

Learning Together

Opportunities for learning and development
for lay people, ministry teams and authorised
ministers

Lent is always a great encouragement to do something, however small, to grow deeper in our faith and become more confident in our following of Jesus. There is a lot in this issue of Learning Together to stimulate our faith as individuals and members of ministry teams. Look out especially for the Living Faith in Suffolk days on John's Gospel (page 4) and 'Baptism Matters' (page 5), and Lent lectures and courses (from page 7).

If there are areas of learning that you'd like the Ministry, Education and Training team to develop, or if you'd like one of us to do some work with your church or deanery, please let us know. Contact details are on the back page.



John Parr (Director of Ministry, Education and Training)



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

**Diocese of St Edmundsbury
and Ipswich**

Conferences and Day Events

Ladies' days at Mulberry House

Organiser Nationwide Christian Trust
Where Mulberry House, High Ongar, Essex CM5 9NL
When All days are 10.00 am for 10.30am - 3.30pm
Cost £22.50 to include coffee on arrival, and lunch with tea or coffee.

Going deeper in God 25 February – Jennifer Rees Larcombe: The experience of knowing God as our heavenly Father means that we will never exhaust his love for us or outgrow our need for him. Jen will take us on a journey of discovering a God who gets bigger as we draw closer, and who wants us to know him as deeply and affectionately as he knows and understands us.

Arise and Build 17 March – Jennifer Abigail Wallace: Many have come into the liberty, renewal and restoration found in Jesus (Isaiah 61:1-3). However, having come this far, women are still bored, frustrated, fearful and confused. The solution is to discover the PURPOSE for which we were set free, restored and renewed, and fulfil it!

Information To book please call: 01277 365 398 (option 4), see the website www.nationwidechristiantrust.com for more information.

Islam: a religion of peace?

When Sunday 12 June at 6.30pm
Where St Mary's Church, Bury St Edmunds
Description The word 'Islam' is derived from the word meaning 'peace' in Arabic. There are verses in the Quran which call for people to live in peace. Muslims know that one of the names for Allah is 'peace'. Yet, in many parts of the world, Islam is not associated with peace but violence and people of other faiths are subjected to differing forms of persecution. Is Islam a religion of peace or not and how do we decide? This talk will be given by Dr Carol Walker, lecturer in Islamics and Biblical studies at All Nations Christian College, Ware, Hertfordshire. She has served with Interserve for 21 years, in Pakistan and Egypt, and later was on the management team of CMS. She speaks Urdu and Arabic. The talk will be of an introductory nature aimed at those with little or no prior understanding of

Islam or the Quran. There will be an opportunity for questions.

Information Andrew Buttress, St Mary's Church. Please email spectrumstudies@gmail.com

Essential Elements of a Funeral

Organiser The Guild of All Souls
When 23 June 2016, 10.45am – 3.00pm
Where The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Norfolk
Cost £10, includes lunch and tea/coffee on arrival
Description For clergy and lay ministers of all denominations. Keynote addresses: Funeral Liturgies • Homilies & Eulogies • The 'Difficult' Funeral • Communicating with the funeral director

Information Book with Fr Paul Lockett at chantrypriest@gmail.com or 01328 820030. Places strictly limited, further details when your booking is confirmed. Closing date: 15 June 2016. More information www.guildofallsouls.org

Suffolk Theology Forum The art of doing theology

Suffolk Theology Forum invites you to its meeting on 10 March 7.30-9.15 pm at the Co-op Education Centre, Fore Street, Ipswich. The Revd Neil Thorogood, Principal of Westminster College, Cambridge, will give an illustrated talk on 'The art of doing theology'. Neil is a practising artist and URC minister. See examples of his work in the Gallery on www.neilthorogood.com (Bible from the Air etc.). He teaches on the interaction of art and pastoral theology within the Cambridge Theological Federation.

Theology Forum meetings are open to all. No need to book. Non-members entry £5 (£4 for retired and students) payable at



The Bible from the Air: The Healing of the paralytic let down through the roof

the door. Co-op Education Centre has its own free car park, off Waterworks Street: satnav for car park IP4 1 JG. Pedestrian entry: 11 Fore Street Ipswich IP4 1JW.

For current Forum programme see www.sifre.org.uk/stf Queries to Forum Secretary: Elizabeth Moore eymoore@talktalk.net 01359 230161 or Forum Treasurer: David Capey stf@keme.co.uk 01379 678615



Living Faith in Suffolk Lectionary Days: John's Gospel



Passion & Resurrection in the Gospel of John

Tuesday 8 March at the St Nicholas Centre, Ipswich, 9.30am to 3.30pm. The Gospel of John does not have a lectionary year to itself. Instead it is read each year, particularly around Passiontide and Easter. One of John's

main themes is witness, with Mary Magdalene as the first to bear witness to the risen Christ. This day has a particular focus on preaching in the broadest sense. It opens up some of the main themes in John's narrative, and uses workshops to explore the way the moving account in the Easter Gospel (John 20.1-18) tells the story of Jesus' passion and resurrection.

£7 including refreshments. To book, see below.

Preaching with and against John in Holy Week and Easter

Saturday 19 March at the Hyndman Centre, Bury St Edmunds, 9.30am – 3.30pm. This day has a particular focus on preaching in the broadest sense. It opens up some of the main themes in John's narrative, and uses workshops to explore the way the moving account in the Easter Gospel (John 20.1-18) tells the story of Jesus' passion and resurrection.

We welcome Dr Bill Brosend, Professor of New Testament and Preaching at the School of Theology in the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee.

£7 including refreshments. To book, see below.

Baptism Matters – using the opportunities of baptism

Saturday 16 April at the Hyndman Centre, Bury St Edmunds, 9.30am to 4.00pm. Baptism Matters is a one-day presentation for clergy, Readers, LLMs and others involved in baptism and family ministry. New research and resources around baptism are making an impact on church growth and this key area of ministry, where we meet families for what are often their first steps on their journey of faith. Baptism Matters will enable you to



- discover new resources to support your baptism ministry
- see where the new liturgical texts can make a difference
- learn about new baptism preparation resources published in 2015.

Tom Pearson is available throughout the day to offer advice and support on web-based resources, including the print shop and the Pastoral Services Diary.

To book a place at any of these LFIS events, please phone 01473 298510 or email lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org Cost: £7 per day, refreshments included but please bring your own lunch. Lay Elders, Readers, LLMs and clergy may use CMD grants.

Courses

Personal Development

Organiser	Sarum College
When	22 - 25 February 2016
Where	Sarum College, Salisbury SP1 2EE
Cost	£295 non-residential; £450 residential
Description	The module will make a methodological and hermeneutical study of contemporary management strategies for using feedback to develop and evaluate personal development plans in a variety of both faith based and secular contexts. There will be a critical study of the significance of emotional and spiritual intelligence theories for the development of self awareness and management of self in a leadership context. The module will provide an opportunity for students to design a feedback mechanism and personal development plan that they can test out in their context, and assess collaboratively as to their value.
Information	Contact the Academic Administrator for all booking enquiries maadministrator@sarum.ac.uk or 01722 424827

Pastoral Ministry and Christian Spiritual Direction

Organiser	Sarum College
When	29 February - 3 March 2016
Where	Sarum College, Salisbury SP1 2EE
Cost	£295 non-residential; £450 residential
Description	This module enables students to explore approaches to pastoral ministry and spiritual direction within the Christian tradition. It presents them with different models of pastoral care and encourages them to reflect theologically on these models, placing them in their historical context. Students will explore issues of particular concern for pastoral ministry in the contemporary context and engage with non-theological disciplines that provide pastoral care. Students will be introduced to different approaches to spiritual direction within the Christian tradition. They will consider the differences between counselling and spiritual direction at the same time as providing tools for the beneficial integration of both disciplines. The module will help students articulate models of spiritual transformation and development. It is important to note that this module is not a training course either in spiritual direction or in counselling.
Information	Contact the Academic Administrator for all booking enquiries maadministrator@sarum.ac.uk or 01722 424827

The Eucharist

Organiser	Sarum College
When	29 February - 3 March 2016
Where	Sarum College, Salisbury SP1 2EE
Cost	£295 non-residential; £450 residential
Description	This module explores the most significant developments of eucharistic worship from the New Testament to the contemporary church. Students will gain an understanding of the theological, historical and social influences upon the Eucharist and the debates surrounding different interpretations of its meaning. Through study of recent ecumenical conversations, students will be encouraged to relate their study to contemporary church contexts.
Information	Contact the Academic Administrator for all booking enquiries maadministrator@sarum.ac.uk or 01722 424827

A Transforming Vision: Knowing and Loving the Triune God

Organiser	Pusey House, Oxford
When	29 June to 1 July 2016
Where	Pusey House, Oxford OX1 3LZ
Cost	Early registration £85 (before 28 February), regular £115, students £20 and £60 (early and regular). The registration fee includes full participation in the conference as well as tea and coffee for each day.
Description	The study of Christian theology in the last half century has seen a major renaissance in Trinitarian thought which has attempted to connect Trinitarian theology to all aspects of Christian faith and practice. This conference will explore what it means to know and love the Triune God, and how the knowledge of God can be a transforming and saving knowledge. We hope that the papers will be accessible not only to academic theologians, but to a broader community including interested laity, theological students and clergy. The final speaker, Dr Rowan Williams, will offer a summary which will help to tie together the way the topic has been addressed and encourage further reflection.
Information	See the website for booking and more information: www.puseyhouse.org.uk

Lent Courses

What will you do differently this Lent?

Forty days is a period of time used on several occasions in the Bible when people prepared for a significant event, and Lent commemorates the forty days spent by Jesus in the wilderness after his baptism as he prepared for his ministry.



At one time Lent was widely observed within the Christian Church. Traditionally it was marked by prayer, fasting and Bible study, and was used as a period of preparation before a new Christian was baptised. It was a time to reflect, to take stock of one's life, to repent (as in, to turn around, make changes to the direction of one's life). Over time the observance of Lent has diminished, but where it is marked this 'taking stock' has become a custom for all Christians, not just those preparing for baptism. For many, the practice of 'giving something up for Lent' has been replaced by the intention to 'do something different' which will help to develop their faith and grow their relationship with God.

This 'doing something different' can take many forms. Attending a Lent course as part of a small group, committing to daily reflective readings for the duration of Lent, reading the Archbishop's recommended Lent book (this year's is 'I am with you', Kathryn Greene-McCreight, Bloomsbury Continuum 2015), going on a retreat or quiet day, giving time to volunteer to a project in the local community, donating to a local foodbank, taking action towards lifestyle changes to combat climate change (<http://www.christian-ecology.org.uk/nine-ways.pdf>)... all are ways of growing as disciples.

So, what will you do differently this Lent?

Ruth Dennigan, Discipleship and Ministry Development Officer

Jesus and the Bethany Family

A different kind of resource from Living Faith in Suffolk, this is a series of reflections on the story in John 11, one for each Sunday of Lent and including Easter Day, using pictures and poetry alongside a slow reading of John's account. It can be used by individuals, or adapted for groups. Available from the website at www.cofesuffolk.org or as a booklet from the Diocesan Office for the cost of printing and postage. Please contact Lesley Steed at lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org or 01473 298510.



Courses

Free courses are available to download from the diocesan website for use as part of group or individual study. Visit www.cofesuffolk.org and click on 'Living Faith in Suffolk'. Those of particular interest include:

- Living Lent 1 (a five session course looking at the traditional themes of Lent)
- Living Lent 2: Who is this Jesus? (daily reflections from Ash Wednesday to Easter Day)
- Living Lent with Mark (a six session course reflecting on the Passion narrative in Mark's Gospel)

Lent talks at the Cathedral

During Lent there will be **Lunchtime Addresses** at 1.00pm in the Lady Chapel.

19 February The Revd Canon Matthew Vernon: Wholeness and Healing

26 February The Revd Canon Dr John Parr: Jesus and Healing

The series continues in March.

In addition the **Tuesday Evenings at the Cathedral** are being re-launched in 2016, with a series of talks, discussions and debates addressing issues at the interface of the church and wider society. The Lent programme focuses on Religion and Violence.

16 February Elaine Storkey: The Roots of Violence – in our Genes?

23 February A Question-time discussion with students from King Edward VI School, Bury St Edmunds: Religion and Violence - How strongly are they linked?

The series continues in March. The meetings are in the Lecture Room, from 7.30 – 9.00pm. Refreshments are served from 7.00pm. All are welcome and admission is free, with a retiring offering.

Southwold Lent Lectures

This year's Lent Lectures will tackle some major ethical issues of current concern. While some of the topics are inevitably controversial, the speakers have been asked to introduce relevant biblical and church teaching in an informative way, not just to use the lecture as a soap box for whatever their preferred position happens to be. Still, their own views will also come through, which should give us plenty to think about and discuss as well. All the lectures will be at 6.00pm in the United Reformed Church, High Street, Southwold.

14 February Refugees and Immigration: Professor Hugh Williamson, Emeritus Regius Professor of Hebrew, University of Oxford

21 February The Just War Theory and British Involvement: The Revd Professor Nigel Biggar, Regius Professor of Moral and Pastoral Theology, University of Oxford

28 February Assisted Dying: The Revd Dr Richard Higginson, Director of Studies and Lecturer in Christian Ethics, Ridley Hall, Cambridge

6 March The Future of Marriage: The Revd Dr John Bradbury, Vice-Principal and Director of Studies in Systematic Theology and Church History, Westminster College, Cambridge

13 March Human Sexuality: The Revd Dr John Hare, former consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital, Huntingdon

20 March Faith Schools and RE in a Modern Educational System: Helen Matter, Schools' Adviser, St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocese

Spirituality

Jane Williams: Praying for Others

Dr Jane Williams is Assistant Dean and Lecturer in Systematic Theology at St Mellitus College. She is the author of several books and speaks all over the world. Jane is married to Rowan, and they have two children. She has been highly recommended for a previous seminar on *Praying for Others*. Jane Williams will lead a workshop on *Praying for Others* here on

Wednesday 2 March 2016 at All Saints Church, Park Road, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3QW.

There will be two sessions: **2.00 – 5.00pm, repeated 7.00 – 9.00pm** (i.e. book for one session or the other, not both). The cost is £5, payable in advance and non-refundable. To book, contact Caroline Redman, The Cottage, Great Livermere, IP31 1JG or caroline@theredmans.co.uk. Please either email and make an electronic payment to St Edmundsbury & Ipswich Diocesan Board of Finance Sort code 16-22-17 Acc No 12190090 or send a cheque made payable to "St Edmundsbury & Ipswich DBF" together with your details.

Chris Chapman, Seeing in the Dark Thursday 4 May 2016, 10.00am – 4.00pm

Christopher Chapman is the Spiritual Formation Adviser for Southwark Diocese. He helps to train lay pastoral workers, and is an experienced spiritual director. His recent book, *Seeing in the Dark: Pastoral perspectives on suffering in the Christian spiritual tradition*, looks at how we can draw on the Christian spiritual tradition to explore the part suffering plays within human growth and our experience of God.

This is a training day aimed for those involved or interested in the ministry of spiritual accompaniment but anyone is welcome. Details of the day from Caroline Redman (caroline@theredmans.co.uk) or on the website (<http://www.cofesuffolk.org/index.cfm?page=landf.content&cmdid=352>) from March.

Exploring Prayer

The date for the 2016 Exploring Prayer event is:

**Saturday 2 July 2016, 10.00am - 4.00pm
St Edmundsbury Cathedral**

As in 2015, there will be workshops leading prayer in different ways, as well as prayer stations and a labyrinth in the Cathedral. Details and booking available from Easter.

Reflection and Spiritual Stimulation

Up-coming opportunities include:

- *Exploring Faith Through Music*, led by Emma Haggard on 27 - 29 May 2016 at Quiet Waters Christian Retreat House, Bungay. For information on this and other retreats, contact Andrew on mail@quietwaters.org.uk or 01986 893 201.
- *T. S. Eliot's Four Quartets* performed by Ashley Ramsden and Flora Pethybridge at The Burning Bush Barn, near Norwich on 27 February 2016, 7.00pm. Details at www.burningbushbarn.blogspot.co.uk

The Burning Bush Barn also invite you to come and be at home in the quiet space of the barn, be inspired into creativity by work on display by local artists and by our great collection of art and spirituality books' from now until 10 March 2016. Details at www.burningbushbarn.blogspot.co.uk.

Many more opportunities can be found via the Retreats, Quiet Days and Quiet Spaces section on the website:

<http://www.cofesuffolk.org/index.cfm?page=landf.content&cmid=354>.

Spiritual Direction/ Accompaniment

This is about taking the time to meet with another person and talk about one's spiritual journey and prayer. If you want to know more see

<http://www.cofesuffolk.org/index.cfm?page=landf.content&cmid=447>, and if you want help in finding a spiritual director/ companion for yourself, the person to contact is [Mark Booth](#) (01728 454349).

Spirituality Advisor

Anne is always pleased to hear what is important to you in prayer and spiritual life, and to hear from an individual or church wanting to explore spirituality further. She can be contacted on

anne.spalding@cofesuffolk.org, 01394 610065.

Quiet Days, Retreats and Pilgrimages

Otley Hall Retreat Days

All days cost just £23 including all refreshments and lunch and run from 10.00am – 4.00pm unless otherwise stated.

Contact 01473 890264 or events@otleyhall.co.uk for further information.

Full programme available on our website www.otleyhall.co.uk

- **Saturday 2 April** Gordon Melvin: Reviewing Enneagram, part 2. Workshop for people who have taken part 1. 10.00am – 5.00pm £28
- **Wednesday 13 April** Elizabeth Corker: Prayer and spirituality for busy people
- **Wednesday 27 April** Malcolm Guite: 'Parable and Paradox'. Poetry and reflections on the saying of Jesus
- **Friday 6 May** Bishop Martin Seeley: 'Lord teach us how to pray' Encouraging prayer at the heart of all we do.
- **Tuesday 24 May** Jane Hall: 'The Secret Garden' Reflecting on the classic story of a place of salvation where companionship and hope grow strong (day of Deep Silence)

Attention to God

Patterns of prayer through the eyes of Benedict and Francis

This seven day retreat (14 - 21 September 2016) will explore what St Benedict and St Francis, both Umbrian Saints, teach us about living attentively to God even in the busyness of our everyday lives. The retreat will alternate between rest days for reflection and relaxation at Casa Roberto and days out visiting some of the places associated with St Francis and St Benedict, including a day in Assisi and a day at Lake Trasimeno. Each day will have a theme. Individual spiritual direction and guidance will be available.

Jill Mowbray & Cathy Davies met in Umbria in 2011 and were inspired to share their experience of Franciscan Spirituality with others. Jill is a priest based in London and works for Chelmsford Diocese providing Continuing Ministerial Development for clergy. Cathy is a priest at Launde Abbey Retreat and Conference Centre in Leicester Diocese. Cathy has lived and worked in Italy and returns frequently. Both Jill and Cathy are experienced in leading retreats and providing Spiritual Direction.

This holiday retreat, for a small group, will be based near Montecastelli in Northern Umbria. Accommodation will be provided in Casa Roberto, Sopra and Terra. Meals at Casa Roberto are included in the cost of £600 per person. All transport during the retreat, including travel from and back to Perugia Airport, is provided by people carrier. Additional costs include flights to and from Perugia airport. Please also allow €200 for light lunches, evening meals out and incidental expenses.

For more information go to www.umbrianretreats.co.uk then click on the 'Retreats' tab.

Pilgrimage Weekend in Salisbury and Cookham

This course can be taken as a full weekend programme, or, a limited number of places are also available for just the Saturday programme in Cookham. The weekend programme begins with arrivals for 6.30pm supper on Friday followed by a talk on the art of Stanley Spencer: Spencer, Christ and His Village.

Saturday, we will go on an excursion to Cookham, Spencer's Thames-side 'village in Heaven'. This will include walking the two miles of the 2016 Cookham 'Stations of the Cross'. Each Station is created uniquely by a local artist working in that year's chosen medium. The Reverend Nick Plant, associate vicar of Cookham, will lead our meditations through the walk, as everyday locations become places of encounter with Christ's passion.

Following packed lunch and refreshments in the parish centre, the afternoon will include time to reflect on our experiences together; discussion of the project with Nick; and a visit to the nearby Stanley Spencer Gallery which houses Spencer's Last Supper among other significant works.

On Sunday morning there will be space for participants to attend local church services in their own traditions (including the Palm Sunday Liturgy in the Cathedral), before a concluding session of reflections for all participants.

For all weekend participants, travel to Cookham is included. Participants for the Cookham day only will need to make their own travel arrangements and bring a packed lunch. Please note that the Saturday involves walking several miles so appropriate footwear is recommended.

Bookings for this weekend need to be made by 18 February: Contact Alison Ogden for all booking enquiries at courses@sarum.ac.uk or 01722 424826

Cost: £160 non-residential; £240 residential; £25 Cookham day price

Reconciliation: The Point of the Cross

Dates: 21 - 24 March

During these days you will be journeying through Holy Week viewing it as a journey towards reconciliation. The programme has been designed to encourage three levels of reflection through the lens of reconciliation. First, there will be reflections around the events of Holy Week. The second level of reflection will be around reconciliation and society. At the third level, participants will be encouraged to reflect on their own inner journeys of reconciliation.

These days may form the basis of a retreat or can be taken as individual days of personal reflection. During your stay you may also wish to visit Salisbury Cathedral and partake in their Holy Week programme. The College chapel, library and meeting rooms will be open for private reflection and prayer.

Cost:

Residential: £85 one night; £160 two nights; £230 three nights. Non-residential: £40 one day; £70 two days; £100 three days.

Alison Ogden for all booking enquiries at courses@sarum.ac.uk or 01722 424826

Do you ever have a sense that your Christian faith is pushing you towards something new, something particular?



St Edmundsbury Cathedral
23 April 2016 10.30am - 3.30pm

The Ministries Fair at the Cathedral on 23 April will provide information and speakers from a wide variety of ministries. For many people, this will be an opportunity to taste and see the variety of possibilities available.

For more information please contact:
Tim Jones (tim.jones@cofesuffolk.org) or
Ruth Dennigan (ruth.dennigan@cofesuffolk.org)



Diocese of St Edmundsbury
and Ipswich

St Edmundsbury
Cathedral



Growing in God

Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

Living faith
in SUFFOLK

Discipleship in Focus

Ministries Fair 2016

Contact details

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