

# Bishop John's new year message and great news for our Calling Young Disciples project!

12 January 2017

## BREAKING NEWS!

Great news - the Church Commissioners and Archbishops' Council have approved our strategic funding bid and will be contributing £750,000 to our 'Calling Young Disciples' project! Read more about the project on the [diocesan website](#).

## The Price of Lead

In December 2016 the Church Buildings Council advised that the price of lead is about to reach an all-time high. This price rise is an encouragement for the metal theft gangs to increase or resume their activities. Since the CBC advice two churches in the Diocese have had lead stolen.

PCCs and congregations need to be vigilant and recruit the help of the local community to keep an eye on the church. It is a bit late in the day but there is still time to apply for a grant for a roof alarm.

<http://www.allchurches.co.uk/news/roof-protection-scheme/index.aspx>

[Find out more...](#)

## Your views count!

The Government is asking for views on how churches can continue to be integral parts of local life through innovative and practical ways that secure their future. The survey is part of the English Churches and Cathedrals Sustainability Review which was commissioned by Government in March 2016. Experts from ChurchCare, Historic England, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Heritage Lottery Fund form the panel conducting the Review which will consider the challenges faced by our ecclesiastical heritage buildings and their long term sustainability. The survey will close on 31 January.



<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/english-churches-and-cathedrals-sustainability-review>

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## Private Faculty Application Fees

Would you please note that with immediate effect the faculty fee will increase to £195.60 including VAT.

Please contact Liz Matthews at the Diocesan Registry on 01905 727222 if you have any queries.

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## Safeguarding

In September 2016, the Diocese of Worcester's safeguarding processes were independently audited by the Social Care Institute for Excellence. [Read the full report.](#)

The latest safeguarding advice and policies can be found on our website: [www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/safeguarding](http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/safeguarding)

## In brief ...

- Bishop John has announced that Andrew Sillis has accepted his invitation to become the **Rural Dean of Stourbridge**, succeeding Paul Harrison.
- The funeral service for **former Dean of Worcester, Bob Jeffery** will take place at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford at 2pm on Monday 16 January. The burial will take place at St Bartholomew's Church, Tong, Shropshire at 3pm on Tuesday 17 January. All welcome. No flowers by request. Donations for Sobell House Hospice Charity Ltd. All enquiries to the Co-operative Funeral Care, Headington. Tel: 01865 308 581. A memorial service in Worcester Cathedral will take place later this year, more information will be distributed when the date is confirmed.
- Buckingham Palace has announced that the **Revd Georgina Byrne**, Residentiary Canon at Worcester Cathedral has been appointed as a Chaplain to the Queen. [Read more.](#)
- **Lent Resources for 2017** are available [on the diocesan website](#).
- **Church Action on Poverty Sunday.** Sunday 26 February is Church Action on Poverty Sunday. This year the theme is 'poor church, transfigured church'. Why not hold a collection or soup lunch - your donations can transform more churches through listening and engaging with people in poverty. Or perhaps you could use the worship materials on the website ([www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday)) to reflect and pray for change.
- The **Parochial Fees Table for 2017** has been published at <http://www.churchofengland.org/weddings-baptisms->

[funerals/fees.aspx](#) on the Archbishops' Council's website.

- Bishop Graham Usher has written a two-week Bible study series on 'Divine Landscapes' for the Bible Reading Fellowship's Bible reading resource *Guidelines*, starting on 2 January 2017. BRF are offering a free copy to people in the Diocese in the months of January and February 2017. Email [enquiries@brf.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@brf.org.uk) or phone the office on 01865 319700.
- Could your church celebrate a "Green Communion"? A Rocha's **EcoChurch** project will be a year old and is inviting ALL churches in England and Wales to celebrate a Green Communion on 5th Feb. For more information and a specially written liturgy head to the [EcoChurch](#) website.
- 396 Serbian children received Christmas gifts from Christ Church, Malvern. Read [Angela Green's reflection](#) on their **shoebox collection**, which was the biggest in Malvern.
- This year we'll be circulating more information about our plans to join the **Wave of Prayer** in the lead up to Pentecost for Thy Kingdom Come 2017. In the meantime, you can #pledge2pray and find out more about the national campaign [on the website](#).
- A vicar in Melbourne, Australia is looking to do a Clergy Swap in the United Kingdom, for December 2017 - January 2018. If you might be interested, please contact the [Revd Mark Pearce](#) and copy your reply to [Stuart Currie](#) so he can facilitate the necessary paperwork.
- Ridley Hall, Cambridge is hosting a Spring Conference from 31 March - 2 April 2017, with the theme of **Making a Difference: Christian Impact on the Business World**. See [their flyer](#) for more information.
- **Jonathan Veira** is coming to St Laurence Church, Bidford-on-Avon (Diocese of Coventry) for an evening of "Songs and Tales" on Friday 20 January. [Find out more](#).
- **Church Urban Fund** is asking people to join it's [Big Pancake Party](#)

this Shrove Tuesday to raise money for the Together Network so that no one has to go hungry this spring. [Find out more](#)

- The recent Enabling Church 2016 conference entitled **No Limits: *Additional Needs, Disability And The Church*** drew people from churches across Britain together to help create churches where disabled people belong. [Find out more.](#)
- HOPE is publishing a **prayer for each Friday** as churches prepare for mission together in 2018. [Download the prayers.](#)
- Bishop John will explore the **present state of ecumenical relationships** and in particular reflect on the recent Anglican/Roman Catholic Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in a talk for The Newman Association Worcester Circle on Thursday 19 January, 7.30pm, St George's Catholic Church Hall, Sansome Place, Worcester WR1 1UG. [Find out more](#)
- **Worcester Palestine Friendship** presents the film Palestine Blues on Friday 13 January at St Peter's Baptist Church Centre, Eden Close, Worcester WR5 3TZ. The film tells the story of the people of a Palestinian village whose lives are impacted by the separation wall and the destruction of their ancient life-giving orchards. Doors open from 7pm. [Download flyer.](#)
- The charity, **Acts365** is looking for more churches to get involved in posting requests from people in need in their local communities. Why not [read their blog!](#)
- Fostering & adoption charity, **Home for Good**, is running training for anyone to learn more about working with and supporting children and young people who are fostered or adopted. This is ideal for those (paid or voluntary) who are on the children's and youth team in your church but anyone is welcome to attend. Thursday 19 January at 7pm, Freedom Church, Worcester. [Read flyer](#)
- Read the [latest newsletter](#) from **RSCM Worcestershire**. They also have a quiz night on 25 February. [Download flyer.](#)

- The 2017 Church Times Environmental Awards will include 5 categories - The Green Building Award, The Green Congregation Award, The Biodiversity Award, The Green Champion Award and The Green Shoots Award. Entries will be featured in the Church Times throughout the year until the award ceremony at Lambeth Palace in October. [Find out more.](#)
- **Sarum College** is an ecumenical centre for Christian study and research in Salisbury. It runs a number of courses and training opportunities. To find out more, why not [visit their website](#) or [sign up for their newsletter.](#)
- St Clement's church in Worcester still has a number of **Kneelers available**. Anyone interested should contact John Chidlow on 01905 432779 or email: [john.chidlow2012@btinternet.com](mailto:john.chidlow2012@btinternet.com)

To read more news, including sermon podcasts, blogs and daily prayers, head over to our [website](#).

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## Events coming up ...

For a full list of upcoming events go to our [Events listings](#). You can also [add your own event](#) to the listing.

### **Holy Land pilgrimage reunion**

*Wednesday 18 January, 7pm, Worcester Cathedral, WR1 2LA*

A Reunion for those who attended the 2016 diocesan pilgrimage and anyone else who would like to come along on the eve of the feast of St Wulfstan and beginning of the week of prayer for Christian unity. Led by Bishop John and the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Birmingham, Bernard Longley. Please let us know for catering if you are intending to come:

Jim Quinn - [j.quinn789@btinternet.com](mailto:j.quinn789@btinternet.com) or by phone 01299 851021.

**Expatriates and migrants, Muslims and Christians: the ever-changing landscape of the Middle East.**

*Saturday 21 January, 6pm, St Martin's Church, London Road, Worcester WR5 2ED*

A Talk by the Right Reverend Michael Lewis, Bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf: **No Abiding City**

The Worcester East Deanery Synod is hosting this event, which is open to the public, and entry is free. To precede the talk, Bishop Michael and members of the Deanery Synod will attend Choral Evensong at 5pm, sung by St Martin's Choir and members of the Worcestershire Organists' Association who are meeting for their AGM earlier in the afternoon.

Everyone is welcome to Evensong. The following morning, Sunday 22 January, Bishop Michael will be back in St Martin's (currently in vacancy) to preside and preach at the 10am Sung Eucharist. Bishop Michael, who is a former Rector of St Martin's and the Worcester South East Team, moved from Worcester in 1999 to become Bishop of Middleton in Manchester Diocese, and has been Bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf since 2007. He serves a huge area, on the cusp of east and west, in 10 political jurisdictions. His introduction to the Diocese on its website makes good reading: <http://cypgulf.org/about-the-diocese-of-cyprus-and-the-gulf/>

**The Man who Planted Trees**

*Holland House, Monday 23 January*

Canon David Rogers will regale us with the story of A Frenchman who made it his life's work re-forest France after the war.

Arrive at 12 noon to enjoy a drink from the bar, a 2 course set lunch will be served at 12.30pm followed by the talk. £15 per person includes the lunch and talk. Pre booking essential - 01386 860330

or [enquiries@hollanhouse.org](mailto:enquiries@hollanhouse.org)

**Interfaith Forum's Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration**

*County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester, WR5 2NP, 3.30pm, 27 January*

This is an act of both remembering past and ongoing genocides, and making a commitment to a better world. Students from Worcester secondary schools will be participating and helping lead the commemoration, which will last around 30 minutes, and use words, images and music. All are welcome, but please note that car parking at County Hall is very limited. Followed by light refreshments.

**Choral Evensong and recital at St Mary and All Saints' Church,  
Kidderminster**

*Saturday 28 January, 4pm*

The girl choristers and gentlemen of Worcester Cathedral Choir will be visiting Kidderminster. They will be singing Choral Evensong, followed by a recital which will include a feast of choral music starting with Christmas and Epiphany and looking ahead into the church's musical year. Entry is free, with a retiring collection.

**Rise of the Intelligent Machines - Future Battleground?**

*Friday 10 February, 7-9pm, The Hive, Worcester*

Dr Kim Stansfield, senior lecturer in Systems Engineering, will be speaking at the Hive on the subject, "Rise of the Intelligent Machines - Future Battleground? More information to follow.

**Uncertainty - a human experience and a phenomenon of physics**

*3 - 5 March 2017, Venues around Malvern*

Malvern Science & Faith Weekend (Malvern's annual Festival of Ideas) will open with Prof Tariq Ramadan on Islam and Uncertainty, and include presentations by Profs Marcus du Sautoy, Frank Close and Brian Clegg. Dr Magda Osman speaks from psychological research, and Dr Mark Flood (US Treasury) on global finance. Natalie Bennett reflects on governance, and Prof Peter Taylor-Gooby on new social risks. The Revd Prof Frances Young speaks of personal & spiritual uncertainty and Bishop John will

preach at the Act of Worship which is led by the Moderator of the URC. Superb Children's Activities with TV presenter Jon Wood , Mark Lewney (guitar physicist), Kjartan Poskitt (Murderous Maths!). ALL EVENTS FREE. [Bookings advised](#). All details at [www.scienceandfaith.org.uk](http://www.scienceandfaith.org.uk) - send for printed colour brochure.

### **Hidden Treasure: Inner life and Solidarity**

*Friday 28 April - Monday 1 May 2017, Taize Birmingham*

An event for 16-35s: Discovering the common spirit of the diverse Christian family • Celebrating the commitment of those working for the world to be a better place • Finding space to welcome the treasure of God's presence • Learning to live as a leaven of peace and friendship for all people. [Find out more](#)

### **Moving On**

*4 May 2017, CPAS, Coventry, CV4 7EZ*

Led by CPAS patronage secretary, John Fisher, this forum-style event will offer insight into the tricky subject of moving posts. It will provide some biblical framework to the discernment process and how to make good choices. It will also look at the practicalities of completing good applications and handling interviews well. Moving On will give godly space to think about this important subject. To find out more or to book your place visit our website. <http://www.cpas.org.uk/events>

### **Messy Discipleship Training Event**

*Saturday 18 November, Top Barn, Worcester*

As part of our growing support of Fresh Expressions of Church, Lucy Moore will be coming to give us some input on how to keep discipleship the focus of Messy Church, and in other similar contexts such as Café Church. This will be an inspiring event for whole teams involved in leading Messy or Café churches across the Diocese. More details to follow, but please get the date in your diary now, and let your teams of

volunteers and helpers know.

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## Training opportunities ..

### **Reader Ministry Roadshows**

Reader Roadshows are for anyone interested in finding out more about Reader ministry, whatever stage of thinking they may be at. It's an opportunity to meet Readers who serve in varied contexts, to ask questions about ministry, selection and training, and to think more about how we discern our calling.

There will be two events in the new year:

*Saturday 21 January at Mary Stevens Hospice, 221 Hagley Road, Stourbridge DY8 2JR, 10.30am-12:30pm.*

*Saturday 11 March at St Mary's Church, Church Street, Kempsey WR5 3JQ, 10am to 12.30pm.*

Please book with [training@cofe-worcester.org.uk](mailto:training@cofe-worcester.org.uk) / 01905 732812

### **Germinate Enterprise - New Year, New Business?**

*Thursday 9 February, 3 - 5pm, the Den, Stanford Bridge, WR6 6SP*

Have you thought of running your own business, but not been sure how to go about it?

Germinate Enterprise is a course for anyone of any age who wants to think about setting up their own business. You might be someone who has been out of the workplace and looking to run your own business as a flexible way back into work. You might be a farmer wanting to diversify your existing business and add another income stream. You might be a retired person looking to add to your pension. You might be wondering if your own business might give you more flexibility and a better work/life balance. You might be..... almost anyone with an idea that might work. Run by Teme Valley South Churches, the course will be delivered by

Celia Adams, Chartered Accountant and Turnaround Director (with support from Robert Barlow, the vicar). It starts on Thursday 9 February and the following five sessions will be on subsequent Thursdays. Costs for participants will be limited to the Den's charge for coffee/tea and cake (£4.95 plus a small contribution for the cost of their room). Participants will also need a workbook, electronic version is free or £5 for a hard copy. Booking is essential as places are limited. Please book by emailing [les2dean@googlemail.com](mailto:les2dean@googlemail.com). More information about the course is here <http://www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk/communities-and-farming/germinate-enterprise>

### **Growing Bridgebuilders Training the Trainers**

*9 February 2017, St Michael's House at Coventry Cathedral*

To get inside how to run Growing Bridgebuilders we encourage potential leaders of the course to attend one of our Training the Trainers days.

They include:

- An overview of the course
- Hands on engagement with course material
- Ideas on how to promote, prepare and run a course

To find out more or to book your place visit our website.

<http://www.cpas.org.uk/events>

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