

## Hepworth, Hirst and Gormley at Cathedral



*Sculpture by Steve Russell courtesy of Gallery Pangolin*

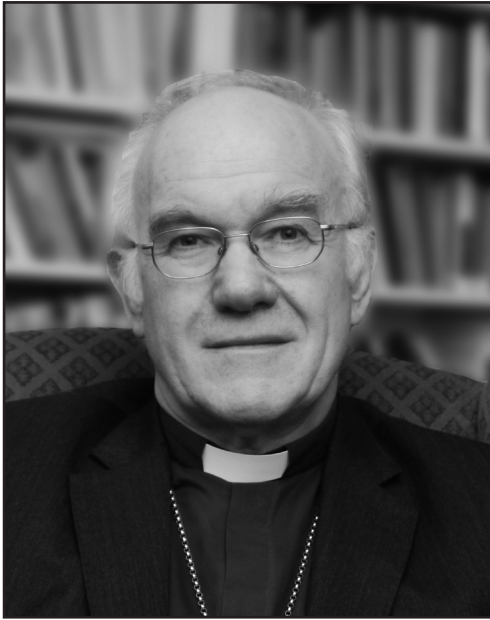
ARK is a contemporary sculpture exhibition of international importance and will take up residence at Chester Cathedral between 7 July and 15 October 2017.

The largest free-to-enter modern sculpture exhibition to be held in the north west of England, it will feature 90 works by over 50 internationally renowned sculptors including Damien Hirst, Antony Gormley, Lynn Chadwick, Barbara Hepworth, Sarah Lucas, David Mach, Kenneth Armitage and Peter Randall-Page, amongst others. It will be curated by Gallery Pangolin.

The Dean of Chester Cathedral, The Very Revd. Professor Gordon McPhate, said, "It is an honour to host such an important collection of sculpture with individual pieces chosen to reveal and complement the narrative of our building. Almost three years in the planning, ARK will bring world-class works of art to Chester entirely free of charge."

It is advisable to check the cathedral website or call the switchboard (01244) 699053 to check opening times in advance. As a working cathedral, there are times when public access is restricted.

# Only a suffering God can help



One of the most significant developments in Christian theology over the past century has been the assertion that in Jesus Christ God suffers in his inmost divine being, and not just in his humanity.

The tragedies of world news, and the brutality of totalitarian regimes, posed in new ways the question: where is God in these situations? The answer was memorably given by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, from his prison cell, as he awaited his death under Nazi rule: 'Only a suffering God can help'.

No doubt the widespread adoption of a belief that God himself suffers has brought certain dangers. It lends itself rather easily to a projection of human emotion upon God, and a view of God which is a projection of human experience. Isaiah's warning that God's ways and thoughts are not our ways and thoughts (ch. 55 v 8) must always guide us.

Nevertheless, I believe that something vital has been reclaimed in the recent tradition which ascribes suffering to God's inner being. God is a person, and is likened to a parent whose love for his children is self-giving unto death. It is very easy subtly to de-personalise God, and to see him as fundamentally a cosmic force. We should regard God as more personal than us, not less.

One way of viewing the increasing rejection of the Christian Faith in our culture is to regard it as the rejection of the false, impersonal, distant view of God which has been too influential in the Christian tradition.

The heart of the Christian Faith is the belief that God has genuinely entered human history as Jesus of Nazareth. He really did hunger and grieve. On the Cross, par excellence, he really did suffer and experience death.

In the New Testament the kingdom of God is 'at hand', is like a seed in the ground, or yeast in flour. The kingdom of God has 'come nigh', and indeed is 'within you'. It is the intimacy here which is most striking.

The recovery of the Christian Faith in our society will, I believe, go hand in hand with a recovery of a more personal and intimate view of God, as the One in whom we live and move and have our being. This is a vision of a God whom we do not encounter on certain special and rarefied occasions, but each moment of our lives.

This is what gives meaning and purpose to everything we do, just as the forces of nature are enabling our plants and trees to grow and flower, and bear fruit.

**+ Peter Forster**

## Poetry Competition

Manchester Cathedral has announced its 2017 Poetry Competition with a First Prize of £450. Poems submitted should be broadly religious or 'spiritual' in nature and have appeal to those who would not necessarily describe themselves as 'religious'. Poems are welcome in any style or form and will be judged solely on their merits as poetry. Profits from the competition go directly to the work of the Booth Centre charity for the homeless.

The closing date for entries is 30 June 2017 and results will be announced on National Poetry Day 2017. This year the entries will be judged by poet Jane Commane. The competition's entry form and its terms and conditions can be accessed by visiting [www.manchestercathedral.org/poetry](http://www.manchestercathedral.org/poetry).

## Third order of St Francis

An open day exploring the Third Order of the Society of St Francis will be held at St Chad's Church, Greengate Street, Stafford ST16 2HP. Saturday 1 July 2017 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Contact: [shelaghgreen@hotmail.com](mailto:shelaghgreen@hotmail.com)

## Chester Diocesan News

**EDITOR:** Stephen Regan, tel 01928 718834 ext 233. Email stories and pictures for the **July** issue by **18 May**, to: [stephen.regan@chester.anglican.org](mailto:stephen.regan@chester.anglican.org)

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## Rambling about Scarecrows

St Mark's, Dunham are having their Garden Ramble and Scarecrows on Sunday 18 June 1pm – 5pm, tickets £5.

Tea and cakes at the Village Hall and free parking. All proceeds to the Porch Restoration Fund.

Tickets from the Village Store and Village Hall on the day. Further information contact Maggie Brooks 0161 941 6738 or email [maggiebrooks49@googlemail.com](mailto:maggiebrooks49@googlemail.com).

## New Dean Appointed



The Collation, Induction and Installation of the new Dean of Blackburn took place on Saturday 25th March at Blackburn Cathedral. The new Dean, Very Rev. Peter Howell-Jones, greeted members of the local faith communities during the service. Dean Howell-Jones was formerly the Vice-Dean of Chester Cathedral. Speaking after the service Dean Peter said: "I have been overwhelmed by the level of support and the turnout today. It was lovely to see so many people here from so many different parts of the diocese." The new Dean was chosen via an appointment panel chaired by The Rt Hon Jack Straw, former MP for Blackburn and former Foreign Secretary.

# Diocese of Chester Ordinands



***Pictured above are many of the ordinands currently on the journey to ordination. Some are to be ordained this June and July (See ember list on the next page).***

## **Foundation for Ministry**

The diocese is always looking to encourage others to explore a calling. The Foundations for Ministry course is designed to help you discover your gifts

and calling while learning with others. This course is open to anyone who wants to grow and develop in Christian ministry and forms the first year of training for Reader and Pastoral Worker ministries. The next course begins in September. For further information or an application form please contact Peter Bacon on 01928 718834 ext 237 or email [ministry@chester.anglican.org](mailto:ministry@chester.anglican.org)



**The following people will be ordained priest in Chester Cathedral on Saturday, 17 June 2017:**

Alec Corio – Stockport St George  
Allen Waller – Oxtou  
David O'Brien – Holy Ascension  
Emma Speake – West Kirby, St Bridget  
Eunice Blackmore – Christ Church, Higher Bebington  
Gail Miller – Holmes Chapel  
Heather Carty – Guilden Sutton and Plemstall  
Jeremy Bentliff – Moreton  
John Stopford – Whitegate and Little Budworth with responsibilities at St Luke's Hospice  
Karl Williams – Great Meols (in partnership with Hoylake)  
Michelle Goodrich – Prestbury  
Patricia Robinson – Rostherne, Over Tabley and High Legh  
Philip Harris – Marple (GLO)  
Richard West – Whaley Bridge  
Tracy Ward – Sale, St Anne

**The following people will be ordained deacon in Chester Cathedral on Sunday, 2 July 2017:**

Josh Askwith - Neston  
Vicky Barrett - Bunbury  
Karen Brady - Macclesfield, St. Michael  
Peter Chamberlin - New Ferry and Rock Ferry  
Jayne Coxall - Bredbury, St. Mark  
Suzanne Eddleston - Timperley  
Sandi Fisher - Wilmslow  
Allan Goode - Birkenhead, Christ Church  
Mark Green - Witton  
Rachael Griffiths - Wybunbury, Audlem and Doddington  
Alec Ham - Hartford  
Val Hindmarsh - Norbury  
Ruth Mock - Appleton Thorn and Stretton  
Jessica Piper - Bowdon  
Kim Quak-Winslow - Sutton St. James  
Fiona Robinson - Chelford and Marthall  
Lyn Weston - Heswall  
Christina Westwell - Great Budworth  
Gill Younger - Daresbury

## Missing Women

Women's Voices 3 – Building on the success of the second Women's Voices Conference in September 2016, this year the conference will look at "Missing Women". The questions covered include: Where are the women in the Bible? Why does the Bible seem not to speak to women? How can we re-read the Bible to find a woman's narrative?

The keynote speaker is Revd Dr Miranda Threlfall Holmes, author of *The Essential History of Christianity* (2012), *The Little Book of Prayer Experiments* (2016), *The Teenage Prayer Experiment Notebook* (2015), *Being a Chaplain* (2011), and soon to be Team Rector in Liverpool. She is a Member of General Synod, and was heavily involved in the campaign to open the episcopate to women and men on equal terms. Other speakers are Revd Liz Shercliff, Director of Studies for Readers in the Diocese of Chester, Reviews and Resources Editor of *The Preacher*, and writer on preaching. She spends much of her working life encouraging women preachers and Revd Karen Lund, Archdeacon of Manchester, the first black female to be appointed Archdeacon in the northern province of the Church of England. Karen has taken a lead on raising awareness and training senior Diocesan staff on unconscious bias.

## Booking

Saturday, 9 September 2017 from 9.30am to 4pm. Foxhill House, Tarvin Road, Frodsham WA6 6XB. To book contact [jane.hood@chester.anglican.org](mailto:jane.hood@chester.anglican.org) or phone 01928 718834 ext 257. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Please advise dietary or other requirements when booking.

# Cathedral Dead Sea Scroll Exhibition Opens

Until November 10th 2017, Chester Cathedral Library is hosting an exhibition to mark the 70th anniversary of the first discoveries of Dead Sea Scrolls. This is part of the Cathedral's contribution to YBible and visits for groups large or small can be arranged.

Visits to the Exhibition can be organized at most times of day or early evening (suggested donation £3 per person), by arrangement with George Brooke: [george.brooke@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:george.brooke@manchester.ac.uk) Tel. 01244-351432. George is a Dead Sea Scrolls enthusiast and the author of the Guide to the Exhibition which is available free on the Cathedral website.



## YBible

Learn how to turn your favourite Bible verses into simple poems in a workshop led by poet

Linda Cosgriff, The workshop will be held at St Matthew's Church, Grenville Street, Edgeley, Stockport, SK3 9EE on Saturday

17 June, from 1 - 3pm. It's completely free and no experience is necessary. You are welcome to just turn up on the day or register at [goo.gl/B9MY6q](http://goo.gl/B9MY6q)

This event is being offered as part of the Diocese of Chester's YBible initiative, encouraging us all to read our Bibles more often. It is open to any church in the area, regardless of denomination.

## New Review for Clergy

Clergy in this diocese are to begin a new form of Ministerial Development Review. With the encouragement of our bishops, the vision is to establish a pattern of review and planning coinciding with the season of Easter. Clergy will be asked to reflect on their experience of ministry during the past year and explore how they can deepen and develop their ministries in the years ahead.

Revd Gary O'Neill, Bishop's advisor for Ministerial Development Review, said; "Clergy are only a small part of the much larger body of Christ, but like everyone else we need encouraging, and Easter

seems an appropriate time. Perhaps your parish can find ways of marking the ongoing ministry of your ordained sisters and brothers in Christ as together we celebrate the outpouring of the Spirit on the whole church at Pentecost."

"Entering into a process of review can always be a little daunting however long we have been in ministry and sometimes we need some help to open up our hearts. As this season of Easter 2017 ushers in a new season of encouragement between all our clergy please explore ways of supporting them: ask them how their review is going; ask how you can support them; find new ways of encouraging them and most important of all, please pray for them."

## St Chad's 50 not out!

On Sunday 5th March 2017, St Chad's Irby celebrated its Golden Jubilee. More than 250 people gathered to mark the 50th year of the church opening. Previous incumbents were present along with regular members of St Bartholomew's Thurstaston and St Chad's Irby. There were representatives of the groups who use St Chad's facilities along with representatives from Irby Methodist Church and pupils, staff and parents of the local schools. There were also two members of the congregation who were in

the congregation for the opening service in 1967!

The service included a presentation by Dawpool Primary school on St Chad, a presentation by Irby primary school following a local history project about the church building, a presentation by St Chad's Seniors on the future of the church and prayers led by 1st Thurstaston Guides. The singing was greatly enhanced by a joint choir from the two primary schools.

This was all followed by a magnificent buffet provided by members of the congregation. The day was a great success and a springboard into mission for the next 50 years.



*Pictured left to right: Revd Malcolm Kelly 1980-1992, Revd Brian Harris 1993-1999, Revd Diane Watson 2000-2007, Revd Jane Turner 2008-present*

**Holy Trinity Church** in Stalybridge is hosting a special event focussing on our persecuted church family around the world. On Sunday May 21st at 6.30pm, the event will be led by Canon Trevor Green and Paula Chester and will feature short films and information stations. Packed

with worship, prayer, inspiration and challenge, the evening will bring news direct from the persecuted church. Meet your extraordinary family and strengthen them to shine in a dark world. There is no need to book, just come to Holy Trinity Church, Trinity St, Stalybridge SK15 2JS



# Sign up for “Kingdom” and The Big Church Day Out

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement which the Archbishop of Canterbury is inviting people around the world to join. It runs for ten days between Ascension and Pentecost from 25th May – 4th June 2017.

As well as events happening in parishes across the Diocese, there are a number of exciting Diocesan events planned. These include: 25th May to 2nd June, Foxhill prayer week and Prayers said by Deaneries in the Cathedral; 2nd - 3rd June, The Big Church Day Out at Capesthorpe Hall; 4th June Pilgrimage walk from Foxhill to the Cathedral and Thy Kingdom Come celebration at the Cathedral.

## How to get involved

Call Anne Cody on 01928 718834 ext 263 or email her at [anne.cody@chester.anglican.org](mailto:anne.cody@chester.anglican.org) You can also use the following contacts for specific events:

**Foxhill prayer week** - call Jonathon Green on 01928 733777;  
Deanery Cathedral Services - speak to your vicar and ask for a prayer card;

**The Big Church Day Out** - book online via the Diocese of Chester web page or call Anne Cody on 01928 718834 ext 263;

**Pilgrimage walk** - call Jonathan Green on 01928 733777;

**Main Cathedral Celebration** – Booking via the Diocese of Chester web page or call Anne Cody on 01928 718834 ext 263.

