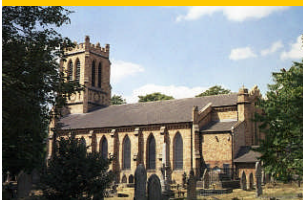


## STOURBRIDGE DEANERY



### Holy Trinity Facts:



[www.holytrinityamblecote.org.uk](http://www.holytrinityamblecote.org.uk)  
Priest i/c **Alan Williams** (2008)  
Ass. Curate **John Corker** (1996-01)  
The church, built in 1842, is large and airy, and is open weekdays from 9am to 5.30pm and on Sundays from 7.30am to 8.30pm. The tradition of worship is decidedly Catholic, with Incense .. Reservation of the Sacrament .. the use of vestment, stole and scarf. Common Worship is used for most services (with the exception of Evensong) and Solemn Benediction [Book of Common Prayer].

### Please inform your P.C.C. about\_

- #1. New appointments to parishes & palaces
- #2. Mission at St. James, Wollaston
- #3. Diocesan Assembly Update
- #4. South African church visit
- #5. Thanks to the departing Synod
- #6. Church Urban Fund

Next meeting\_  
Wednesday  
**25<sup>th</sup> June**  
Churchill Village Hall

Following meeting \_  
Thursday  
**16<sup>th</sup> October**  
St. Michael's, Norton

# SYNOD REPORT

Notes from the Synod meeting

26th February 2008 Meeting

Issue: 25th June 2008



## Amblecote

The final meeting attended by the current Synod members was held at 7:30pm on Tuesday, 26th February, in the church hall of Holy Trinity, Amblecote. The Annual General Meetings of the Deanery's Parochial Church Councils are required to hold a new round of elections of parish representatives. P.C.C. secretaries will have received information linked to the Electoral Roll detailing the entitlement of each parish. Appointments will then run for three years.

#1 The Dean was pleased to announce the appointments of priests **Alan Williams** to Amblecote & **Paul Harrison** to Blakedown and Broome,



as well as the enthronement of **Bishop John** on 1st March.

#2 Details were given of the struggle of St. James through its 3rd year of Interregnum - with much lay involvement, backed by Prayer and Bible-study groups. Their Lunch-Club continues every Tuesday; a FairTrade stand is maintained; and the church hosts a lively series of concerts. Four major charities are supported - as well as others on a targeted basis. With the church school & governing body receiving support from various volunteer clergy, this period has brought church and school closer together. There are some 13 children preparing for Confirmation in June.

#3 Mel Smith, the Stewardship Officer at the Diocesan Office (the Old Palace), gave an up-date of the Diocesan Assembly, now fully booked, and with info. packs about to be posted to those taking part.

This Assembly is designed to be part-of-a-process rather than a one-off activity. Some 3000 Lent course pamphlets have been distributed.

#4 Rev. Hazlewood gave an illustrated talk about his recent visit to South Africa and the church he had visited in the township of Gugulethu, 15kms from Cape Town. It had been planted by 'New Frontiers', and was a mix of vibrant African worship and European "house-church" style.

#5 Thanks were expressed to the departing Synod and in particular to those who would not be standing for re-election.

The Synod closed with a Corporate Act of Worship which was led by Liz. Walker.

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## Main Topic - the Church Urban Fund [www.cuf.org.uk](http://www.cuf.org.uk)

**John Paxton** spoke of the Church Urban Fund, now 25 years old, having been established in 1985 following 'Faith in the City' .. "to encourage the challenging of poverty" .. at a time of changing work-patterns and social unrest. It is now turning its attention towards 'Rural Poverty' and still seeking-out people suffering

deprivation. Worcestershire has a number of deprived wards (two in Redditch, two in Kidderminster, and one in Malvern !)

Some 4,900 grants totalling £62,000,000 had been given-out over the past 20 years. The CUF have a fine reputation as a pump-priming agency, and other funding

streams are happy to follow in its footsteps.

It now has a 'sister' agency '**CUF Exchange**' which runs training programmes with resources to help projects, and has a new initiative "**Challenging Poverty**" which is looking at new ways of working both ecumenically and with other faiths.