

THE MIRFIELD LITURGICAL INSTITUTE

at

THE COLLEGE OF THE RESURRECTION

MIRFIELD, home of the Community and College of the Resurrection, has for over one hundred years been a centre of commitment to and excellence in liturgical study and practice, from the days of Walter Frere in the first half of the last century to the present, through teaching, research and significant contributions to the wider national, international and ecumenical contexts.

A NEW VENTURE

In order to continue to co-ordinate, develop and share more widely and effectively the diverse liturgical resources Mirfield has to offer, the College of the Resurrection has launched the ***Mirfield Liturgical Institute (MLI)*** as a work of the College under the leadership of the Revd Dr Ben Gordon-Taylor, Lecturer in Liturgical Studies and the first Director of the Institute.

FOSTERING FORMATION THROUGH STUDY AND GOOD PRACTICE

A primary overall aim is to make a contribution towards meeting the need for liturgical formation in the churches. We aim to do this by providing opportunities for ongoing reflection among liturgical scholars and practitioners, and by resourcing more formal study for postgraduate qualifications in order that future teachers of liturgy may be appropriately encouraged and equipped at every level.

Among more formal study opportunities available immediately is the new ***Liturgical Studies Pathway*** within our existing ***MA in Theology and Pastoral Studies***, the first candidates for which begin their studies in September 2008. More information about this can be found on the accompanying flyer, and we would welcome enquiries for enrolment in the autumn of 2009.

Among the other initial activities of the MLI will be a regular ***Mirfield Liturgy Seminar***. This will provide a forum for informed and structured reflection on liturgical scholarship and practice. At each seminar a paper will be presented for discussion and the participants will share in a meal and further informal conversation. Those interested in participating in this seminar, which will meet approximately three times per year, are warmly encouraged to contact Ben Gordon-Taylor at the Institute.

A FLOURISHING CENTRE FOR RESEARCH

Fundamental to all of this work is the further development of a flourishing culture of liturgical research at Mirfield. For this reason, the new Institute will seek to strengthen this element of our activity, and seek to provide increased ***opportunities for research*** in liturgical studies, leading to higher degrees in partnership with the University of Leeds. We are also keen to hear from those who might wish to consider the possibility of spending all or part of ***a sabbatical at the MLI***.

A COLLABORATIVE AND ECUMENICAL VISION

We believe that collaboration with others is also essential to the Institute's work. The MLI will seek to promote conversation and collaboration between and among researchers, teachers and pastoral liturgists, in part by means of *day conferences and symposia*, but also in ongoing conversation with existing bodies which seek to promote liturgical study and good practice, and the sharing with them of our facilities and resources. An example of this is the recent hosting at the MLI in August 2008 of the highly successful Biennial Conference of the Society for Liturgical Studies, which has indicated that it wishes to return in 2010. In 2009 we are glad also to be hosting a meeting of the Church of England's Liturgical Commission. We would warmly welcome enquiries from other bodies who may wish to explore the facilities we can offer for the hosting of training events, symposia etc.

Independent and ecumenical in scope, the Institute will therefore work to develop existing contacts at home and overseas: with institutes for Liturgical Studies in Britain and Ireland, Italy, Germany, France and elsewhere, as well as maintaining the closest possible contact with the official bodies of the churches which promote and resource liturgical study and good practice.

Working collaboratively in this way, it is hoped that the MLI has a distinctive contribution to make. We would be delighted to hear from groups and individuals interested in our activities and to initiate conversations as to how we might effectively work together.

CONTACT THE MLI

For further information, a copy of our inaugural programme when it is issued, and to join our mailing list please contact:

The Revd Dr Ben Gordon-Taylor
Director of the Mirfield Liturgical Institute

The Mirfield Liturgical Institute
College of the Resurrection,
Mirfield,
West Yorkshire
WF14 0BW

Tel: 01924 481909 (direct)
Email: liturgy@mirfield.org.uk