

Road to Emmaus

AVON STOUR PASTORAL AREA

Fordingbridge Ringwood Highcliffe,
Southbourne Christchurch Iford



Update from Richard Martin, Director of Lay Formation

October 2016



Tuesday evenings
Lent to Pentecost 2017
Taster Evening: 21st Feb



Our main "Formation for Mission" initiative this academic year will be a big Pastoral Area Alpha Course, starting in Lent 2017 and ending at Pentecost. This will, I believe, play a foundational role in moving forward our focus on evangelisation across the Pastoral Area into the coming years, and I would encourage as many of you as possible to get involved, and invite family, friends and colleagues to join you.

This will be a great chance for all of us to renew and re-energise our own faith and relationship with God and to prepare us to reach out more effectively in the following months and years to those who are not Christians, through further Alpha courses in different parts of the Pastoral Area, in our everyday lives and in other ways. We will also provide a friendly and safe setting for our guests to learn about and encounter the person of Jesus through the work of the Holy Spirit, in an atmosphere of welcome, hospitality, friendship, acceptance and openness in the midst of the Catholic community. Alpha has an excellent track record in providing a vehicle for this to happen very successfully in Catholic parishes around the world, acting as a springboard for further exploration of the riches and depths of the Catholic faith.

More details to follow in due course – meanwhile, please put these dates in your diaries

Tue eves Feb 21; March 7, 14, 21, 28; April 4, 25; May 2, 9, 16, 23 + Saturday May 6

THIS TERM'S NETWORK EVENTS

These draw together all those from each of our six churches who are involved in the same ministry or activity to meet, pray and reflect together, share and discuss good practice, experience, resources, difficulties and ideas, clarify understanding of the role, see where cross-parish links and joint working/pooling of resources may be possible and identify and plan for formation/training needs.

Welcoming & Hospitality Network Event

Helping everyone feel they are welcome and belong is central to our mission and we all have a part to play, so this event is open to all, and especially important for all those involved in parish welcoming and hospitality ministry.

Come to *EITHER* of the following;

- **Thu 13th October 1.00-3.00pm** at Our Lady Queen of Peace church hall, **Southbourne** (*why not bring your packed lunch from 12.30?*)
- **Tue 18th October 7.15-9.15pm** at St Joseph's Parish Centre, **Christchurch**

Local Pastoral Councils Network Event

Thu 10th November 7.15-9.15pm at Our Lady of Sorrows church hall, **Fordingbridge** for members of all six LPCs (refreshments from 7pm)

Ministry of the Word Network & Retreat Day

For readers, psalmists and Liturgy Groups:
Sat 10th December (tbc) at St Thomas More church hall, **Iford**, probably **11am-3.30pm**

Welcome to Worship

"I am standing at the door, knocking"

Wed 16th Nov 7.00 - 8.30 pm

(followed by refreshments)

at **St Thomas More Church, Iford**

*Pastoral Area event for all adults and young people:
sung praise & worship, scripture, talk/reflection
choice of ways to respond in prayer*

FAITH FEST

Music Workshops for anyone interested
led by internationally renowned musicians
Jo Boyce and Andrew Moss (CJM Music)

Sat 15 Oct 10am-4pm

Holy Redeemer Church, Highcliffe
For more info, email: celticmurphy4@aol.com

Bible Study: Wednesday evenings

7.15 for 7.30-9.00pm

Holy Redeemer Church, Highcliffe
Everyone welcome

Richard Martin: tel/text: 07990 826934
email: rmartin@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk