

THE WEAVINGS

Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle Department for Spirituality

September 2014

Spiritus Festival of Spirituality

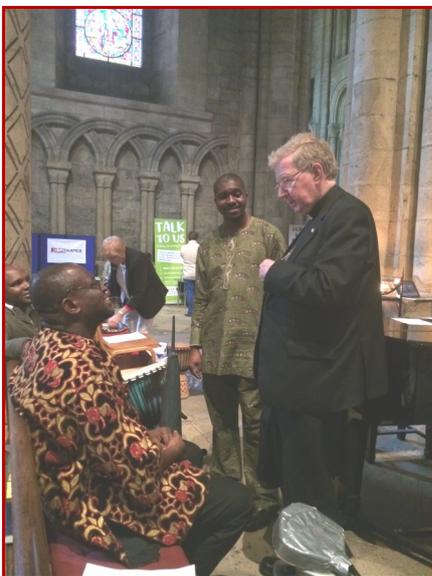
On Saturday September 6th, Durham Cathedral welcomed hundreds of people to an inspirational day of prayer and spirituality entitled "Spiritus". The day provided opportunities to explore and experience some of the many different expressions of spirituality within the Christian tradition. A variety of workshops was on offer including; 'Discipleship and Journeying in a Digital Age', 'Lectio Divina – Praying with Scripture', 'Icon Painting for Beginners', 'Gregorian Chant', 'Imaginative Contemplation', and many more. Those with a good head for heights were able to join the Rt. Revd. Paul Butler, Bishop of Durham, as he led prayers from the top of the Cathedral tower.

Within the cathedral were several stalls informing and promoting the work of many local groups including Minsteracres. A prayer walk and a display of icons of the Northern saints produced by a group of local iconographers proved very popular with visitors to the Cathedral.

The event was attended by many from our own diocese with some having travelled from as Bedlington. Members of the Diocesan African choir enlivened the liturgies with their music. Bishop Séamus was in attendance for the day and led a prayer session as well as delivering the address in the Closing Liturgy in which he outlined the importance of allowing words of Scripture and prayer to move from our heads to our hearts and so into our actions.

The cathedral was full for the Opening and Closing Liturgies, the power and beauty of which encouraged visitors to pause and participate. A range of music led by Alison Adams allowed for powerful expression of the work of the Holy Spirit. During the Closing Liturgy, Revd. Joanne Thorns was commissioned as Regional Officer for North East Churches Acting Together.

The success of the event has left the participants wanting more. Watch this space! 



Members of the African music group chat with Bishop Séamus.

FORWARD Together in Hope

In July, Bishop Seamus introduced the Diocese to "Forward Together in Hope". This will be a three-year process of prayer and reflection on our local communities and on the diocese as a whole.

The Department for Spirituality will be working with the new Director of the process, Fr Jim O'Keefe and the new Development Officer when they are appointed. Our main focus will be providing prayer resources for parishes and others to use to underpin the conversations and decisions.

Watch out for information about these in Weavings—the diocesan website—Northern Cross and through deanery members of the Spirituality Network. 



Days of Prayer in September

14 September—Racial Justice Sunday: 'Combating Human Trafficking'

21 September—Home Mission Sunday: 'Reaching Out to those separated from the Church.'

Information in parishes or from www.catholicnews.org.uk.



Developments in the Department for Spirituality

Since it was established, the work of the Department for Spirituality has flourished—and is likely to increase during the time of "Forward Together in Hope". This has led to a reorganisation of the administrative support offered by diocesan staff and Karen Brown now has a more dedicated role working three days a week in term-time for the Department. She will also work one day a week with Fr Sean Hall in Diaconate Formation.

Karen will be the key point of contact for many of the Department for Spirituality activities and will usually be in the diocesan office in Newcastle from Monday to Thursday. Please note that we have a new telephone number!

She will also attend some of the weekend and evening events and is looking forward to helping to develop resources that will help parishes, schools and individuals to deepen their spiritual formation. 

Contact Details

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Re-Connecting—an Idea from Premier

Sylvia Walters, who is the Regional Director of Premier and based in Newcastle, sent us information about an idea for reaching out to local people who are isolated from the church. She writes: Premier is a national charity that works ecumenically with Christian Churches, people and organisations throughout the United Kingdom to support and resource them to promote Christian outreach and inclusion.

Our aim is to enable people to put their faith at the heart of daily life and bring Christ to communities. We use a combination of our multi-media platforms, and church connections to work together in new ways to reach out to some of the most isolated members of our community and make positive change happen to improve their daily quality of life.

We have developed an innovative project called Re-Connect that aims through a collaboration involving churches, Premier broadcasts and Lifeline, our confidential listening and prayer line, to reach out to Re-Connect 600 housebound people living

in the North East with 100 church communities.

We would like you to consider taking part in this wonderful initiative.

Do you know any housebound people who...

- regard themselves as Christian;
- are housebound as a result of physical and or mental disabilities; and
- have Spiritual needs that are not currently being met?

If the answer is yes, then the Premier Re-Connect Project has a set of tools to help your church to make a real difference to the lives of housebound people in your community. So how does it work?

We supply your church community with DAB digital radios, copies of our daily devotional Voice of Hope and information about how to access Premier Lifeline.

DAB radios are then offered to 6 people in each parish as individual gifts during a church pastoral visit.

We know that this lovely combination of church contact, Premier's Radio broadcasts 24 hours a day 7 days a week on DAB radio and Freeview 725, access to

Premier's Lifeline, our confidential listening and prayer line, and the daily devotional Re-Connects people with the Gospel message in their own homes day and night.

The really encouraging part of the project is that the people who take part tell church pastoral teams and Premier just how much difference this project makes. Pastoral teams tell us it is a real joy to hear at first hand the individual differences it is making to the lives of people across the North East by forming new fellowships with members of their church community and by having their faith journey restored.

Anyone who wishes to be involved needs to get in touch today as radio numbers are now limited and the first stage of the Re-Connect pilot will conclude at the end of September.

To become part of Premier Re-Connect and join more than 60 churches across the North East please email ian.britton@premier.org.uk or call 0191 206 4604.

Upcoming Spirituality and Prayer Events

MINSTERACRES

Wednesday 10 September

Day of prayer with Rosarie Spence RSM

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Saturday 21 September, 10am - 4pm

Big Green Sunday

Fun, free family day out. Hands-on learning about heritage and conservation: pond dipping, dry stone walling, horse logging, den building and more.

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Friday 3 – Sunday 5 October

A Time to Sing with Liam Lawton

A rare opportunity to share an inspiring weekend with Liam Lawton, priest and composer of the *Glendalough Mass* setting among many other works. A few places left—please book soon!

(It is possible to attend just on Saturday)

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Friday 10 - Sunday 12 October

Christian Meditation & tai chi with Terry Doyle

Reflective weekend in a silent atmosphere to nourish mind, body and spirit. Terry is founding member of Jason Chan's Light Foundation and acts as UK co-ordinator for overcoming addictions using Christian Meditation with the World Community for Christian Meditation.

Holy Island Day of Reflection

Saturday 13 September, 11am-3pm

"Each Word of Scripture is a Gift"

(Quote from Pope Francis)

What do Pope Francis' words mean for us? How can we receive the Word of God as a gift for our everyday lives? Come along and spend time thinking about what it means for you.

Causeway open: 10.20 to 16.25

Bus connecting with trains from Darlington/Durham/ Newcastle:

Departs Berwick Rail Station: 10.30;

Return from Holy Island: 15.05

St Antony's Priory, Durham

Exploring Personal Prayer

Introductory evening:

Thursday 2 October, 7pm–8.30pm,

Then: 9, 16, 23, 30 October, 6 November
2pm–4.30pm or 7pm–8.30pm.

Final session 13 November, 7pm-9pm.

Whether you feel you are just starting to pray, have no time to pray or are a seasoned veteran—come along to our Weeks of Prayer and enjoy the opportunity to have this time to yourself to explore your own prayer life.

Tel: 0191 384 3747

Email: info@stantonypriory.co.uk

Centre for Prayer and Mission, Seaham

Tuesdays, 7.00pm

A Retreat with Pope Francis

September 16, 23, 30,

October 7, 14, 21

A six-week retreat with Pope Francis

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Scripture Sessions

Mondays 1.30pm-3.30pm

beginning 6 October

In response to people's desiring to go deeper into understanding Scripture.

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Prayer Shawl Ministry

Every second Thursday of the month,
Meet 1.30pm – 3.30pm to crochet/ knit shawls and pray for sick and elderly people.

More information from Sr Michael

(0191) 5813249 or email:

mariamichael.lee7@googlemail.com

Tuesday 23 September, 7:30pm
Ecumenical Service for Peace in Israel
and Palestine

St Mary's RC Cathedral

Newcastle upon Tyne

For further info: CAFOD - 0191 384 4847
hexhamandnewcastle@cafod.org.uk