



Church of England - Diocese of Chelmsford



Ministry among Deaf & Deafblind People

Newsletter

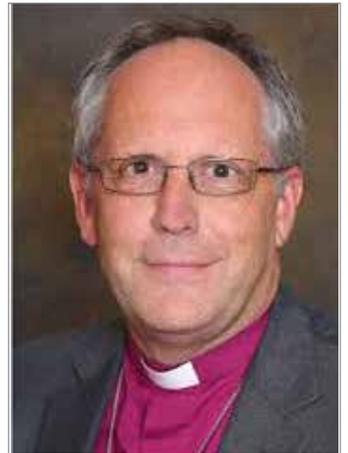
Autumn 2017

Bishop John

The funeral of the Right Reverend John Wraw, Bishop of Bradwell, took place in Chelmsford Cathedral on August 7. Bishop John died on July 25 after suffering for three years with a form of cancer in the blood, called myeloma.

Bishop John was very supportive of our work among Deaf people, and visited Southend Deaf Church in his first year as Bishop of Bradwell, in 2012.

We give thanks for his life and ministry. and ask you to pray for his wife Gillian and the rest of his family at this sad time.



Ordination



On September 30 Ministry Team member Viv Whitfield will be ordained as a Deacon by Bishop Stephen in Chelmsford Cathedral at 2.00pm. Viv will serve as a Locally Ordained Minister at St. John's Church Colchester. Viv will also continue with her ministry to Deaf People after her ordination.

Please pray for Viv as she prepares for this significant moment in her discipleship and for her ministry thereafter.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Team Member Trevor Nunn who has successfully completed the Course in Christian Studies. This is a two year course run by the Diocese of Chelmsford, which helps people explore the Christian faith. It demands time and commitment but is very rewarding.

Well done Trevor!



Best Wishes



Our best wishes go to team members Lucy Cooper and Richard Dunhill as they prepare for their wedding on November 25.

We wish them both happiness and joy as they begin this new stage in their lives.

Congratulations

To Nick and Sue Stovell - key members of Colchester Deaf Church - who will celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary on September 9. The Deaf Club gave them a surprise party recently, below is a photo of them with the cake.

We send them our congratulations, and look forward to many more years together.



Rest in Peace

On a sadder note, Jenny Williams died recently. She had often come to Colchester Deaf Church with her dear friend Angel, until she became too ill with cancer. Her funeral was held in Chelmsford last month, sign-supported by Minister Diana.

We hold Jenny's grieving family and friends in our thoughts and prayers.

Chaplains' professional development conference

In June, Ministers Viv and Jean travelled to Swanwick in Derbyshire to attend the Chaplains' professional development conference. It was a good opportunity to meet with other ministers among Deaf people, some of whom are Deaf themselves, and to share experiences and ideas. The theme of the conference was 'Encountering Deaf Space', and there were various interesting talks on engaging with Deaf people, especially the younger generation, on using social media and ethical concerns connected with that, also reflections on Bible translation and culture, with the opportunity to discuss all these with the other people attending. We also had the joy of daily worship led in BSL by members of Deaf Anglicans together, finishing with a Eucharist on the last day.

International Ecumenical Working Group

Deaf ministry takes place not only in the UK but in many other countries as well. The International Ecumenical Working Group of Pastoral Workers with Deaf People (IEWG) is an organisation which brings together those who minister to Deaf people across Europe. It has been in existence for many years as an informal group. Now however it has become a legal entity registered in Norway. This will make the organisation of events and collections of money for its work much more easy to carry out. The UK has representatives on the IEWG. It is organising a conference next year in Germany on the theme of "Worship". For more information about the IEWG visit their website at www.deaf-iewg.org

Christmas is coming!

Now it is getting cooler, we start looking forward to Christmas. Once again we shall be holding our annual Carol Service with RAD in Chelmsford Cathedral.

This year it is at 10.30am on Friday 8 December (doors open 10.00am).

Bishop Stephen will preach the sermon. This is always a happy occasion, and we look forward to meeting some of you there.



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If you would like to receive this newsletter in future, please email jean@deafchurch-chelmsford.org.uk or contact:

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