



press release
14 September 2010

Bishop of Aston to speak at new CPAS vocations event for young people

A new event for young people exploring God's call on their lives is being launched next month by CPAS, the Anglican evangelical mission agency.

Lifecall (www.cpas.org.uk/lifecall) is a one-day event designed for people aged 16 to 25, with the Rt Rev Andrew Watson, Bishop of Aston, guest speaker at the first event on 16 October in Warwick.

The event will give attendees the chance to begin to answer questions about what God's plan is for them, whether they are called to some kind of formal leadership and discover the realities of ordained or pioneer ministry.

A second *Lifecall* event will take place at St Luke's, Watford on 26 February 2011.

Mark Norris, CPAS leadership development adviser for vocations, said: 'We want every young Christian to recognise God's call on their life and to follow what he wants them to do as part of their discipleship. Hopefully, these *Lifecall* events will help young people become more fulfilled by discovering God's particular call for them, doing what he wants them to do where he wants them to be.

'We've created these events as part of our response to the fact that only one per cent of clergy in the Church of England are under 30. We want to encourage people to consider the different possibilities of how God may be calling them at an earlier age.

'*Lifecall* events will also take the lid off several different types of formal leadership, including parish ministry, chaplaincy, ordained pioneer ministry, Church Army and youth ministry. We'll hear from different people involved in all those different areas, discussing their own vocational journeys and describing some of the joys and struggles of each role.'

Bishop Andrew's keynote address at the Warwick event will highlight the encouragement and challenge of God's call from a biblical perspective. He will be followed by three young leaders in their 20s and 30s sharing the stories of their vocational journeys and an introductory session with Mark Norris.

The afternoon will include a series of seminars, beginning with a session on parish ministry followed by the opportunity for participants to attend two further sessions about different ministry areas. The day will close with a discussion about what to do next and a time of worship.

The event costs £20 and CPAS is encouraging dioceses and churches to support young people by offering to fund the places of those who may be interested in attending.

Mark added: 'Of course the relevant next steps for each person will be very different, but we'll offer some suggestions of how to continue to explore their calling. This may include understanding themselves better by exploring their gifts, abilities and passions, or knowing who to talk to within their diocese or church. We also want to encourage people to test their gifts by getting involved and serving in the place where they currently worship.'

CPAS provides several other vocations-related resources including the online exercise *Your S.H.A.P.E. for Ministry* (www.cpas.org.uk/shape) and *Exploring Call*, a new resource for clergy who are helping church members discover their vocation, as well as *You and Ministry* weekends.

Lifecall events are part of the new CPAS *Making Mission Possible* initiative (www.makingmissionpossible.org.uk), with leadership development events taking place across all 43 English dioceses.

Ends

For further information please contact Olly Du Croz at CPAS on 01926 458443 or oducroz@cpas.org.uk.

Notes to Editors:

CPAS (www.cpas.org.uk) is an Anglican evangelical mission agency working with churches, mainly in the UK and the Republic of Ireland. It enables churches to help every person hear and discover the good news of Jesus Christ.

A summary of all CPAS vocations events, resources and advice can be found at www.cpas.org.uk/vocations.