

STOURBRIDGE DEANERY



Bishop John Inge after his consecration at Westminster Abbey - 2003



Denise Inge



Bishop + John's 'Day-in-the-Deanery' began with a visit to Blakedown C.E. school; which was then followed by a meeting with the Clergy Chapter held at Oldswinford Rectory, concluding with a light lunch.

He then visited the Mary Stevens Hospice and the Oldswinford Hospital school; before meeting with 'Churches Together' reps. at St. Thomas's.

A visit to the new 'Cyber-Café' at Christchurch, Lye, preceded tea with the Rural Dean and his family at Pedmore.

At the end of the day Bishop + John led a service of Holy Communion for the Synod representatives, Clergy and Lay-Readers, hosted by St. Michael's & All Angels church, Norton.

This he concluded with an Address and a Q. & A. session.

The next Synod meeting —
Wed. November 19th at
St. Peter's, Pedmore

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

Notes from the Synod meeting



16th September 2008 Meeting

Issue: September 2008

Bishop John visits Stourbridge Deanery

Rt. Revd. Dr John Inge is married to Denise, a writer and distinguished authority on the 17th-century poet Thomas Traherne.

They have two children, Eleanor (8) and Olivia (3).

He is a keen cyclist and swimmer and enjoys reading, drama, music, and travel.

In July 10th 2007 he was appointed the 113th Bishop of Worcester.

Known as an engaging preacher and a sensitive pastor, he was one of the finalists in the Michael Ramsey Prize for Theological Writing in 2005. with his publication 'A Christian Theology of Place' (Ashgate, 2003), & he has also written "Living Love: In Conversation with the Number One Ladies' Detective Agency" (Inspire, 2007) - which looks at the Christian message contained within Alexander McCall Smith's very popular novels about Africa.

As was Bishop + Peter (Selby), he is one of the church leaders who support the 'Living Ghosts' statement [campaigning to change the Government policies that make people seeking asylum destitute].

www.church-poverty.org.uk/campaigns/livingghosts/

Born in 1955, he attended Kent College in Canterbury, then undertook a BSc in Chemistry at St. Chads College, Durham. After completing a PGCE at Keble College, Oxford, Bishop John taught Chemistry at Lancing College in Sussex before ordination.

He studied at the College of the Resurrection in Mirfield, Yorkshire and was ordained deacon in 1983 and priest in 1984 in the Diocese of Chichester.

Bishop John's first appointments were as a chaplain at Lancing College and then Harrow School, where he also continued teaching both Chemistry and Religious Studies.

He then spent six years as vicar of an inner-city parish at St. Luke's Church, Wallsend, on Tyneside. During this time he was also very involved in social responsibility throughout the Diocese of Newcastle.

Bishop John moved to the Diocese of Ely in 1996 where he was appointed Residentiary Canon of Ely Cathedral. Here he had responsibility for education and mission, becoming Vice Dean of the Cathedral in 1999 and Bishop of Huntingdon in 2003.

He acted as Warden of Readers and ensuring that both lay people and clergy felt supported in their ministry. He was heavily involved in the life of Cambridgeshire on behalf of the church as Chair of Cambs. Ecumenical Council and as co-chair of the East of England Faiths Council.

He is a member of the Council at Ridley Hall, a theological college which trains priests.

Bishop John is fascinated by international affairs and cultural variety and has taken groups to Africa (on seven occasions), India, South America, Russia and the Holy Land; and fostered Indian and African links with the Diocese of Ely. He is a longstanding member of the World Development Movement and of Amnesty International.

He is a trustee of 'Common Purpose' - an international organisation that helps people in leadership & decision-making positions in the private, public and voluntary sectors to be more effective in their own organisations; and is listed as an Honorary Fellow of St Chad's College Fellowship.

<http://www.dur.ac.uk/StChads/>

Questions & Answer Session:

Bishop + John replied to the following questions:

"With changing population patterns, ought ministry be distributed according to prediction rather than historical patterns?"

"What type of training does he associate with 'Lay-Ministry'?"

"How do we develop Worship and communicate with people

in C.21st terms?"

"Given the calls on his time, how does he prioritise?"

"What are his feelings about the uniqueness of Jesus?"

"What were his views on the Bishop's Conference?"

"Is the 'Governance' of the church - raising cash - stifling its ministry?"

"What do you feel about 'Extended Communion'?"

The Question & Answer session will be discussed at the next Synod meeting and will form part of the Minutes of that session.

Correspondence regarding the meetings should be sent to the Secretary:

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