

eBulletin: August 2017 - Also available on our website - [CDNs / eBulletins](#)

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DR Congo update from The Venerable Ian Bishop

The last teaching session with the pastors from Aru has finished and has been well received. In the end 268 ministers came and there was a great atmosphere. The singing was sensational and everyone has been encouraged – especially those of us on the team. Some pastors travelled over 200km to be here but the most significant contribution perhaps came from Rev Martin from South Sudan who is displaced into Aru. He told deeply harrowing stories of his treatment by Sudanese rebels. It quickly became clear that almost everyone present had similar stories of persecution. We have a much deeper understanding of the trauma that Christians here have been through.



There will be a much deeper commitment to prayer for the persecuted when we return home. Today Bishop Keith will confirm 100 candidates and we are told to expect a five hour service. We leave Saturday morning for Uganda and our flight home is on Monday. Please pray for healing for those traumatised by persecution – and perhaps especially for Martin. Pray for the confirmation candidates and also that we don't encounter any issues crossing the border. Thanks for the ongoing following and prayers. **Ian.** 4 Aug 2017



[Job Vacancy: Part time Church Youth Worker](#)

St Boniface, Bunbury, has an exciting position for a Church Youth Worker to develop and support a vision of a vibrant Christian youth community.



[Explorers of Church Building Projects: Programme launch](#)

We are delighted to launch a new learning opportunity for parishes to visit a series of churches and learn from their experience. A launch programme has been developed from September 2017 to June 2018. Booking is essential.



Share your good news!

We are looking for stories to share on the Diocesan Website and in Chester Diocesan News (CDN). Ideally 150-200 words with a picture if possible. Y-Bible events, that can be shared as good practice, are welcome as are examples of the diverse life in our parishes. A good picture may get you on the front page so be creative. Please send to stephen.regan@chester.anglican.org

Featured events below - For all events, see the [Diocese of Chester 'Events' page](#)



[ARK Workshop - 11 August 2017](#)

This free workshop for children will focus on individual creativity. Participants will have access to a wide range of junk materials and, inspired by the sculptures in our ARK exhibition, will be encouraged to choose to construct an animal that they would like to put on Noah's Ark.



[Writing a Successful Grant Application - 2 September 2017](#)

Bookings close on 25th August for this one day workshop which is designed to help you secure grant funding for church building or hall projects and is open to all church denominations.



[Bloggers Meeting - 7 September 2017](#)

An opportunity for bloggers (and would be bloggers) in the Diocese to share experience and aspirations.



[Heritage Open Days - 7 to 10 September 2017](#)

Is your church part of this annual event? The website includes a link to the national HOD website and a special 'Stories Worth Sharing' feature on churches in our Diocese who have previously taken part.

TLT [Filling the Gap II - 25 September 2017](#)

Filling the Gap is an event designed for churches who want to respond to the growing numbers of children who go hungry in the school holidays. If your church wants to provide fun and food to families in your community then come along, listen to the experience of others and share your ideas. This is a follow-on event from our successful event last April but we also welcome new participants.



Retirement of Dean Gordon McPhate - 1 October 2017

Dean Gordon is retiring at the end of September. There will be farewells in the Cathedral at 10am on the morning of Sunday 1 October, and also at Choral Evensong at 5.30pm on Thursday 28 September. The latter will have a more 'diocesan' feel. All are welcome.



[How to get the best from your Church Hall - 16 October 2017](#)

This one day training event includes good business management, buildings management and fundraising. The training is open to all church denominations.



[Conversations about mental health - 6 October 2017](#)

For the third consecutive year we are linking with World Mental Health Day (10 October) by organising a day for picking up conversations on mental health issues, sharing experiences and resources. The day will build confidence amongst the delegates in their engagement with mental health matters.



[Churchwarden Training - 7 October 2017](#)

This is a training opportunity for ALL Churchwardens in the Diocese of Chester. Booking is essential. Location: St John's Church Hall, Lostock Gralam. If you have any questions please contact Pat Pugh, PA to Archdeacons of Chester & Macclesfield Tel: 01928 718834 ext 258 or pat.pugh@chester.anglican.org



[Myers-Briggs Workshop - 18 October 2017](#)

Identify your personality type, improve your ability to understand and communicate with other personality types, find new directions for personal growth and explore how personality types relate to prayer and corporate worship.



[Safeguarding training - 18 November 2017](#)

This training is for parish safeguarding coordinators and volunteers. A re-run of our popular face to face course aimed at equipping you to embed healthy safeguarding practice in your parish.



[Refreshing Preaching - 5 December 2017](#)

Stuck in a rut? Lost for words? Feeling stale? This is your solution: a day designed to refresh, inspire and renew your preaching.



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