

News Archive October 2007 – January 2008

January 2008



Principal installed as Honorary Canon

On Saturday 19 January, the Bishop of Ely installed Westcott House's Principal, Martin Seeley, and Governing Council member, Dr Fraser Watts, as Honorary Canons of Ely Cathedral.



Public Theology Seminars

A new series of Seminars, exploring public theology, was launched at Westcott House on Monday 7 January. Professor Elaine Graham, Samuel Ferguson Professor of Social and Pastoral Theology at the University of Manchester, spoke on 'Doing God: Public Theology After Blair'. Her seminar is available in the [Resources section of the website](#).

The seminars are open to all, and future speakers include current and former staff and students of Westcott House. On Thursday 7 February at 4.00pm in the Seminar Room, Westcott House, David Baverstock will speak on "'Who Has Spoken Through The Prophets": Pneumatology for Public Theology'. Those who come to the seminars are welcome to join the House for the Community Eucharist afterwards.

The [seminar programme](#) is available here as a PDF file. For more information, please e-mail [Anna Rowlands](#).

Regional Gatherings

The first of a new series of regional gatherings for alumni of Westcott House took place on Thursday 3 January, at Bishop's Lodge, Wakefield. A group of alumni from the surrounding area were hosted by the Bishop of Wakefield and his Chaplain, Matt Bullimore (Westcott 01-05). Following lunch, the Principal gave a brief talk on recent developments and plans for the

future, and current ordinand Mark Watkins gave a perspective on the life of the House. There was an opportunity to ask questions and comment on Westcott's role as a resource for the Church.

Future gatherings are planned in Hong Kong(!) in February and London in March. Details of future events will be published soon.



Anglicanism Seminars

Also launched this month was a series of seminars exploring Anglicanism. Friday 18th January saw Tim Jenkins, Dean of Jesus College addressing 'Perspectives on Formation in Anglicanism'. His talk is available in the [Resources section of the website](#). Future speakers include Will Adam (St Andrew's, Girton), Jeremy Morris (Dean of Trinity Hall) and Dame Mary Tanner (President, World Council of Churches).

The [programme for future Anglicanism seminars](#) is available here as a PDF file, or you can contact [Jeff Bailey](#) for more information.

Centre for Ecumenical Studies

The Centre for Ecumenical Studies too has announced its seminars for this term - and again, all are welcome. Details can be found in the [Centre's Spring Newsletter](#).

November 2007



Gospel Choir on the Road

The Michaelmas term has seen a series of 'firsts' for Westcott's Gospel Choir, formed last year. They sang at the first Federation Worship Service of the year back in September and, in October, led worship at a baptism in All Saints church, Jesus Lane. Later in the month, the choir joined forces with their counterparts at Ridley Hall at another CTF service - the first time the two choirs had combined. One of the strengths of the choir is its international dimension. Along ordinands and their partners from across the English Dioceses, there are singers from the USA, Germany and Hong Kong.

Perhaps the climax to the Gospel Choir's activities this term came on 17 November, when 10 members travelled to Orpington, Kent for the day to take part in a concert at a local parish church. They were invited to sing by the church, St Mary's Green Street Green, as part of a programme which included a choir from the local diocesan secondary school, as well as two choirs from the hosting church. The choir performed several gospel favourites, including 'Oh Happy Day' to rapturous applause from the audience.



Dianne Hardy, chair of St Mary's Social Committee said "You all have such amazing spirit. Your kindness in coming all this way to perform for us this evening is outshone only by your beautiful singing and the obvious love you have for praising God"

The director of the choir, Dylan Turner was thrilled with the way that the choir had pitched in to sing at the concert. He enthuses, "The choir's energy and commitment is inspirational. The passion, soul and flair which have become their hallmark really blossomed at this event. It is a privilege to serve as the choir's director and my thanks go to each and every one of them for giving up their Saturday to travel to London and Kent to take part."

Conference Talks Available Online

The keynote speeches from the Conference 'A New Vision for Catholic Mission' are to be

made available on this website. Each month, one speech will be available for download in mp3 format from the [Resources section](#):

- November 2007 - The Revd Angela Tilby - Catholic Mission
- December 2007 - The Very Revd Joseph H Britton - Mission and the Anglican Communion: Taking Nothing for Granted
- January 2008 - The Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell - Mission and Evangelism
- February 2008 - The Rt Revd Victoria Matthews - Mission and the Kingdom

A CD-ROM containing all the keynote speeches is also available from the Development Office (mailto:).

October 2007



Term gets underway

Westcott House begins the year with its largest ever student body - 84 men and women from around the world, including 66 Church of England ordinands. Students come from a wide range of ages and backgrounds, and relish the community, rigour and spark of life at Westcott. Martin Seeley, Principal of Westcott House, said, "Having such a diverse community makes Westcott a tremendously rich and exciting environment for students and staff alike. We're delighted to have this number of students and looking forward to the coming year."



A New Vision for Catholic Mission

More than 100 people from five provinces of the Anglican Communion gathered at Westcott House from 17 - 19 September for a lively conference looking at mission within the Catholic tradition. A range of issues were addressed, including "What is a catholic understanding of mission?", "What is the relationship between mission and evangelism?", "How can insights about mission gained from a catholic perspective inform and focus the vision of the wider Church?".



Drawing on the resources of the tradition, speakers addressed these questions in ways that intrigued (Mission and the Patristic Gospel - Angela Tilby), challenged (Mission and Establishment - Joseph Britton of Yale's Berkeley Divinity School), inspired (Mission and the Kingdom - Bishop Victoria Matthews of Edmonton, Canada) and encouraged (Mission and Evangelism - Bishop Stephen Cottrell of Reading).

Other speakers led workshops on the relationship of mission to issues such as living in a multi-faith society, young people, global development and education. Building on Westcott's increasing engagement with mission, the conference helped those that came to look afresh at their lives and ministries, to celebrate the tradition that is theirs to hand on and to have confidence in their ability to play their part in God's action in the world. One delegate commented afterwards: "The conference spoke of unity and purpose, generosity and embrace. I think this is what 'catholic' mission means".



Refurbishment Continues

Over the summer, work has been undertaken within E block to provide new vanity units in student rooms as well as general redecoration of rooms and staircases. Over the course of the coming year, we will be upgrading washrooms in E block as well as adapting the ground floor of D block to provide bedrooms, a kitchen and a bathroom accessible to wheelchair users and people with limited mobility. Other plans in development include a wider access project encompassing All Saints Church, additional teaching space and accommodation, a library extension and the completion of the major refurbishment programme.