



Archdeacon to retire on 2012

Ven Tim McClure, Archdeacon of Bristol, has announced his retirement which will take place in July 2012



Tim has ministered in the Diocese for almost 20 years, starting in 1992 as Team Leader of Industrial and Social Ministry before becoming the founding Director of the ecumenical Churches' Council for Industry & Social Responsibility (ISR) in 1996.

Tim became Archdeacon of Bristol in May 1999 and took on leadership of the Strategy Delivery Team in 2009.

During his ministry, he was also General Secretary of the Student Christian Movement (SCM) for 10 years and Chair of Traidcraft in the 1990s.

There will be a farewell service and celebration to mark Tim's retirement on the evening of 6th July 2012 at Bristol Cathedral.

Please pray for Tim and Barbie as they prepare for their new life in Cumbria.

N.B. Bishop Mike will be taking Extended Study Leave from mid-January to mid-May 2012.

Please pray for him and direct any queries to Bishop Lee.



Bishops share lessons in leadership in Uganda

Bishop Mike and Bishop Lee spent the second half of November giving two leadership conferences in Uganda as part of our commitment to leadership development and our partnership with the Church of Uganda.

Nearly sixty participants from eight link dioceses in Uganda attended two conferences – one in Fort Portal in the west of the country and the other in Mbale in the east. Five diocesan bishops brought their senior teams.

In turn, it was not just the Bishops but a team from the Diocese of Bristol who brought the teaching and facilitated the learning.

The learning was based on the theme of “Developing Christ-like leadership” and asked the question, “What does it mean to lead and to serve?”

Starting from the foundation of holiness of life and character, the bishops focused on servanthood, seasons of leadership and the challenge to renew your passion for ministry and commitment to service.

2 Corinthians 4 formed a core text for the conferences, as participants explored how “the life of Jesus may be revealed in us”, as a result of his death and resurrection reproduced in our spiritual lives.

Revd David Hart, the Bristol Methodist Superintendent who joined the team, spoke about “leading through structures”, amongst other subjects. The model of partnership at work in the team also inspired the participants.

The visitors and host churches shared worship and prayer together and, despite some inevitable timing issues, the conferences were well organised and had a good spirit.

Canon Stuart Taylor facilitated prayer, worship and application of the lessons and Revd Chris Dobson, Ecumenical and Global Partnership Officer, who had navigated the challenges of organising the conferences in a cross-cultural context also gave input.

“You challenged me to align my values so that my talk matches my walk”, commented Rev Patrick Situuma, Mission Co-ordinator in Mbale Diocese.

Bishop Sheldon from Ankole came expecting advice about budgets and went away lifted by the spiritual impact on delegates. “This really exceeded my expectations!” he enthused.

The conferences were made possible by a significant gift from a donor from outside the Diocese.

Find out about the Uganda Link:

<http://bit.ly/s2NY4c>

Listen to the comments from the delegates: <http://bit.ly/ogV9yr>





Diocesan Synod Report

The Diocesan Synod voted in favour of the Anglican Covenant and approved the 2012 Budget at its meeting in Bristol on Saturday 3rd December 2011.

Bishop Mike proposed that the Synod approve sending the Anglican Communion Covenant to General Synod.

The Covenant seeks to provide a framework in which relationships between Provinces can be worked out within the Communion.

Speeches were made on both sides of the debate and the motion was passed in each House: Bishops unanimously; Clergy 14 for, 9 against, 1 abstention; Laity 17 for, 3 against, 3 abstentions.

Andrew Lucas presented the budget for 2012 and the process leading up to it. The budget was approved unanimously.

The Dean gave the Presidential Address on the changing culture for the ordained ministry, particularly articulated in the Clergy Terms of Service Measure.

The Synod also received a presentation about the different ways in which growth was being expressed across parish churches as part of the Growth Programme, as a result of the Diocesan Strategy.

It also endorsed the proposals for a Governance Review in line with the Diocesan Strategy, following the work done on the subject of "Engaging with Diocesan Synod".

Make a lasting Christmas connection

At Christmas, local churches connect with more people in their communities than at any other time. How will your church ensure it makes lasting connections?

Christmas is a powerful reminder in the life of Christians and of the Church that "God is with us".

Amidst the festivities, family events and consumerism, we should not forget that this message is still felt by large numbers in our communities who are not regularly part of a local church.

Services over Christmas Eve and Christmas Day double even the highest attendances at other points in the year. Add in all the other opportunities that people have to connect with a local church over Advent and Christmas – carol services, Christingle services, other hospitality – and church communities are reaching significant numbers of people, young and old, at this time of year.

How can we enhance the breadth and depth of this connection?

First, make sure that people in your community know about what you're doing.

- Are your Christmas services advertised on a large poster (A2 minimum) outside your church and on noticeboards in the community?
- Have you dropped leaflets door to door in your parish?

- Is your website up to date with Christmas services prominent?
- Have you added Christmas services to www.churchnearyou.com via your A Church Near You entry?

Second, give a warm welcome: hospitality, well heated buildings, personal welcomes all make a big difference.

Third, make sure what you do and say at your services and events is accessible to those unfamiliar with church. For example, explain what practices, language and concepts mean.

Fourth, give people something to take away that means they might come back before Christmas 2012: a leaflet with your services in the New Year; an explanation about how they can get in touch in order to explore getting married or a child's baptism; your next Alpha, marriage or parenting course; upcoming social events. If your website is up to date, always give the web address for people to find out more.

Most of all, be sure to take the opportunity to communicate that although Jesus Christ was born at Christmas he still lives today in our communities.

More on Christmas: <http://bit.ly/vc0BhJ>

Advent & Christmas

Bishop Lee's Christmas letter
www.bristol.anglican.org/wordpress/?p=6996

Diocese of Bristol online Advent Calendar >>
www.bristol.anglican.org

Prayers and readings for Advent & Christmas
www.bristol.anglican.org/wordpress/?p=6932

Add your services to christmasnearyou.com
www.bristol.anglican.org/wordpress/?p=6959

All December and future events
www.bristol.anglican.org/wordpress/?cat=41

New and Events

Christ at the heart of Swindon Remembrance
www.bristol.anglican.org/wordpress/?p=6863

After Prisons Week... how can we act?
www.bristol.anglican.org/wordpress/?p=6965

Christmas gifts packed and ready to go
www.bristol.anglican.org/wordpress/?p=6923

Eye of the Needle conference, 24 Mar, Bristol
www.bristol.anglican.org/wordpress/?p=7007

Christian Resources Exhibition, 25-26 January 2012, Exeter
www.bristol.anglican.org/wordpress/?p=7015