

Spring 2019

Friends of Holland House

The Friends of Holland House support the ministry of the House, its Trustees, Warden and Staff through counsel, prayer, financial support and practical assistance

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What's on in the House

Have you visited the Holland House Library recently?

If not—take an opportunity to spend sometime in this cosy room and explore the shelves. You will find a lot of changes!

Recently a small group, from the Diocese of Worcester and the Friends, amalgamated three libraries - the Robin Woods Library and The Old Palace Library, both of which were closing, and the Holland House library. They sorted through the books, selecting those which were up to date and relevant to current users. A survey of potential library users in the Diocese had been carried out to see what



sorts of books people would like to see in the library and this informed the selection. A lot of the older books were sold in aid of an African charity. Then the books needed to be sorted into categories so that people can easily find books which interest them.

Our final selection comes under the following headings: (*categories chosen by us, so you won't find them arranged according to the usual Dewey system!*)

Bible General, Bible Commentaries OT, Bible Commentaries, NT Theology, Ecclesiology, Ethics, Spirituality, Worship, Church History, Feminist Theology, Sexuality, New Theologies, Ecology, Science and Faith, Comparative Religion, Biography, Poetry, Ministry, Mission, Death and Dying, C.S.Lewis (so many he merits a category of his own!), Prayer

- **and a space for New Books** (people donate books from time to time – this provides an opportunity for them to be perused before they are filed alongside others and books maybe bought to support a particular course or retreat from time to time). (Cont'd on page 3)

Have you enjoyed and valued your time at Holland House?

If so please consider becoming a Friend and supporting the work we do.

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You can join by going to the Holland House website—
www.hollandhouse.org

Click on *Friends of Holland House*

Or ask at Holland House Reception

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Dear Friends,

At the recent Reconciliation Weekend I announced that I would be stepping down as Chair of the Friends at the AGM in October. Having explained my thinking to the Committee, I thought it would be helpful to share my thoughts with you.

As you know, I took over following the sudden death of Canon David Rogers, the previous Chair. The Friends then needed a period of stability and an opportunity to re-organise because David had been so deeply involved in all our activities. At the same time, the Trustees were going through a period of re-organisation which resulted in the House becoming a Charity Incorporated Organisation, so it was the right time for the Friends to prepare a Constitution (approved, as you know, at our last AGM).

When I took on the chairmanship I had fewer commitments - it was less than a year after I had retired and had recently become an assistant bishop in Worcester and Hereford Dioceses. Since then, I have found myself with more commitments, some of which are specific to my being a bishop. In addition, have known for some time that Bishop Richard (Hereford) will be retiring in November, and we have recently congratulated Bishop Graham (Dudley) on his appointment to Norwich; both of these moves will be followed by a period of vacancy during which the assistant bishops will fill in some of the gaps. In particular, I have been asked to pick up the lead safeguarding role for the Diocese of Worcester, as when Bishop Graham was on sabbatical last autumn.

I doubt whether the post of Chair will be as hotly contested as the leadership of the Conservative Party but I know that the various people consulted will think and pray carefully about my successor. Meanwhile, I shall still keep in touch with the House, not least in the 'Bishops in Conversation', Deanery Days and Sponsored Rowing (see below).

Blessings,

+ Robert.

A Summer's Evening

What better way to spend a summer's evening than sipping Pimms, listening to the Blackheart Orchestra, enjoying a Holland House buffet supper?

Warden Ian Spencer and retiring Chair of the Friends, Bishop Robert, will be embarking on their third rowing adventure along the river Avon. They will be rowing Holland House boat, *Maria*, from Stratford upon Avon back to Holland House on **Thursday 1st August**.

Come and join us in the garden to welcome them back, (bring your own chair or picnic rug). The Gardens will be open from 5pm when we will be serving Pimms and the rowers are expected at approx. 5.30pm. This will be followed by an evening of music from the wonderful Blackheart Orchestra and a buffet supper.

All proceeds from the ticket sales, **£15 each**, will be given to the Anniversary Appeal. And of course you can sponsor the rowers! To donate go to <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/6046#/DonationDetails> or send a cheque with "Maria" written on the back to Holland House



April and May are very busy months for the Holland House gardener, Julian. With the Crophorne Walkabout scheduled for the first weekend in May there is a lot of tidying and preparation to be carried out in the main gardens. Wild flowers carpet the grassy areas as they are allowed to flower before the first grass cutting of the season in May, the herbaceous borders come to life in the spring sunshine and rain and the wisteria on the old house flowers just in time for the open weekend. Whilst Julian is busy with these preparations he also faces one of the busiest periods in the extensive vegetable garden. Flower, vegetable and herb seeds are planted in the newly painted greenhouse and the open ground is prepared for the onions, courgettes, rhubarb, current bushes, beans and much more that will grow to help feed summer and autumn guests.

Some of last year's produce has been used by Aimee, Tom and the kitchen staff to produce a startling array of jams, chutneys, relishes and oils. These were on sale at the Walkabout alongside full afternoon teas and tea, coffee and cakes (served by the Friends). Jams and chutneys are always available from the Holland House Shop.



Looking at the vegetable garden from Julian's shed

Bursaries for Holland House retreats and events

Holland House is a Christian charity that seeks to encourage everyone who would like to come to share this sacred space. We therefore try hard to keep our prices balanced between what we need to support the House, and what is reasonable for guests to pay – it's a mutual commitment "*where your heart is, there your treasure is also.*" (Matthew 6.21, Luke 12.34). However we also know that not everyone who would benefit from time spent at Holland House can afford to do so and there are a bursaries available to assist people. If you or someone you know would value such an opportunity and you have explored other opportunities to obtain assistance then contact the Warden, Ian Spencer, for information on applying for a bursary.

Warden and Trustees of Holland House

Holland House Library (cont'd)

At first we attempted to stick labels over the Dewey numbers, but they wouldn't stick, so now Holland House Library labels are being put inside the books. We hope that you will agree that the new collection looks more attractive than the old!

'Coffee table' (big, with pictures) books are on the carousel under the stairs (or lying around in the drawing -room). There is a bookcase on the upstairs landing for novels that can be borrowed. Unfortunately in the confusion some books the staff wanted to keep, such as local history, local walks, flora and fauna, seem to have gone missing, so if anyone wants to donate such books they would be welcome in the bookcase in the Study upstairs. (check with staff first)

Brenda Morton (Trustee)



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Contact Friends of Holland House via Holland House or friends@hollandhouse.org

See the latest news of the Friends on the House website:
www.hollandhouse.org

Click on [Friends of Holland House](#) for the Friends' pages

Be a Friend to Holland House

- Come along to programme events - is there something you would like to come to during the summer? - see below
- Wear one of the Friends of Holland House badges (available from Reception) when you are in the House and tell others about us
- Sign up for a poster to display in your church or organisation
- Volunteer at Holland House - see the Friends' pages on the website for suggestions
- Remember the staff and all who visit Holland House in your prayers

Book the date:

Friends of Holland House AGM and Dinner
-Monday October 14th

SUMMER AT HOLLAND HOUSE

Thursday May 23rd	Yoga for Christians, 9.30am—4pm, £38 including lunch and refreshments
Friday May 24th	Quiet Garden Day, hosted by the Friends, 10am—4pm £12 (including refreshments) + £12 for a pre-booked two course lunch
Thursday June 13th	Praying Differently - for folk looking for a richer experience of prayer. Small group up to four people. £40 including lunch and refreshments
Thursday June 13th	Bishop Robert Patterson in conversation with.....Robert Springett, Bishop of Tewkesbury. Hot supper served at 6.30pm followed by conversation - £25
Wednesday June 19th	Quiet Garden Day, hosted by the Friends, 10am—4pm. £12 (including refreshments) + £12 for a pre-booked two course lunch
Thursday July 4th	Bishop Robert Patterson in conversation with.....John Inge, Bishop of Worcester. Hot supper served at 6.30pm followed by conversation - £25
Thursday July 11th	Quiet Garden Day, hosted by the Friends, 10am—4pm, £12 (including refreshments) + £12 for a pre-booked two course lunch
Friday July 12th	Creative Arts Retreat Movement—Colours of God with Christine Dodd, 10am – 4pm, £35 including lunch and refreshments
Thursday July 18th	Richard Rohr Meditation, 'Discharging the loyal soldier', £38 including lunch and refreshments
Thursday July 25th	Yoga for Christians, 9.30am—4pm, £38 including lunch and refreshments
Thursday August 1st	A Summer Evening—welcome Ian and Robert after their sponsored row from Stratford to Holland House. Gardens open from 5pm, music from Blackheart Orchestra and buffet supper. Tickets £15—proceeds to the <i>Anniversary Appeal</i>
Thursday 15th August	Quiet Garden Day, hosted by the Friends, 10am—4pm, £12 (including refreshments) + £12 for a pre-booked two course lunch
Mon Sept.2nd—Friday 6th	CARM Calligraphy with Sunita Auger and Judy Dinnen, Residential Retreat, £395,
Monday 9th September	Bishop Robert Patterson in conversation with.....John Stroyan, Bishop of Warwick. Hot supper served at 6.30pm followed by conversation - £25

To book at Holland House:

Book online at www.hollandhouse.org

Email enquiries@hollandhouse.org

Phone 01386 860330

Holland House Retreat Centre, Main Street, Crothorne,
Worcestershire WR10 3NB