

News Archive June – August 2007

New Chaplain



We are delighted to welcome the Revd Lindsay Yates as Chaplain from September 2007. Lindsay read Law and was a Choral Exhibitioner at Selwyn College. She practised at the bar for a short time before training for the priesthood at Ripon College, Cuddesdon. She was a curate in a rural parish in West Oxfordshire and returned to Cambridge as chaplain of Pembroke College in 2002, then as acting chaplain of St John's College. In addition to her role at Westcott she is reading for a Masters degree in Church History at the University of Wales, Lampeter. Lindsay is married with two daughters and lives in Girton.

Robert Beckford Joins the Team

Westcott's team of adjunct staff is boosted by the arrival of Robert Beckford – Reader in Black Theology and Culture at Oxford Brookes University – as adjunct tutor in Black Theology. A firm believer in teaching for social change, Robert also educates in community centres, care homes and male prisons. He currently supervises post graduate students in religion, politics and cultural studies. Robert is the author of five books on theology and culture, the most recent being "Jesus Dub: Theology, Music and Social Change" (Routledge 2006). As well as teaching and writing, Robert is an accomplished documentary filmmaker, working with Channel 4.

Robert Beckford has a BA in Religion and Sociology from Houghton College (NY) a MA in Biblical Hermeneutics from London Theological College and a PhD in Political Theology from Birmingham University. His next film appears on 3rd September and is called "Undersize Me: How the West keeps Africa poor". In 2002 he was awarded a BAFTA for a six part series on the hard teachings of Jesus.



New Bursar Appointed



We will be pleased to welcome William McVey as Bursar during August. A joint appointment between Westcott House, Wesley House and ERMIC, he will take over from Jim Stirmey, who has been with Wesley and ERMIC since 2001 and holding the fort at Westcott since January this year.

William is married to Deborah - a United Reformed Church Minister – and they have four adult children. William has been a member and an Elder of the United Reformed Church for more than 25 years. Amongst other activities, he enjoys travel, reading and providing hospitality. William trained and worked with firms of Chartered Accountants in London and Cambridge. He then worked for thirteen years at Darwin College in the University of Cambridge as the Financial & Administrative Officer. From 1997 to 2001 William was the Secretary for Finance & Stewardship for the Council for World Mission, spending much of his time working with church members in those countries. In addition he managed the CWM properties, including the residential home in the UK for retired missionaries. From 2001 to 2007 William has been the accountant for The Perse School in Cambridge.

Westcott Walkabout 2007

For the second year running, members of Westcott House took to the streets of Cambridge wearing striking black "Trainee Vicar" T-shirts. Commissioned by the Rt. Revd. Simon Barrington-Ward, Westcott ordinands went out to meet people in cafes, pubs, shopping centres and on the street as they served cups of tea, provided activities for children and engaged in lively discussions about all matters of faith. The sharing continued into the evening when people were invited back to Westcott for an informal prayer service and celebration barbecue. Ordinands found the experience fun, challenging and invaluable in learning to be visibly "a vicar" and in listening to people. The public reception was also very positive; a local newspaper editorial argued that "this is exactly what the church needs to be doing."



New Theology Tutor Appointed



Westcott House is pleased to announce the appointment of a new member of tutorial staff. Jeff Bailey, who is currently finishing his PhD in political theology at Cambridge University, will take up the post of Tutor in Theology in the Michaelmas Term. Jeff has worked with the Cambridge Inter-Faith Programme on Jewish, Christian, and Muslim relations, the Clinton Global Initiative on religious conflict, and is a member of a theology and public policy working group at King's College, London. His particular areas of interest include the relationships between theological reasoning, politics, and inter-faith relations.

Jeff studied at Duke University in the United States, and has also worked with inner-city ministries in Washington, DC. He is currently working on a reader in contemporary political theology (co-edited with William T. Cavanaugh and Craig Hovey). He recently co-edited a special issue on religion and international relations for the Cambridge Review of International Affairs journal, and his writing has also appeared in Studies in Christian Ethics and the Christian Century magazine. He is married to Alicia, and they have two small children, Wade and Simone.

Speaking of his appointment, Jeff Bailey said, "I am thrilled to be joining Westcott House, with its accomplished and vibrant staff and students. Westcott has long been an important place for theological education, and is at an exciting point in its history and its vision for the future. I am absolutely delighted be joining a community where theological training and spiritual formation is being pursued with such creativity and a deep sense of responsibility to the church and the world."

"A New Vision for Catholic Mission" – September 17-19 2007

Westcott House is organising and hosting this conference, bringing together a lively mix of priests, scholars and opinion leaders to address current thinking and practice in mission. The conference aims to engage and resource all involved in Christian Ministry. For more information, please download the Conference Leaflet.





New Chairman for Council

We are delighted to announce that Tim Stevens, the Bishop of Leicester, has taken over the chairmanship of Westcott House's governing Council. As well as chairing the Council's termly meetings, the Chairman is deeply involved in the life of the House, supporting the Principal and staff and working with the students. Bishop Tim spoke at compline (link to address) in the Easter Term, having led a community evening for the House.

Website Launch

Westcott House launched its new website on 1 June 2007. Designed to provide clear information for a range of users, the site has expanded and clearly structured content including details of undergraduate courses, resources for parishes and something of what life at Westcott means. An important feature will be the news section, updated regularly, which will enable alumni and others to keep up-to-date with goings on at Westcott. Martin Seeley, the Principal, said "We are delighted to have such a well designed and informative resource online. Our intention is that it should develop over time to offer increasing support for past, present and future students and the Church as a whole." Please do give us your feedback.



For more information about Westcott House, please contact

Andrew Davies, Development Director

E-mail: ajd83@cam.ac.uk

Tel: 01223 741015

Westcott House, Jesus Lane, Cambridge CB5 8BP

www.westcott.cam.ac.uk