

News from around the Diocese of Ely

WHAT'S ON

**March 13th, 6pm. Lent Evensong with Bishop John Bernard Taylor.** St Laurence, Diddington.

**March 14th, 7:30pm. Lent Talk 'Homelessness'** by Jane Heeney from Jimmy's Night Shelter, Cambridge. Hilgay Church.

**March 14th, 7:30pm. Choral Conducting Workshop** at St George's Chesterton.

**March 17th, 7.30pm. Lent Talk 'Ancient Jewish Translation and its Legacy'.** Meldreth Church.

**March 20th, 6pm. Lent Evensong with Bishop David Thomson.** St Mary's, Buckden.

**March 22nd, 7:30pm. Lent Talk. 'The New Atheism'** by Dr Donna Lazenby, Westcott House, Downham Market Church.

**March 24th, 7.30pm. Lent Talk 'The Authorized Version of 1611 in the History of Interpretation'.** Foxton Village Hall.

**March 27th, 6pm - Lent Evensong** with Archdeacon Hugh McCurdy. St Mary's, St Neots.

**March 28th, 10am-3pm. Open the Book Training Day.** Ely Cathedral Centre.

**March 30th, 7:30pm. Lent Talk 'Behind Closed Doors'** Sally West, Child Protection Case-worker. Denver Church.

**March 31st, 7.30pm Lent Talk 'Interpreters and Readers: their advantages and problems, 1611 and 2011'.** Litlington Church.

**April 3rd, 6pm - Lent Evensong with Bishop John Flack.** St Andrew's, Great Staughton.

See [www.ely.anglican.org/news\\_events/events.html](http://www.ely.anglican.org/news_events/events.html) for more details on all events.



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*Image: Release of 15 white doves on Cathedral Green prior to Bishop Stephen's installation as 69th Bishop of Ely.*

## Ely Cathedral packed to capacity for Bishop's Installation

Ely Cathedral was packed to capacity on 5th March for the installation of the Rt Revd Stephen Conway, as the 69th Bishop of Ely. CCTV screens enabled the congregation to see close-up views of the service.

The occasion began in nearby St Mary's Church where Bishop Stephen was greeted by around 200 children from across the Diocese. During a short act of worship, the children presented the Bishop with his crosier, pectoral cross and mitre. They then led Bishop Stephen to the Cathedral Green in a joyful procession complete with musical instruments and bubbles. The procession paused on the Green where a prayer was said and white doves were released to mark the occasion.

The 90-minute service was a joyful mixture of legal formalities, celebration and Christian worship. Bishop Stephen took oaths on a 1611 printing of the King James Bible, especially relevant in this year of the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible.

The Bishop was anointed with the oil of chrism by the Bishop of Huntingdon and the two Archdeacons. He was then enthroned and led to his Episcopal Stall within the Choir.

While the Cathedral Choir sang 'Te Deum' Bishop Stephen warmly greeted civic and ecclesiastical representatives from the Diocese, the link churches in North Elbe, Germany and the Bishop of Vellore, our link Diocese in India.

Bishop Stephen delivered his first sermon in Ely Cathedral, speaking of how encouraged he has been by colleagues in the deaneries he had visited, *"I have met nothing but love and hospitality so far, both from clergy and other colleagues, from friends in sister churches, and from people in the wider community with whom I look to be partners in serving the common good. I thank you all"*

In reference to his height (almost 6½ feet) he said *"As a big bishop, I am keen to participate in a big society. This morning nearly 200 children have led me to the Cathedral. I am very much concerned about what the future will be like for them. What we need is a generous society in which we strive to release gifts, create real jobs, celebrate serious scholarship, support innovation, treasure the earth and honour those with the weakest voice – the young, the elderly and those imprisoned by disability."*

After prayers, the service concluded with the Dean presenting Bishop Stephen with the Diocesan Crosier and the Bishop processing to the West Door to bless the City and Diocese. The Bishop greeted members of the congregation as they left through the West Door. Others paused to gather in the Lady Chapel for refreshments and biscuits especially baked for the occasion by an artisan baker.

Go to <http://tinyurl.com/5March11> for a more detailed account of the day and photographs.

# Big Bible-Giveaway in Ely



Bishop David launched his **Round the Bible in 40 Days Challenge** on Ash Wednesday at a short service in Ely Cathedral. He is challenging us to read the entire Bible during Lent by following his reading plan. Bishop David is also posting on his *Round the World Blog* each day during Lent.

After the service, Bishop David and a team went out on the streets of Ely where they gave away free copies of the Bible to over 40 people who did not already own one.

Many shared stories about their lives and the Bible, including one gentlemen who had recently

## Children prepare Bishop Stephen for his Installation

Prior to Saturday's installation service around 200 children and accompanying adults gathered in St Mary's, Ely to prepare Bishop Stephen for his ministry. It was a moving occasion as the children ministered to the Bishop and adults, as well as to one another.

Julia Chamberlin, the Diocesan Children's Adviser, introduced Bishop Stephen to the children and then asked him about his life and Christian journey. The children listened intently as they heard him speak of God's work in his life, in leading and teaching him.

As the Diocesan Crozier, Bishop's Pectoral Cross and Mitre were presented to Bishop Stephen, children explained their significance. The Mitre, being a symbol of the Holy Spirit, was illustrated by each child receiving a toy windmill. The windmills were used during a

## Introducing Scilla Lathom

Scilla Latham has been appointed as Church Buildings Support Officer for the Diocese. Her appointment is part of English Heritage's 'Inspired' programme which helps congregations to help themselves.

The primary focus of Scilla's work will be to give extra help to individual congregations, in particular, those responsible for churches identified as priorities for support, by giving practical advice and assistance throughout their individual projects to extend the use of their churches.

Scilla says that in order to secure a sustainable future for parish churches it is '*essential to re-establish them as the focal point in their*

lost his only Bible as it was in his vehicle which had been stolen.

BBC Radio Cambridgeshire interviewed many who had stopped to chat. Some were featured on Ash Wednesday's *Drivetime* show and others can be heard on the *Breakfast Show* on Sundays during Lent.

Around 1000 people are already taking part in the challenge.....it's not too late to join in .

For more details on how to take part, links to the radio broadcasts and photos from the Big Bible-Giveaway go to <http://tinyurl.com/ashwed11>

time of prayer when they considered how, although the Holy Spirit is unseen, the effects can be considerable, as over 250 windmills being blown demonstrated!

After the prayers, everyone was presented with a glow-bracelet to symbolise Jesus' words '*I am the light of the world*'.

Following an enthusiastic final song 'Shine', complete with actions, the children led Bishop Stephen to the Cathedral Green in a joyful procession with musical instruments and bubbles. The bubbles symbolised prayers rising to God and surrounding the new Bishop physically as well as spiritually.

Read more about this joyous occasion and view the photos at <http://tinyurl.com/ely-stmary>

*communities so they become a space that is shared, enjoyed and valued by the whole community'.*

The launch event for the project will be at St Peter's Church, Wentworth, on 31st March. Representatives from a number of priority churches will be invited to come to an evening where they can find out more about the scheme, as well as hear of the experiences of parishes that have successfully established their churches as community hubs.

To read more about Scilla's appointment and the main objectives of her rôle go to <http://tinyurl.com/scilla-l>

## COMINGS AND GOINGS

### The Revd Ryk Parkinson

has been appointed as Associate Priest at Wisbech St Mary and Guyhirn with Ring's End, Gorefield, and Southea with Murrow and Parson Drove. Ryk is currently serving his curacy at Leverington, Newton in the Isle with St Mary in the Marsh and Tydd St Giles. His last Sunday in his current parishes will be 1st May. he will be licensed by the Archdeacon of Huntingdon & Wisbech on Sunday 15th May, 11.00 am, at St Mary's Church, Wisbech St Mary.

### The Reverend Val Fernandez

will retire, and therefore resign, as Assistant Curate of the Benefice of Doddington with Benwick and Wimblington with effect from 31st March.

The Revd Sandra Griffith will retire, and therefore resign, as Curate of St Nicholas Glatton and All Saints Sawtry with effect from 31st May.

### The Revd Pam Abraham

has resigned as Assistant Curate of the Benefices of Witchford with Wentworth, Haddenham and Wilburton. Pam will emigrate to Canada and will continue her studies at Algoma University, Ontario. Her last Sunday in the parishes will be Easter Sunday, 24th April.

Details at [www.ely.anglican.org/news\\_events/media/announcements/index.html](http://www.ely.anglican.org/news_events/media/announcements/index.html)

## 2011 YEAR OF THE BIBLE EVENTS

There are many events across the Diocese celebrating the 400th anniversary of the printing of the King James Bible.

You can find out more at

[http://www.ely.anglican.org/news\\_events/yotb-events.html](http://www.ely.anglican.org/news_events/yotb-events.html)

If you are planning an event to celebrate the **Year of the Bible** please email details of it to [dco.ely@gmail.com](mailto:dco.ely@gmail.com) so that it can be included.