

# update

*update* is produced five times a year as a way of keeping retired clergy better-informed about what is happening in Wakefield Diocese.

## Some newly-retired's...

Geoff Banks and his wife Hazel are retiring from the Upper Holme Valley Team at the end of May and moving at least initially to Oxenhope, near Haworth.

John Hudson, Vicar of Royston and Priest in Charge of Carlton, and Jon Booth, Assistant Priest of the same are retiring at the end of June to Malton, North Yorkshire and France. John was Chair of the Diocesan Advisory Committee until recently.

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## Improving funeral ministry and care

Many retired clergy give important ministerial support through their involvement with funeral ministry. In retirement there can be more time to offer bereaved families, and parochial clergy are enormously helped by being able to call on retired clergy to cover occasions when funerals clash with other events in their diary. The role of retired clergy in helping offer care and practical help with funerals is invaluable.

All retired clergy are about to receive a letter from the Archdeacons about funeral ministry. The letter offers guidance to stipendiary and retired clergy about good practice in taking funerals. It follows a recent meeting with undertakers and it is hoped that they and we will use the guidance to improve our funeral care and to clarify some areas of uncertainty.

One area of concern has been the reluctance of some stipendiary clergy to take responsibility for funerals. Another has been the lack of opportunity for pastoral follow-up and prayer by the parish when non-parochial clergy take funerals. And there has been some concern about a small number of Anglican clergy who seem to take a disproportionate number of funerals, often without any reference to parish clergy.

Of course it is not sensible to try and make hard-and-fast rules about these matters. But clearer guidance will be helpful.

We have agreed the normal process for arranging a funeral, where Anglican ministry is requested, will be for the undertaker to contact the parish clergy in the first instance. It will be the parish clergy's responsibility to accept the funeral and take details, whether they can take the service or not. If they cannot take it themselves then the parish clergy, not the undertaker, will be responsible for arranging a minister for the service. This means that normally undertakers should not approach retired clergy directly, unless there is an obvious reason why that has not been possible. And we will be asking retired clergy to always pass on a very brief report to parish clergy after a funeral, including anything they feel is relevant to help appropriate follow-up and to help parishes better-connect with the bereaved.

Our hope and prayer is that through this guidance we will be able to improve our care for bereaved families. Thank you for all you do!

The Venerable Robert Freeman  
Archdeacon of Halifax

# What's on: news and events around the Diocese

## **Streams of Living Water**

Tuesday 9 June 2009, 7.00pm onwards at St Michael's, Mytholmroyd. A ReSource evening sponsored by the Wakefield Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship. Speaker: Canon John Benson. Bar opens at 7.00pm. Meeting starts at 7.30pm.

## **Sacred Space**

Sunday 14 June 2009, 2.00pm to 6.00pm at Wakefield Cathedral. An interactive and thought-provoking afternoon, hosted by the Bishop of Pontefract for 11-16 year olds who may be interested in being confirmed in 2009. For more information contact Liz Morton on 01924 371802.

## **Breath of God**

Tuesday 16 June 2009, 9.30 to 2.30pm at the Westwood Christian Centre, near Golcar, Huddersfield, HD7 4JY. Led by David and Glenys Greenwood. A time of quiet in beautiful surroundings. For more information ring 01484 845042.

## **Child Protection Training**

Tuesday 16 June and 23 June 2009, 7.00pm to 9.00pm at St Martin's Church, Brighouse, HD6 1AU. Two sessions considering child protection issues in the parish and for individuals as well as promoting safe practice in a church setting. Led by Jenny Price, Bishop's Adviser in Child Protection and Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults. Contact Gill Knowles on 01924 371802 to book a place.

## **Serving and Surviving**

Tuesday 23 June 2009, 7.30pm to 9.15pm at Dewsbury Minster. An evening to help PCC members to be more effective led by Canon Kevin Partington and John Bullimore. For more details contact John Lawson on 01924 380182.

## **Effective Presence: Stories of Transformation**

Wednesday 8 July 2009, 9.15am to 3.15pm at St Mary's Church, Bramall Lane, Sheffield. A day conference to reflect on real stories of effective Christian presence. Keynote speakers: Nick Holtam, Vicar of St Martin in the Fields; Jon Kuhr, Director of Community Mission and Liz Carnelley, Chief Executive of Churches Regional Commission for Yorkshire and Humber. For more information and to book ring 0113 2443414.

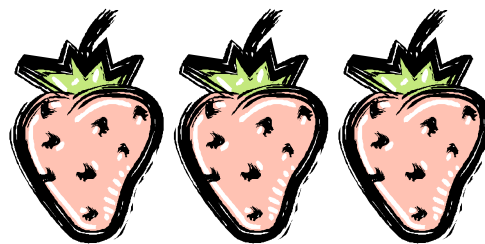
## **Taizé 2009**

### **– an ecumenical youth pilgrimage**

Saturday 1 August – Monday 10 August 2009. The Bishop of Pontefract will be leading a pilgrimage of young people aged 16 to 30. Please pray for them.

## **Clergy Conference**

Tuesday 1 to Friday 4 September 2009 at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick. Theme: God and Change. Please pray for them.



**Mirfield Centre** courses and events in the next few months include:

### **Wakefield Diocese Quiet Day**

Saturday 20 June 2009, 10.00am – 4.00pm at the Mirfield Centre. Theme: Peace be still Prayer in unlikely places. Led by Angela Ashwin Cost £10 – bring a packed lunch.

### **Money Matters**

Monday 29 June 2009, buffet from 7.00pm, talk from 7.45pm at the Mirfield Centre. Christian and Muslim perspectives on the economic challenges of today. Speakers: Revd Dr Philip Bee, Director of the Oastler Centre for Faith and Economic Life in Leeds and Shaykh Amjad M. Mohammed, Lecturer in Islamic Studies of Lifelong Education and Development, University of Bradford. Cost: £7 including buffet; £3 excluding buffet.

### **Finding Strength for the Way**

Thursday 9 July, 9.45am to 3.30pm at the Mirfield Centre. A quiet day of spiritual refreshment for those involved in community transformation. Cost £25, including a good lunch. Facilitator: Gordon Dey who is passionate about Christian ministry on housing estates. To book contact Ruth Smith on 0113 3508070.

### **Richard Rolle Pilgrimage**

Saturday 12 September, 10.30am to 5.00pm, starting from the Mirfield Centre but visiting Hampole, Adwick Church and the medieval Chantry Chapel in Wakefield by minibus before returning to Wakefield. Led by Mike Gartland, the day will celebrate the life of Richard Rolle, learn from his teaching and see how his example continues to inspire healing ministry today.

**To book any of the courses and events at Mirfield or find out more – contact Rachael Salmon on 01924 481920.**

## Vacancies

Churches currently in vacancy are...

### **Pontefract Archdeaconry**

- Barnsley (St Mary and St Paul)
- Sandal (St Catharine)
- Mirfield (St Mary)

### **Halifax Archdeaconry**

- Brighthouse Team Rector
- Cumberworth, Denby and Denby Dale
- Halifax (All Souls)
- Illingworth (St Mary)
- Kirkburton (All Hallows)
- Lepton (St John)
- Lightcliffe (St Matthew)
- Luddenden (St Mary)
- Sowerby Bridge (Christ Church)



## Yorkshire Church on Show

The Great Yorkshire Show is the North's leading agricultural event and takes place from Tuesday 14 to Thursday 16 July 2009 on the edge of Harrogate. The celebration of agriculture and country life includes everything from International Show Jumping and demonstrations to fashion, rural crafts and shopping!

Amongst all this is the Yorkshire Church on Show – an ecumenical organisation promoting the work of the Church in Yorkshire. Every year, they organise a special display for the 160,000 people who visit the show.

Once again, their Design Team have planned an interactive journey to enable personal reflection and gentle challenge. This year's focus explores our relationship with ourselves, with others, and with God.

If you would like to help as a steward and receive a free entry pass please contact the Chief Steward, Margaret Davis by mid June on 01423 770172.

## Investing in our Faith

This major diocesan initiative continues, with various aspects running in parallel.

Most parishes across the diocese are bringing together their 'Transformational Plans'. These look at key areas of their life and mission and ask the question "What next steps might God want us to take in each area?" Those plans should be completed by November.

Most deaneries are completing their Deanery plans, looking at ways of reorganising ministry to take account of the declining number of stipendary clergy and the ways ministry is changing and developing. These plans will be considered by the diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee before the summer.

Considerable work is underway to support stewardship renewal in parishes. Each parish has been invited to identify a Parish Giving Officer who will be equipped to help churchgoers think and pray about their giving. And this autumn there will be a bundle of resources available to support both the practicalities of organising stewardship (including money) and to help church members think through what it means to put God first in their life.

## In Memory

Revd Desmond Layton died on 2 April 2009. Desmond spent most of his life in teaching rather than parish ministry. He was a keen contributor to hospital radio, and particularly knowledgeable in the area of sport. Desmond had been a Methodist minister before becoming an Anglican priest and so had a real ecumenical stance. He and his wife retired to Mirfield. Please pray for his wife Jean.

## Recent Notices of Appointment

Revd Geoff Banks, Team Vicar in the Upper Holme Valley retired on 23 May 2009 and will continue to have PtO in the diocese.

Revd Stephen Race, Vicar of St John the Baptist, Dodworth and Diocesan Director of Ordinands is now also Rural Dean of Barnsley.

Revd Canon Lindsay Dew, Rector of St Michael & All Angels, Thornhill with Whitley Lower is to be Priest in Charge of St Mary Magdalene, Dunton with Wrestlingworth and Eyeworth in the Diocese of St Albans. Lindsay will be licensed on 8 September 2009. Lindsay's last service was in May and in June he is getting married to Melanie Dawson. Congratulations!

## Pensions and Housing



Links to information about Pensions and Retirement Housing on the Church of England website can now be found on the Retired Clergy page of the

Wakefield Diocesan website. This can be found at:

**[www.wakefield.anglican.org/retired](http://www.wakefield.anglican.org/retired)**

Retirement Housing includes information about Shared Ownership, Supported Housing as well as Care Homes with nursing.

Pensions Questions provides information about everything from pension rates, discretionary help, national insurance, state pensions and more.

### Diocesan retired clergy officers

#### **Pontefract Archdeaconsry:**

Revd John D Wilkinson, 29 Pontefract Road, Ferrybridge, Knottingley WF11 8PN  
01977 607250 – johnwilkinson@talktalk.net

#### **Halifax Archdeaconsry:**

Revd Dick Bradnum, 4 Southlands Drive, Huddersfield HD2 2LT – 01484 420721

#### **Diocesan Clergy widow's officer:**

Revd Norma Webb – 01924 463574

## Update – your newsletter

Update is produced five times a year for retired clergy. It is your newsletter so please contact me (Chris Freeman) if you have news or information to contribute.

Editor: Chris Freeman – 01484 714553  
[chris.freeman@wakefield.anglican.org](mailto:chris.freeman@wakefield.anglican.org)

## Annual Meeting for Retired Clergy 2009

**Wednesday 23 September  
9.30am to 3.00pm  
Community of the Resurrection, Mirfield**

### Spirituality: some fresh perspectives

Many stipendiary clergy say a Daily Office, but what happens in retirement? Are new patterns required or does it all go to pot?

A member of the Community will introduce the subject, followed by sharing and discussion

We will join the Community for the midday office and Eucharist.

Please bring your own lunch.

Drinks and cake provided.

To book a suitable room, we need a rough idea of numbers coming, so please would you use the tear off slip and return to John or Dick (addresses opposite).

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Name .....

Address .....

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Telephone .....

I hope to come to the meeting .....

I could offer a lift in my car.....

I would need a lift in someone's car .....