

Live the Mission



February 2018

WINCHESTER MISSION ACTION

As was announced in December, the Diocese has launched Winchester Mission Action, its plan to engage with the ‘missing generations’ of young people across Hampshire and East Dorset.

It will bring the Christian message to people who have not previously interacted with the Church of England. Through new projects designed to reach people in every location within the community, the Diocese intends to re-establish the church as a partner with other organisations in tackling challenges in society.

To enable this to happen it has secured a grant of £4.23 million from the national Church of England’s

Strategic Investment Board, and will match this funding with the Diocese’s own investment of more than £4 million. Watch this space for more.

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After Ewenice—chairs and cornflowers

Remember Ewenice and her sheep friends who flocked to leavers' services last year after schools took part in the Ewe Matter project? This year the education team has come up with two themes designed to involve churches.

The first theme is 'heroes', and the idea is that each school can decorate a chair to bring to Winchester Cathedral for the July Leavers' Services.

Schools will source any sort of chair and work with local churches, bringing in people - particularly older people - to sit on and share stories, for instance about the war. On the

back of this, churches will join up with schools to help design the chairs.

"The idea," says Director of Education Jeff Williams, "is not that this is a throne but that we are all called to be heroes. The leavers will be encouraged to bring something from the school to say what they have done to be heroes - and the 'heroes' chair' will potentially be used in a monthly act of worship. The chairs will be in the cathedral for two weeks in July, and we're encouraging churches and schools to visit and view them."

The second theme is known as Le Bleuuet, the French for cornflower, the symbol of remembrance in France - and Jeff has a vision of the cathedral hung with massive creative hangings in red and blue with poppies and cornflowers.

"Each school will be given a piece of fabric a little larger than A2 and decorate

it however they wish - collage, paintings, jewels, photos - as long as they use red, blue, poppies and cornflowers.

Again, churches can link with schools as an intergenerational project. Eventually all the panels will be sewn into large hangings and displayed at leavers' services and in the autumn leading up to

November 11, 2018, the centenary of the ending of World War One. "They can also be used in schools and churches, for instance at confirmation services. They will become a talking point," says Jeff.

With 160 schools which could take part, there

could be as many as eight massive hangings each of 20 individual panels.

A second element of Le Bleuuet is to create a poppy and cornflower installation in any way that the schools wish. Churches are encouraged to work with the schools and at the end take a photo of each installation and make a photo book. A4 photos can be made into an artwork installation.

Details of the above are being shared with schools and local clergy this term. Jeff is encouraging all churches and schools to participate and says "these are excellent opportunities for intergenerational ministry and work, as well as showing wider communities the way we serve the Common Good, in a creative and memorable way".

Do join in.



Sleepout at school

As the temperatures dropped to near freezing before Christmas, a group of almost 40 adults and children, some as young as six, spent the night in cardboard in the playground at Ringwood Infant School, and in doing so raised more than £4,000 to support homeless people.

The group was taking part in the Church Urban Fund's Advent Sleepout Challenge which for the past three years had raised money to provide support, food, shelter and beds for people who would otherwise have nowhere to sleep. The Ringwood challenge was run by **Ringwood Parish** in conjunction with the local schools.

The school playground was filled with makeshift cardboard shelters, sleeping bags and blankets. Hilary Silk, headteacher, said that the pupils had spent several weeks thinking about generosity: "Generosity in terms of time,



The Headlam family ready to sleepout

talents and money; and we have also focused on what it means to be homeless and have nothing to meet your basic needs," she said.

The children joined in with enthusiasm. Ten-year-old Charlie said: "I'm doing it for the pure enjoyment of it and to help homeless people", while six-year-old Amaranta said that she was sleeping out for the third year in a row to help people "because they don't have shelters".

Why Pat's an 'Invisible hero'

Congratulations to Pat Robinson from **Knights Enham** for winning the Test Valley Mayoral 'Invisible Hero' Award, for her work with community groups which range from children's groups to afternoon tea for older people."



Pat and the Mayor

When nominating her, the church said: "The impact of Pat's work is varied, but ultimately she brings people

into our Community Centre who wouldn't otherwise come, and she is always willing to help with other events and encourages others to help too.

"Everybody loves Pat, she always works hard without an expectation of anything in return except seeing

happy faces and has continued to do so even through personal difficulties."

Relationship not restrictions—

There is a big difference between being told about something and experiencing it oneself. With this in mind I signed up to something I have reported on before – a Rule of Life workshop.

I was nervous. Rules sound scary, especially ones which are meant to govern your life. Like new year resolutions it is easy to fall at the first hurdle, to break the rules. Or maybe I had misunderstood...

We met at Wolvesey where, after drinks and snacks, we gathered in the chapel, a quiet, reflective and surprisingly warm place, ideally suited to thought. There were seven or eight of us, led by Sally Dakin, the Diocesan Spirituality Adviser, who created the workshops.

Sally outlined the three dimensions of a rule of life – loving, living and sharing: loving and being loved by God, loving ourselves and others and being loved; living as Christians together, growing together, worshipping together, offering healing and support; serving in our relationships with friends, work colleagues, families and others whom we meet.

Simple – and yet hard, unless of course you bear in mind a vital aspect of this: “It is not about trying to do things to please God. It is about relationship,” as Sally reminded us. That is the

crux of the rule of life – it is about relationship with God.

Sally often uses visual aids to illustrate a point, and in this case she gave us twigs to look at and also wound pipe-cleaners around each other to show how we might be “like branches attached to the trunk of a big tree”, receiving nourishment and therefore able to bear fruit. She asked: “How well connected are we to God as the ‘trunk’ and what sustains our connectedness?”. A rule of life, she said “might strengthen that connectedness”, acting as a framework which supports us in the same way as wire might support grapes on a vine.

That framework is focused and flexible – it is for individuals and it may change over time. We are all different and will have a particular calling and specific ways of being fruitful. So we all need an individual rule of life. She added: “It’s not like a star chart on the fridge, it’s about a relationship and sustaining that relationship”.

The relationship with God involves us knowing who we are in God’s eyes, and at the very foundation of that is knowing that we are loved. From there we can build a personal rule of life,

working out what is right for us. And it might not involve taking up more things – for some of us it



Deep in thought at the workshop

A Rule of Life

could mean giving things up, pruning back the vine so we can grow. “Daring to say no might be appropriate. You may need to cut things out.” This seemed to resonate with several in the room.

We were then sent off to spend an hour alone, indoors or out, wherever we felt most able to find the peace to listen to what God was saying. There were drinks, books, snacks and props to help us and I spent a

happy 10 minutes or so winding pieces of different coloured ribbon around a black ribbon, with the black representing me and the others everything else in my life. I see in my notes that I asked ‘Am I strangled?’ and ‘Am I taking care of myself?’. Others read, wrote, walked, prayed and in some cases – myself included – spent a few minutes talking through our thoughts with Sally. Speaking to someone can help clarify ideas, challenge or comfort us, give us new ways of thinking.

One thing that became clear is that a rule of life isn’t about taking on a pile of new tasks and responsibilities. It is about finding out what is right for each person to deepen their relationship with God and so let this spill over to others. We were certainly challenged to look at different areas and see what we might commit to – but not to overdo it. It is very easy for Christians to run from one thing to another and, as Sally said to us: “If we are over-busy, the relationship

with God suffers and the fruitfulness suffers”. Perhaps I might keep over-busy as a way of keeping that relationship at bay.

Afterwards we reconvened in the chapel to reflect on the past hour or so, to pray and to repeat the Advent Antiphons – a collection of seven ancient prayers calling on Christ, each using one of his titles from Scripture such as Wisdom,

Dayspring, Emmanuel. If you don’t know the Antiphons, they are worth looking up.

We also spoke of our experiences and the overriding feeling was that it had been a joy to take time away from the

busyness of our everyday lives to try to listen to what God was saying to us. One person spoke for many of us when she said: “I need to look at the list of things I do and see what is fruitful because what we think is fruitful is not necessarily so in God’s eyes”.

Though it is not necessary to attend a workshop in order to follow a rule of life, it is a useful way of clarifying it and, for me at least, it was a chance to breathe.

There will be more Rule of Life workshops coming soon and the Lent course – *Sharing God’s Life* – is designed for Christian groups to encourage members to create their own rule of life. For further details, contact Sally Dakin: sally.dakin@winchester.anglican.org

Stella Wiseman

May you be with the Force:

Last year a new job was created in a joint venture between the Dioceses of Winchester and Portsmouth and Hampshire Constabulary—that of a lead chaplain to the police.

The role was given to Rev'd Dom Jones, a young, enthusiastic minister who had previously had an incumbency in the Diocese of Truro.

Dom says he “fell into the police”. When he was training for ordination he attended and enjoyed a two-day course run by the National Association of Chaplains to the Police. He was then ordained in the Diocese of Truro back in 2011 and a year into his curacy he received a phone call: ‘You know that training course you did...would you like to put it into practice?’. The answer was ‘yes’ and he became a volunteer chaplain to Falmouth Police Station.

“I started building relationships there,” he says. “I carried on for another three years in my curacy and then moved to my first incumbency in Eight Saints Cluster, also in the Truro Diocese so I was able to continue as a volunteer chaplain spending one day a fortnight at Falmouth Police Station. I was there for two years and only left because a brand new job came up which was so exciting.”

That job was the police chaplaincy in Hampshire. “It was advertised back in February and I applied. I hadn’t thought through the practicalities of it!” Those practicalities were quickly sorted. “I knew Netley would be my base and I used the police station as a postcode and looked for houses nearby. We bought the first house we saw. The



Dom Jones

whole thing was very smooth. We moved there in July and my job with the police started in August.”

His responsibilities are to provide pastoral and spiritual care to the Hampshire Constabulary. “I am here for people of all faiths and no faith. A team of around 20 multi-faith chaplains is being recruited and will be assigned to police stations. We want every police station to have a chaplain.”

The chaplains will spend as much time as they wish at the stations – a minimum of two hours a week, though someone with more time (perhaps a retired person) might wish to give a day. They will not be part of the police rank structure and this has the potential to make them more accessible to everyone there, regardless of rank. And their job is to come alongside people, to be listeners, available to hear about everything from the stresses of the being in the police to family issues.

“Being in the police is stressful and

Dom Jones—chaplain to the police

demanding,” says Dom. “We know that times are hard. There is the sheer demand of the work along with the reduced level of staffing and then there is the drip, drip, drip of trauma. We have good debriefing for big incidents but it is the constant exposure to trauma in the shape of road traffic accidents, injuries and the like. The force already has fantastic wellbeing and welfare provision and we offer another strand. For instance, if I am in a police station regularly people can catch me informally and offload to me confidentially.”

Dom’s reception from the police has been positive. “The independent structure is appealing and people understand that I am offering welfare and wellbeing and I’m not there to push faith. I am, though, happy to have conversations about faith should anyone want it and faith underpins everything I do.”

He is also doing a lot to raise the profile of the chaplaincy. “I’ve been going to team meetings and have had sessions with response and patrol officers, both giving presentations and informally as I’ve been making my way around police stations, chatting to the managers and the guys on the ground. I am building relationships both within the police and outside with interfaith networks and church leaders.”

The voluntary chaplains whom Dom is recruiting are not necessarily ordained or in leadership but must have the support of their faith leader. They will then have training and support. The role is particularly suitable for those with a

heart for people and an interest in policing. They have, he says, to be “caring, robust and prepared. They must be willing to look after themselves and seek guidance and they must be in it for the long-term as it is all about relationships. That can be the difficult bit because it is a long process which involves building trust.”

That is the crux of the role for Dom, what he describes as the “alongsidedness” which is necessary. “Jesus did the same, he came alongside us humans. It is an incarnational ministry where everything is done for a love of God and a love of people.” And this incarnational ministry is multi-faith, available to all.

The role he says is “a bit of an adventure” as they work it out. “It’s great fun and I’m absolutely loving it. I have great colleagues and I go out with people on patrol. I have spent time in the control room with the call handlers. It can be a very stressful job and they must not be forgotten.”

All in all Dom says: “I feel I am doing what I am meant to be doing and I am just loving it.”

There is an open afternoon for those interested in becoming police chaplains at 2pm on February 21 at Police Support HQ Netley. The aim of the afternoon will be to explain the vision for chaplaincy, to hear from the Chief Constable, go through the application process and next steps and answer any questions there may be. There will also be cake and tea.

To find out more or book a place, email Dom: chaplain@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

Mission in practice – Churches at work

What's cooking?

The kitchen can be a gathering place, the centre of the house, a place for both meals and conversation. The Theology Kitchen course, run by **King's Worthy**, is designed to enable people to bring theology into their everyday lives by helping think through theological issues.

The course, designed by Matthew Briggs from the church, uses DVDs with teaching by people like Rowan Williams, Jane Williams, Tom Wright and Graham Tomlin who tells the audience to listen with heads and hearts.



Graham Tomlin, one of the Theology Kitchen speakers

After worship together, the group watches a lecture for half-an-hour or so then breaks into groups to discuss the issues raised and highlight any questions before going back for another session. It's a way of deepening an understanding of faith in a friendly, accessible way and enabling us to talk to others about it and to connect faith and the Bible with everyday life.

For information contact Matthew Briggs - matthew.briggs@live.co.uk

Fairtrade—a gift for Valentine's Day

Don't forget to seek out Fairtrade roses and sparkling wine for the one you love this Valentine's Day.



Picture by Jamie Street, Unsplash..

With thousands of Fairtrade products in our shops we can make our gifts

extra-special at any time of the year as their purchase supports farmers and producers in the Developing World.

Flower arrangers can give their displays in church a prophetic edge too by including Fairtrade blooms.

www.fairtrade.org

Contact us:

Please let us know your news, both events that have happened and ones yet to come, and send us photographs, preferably high resolution jpegs.

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