

NEWS and VIEWS

THE CREWKERNE & ILMINSTER DEANERY DIGEST



Both Bishop Peter of Bath & Wells and Bishop Peter of Taunton will be visiting the Deanery for three days in May. Not all arrangements have been confirmed but those that have include:

CONFIRMATION at Thorncombe by Bishop Peter of Taunton on Monday 12th May at 7.00pm.

CHURCHWARDENS' RECEPTION at Donyatt Village Hall with Bishop Peter of Bath & Wells on Monday 12th May 7.00pm for 7.30pm. Some church wardens will be supporting confirmation candidates but we hope that all others will be able to attend and talk with the Bishop, whose representatives they are. If you have not told the Rural Dean you are coming – please do so NOW (to help with catering) on 01460 52559 or afthatham@ukonline.co.uk

CONVERSATION AND DEANERY SERVICE at St. Mary's Church, Chard with both Bishops on Tuesday 13th May 6.30pm for 7.00pm. This is for everyone – wardens, officers, PCC members and members of all the congregations. The format will comprise presentations by both Bishops with time to reflect and discuss each one. The Conversation will be followed by Compline with hymns. Please do encourage as many people as possible to attend what will surely be an interesting and thought-provoking evening, as well as the chance to get to know your Bishops a little better.

EVENSONGS FOR THE DEANERY

Members of the Deanery are especially invited to the Evensongs listed below. These are in place of the usual Deanery Evensong Service held in the summer.

Sunday 18th May – St. Andrew's Dowlish Wake – 6.30pm

Sunday 22nd June – St. Andrew's West Hatch – 6.30pm

Sunday 20th July – Forde Abbey – 3.00pm

Sunday 24th August – St. Nicholas Corfe – 6.30pm

THE DEANERY VISIT TO WELLS CATHEDRAL

The Dean and Chapter have invited Deaneries to visit the Cathedral to see the completed building work and learn about the vision behind it. Crewkerne & Ilminster Deanery are going on the evening of **Friday, 6th June**. The Cathedral can accommodate 75 people from the Deanery. For more information please contact Rosemary Tout on 01460 72906 or RosemaryTout@aol.com

OPEN FARM SUNDAY * * * * * 1ST JUNE

Open Farm Sunday is a fantastic opportunity for everyone to enjoy the living, vibrant countryside. Take time to listen to the birds, soak up the scenery and really get in touch with the land that sustains us. Discover what it means to be a farmer and what farmers are doing at this time of year. Ask a farmer near you if you could plan a service on the farm, or arrange a farm tour. If you would like to learn more about Open Farm Sunday then click onto www.farmsunday.org.

Or, perhaps June is too close to begin to arrange an event like this, so why not think of celebrating Lammas Day (1st August) on the first Sunday after that (3rd August). Lammas is a Feast formerly celebrated in England during which bread from the season's first wheat was consecrated at Mass in thanksgiving for the harvest of the first fruits. If you need any help with things Rural, then please contact Rob Walrond, the Deanery Rural Officer, who is only too happy to help and/or take part. Tel. 01458 253002 or thewalronds@hotmail.co.uk

THE RURAL COMMUNITIES REGENERATION GROUP

This Rural Affairs Group, affiliated to the Deanery, held its AGM at Whitelackington village hall on 5th February. Forty people attended and, being Shrove Tuesday, were served pancakes before the meeting. The speakers were Mrs. Liz Frazer, recently retired Headteacher from Shepton Beauchamp, and Rev'd Philip Wagstaff, Methodist Rural Affairs Officer for Devon. Rob Walrond said that he hoped the evening would be a sharing of ideas - how best we can serve our communities as the Church. The meeting covered topics such as the relationship of the local school with the church and local businesses – how particularly older people can fill a vital role by helping in the schools (listening to reading etc). If the wider community supports the school then the children gain a great sense of unity and belonging. The Rev'd Philip Wagstaff spoke of the small rural church. How church people in the villages have a great responsibility. Everyone notices who goes to church in a village, whereas in a town it is easier to hide. The church must find answers to many urgent questions. Housing in rural communities is vital. We must find a way to help young people to remain in the community without being priced out of the market. We must speak with each other, interact. Don't drive everywhere. It is easier to talk to people if we are cycling or walking.

Two publications were recommended:

Seeds in Holy Ground. A work book for rural churches. The Arthur Rank Centre, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire. CV8 2LZ. @ £3.99

Presence. Methodist Church. Methodist Church House. 25 Marylebone Road. London NW1 5JR.

ANGLICANS & METHODISTS IN COMBE SIGN COVENANT

After many years of working together and with the example of the national covenant between the churches, the two churches in Combe St. Nicholas have signed a joint covenant. The signing took place in a very special and joyful service on the eve of Palm Sunday, which began in St. Nicholas Church and was completed at the Methodist Church. The service was led by The Revd Phil Regan and The Revd Marilyn Tricker, and both The Revd John Carne (District Chairman of the Plymouth & Exeter Methodist District) and The Rt. Revd Peter Maurice (Bishop of Taunton) spoke.

Combe provides a great example to us all, and it is hoped that others may come to follow their lead.

BATH & WELLS 1100: A YEAR OF CELEBRATION

In 2009 the Diocese will celebrate its 1100 anniversary. Pre- 909 the Diocese of Sherborne covered the whole of Dorset, Somerset and Cornwall. In 909 the See of Wells was created. Wells covered Somerset and the See of Crediton covered Devon and Cornwall. The first Bishop of the new Wells Diocese was Athelm (later Archbishop of Canterbury). In 1090 Bishop John de Villula moved the See to become the Diocese of Bath, using the Abbey Church of St. Peter and St. Paul as his cathedral. Over the forthcoming years the Diocese was named - Diocese of Wells, Bath, Glastonbury, Bath and Glastonbury, Bath and in 1245 it was renamed Bath and Wells as we know it today.

There are very many events taking place next year in celebration though not all have been confirmed.

January (10th?) - Launch Service – Wells Cathedral

July 4th – Huge event – Glastonbury Abbey

November (21st?) –Celebration & Conclusion – Wells Cathedral

Dr. Robert Dunning, recently retired county archivist, is writing a book on the history of the Diocese. He is coming to talk to Deanery Synod about the book in the Autumn, when, no doubt, he will have some for sale.

A children's history of the Diocese is being written by Hilary Binding and there are many children's celebrations planned. A mug has been designed (by school children in Somerset) and will be available for £2 early next year.

During May and June 2009 our Diocesan Bishop will undertake a "progress" (pilgrimage walk) of the perimeter of the Diocese, a distance of some three hundred miles. The aim is for him to meet with people "where they are" and to engage with them in their local mission situation. He will begin by leading a short act of worship on Glastonbury Tor on Monday 4th May. The pilgrimage will end with Bishop Peter leading a large celebration event in the grounds of Glastonbury Abbey on Saturday 4th July.

EVENTS IN THE DEANERY

Saturday 19th April Diocesan Synod. Bridgwater

Bishop Peter of Bath & Wells and Bishop Peter of Taunton visit the Deanery

Monday 12 th May	Confirmation. Blessed Virgin Mary Thorncombe	7.00pm
Monday 12 th May	Church wardens meet Diocesan Bishop Donyatt	7.00pm for 7.30pm
Tuesday 13 th May	'Conversation'. St. Mary's Chard	6.30pm for 7.00pm
Sunday 18 th May	Evensong. St. Andrew's Dowlish Wake	6.30pm
Monday 19 th May	Archdeacon's Visitation. St. Peter & St. Paul South Petherton	6.00pm for 7.00pm
Tuesday 3 rd June	Deanery Synod. St. Martin's North Perrott.	7.30pm
Friday 6 th June	Deanery visit to Wells Cathedral.	See text
Sunday 22 nd June	Evensong. St. Andrew's West Hatch	6.30pm
Wednesday 2 nd July	Diocesan Synod.	
Sunday 20 th July	Evensong. Forde Abbey	3.00pm
Sunday 24 th August	Evensong. St. Nicholas Corfe	6.30pm
Sunday 28 th September	Confirmation. St. Michael's Shepton Beauchamp	10.30am
Monday 3 rd November	Deanery Synod. Minster Rooms, Ilminster Robert Dunning will speak on the history of the Diocese and introduce his book.	7.30pm