

'Anything to Declare?' is a one day workshop one by Paul Rush the diocesan evangelism advisor.

This will be Paul's second visit to the EBP as last summer he spoke at one of the EBP garden parties on mission.

The phrase 'anything to declare' is of course one known to those who travel abroad and is seen on re-entry to the UK. Often we have nothing to declare as we are within the legal limits for the effects we bring back from holiday. However, Paul often uses a legal analogy for speaking about faith. He likens evangelists-the ones who are trained to use their gift to tell others in depth about the good news of Jesus- to barristers. In a court of law the barrister makes a good case to defend a client. However, the case is often dependent on the contribution of witnesses who use their own words to describe the situation or experience that is relevant to the case. Anyone can be called as a witness but not anyone can do the work of a Barrister. In our day to day lives we are not all called as evangelists but we are all called to witness to the reality and impact God has.

Paul helps us all to do this, however unskilled we may feel to be as natural witnesses.

His starting point -to get us to tell our stories-is often-'Why are you still a Christian?'

So, this course is for everyone really. It is to help us be more confident in speaking of God and faith, which is necessary today in today's society.

It is particularly relevant if you are involved in any kind of pastoral encounter or other situations in which people know you are a person of faith. It is for those for whom the realisation has dawned that speaking of faith is not just the vicar's job.

Paul is entertaining and thought provoking. He speaks of how mission comes before church (a new idea for many) and is gentle in his challenge to us.

Come along to join in and to encourage one another.

Please bring your own lunch. Drinks will be provided.