

News from around the Diocese of Ely

WHAT'S ON

Thursday 1st March, 10am. Mini Pilgrimage - Denver, Downham Market, Wimbotsham, Downham Market (cars back to Denver) Further details from Bishop David (01353) 662137

Monday 5th March, 10am. Mini Pilgrimage - Cambridge St Botolph, St Martin, St Andrew's Chesterton, Great St Mary Further details from Bishop David (01353) 662137

Tuesday 6th March, 7.45pm. Core Skills - Module 6. Brampton Church Hall

Thursday 8th March, 7.45pm. Core Skills - Module 3. Wisbech St Augustine Church

Saturday 10th March, 10am. Parish Child and Vulnerable Adult Co-ordinators' Network Event. Milton Church Hall. Details from Sarah King (01353) 652735

Thursday 15th March, 10am. Mini Pilgrimage - Hartford, Godmanchester, Huntingdon St Mary, via St Barnabas, Hartford. Further details from Bishop David (01353) 662137

Thursday 15th March, 7.45pm. Core Skills - Module 4. Wisbech St Augustine Church

Saturday 17th March, 10am. Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust Spring Conference 2012 Further details please contact 01223 892430/ info@cambshistoricchurches.co.uk

Wednesday 21st March, 10am. Mini Pilgrimage - Swaffham Prior, Burwell, Reach, Swaffham Prior Further details from Bishop David (01353) 662137

Thursday 22nd March, 7.45pm. Core Skills - Module 5. Wisbech St Augustine Church

Saturday 24th March, 3pm. The Etheldreda Community. Powchers Hall, Ely. Further details from Canon Hargrave - alan.hargrave@cathedral.ely.anglican.org

Thursday 29th March, 7.45pm. Core Skills - Module 6. Wisbech St Augustine Church

Saturday 31st March, 10am. Mini Pilgrimage - Foxton, Shepreth, Barrington, Foxton Further details from Bishop David (01353) 662137

Saturday 31st March, 10am. Vocations Quiet Day. Cottenham Church Hall

IMAGINING THE FUTURE - with our partners in Vellore



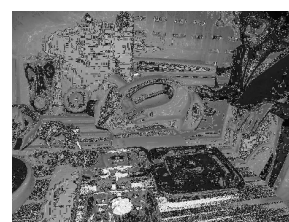
As the mercury plummeted in thermometers across Ely diocese towards the end of January, a group of 10 people from Cambridgeshire were enjoying temperatures about 30 degrees higher, in our link diocese of Vellore, Church of South India.

On January 15th, a group of 10 people from Cambridgeshire arrived at Chennai airport, to begin a 15 day visit, under the leadership of Rev Graham Thompson, Chair of the Cambridgeshire Ecumenical Council. The group had Methodist, Baptist, and Society of Friends members, as well as a number of Anglicans, and people came from Cambridge, St Neots, Ely and surrounding villages, and from near Newmarket – so quite a wide area of Cambridgeshire was represented. Our hosts overwhelmed us with the warmth of their welcome, their hospitality and generosity.



During our time in Vellore, we met up with old friends – including Rev Noble Gemberam, who visited us in 2010/11 – and saw many of the Diocesan projects. These projects include schools, further and higher education colleges, hospitals and health centres, women's empowerment courses, – and much more. We were also able to hand over the first wave of money raised by our Church Schools to rebuild some of the Diocesan Schools in Vellore.

One highlight of the visit was to see the progress of the School of Nursing at Vandavasi, in the south of the diocese. This school was inaugurated in 2010, to train young women as auxiliary nurse midwives. The first batch of students are just completing their course, and will go on to assist in maternity wards, or to help as midwives in some of the rural communities. Some of these students



were funded by money raised during the Ely 900 celebrations. The school is going from strength to strength, and during our visit a 2nd floor with a new teaching classroom was added. We were also able to hand over the final amount of Ely 900 money, enough to fund a few more students during their 18 month course, as they prepare to offer this vital gift of life to their community.

The cold of Cambridgeshire and the warmth of Vellore (temperatures only) were brought together on Thursday 26th January when we renewed the covenant between the Cambridgeshire Ecumenical Council (and the churches in West Norfolk) and the Diocese of Vellore. We've had a covenant in place for the past 14 years, and are committed to a further 7 years of special relationship. On behalf of all the people in the churches, we commit ourselves to

Pray regularly for one another
Work together to strengthen the links of Christian Fellowship
Exchange ideas and learn from each other's Christian experience
Give mutual support and encouragement to one another

We pray for our brothers and sisters in Vellore, who are working amongst the poorest people in the area, and also to pray for the links of friendship and fellowship that we have. This is the last organised visit to Vellore while Bishop William is Bishop in Vellore. We have been privileged to work with Bishop William for the past 7 years, to receive him and his wife in Cambridgeshire on a number of occasions and to be welcomed by him in Vellore. Bishop William retires in early July. The Diocese of Vellore has begun the process to elect his successor

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Imagining the Future - with our partners in Vellore

Launch of New Safeguarding Website

Parish Buying Service

New ALM Courses

and it is expected that a name will be announced in May. Please pray for the diocese of Vellore at this time.

But also – as we ‘imagine the future’, let’s not do that in isolation of our partners. Our brothers and sisters in Vellore can teach us so much about ways lay and ordained ministers can work in partnership; about what it means to be concerned for justice and for the poor; about ‘the Big Society’ – and how to respond to the needs of people; about evangelism, church growth, and church building; about education for the whole community.

The Bishop of Ely, Bishop Stephen, will be visiting Vellore with a small group in August, to meet with the new Bishop in Vellore and to take our links further. Expect to hear a lot more about Vellore in the future!

The participants who visited in January were Rev Canon Graham Thompson (Chair of the East Anglia Methodist District, and Chair of the Cambridgeshire Ecumenical Council), Janet Scott (Chair of the Vellore Link Group), Lily and Michael Whymer, Lynn Garnham, Catherina Griffiths, Sarah Gower, Karen Rich, Rita Holland and Fiona Brampton.

If you would like to find out more about our link with Vellore, or would like someone to speak at your churches or other meetings, please contact Fiona Brampton 01353 740309 (fiona.brampton@ely.anglican.org)

Launch of new Safeguarding Policy and Procedures Website

Sarah King, Diocesan Safeguarding Officer writes: As a Diocese we are committed to the protection and nurture of vulnerable people in our community. Safeguarding is often subject to changes in legislation, policy and practice. During 2012 there will be new information from the Government and from the House of Bishops on a range of changes that may affect our policy and practice in the Diocese. We are, therefore, delighted to be able to launch our updated policy and procedures on-line, which will not only save costs but allow for immediate updates. The revised Safeguarding policy and procedures provide an everyday tool for those who work with vulnerable people including children and adults.

The user-friendly format is divided into three main sections

- The essential information you should know before taking up a role working with children and/or vulnerable adults
- Information you may need if a safeguarding situation arises
- Forms, templates and references

We are happy for any section of this document to be copied into policies and procedures for use by other denominations and voluntary groups as appropriate. The Diocese requires only that any policy or procedure copied for use is enacted wholly, rather than in part, and that the Diocese of Ely is acknowledged as the source of the material.

The Safeguarding webpages can be found on the Diocese of Ely website http://www.ely.anglican.org/church_in_community/safeguarding/index.html

New Service Launched to Support Parishes in Their Buying Decisions

Each year parishes spend over £200 million, in addition to paying for clergy and local ministry. In the main parishes buy as independents without being able to harness the economies of scale that exist with the Church. A new service provided by the Archbishops’ Council working in partnership with dioceses aims to change that. **Parish Buying** has recently launched offering access to a range of competitive national deals specifically negotiated for parishes. These include energy (electricity / gas / oil), office products, photocopying, IT software and fire safety, all focused on saving parishes time and money! You will also find a range of buying guides which include helpful tips and guidance on good buying practice. If you are interested please visit and register at: www.parishbuying.org.uk

Alternatively you can contact the procurement team at procurement@churchofengland.org or call 0800 368 0887

New ALM Course

The next Authorised Lay Ministry (ALM) course begins in September 2012. If you are involved in a particular aspect of the life of your local church and want to improve your knowledge and confidence this could be for you. Training is offered in Administration, Children’s Ministry, Lay Pioneer Ministry, Music Ministry, Pastoral Care, Social Awareness, Worship Leading and Youth Ministry. It is also a great way of meeting people from other churches and swapping ideas and experiences. Full details and an enquiry form are available on the website at http://www.ely.anglican.org/mission_ministry/adult_learning/alm_training.html or from your incumbent. Please apply before the end of May.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

The Revd Ann Gurner will resign as Priest in Charge of the Parishes of Cheveley, Ashley with Silverley, Woodditton with Saxon Street and Kirtling and Upend, with effect from 30 June 2012. Ann will also resign from her Diocesan roles: a tutor in the Initial Ministerial Education for Curacy programme, Continuing Ministerial Development Adviser for the deaneries of Granta and Fordham and Quy and a member of the Diocesan Vocations Advisory Panel. Ann’s last Sunday in her parishes will be 27 May 2012.

The Revd Dr Donald McFadyen has been appointed as Rector of Orton Longueville. Donald will resign his position as Priest-in-Charge of Whaddon and Priest-in-Charge of Bassingbourn with effect from 27 May 2012. His licensing date will be 12 June 2012.

The Revd Canon Sue Wyatt has been appointed Sub Warden of Readers for Cambridge South area. Sue is Vicar of St John the Evangelist, Cherry Hinton.

For more details see www.ely.anglican.org/news_events/media/announcements/