

# Anglican World

NEWS & NOTES

Number 1 • January 2008

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### ***Lambeth 2008 Prayer***

*Pour down upon us, O God, the gifts of your Holy Spirit,  
that those who prepare for the Lambeth Conference  
may be filled with wisdom and understanding.*

*May they know and work within them  
that creative energy and vision which belong to our humanity,  
made in your image and redeemed by your love,*

*Through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*

**An occasional newsletter from the Anglican Communion Office in London**

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**WELCOME** to the first edition of **ANGLICAN WORLD NEWS AND NOTES**, an occasional newsletter from the Anglican Communion Office in London, with updates and information on current activities in and around the Communion and in the London secretariat.

The newsletter is designed for easy downloading and distribution in the diocese, deanery or parish. Your comments are welcome. Be an informed Anglican and share the availability of this newsletter with others.

The Editor



## LAMBETH 2008

The Lambeth Conference programme was officially launched on 21 January at a gathering in Lambeth Palace hosted by Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams and Mrs Jane Williams.

12 provinces of the Communion were represented at the event, as a coach full of bishops arrived from the International Study Centre at Canterbury Cathedral, part of their successful new bishops' course led by Canon Ed Condry of the cathedral. There were 32 bishops from West Africa, Nigeria, Sudan, Canada, South India, North India, Australia, Congo, Tanzania, Southern Africa, West Indies, and Brazil.

The bishops met with staff members of Lambeth Palace as well as with Canon Kenneth Kearon, Secretary General of the Anglican Communion and members of his staff, including Terrie Robinson (Ecumenical Affairs) and Clare Amos (Theological Issues), before having lunch, a tour and then attending the launch in the atrium. Sue Parks, Manager of the Lambeth Conference, met with the new bishops in Canterbury.

Taking part in the media launch and briefing were Archbishop and Mrs Williams; Archbishop Sir Ellison Pogo, Chairman of the Lambeth Design Group (LDG); Archbishop Ian Ernest of the Indian Ocean, LDG member; and Mrs Margaret Sentamu from the Diocese of York (England), who is on the Spouses Programme Design Group.

In his opening remarks Archbishop Pogo said that the Design Group has decided on a programme that will help the bishops "live together with our differences and see the dignity of differences in our life together as a Communion". Archbishop Ian Ernest spoke of the reality that "the composition of the Design Group is in itself an expression of who we are as a world-wide Communion". He said, "We are conscious of the prevailing tensions but it is our duty to see ourselves as servants of the Lord, bring to the Communion a spirit of hope." He added that he felt the "Lambeth Conference as designed will equip bishops to be better leaders in God's mission and thus strengthen the Anglican Communion".

During the question time Archbishop Williams spoke of his hopes for the July gathering. He told reporters, "what

I would really like to see happening at the Lambeth Conference is people starting to talk in the first person and second person rather than the third all the time. And that can't happen unless there is a degree of space given for people to get to know each other.

I understand that storytelling sounds somewhat a soft option when there are big issues to discuss. In fact I don't think that's true. I think that we effectively we discuss crises, challenges when we have built up a measure of trust and understanding."

He said, "To those bishops who do not wish to attend, I recognise their absolute right to choose in good faith and in conscience whether or not they can be there. The invitation is on the table; naturally I shall be delighted to see more rather than fewer bishops there, that is their choice, but the door is open."

Responding to a question concerning homosexuality, Archbishop Williams stated, "We will look at Sexuality and the Ministry of Bishops. There will be reporting back from the Listening Process that came out of the previous Lambeth Conference. I am sure it is also going to be part of conversation informally day by day." ■

[See ACNS for more details. Ed.]



The Archbishop and Mrs Williams led the bishops in a photo call outside their home following the media launch of Lambeth 2008. (ACNS Rosenthal)

## LAMBETH LAUNCH

### From Archbishop Rowan

I'd like to start by putting this year's Lambeth Conference in some kind of context by saying a brief word or two about how it got started. The first Lambeth Conference was called by Archbishop Charles Longley in 1867 - partly, as it happens, in response to a crisis about the limits of diversity allowed in the Anglican churches around the world; so there's nothing so very new about a Lambeth Conference meeting in a climate of some controversy. But the important new fact about the Anglican family of churches at that point was that it was a time when non-English and indeed non-white influences were for the first time making a real impact in the Communion, and needed to be celebrated and affirmed. Not only did the Canadian Church contribute strongly to the thinking around the Conference; it was also attended by the first black Anglican bishop, Samuel Crowther from Nigeria, who had been made a bishop just three years earlier. It was a moment when there was a real acknowledgement that a world-wide Church had to find ways of sharing its challenges and its triumphs - and some aspects of its decision-making.

The Conference has never been a lawmaking body in the strict sense and it wasn't designed to be one: every local Anglican province around the world has its own independent system of church law and there is no Supreme Court. But there was already in 1867 a deep concern to find ways short of passing formal laws that would make sure that Anglicans around the world acted in a responsible way towards each other and stayed faithful to the common inheritance of biblical and doctrinal faith. This is as much a challenge now as it was then. But the very fact of the Conference shows that we have always been willing to look for such ways of setting our common life on a firm basis so that we can act and serve more effectively in our world.

The Conference this year has two key points of focus: strengthening the sense of a shared Anglican identity among the bishops from around the world, and helping to equip bishops for the role they increasingly have as leaders in mission, involved in a whole variety of ways in helping the Church grow.

Because none of this would happen without a deeper commitment to prayer and studying the Bible, this year's Conference will begin with a couple of days' retreat, in which we can spend time together in quiet and begin to direct our minds towards the central issues of faith. And as in previous Conferences, every day will begin with worship and Bible study in small groups.

We've been exceptionally lucky in the gifts and the vision of the Design Group for this year's Conference. Drawn from a wide range of backgrounds, they have come together in a remarkable way to create not only a programme of events - about which we can speak in more detail later - but also a whole way of doing business. In contrast to previous Conferences, we have planned a larger number of medium-sized groups instead of larger issue-focused groups, so that more people can have a say in the discussion. We've called these 'Indaba' groups, picking up an African word for meetings where significant questions are worked through in a community.

In spite of the painful controversies, which have clouded the life of the Communion for the last few years, there remains, as many people have repeatedly said, a very strong loyalty to each other and a desire to stay together. The fact that about 70% of bishops world-wide have already formally registered for the Conference, with a number of others who have signalled that they will attend, shows something of this desire. But it is also reflected in the life of so many Anglican organisations that continue to work across national and regional boundaries - the Mothers' Union, the enormous variety of church-based development projects dealing with HIV/AIDS or educational matters, the partnership relations between bishops and dioceses from different parts of the globe - the relationship, for example, between my own diocese of Canterbury and the church in Madagascar, or between Salisbury diocese and the Sudanese province. These close and personal relationships, which are not often in the headlines because they simply carry on doing the work they set out to do, are part of the solid ground that helps us cope with the turbulence in other areas. The programme of pre-Lambeth hospitality which is being offered by

local churches here in the UK will help to consolidate these relationships for the future, in ways that will respect the integrity of all.

In short, I believe we have, thanks to the hard work of our Design Group and Sue Parks, our Conference Manager, an unusually varied and original programme - details of which are in your press packs - and a fresh style of working which will allow us both to confront differences honestly and to be focused anew on our primary tasks of service and mission. It is with real confidence that I introduce the work of this year's Lambeth Conference to you, with enormous thanks to all who have laboured in organising it; I know its vision is supported by the prayers of many people in our Communion, and I hope many more will go on holding it in their thoughts and prayers in the coming months. ■



## LAMBETH SPOUSES

Concerning the Spouses Programme, Mrs Jane Williams said:

Some of you may think of the Spouses conference as basically Jam and Jerusalem, more tea vicar or mitre-making and flower-arranging. There will certainly be food and singing in our programme, but there will also be a chance to meet some of the most interesting, committed and dynamic people in the Anglican Communion.

Bishops' spouses are as varied as the spouses of people in any other profession would be, but we do have some things in common: like our faith, and the pains and pleasures of living with and supporting a bishop!

Our planning group for the Spouses Conference has been a real privilege.

I have learned a bit of what it's like to live through drought, floods and elections in parts of Australia, or to run micro-finance projects in Africa. Our sister from Myanmar was amazed to find that we knew far more about the troubles in her country than she did. This kind of family knowledge we have about each other across the Anglican Church is what builds our advocacy for each other, our prayer for each other, and our action for each other.

So our two main aims in the Spouses Conference are to learn from each other and to resource ourselves to be God's People for God's Mission.

In lots of Anglican provinces, spouses can hardly meet at all, because of distances and lack of resources, and while all bishops get some kind of training and resourcing for their role, their spouses may not. And for many of the people coming, this is the only break they will get in 2008, and for some of them, their only opportunity to travel outside their own country, ever. So we want to make the most of what will, for most of us, be a once in a lifetime chance to equip ourselves, in the company of others who really know what we need. Our programme gives time for quite a lot of telling our stories and learning how to listen to each other. In my own experience, this is where the reality of the 'Anglican Communion' comes alive, in hearing the diversity, richness, challenges and successes of other Christians around the world.

We also plan to make something together, which will symbolise our connectedness, and that communicates without words our variety and our unity.

We plan to look at some of the huge issues that face us all, and that diminish God's people and make it harder for others to hear God's good news. For example, the effects of ecological change, the challenge of health care projects, or the way in which gender violence affects our communities. For some of these themes, we will be joining the Bishops' Conference, because these are not 'women's issues'. The whole people of God need to be challenged and have their needs heard and ministered to in these areas.

I hope it will become clear why I am proud to belong to this extraordinary company of Bishops' spouses; I hope you will see just how varied the mission and ministry of the Anglican Communion is; and I hope we will go home at the end of Lambeth 2008, knowing that we have friends across the world on whom we can rely in good times and bad. ■

## **CHALLENGE 600 BURSARIES FUND RAISING DRIVE**

**from Sue Parks, Conference  
Manager**

"The Conference theme of equipping bishops for missions is a call by the Archbishop of Canterbury to empower the Anglican Communion for its living out Christ's gospel in the years ahead" from Challenge 600.

A challenge to dioceses and parishes, too... A global gathering is an expensive venture. We estimate that some 600 bishops and spouses will need significant financial assistance, to cover travel and accommodation, in order to attend Lambeth 2008 in Canterbury. In addition, the conference must cover the costs of translators, trained stewards, speakers and other key guests. Would you consider raising \$7000 USD or £3500 GBP to make LC 2008 a reality for all the bishops? ■

For details, please contact  
anna.potts@lambethconference.org

## **NEWS AND NOTES**

### **London Meeting**

The Joint Standing Committee of the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) and the Primates of the Anglican Communion (JSC) will meet for their regular annual meeting 29 February - 4 March at St Andrew's House in London. The chairman of the ACC is the Bishop of Auckland, the Rt Revd John Paterson. The Archbishop of Canterbury presides over parts of the meeting. The JSC oversees the ongoing life of the Communion, including the work of the various departments of the Anglican Communion Office and the Networks of the Communion. The next ACC is set for 2009. ■

### **New Website**

The new Anglican Communion website design is proving to be a successful tool in outlining the work and ministry of the Anglican Communion Office, the Staff, the Networks and beyond. [www.anglicancommunion.org](http://www.anglicancommunion.org) should be a link on all Anglican parish and organisational websites.

Our important links with the Compass Rose Society, St George's College and the Anglican Centre in Rome are now live online and displayed at the bottom of the homepage.

Anglican Communion News Service and the Digest continue to be a primary source for accurate and official news from the Communion at large. Visit us daily. News from your part of the Anglican world is always welcome. ■

### **Visit Us At Canterbury**

Those visiting England during July are most welcome to visit the Lambeth Conference Market Place when in Canterbury. While the conference is only for bishops and their spouses, members of the public will be invited to visit the many displays, shops, and events sponsored through the Market Place. The University of Kent at Canterbury is the venue for Lambeth 2008. Visit the official website for more information. ■  
[www.lambethconference.org](http://www.lambethconference.org)

### **Welcome New Primates**

**Southern Africa:** The Most Revd Thabo Makgoba; **Myanmar (Burma):** The Most Revd Stephen Than Myint Oo. ■

### **New Inter Faith Publication**

A new booklet, *Generous Love: the truth of the Gospel and the call to dialogue - An Anglican theology of inter faith relations*, will be launched on 7 February in London and will be available from the NIFCON desk here at St Andrew's House. Please contact [susanne.mitchell@aco.org](mailto:susanne.mitchell@aco.org) for details. ■

### **Anglican Cycle Of Prayer And E-Cards**

Daily intentions and updates are included on the homepage of our website. Any corrections should be sent to [suminder.duggal@aco.org](mailto:suminder.duggal@aco.org) asap. Also visit the website for new e-cards for religious occasions. ■