

News Archive

May 2008



Westcott Parish Mission 2008

From 21st-28th September 2008, a team from Westcott House will be working alongside members of the Halstead Area Team Ministry in Essex to undertake a parish mission to the six parishes of the benefice.

A great deal of planning for the mission has already taken place. In January, 30 members of the parishes met at Westcott to think about how to reach out more to their communities in ways that are inviting and that meet individual needs. The day was grounded in a Bible Study of John 1 v29-42 (the calling of the first disciples). As a result of the study, the group decided that the main aim of the mission should be to invite communities to 'come and see' (John 1 v39) all that is taking place in the parishes and to find out what God's presence might mean in different people's lives. 'Come and See' has become the title of the mission.



On Saturday 10th May a group from Westcott (Michael Beasley - Vice Principal and Tutor in Mission and ordinands Jonathan Elcock, Chris Holden and Mike Rose) travelled down to Essex for more discussions with members of the parishes about the precise events that will take place during the mission. These include worship and prayer, outreach events such as village walks and a "hard questions" night in one of the village pubs, outreach to local schools and smaller scale activities that will enable members of local communities to meet and talk with a "trainee vicar". More details about the mission, and an ever firmer timetable of what will take place can be found on the Halstead team's website:

<http://www.halsteadchurches.co.uk>.

April 2008



Public Theology Seminars

Westcott's popular programme of Public Theology Seminars continues this term. All are welcome to the three scheduled events:

- Thursday 24th April
Rev'd Dr James Walters
'A Time for Change: Kairos and the Liturgical Shaping of Public Time'
Seminar Room: 4pm
- Thursday 8th May
Rev'd Dr Sharon Jones
'A Threat to Peace? Christian Zionism in the UK'
Seminar Room: 4pm
- Thursday 5th June
Mr Jeff Bailey
'Theology and Political Responsibility after Niebuhr and Hauerwas'
Seminar Room: 4pm

It is helpful to have an idea of numbers, so if you would like to come to a seminar, please e-mail [Anna Rowlands](#).

March 2008



London Gathering

On Friday 7 March, Westcott alumni living in and around London were invited to a gathering in the crypt bar at All Saints, Margaret Street. Around 40 attended and heard Martin Seeley outline the House's plans for the future. Current staff and students were also on hand, including the capable bar team of Gemma Burnett-Chetwynd and Brutus Green. For an authentically Westcott feel, sandwiches and snacks had been prepared by the House's kitchen team and transported to All Saints. Gatherings are planned throughout the country over the course of the year.



Dean of Yale Divinity School visits Westcott

Professor Harry Attridge, Dean of Yale Divinity School, visited Westcott on March 10-11 to seal the four year old relationship between the two Schools. Professor Attridge gave a lecture on "The Coherence of John's Gospel" and hosted a dinner for Westcott and Divinity Faculty staff and Yale alumni. Martin Seeley and Harry agreed steps for the development of the exchange programme between the two institutions, including a return visit to Yale by Martin.



Archbishops visit Westcott

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York paid a three day pastoral visit to Cambridge on February 18-20. This was the first time they had worked together for such a period in this way, and the event was hailed as a huge success. Martin Seeley commented, "Their very different styles were so clearly complementary and the shared conviction and evident affection was a profound witness to the Christian faith as well as a powerful testimony to the integrity of Anglicanism." Over the three days, the Archbishops participated in nineteen

separate events, including three public evening addresses attracting audiences of over 1200 each time, and a question and answer session with 250 ordinands, students and staff of the Cambridge Theological Federation. The visit began with a lunch at Westcott House.



Principal visits Hong Kong

Canon Martin Seeley spent the week of February 22nd in Hong Kong, building on the strong link that has developed between the Province and Westcott over the past five years. Martin addressed students at St John's College of the University of Hong Kong, and gave a lecture at Ming Hua Theological College on "The State and Future of Anglicanism". Westcott and Ming Hua are developing an ordinands exchange programme.

Martin's host, the Revd Paul Tong, Master of St John's College, held a "Westcott Reunion" for twelve clergy who had trained or been on sabbatical at Westcott. On the final evening of his visit Martin had dinner with Archbishop Paul Kwong and other leaders of the Church in Hong Kong.

February 2008



Photo Competition 2007 / 08

Last year, members of the House were invited to enter a photography competition on the theme of "Passion". Money raised was sent to the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel and a photo gallery was displayed in the Common Room.

This year the theme is "Renewal" and members of the community have again been invited to enter their snaps over the course of the term, again in support of USPG. Judging will take

place early next term and prizes will be awarded at a community evening on 1 May.

We are delighted that prizes have been given by Ryder and Amies (college outfitters), and Hotel Chocolat, who are committed to "Engaged Ethics" projects in St Lucia and Ghana. There is more information about this on their website, www.hotelchocolat.co.uk.

Winning entries will be exhibited in All Saints church later in the year, and also on this website.



Archbishops to Visit Cambridge

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York will be in Cambridge between Wednesday 20 and Friday 22 February to explore the relationship between faith and society today. The *Cambridge Consultations* (link to <http://www.a-world-to-believe-in.org.uk>) are a collaboration between the Cambridge Theological Federation, the Colleges of the University of Cambridge, the City of Cambridge and the Chaplaincy to University Staff. Westcott's Principal, Canon Martin Seeley has been closely involved with planning, sitting on the steering committee with two Westcott ordinands.

A group of Westcott ordinands has also provided practical and planning support for the programme of public events. This includes lectures and Q & A opportunities with both Archbishops; details are set out on the event website (link to <http://www.a-world-to-believe-in.org.uk/html/events.html>).