

Chester

Diocesan News

June 2018

News, features, jobs...
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Growing stronger parishes



Jim Butterworth has been appointed as our new Director of Communications. Jim grew up in Boothstown, Salford and has a wealth of experience in the communications field. His previous roles include Head of Communication in the Diocese of Gloucester, Senior Communications Officer in the Diocese of Bath and Wells, independent radio Broadcast Producer and as a Broadcast Assistant for BBC Radio 2.

Jim will be tasked with making sure that communications from Church House departments and Foxhill are coordinated and are as effective as they can be. He will be responsible for supporting communications requests from parishes and in developing training to assist parishes in furthering their mission. He will also act as the media advisor to the Bishops, the wider Diocese and Board of Education.

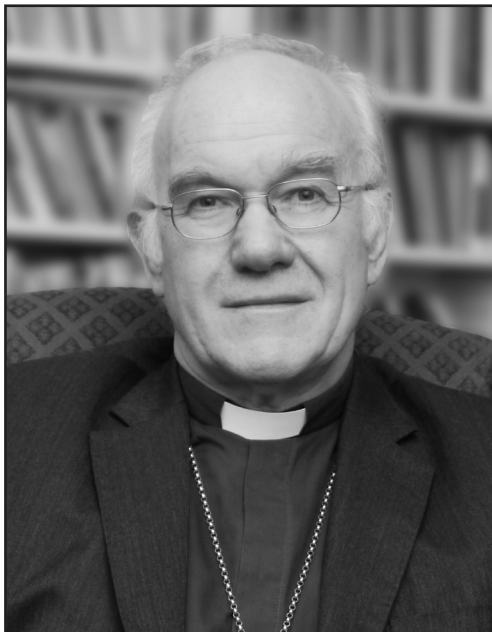
Bishop Peter said: "Jim was appointed from very strong group of candidates for this role. He impressed the interview panel with his passion for the church

and its mission. His work in this field is an outworking of his own faith journey. He has a track record in dealing with major media stories and significant skills in inspiring and supporting parishes and clergy. Jim is current in best practice in the communications field, including with social media, and his vision and expertise means he will be a valuable resource for the Bishops and Diocese."

Jim said: "Growing up in the North West means I appreciate the diverse communities of Cheshire, the Wirral and Greater Manchester. It will be a privilege to follow the call to help the Diocese of Chester, its parishes, clergy and schools communicate the Good News as effectively as possible. I'm excited to see where this next stage of my professional and spiritual journey leads me. I look forward to getting to know you all."

Jim will take up his new role on 5th June 2018. He can be contacted by email at jim.butterworth@chester.anglican.org on 01928 718834 Ext 233 or via the mobile listed on the Diocesan Website.

Become part of the story



The Chester Mystery Plays are being staged again this summer. They used to be held, rather memorably, in the Cathedral grounds, but the variability of the English climate means that they are now staged in the Cathedral itself. This has the practical consequence that large services – for example our Ordinations - have to be held either earlier or later than usual.

The strength of the old dramatic presentation of the Christian Faith lies in its narrative character. The Bible is cast in a series of historical narratives, of the journey of God with his creation. The journey of creation itself leads to the history of the Jewish people, and to Jesus' journey to the Cross, which is God's journey to each one of us.

The redemption of the world is presented as its re-creation from within, through the incarnation of the Son of God.

Just as the history of Adam is the history of every human being, so is the history of the Second Adam, Jesus Christ.

This inherent inclusiveness of the story has an echo in the large cast which is assembled for the Mystery Plays, with lots of crowd scenes, and the involvement of local schools.

Aspects of the theology of these medieval plays can seem dated, especially the rather medieval understanding of hell, and an over-personalised presentation of the Devil. But perhaps that is inevitable in the rather rhetorical context of a dramatic presentation of the Christian story.

What matters is to see that God's story, the story of creation and redemption, is our story. Each of us is part of the story, whether we acknowledge it or not. There are no places for mere spectators, in the theo-drama of life. I pray that through this year's Mystery Plays, members of the 'audience' will indeed cease to be 'spectators'.

+ Peter

Chester Diocesan News

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Fruit that lasts

THE GREAT VOCATIONS CONVERSATION

Nearly 30,000 serving ministers, both lay and ordained, are being encouraged to hold at least one conversation a month about vocation with someone, in a campaign unveiled by the Church of England.

The Great Vocations Conversation, launched on Vocations Sunday (April 22) invites licensed and ordained ministers to sign up to a series of reflections and prayers on talking and praying about a range of vocations – from the priesthood to living out the Christian faith in everyday working life.

The campaign builds on the 14% increase last year in those entering training for ordination – the highest figure for a decade – and the work of the Setting God's People Free programme aimed at encouraging the vocations of Christians who are not called to ordained or licensed ministry.

Research has indicated that personal conversation and relationships are among the most effective means for encouraging vocations.

Magdalen Smith, Diocesan Director of Ordinands, said: "We all have a part to play in encouraging others to respond to God. Often other people are better at seeing our gifts than we are, so a personal

conversation is among the best ways to uncover someone's vocation."

Exploring a vocation in this Diocese

For more information on vocations in the church visit tinyurl.com/yc84rb23

Foundations for Ministry course

Foundations for Ministry is a course which enables you to 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 email ministry@chester.anglican.org



Magdalen Smith

Archbishop celebrates 150 years of St Mary's Upton

The Archbishop of York, Dr. John Sentamu, joined the congregation and local community of St Mary's Church, Upton to celebrate 150 years of the church building, to bless the recently completed extension and to commission the congregation for their ministry to those around them.

The morning began with a service of Holy Communion when local children carried out an enormous caterpillar that had left the building in 2017 prior to the building work commencing. They rejoined the congregation later, bringing with them a beautiful butterfly, signifying the transformation that has occurred in both the building and the people of St Mary's as a new phase of ministry begins.

The Archbishop toured the new building and blessed it, unveiling a red sandstone plaque which is inscribed 'Abide in my love' from John 15v9.

Lunch followed at The Centre, a multi-function building owned by the church and used by many in the local community.

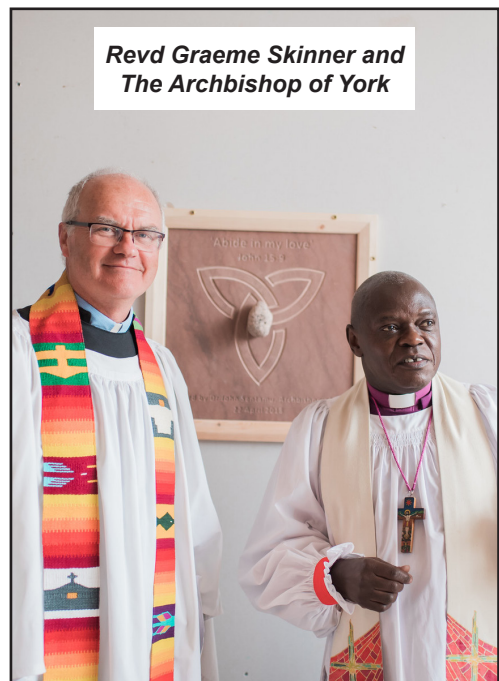
The Archbishop then gave an inspiring talk about his vision for future generations, before commissioning more people in their ministry in the parish and beyond.

The Rt Revd Keith Sinclair, Bishop of Birkenhead said: "St Mary's has long been a place where a living church serves the whole community of Upton. Their beautiful new building will help us in this new season of ministry. May God's glory be known here, and may many meet with Jesus and come to know him as their Lord and Saviour through all that takes place here."

The Archbishop said: "I was delighted to be able to return to this place and see

some familiar faces from Woodchurch School which Bishop Keith and I visited as part of the mission to Birkenhead last September. I hope that the fantastic work that has been done here will enable those that use the building to see that God is a great provider who loves and longs for all to come to know him as their Friend and Saviour through his Son, Jesus Christ. I will hold you all in my prayers."

The Revd Graeme Skinner, Vicar of St Mary's Church, said: "Jesus is our motivation and inspiration and this 150th anniversary and the opening of a new fit for purpose building signals our intention and commitment to him and our community."



**Revd Graeme Skinner and
The Archbishop of York**



Highlights of the Celebrations



Ember Lists

Please remember in your prayers those who will be ordained priest and deacon this year.

The following will be ordained priest in Chester Cathedral on Saturday, 2 June 2018 by the Bishop of Chester:

Josh Askwith (Neston)
Vicky Barrett (Bunbury)
Karen Brady (Macclesfield, St Michael & All Angels)
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)

The following will be ordained deacon in Chester Cathedral on Sunday, 22 July 2018 by the Bishop of Chester:

Kirsty Allan (Wilmslow)
Angela Askwith (Frodsham)
Richard Avery (Wallasey St Hilary)
Alison Boulton (Middlewich)
Josh Carlson (Heswall)
Catherine Cleghorn (Crewe St Andrew with John the Baptist, and Crewe All Saints and St Paul)
Tina Dixon (Oxton)
Will Drain (Romiley)
Simon Gowler (Knutsford St Cross)
Steph Lester (Upton Overchurch)
Al Metcalfe (Bebington)
Helen Molesworth (Malpas and Threapwood, and Bickerton)
Anne-Marie Naylor (Siddington with Capesthorne, Eaton with Hulme Wakefield, and Marton)
Paul Pritchard (Barnton)
Aled Seago (Poynton)
Peter Selby (Cheadle Hulme St Andrew)
Joe Smith (Over St Chad)
Ailsa Whorton (Newton West Kirby)

The new Bishop for Melanesia

Reverend James Tama has been elected as the sixth bishop for the Diocese of Vanuatu and New Caledonia, one of the nine dioceses of the Anglican Church of Melanesia.

Reverend James Tama succeeds the late Rt. Revd James Ligo who passed away in December 2017.

Since 2015 Reverend Tama has held the position of Assistant Mission Secretary of the Anglican Church of Melanesia,

based in Santo, Vanuatu. He has held various positions in the Church including Deputy Principal of the Bishop Patteson Theological College, Kohimarama, and the first Principal of the Fisher Young School of Theology and Ministry based in the Diocese of Banks and Torres, Vanuatu.

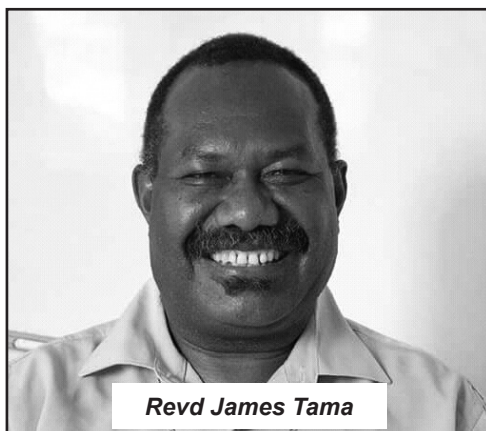
Revd Tama holds a Masters degree in Theology in the field of Church History from the Pacific Theological College,



Some of those training for ministry, pictured December 2017

Fiji. He comes from Saranamai Village, West Ambae, in Vanuatu. Revd Tama is married to Mrs Diana Tama and together they have six children.

His consecration and installation as the sixth bishop of the Diocese of Vanuatu and New Caledonia will take place on 12 August 2018. The Archbishop of Melanesia asks the Diocese of Chester to uphold Revd Tama and his family in prayer as they prepare to take on this important responsibility in the church.



Revd James Tama

Card readers now available



Following a national trial of contactless card readers, the Parish Buying service now has contracts with two companies: SumUp and iZettle. Church of England parishes are able to buy card readers at a discount through the Parish Buying website and use them with specially negotiated low transaction rates.

Many people no longer carry cash, and allowing them to make payments in the way they choose is becoming increasingly important. One solution is a card reader, which works alongside a smart phone or tablet and is very inexpensive to buy (they cost less than most kettles).

Whether it's using the Chip and PIN function or the tap of a contactless card, a card reader enables a modern way for people to pay for: wedding fees, church hall hire, concert & conference tickets, donations and even teas and coffees!

If you are considering buying a card reader for your church you can register for free with the Parish Buying service at www.parishbuying.org.uk. Once registered you will be able to view all the discounted pricing information, along with FAQs and set up information.

Canon bike ride

Canon John Bowers will be cycling about 100 miles over two days to raise funds for the Cana Home, in Kenya, which houses some 70 girls who are at risk. After the bike ride he will celebrate Holy Communion in the Lady Chapel of Chester Cathedral on SATURDAY, 16TH JUNE at 2PM. He said: "We will be praying for the rescued girls, thanking God for work Cana House and for our supporters who donated £17,400 last year. Everyone is warmly welcome to be at the Communion."

