



The Church of England
in Essex and East London
Diocese of Chelmsford

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A message from the Bishop of Barking - To all clergy and lay leaders in the Barking Episcopal Area

Dear friends and colleagues,

Bishop's Study Days in the Barking Episcopal Area

I want to remind you of two key opportunities to share new understanding in our mission and ministry as we seek to extend the Kingdom of God in East London and South West Essex. These days are designed for both clergy and lay leaders in particular.

Opportunities for church leaders to get together across the whole Barking Area are few. This is not only an excellent way to deepen our knowledge and extend our skills, but also to share fellowship with one another around significant and relevant subjects in our ministry and mission. Over the next nine months we have two topics to offer on our Study Days which I'm sure you will agree are extremely relevant at present to us all: artificial intelligence and dementia.

The first on **artificial intelligence (AI)** with Professor John Wyatt on Saturday 9 November is an extremely important ethical and theological issue as we advance further in this technological age. I have myself experienced John's fascinating, informed and theological approach to AI in Durham University recently and commended him to you highly. Full details and how to book day are shown below.



Bishop's Study Day - Artificial Intelligence and Christianity with Professor John Wyatt

Saturday 9 November, 9.30-2pm at All Saints Woodford Wells

Inmans Row, Woodford Green, IG8 0NH

Advancements in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and robotics have been making the headlines for some time now. There is clearly a growing interest in humanoid robots and the varied issues raised by their interactions with humans. How does this speak into Christian ethics?

John Wyatt is co-Principal Investigator for a research project at the Faraday Institute on the implications for human self-understanding of recent advances in artificial intelligence and robotic technology.

Cost £15 including lunch, £5 concessions

Booking: email HHenry@chelmsford.anglican.org

The challenge of **dementia** potentially affects all of us, in our families, in our ministry and maybe even personally as life expectancy increases. How do we minister? How do we support individuals and families who are affected so perplexingly and harrowingly? How do we cope? This second study day is planned to take place on Saturday 7 March 2020, with details to follow. Please note the date now for your diaries well in advance.

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Once again I am grateful to Jill Mowbray, our Area Ministry Training Adviser, for planning these days for us with the small teams that she pulls together. Can I strongly encourage you to consider attending both days. Sadly and embarrassingly over the last year, Jill and I have had to cancel 2 study days late on due lack of bookings, then to be told by many 'Oh we were coming but hadn't yet booked'. The dates and subjects are indicated very well in advance and we cannot wait until a few days before to be sure they are viable. So **please do book in early** so that we can be sure of arrangements and **do spread the word** with your leadership teams and congregations, through Sunday notice sheets, websites and magazines. Both of these days have been deliberately put on a Saturday to make it possible for all lay leaders and other interested congregation members to attend as well as clergy.

Next month, I will be writing to you about Vocations.

With continuing prayers and good wishes,

+ Peter

