



Affirming Catholicism
Inspiration and hope  in the Anglican Communion

AFFIRMING CATHOLICISM ROCHESTER

“BOUNDARIES – MEETING POINTS OR OBSTACLES?”

A talk by
The Revd. George Day
at

St. Mary's Church,
Manor Road,
Bexley,
DA5 3LX

Thursday 4th March 2010 at 8pm.

Coffee will be available from 7-30pm.
Compline will be said at 9-10pm, finishing by 9-30pm.

Our meetings are open to all and you will be very welcome.

St. Mary's has full wheelchair access and a hearing loop system.

Toilets are in the parish hall opposite the church.

Some parking is available outside the hall, or there is a public car park 5 minutes' walk away in the village. A map is available on the 'contact' section of the church website at

www.stmarysbexley.co.uk

This meeting is part of the 2010 programme arranged by the Rochester Diocesan Branch of Affirming Catholicism. More information is available from the Secretary, Mrs. Vanessa Dixon, 26, Tubbenden Drive, Orpington, Kent, BR6 9PA. Telephone 01689 851767 or email vanessa.m.dixon@btinternet.com

Some background notes on the talk and the speaker are provided overleaf, or on a separate sheet.

George Day is currently vicar of St. Barnabas, Joyden's Wood. He was ordained in 1971, serving curacies in Oxford Diocese and Southwark Diocese. He then worked for CPAS (Church Pastoral Aid Society), dealing mainly with people considering a call to ordained ministry, or in training. This was followed by a 19 year incumbency at St. Barnabas, St. Paul's Cray. He came to Joyden's Wood in 2005, to a church that was in a fairly desperate state, but which has seen considerable growth since then. He is currently very concerned that that should continue after he retires this coming September! He is married to Elaine, with two grown-up children.

“Boundaries – meeting points or obstacles?”

The parish of Joyden's Wood sits in an interesting way across both political and ecclesiastical boundaries. George grew up spiritually in a large evangelical church, which gave an excellent grounding in so many aspects of Christian Faith, but which tended to emphasise boundaries between “us” and “them”, (especially those nasty liberals and catholics!) On the other hand, there was an emphasis on much closer relationships with other evangelical churches or groups. For evangelicals within the Church of England the 1960's brought a moment of decision as to where they belonged, what links they particularly valued, what boundaries there were, etc. Today, in all areas of the church, new boundaries appear, and old ones sometimes disappear. Some of the old boundaries have become meeting points – as shown by Aff.Cath. inviting an evangelical to speak! – but at the same time other boundaries are threatening to divide the Anglican Church. Sometimes of course there is a gracious willingness to cross boundaries or at least to make them into meeting points, and real progress results. On the other hand, boundaries can become rigid, the other side is seen as the enemy, and so these boundaries become obstacles to the Kingdom of God. So we shall reflect on why we have boundaries, how we respond to them, and to what extent we can make them into meeting points.