



On Saturday 1 March we will be holding the **Lordsbridge Marriage Preparation Day.**

This is an annual event that all the couples being married in the churches of our team are invited to. It is held in Dry Drayton village hall and receives fantastic support from members of the congregation there and elsewhere in the team, some who provide a delicious lunch for all, while others share words of wisdom on married life and others provide details on the different elements of a marriage service. It is a day that is always well received by all who attend, and is a great example of the work of the Lordsbridge team.



Many of us want the Church to grow. Perhaps we want to worship alongside a younger generation, perhaps we want to share the burden of maintaining the fabric and presence of ministry, perhaps we long for people to meet the Jesus we know.

But perhaps we should think in terms not only of growing *our* church, but of growing *the* Church – with a capital ‘C’. The Church of England’s recent major research project identified ‘fresh expressions of church’ as one of two principle drivers for growth. A ‘fresh expression...’ is a *new* church community, one with a meeting place, a meeting time and a service format that will very probably look different to those usual in a village parish church. It needs to be new because it grows among those who wouldn’t go to their parish church. But it is a church, because there people learn about God and faith, and become disciples of Jesus. The ‘call of the Kingdom’ is to grow the Church in just this way.

Many people know that in the summer – when we have recruited another clergy team member – I will be stepping sideways, just a little, to focus on Mission within the Lordsbridge Team. This means that I will have time, with others, to reflect and pray about where and how we could, in time, grow a whole new church in the Lordsbridge Team, and then to do it. Now wouldn’t that be exciting!

Alison

Team Vicar

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www.churchgrowthresearch.org;

(Summary Report at www.churchgrowthresearch.org.uk/report)

www.freshexpressions.org.uk



Gathering...Worshipping...Praying...Exploring...

Exploring the Spirituality of WINTER

7.30–8.30 pm
(followed by refreshments)

23rd February

Dry Drayton Church



Alternative worship for the Lordsbridge Team Churches

Contemporary worship in word and song; prayer stations; time to reflect and pray; and perhaps be prayed for; exploring a different way to encounter God; four evenings for 2014.



Ven. John Beer, our Archdeacon retires.

Special thank you service at 4.00pm on Sunday 2nd March at Ely Cathedral. All Welcome.

Prayer points:

◆ Saturday 1st March is the Team marriage preparation day. Please pray for the couples who will be joining the day to think about married life and share ideas for their wedding services

◆ Saturday 8th March is interview day for our new Team Vicar. Please pray for the candidates and for all those involved in interviewing.

The next **Call to Prayer** evening will be held in Coton Parish Room on 27 February at 8.00pm - we welcome you to come and join us as we make prayer central to our life together in the Lordsbridge Team of Churches. We will be particularly focusing on the Team vicar interviews to be held in early March. If you need more information about this evening please contact Christine Woods christinewoods39@gmail.com

What's on

Barton Jumble Sale

February 22nd from 2 pm in
the school hall
for church funds



at St Mary's, Comberton

Saturday 1st March
10.30 am - 12.00 noon
Cake Stall, Raffle, and a range
of Fairtrade goods on sale
To support some of the world's
poorest producers

Admission: adults £1,
school age children 50p,
to include coffee and biscuits

All Welcome - Bring a friend!

Soup and Roll Lent Lunch

Saturday 15th March
from 12 noon
in Barton Village Hall
Donations for WaterAid.

Quiz Night hosted by St Mary's Hardwick

Friday 21st March at Hardwick
Community School
Limes Road. 7.00pm start.
Contact Anne Jones 01954
211417 for further details.
In aid of church funds.

All Saints' Church Haslingfield

Saturday 29 March 7.30 pm
Haslingfield Choir & Orchestra,
Graham Walker (Conductor)

FAURE REQUIEM,
BACH CANTATAS

Further information from
Kate Dickens 01223 872088

Comberton Village Ceilidh

Sat 5th April, 7.30 pm
@ Comberton Village Hall
Tickets: £8 (to include light sup-
per, bring your own drinks)
Tickets available from
Cindy: 01223 262505 or
P&S Cruickshank Butchers
Organised by St Mary's

A major national study - and lessons for us here

In January Mike joined a large group of other clergy and other church leaders for a report back on the Church of England's most extensive study ever undertaken of church attendance, growth and decline. The findings are sobering - the pattern of declining numbers at Sunday services is long-established and true of all dioceses outside London.

In the midst of lots of challenging stuff, there were two very important bright spots:

Firstly, fresh expressions of church are showing significant growth, and reaching people who have not previously been church members. Across the country, nearly ten per cent of those now involved in church life are part of fresh expressions.

And secondly, the most effective thing to do to help existing churches grow is to appoint a youth worker.

So we've put the right two toes in the water in appointing Emma Slater as our (very) part-time youth worker, and in allocating more of Alison's time to a future role encouraging fresh expressions and new mission initiatives across the team. Now, I believe the challenge is to follow up both these moves, making sure Emma's hours are secure and ideally increase for another year, and seeing our hopes of fresh expressions of church becoming reality through the course of 2014.

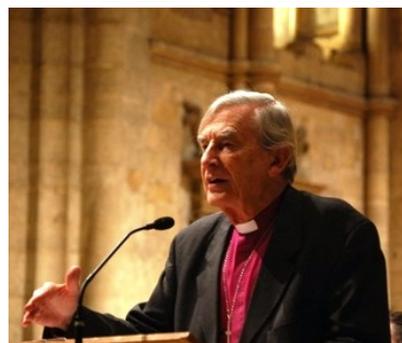
(Full details of the presentations at the study days are available at <http://www.churchgrowthresearch.org.uk/report>)

"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow."

1 Corinthians 3:6

CHRIST IN MODERN ART

Lord Harries of Pentregarth to visit the Lordsbridge Team to speak on 'Christ in Modern Art'. Sunday **6 April in Dry Drayton** parish church. Evensong (at 6pm) followed by a lecture and discussion (from 6.40pm). Richard Harries was formerly Bishop of Oxford. A national and international speaker on ethics and the interface between faith and culture, his most recent book *The Image of Christ in Modern Art* was published in October 2013.



All are welcome as preparation for Easter

A presentation of

Bach- St. John Passion



Music in Harlton

**The Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
on Palm Sunday 13th April at 7.00pm.**

Bradley Smith as *The Evangelist*, Bradley Travis as *Christ*, with Anna Harvey (alto),
Sofia Larsson (soprano), Richard Deeming (tenor), Bozidar Smoljanic (bass)
**supported by the Cambridge Orpheus Singers,
London Oriana Singers, and the Brandenburg Baroque Sinfonia.
Conductor Leon Lovett**

To reserve a seat in advance please contact John Helmsing, 96 High Street, Harlton,
janmhelmsing@hotmail.com, or telephone 01223.263203.

ADMISSION FREE—RETIRING COLLECTION