



## NEWSLETTER . . . . .

January 2008

Dear Friends

### Recent Clergy Changes:

**The Revd Robert Merchant** Associate Minister at St Luke and St John and St Michael's Cheltenham became Non-stipendiary Associate Minister at Luke and St John, Cheltenham on 1 December.

**The Revd Jane Gardner** became non-stipendiary Associate Priest at Stow-on-the-Wold, Condicote and The Swells on 20 December.

**The Revd Alan Gage** non-stipendiary Associate Priest at St Barnabas Tuffley became non-stipendiary priest at Elmore, Hardwicke and Longney on 20 December.

**The Revd Geoff Crago** retired as non-stipendiary Priest in Highnam, Lassington, Rudford, Tibberton and Taynton on 31 December.

**The Revd Kathryn Fleming** Assistant Curate of St Mary's, Charlton Kings to be Priest-in-Charge of Cainscross with Selsley from 6 April.

Available from the Diocesan Website – [www.gloucester.anglican.org/news/publications/others/](http://www.gloucester.anglican.org/news/publications/others/)

Also available in hard copy from Church House if required:

- 01 **Activ8** – the latest Youth Office Mailing.
- 02 **Letter to Clergy from the Mothers' Union** – details of the **Away From it All (AFIA) Holidays** for families who would not otherwise be able to have a break away.
- 03 **Harnhill Centre of Christian Healing** – programme for February to April.
- 04 **The Spirituality Network for Gloucester** – programme for 2008.

From the Diocesan Youth Officer – Steve Bullock, tel: 01452 410022 ext. 545, email:

[sbullock@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:sbullock@glosdioc.org.uk)

**Flicker** is a youth space to think, reflect, interact and pray creatively around Gloucester Cathedral. At each event a different theme will be explored. The space is available from 7.00pm to 9.30pm. Drop in any time. More information available from [www.4-sight.info](http://www.4-sight.info).

From the Vocations Officer – Catherine Williams, tel: 01452 410022 ext. 241, email:

[cwilliams@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:cwilliams@glosdioc.org.uk)

The next '**Exploring Vocation Day**' will be on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February at Abbey House, Tewkesbury, 10am – 4pm. A day for anyone sensing a call from God and willing to explore various possibilities for service. **Still some places left – application form on the website, or call 01452 835548**

'**Life Calling**' - Robert Warren & Kate Bruce. Take a look at this excellent new 5 session course on vocation using the film 'Billy Elliot'. Can be used during Lent or at other times. ISBN 9780715141373

**CMEAC Vocation Conference 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> February 2008 (London)**. This conference encourages the vocations of minority ethnic Anglicans. Please contact me if you know of anyone who might benefit from attending.

**The Revd. Nicholas von Benzon, an Anglican priest, has recently opened a new family mediation service in Cheltenham.** Cheltenham Family Mediation is contracted to the Community Legal Service to provide mediation services for families experiencing separation or divorce. This encompasses a wide range of family

disputes including parental disagreements over contact, residence, adoption and the exercise of parental responsibility, as well as arguments over finance and property arising from divorce, separation or family inheritance.

Family Mediation can help to reduce tension, anger and misunderstandings, and improve communication which is especially important where children are involved. Legal Aid is available for those who are financially eligible.

In addition to his work with families, Nicholas is also willing to mediate Church disputes. For more information contact Nicholas at Cheltenham Family Mediation, Festival House, Jessop Avenue, Cheltenham, GL50 3SH tel: 01242 633773 or visit his website at [www.familymediator.org.uk](http://www.familymediator.org.uk).

### **Post Offices in Churches**

Might one of your churches be a suitable candidate for operating a village post office?

This is an idea which has been around for a little while now, and there are quite a few successful examples in operation. Unfortunately the nearest examples are in Derbyshire or Leicestershire, but doubtless more will come on stream during 2008.

If you are interested, the first step is to study the extensive information on this subject, which is now being put together by Royal Mail. The Guidelines and Best Practice notes are very detailed, and probably provide sufficient information to answer most of your likely questions. You can access them on [www.churchcare.co.uk/develop.php?FF](http://www.churchcare.co.uk/develop.php?FF). We wonder how long it will be before our diocese is hosting a post office in a church....

**Praying for World Mission** – Annually, over 100 years, encouraged by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Church of England has had a focus for prayers for world mission at St Andrew's Tide. As the Lambeth Conference will take place later this year a special edition of the usual resource leaflet produced by Partnership for World Mission has been printed. Copies of the leaflet are available from the PMW website: [www.pwm-web.org.uk](http://www.pwm-web.org.uk) or by email from: [Stephen.lyon@c-of-e.org.uk](mailto:Stephen.lyon@c-of-e.org.uk).

**The Vacation Term for Biblical Study – A Summer School for Biblical Study in Oxford.** The Summer School was originally the summer school for the Lambeth Diploma so the standard of teaching and fellowship is excellent. The term is from Saturday 26 July to Saturday 9 August. Inaugural Address on Sunday 27 July at 5.00 pm in St Giles' Parish Church, Professor Ronald E Clements, Emeritus Professor of Old Testament Studies at King's Colleg, University of London. Further information can be obtained from: the Revd M Burrow, 1 Thorny Road, Douglas, Isle of Man IM2 5EF email: [margaret.burrow@mcb.net](mailto:margaret.burrow@mcb.net), tel: 01624 662173, website: [www.vtbs.org.uk/index.htm](http://www.vtbs.org.uk/index.htm).

**Ian White – a well known Christian song writer, worship leader, musician and psalm singer** – will take a couple of worship focussed events on Sat Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> 2008.

Please could you advertise these events over the next several weeks in your church notices and give the event a big push in your church services?

The Saturday afternoon is for anyone in your church who is involved or interested in being involved in the musical worship of the church. The event runs from 12 until 4pm at Chepstow Baptist Church. The cost is £10 per person. People can bring their own lunch, pre-order lunch at £5 or pop into town to pick up a sandwich.

The evening concert starts at 7pm and is also at Chepstow Baptist Church. Tickets cost £6 per person.

If people want to come to both events they can buy a day pass for £15 and for those families who want to come to the evening concert we are offering a family ticket for £15.

For more information about the event or to order tickets, please contact Paul Griffiths on 01594 529752 or by emailing [paul@dromteggafreeserve.co.uk](mailto:paul@dromteggafreeserve.co.uk).

**'Healing Communities' - Diocesan Healing Day led by Russ Parker** – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2008 at St Philip & St James, Hucclecote 10am to 4pm for talk, workshops and worship. Further information from Francesca Tolond tel: 01452 38441 email: [francescatolond@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:francescatolond@yahoo.co.uk) . Cost £5.

**Note from Judith Knight, Diocesan Human Resources Manager**

Hello and Happy New Year! The new year is always a great time to start a new job, and I have been looking forward to beginning with the Diocese as its first HR Manager.

I am not new to Gloucestershire. For the past few years, I have worked in HR for the County Council; most recently as the HR Business Consultant for the Children and Young People's Directorate, which was a huge challenge and extremely rewarding! I am definitely not new to the Church of England either - born and bred! And I now live in Worcestershire - in Malvern - where Peter is the Team Rector of a team ministry of three churches. Like many clergy families we have moved around - Ealing, Acton, Worcester Park, and Evesham before Malvern, where we are very happy and settled!

I didn't begin my working life in HR but started work with Marks & Spencer as a school leaver on their junior management programme in stores, and then at the Baker Street offices in Public Relations and Quality Control. I then moved into the voluntary sector and worked for Christian Aid at its London HQ for over ten years - before relocating and taking up my county council roles.

I know that some folk are rather wary of or cynical about HR and about its place within the Church and dioceses. I am passionate about HR and believe that good HR practice should be at the heart of any organisation - whatever that might be.

HR's role is to work with those in management and leadership roles to help ensure that people are supported, motivated, treated fairly, consistently and with dignity, through open processes and effective two way communication. I can be reached at the Diocese on 01452 410022 x 258 direct dial: 01452 835526 email: [jknight@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:jknight@glosdioc.org.uk).

As well as Judith joining us we welcomed two new members to the Department for Children & Young People - Dave Bennett who will be giving administrative support to Steve Bullock and Sandra Millar. Dave can be contacted on telephone 01452 835557 ext. 254 email address: [dbennett@glosdioc.org](mailto:dbennett@glosdioc.org) . We said a fond farewell to Margarette Smith who retired after 22 years working in the Department for Children & Young People - Anne Baynham replaces Margarette Smith as Personnel Secretary to Phil Metcalf. Anne can be contacted on tel: 01452 835539 ext. 247 email: [abaynham@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:abaynham@glosdioc.org.uk) .

With best wishes.

DR KEVIN BROWN