



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Hereford

February 2012



Hereford Diocesan Pilgrimage
Saturday 11th – Monday 20th August 2012
for young adults aged 15-29

Transport: Coach from and to Cathedral Close, Hereford.
Accommodation: Camping on Taizé site
Cost: £200
Closing Date: **30 April 2012** (*booking form and non-returnable deposit (£50) to be received by this date*)

Contact: The Revd Philip Jepps, 01568 780517
Email: philip@eaglecottages.wanado.co.uk
Website: www.hereford.anglican.org follow the link from the front page

Stations of the Cross - Freedom from Torture



14 different professional artists have been commissioned to produce an interpretation of one of the 14 scriptural Stations of the Cross, each of which is based on a Biblical text describing Jesus going through the torture that led to his death.

These will be on display throughout Lent 2012

Tues 21st Feb to 9th April

St Michael's Church, Discoed, Nr Presteigne, LD8 2NW.

As Lent approaches, many of us will start thinking about what we might want to give up – maybe something quite small like your favourite wine, chocolate or snack. Today, like every day, across Africa, children have no choice but to give up things most of us take for granted. Their time. Their education. Their health. Simply because they do not have access to safe, clean water, one of life's most basic human needs.

The charity WaterAid is asking congregations across the country to collect Jars of Change for jars of water this Lent. By asking everyone to give something up and donating what they save, your church could help families like Musabyimana's from Rwanda who's family has never had safe water.

Using technologies like rainwater harvesting, we hope to bring a safe supply of water to 2,000 people in Rwanda. But we need your church to act this Lent so we can capture these precious rains in huge rainwater harvesting jars. The simple guttering will collect rainwater which can then be stored in the jars, ensuring people like Musabyimana and her children have water to help them through the dry season.

We desperately need to reach families before the rainy season starts in October. Please order your free church resources today and get your whole congregation involved. There are lots of free Lent resources to get your church involved including posters, presentations and Sunday school resources. Please visit www.wateraid.org/lentresources today and get your church involved this Lent.

Diocesan News Service for Magazine Editors.

Copy in writing for **March** issue by **1 February 12** to:

Anni Holden, Communications Officer,
The Palace, Hereford HR4 9BL



A-Z of Churchyard Conservation

A is for ANT Mounds

Churchyards have become a refuge for the harmless Yellow Meadow Ant, *Lasius flavus*, because it lives in permanent pasture which has become a rare habitat. The Yellow Ant builds mounds of earth full of passages and galleries in which they rear their brood, feeding them on large numbers of insects. The nests, which can be up to 100 years old, are like icebergs, as much below the ground as above. They are often built against a gravestone, facing the sun, and do not cause any damage. We would always advocate to leave these nests which add character and diversity to the churchyard. However should you want to remove them the nest can be moved. If it is just the mound that is in the way then cutting it off at ground level in the winter (not mowing over it in the summer!) will level the ground but not harm the ants who are all in the soil below at that time. If you want to move the whole nest this should be done in summer, in August, after the winged young males and females have left the nest. It should be moved into a sunny spot and not destroyed.

Contact CfGA on 01568 611154, info@cfga.fsnet.co.uk, www.caringforgodsacre.co.uk for information or advice.



A-Z of Churchyard Conservation

B is for Burial

Although 70% of the population choose cremation there are increasing environmental concerns about the pollutants being released into the atmosphere. By choosing coffins made of natural sustainable materials for both burials and cremation we can decrease the carbon footprint of our last journey on earth.

Wicker and cardboard coffins, and felt shrouds are all locally sourced alternatives to the traditional coffins which are often imported from the other side of the world, involve logging of sensitive areas or are made of MDF using a range of polluting materials.

Using locally made coffins is sustainable and supports the local economy – whether it be wool from Wales or willow from Devon.

In 1666 an act of Parliament decreed that everyone had to be buried in a woollen shroud to stimulate the failing wool trade – wouldn't that be great if we could have that sort of logic today!

For more information contact The Natural death centre, charitable project giving independent funeral advice www.naturaldeath.org.uk, 0871 2882098

For natural burial shrouds made from welsh wool and coppice wood, (an idea developed in this Diocese), contact Bellacouche natural burial shrouds www.bellacouche.com, 01647 432155

CfGA, 01568 611154, info@cfga.fsnet.co.uk www.caringforgodsacre.co.uk



A-Z of Churchyard Conservation

B is for Bees

All bees get all their food from flowers, pollen is their protein and nectar their carbohydrate. For any problems with honey bees the local beekeepers association should be consulted. Solitary bees sometimes cause alarm because, although each bee builds her nest alone, they may nest in numbers close to each other. Solitary bees do not sting and are fascinating to watch as they make their nests. Mason bees have been accused of destroying walls but their jaws are so weak that they can only make holes in mortar that is already crumbling badly.

Churchyards are a haven for bumble bees if there is a flowery sward and if some areas of grass are allowed to grow long. They nest in old mouse nests, some species underground and some on the surface. If the above ground nests are encountered when the grass is being cut the bees fly around because they cannot find the nest entrance – they are not being aggressive. The best thing to do is to leave the nest alone, mark it with a stick and avoid mowing that spot. Nests are only annual so it will not come in the same place the following year.

Information from the late Dr Anthea Brian

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February 2012 MAGAZINE

Pilgrimage is on the increase. More and more people make pilgrimages; perhaps they walk to Santiago de Compostela in north-west Spain, or travel to Walsingham in Norfolk or Lourdes in France or one of a host of other holy sites. There are many holy places in our border country, like Patricio just north of Abergavenny. Each day our own Cathedral welcomes many pilgrims. It was the second most important mediaeval pilgrimage centre in England with people flocking to the shrine of St. Thomas Cantilupe, elected Bishop of Hereford in 1275. Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales" records some of the stories told on the way to the most important shrine, that of St. Thomas Becket.

Our Epiphany season reminded us again of the journey/pilgrimage of the Wise Men to the infant Christ where they "fell down and worshipped". But T. S. Eliot in his poem "Journey of the Magi" stressed, what all pilgrims know to be true, that it's not just the arriving that matters but also the journeying itself. The poem begins: "A cold coming we had of it, just the worst time of the year for a journey and such a long journey."

Journeys give us time to turn aside, to step out of our normal routines and reflect, to ask again the "big questions" about our lives. Journeys give us the opportunity of meeting others, for strangers to become friends, for us to see things through different eyes, in different contexts and ways, and to live at a different pace.

St. Paul wrote about our being citizens of heaven and pilgrims here on earth. The pilgrimages we make point to the bigger pilgrimage of our lives to God. Pilgrimages resonate with all the language that we use about our Christian faith as "the Way", a journey, about our "becoming", changing, about movement, with our constant need for being redeemed and transfigured.

My wife, Kathy, and I shall be leading a diocesan pilgrimage for young people (age 15 – 29) from 11th – 20th August to Taize in south Burgundy, (details: www.hereford.anglican.org/churchgoers/taize_2012). As I write this, Bishop Alistair is on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Whether you have been on a pilgrimage yourself, or are planning one, do take the time to reflect on the journey of your life, not only its goal, but also the steps you are taking to get there, and the fellow-travellers you meet on the way.

+Anthony Hereford