotmail.co.uk

Bob is concerned to raise awareness in the church of the needs of people with learning disabilities.



Youth Work Advisor Capt Nic Sheppard Tel: 01937 585440 Email: nic.sheppard@churcharmy.me.uk

Nic's task is to support and offer training to parishes in developing church-based youth work.



Children's Work Adviser (Leeds Archdeaconry)

Revd Clare MacLaren Tel: 0113 294 0398

Email: claremac@bigfoot.com

Website: www.kidswork.org.uk

Clare offers guidance, advice and encouragement to parishes in their work with children. She offers training opportunities for children's workers in and around Leeds Archdeaconry.



Training Officer **Mrs Elizabeth Williams**

Tel: 0113 200 0556 Email: lizw@riponleeds-diocese.org.uk



Liz helps to resource training for people throughout the Diocese, offering training events in parishes and deaneries.

Ministers in the Deaf Community **Revd Rachel Wilson , Revd Bob Shrine**

Tel : 01729 840513

Email : revrachel.wilson@dsl.pipex.com

Rachel and her colleague Revd Bob Shrine can offer parishes advice and help in their ministry to profoundly deaf people.



The Mission Resourcing Team has been commissioned to promote the mission of Christ in the Diocese, responding to the needs of parishes and deaneries and offering training and support.



Do contact any members of the team to discuss how they may be of help to you in your parish or church.

Adrian Alker, Director of Mission Resourcing

Diocesan Office, St Mary's Street, Leeds LS9 7DP

Tel 0113 200 0559 Mobile 07595249791

Email : AdrianA@riponleeds-diocese.org.uk



Sue Rusholme, Secretary to the Council for Mission and the Learning Resources Centre

Tel : 0113 2000 547

Email : SusanR@riponleeds-diocese.org.uk

Press & Communications Officer

The Revd John Carter

Tel: 01423 530369

Email: jhgcarter@aol.com



John runs courses in communications skills, helping parishes and deanery groups with practical issues of publicity, and offering support in specific projects which could involve liaison with the press.

Stewardship Adviser

Mr Paul Winstanley

Tel: 0113 200 0555

Email: Paulw@riponleeds-diocese.org.uk



Paul's role is to encourage parishes to review their Christian Stewardship and is willing to come and speak to a PCC or finance group as required.

Armley Deanery Missioner

The Revd Alistair Kaye

Alistair works across the deanery developing mission projects and helping congregations to engage with their communities



FRESH EXPRESSIONS

The post of Diocesan Adviser for Fresh Expressions is currently vacant. This adviser seeks to support and encourage new and different expressions of church life throughout the diocese.