



The Diocese of
Canterbury

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

**CANTERBURY DIOCESAN
ASSOCIATION OF
READERS**

Special points of interest:

- Reader Ministry Agreements
- Opportunities for Continuing Ministerial Education
- Resource and Refresh at Ridley Hall
- Breaking Open Scripture

Newsletter

Autumn/Winter 2007

We wish all our Readers and their families a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

My thanks this month go to Robert Grieve for his account of taking part in a Ridley Hall *Resource and Refresh* course. I have also reproduced Rosemary Walter's *Breaking Open Scripture* as it serves as an excellent reminder of the theme for the 2007 Diocesan Readers' Day.

Don't forget January and February 2008 is time to engage in a Review of your Ministry Agreement with your incumbent. This should be a two way conversation to discuss the progress of your ministry over the last year and to plan for the coming year. Please ensure that you make every effort to submit yours by the end of March 2008. If you experience difficulties please notify our warden, Hilary.

More inside.....

Dates for your Diary - 2008

Saturday 12th April - Readers' Day & AGM
October (tbc) - Admissions and Re-commissioning Service.
October (tbc) Readers Residential Weekend

Reader Ministry Agreements

Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Phil 1:6

It is a must that all Readers and their incumbents have a common understanding of the nature and scope of their particular ministry.

A Reader Ministry Agreement provides a transparent framework enabling both the Reader and the incumbent to work together effectively as a team. Such an agreement should be seen as a working document enabling the Reader and incumbent to agree changes as required by the demands of the parish or benefice and of course the Readers' own development needs.

A Reader Ministry Agreement should include items concerning your Spiritual Development, Public Worship and Ministry, Particular Areas of Responsibility, Frequency of meetings with your incumbent and local ministerial team, CME and further training, how your ministry might contribute towards your Parish and Deanery Mission Plan.

You should already have a Ministry Agreement in place, if not then please draw one up with your incumbent as soon as possible. Please prayerfully reflect upon it and consider what changes you may need to make to ensure that it reflects your ministry over the coming year. It is a great opportunity for you to consider how you wish your ministry to progress in 2008 and also how you wish to develop over the next twelve months.

Hilary Richter
Warden

**Continuing
Education (CME)**

Ministerial

“Everyone undertakes in-service training as they seek to respond to an ever-changing world. We in the Church’s ministry cannot stand apart”

+Stephen

**Religion and Violence: Untangling the Roots of Conflict
An Inter-faith Dialogue**

With James Carroll, James H. Cone, Susannah Heschel and Tariq Ramadan

Under the auspices of the Centre for Anglican Studies, Canterbury Christ Church University, in partnership with Trinity Wall Street, New York, invites you to participate in a conference addressing one of the burning questions of today.

Explore with a panel of leading theologians how religion becomes entangled with violence and what are the resources within each tradition for living together in peace, without losing unique identities.

Our local gathering offers the full conference experience – keynotes live via webcast from New York, and discussion groups to promote the discovery of individual and community call to action.

THE SPEAKERS

A panel of prominent Christian, Jewish, and Muslim voices will explore the deep roots of religious conflict and illuminate each faith’s vocation as a force for Peace—in ourselves, our families, our communities, and the world. They are:

James Carroll is a best-selling author of fiction and nonfiction, a former Roman Catholic priest, and a lifelong activist for peace. His recent books include the National Book Award-winning memoir *An American Requiem: God, My Father, and the War that Came Between Us*.

James H. Cone forged black-liberation theology in the crucible of the civil rights movement and has remained on the cutting edge of its development. His ten books began with *Black Theology and Black Power* and his most recent is *Risks of Faith: The Emergence of a Black Theology of Liberation, 1968-1998*. He is the Charles A. Briggs Distinguished Professor of Systematic Theology at Union Seminary in New York City.

Susannah Heschel holds the Eli Black Chair on Jewish Studies at Dartmouth College. A scholar of Jewish-Christian relations in the 19th and 20th centuries, she is the editor of *On Being a Jewish Feminist* and *Moral Grandeur and Spiritual Audacity*, an anthology of essays by her father, Abraham Joshua Heschel.

Tariq Ramadan writes and speaks on the future of Islam in pluralistic society. Named one of *Time* magazine’s “100 Innovators for the 21st Century,” he has written six widely translated books, including *In the Footsteps of the Prophet: Lessons from the Life of Muhammed*; *Western Muslims and the Future of Islam*; and *Islam, the West, and the Challenge of Modernity*. He is currently Senior Research Fellow at St. Antony’s College (Oxford), Doshisha University (Kyoto, Japan), and the Lokahi Foundation (London).

THE PROGRAMME (At Canterbury Christ Church University, North Holmes Road, Canterbury. CT1 1QU)

Tuesday, January 22, 2008 In Old Sessions House (except for worship)

12:00 Noon

Opening Worship in Chapel (address, via web link, by the Rt Revd Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop of ECUSA)

2:00 pm

Opening Remarks

2:15 pm

James H. Cone - Presentation and Q&A

3:45 pm

Break

4:00 pm

Theological Reflection Group

5:15 pm

Supper (Available in the Food Court)

7:00 pm

Susannah Heschel - Presentation and Q&A

8:30 pm End of Day 1

Wednesday, January 23, 2008 in the Ramsay Building (except for worship)

12:30 pm

Worship (optional, in Chapel)

2:00 pm

James Carroll - Presentation and Q&A

3:30 pm

Break

3:45 pm

Theological Reflection Group

5:00 pm

Supper (available in the Food Court)

6:00 pm

Tariq Ramadan - Presentation and Q&A

7:30 pm

Break

7.45 pm

Theological Reflection Group

9:15 pm

Closing Panel

10:15 pm

End of Conference

To register your attendance, or for more information contact: The Revd Dr Jeremy Law. Email: Jeremy.law@canterbury.ac.uk Telephone: 01227 782747

No charge will be made; donations to defray costs welcome.



“DemSSIG’ - The Spirituality and Dementia Special Interest Group, SE, is a group of persons from a variety of derivation. We welcome interest from any and all concerned with whole person care of those who have dementia.

A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Spirituality and Dementia
Special Interest Group: South East
Invites you to join us at the Medway Campus for a Learning Event on:

LEARNING ABOUT SPIRITUALITY AND DEMENTIA

**Wednesday 23rd January 2008
9.30 a.m. – 3.30 p.m. (doors open at 9)**

Location: Rowan Williams Court, Canterbury Christ Church University, Medway Campus

Keynote speaker:

Alison M Johnson, formerly Secretary of Methodist Homes for the Aged with responsibility for policy, information and research, is Centre Consultant at the Leveson Centre for the study of ageing, spirituality and social policy, Solihull.

Seminars will be led by:

The Ven. Peter Lock,

Archdeacon of Rochester

Reinhard Guss.

Cons. Clinical Psychologist, Specialist in young onset dementia & older people's mental health, NHS

Julia Crathorn and Alison John

Present & past Spiritual Advisors, Abbeyfield Kent Society

Sukhi Bains

Equality & Diversity Project Officer and Equal Care Project Manager/ BME Dev. Worker, KCC

Seminars: exploration of practical experience in residential care homes, health and social care approaches, the religious & ethnic communities, opportunity to discuss concerns about spirituality.

Details and choices to be made prior to the event, ideally.

Cost: £15 (waged) £5 (unwaged)

(Free parking)

Cheques payable to 'DemSSIG' and forwarded to the address below.

We prefer that you apply by email to

dotnclive@tiscali.co.uk

or by post enclosing an A5 SAE to

Mrs D. Hooker. 3, Haste Hill Close, Boughton Monchelsea, Maidstone, Kent. ME17 4LS

**RESOURCE AND REFRESH – A
COURSE FOR READERS AT RIDLEY
HALL**

Robert.D.Grieve
St John the Baptist Church, Folkestone.

I was fortunate to attend one of these courses for Readers from 4th to 6th September, at Ridley Hall in Cambridge. A small theological college, situated within a few minutes of the city centre, where such leaders as John Stott, David Sheppard, David Watson and Timothy Dudley-Smith were trained. And, of course, our Bishop Graham was Principal of the college until 2001.

This was my first visit and my first impressions soon exceeded my initial expectations.....

*** We received such a warm welcome from all the staff, including the Principal. Nothing was too much trouble.

*** The accommodation was comfortable if basic (some en suite rooms are available)

*** The tall red brick Victorian buildings that surround the large green lawn, exude an atmosphere of relaxed learning and peaceful thought.

*** The food was superb, backed up with friendly hospitality

Some 44 Readers attended the course, including three of us from the Canterbury Diocese. It was good to meet other readers from Dioceses as far flung as Exeter, Derby and Europe. There were ample opportunities for us to socialise, apart from meal times.

A lot of lectures were packed in to the programme over the two days but they were well spaced with breaks and discussion times.

Our two main speakers were :

*The Revd Dr David Day – Embodying the Word - Preaching more effectively
(Ex-Principal of St John's College with Cranmer Hall, Durham
and member of the College of preachers)*

*Dr Peter Head – Jesus the Teacher, Saviour, Lord : The Gospel of Matthew
(New Testament research fellow at Tyndale House, Cambridge)*

There were several optional activities on offer as well, including an excellent session on the principles of PowerPoint presentation for worship. For those of us who were not very I.T. experienced, this was a very helpful introduction that certainly highlighted the benefits of projection aids to worship, such as visual liturgy and video clips.

On the Wednesday afternoon, there was free time to explore the beautiful city of Cambridge or to have some Spiritual Direction.

There was meaningful times of worship in the chapel each day, including a memorable Eucharist on the last morning. Stirring singing, a challenging sermon (David Day practising what he had been preaching!), a moving prayer time with silent video images, sharing the peace with new friends and our communion together with our risen Lord.

The main body of the course were the two main lecture sessions. The two speakers both complemented and contrasted each other. One was practical and very

humorous while the other was more academic and yet passionate about his subject. Ample handout notes were supplied as well.

Embodying the Word was a sharing of preaching techniques, gained in a long experience of preaching. It included many anecdotes, discussion questions and opportunities for brave participants to re-enact or dramatise Biblical stories. Topics included :

Telling our stories, testimonies, dramatised readings, using the body, images & analogies, narration.

Much sound advice was offered, warning of pitfalls and suggesting “ good practice.”

David spoke from the heart, with a passion for good, effective preaching.” A burning fire in my bones” is how he described preaching. Theology on fire! David certainly fired us up to preach more effectively.

Given the time restraints, our “tour” of ***Matthew’s Gospel*** was inevitably brief and yet stimulating.

The session on the genealogy of Jesus was the best I have ever heard and really brought it to life.

I will never regard genealogies as boring, ever again!

Comprehensive notes, with wonderful quotes and historical sources, have deeply enriched the lectures. We really got our teeth into Matthew and Peter encouraged us to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest. We travelled into the world of the New Testament, of Jesus...His words, His works and we considered themes such as the Kingdom of God, parables, miracles and His passion, suffering and the Cross and Resurrection.

And so, the two day course packed in much spiritual food (solid meat), practical skills and worship and still allowed time for relaxation and fellowship. Ridley Hall allowed for an atmosphere of relaxed learning and, I think, all of us Readers, left feeling very fulfilled, encouraged and challenged to return to our ministries and to serve the Lord with renewed gladness.

Personally, my expectations were very much exceeded. I would go again and strongly recommend that other readers take the opportunity to resource and refresh their ministry too.

More details for future courses can be obtained from **Ridley Hall, Cambridge** – It is a rolling programme of short residential events run in April and September, each year. If you would like further information – dates of future events, programmes and speakers either see www.ridley.cam.ac.uk or write to: The Administrator, Reader R&R, Ridley Hall, Cambridge, CB3 9HG.

During the morning session of our 2007 Diocesan Readers Day we looked at creative ways of engaging with the gospels. Each group had an envelope with either the reference to a Miracle story or a Parable. This led to some thoughts on the contrast between stories *about Jesus* designed to emphasise his identity and authority and stories *Jesus told* to show that the presence of the Kingdom.

The gospel passages were:

Miracles

Parables

The Paralysed Man	Mark 2v1-12	The Unforgiving Servant	Matt 18v21-35
Jairus' Daughter	Mark 5v21-43	The Vineyard Workers	Matt 20v1-16
Woman with Bleeding	Mark 5v25-34	The Midnight Friend	Luke 11v5-10
Centurion's Servant	Luke 7v1-10	The Two Debtors	Luke 7v36-50
Leper	Mark 1v40-45	The Prodigal Son	Luke 15v11-32
Epileptic Boy	Mark 9v14-29	The Good Samaritan	Luke 10v25-37

Creativity flourishes where people find their own experience is involved, where there is collaboration, active learning and time for reflection. The first task combined silent individual reading of the given stories followed by choosing a character and discussing "what matters most to me" in role, with other characters from the story in each group. The encounters between the various characters seemed to produce earnest conversation and some laughter in a real engagement with the text and hopefully a deeper understanding of the message.

Creative tasks also include the following

- questioning and challenging
- making connections and seeing relationships
- envisaging what might be
- exploring ideas and keeping options open
- reflecting critically

So the next part of the session gave each person the choice of one of the following activities to relate to their group's story. Many of these come from a book called "***Faith Stories: Using Them in the Classroom***" by Joyce Mackley published by RE Today. You can find their catalogue on their website by typing RE Today into your search engine.

- Draw a faith tree of the story, trunk is beliefs, branches are events and leaves are feelings, issues, atmosphere, relationships, messages
- Make a mini flip chart size sandwich board to advertise the meaning of the story
- Chose a new title for the story and make an acrostic with each letter as an element from the story

- Collect a card and divide it into the right number of sections for the number of characters in the story. In each section write what matters most to each character
- Draw a conscience alley for the story and indicate at what point the characters have to make decisions. At these points indicate what influences them.
- Design a stained glass window for the story
- Write a problem page letter from a character in the story and the agony aunt reply
- Do a five senses chart for the story using the icons eye, ear, tongue, hand, nose
- Draw a sculpture to symbolise the story
- Draw a large question mark and around it write phrases to indicate what would happen if the story had a different ending
- Write a diary entry from the day of the story as a character
- Compose a short radio news report on the story
- Make up a Haiku (6 syllables, 6 syllables, 5 syllables) or Cinquain (1 word, 2 words, 3 words, 2 words, 1 word so that you make a diamond shape) from the story
- Devise and draw an icon from the story

Finally each group drew a spider on a sheet of flipchart paper and wrote the key question in the middle of the spider;

- What does the text tell us about what Christians believe about God, grace and the forgiveness of sin?
- What does the text reveal about being human?

The individual pieces of work were placed around each spider and we were able to view each flip spider diagram. Some of the cinquains especially were very moving. Hopefully some of these ideas might help us in our ministry as Lay Theologians. To use a cinquain;

A
Reader Is
A Lay Theologian
What A
Ministry!

We do hope that you have found this edition informative and interesting. As you will be aware we would like to issue Newsletters and other documents concerning your Reader Ministry by e-mail. To help us, please ensure that we have your correct e-mail address by advising any changes to our Hon. Secretary, Nigel Collins. Of course if you do not use e-mail we will continue to send items by surface mail.

Please send your comments or items for future editions by e-mail or write to David Kemp, Reader at Holy Cross, Bearsted with St Mary, Thurnham at my address below.

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