

Chester

Diocesan News

November 2017

News, features, jobs...
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Growing stronger parishes

Funding boost

St Michael's church in Wincle, received a £10,000 National Churches Trust Community Grant to help fund the installation of a new kitchen and toilet.

The church is one of 70 churches and chapels in England, Wales and Scotland that are set to benefit from rescue funding of £522,241 from the National Churches Trust, the UK's church support charity.

With no village hall or community centre, the project involves reordering the church to enable it to be used more by local people. This includes moving the current kitchenette from its position in the tower room to an area vacated by an old pipe organ and installing a new disabled toilet in the tower room.

With new facilities, St Michael's church will become the hub of the village with activities for the elderly and activities for families as well as fitness and well-being events, educational events, additional concerts, music lessons, art classes, craft exhibitions, additional parish meetings, bible study classes and reading groups amongst other events.

There are also plans to install superfast broadband which will not otherwise be available to some parts of the community.

Huw Edwards, Vice-President of the National Churches Trust, said: "I'm delighted that St Michael's church is to benefit from a £10,000 National Churches Trust Community Grant. The installation of up to date toilets and a new kitchen will ensure that the church can be used for

*Huw Edwards, Vice-President of
the National Churches Trust*



a wide range of community activities and be of service to the people of the beautiful village of Wincle."

The Revd Dr John Harries, vicar of Bosley, Sutton, Wildboardclough and Wincle commented: "We are so grateful to the National Churches Trust for this community grant. This award will enable us to provide a facility that will benefit our whole community and provide numerous opportunities for our village to meet together. At a time when many resources are being diverted from rural areas, this award is an endorsement of the importance of our countryside heritage, our villages and the need to invest in local infrastructure."

The cloud of witnesses



Bishop Keith

Dear Friends,
I hope you will go to the diocesan website and see the full report of the visit a group of us made this summer to Aru and Boga dioceses in Congo <https://tinyurl.com/y97qjdjz>. In that report there are details of the work of the Bogo Mothers' Union and how we might help. There is mention of people praising God after Bibles were given to the women as a special gift from someone from Chester! There is also a picture of Moses from Bunia, a young man who is experiencing healing from severe trauma; the young people were the reason we went to Bunia. Over 80% of the people who attend churches in the Diocese of Boga are under 24, and their schools are an essential part of their life.

In early September Birkenhead Deanery had 4 days of mission with the Archbishop of York, myself and others. In Birkenhead the Archbishop and his team visited 7 primary and 4 secondary

schools; an open door project and met with young people who asked really good questions. With my visit to Bogo in mind, I wondered, what percentage of church members in Chester Diocese are aged under 24? Not the 80% which Bogo has. How can that change?

A verse that came to me a number of times over the summer was Ephesians 3:20, 21 "Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen"

True in Bunia and Aru and in Birkenhead there are problems, challenges, insuperable obstacles and inexplicable suffering. But as God's people in the name of Jesus and in the power of the Holy Spirit trusted and worshipped even in their weakness, God's blessing was given, and given abundantly.

In Birkenhead the Archbishop visited the YMCA, St Catherine's Health Centre, Cammell Laird and New Ferry after the explosion in March. People in each place received support and encouragement from the Church and were open to hearing and responding.

The cloud of witnesses, who we remember in the season of All Saints, know about all these things, they have seen them many times.

As we thank God for our brothers and sisters in Congo and Believe in Birkenhead, may we see God do that "far more" all over this diocese as we step out in faith and trust where we are.

So much more can be said of what God has done and is doing.

+Keith

New Director of Education welcomed



Bishop Libby with Chris Penn

Chris Penn, our new Diocesan Director of Education, has been commissioned at Chester Cathedral by Bishop Libby. The service drew together several schools from across the diocese and featured St Peter's C of E Primary School in

Heswall, where Chris was formerly head teacher. The unusual evensong format was welcomed by visitors and regulars alike, with a mixture of traditional and contemporary music and a wonderful short drama.

Talks on Jewish faith

Gertie Kallin, a retired Hebrew teacher, offers talks on Jewish faith and culture to various organisations, including parishes, and they have proved to be rather popular. There is no charge for Gertie's presentations, but a donation to a charity is encouraged. Anyone who would like to book her to give a parish talk should phone her on 0151 733 0436 but please not dusk to dusk Friday to Saturday when the Jewish Sabbath is being observed.

Chester Diocesan News

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Creamfields surprise



It might not be the place that anyone expected to find a Church Tent but the August Bank holiday festival goes at Creamfields this year were in for a surprise!

The organisers of the biggest Electronic Dance Music Festival in the world agreed to have a Christian presence on site this year to offer pastoral support and refreshment.

Organised by Revd Jane Proudfoot in partnership with Bridgewater Churches Together, Great Budworth Deanery, Warrington Youth for Christ, the Dioceses of Chester and Liverpool and Warrington Street Pastors, volunteers worked 24 hours a day for the 4 days of the festival. This year was the 20th Anniversary of Creamfields which has been held at Daresbury since 2006, in the parish of All Saints'..

The idea for a church presence sprang out of a conversation 3 years ago at Great Budworth Chapter and has built on the great relationship built up with the organisers over the years by Canon Revd David Felix and his congregation. The volunteers came from a variety of churches across Warrington and beyond and were a real mix of ages.

Volunteer, Catherine Dixon, said: "I've never done anything like this before and I have to admit I was a bit worried about what it might be like but I loved every minute and will definitely be back next year."

"We wanted to be where the young people were and to show them that the church cares and that God loves them" said Rev'd Jane of St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall. "They were really surprised that we wanted to be there and we were

impressed by how they responded to us. We were there to get alongside them and to listen.”

Over 2000 bottles of water were given out and many, many packets of Jammie Dodgers. Stories were shared, friendships built and Chris Gilbert, Reader and artist, co-created artwork with revellers. Funding for the event came from the Diocese, churches and individuals

Kim Wellens from Warrington Youth for Christ was excited to be a volunteer and said: “We had some amazing encounters and conversations. The young people that we met were curious and very open. We talked together about love, peace, hope and faith as well as music!”

The green light has been given for a return of the Church Tent in 2018 so if you would like to get involved please contact revdproudfoot@hotmail.co.uk



Called to Serve



Why becoming a Reader is so important to me... By Alison Whiteley

My father was a lay Reader in the 1960s at St Michael's Hough Green in Widnes. Some of my earliest memories are of him preaching. However, honouring my father's memory is not my driver to be a Reader. Readers are lay leaders in their church communities who offer a model of Christian discipleship to the people they meet in their daily lives as well as in their congregations.

For some time I had been writing intercessions and getting very positive feedback but it was this definition of what a Reader is that inspired me. I work full time and I want to be able to witness in the workplace as well as at church. Reader ministry is unique as you are part of the ministry team but also part of the congregation too. So a good grounding in Theology is needed so that I can be an active theologian. This is what the Reader training is giving me. It's true the course requires a lot of reading but the

camaraderie of fellow trainee Readers supports and encourages you.

To discern if Reader training is for you I would highly recommend the Foundations for Ministry course which I did after talking it through with my minister. It gives an insight into the Anglican church and a taste for theological learning.

Called to be a Reader?

Find out more about Reader training at Called to Serve, the annual event for those who want to explore the various licensed ministries of Pastoral Worker, Reader, Church Army and ordained ministry. It will take place on Saturday, 27 January 2018, 9am to 3pm at Foxhill House and Woodlands, WA6 6XB. Please email peter.bacon@chester.anglican.org or phone 01928 718834 ext 237.

This year we are offering a free lunch which extends the opportunity to talk to others who might also be interested in exploring these ministries. Please make sure you book before Friday, 19 January 2018.

New Approaches to Bible Reading

Led by Sue Richardson, Theological Education Adviser with Christian Aid, a day to explore certain kinds of approach to Bible reading – spending time as practitioners, using three different approaches and examining our responses to them. The emphasis is on the Bible as an anthology of books, rather than one book; the necessity of interpretation if the Bible is to come alive for us in ways that enable judgement on how we worship, work and serve; the significance of context and a willingness to open up our lives to God and to others.

26 April 2018; 10am to 3.30pm at Foxhill House and Woodlands, Tarvin Road, Frodsham WA6 6XB. Lunch and refreshments included. There is no charge for this event. To book contact Jane Hood jane.hood@chester.anglican.org tel: 01928 718834 ext 257

Spare change buys boiler

St Matthew's Church, Edgeley, Stockport, faced a coffee crisis recently when their brew boiler broke down!

St Matthew's is a busy church with a number of community groups meeting during the week, as well as a Saturday cafe and three weekly services. With the summer fair looming, the church took swift action to apply for funding to have the boiler replaced (a tall order at a cost of around £900) and opened a Brew Fund for the community to donate their spare change.

These actions were so successful that not only was funding secured from Anchorpoint to buy a brand new boiler, but enough money was raised to have a smaller boiler installed in the soon to be opened community rooms.

Thankfully, tea is now being served...



Shum Goodman and Revd David Brewster (pictured with the new boiler!) say thank you for the generous grant from Anchorpoint and all who donated to the Brew Fund.

The Bible in a day

There will be a reading of the 'whole bible' in Chester Cathedral on Thursday November 9th, using Trevor Dennis's The Book of Books: The Bible Retold. Sixteen schools from Chester and surrounding villages, plus sixteen Chester churches will read it all, starting at 8am and finishing at 8.30pm. Each school and church taking part has promised to raise a minimum of £100 for Christian Aid, and Christian Aid has set up a Justgiving page: <https://tinyurl.com/y76lewyu>

Elisabeth Forster is among those individuals who will be reading during the first hour, and in the early afternoon recordings of Rowan Williams and Loretta Minghella, Christian Aid's CEO, will be played. All the other readings will be live, and people are most welcome to pop into the Refectory at any time on November 9th – you can sample the Refectory's delicious refreshments while you listen!

Come and sing Messiah

with soloists, orchestra and organ hosted by the Chester Deo Gratias Choir. Conductor Vicki Bulgin. Saturday December 2nd All Saints' Church, Hoole, Chester. Rehearsal 1pm for choir. Performance 7pm. Registration £15 - Special £12 rate if booked by November 4th. £5 - for those in full time education. Refreshments in rehearsal break and interval for participants. Audience tickets £8. Refreshments provided. Contact Vicki Bulgin on 01244 344529 or vickibulgin@crawshay.org.uk for more information and registration form.

Celebrating Edgeley community

St Matthew's Church, Edgeley, held a Community Open Day with over 200 people coming together to celebrate the best of what their community has to offer.

There were around 30 groups and activities on offer including free face painting and crafts for kids (including painted toast!), a dance display from Argentine Tango, puppet shows and a fire engine, as well as the opportunity to

talk with local councillors, Age UK, The Prevention Alliance, Signpost for Carers, to name but a few. Entrance and all activities were free.

Reverend David Brewster, vicar at St Matthew's, said: "There was a real buzz throughout the whole event and it was wonderful to meet new people, as well as catch up with old friends from the local community."

