

# Outlook

The magazine of the Diocese of Canterbury

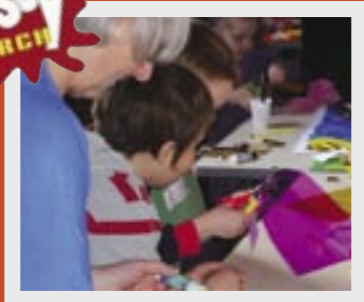


ISSUE 6 SUMMER 2011

## Opening churches for community use



Church schools exhibit Easter artwork



Getting stuck in with 'Messy Church'



Inside: 16 pages of news, stories and events from around the diocese



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Not a 'quiet' retirement for Lizzie – page 14



New Commissary General installed – page 16

## News and events from the Diocese of Canterbury



Garden Safari at Detling and other parish events – pages 12-13



Help for street children in Brazil – page 8



River Church runs Easter Club – page 7

### Contact the editorial team

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### FEEDBACK

We hope you enjoy the new Outlook magazine and the editor would welcome your comments: [eshepherd@diocant.org](mailto:eshepherd@diocant.org)

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# Pray like those early disciples

Bishop of Dover, The Right Reverend Trevor Willmott



Of all of the accounts of the resurrection, it is the journey to Emmaus that never ceases to both amaze and stimulate my own discipleship journey. Christ draws near to the failed and joyless disciples, not to judge them but to

encourage them to experience afresh the loving and life-giving energy of God.

In our own Year of Discipleship the nine days of prayer, which happen between Ascension and Pentecost, remind us all that it is through prayer, and the opening up of ourselves to God's love and God's energy that we are enabled to become both individually and corporately the people he calls us to be.

I hope that the Nine Day Week of Prayer will give all of us an opportunity to relax from some of the business of our daily lives and so enjoy and benefit from listening afresh together into the very heartbeat of God himself.

Individuals, groups, churches and deaneries across the diocese will be praying for renewal in our shared discipleship and we have made available some 'Pocket Prayers' with nine reflective prayers based on the Fruit of



*Pocket Prayers are available for church members for prayer between Ascension and Pentecost.*

the Spirit (Gal 5. 22-23) to help with this. Please use this resource to join us in daily prayer wherever you are.

I often hear people say that they are too busy to pray, but my response, hopefully not in judgement, is to say simply that if we are too busy to pray then we will never become the disciples, nor the disciple-making communities that He wills us to be.

I look forward to hearing and indeed sharing in these days, which I hope will become a part of our regular pattern of life in years to come.

With my prayers,

+Trevor

## Front cover story

### First Post Office in a Kent Church receives Bishop's blessing

The first post office to operate out of a Kent church opened for business at the end of March with a blessing by the Bishop of Dover, the Right Reverend Trevor Willmott.

Villagers had campaigned to open a post office after the village shop and post office shut in 2010. Local priest, the Reverend Nigel Hale, worked with the Post Office and local residents to get the project off the ground.

Nigel said: "By opening up Holy Cross for alternative uses, we are placing the church at the centre of the community and providing a benefit

to a large number of local people.

"Local people were bereft when the post office and village shop closed last year. The church community immediately identified that Holy Cross Church could provide a venue for the post office and we have worked quickly to make this happen."

Speaking after the blessing, which included a celebratory song by the children of Goodnestone Church of England Primary School, Bishop Trevor commented: "This is a wonderful example of volunteers, the community, the church and a national service coming together to provide a service for the local community. I hope there will be many more examples in the future."

Situated in the west end of the church, the post office will open two mornings a week and offer a full range of facilities. Holy Cross Church will continue as a place of worship, with a normal schedule of weekly services.



Photos: Ed Benson



*Children of Goodnestone C of E Primary School celebrate the opening of the Post Office.*

# Diocesan News

## Church Schools Exhibit Artwork



During Easter, schools from across the diocese exhibited artwork in the Chapter House of Canterbury Cathedral as part of the national celebrations for 'Celebrating Religious Education 2011'.

Thirty-six primary schools submitted artwork on the topic of Lent and Easter explored through the theme of 'journeys'. Tricia Martin, the Diocesan Assistant Director of Education, explained: "Some schools looked at the physical journey of Christ, whilst others developed the theme of spiritual journeys. Many were inspired by the artwork of Lindisfarne artist Mary Fleeson. All the artwork was of an extremely high standard – not only colourful and attractive, but also thought-provoking and engaging."

'Celebrating Religious Education 2011' brings together celebrations of the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible and also the 200th anniversary of the National Society. More information from: [www.celebratingre.org](http://www.celebratingre.org)

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to St Martin's Church of England Primary School in Folkestone and to Deal Parochial Church of England Primary School, both of whom received 'Outstanding' in their recent SIAS inspections (Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools).

## Sea Sunday

On July 10 congregations across the world will celebrate the role of seafarers and give thanks for their hard work as they join in the Sea Sunday campaign.

Sea Sunday has been celebrated in churches since 1975 when the second Sunday in July was adopted by the Mission to Seafarers as a thanksgiving day for all that seafarers do in transporting the world's goods. The day is often marked by parades, shore-side services, ship-blessings and church services.

During July, Honorary Lay Preacher for the charity Mission to Seafarers, and Folkestone resident, Kevin Edwards, is available to preach at churches in the Diocese on the work and needs of the charity. Kevin says: "The mission is worldwide and embraces seafarers of many nationalities and beliefs all of whom face storms, wars and pirates and, not in the least, separation for long periods from their families."

Kevin can be contacted on 01303 276656. Worship resources can be downloaded from: [www.seasunday.org](http://www.seasunday.org)



## New Archdeacon of Maidstone



The Reverend Canon Stephen Taylor MBE, Canon Provost of Sunderland and an Honorary Canon of Durham Cathedral, has been announced as the new Archdeacon of Maidstone.

Stephen, who describes his current ministry as 'mainly outward facing' and who has chaired the Sunderland Local Partnership since 2006, will also play a key role in the 'Communities and Partnership' framework of the Diocese of Canterbury.

Describing the role of Archdeacon of Maidstone as 'very special', Stephen commented: "I am hugely looking forward to working in the Diocese of Canterbury at this exciting time."

The appointment of Canon Stephen Taylor follows the restructuring of the diocese and the creation of a new third archdeaconry. The move by the Venerable Philip Down, to become the first Archdeacon of the new Ashford Archdeaconry, created the vacancy in the Maidstone Archdeaconry.

Stephen, who is married to Julie, will be welcomed and collated as the Archdeacon of Maidstone at a special service on Sunday, 18 September at Canterbury Cathedral.

## 24/7 Live it! Hundreds of Disciples Follow Lent Course

As part of the 24/7 Live it! Year of Discipleship, Lent groups from churches across the diocese used the diocesan 'Confidential Discipleship' Lent course.

In Sittingbourne deanery, around 120 people gathered at the Baptist Church in central Sittingbourne, to listen to Bishop Trevor's discipleship Lent lectures which took place over five consecutive Wednesday evenings in Lent. Bishop Trevor based his talks on the themes from the 24/7 Discipleship course, 'Come', 'Follow', 'Learn', 'Change' and 'Go'.

Carolyn Lewis, PCC Secretary at Borden, describes the events: "The audience was an eclectic mix of people who represented very different Christian viewpoints and traditions, but the feeling of shared exploration about what discipleship meant for each of us personally, ensured some lively conversations over coffee."

"Instead of the half-expected 'expert' talking to 'novices' approach, the assembled listeners agreed that the bishop's openness and honesty about his own faith journey and experiences, including his mistakes and difficulties, proved to be a refreshing and inspiring source of thought and prayer in the approach to Easter, and beyond."

To find out more about 24/7 discipleship, visit: [www.canterburydiocese.org/247liveit](http://www.canterburydiocese.org/247liveit)



## 'Double your Congregation in a Day!' Back to Church Sunday training

One of the founders of Back to Church Sunday, Michael Harvey, will be encouraging parishes to 'double their congregation in a day' at free training seminars on Thursday 16 June.

Offering simple and effective ideas for increasing the numbers of people gathered to invitational services, the seminar is specifically designed for church leaders and lay people who want to see their church grow. Seminars take place on June 16th at a choice of venues: Dover, Maidstone and Whitstable and can be booked via [www.canterburydiocese.org/booking/backtochurchsunday.htm](http://www.canterburydiocese.org/booking/backtochurchsunday.htm) or by calling Marilyn Haddock: 01227 459401.

Back to Church Sunday, which takes place this year on September 25, is the single largest national event in which church-goers invite someone they know or love to church.

To register your church visit: [www.backtochurch.co.uk](http://www.backtochurch.co.uk)

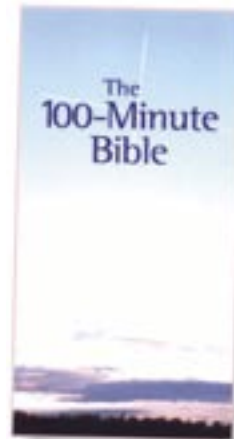


## Diversity Award for local publishing company

In 2005 local publishing company 'The 100-Minute Press', published The 100-Minute Bible, an abridgement of the whole Bible, which can be read in 100 minutes (20,000 words). Over 250,000 copies have now been printed.

Following the publication this year of parallel abridgements of the scriptures of Judaism, Buddhism and Islam, 'The 100-Minute Press' publishing company has won the Diversity Award at the recent 2011 Independent Publishing Guild Awards.

Publisher, Mr Len Budd, who is also the Secretary of West Bridge Deanery, commented: "The purpose of these publications is to enable people to begin to understand the written bases of other religions in a multi-faith world."



## Authorised Lay Ministry training success prompts new module launch

In the ten years since Authorised Lay Ministry training commenced in the diocese, around 300 people have undertaken the training, and now over a third of parishes use Authorised Lay Ministers (ALMs) for worship, mission, pastoral work and children and young people's ministry in local churches.

To meet the changing requirements of parishes, the core module of the ALM training course has been re-worked to help individuals with their call to discipleship. From October 2011 the Core Module will become an eight session course called 'Deepening Discipleship' which will be offered in five venues in the diocese or, on request, to parishes/deaneries who can gather a group of 10-15 people.

The 'Deepening Discipleship' core module and the elective modules of the ALM training are free for participants and parishes. For more information contact Sarah Lucas: 01227 459401 or [slucas@diocant.org](mailto:slucas@diocant.org)

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# Parish News



Angela outside Oxford Cathedral.

## Grandmother makes sponsored bus-pass journey!

A retired grandmother of nine, Angela Stoddart, undertook a ten day sponsored bus-pass journey in aid of Suchana, a charity which provides help to families in India.

Angela, who is churchwarden of Badlesmere and Leaveland, took 70 bus journeys (one for each year of her life) and visited 24 cathedrals between Canterbury, Coventry, Norwich and Gloucester. Using only her bus-pass and her feet for transport, Angela spent less than £5.00 a day. She carried what she needed in a small rucksack, ate mostly rice, lentils and a few bananas and spent the nine nights staying with kind friends.

Angela described her adventure: "I'm very impressed that nearly all the buses I took ran to time. People I met were extremely kind and helpful with directions. The countryside was at its sunny April best and I particularly enjoyed the views from the rural bus routes in Suffolk and Herefordshire."

Angela lists among her highlights visiting the Russian Orthodox Cathedral in South Kensington, attending Choral Evensong at Worcester Cathedral and seeing the Epstein statue in the ruins of the old Coventry Cathedral. Angela has raised over £1500 for Suchana. For more information visit: [www.suchana-community.org](http://www.suchana-community.org)

## Twinning celebrates 26th anniversary

A link forged between the parishes of St Martin's and St Paul's in Canterbury and St. Paul's in Tournai, Belgium in the 1980s, has celebrated its 26th anniversary.

The two people responsible for the ongoing link are Mr Urbain Van Pachterbeke, a teacher in Tournai and the Reverend Canon Reg Humphriss, who was Vicar of St Martin's and St Paul's Canterbury between 1976 and 1990.

Urbain explains: "As The Dean of St Paul's was not too good at English, I helped Reg Humphriss and l'Abbé Agneessens to understand each other

at their first meeting in Tournai. From there, Reg gave me the wonderful opportunity to visit Canterbury Cathedral and St Martin's with my students. I can never thank him enough for enabling many, many students over 26 years to visit Canterbury Cathedral." Urbain, who retires this June, continued: "I will never forget the friendship shared with Reg and his wife Susan who was such a kind lady. I do hope that my younger colleagues will find the way to Canterbury and, if possible, I will help them to discover all the hidden treasures of the Cathedral and the town."



At St Martin's, Canterbury – Urbain (4th from right) with young people from Tournai.

## Royal Wedding celebrated at St Laurence-in-Thanel



On Friday April 29, parishioners from St Laurence-in-Thanel Church, Ramsgate, enjoyed a colourful party to celebrate the marriage of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. The party was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Ramsgate and the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of Ramsgate, who were welcomed by the Team Rector, Reverend Sharran Ireland.

The Parish Hall was awash with bunting, decorations and balloons, all with a Union Jack theme. Party-goers enjoyed food, drink and wedding cake before taking part in a royal quiz and party games. A wedding card was signed by all present and this has been sent to the happy couple.

## What a Story! River Church Easter Play Scheme

St Peter and St Paul's Church in River hosted their first Easter Holiday Club this year, following the success of many Summer holiday clubs and fun days for local children. Led by ALM Josie Harding, and with help from adults and teenagers from the church, around 40 children in years 1 to 4 at the local school attended the two-morning Easter Club.

Josie explained: "Easter is such a big story we just couldn't do everything – so on Wednesday we focused on the Cross and on Thursday, the Resurrection. The young people helping to lead the club performed two items of drama and also led the worship songs which were a great hit with everyone.

"We had fun playing games which were devised to tell a little more of the story and there were lots of Easter activities – including making Easter badges, holding crosses and Easter gardens".

Josie concludes: "We felt very blessed at River Church during Holy Week and very sure that Jesus is alive!"



A participant at River's Easter Holiday Club shows off her Easter garden.

## Big Community plans for St Mark's, Ramsgate



The Mayor of Ramsgate and Cllr Green with Bishop Trevor.

The Bishop of Dover, local dignitaries and eighty members of the Northwood community in Ramsgate,

recently attended the launch of the first phase of a £1.5 million re-development programme planned for St Mark's, Ramsgate.

Reverend Chris Skingley, vicar of St Mark's, believes the re-development will help the church to become a community hub for the area, which currently has no focal point.

The Right Reverend Trevor Willmott was highly positive about the plans, expressing the church's role in society:

"As a country, we face huge challenges and amidst all that, here is St Mark's saying *let's continue to look outwards* – and that is what lies at the heart of the mission."

The first phase of the plans include upgrading the stage area and enlarging the church space so that the church buildings can be used by more community groups.

## Sponsored Jerusalem wall walk

Canon Norman Woods and his wife Patsy, who have led pilgrimages to the Holy Land over many years, have witnessed not just the devotion of thousands at the special sites connected with the events of the life, death and resurrection of Christ, but also the contemporary plight of the Palestinian people under the repressive activities of the Israeli government.

With the desire to help the Palestinian people, Norman and Patsy

will be undertaking a sponsored walk around the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem. Walking three times around the walls, Norman and Patsy will raise money for The McCabe Educational Trust which supports a school for needy children in Bethany, a school for blind children in Bethlehem and a healthcare centre in Bethlehem.

To sponsor Norman and Patsy visit: [www.justgiving.com/Norman-and-Patsy-Woods](http://www.justgiving.com/Norman-and-Patsy-Woods)

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# Overseas News

Our diocesan overseas' links are far and wide – two people describe their recent visits to Burma and Brazil

*Boys playing football at 'My Father's House'.*

## Our visit to 'My Father's House' Recife, Brazil

*Linda Cross, Curate at the Wye Benefice*

This January my husband and I visited our daughter Hannah who is working in Christian mission in Recife, in north-east Brazil. One of the projects she took us to visit was Casa del Meu Pie (My Father's House), which is being supported by the 2010/11 Poverty and Hope Diocesan appeal.

'My Father's House' provides support, security and help for street children in Olinda, Brazil. Boys have the opportunity of catching up with full-time education and are taught basic life and social skills in the context of a Christian community and teaching.

**"AS WE ENTERED THE GATE OF THE WELL-SWEPT COMPOUND OF 'MY FATHER'S HOUSE', WE WERE GREETED BY A SEA OF SMILING FACES!"**

The challenge of 'My Father's House' is to educate and care for the boys for a year or so until they are ready to re-integrate into their own communities.

As we entered the gate of the well-swept compound of 'My Father's House', we were greeted by a sea of smiling faces! The

boys showed us the Christmas decorations and the crib scene they had made painstakingly from recycled materials. There was a sense of orderliness and peace at the premises and it was hard to believe that these boys came from the most deprived and dangerous communities in the area.

We listened to some of the boys' stories with amazement and great humility. Some had been involved in gang warfare and guns; others had turned to drink and drugs in desperation. 'My Father's House' was making a great difference to their lives.

Please pray for Jefferson, the house manager and CMS partners Andy and Rose Roberts, and Ian and Simea Meldrum for their work at 'My Father's House'.

One of the boys, Rodrigo, is currently featured on the CMS website ([www.cms-uk.org](http://www.cms-uk.org)). His story and photos are a wonderful testament to what God is doing through this project.



To donate to the 2010/11 Poverty and Hope Appeal visit: [www.canterburydiocese.org/povertyandhope](http://www.canterburydiocese.org/povertyandhope)

## From Marden to Myanmar, Burma

*Nicholas Fenn - worshipper at St Michael and All Angels, Marden*



Twelve pilgrims from Marden parish travelled to northern Burma earlier this year to visit Myitkyina, capital of the Kachin State in the Himalayan foothills, bordering China and India.

Our parish link with Myanmar was established when Bishop David Than Lwin came to Marden in 2008. We travelled this year to affirm this partnership and we were received with joy. Our hosts feel isolated. They are a three-fold minority: ethnic Kachins amongst Burmese; Christians amongst Buddhists; Anglicans amongst other Christians.

At Holy Communion in the Cathedral we presented Marden's gifts to the Diocese and messages from Bishop Trevor and our vicar James Robertson. I tried to preach in Burmese; they were very polite! We rejoiced with them at our unity in Christ.

Sixteen young catechists study in the new Training Centre which the Marden Parish Link funded. We presented tiny gifts to an orphanage and to four day care centres. The Mother's Union

held prayer meetings, the Men's Association dug latrines. We were implored to pray for them and visit again.

In Namti they welcomed us with tribal music. Their last western visitor was the Bishop of Winchester in 2001. They said they were becoming a church of widows as their menfolk were dying of HIV AIDs.

From Mandalay we steamed down the Irrawaddy, visiting the ancient capital Bagan and villages along the way including potteries, lacquer workshops, teak monasteries, colonial houses, forts, intensively cultivated sand banks and the oldest golf course in Burma.

We also saw how life is changing; the confluence, where two rivers join to form the mighty Irrawaddy, is soon to be submerged by a hydro-electric dam – to deliver power to China.

We are grateful to Marden for sending us and to Myitkyina for receiving us. It was a humbling experience. Marden has resolved to continue this link – one church across the continents.



# the gathering

FRIDAY 16 and SATURDAY 17 SEPTEMBER

**'The Gathering' 2011, at Canterbury Cathedral, provides an opportunity for church members of all ages from across the diocese to participate, share, experience and learn.**



**The event, which focuses on 'community' and 'discipleship', will include a workshop and conference-style day on Friday 16 September and a day of activities for all ages on Saturday 17 September.**

Comedian and writer Frank Skinner will join the Archbishop of Canterbury for the much anticipated 'In Conversation' event on the evening of Friday 16 September, an event that is expected to sell-out quickly following the hugely popular 'In Conversation' between Ian Hislop and Archbishop Rowan in 2009.

During the day on Friday 16 September, church members, officers, readers and vicars can enjoy a Bible exposition with New Testament Scholar Paula Gooder, followed by worship with the Archbishop and a Keynote Address on the role the church plays in communities by Frank Field MP. In the afternoon participants can attend two events out of a

choice of 'Question Time' with Kent community leaders, politicians and Bishop Trevor, workshops with John Bell of the Iona Community or writer Paul Gooder, explore the Cathedral with Dean Robert or experience the prayer labyrinth in the Cathedral grounds

The line-up for Saturday will provide learning and fun for all ages. Speakers on Saturday include satirist Adrian Plass, the Bishop of Rochester and Bishop of Dover and community theologian Ann Morisey. Activities for all ages include African drumming, I-Pod creative prayers, discipleship journeys and the prayer labyrinth. Children can participate in a life-size Jonah and the Whale story telling experience, go on a treasure hunt, try arts and crafts or watch puppet shows or magic with meaning.

The Gathering 2011, which will be held in Canterbury Cathedral and precincts, builds on the success of the popular 2009 event, which saw over 1,000 people attend.



## Friday 16 September Conference Day

**10.00am to 5.00pm including:**

- Bible exposition.
- Worship and Keynote Address with Frank Field MP and the Archbishop of Canterbury.
- Choice of afternoon workshops, including 'Question Time' with politicians and community leaders, workshops with John Bell (Iona Community), Paula Gooder or the Dean of Canterbury Cathedral or an opportunity to experience the prayer labyrinth.

Tickets £25.

## In Conversation 7.30pm to 9.00pm

The Archbishop of Canterbury 'In Conversation' with comedian Frank Skinner. Premium tickets £15, all other tickets £10.

## Saturday 17 September All Age Day

**10.00am to 4.30pm**

*For adults* – Bible exposition, workshops with satirist Adrian Plass, theologian Ann Morisey, writer Paula Gooder and the Bishop of Dover and Bishop of Rochester.

*For children* – Life-size Jonah and the Whale story telling, treasure hunt, brass rubbing, teen chill zone, crafts, magic with meaning, play tent and puppets.

*For everyone* – Prayer labyrinth, African drumming, I-Pod prayers, silk painting, explore the cathedral with Dean Robert, Iona style family celebration and discipleship journeys.

Tickets £10, accompanied U16s go free! (ticket price includes entry to the Cathedral.)

**Tickets** For more information and online bookings visit: [www.canterburydiocese.org/thegathering](http://www.canterburydiocese.org/thegathering) or complete the booking form below.

### BOOKING FORM

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Friday 16 September - Conference Day

**10.00am - 5.00pm (registration from 9.00am)**

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ tickets at £25 each

**Workshops:** indicate your preference 1 - 4, you will be assigned 2 workshops

- Paula Gooder, New Testament, Scholar
- 'Explore the Cathedral' with Dean Robert
- John Bell, from the Iona Community
- 'Question Time' with Bishop Trevor and Community Leaders
- Labyrinth Prayer experience

#### Friday 16 September - In Conversation

**7.30pm - 9.00pm**

Archbishop Rowan in Conversation with comedian Frank Skinner

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ tickets at £10 each  
I would like \_\_\_\_\_ premium tickets at £15 each } limited to 6 tickets per order

#### Saturday 17 September - All Age Day

**10.00am - 4.30pm (registration from 9.30am)**

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ adult tickets at £10 each  
I would like \_\_\_\_\_ child tickets  
(under 16s go free when accompanied by a paying adult)

#### Payment by cheque

I enclose a cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_  
made payable to: 'Canterbury DBF The Gathering'.

**Please return this booking form to: The Gathering (booking), Diocesan House, Lady Wootton's Green, Canterbury CT1 1NQ.**

Tickets will be posted later in the summer providing payment is received. Tickets are non-refundable.



## Get stuck in with



**The room is buzzing; tots, teenagers, parents, grandparents and their friends are working on creative activities. Shortly after, people join together for a song, story, games and prayer before sitting down for a light tea and a good chat.**

Within an hour people from infants to the elderly have learnt about Jesus in a creative way, enjoyed hospitality and celebrated together. Little fingers may be sticky from the glue, the floor may never seem completely free of glitter, but for those attending, the idea that church can be fun has 'stuck'.

'Messy Church' is a way of doing church for adults and children that don't already belong to church. 'Messy Church' normally takes place once a month but can happen on any day of the week and at any time. Some 'Messy Churches' run in halls, schools or community buildings; many happen in church. The venue is secondary to the opportunity presented for people of all ages to encounter and learn about Jesus, whilst having fun.

The 'Messy Church' movement which started in a church in Hampshire in 2004, has grown rapidly and there are now more than 500 'Messy Churches' in the world, along with many other similar events which are modeled on the idea. It is a messy way of doing church, both physically and liturgically, but it is proving hugely popular.

The Reverend Lesley Hardy and her husband the Reverend Stephen Hardy talk passionately about the 'Messy Church' they have started at St John's in the village of Barham, and which features on a new DVD about 'Messy Church'.

Stephen explains: "We started 'Messy Church' when we realised that traditional services really did not relate to the families in our parish, and in trying to encourage them to come along to the regular Sunday events, we were getting nowhere. We started in May 2009, and we have had between 60 and 80 attending every month since then - most of whom do not attend more traditional services. It's been going really well, and is well-known across the parishes in the benefice."

In Barham, 'Messy Church' runs once a month on a Sunday at 4pm which Stephen says: "is an excellent time as it's after families have been out for the day, but before they settle down for the evening. As we include tea, this saves one evening chore for the guests. We spend about three quarters of an hour on craftwork which is related to the theme of the day, and then a time of worship, which includes story and prayer, before tea."

**".. 'Messy Church' is not just children's work, nor is it a means to get people into traditional church – it is a fresh expression of church that works well .."**

Stephen continues: "Basically 'Messy Church' works for the whole family. We have had parents comment that it's the one time when they can just sit down and do something creative with the children, and of course they can also enjoy lively worship together. What is a particular joy is that whole families come along, including dads and sometimes even grandparents."

Stephen and Lesley explain that 'Messy Church' is not just children's work, nor is it a means to get people into traditional church – it is a fresh expression of church that works well. The fact that they have received a request for a baptism from a family that attends 'Messy Church' is a testament to this. That the baptism will be held within 'Messy Church' itself is evidence that 'Messy Church' is flexible in meeting the needs of local people.

Would Stephen recommend it to other churches? "I would wholeheartedly recommend 'Messy Church' as a possible 'fresh expression' of ministry. Those interested could perhaps come and look at a 'Messy Church' in action, or look at the 'Messy Church' DVD, which is an inspiration. See if you can get a small team of helpers together, and of course ask the PCC's financial backing. Then just go for it - 'nothing ventured, nothing gained' as they say!"



## Getting Started

Visit the official 'Messy Church' website for ideas, information, resources and a list of affiliated churches: [www.messychurch.org.uk](http://www.messychurch.org.uk)

The Fresh Expressions website has details of the 'Messy Church' DVD and other news and resources: [www.freshexpressions.org.uk](http://www.freshexpressions.org.uk)

'Messy Church' and other similar services run at the following churches in the Diocese:

- Barham, St John's
- Canterbury, St Martin's and St. Paul's
- Dover, Crosslinks
- Folkestone, St George's
- Len Valley Churches
- Lydd, All Saints
- Margate, St Philip's
- Sandwich, Carpenter's Arms
- Shepherdswell, St Andrew's
- Tilmantstone, St Andrew's
- Whitstable, Seasalter

## 'Messy Clusters'

Diocesan Children's Missioner, Captain Graham Nunn, says: "'Messy Church' is a model of church which appears to reach families where other models are struggling. It is a way of engaging with people in a non-threatening way, drawing them into church life and helping them to explore the Christian faith. Relationships are key as people get messy learning the story through craft, games, worship and food."

Graham Nunn acts as the 'Messy Church' co-ordinator for the diocese and is available to advise parishes. Later this year Graham will arrange 'Messy Clusters' where 'Messy Churches' can help and encourage one another.

Contact Graham:  
[gunn@diocant.org](mailto:gunn@diocant.org) or  
 phone: 07736 303 884



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# What's on in the Diocese

## Summer events in our Kent churches

Throughout the summer, churches across the diocese will be holding fetes, flower festivals, concerts, lectures and open gardens. You'll be sure of a warm welcome and often some tasty refreshments and you'll be helping to support one of our diocesan churches with a fundraising appeal.

Why not try a garden safari at St Martin's Detling, cream tea at St Augustine's East Langdon, or attend 'Last Night of the Proms' at St Mary in the Marsh, Romney.



### Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 June

#### Open Gardens at St Nicholas-at-wade

10.30am - 5.00pm. 16 village gardens open with stalls selling plants, cakes, preserves, books. Gardeners' lunches and cream teas available, art and flower exhibition in church. Entrance £3. Information: 01843 847210.

### Saturday 11 June

#### Gala Organ Recital, St Clement's, Sandwich

7.30pm. Organ Recital given by David Hill - formerly Organist at St John's College Cambridge and currently Conductor of The BBC Singers and The Bach Choir. Tickets £7 (with concessions) available on the door or in advance from: 01227 721697.

### Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 June

#### Five Open Gardens, St Dunstan's, Canterbury

2.00pm - 5.00pm. The Friends of St Dunstan's Church present five delightful city gardens. Refreshments and plant sales in St Dunstons church hall. Tickets: £5 adults, £2.50 accompanied children. Details from: 01227 768885.

### Monday 13 June

#### An evening with Peter Owen-Jones, St Mary of Charity, Faversham

7:30pm. The BBC Presenter of 'Around the World in Eighty Faiths' will be reading from his new book and taking questions. Tickets / entry: £10 (on the door or in advance). Contact [admin@stmaryofcharity.org](mailto:admin@stmaryofcharity.org) or Tel: 01795 532592.

### Tuesday 14 to Friday 17 June

#### Thanet Bible Week, St James Church, Westgate

Tuesday and Wednesday (8.00pm) with speaker: The Revd Rupert Bentley-Taylor, Senior Minister, Widcombe Baptist Church. Thursday and Friday (8.00pm) with speaker: The Revd Alasdair Paine, Vicar, St Andrew the Great, Cambridge. Also lunchtime seminars. (12 noon) at St James' Church Centre on the Wednesday and Friday. Information from Revd Robert Bashford. Tel: 01843 832380.

### Tuesday 14 June

#### Concert by Lyra, All Saints Church, Ulcombe



7.30pm. Lyra, a Russian vocal ensemble performing Russian folk songs and chants from the Russian Orthodox church. Tickets, £8 to include refreshments, from Mrs Molly Poulter: 01622 842988.

### Saturday 18th June

#### The Galliard Trio in concert, St Peter's Church Bekesbourne

7.30pm. Entrance is by ticket only, £10 to include wine and nibbles. Tel: 01227 831029.

### Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 June

#### Open Gardens at Minster in Thanet

10.00am to 5.00pm. In aid of St Mary the Virgin Church Fabric Fund. £4 per person (under 14s free).

### Saturday 18 June

#### Summer Fete, Holy Trinity, Folkestone

1.00pm - 4.00pm. Fete with stalls, BBQ and country dancing.

### Saturday 18 June

#### Open Church and Brass Band, St Peter and St Paul, Upper Hardres

2.00pm - 5.00pm. Home-made teas, produce stall, books, children's games. Follow the signs from the Granville Public House on the B2068. Details: 01227 709312.

### Sunday 19 June

#### Garden Safari, St Martin's Church, Detling

2.00pm - 6.00pm. There will be advice for gardeners wishing to encourage wildlife, as well as an observation hive, plant stall and teas. Enquiries: Tikki Gulland Tel: 01622 737471.

### Friday 24 June to Sunday 26 June

#### Flower Festival, SS Peter and Paul, Borden

A weekend of beauty and activity including the primary school fete on Saturday afternoon and a Strawberry Tea on Sunday afternoon. Contact: Carolyn Lewis, Tel: 01795 472986.

For a full list of events in the parishes visit [www.canterburydiocese.org/whatson/parish](http://www.canterburydiocese.org/whatson/parish)

To receive a full list of parish events by post, please send an A5, self-addressed envelope (with large letter stamp) to: What's On, Diocesan House, Lady Wootton's Green, Canterbury CT1 1NQ

**Friday 24 to Sunday 26 June  
Flower Festival, St. Peter and  
St. Paul, Headcorn**

Friday and Saturday 10.00am to 7.00pm; Sunday 11.30am to 6.00pm. Songs of Praise at 6.00pm on Sunday. Refreshments all weekend. Contact: Jenny Morrison, Tel: 01622 892138.

**Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 June  
Open Weekend (in association with Steam  
Rally), St Mildred's, Preston**

9.30am to 5.30pm both days. Open air Songs of Praise, Merry-go-round, displays, floral arrangements, local art, stalls and refreshments.

**Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 June  
Open Garden Safari in Lyminge**

A passport to visit about 20 local gardens, starting from Lyminge Methodist Church Hall (CT18 8JA) from 10.00am Saturday and 12.30pm Sunday. Entrance £3 includes a Quilting Exhibition in the Parish Church. Teas and refreshments at various locations. Information from: 01303 862598.

**Saturday 2 July  
Summer Fayre & Art Exhibition, St John the  
Baptist Church, Margate**

10.30am - 4.00pm. Stalls and events in churchyard - art exhibition in Church.

**Saturday 9 July  
Grand Noah's Ark Fete,  
St Andrews, Barming Heath**

1.00pm - 4.30pm. Many stalls and sideshows, children's fancy dress. Contact John Sweetman, Tel: 01622 728233.

**Saturday 16 July  
Blaenavon Male Voice Choir,  
All Saints Church, Lydd**

7.30pm. The Choir has been very successful and has performed with the massed male voices at the Royal Albert Hall. Tickets are £12.50 available from Denis May: 01797 321730.

**July 2011  
Saint Rumwold Lectures, Bonnington**

**Friday 1 July:** 'The Kainos Community' with Steve Hook.

**Friday 8 July:** 'Oscar Wilde and the Black Douglas' with Lord Gawain Douglas.

**Friday 15 July:** 'From Gangland to Promised Land' with John Pridmore, gangland enforcer turned Catholic evangelist.

**Friday 22 July** 'Prison Chaplaincy - Living the Faith' with Imam Shaffiq Din and The Revd Emmanuel King.

All start at 7.00pm.

**Friday 5 August  
Last Night of the Proms, St Mary in the  
Marsh, Romney**

8.00pm. With Cavalleria Rustica, Bring your flags and hats. Tickets £10.

For information on this and other concerts in July contact Andrew Sinden, tel: 01797 362097, email: stmarys.proms@tesco.net

**Saturday 13 August  
Church Open, St Augustine's,  
East Langdon, Dover**

2.00pm - 4.00pm. Admire the embroidery on the medieval cope and enjoy a cream tea.

Contact: Jannine Hyde,  
Tel: 01304 853565.

**Friday 12 - Sunday 14 August  
Flower Festival, St Mary's Church,  
Langley, near Maidstone**

Stalls, refreshments, organ music.  
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# Not a 'quiet' retirement for Lizzie

The Reverend Lizzie Hopthrow, who retired in April as Chaplain to the Pilgrim's Hospice, has no plans for a quiet retirement.

By Emily Shepherd

During her ten years at the hospice, Lizzie ministered to people with terminal illnesses and their carers.



In her spare time, Lizzie worked with her husband John, to develop their garden into a place for garden ministry, a project they now wish to extend. On the top of the downs between Canterbury and Dover, 'The Quiet View' is a two acre garden, with outdoor meeting rooms and rustic overnight accommodation serviced with water and electricity. As we meander through the garden, Lizzie explains how the garden developed:

"The Quiet View' was born from a tiny prayer I said in our garden over thirty five years ago." Lizzie continues: "I wanted to create somewhere for people to find peace of heart. Not a beautiful garden with prize-winning herbaceous borders, but a natural space where people can find stillness and peace, where they can hear the voice of God whispering 'I love you.'"

Walking down secluded

dappled paths, lined with honeysuckle and hawthorn, I am struck by that sense of peace which Lizzie describes. In unexpected places there are benches nestled in clearings, with views that stretch across fields of barley and copses of native trees. It is a place to get lost in, a place to soak yourself in the glory of God's creation.

Amazed by the numerous twisty paths and secret spaces I ask Lizzie about the evolution of the garden: "Over the years, as we have reclaimed wild land, we have created hidden spaces, clearings and bends that call you to move forward and explore. The journey

around the garden mirrors something of our journeys into the heart of God and the encouragement he gives us to travel further."

On the highest part of the garden, there is a labyrinth which provides a place for prayer and contemplation. Lizzie, who led the project to install the first permanent labyrinth at a hospice in the UK, says that walking a labyrinth can be cathartic and calming and can help people seeking answers to problems. 'The Quiet View' Labyrinth is regularly used for this purpose by individuals and parish groups.

Perhaps the most surprising space in the garden is the yurt (affectionately nicknamed the 'yurthedral'). A large wood latticed-framed and canvas-covered 'tent', the yurt provides space for worship or meetings for up to 50 people. In the winter the yurt is warm and cosy thanks to a log burning stove; in the summer the walls can be peeled back to let in the breeze and summer sun. In the next few months, subject to fundraising, a smaller 'kitchen' yurt will be erected next door, to



make simple catering easier.

What are Lizzie's plans for 'The Quiet View' now she has retired? "I loved working at the hospice. I have been changed by the patients I have known and I have discovered God's passionate heart for them. Through my ministry at the hospice and with God's tender hand on me, my understanding has deepened of what 'The Quiet View' can offer. I see more clearly than ever that the garden can be a centre of contemplation for people seeking peace or spiritual refreshment, where they can stop and listen to their concerns and hopes and also listen to the voice of a loving God. John and I are blessed to be here. Following my retirement we both hope that as many people as possible will use this spiritual garden."

Lizzie may have retired, but her ministry continues . . .




Throughout the year events are held at 'The Quiet View' including Taize Prayers on the first Friday at 7pm, 'Quiet Days' on Saturday June 11th with Brother Patrick Moore, scholar in residence at Sarum College and July 16th with Brother Martin of Shantivanam – all are welcome. Individuals, parish groups, youth groups, ministry teams and interfaith groups can also book to use the garden and facilities at any time.

**Donations are invited for the use of the garden and facilities.**  
**Email Lizzie at: [lizziehopthrow@quista.net](mailto:lizziehopthrow@quista.net) or phone 01227 830070.**  
**Website: [www.quietview.co.uk](http://www.quietview.co.uk)**

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## RECONCILING THE IRRECONCILABLE ON SATURDAY MAY 7TH CANTERBURY DIOCESAN SYNOD APPROVED, BY SUBSTANTIAL MAJORITY, PROPOSALS FOR THE LEGISLATION ON THE CONSECRATION OF WOMEN AS BISHOPS



The Church of England is currently squaring up to the many challenges presented in proposals to consecrate women into the episcopate. For the average person in the pew, the debate about whether or not to have female bishops was over when General Synod approved the ordination of women priests back in 1992.

In fact, for better or worse, we have all since got used to female ordained ministry at several levels across our Church: as deacons, priests, archdeacons and cathedral deans. And all this in a church where for almost 60 years it has been a woman who has quite uncontroversially held the title 'Defender of the Faith and Supreme Governor of the Church of England'. Indeed, women joining the episcopate, once gaining the right to being ordained, has been just as inevitable as a woman eventually becoming the Prime Minister, following the first woman being elected to Parliament in 1918.

For much longer than almost every other walk of life, the Church has effectively maintained a glass ceiling – quite happy to make full use of the skills, talents and faith of women to a certain level but strictly reserving the top leadership jobs (apart from Supreme Governor) for men. Justification for so doing has been variously found in conscience, in scripture, in precedent and in the traditional Catholic teaching of the Church. Others have had a genuine and over-riding concern for the greater cause of ecumenism or have feared a potential schism over the issue.

Bishop Trevor talked recently at Diocesan Synod of his commitment, as a leader, to good governance, confirming his belief that the Church of England had 'the right' to make the decision to consecrate women as bishops.

This has been an important sticking point of theological dispute. There are those, a significant minority, who claim vociferously that the church does not have this authority or that in conscience they cannot, in any circumstances, accept the decision if it is made.

The emphasis of the legislation has largely been on trying to provide adequately for conscientious objectors – those who feel they cannot accept the leadership of a woman bishop.

For some the issue is around sacramental assurance as traditional Catholics believe that the validity of the sacraments depends upon the bishop being validly ordained and consecrated via apostolic succession. Because the Church Universal (the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches) does not accept that women can be priests or bishops, those who either are female or who take part in the ordination or consecration of women put their communion with the universal church into doubt – and therefore sacraments celebrated in their name are not assured.

The Code of Practice aims to make arrangements for those unable to receive the episcopal ministry of women. The legislation proposes this is by delegation from the diocesan bishop, without the creation of a separate reporting structure, which is what some traditionalists have called for. The male suffragan Bishop to whom oversight is delegated will be a full member of Diocesan teams – there is no room for Provincial Episcopal Visitors or 'Flying Bishops' in the new plan as the measure supports the traditional understanding that the diocesan bishop is the focus for unity in a diocese. The avowed wish is to avoid the creation of a sectional church devoid of women priests or bishops within the Church of England.

Over 50% of the forty four

diocesan synods will now have to vote in favour, as Canterbury has done, before November for the process to continue. The debate and vote for final approval will then follow in General Synod next year where a two thirds majority will be required from each of the Houses of Bishops, Clergy and Laity.

There are fears that if the draft measure is approved more priests and bishops will go to Rome by route of the Ordinariate. The Church of England, however, fully hopes to retain within its number people who do not recognise the ordination of women and those who specifically will not regard the consecration of any female bishop as having validity. Only time, positive experience and prayer will achieve the attitudinal change

required throughout the Church of England.

The church, in wanting to accommodate dissension, is trying to please everyone. In doing so it is likely to end up with a somewhat messy and unsatisfactory compromise – one that, in my opinion, can only undermine the status of women within the church and be found unworkable in practice. In other words a good old British fudge.

**SALLY MUGGERIDGE**  
Professionally qualified in HR and Marketing, Sally Muggeridge is currently a Director of Total Oil UK. Churchwarden of St Andrew's Tilmanstone, Sally is a member of General Synod and has published several religious books for the Malcolm Muggeridge Society, of which she is International President.



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## MEET THE PEOPLE

# Morag Ellis QC, Commissary General

Morag Ellis, QC was installed as Canterbury Diocese's Commissary General at a special Cathedral Eucharist in May.

The Commissary General presides over the Commissary Court, which has jurisdiction over the grant of faculties to authorise changes to church buildings and the use of consecrated land. Canterbury Diocese is the only Diocese in England with a Commissary Court and Commissary General; in other Dioceses the Court is termed a Consistory Court, which is presided over by a Chancellor.

Morag is married to the Reverend Tony Bushell, a Non Stipendiary Minister (NSM) who works in a team ministry in Colchester. They live in a village near Colchester and have three children aged 19, 14 and 11 years.

### Did you grow up in the Anglican Church?

I was brought up in a mixed Christian heritage. I was baptised as a Congregationalist, went to Brethren Sunday School, and later to a Methodist boarding school. At around the age of 13, I was confirmed having made the conscious decision to become an Anglican. Within this terrific welter of influences, the thing that called me very strongly was the Eucharist as the central aspect of worship.

### Did you always want to go into law?

I decided I wanted to be barrister at about seven years old. I was inspired by a programme called 'Crown Court' which had actors playing roles in a pretend criminal court, with members of the public as jury members. Many barristers of my generation were similarly inspired!

### Why did you specialise in planning law?

Happenstance is part of answer. Just before leaving school, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to undertake a mini pupillage in a set of chambers with a number of eminent planning specialists – who later offered me a pupillage after qualification. I also think property was always in my blood as my father worked as a Valuation Officer.

### Tell me about your calling to Reader ministry.

As part of my law degree at St Catharine's College Cambridge, I spent a year studying ecclesiastical law and I developed a great interest in doctrine and liturgy. I also felt I was given gifts of public speaking and that God was calling me to contribute in this way.

Reader ministry is a versatile ministry and can be used in different ways by parishes. Undoubtedly it provides an opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to go through some structured Christian education, with the support and blessing of their parish followed by the opportunity to serve in different ways in those parishes.

### Were you surprised to be invited to become Canterbury's Commissary General?

A few months ago the Chancellor of Southwark asked if I was interested in becoming his deputy, and I start that role in the near future. It was, therefore, a total surprise when Charles George QC, who is Dean of Arches, asked me if I would also consider becoming Canterbury's Commissary General. I was further surprised to be invited to an interview, but talking to Bishop Trevor, Archdeacon Philip and the Chair of the DAC Richard Morrice during the interview, I realised we were on the same wavelength. The previous Commissary General, His Honour Richard Walker, has offered to act as deputy until



the end of year, for which I am grateful. Richard sent me a fascinating list of Commissaries going back to the 12th Century and I am the first woman Commissary General. I am feeling excited, humbled and a little daunted.

### What are you looking forward to in the role?

Becoming the Commissary General is a lovely way of uniting different areas of my life which at times can become a bit disparate – law, church and being married to an ordained minister. It is wonderful and reassuring that God is giving an avenue for those three things to join together.

### How will your role impact on the mission and ministry of Diocese of Canterbury?

Looking at the big picture the role of Commissary General is important in the relationship between church and state. Ecclesiastical exemption means the church has considerable autonomy to organise its own affairs even in historic buildings and it is vital that we sustain a credible and disciplined system.

Locally we need to maintain a principled approach in the way we deal with faculties which gives consideration to churches wishing to make physical changes for mission and to our role as custodians of many of the nation's historic and important buildings.

### What is it like being married to an NSM?

Our weekends get pretty hairy because Tony is working and so am I (planning solicitors have a habit of sending vast quantities of papers on Friday night to be read by Monday morning!). Tony serves within a team ministry in central Colchester. As an NSM Tony has been fortunate to be able to serve in ways that stipendiary clergy sometimes find difficult to achieve in their busy schedules, such as informal pastoral visiting. He is much appreciated and people often come up and tell me: 'I love your husband'!

### What are your views on Diocesan Synod's recent vote on legislation for women bishops?

I found the process of debate and voting at synod really moving – I heard people speaking against the motion with great restraint and dignity and that made casting my vote harder. One doesn't often experience that level of dignity and restraint in Chambers' meetings!

### What do you find helps strengthen your discipleship?

In a busy life like mine, finding time for prayerful reflection is important. I find an oasis in worship and in music. As I travel a lot for my work, I also make sure I use this time for prayer and reflection.