



New resources for churches

Hallowe'en resources

Many churches do not know how counter the increasing focus on Hallowe'en in our culture.

Damaris has produced resources to help churches know how to respond.

The free resources are designed to help churches confront the challenge of Hallowe'en by reminding people of its true origins as All Hallows Eve.

Find out more

<http://bit.ly/otJhGV>

Mentoring resources

A new resource equipping local churches to set up mentoring networks is launched this month by CPAS.

Mentoring Matters contains everything a church needs to start mentoring men, women and young people. It includes practical advice on setting up a network, a training process for new mentors and materials to support them in their role.

Find out more

<http://bit.ly/qVjf2b>

People's Bible: volunteers needed

The People's Bible hits College Green, Bristol, between 23 and 26 October and volunteers are needed both to help practically but also to talk to people about the project.

This is a great opportunity and need, particularly as it is half-term.

Find out more

<http://bit.ly/qNq3D5>

New mission projects in new housing communities

Two innovative projects have started serving communities in new housing areas this term, designed to create new Christian churches in those areas.

The projects in North Swindon and Emersons Green, South Glos, are a result of three years of planning by the Diocese and the two deaneries and have been facilitated by grants from the Church Commissioners.

The Diocese of Bristol was one of 14 dioceses to receive funding from the Church Commissioners based on a proposal to engage with emerging communities in new housing areas by working out of schools.

As a result, Mark Tidey has been appointed as a Home-School Link Worker in North Swindon and Sally Sibley as a School-Community Link Worker in Emersons Green.

Both are based out of Church of England schools as Christian workers and are connecting with the whole community through their schools and community work.

At the same time, Christians in the areas are being challenged to get involved in being part of new mission initiatives as part of the projects.

North Swindon is a housing area which has grown from a few hundred to 22,000 in 10 years.

Churches have found it difficult to grow in North Swindon. St Francis CE Primary School is in the midst of the area and a congregation has been meeting there for some years.

Mark, who is a former primary school teacher and a local churchwarden, will particularly be building links between the local church, schools and communities. He is working alongside Caroline Baston and Anne Faulkner, newly appointed to the parish (see over).

Emersons Green is a more developed community to the north-east of Bristol with further housing planned. Sally will be drawing from her background as an Education Welfare Officer, including offering support for parents and vulnerable groups in Education, to release the energy within the community and the churches. Like Mark, Sally is also a churchwarden locally, in Warmley.

"We are delighted that, after a lot of planning and preparation, these projects are now taking root," said Oliver Home, who has been overseeing the planning group.

These two projects will be followed by two further projects in the future.

Find out more about the New Housing Areas Programme, Mark Tidey and Sally Sibley
<http://bit.ly/mTB574>





Archdeacon and curate take up parish roles

Caroline Baston, former Archdeacon, and Simon Dunn, former Bristol curate, were licensed in two lively services in North Swindon and North Chippenham.

Autumn is often a time for new chapters in parish and ministry life and 2011 has been no exception.

In St Andrew, North Swindon, Caroline Baston made the move from being Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight to take on the new position of Transition Minister and Priest-in-Charge on 3 October.

This new kind of role, resulting from the leadership development process in the vacancy, is to empower the church community to engage with the mission opportunities and population growth that has overwhelmed it in recent years.

Caroline is joined by experienced Associate Priest, Anne Faulkner, and will work alongside Mark Tidey, the new Home-School Link Worker (see over).

On her decision to take this role, Caroline said,

"I have always been called to work in challenging situations, both in teaching and in ministry, to situations where there has been a need to encourage, build up, release the confidence and gifts of those to whom I have been sent."

Caroline has been a Head of Maths in a Midlands comprehensive, a curate, a Rector, Communications Adviser and DDO in the Diocese of Winchester before becoming an archdeacon.

Simon Dunn took a different step in his ministerial journey, as he joined a large team leading four churches across North Chippenham on 4 October having been a curate in Christ the King, Bradley Stoke, to the north of Bristol.

Starting his new role, he says, "I am excited about working together to bring Jesus Christ into as many different parts of our community as we are able; deepening and strengthening our church congregations as a platform to both spring from and attract others to faith."

Also in Chippenham deanery, the parish of Colerne joined the group at Box, Hazelbury and Ditteridge under the leadership of Janet Anderson-McKenzie, who becomes full-time, and her team.

At an emotional service on 20 September, Jonathan Philpott and the Bybrook Group said goodbye to Colerne which is more local, connected and similar to Box.

Read the more about Caroline and Simon here: <http://bit.ly/oxtvqy>

Pastors hit Streets of Kingswood

Following the success of Street Pastors across the area, churches in Kingswood have been pioneering this work on their own streets.



Street Pastors are teams of Christians from local churches who go out on a Friday night from 11pm to 4am giving out bottles of water, (bright pink) flip-flops and a listening ear.

In a nutshell, Street Pastors are about showing God's love through practical ways to those involved with the night-time economy.

Andy Mason, Kingswood's Associate Vicar, has interesting stories to tell.

"One girl asked, 'Are you a stripper?' looking at my clerical collar," he recalls. "I explained that I was actually a vicar and part of Street Pastors."

It is often doing those little things that make a massive difference: standing with someone being sick, giving out a pair of flip-flops so a young girl can get home safely without cutting her feet, listening to someone who has had a bad week and just wants someone to take them seriously. This can lead to some powerful encounters.

"I was told that Kingswood people aren't interested in God," continues Andy. "It simply isn't true. I've had amazing conversations with people in the early hours of morning."

More about Kingswood Street Pastors
<http://bit.ly/rhwIU>

News and features

Bishop's Letter: Looking for a fresh generation
www.bristol.anglican.org/wordpress/?p=6314

"But is it church?" Barton Hill Sunday Drop In
www.bristol.anglican.org/wordpress/?p=6365

"After the riots" series
www.bristol.anglican.org/wordpress/?p=6204

Cycle of Prayer: Oct-Dec 2011 available
www.bristol.anglican.org/wordpress/?p=5774

How will you help the vulnerable this Christmas?
www.bristol.anglican.org/wordpress/?p=6388

Sign scrap metal petition to lobby government
www.bristol.anglican.org/wordpress/?p=6247

New Events

CMH (Healing) Conference, Malmes'y, 15 Oct
www.bristol.anglican.org/wordpress/?p=6233

Lyfe sessions, Bristol & Swindon, 11 & 19 Oct
www.bristol.anglican.org/wordpress/?p=5401

CTGB Forum, Bristol, 20 Oct
www.bristol.anglican.org/wordpress/?p=6342

Apocalypse Now, BSOCS, Bristol, 25 Oct
www.bristol.anglican.org/wordpress/?p=6354

Thomas Merton Day, Winchester, 26 Nov
www.bristol.anglican.org/wordpress/?p=6349

All October and November events
www.bristol.anglican.org/wordpress/?cat=41