



THE BISHOP OF ST ALBANS

The Rt Revd Dr Alan Smith

October 2009

From the Bishops of St Albans, Bedford and Hertford

Dear Colleagues

Lent 2010: Two resources

As I visit the Deaneries during my first year I am exploring what it means to 'Go deeper into God'. I am eager to encourage every Christian and congregation to consider how we might deepen our faith and understanding. There are two resources which I hope will help with this.

2010 Lent Course

Bishops Richard and Christopher have joined forces with me to write a Lent Bible Study Course, based on the gospel readings set for each Sunday. The course will be available shortly, free of charge, to be downloaded from the Diocese of St Alban's Website. We hope many churches in the diocese will use the course in their Lent Groups

Challenge

As well as the Lent course, we are launching an initiative called Challenge. We are asking as many people as possible to join us during Lent in 'Daring to live the words of Jesus'. The idea is to take a verse from the Gospel of Luke each day, seeking to learn it by heart and then praying that God will give us the chance to put them into action. *Read it, learn it, pray it, do it!* The verses will be downloadable from the internet and can be distributed to members of the youth group or congregation (or in the case of schools, to the pupils). Alternatively you can opt to receive them by text message, by email or by downloading an on-screen calendar. We hope that this challenge will be taken up by people in the churches, as well as seekers and enquirers who would like to explore the words of Jesus Christ.

The Challenge website www.challenge2010.org is online now and gives some initial information. In November people will be able to register for the Challenge through the website and there will be further details and resources available.

During Lent the website will also offer a facility so that anyone can write a blog, send an email message or record a short clip, explaining (in no more than 60 seconds) what the passage means to them and how they have lived it out that day.

Please let people know that the Challenge is coming. Look out for more information, video clips and resources. If, in the meantime, you have any questions please do get in touch with Arun Kataria (akataria@stalbans.anglican.org) or John Kiddle (jkiddle@stalbans.anglican.org). Bishop Christopher, Bishop Richard and I look forward to sharing the journey of Lent with you and many people across the diocese, to taking up the challenge to live the words of Jesus and to making a difference in our communities and in our world.

With thanks for your partnership in the Gospel,

+ Alan St Albans