

From the Chairman of WCT, Tony Thorpe

ECUMENICAL SUPPORT

Following Kate Sax's departure, we have been reviewing the need for ecumenical mission support provided by Wiltshire Churches Together. We are aware that there are many positive and uplifting examples of church groups working together, but there are just as many who are struggling to move forward.

We gained a lot of insight into what is needed at the Forum earlier this year, particularly from the very helpful feedback comments. We have now developed a replacement job specification which is geared primarily at providing support to LEPs and Church groupings in their ecumenical activities and worship. We see the new (part-time) officer helping to spread good ideas for outreach and mission, giving advice and assistance with activities, and acting as a consultant on any constitutional matters.

A particularly difficult issue has been the perceived need for external reviews of LEPs. We intend to go about this in a different way, enabling and encouraging LEPs to carry out self-reviews with the assistance of the new officer.

You note we haven't given the new post holder a title yet. If you have any views on that, or other aspects of this proposal, please let us know soon. We would very much like to start the recruiting process within the next couple of months.

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www.wiltshirechurches.net - now updated!



**Autumn
2011
Newsletter**

After the success of 'Making a Difference Together' in May at Market Lavington, another opportunity is offered to explore together

Saturday 12 November

9.30 am - 12.30 pm

Market Lavington Community Hall

Key Speaker: Dom Aidan Bellinger, Abbot of Downside

Presentations from three Churches Together Projects

If you came before - come again to explore further!

If you weren't able to come before - this is your chance!

Contact Liz Overthrow

(liz.overthrow@btinternet.com)



www.wiltshirechurches.net - now updated!

New Translation of the Roman Catholic Mass

Are you interested in Fresh Expressions of Church?

There is a meeting for any person who might be interested in furthering the Fresh Expressions agenda. Archdeacon John Wraw has suggested we discuss the potential of a Fresh Expressions enabling group, that could work towards putting on a couple of 6 week "Introductory Mission Shaped Church Courses" and help network and identify good work already going on.

If you're interested in being part of that group let Rev Philip Bromiley know (01249 820062 or email philbromiley@hotmail.co.uk). The first meeting took place on Tues 13th Sept, 7.30 p.m. at St. James' Church Devizes (Southbroom Road.)

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News from Melksham

We are launching the first messy church in Melksham on 26th October at 3 pm at Forest & Sandridge School in Melksham. For whole families not used to going to church that should be very exciting.

At St. Andrew's Church, in the forest area of Melksham, we will be celebrating 125 years of consecration of the church - a ticketed event - on Friday 23rd September. £5 a head to see the wonderful forest themed floral displays, local artists painting and wine at the start of the weekend followed by on the Saturday afternoon 2 p.m. - 5 pm with the added attraction of a rock band called the Bearfield Commune Bank, followed on the Sunday at 10 a.m by a service for all lead by Bishop Bill Ind.

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Roman Catholics throughout Wiltshire, and far beyond, are encountering a new translation of their regular worship, the Mass; the previous version had been in place since 1985 and was itself an amendment of the first English (non-Latin) version introduced in the 1970's. This new version has been designed to align more closely to the master version written in Latin. Giving one example, when we respond to the priest's words "The Lord be with you", we used to say "And also with you"; now we say "And with your spirit", echoing the Latin "Et cum spiritu tuo". There has been a move away from common parlance but at the same time an invitation to appreciate the deeper spiritual meaning of the words.

There has been plenty of controversy prior to this introduction – but I suspect that in most cases there is an acceptance that our personal preferences are less important than our togetherness across the English speaking world and our links with Catholics speaking other languages. Also given that it's here to stay, at least for a few decades, there is, I hope, a recognition that arguing about the precise wording of our public worship is far less relevant than dealing with the more substantial issues faced by our Church together with other Christians.

I hope that Christian friends will come and hear for themselves. You will at least be given a text to help you – something that not all churches were good at ensuring in the past – and you will be in plenty of company should you get the response wrong!

Matthew Devlin

