

WHAT'S ON

April 21st, 7.30pm.

An evening with Rob Bell.

Cambridge Corn Exchange

April 23rd, 10am.

Big Bible Read Finale. Ely

Cathedral

April 24th, 7am.

Sonrise Service. Grafton

Centre, Cambridge

May 7th, 9.30am.

Walk thru the New Testament.

St Mary's, Ely

May 10th, 7.30pm.

Dr Ed Kessler - The Bible and

other Faiths. Ely Cathedral

May 11th, 7.30pm.

Well-being: Ministry Matters -

summer evening series. Bishop

Woodford House

May 13th, 7.30am.

Breakfast Briefing - Speaker:

Adrian Bagg, CEO The

Papworth Trust. Felix Hotel,

Cambridge

May 14th, 10.00-3pm.

Dr Elaine Storkey - Teaching

Day. Ely Cathedral Centre

May 14th, 2.00pm.

Children's Praise Party - 400

years of King James Bible. Ely

Cathedral

May 14th, 7pm.

Family Folk Dancing. All

Saints' Church, Haslingfield

May 16th, 7.30pm.

Dr Melvyn Bragg - The King

James Bible. Ely Cathedral.

Tickets from Toppings Books.

01353 645005

Big Bible Read Finale in Cathedral

Bishop David's Bible Challenge to read right Round the Bible in the 40 days of Lent reaches its climax on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter.

At 10am a team led by Ridley Hall students Charlotte and Lesley Ann will start on the last day's challenge with a public reading of the last books of the Bible in the Lady Chapel of Ely Cathedral.

Then at 12.30 there will be a celebratory half-hour service which will include a reading of the last two chapters of Revelation in which everyone can take part. After the service there will be a chance to meet and chat informally, and share stories of how the Challenge has gone for you.

About 1000 people are thought to have been taking



part in "RTB40", right across the country, even using Facebook, Twitter and Skype to keep in touch. Bishop David himself has been marking the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible by reading from that – from both his old christening Bible but on a Kindle too!

Everyone is very welcome to join in these finale events on 23 April, and you can come and take part for as much time or as little as you can spare.

Changes in Diocesan Communications

After many years involved in diocesan communications, Owen Spencer-Thomas retired from his post as Bishop's Press Officer on 31 March. At the same time Val Robson, our Diocesan Communications Officer, has decided that now is the time for her to make a change and move on. I am pleased that we will not be losing contact completely with Val, as she will continue in the short term to maintain the diocesan website on a freelance basis. I should like to place on record our thanks to both Owen and Val for their contribution to the life of the diocese.

I am pleased to announce that as from 1 April, for an interim period, our diocesan communications will be handled on a day to day basis by Revd Rob Marshall and his team at 33rpm public relations. Rob was Media Adviser to Lord Hope, former Archbishop of York and Bishop of London, and since 2006 he has acted on a freelance basis for bishops and dioceses. He is a regular presenter of Thought for the Day on BBC Radio 4.

Rob will be assisting Bishop Stephen and the Bishop's Senior Staff as well as providing 24 hour media cover.

Rob will also be undertaking a review of all aspects of diocesan communications.

During this interim period, my PA Mary Rone will be dealing with all emails that come in to the diocesan communications address (dco.ely@gmail.com), and she will be assisted by Jackie Cox in the production of our monthly newsletters. Please keep your ideas for articles in e-life coming in using the email address above!

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if anything is unclear. We are committed to enhancing our communications effort at this exciting time for the Diocese.

Graham Shorter
Diocesan Secretary

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Melvyn Bragg in Ely to celebrate 400 years of the King James Bible

Topping & Company Booksellers of Ely are presenting a special fundraising evening in Ely Cathedral with renowned speaker, Melvyn Bragg to celebrate 400 years of the King James Bible and the publication of The Book of Books. "There is no doubt in my mind that the King James Bible and not Shakespeare set this language on its path to become a universal language on a scale unprecedented before or since." says Melvyn Bragg. Monday 16 May from 6.30pm. Tickets £7/£8. All proceeds will be donated to Ely Cathedral

Parishes stand to save £10 million through national procurement

Parishes across the Church of England stand to save £10 million a year thanks to lessons learnt responding to floods and earthquakes. Robert Kissick and Russell Stables have been appointed as National Procurement Officers to establish deals that will aim to save parishes that much and more. The posts have received three years initial funding from the Church Commissioners. Ian Theodoreson, Chief Financial Officer, commented: "I'm delighted to welcome Rob and Russell to these challenging new posts. This is exactly the right time for parishes to work together to save money – and there are plenty of opportunities to do this. Putting in place a scheme where parishes can save money year in, year out, is exactly the right use of this kind of seed corn funding."

A prayer for the Royal Wedding

The Church of England has today posted a prayer on its website for Prince William and Catherine Middleton and all couples preparing for their wedding. It can be used in private prayer, in groups or within public worship. The prayer joins one provided for schools and young children already published at <http://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/topical-prayers.aspx#royalweddingschools>.

The new prayer

God of all grace, friend and companion, look in favour on William and Catherine and all who are made one in marriage. In your love deepen their love and strengthen their wills to keep the promises they will make, that they may continue in life-long faithfulness to each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(adapted from Common Worship)

Mr John Abbott

It is with great sadness that we announce that Mr Reginald John Abbott died on 5 April 2011 after a short illness.

John had been very much involved in the life of the diocese for a number of years having been the Lay Chair of the Fordham and Quy deanery, Chair of various committees such as School's Executive, the Schools Organisation and Resources Group, Board of Patronage. He was also a member of the Board of Education, the Board of Finance and the Investments Committee. John also served for a number of years as a District Councillor and had been Chairman of the District Council.

The Rt Revd Eric Wall

Bishop Eric Wall, Suffragan Bishop of Huntingdon 1972 - 1980, died peacefully on Monday 11 April 2011, aged 95. The Funeral will be at Coleford Parish Church, Forest of Dean, Glos. on Monday 18 April at 11 am followed by private cremation the next day which would have been his 96th birthday.

Back to Church Sunday - 25 September

Back to Church Sunday is now the largest single local-church invitational initiative in the world. It is based on the simplest and shortest step in evangelism - that we should invite someone we already know to something we love: invite our friend to our church.

In 2010 over 60 parishes in the Diocese of Ely participated in the Back to Church Sunday initiative. On average participating parishes saw an increase of 5 extra people.

Register on line at www.backtochurch.co.uk. Orders open 3 May. Please contact our local champion Anthony Lees-Smith on 01223 425338 for further information.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

The Revd Tim Yau will be seconded for the remainder of his curacy to the Yaxley Deanery. This secondment will take place immediately and allow Tim to continue to explore his vocation to Pioneer ministry.

The Revd Linda Church, as Senior Advisor for the Continuing Ministerial Development Advisory Group, with immediate effect. Linda continues as Rector of Fowlmere, Foxton, Shepreth and Thriplow.

The Revd Stephen Bowring as Priest in Charge of Kimbolton with Stow Longa, Tilbrook and Covington. It is anticipated that Easton, Spaldwick, Barham with Woolley will join the current grouping and form The Kym Valley Group.

Stephen is currently vicar of Chesterton St George.

Bishop Stephen will license Stephen at a service to be held in at St Andrew, Kimbolton at 2pm on Sunday 24 July 2011.

For more details see

www.ely.anglican.org/news_events/media/announcements/index.html

2011 YEAR OF THE

BIBLE EVENTS

For more details see

www.ely.anglican.org/news_events/yotb-events.html