



PRESS RELEASE

Subject: Exhibition: Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy
 ‘Woodbine Willie’ – The Worcester Years
Venue: Worcester Cathedral, The Dean’s Chapel
Date: **Extended to Sunday 15th March 2009**

plus

**Service of Thanksgiving for his life and work –
Sunday 8th March, 6.30pm in Worcester Cathedral
Preacher: Canon Paul Tongue**

Canon Paul Tongue has researched and put together an exhibition to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the death of the famous World War I Padre, Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy, best known by his nick name of Woodbine Willie. He was Vicar of St Paul’s, Worcester from 1914 to 1922, and his family continued to live in the city when he became a world renowned Preacher until his premature death in 1929.

By kind permission of the Dean and Chapter the Exhibition will be on display in the Cathedral from Tuesday, February 24th until Sunday, March 8th. Admission is free and the Exhibition is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

The displays include many photographs and documents relating to his time as Vicar of St Paul’s, to his time as an Army Chaplain and to his time as Chief Missioner of the Industrial Christian Fellowship. There are press reports and photos of the Funeral in the Cathedral, and original film clips of the Funeral. Also on show are Vestments and Church furnishings used by Woodbine Willie in St Paul’s Church.

The Exhibition culminates with a Service of Thanksgiving for his Life and Ministry on the anniversary of his death, Sunday, March 8th. The Service will take place in the Cathedral at 6-30 p.m., and will include Readings from Woodbine Willie’s Poems and Despatches from the Western Front, and Music and Hymns used at his Funeral. The City will be represented by the Mayor, the Diocese by the Bishop and the Royal British Legion will attend. Canon Paul Tongue will preach. His parents owed their Christian faith to Woodbine Willie, and Canon Tongue was himself brought up as a member of St Paul’s Church in the 1940’s and 1950’s.

The Reverend Canon Dr Alvyn Pettersen, Canon-in-Residence, comments: “We are delighted to be marking the life of a great man, Christian and priest. The people of Worcestershire will, I am sure, wish to come to this exhibition to pay tribute to one of their own.”

Further information, interviews and photo opportunities can be arranged with Canon Tongue. Tel: 01905 352052. E-mail: fatherpaul@freeuk.com

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