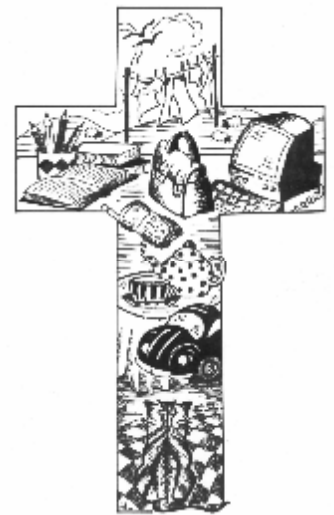


TRANSFORMING LIVES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

helping the people in our churches
make connections between faith and their daily lives

Newsletter – October 2007
www.wakefield.anglican.org/transforminglives



The Story So Far ...

Although we have published a monthly newsletter since June, trying to keep people up to date with the plans for TRANSFORMING LIVES, it was suggested that it would be helpful to have a leaflet including all the information to date, which could serve as a single reference point. So please ensure that this month's newsletter is shared as widely as possible.

TRANSFORMING LIVES is a programme of events and series of resources, put together by people from Wakefield Diocese for the churches of our diocese. Starting in Lent 2008 and running through to Pentecost 2009, we hope these events and resources will help people deepen their faith, and encourage them to share it more widely.

A three-stage Process

Our thinking started with the simple idea that if we wish to transform God's world, we have to start by transforming God's people. And this led us to realise that three stages are needed, if we are ever to make this kind of transformation a reality:-

1. **The building of a vision** – of a God who makes a difference, and a faith that makes a difference: so that we begin to glimpse how we, and the world, can be transformed.

2. **Helping people live their faith day by day** – by helping them recognise links and make connections between worship, faith, and daily life.
3. **Firing people up to share their faith and the love of God with everyone they meet** – and to live out their faith in practical ways in their homes, workplace, and local community.

THE TRANSFORMING LIVES PLANNING GROUP

Moira Burns	Joyce Jones
Angela Byram	Mary Judkins
Robert Freeman	John Lawson
Jonathan Greener	Tony Macpherson
John Hadjioannou	Liz Morton
Gill Johnson	Ian Wildey

From October onwards, **Canon Tony Macpherson** is going to be chairing this group.

So if you want to find out more, please contact either Tony (01924 275274; tonymacpherson@blueyonder.co.uk).

Rita Peacock is serving as Secretary to the Group. She can be reached at Church House, Mon–Fri, 9am–1pm (01924 371802; rita.peacock@wakefield.anglican.org)

2nd Sunday before Lent (27 Jan)

We are hoping that all participating parishes will nominate someone to preach that morning, and introduce the ideas of TRANSFORMING LIVES to their churches. We would ask you to identify someone to do this at an early stage – perhaps a priest, or a Reader, but the person doesn't have to be licensed as a preacher already, since all preachers will be commissioned by the Bishop on 16 January 2008 at the Cathedral. And there is an initial training event for these preachers on 28 November. Two training sessions cannot provide a full preaching course, but they will equip people to put information across in an accessible way. Maybe this is a chance for you to encourage someone with good communication skills who may have a longer-term vocation to preach.

Ash Wednesday (6 February)

We are encouraging churches who wish to do so to cluster for the main service on Ash Wednesday. It may be appropriate to do this across a Deanery or more locally.

We shall provide worship resources for Ash Wednesday and for the Sundays of Lent.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE – The Children and Youth Team at Church House, Wakefield are producing special accompanying material for three separate age-ranges: under 5's, 5-11's and 11-18's.

Study Materials/Bible Notes

We have a group of people, who are currently focusing on the materials we need for Lent 2008: Study Group resources for the five weeks of Lent, and daily Bible Reading Notes. We have recruited people from a variety of backgrounds and locations, to ensure that we meet the needs of as many people as possible across the diocese.

There will be a short Daily Office available, for use by individuals or by groups.

SCHOOLS – the Schools Department at Church House is working on ways to use material from TRANSFORMING LIVES in your local schools. Please contact Canon Ian Wildey, or the Revd Gill Johnson, for more details.

Sundays in Lent

We are hoping churches might introduce an *Everyday God Interview* into their main services. This is a chance to encourage members of the congregation to give a public account of the ways in which God impacts on their daily life. Many people will be less nervous doing this as part of an interview, rather than as a straight talk.

ECUMENICAL PARTNERS – We warmly encourage you to involve local ecumenical partners in any part of TRANSFORMING LIVES. This is something for parishes to arrange locally, where appropriate.

Spiritual Direction

An important part of TRANSFORMING LIVES is to help people see where God is at work in their lives, and to encourage that perception to grow, by giving them the opportunity to discuss their spiritual journey with a helper from outside the parish - individually or in small groups.

For those parishes who ask, a helper will be assigned, whose first task is to introduce the idea of befriending people in their spiritual journey - by preaching or being interviewed during Sunday worship. The same helper will then offer up to ten sessions or hours between Easter 2008 and Lent 2009, at times to be arranged with the parish. The purpose of these sessions is to give people the opportunity to talk with them about their spiritual journey, either individually or in groups.

The only cost to the parish will be travelling expenses for the helper. There will be a chance to book a helper for your parish later in the year.

AN APOLOGY – In the September newsletter, we promised a CD for discussion at PCCs by early October. Because of illness, the production of this has been delayed – but we shall produce one as soon as possible for distribution.

VERY IMPORTANT:

*Ordering and buying materials
for Lent 2008*

Those of you who took part in EVERYDAY GOD will remember that while we sent the leaders' notes to every parish, participants' materials and worship resources had to be ordered in advance. In fact we had to re-print the binders on 5 separate occasions. So this time, we want to try and make things easier for everyone involved.

We shall, as before, send the leaders' materials for adult groups and for children and young people to every parish, as well as providing it on the diocesan website.

WEBSITE – Don't forget to look at

www.wakefield.anglican.org/transforminglives
for all the latest information and material.

We shall need you to order binders for participants in advance, and these will have to be collected from one of our Resources Centres – either at Church House or in Mirfield. The binders will include study materials for the Lent Course, the daily Bible reading notes, and the daily office. A large-print version will be available, as well as a copy on cassette for those who require this. An order form is enclosed for these binders with this newsletter.

A variety of worship resources will be available, as with EVERYDAY GOD, but these will need to be purchased in person from one of the Resources Centres.

Training Dates

We thought it might be helpful to remind you of the training dates that have been arranged.

To help our planning, please e-mail your parish name and approximate numbers expected at these training sessions to:-
rita.peacock@wakefield.anglican.org

19 November 2007 at Dewsbury Minster
General Training Session 1

20 November 2007 at Bradley
General Training Session 1

8 January 2008 at Bradley
General Training Session 2

10 January 2008 at Dewsbury Minster
General Training Session 2

These General Training Sessions are for all involved in leading TRANSFORMING LIVES next Lent: Clergy, Children & Young People's Leaders, Worship Leaders and Study Group Leaders, etc. It will be worthwhile trying to attend one of each training sessions.

28 November 2007 at Gildersome
1st Training Session for preachers.

We are delighted that Canon Robert Patterson, Chaplain and Researcher to the Archbishop of York, will be helping to lead this first training session for preachers.

16 January 2008 at the Cathedral
2nd Training Session for preachers, plus commissioning for the preachers and other leaders by the Bishop.

The first preaching session is for those people who have been nominated to introduce the ideas and principles of TRANSFORMING LIVES to their churches on 27 January.

Those preachers will need to be at the Commissioning on 16 January, though we hope other leaders will come along for this Commissioning as well.

The three-stage Process described above has been developed into the programme that is shown here. This is a version of a

working document used by the Planning Group, but the notes opposite expand the information given here:-

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When	What	Notes
2008		
Lent -2 27 January	A sermon introducing TRANSFORMING LIVES in every participating parish	Each parish nominates someone (clergy or lay) to do this. We hope they will come to two training sessions – at the second, a commissioning by the Bishop
Ash Wednesday 6 February	Clustering services in deaneries or localities	According to local traditions/needs
Sundays of Lent	Everyday God interview	In the course of the Sunday morning – a different person is interviewed each week, to give some account of where God impacts on their daily life
Weekdays of Lent	Lent Groups	To enable people to give some account of the faith that is in them: "This is my story - this is my faith"
May	Deanery Celebrations linked with swearing in of churchwardens – and exemplary liturgy	To wrap up phase 1, and start phase 2. Invite clergy, wardens, PCC members to these services.
Summer/autumn	Various training courses in venues across the diocese	Different courses/workshops covering topics such as Liturgy and Worship, Music, Supporting our schools, Being a Christian at work, Building Christian families, Christian singleness, Being a better neighbour, etc.
Summer/autumn	Faith Sharing – with sessions in each parish for individuals or groups, facilitated by imported Spiritual Helper	Mixture of lay and ordained spiritual helpers
Advent – or earlier in the autumn if preferred	Parish Course (3 weeks)	On the theme of Incarnation – looking at ways in which God, the Church, and Christian individuals make a difference
2009		
Lent	Lent Groups	Picking up on last year's big questions, and re-casting them in a transformational perspective
Eastertide	Packs for PCCs, with the offer of a facilitator for a meeting where they might be used	To help each PCC develop a parish mission plan in the light of the past 12 months. Available from January 2009.
Pentecost-ish	A diocesan gathering/jamboree	The intention is to re-commission people for fresh commitment to encounter with God and making a difference in the world.