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Setting God's People Free

Setting God's People Free is a national initiative by the Church of England to encourage whole-life discipleship, so that members of our congregations are better equipped to live out their Christian calling Monday to Saturday as well as Sunday. It is about helping people to live intentionally as Christians in the workplace, the home and the neighbourhood. Over the next few months, the team which is co-ordinating Setting God's People Free in the Diocese is looking to work with around ten pilot parishes, of different sizes, contexts and church traditions. The aim of the pilot will be to assess how well congregations feel they are currently equipped in this area, and how confident they feel about it, and to trial different approaches and resources with them. The learning from the pilot exercise will then feed into a major launch of Setting God's People free in the diocese early in 2019. If your parish wishes to express interest in being one of the ten pilot parishes, please e-mail Michael Gilbertson, the Archdeacon of Chester, by Friday 27 April.
michael.gilbertson@chester.anglican.org



Diocesan Link with Melanesia

This year marks the thirtieth anniversary of the beginning of our link with the Anglican Church of Melanesia, in the southwest Pacific. We are celebrating this milestone with a day of celebration at Foxhill, on Saturday 16 June, from 10am until 3pm. Some visitors from Melanesia will be joining us, and there will be opportunities to discover more about the link, and how you could get involved in this rich and fruitful partnership with Christian sisters and brothers on the other side of the world. There will be children's activities included. Lunch is provided: for catering purposes, please contact John Freeman (jjcfreeman37@gmail.com) to indicate whether you are planning to come.



Engagement and Inclusion

As Christians we want to be an inclusive church family and to welcome everyone to worship together. We want our church communities to be as accessible as possible in all ways for all people. Find out more about the role of our Engagement and inclusion officer on our website.



Discretionary Grants for Clergy

The first tranche of discretionary grants is available and can be used to give extra support to individuals in addition to normal CMD in-service training grants.

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



That's where the light gets in...48 hours for Holy Week - 26 to 28 March 2018

Led by Andrew and Wendy Rudd. *'There is a crack in everything. That's where the light gets in...'* Leonard Cohen. Be still and reflect on the mystery of Holy Week in the beautiful Spring environment of Foxhill. In short introductions, Andrew will bring words and music to lead us into periods of silence. Wendy will offer creative spaces for quiet reflection. £165 including en-suite accommodation, meals and refreshments.



Outdoor Adventure Day - 7 April 2018

The Diocesan Mission team would like to invite children, young people and families to take part in a fun filled outdoor activity adventure day with the Oakhanger Project which will include; canoeing, kayaking, orienteering and outdoor games at the lovely Brereton Heath Nature Reserve.



Prayer Ministry Training - 12 April 2018

Exercising a Credible and Compassionate Prayer Ministry - Led by Howard Fleming. Whether you are new to Prayer Ministry or are part of an established team, this refreshing day offers the chance to gain a deeper understanding of personal and ministry boundaries, whilst devoting time to working in small groups and assessing ministry scenarios.



Let's Talk about Green Spaces - 19 April 2018

This session is open to all those who have a very special approach to their outdoor spaces which is integral to church life. It is also a chance for those just starting to consider this approach to come and learn from the experiences of "church in the outdoors". Location: Foxhill, Frodsham.



Leaders of Younger Generations Day - 27 April 2018

The Diocesan Mission team would like to invite all Leaders of younger generations (those who work with people aged 0 - 30) to a reflection day. There will be time of worship, story sharing and we will be joined by Jimmy Dale the National Youth Evangelism Officer.

Creating and managing a new Church Hall - 28 April 2018

A morning training opportunity to hear the experiences of St Peter's Church, Elworth.



Environment Day - 30 April 2018

Come along and find out how we can all celebrate and enjoy our wildlife, be part of an international picture, save energy and introduce green conversations into parish life and eco ideas into worship. The day will feature national speakers, ambitious approaches from other diocese and local examples of best practice. Location: Foxhill, Frodsham.



Enabling Church Course - 3 May 2018

This 8 week course, produced collaboratively by the national Christian disability-focused organisations promotes: A theological understanding of disability; Awareness of resources and development of a local disability-inclusive initiative. Places are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment.



Re-imagining Remembrance and Armistice in a Warring World - 17 May 2018

Rachel Mann, a priest, poet and writer based in south Manchester will lead this study day looking at how the changing shape of Church and British society raises questions about how best to remember the dead of the past one hundred years.



The Diocese of Chester is pleased to announce 'The Journey' - 18 to 20 May 2018

A weekend residential, specifically designed for young people in school years 7-11, organised and delivered by a dedicated team of experienced DBS checked youth leaders from across the Diocese of Chester. It's a time for young people to gather with others who share similar beliefs and outlook on life, and to engage with Christianity in a way which may be new to them. Book your places now.



Thy Kingdom Come Beacon event - 20 May 2018

We are delighted to invite you and your family and friends to the Diocese of Chester Beacon Celebration as our whole Diocese and region comes together to pray 'Thy Kingdom Come' in Chester Cathedral. This will be an ecumenical service filled with joy, celebration, worship and prayer as we especially pray for and with young generations in an all-age service, asking God for more and more young people to come to know the love of Jesus. *'You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colours in the world' Matthew 5: 14-16 (MSG).*



Open Doors- opening your church building for visitors - 22 May 2018

A one day workshop exploring the practicalities and opportunities of creating a better welcome and interpreting your church heritage for visitors.



Make changes to your church building without it costing you a penny - 14 June 2018

A morning training opportunity to hear the experiences of All Hallows, Cheadle, and discover how positive community links have enabled them to make building improvements through in-kind support.



Joyful Apologetics - 28 June 2018

Apologetics is a one-day course which argues that, if we are to respond effectively to this contemporary wave of thought and emotion, we need to begin by listening to it and taking it seriously. In other words, before we speak, we need to learn why it is that so many people feel that Christianity offers a joyless and futile life – constricted, inauthentic, immoral, dangerous, hostile to human flourishing.



Renewing and re-envisioning ministry – 1 to 5 October 2018

This is a week long course to help clergy assess their skills, experience and strengths in order to set renewed vision for their ministry. It will take place in the context of a retreat environment with daily worship. The cost is £450 (CMD allowances can be used towards this cost). Location: Scargill. For more information e-mail: admin@scargillmovement.org



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