

## For your Diary

Wednesday 30th November, 12.30pm: Diglis Hotel

A reminder for those of you who have signed up, that we meet at The Diglis Hotel for our annual Christmas Lunch.

Monday 8th May, 11.00 am: Cathedral Lady Chapel

Bishop John invites us to our Annual Eucharist. This is an opportunity to worship together, to pray for each other, and to celebrate our place in the life of the Diocese.

### *An apology...*

When I was working, and retired folk used to tell me that they wondered how they ever had time to go to work, I had thought that it must be an exaggeration. I am, however, discovering that it is quite true! I would never have imagined how looking after little children could eat up almost every minute of every day, and that what remained would be needed to recover! Anyway, that is why the promised 'Spring Newsletter' is in fact a late 'Autumn Newsletter'! I shall try harder next year! On which note, may I wish you all a very Happy Christmas!

*Judith*

### **Worcester RCA Committee:**

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## Worcester Retired Clergy Association



# Autumn Newsletter November 2016



### A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP CHRISTOPHER

The Retired Clergy Association (RCA) was set in motion in 1927 and continues to

exercise an important role in the life of the Church of England.

The number of retired clergy continues to increase, now totalling over 200 people in the Diocese of Worcester. Most clergy retire while still active and are able to continue in some form of ministry, a fact that is much appreciated by many clergy and parishes throughout the diocese. But the stresses of ministry in today's church are such that some clergy retire early, while others do not want to be drawn back into organised ministry.

The RCA offers support to all retired clergy as well as clergy widows and widowers. And in this diocese we invite all retired clergy to meet with one another 3 or 4 times a year.

The pastoral care of retired clergy, widows and widowers is the immediate responsibility of local Rural Deans. But on a wider scale Bishop John appoints a Dean of Retired Clergy in each Arch-deaconry. I have been delighted to fill this role in the Worcester Archdeaconry since 2010 and was glad to be joined by Canon Judith a little while ago. I have much enjoyed meeting many retired clergy, some of whom have served in much more difficult areas than I have ever experienced. But as I became an octogenarian last year it seems right to "retire from being retired"! So Bishop John has appointed the Ven Chris Liley as Dean in my place. However I will continue for a short while as Chair of the Diocese of Worcester Branch of the RCA. I offer a big thank you to all retired clergy and their families for their continuing faith and ministry. I look forward to more learning of God from whom you are and what you get up to.



## A Word of Introduction: Chris Liley



Born in Stoke on Trent, Chris Liley was first a teacher and, when ordained, began his curacy in Wordsley (Kingswinford) when that parish was still in Lichfield Diocese. He worked there for five years before going to Stafford for a further five, Letchworth in Hertfordshire for twelve, Shrewsbury for four then back to Lichfield as Archdeacon and Cathedral Treasurer in 2001. Chris retired to Pershore three years ago where he lives with his wife Elaine who is a couples counsellor.

## Summer Tea: Halfpenny Green Vineyard



Back in June around 20 of us met for a guided tour of the Vineyard at Bobbington, near Stourbridge. The tour included extensive wine tasting and a cream tea. It was good to welcome Bishop Graham, who was able to pop along to join us. Everyone agreed that it had been good to do something a little different, and many of us enjoyed browsing the wine and other goodies in the Vineyard shop. If you are looking for somewhere new for a lunch or a leisurely coffee, we would recommend Halfpenny Green!



Five Minutes

With... **Mel Smith!**

*Mel was once diocesan stewardship officer and before that area dean of what was then 'Himley' deanery. He went off to serve in foreign parts - Mallorca - for his last paid post. He grew up and was ordained in Lichfield diocese in 1971, before moving with his deanery into the then episcopal area of Dudley in 1994.*

### ◆ How long have you been retired from full time ministry?

Since January 2013; my wife, Kasia, and I were prepared to spend another year in Mallorca as the chaplaincy there was seeing significant growth but Kasia's chronic illness came to a point where it meant treatment back in the UK, so home we came home to our house in Kingswinford.

### ◆ Did you prepare for retirement? If so how?

Sort of - I went on a 'Greek in a week' course at St Deiniol's library. I'm very much enjoying getting back to new testament studies and I've fallen for Jesus all over again.

### ◆ How did you find the transition to retirement?

Well, Kasia and I arrived back just before Christmas 2012 and a fortnight later she was taken into Russells Hall hospital with pneumonia. Since then she's had various medical problems associated with her chronic blood condition, so much of the time has revolved around those. I've never really thought about 'Transition into retirement'.

### ◆ Has retirement brought any new opportunities for you?

Yes, it's good living back in the Black Country and seeing much more of our family and both of us enjoy the opportunities offered of my working abroad as locum priest in various European chaplaincies. We'd done this before retirement but now, with the gift of more available time, when we're able - we're off! I record a monthly worship CD for St George's church in Andorra and I head up a group of people who run a charismatic renewal day for Midlands On Fire Mission (next one is on November 12<sup>th</sup> at All Saints' Warwick) and I'm also a Trustee of the national On Fire Mission organisation. I help out giving cover from time to time in local parishes and I help my son run Alpha courses in a nearby pub.

