

## News Archive

March 2009



### **Westcott students excel in the MA in Pastoral Theology at Anglia Ruskin University**

Recent graduates Nick Davies and Ed Turner both produced highly creative and thoughtful pieces of work for their Dissertations. Nick travelled to Bethlehem as part of his research for a photo-essay looking at the theme of Epiphany. He comments: "I wanted to explore whether one can use the camera as a tool for theological enquiry". Ed wrote an opera Missiah as well as performing in it in both Cambridge and London. An imaginative response to the wider subject of feminist theology the opera asks: what if Jesus Christ had been a woman? Both Nick and Ed have found these explorations of academic topics to be useful methods for presenting such issues in the parish context.

More information about both of these projects can be found on the [MA in Pastoral Theology page](#).

## February 2009



### **There is snow, God**

Students enjoy a break from 'Life and Service' with a snow ball fight.

## January 2009



### **Kenyan Principal Visits**

Canon Dr Moses Njoroge, Principal of St Andrews Theological College in Kabare, Kenya, visited Westcott House on January 29 and 30th, to further links between the two colleges. He attended the Thursday evening Community Eucharist and community evening, and on Friday morning attended a class on funerals led by Dr Vicky Raymer and then a homiletics class led by Dr Michael Beasley. Dr Njoroge was introduced to the House by the Revd Lee Batson, the link officer from the Diocese of Chelmsford who were hosting the Principal's UK visit. Martin Seeley and Dr Njoroge had two extended meetings during which they discussed the

training programmes in their respective institutions, and made plans for student visits and exchanges. Both principals acknowledged that they represented different aspects of the Anglican Communion, and are deeply committed to building relationships and dialogue across what are so often portrayed as divisions. Martin Seeley said, after their conversations, "Westcott House has always been a 'community of differences' within which we learn to listen attentively and respectfully to the other and through that process become more fully the people God calls us to be. The conversations we can have between Westcott and St Andrew's Kabare are just the same, and with that quality of gentle and open attentiveness towards one another we will discover our common humanity and calling in Christ. This relationship, and ones like this, have enormous potential for our ordinands and for the Communion."

## December 2008



### **Catholic Fresh Expressions**

On Monday 8th December, seven Westcott students attended the Catholic Fresh Expressions Pilgrimage to Coventry Cathedral. A number of Westcott Alumni also attended the event, with recent alumnus Sally Horner acting as deacon alongside Archbishop Rowan Williams. Steven Croft, the Archbishops Missioner said: "the day shows that fresh expressions are not limited to any particular strand of the church but that the vision has permeated all traditions. Alongside more traditional ways of worship, fresh expressions are reinvigorating many catholic congregations across the country. It is exciting."

The Fresh Expressions movement has gained momentum and stature in the Church of England in the last few years. The 500 people who gathered in Coventry Cathedral for the National Pilgrimage were there because they believe that the catholic and contemplative traditions of our church have much to offer.

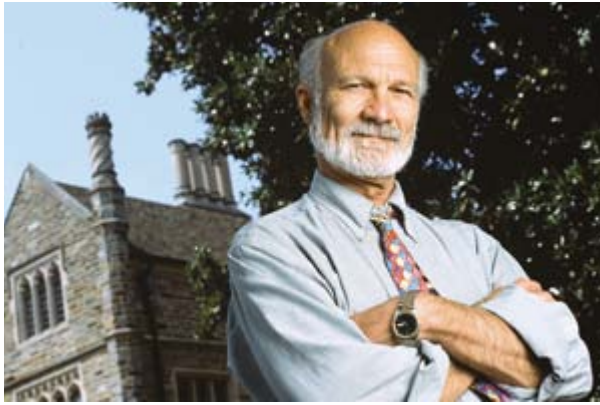
## September 2008



### Westcott House Clergy Day with Sam Wells

Westcott House recently hosted a Clergy Day on 11th September 2008 for alumni and area clergy. We were pleased to welcome as featured speaker the Rev'd Canon Dr Sam Wells, Dean of Duke Chapel in the United States, Canon Theologian of Chichester Cathedral, and former parish priest in Norwich and Cambridge. Sam is known to many as the author of such books as *Improvisation: The Drama of Christian Ethics*, and *Power and Passion*, the Archbishop of Canterbury's 2007 Lent Book. Most recently he co-edited, with Sarah Coakley, *Praying for England: The Heart of the Church*. Much of Sam's ministry today consists of preaching weekly in Duke Chapel, the largest University congregation in America, while overseeing the several thousand students involved in student ministries associated with Duke University.

The day was a wonderful mix of old and new faces, and many delegates commented on the stimulating set of talks given by Sam, which focused on [the heart of priestly ministry](#), [the role of money](#), and [the shape of mission](#). Sam commented on how delightful it was not only to be back in Cambridge, but to be speaking at Westcott House, where his own father trained for the priesthood. Westcott House was glad to have Sam for a very special day, and looks forward to future visits.



## **Westcott House Conference, 16-18th September 2009, to feature Stanley Hauerwas**

Westcott House is pleased to announce that it will be hosting a major conference next September featuring Stanley Hauerwas as keynote speaker. Hauerwas is the Gilbert T. Rowe Professor of Theological Ethics at Duke University, where he also holds joint appointments in the Schools of Divinity and Law.

Named by Time magazine in 2001 as 'America's Best Theologian', Stanley Hauerwas has been known to many as a theological provocateur on topics ranging from care for the handicapped, the church as a political community, narrative theology, medical ethics, and peacemaking. He is a central figure to the recovery of virtue ethics in philosophical theology in recent decades. Hauerwas delivered the Gifford Lectures in 2001, which formed the basis of his book, *With the Grain of the Universe: The Church's Witness and Natural Theology*. His book, *A Community of Character*, was named one of the 100 most important books in religion in the 20th century.

Hauerwas expressed how delighted he is to be coming to Westcott House for the first time, where he will spend several days giving various lectures at the conference. Following upon the heels of last year's very successful gathering, "A New Vision for Catholic Mission", the 2009 conference will focus on a vision for parish ministry, with a consideration of the importance of place, particularity, and prayer. The conference will also feature a number of other speakers from a wide variety of contexts and experiences.

Please mark the dates for your diary: 16-18 September 2009. This will be a wonderful opportunity for Westcott alumni to renew old friendships, and meet many new faces as well. More details will be forthcoming soon.

## **Public Theology Seminars Return!**

Thursday, 23rd September 2008 the Westcott House Public Theology seminars return! The very positive response we received to last year's series of seminars has encouraged us to continue them this year.

The series kicks off with Westcott's very own Dr Brutus Green, whose seminar is entitled: *Is Authenticity a Secular or a Christian Virtue? From Ritual Politics to Political Liturgy*.

(Note that due to ill health, Rev'd Canon Dr Andrew Shanks, Canon Theologian of Manchester Cathedral, is unable to deliver his seminar this term, but will do so at a later date.)

Later this term, on the 27th of November 2008, Dr Elizabeth Phillips will speak on Christian Zionism and the State of Israel.

All seminars begin at 4:00 pm in the Westcott House Seminar Room, and you are welcome to remain for Westcott Community Night, as well: Eucharist at 6:05 pm, followed by a simple supper and open bar in the evening. We hope you will be able to join us!