Pioneer Minister appointed in Stevenage

The Revd Adam Prior was appointed Ordained Youth Pioneer Minister in January and licensed in Stevenage at the Bowes-Lyon Centre, an important venue for youth work in the town. About 150 people came for the event from Soul Survivor Watford (where Adam was a curate and led the youth work) and other Watford churches as well as a large contingent from churches and local organisations in Stevenage. There was wide agreement that Adam’s appointment, with a team of young interns in support, was significant for the town and for the diocese. The main focus of his work is to seek new ways to engage with the young people of Stevenage, especially with those who have had little or no contact with a church. The prayerful expectation is that out of that engagement and new congregation will develop. Adam is one of a growing number of Pioneer Ministers in the diocese. The ministries there are developing are all new, very different in their focus but sharing the objective of making new disciples among people who are not familiar with the church, for whom a different setting can be helpful. There will be more on Pioneer Ministry in SeeRound Online next month. Adam and his colleagues are pictured above with Archdeacon Trevor sharing a story during the service about encountering a group of young people in a supermarket car park and finding the conversation turning to infant baptism!”
Four years on from the launch of Living God’s Love, Bishop Alan and the Bishop’s Council feel the time is right to reflect and learn from its successes and challenges so far, and to and to think about what the Spirit is saying to us about the opportunities and challenges for Living God’s Love going forward to 2020.

As part of this process, the views of SeeRound Online readers are being sought.

You are invited to take a few moments to fill in an online survey about Living God’s Love, which the diocese’s Vision Development Enabler, Kathryn Alford, has painstakingly put together. We’ve included the survey on this page, but if you can’t see it in your browser, you can find it here:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LivingGodsLove

The survey is for anyone who has contact with the parish churches, chaplaincies and church schools of Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Luton and Barnet (for example, congregation members, committee members, participants in a church affiliated community group, headteachers/teachers, clergy and Readers). No previous knowledge of Living God’s Love is necessary to respond to this survey. A wide range of responses is really important to ensuring that an engaging way forward is developed for the next phase of Living God’s Love.

A key part of Living God’s Love and it’s three priorities, Going Deeper into God, Transforming Communities and Making New Disciples, was a request to the parish churches, deaneries, chaplaincies and church schools of the Diocese to undertake Mission Action Planning (MAP) – a process of listening and planning for what God is calling them to do in their specific contexts. Further details on Living God’s Love can be found at: http://www.livinggodslove.org/home.

Kathryn says: “I would be very grateful if you could complete the survey by 1st March 2015. Please feel free to pass it on to as many other people as possible that have contact with the parish churches, chaplaincies, and church schools of the Diocese.”

The survey is intended to supplement face-to-face listening opportunities. Please do get in touch with Kathryn at kalford@stalbans.anglican.org if you’d like her to visit you, your church, a church group or your school.
Vive la différence

Take part in this Lent's Challenge each day via email and receive a:

- bible verse
- short reflection
- challenge to action
- ideas for children and families

Or receive a text or follow on @live_challenge

As the General Election campaign warms up, this is a brilliant opportunity to explore the ways in which faith invites us to live differently and how God's love has a habit of turning things upside down.

Live a Difference begins on Ash Wednesday, 18th February 2015.

Sign up via www.livethechallenge.co.uk
Download publicity materials to spread the word in your parish and community. The verses and reflections are also published on weekly sheets which can be downloaded for printing and distributing. Previous reflections can be viewed by using the calendar. When the Challenge has started you can join the conversation by posting your comments and uploading images and videos, click on Today's Verse.

To receive the daily emails or texts sign up using the livethechallenge website.
If you've registered for the Challenge in the past, you will receive the daily email unless you've chosen to unsubscribe. Once registered, sign in to access your own private area and journal, or to post comments.
Confronting one of the 21st century’s frequently asked questions, with frequently inadequate answers, the newly installed Canon Scientist, Dr David Wilkinson, will suggested that it is an outdated view of science which rules out God acting in the universe in surprising ways.

In the first of a series of ‘The Bishop of St Albans’ Lectures, he will examine whether God can work in diverse ways in the world from quantum theory to the weather.

The lecture will be given immediately after his installation as Canon Scientist in St Albans Cathedral during evensong on Thursday 26th February 2015.

Tickets, price £5 are required to attend the lecture and can be obtained via https://www.stalbanscathedral.org/learning/study-centre/talks/how-does-god-answer-prayer-in-a-scientific-universe

Revd Professor David Wilkinson’s current work involves the relationship of the Christian theology to contemporary culture, from science to pop culture.

He has had a long interest in the dialogue of science and religion, especially as it impacts the physical sciences. God, Time and Stephen Hawking (Monarch, 2001) and Christian Eschatology and the Physical Universe (T&T Clark 2010) are examples of that work. This work forms some of his undergraduate and postgraduate teaching of modules in science and theology. He holds a PhD in Systematic Theology and explored Christian eschatology.

He will be one of two new honorary Canons installed this year with a brief from Bishop Alan to help Christians engage in the public square with increased confidence in the truth of the gospel.
Two reports of incidents involving strong drink, small daggers and subsequent revelry have reached the ears of SeeRound Online. Both incidents took place on Saturday, 24th January, one in Chorleywood and one in St Albans. The Chorleywood event took place in front of 150 onlookers, who all stood in silence as the victim was brought in on a platter and then lauded and addressed in verse before being stabbed. The onlookers, far from taking exception to any of this, then ate the evidence, pronounced it very tasty and an excellent accompaniment to the fiery ‘Water of Life’ (uisce beatha in Irish Gaelic), different to the usual Water of Life frequently spoken and consumed of in our churches, claimed by those who attended to be only white wine or orange juice for the many young people present. The Revd David Hall hopes this event can take place again, so successful was it judged to be; followed by a long night of terpsichorean revelry, the likes of which Chorleywood has not seen since December 31st.

Asked why this event had taken place, David said: “We were sure that something jolly, to which church members could invite their friends, would help people realize that Christians are not strange or joyless, but ready to have a laugh, read poetry to a pudding and then stab it.” He concluded: “In the cause of being a fisher of people I have become a slayer of puddings.”

The St Albans Event almost took on the mantle of a male bonding ritual, being the project of the Cathedral men’s group who took their troupe to a local hostelry. In the presence of the Sub-Dean, former Minor Canon addressed the Haggis and his credentials for so doing were impeccable, being as he is, author of several poetic works, himself.

However, when asked to account for his participation in the rite, he failed to explain, but rather proceeded to tell me of his four currently available works. The latest of these is: ‘The farmer and the sparrows,’ a story exploring the incarnation. Others of his works include a reprint of the Alban Poem, sold out at the Cathedral. There are also some copies of ‘The Mouse and Jesus,’ a mixture between the passion of Christ and the Gruffalo, showing the story of Holy Week and the resurrection through the eyes of a mouse. Finally, there is ‘Jonah.’ “No explanation needed” says Austin. Email revaustin@sky.com for copies, £5 each, proceeds towards ministry at Grovehill and Woodhall Farm. An accompanying powerpoint for use in schools and churches can be supplied on request.

Initially used for the Mission England rallies in the 1980s it has become a staple of worship throughout the UK and across the world. It was the first hymn book of its kind, introducing more modern styles of music into worship yet retaining the best of traditional hymnody loved by churchgoers of every age.

The brand new edition has been put together by Mission Praise’s original editorial team of Peter Horrobin and Greg Leavers, and contains the whole collection of over 1000 songs and hymns, as well as an additional selection of over 100 new songs. By popular request, it has also been split into two volumes in order to be more user-friendly.

To find out more information, and to order a copy, please click http://www.eden.co.uk/shop/mission-praise-4293824.html for the words edition, and http://www.eden.co.uk/shop/mission-praise-full-music-4293823.html for the music, or visit your local supplier.
SeeRound Online Events February 2015/02

**Concerts & Drama**

St Peter’s Church St Albans, Lunchtime Recitals on Wednesdays at 1pm. 4th March Geoffrey Ward (tenor) & Alex Hall. 11th March Amalia Trio (Violin/Cello/Piano) 18th March Linden Innes-Hopkins (organ) 25th March Mitra Aline Tham (piano).

St Peters Church, Benington Snowdrop Recitals - A series of concerts on Feb 15th, 22nd and Mar 1st. from 2.30 to 3.15pm. Free admission with retiring collection in aid of church. Lunches & Teas served in Parish Hall and Lordship Gardens open. www.beningfordlosnord.co.uk/events/snowdrops.


St Andrews Church, Kimbolton Road Bedford, Douglas Coombes conducts The Ensemble of Friends and Double Take. A diverse evening including madrigals, folk songs, spirituals and barber shop.

**Talks & Courses**

The Hitchin Christian Centre, Bedford Rd, Hitchin, Herts SG5 1HF. Theology Cafe Evening event series continues on Tues 24 Feb - ‘Is the Bible Reliable?’. Tues 24 Mar - ‘Creation & Evolution’ (Dr Denis Alexander, Cambridge University) and Tues 28 Apr - ‘Was Jesus Inclusive?’ All events are free with refreshments and will take place at 7.30pm each evening. Apart from the talk in March each session will be led by Dr Brendan Devitt, Theology & Training Director, Hitchin Christian Centre.

**Open Days & Festivals**

St. Mary’s Church, Kinsbourne Green Wedding Dress Experience - 14th & 15th February (12 noon - 5pm). 16th February (10.30am-4.30pm) Come follow the bride as we relive happy memories in a fascinating display of our wedding dresses spanning over 6 decades of the 20th century. Entry £3 per person; Under 16’s - free. All welcome. Refreshments available.


Blunham Parish Church, Bedfordshire MK44 3NQ. Book Sale will be held on Saturday 21st February 10am to 3pm in Blunham Parish Church. (A selection of second hand and nearly new books, cakes, teas and coffees, soup & bread and a raffle. Proceeds to Church Fabric Fund.

The Chellington Centre, Felmersham Road, Carlton, Art Exhibition & Sale on 28th February & 1st March 10am-4pm. Adults £1. Refreshments available. If you would like to exhibit photographs, paintings or crafts call Claire on 01234 720726 email art@chellington.org.

**Equipping God’s People Courses**

www.stalbans.anglican.org/ministry/find-a-course

Core Skills for Children’s Work Leaders

Saturday 28th February 10am – 3pm

St John’s Church Hall, Boxmoor, Hemel Hempstead.

A course devised by the Consultative Group on Ministry among Children and led by the Revd Ruth Pyke, Diocesan Children’s Work Adviser. During the day we will focus on two modules of the Core Skills course: Child Development, and the Bible and Prayer.

Book in advance online or via the course contact. Cost: Free.

Contact: Julie Cirillo 01727 818160 youthoffice@stalbans.anglican.org

Local Ministry Conference: “We are the Body of Christ”

Saturday 21st March 10am - 3.30pm

St Paul’s Church, Letchworth, SG6 1QL

A training day for Local Ministry Development Teams and anyone interested in Local Ministry, with the Rt Rev’d Alan Smith, Bishop of St Albans helping us reflect on this topic and with group work in the afternoon.

Book in advance online or via the course contact. Cost: Free

Contact: Gabby 01727 818141 pdadmin@stalbans.anglican.org

**The Very Revd Jeffrey John is coming to BELIEF to speak on:**

“The Book of Revelation”

Saturday 21st February

10am-1pm

at St Andrews Church

Kimbolton Road, Bedford

MK40 2PF.

Cost is £10 per person, payable on the day.

To book please call 01234 330314 or email belief@standrewsbedford.org

**Courses**

- **Core Skills for Children’s Work Leaders**

  - 28th February
  - Venue: St John’s Church Hall, Boxmoor
  - Cost: Free

- **Local Ministry Conference: “We are the Body of Christ”**

  - 21st March
  - Venue: St Paul’s Church, Letchworth
  - Cost: Free

**Events**

- **The Very Revd Jeffrey John**

  - Topic: “The Book of Revelation”
  - Date: Saturday 21st February
  - Time: 10am-1pm
  - Venue: St Andrews Church, Kimbolton Road, Bedford
  - Cost: £10 per person

**Contact**

- For more information, visit www.stalbans.anglican.org or call 01727 818160

**Online Events**

- See Round Online Events February 2015/02

**The Diocese of St Albans in Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Luton & Barnet**