

Chester

Diocesan News

July 2017

News, features, jobs...
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Growing stronger parishes

Mass baptisms in the River Dee



Eight members of Christ Church Chester have been baptised in the River Dee. 156 people gathered to support the eight candidates as they made a public commitment of their Christian faith. Each of the participants said what the baptism meant to them before joining Revd Ralph Kemp and Revd Glyn Jones in the, not so warm, River Dee to be baptised. Bishop John Hayden then confirmed the candidates on the river bank and led a communion service. The morning finished with a church picnic.

The Vicar of Christ Church, the Revd Graham Shaw, said: "This was a

fantastic morning and a real highlight of our church year. This is the second year we have done this and we hope it will continue to be an annual event at Christ Church. Thank you to Bishop John and all the candidates who braved the river and allowed us to celebrate with them in the sunshine."

Beatrix Calow, who is shown being baptised, said: "It was one of the best days of my life. God's Spirit was so clearly present and it was such a privilege to get baptised and confirmed with a beautiful church family cheering me on."

Friends of the Holy Land

The Reverend Lynn Boyle, Vicar of St Paul's Parish Church Compstall is our Diocesan representative for Friends of the Holy Land. This is an ecumenical charity which seeks to support struggling Christian families in the Holy Land.

This spring a national conference took place at Lambeth Palace, an event attended by delegates from across the British Isles and from Israel.

Dean Hosam, from St George's Cathedral Jerusalem, gave the overwhelming message that to do nothing to support the dwindling number of Christians in the Holy Land was simply not an option. He said: 'We need to ensure that the living stones of our faith are able to remain and bear witness to that faith and what they need is for Christians here to 'engage in hope filled action'.

Lynn spoke about the work being carried out by St Paul's Compstall on

behalf of Friends of the Holy Land and the Diocese of Chester. She also spoke of her visits to Israel and the West Bank over the past twelve months. Her inspirational fund raising has now resulted in over £8,000 being donated during the two years of her involvement. Lynn and her husband Mick have recently conducted assemblies for 1,200 lower sixth students at Aquinas College in Stockport, who are about to adopt the Friends of the Holy Land as one of their charities. They are particularly supporting The School of Joy – a Christian led school in Bethlehem that looks after and educates the orphaned and disabled.

Lynn is very grateful to the growing number of churches, schools and individuals who are becoming involved in supporting christians in the Holy Land. For more information contact Lynn on 0161 427 1259 or lynnboyle1@aol.com



Dean of Chester announces retirement

The Dean of Chester, The Very Revd Professor Gordon McPhate, will retire this autumn.

He has been in post for fifteen years after being appointed to the position by the Crown in 2002. He will bid farewell to the Diocese at an evensong service at 5.30pm on 28 September and will preach for the last time on 1 October at the 10am Eucharist service.

The Dean said: "I have much valued my time as Dean in the cathedral and diocese, in the company of a great team of supportive colleagues throughout, responding to the challenge of building up and resourcing a vibrant Christian community, and the opportunity of proclaiming Christ in fine worship and social action."

The Bishop of Chester, the Rt Revd Dr Peter Forster said: "Professor Gordon McPhate has made a substantial contribution to the life of the cathedral



during his time as Dean. The cathedral is now well-placed for the next phase of its life. Alongside his cathedral duties, Professor McPhate has also made a major contribution to the work of the General Medical Council, and to the University of Chester."

Concert

O for the wings of a dove (a concert of Psalm settings.) Saturday 8 July 2017, 7.30pm - St Laurence's Church Frodsham.

With Jennifer Rust - Soprano, conducted by Howard Kane, accompanied by Robert Woods. Tickets £10 - Dandelion, 19 Church Street, Frodsham; June Ross 01928 890736, Morag Bragger 07845 730061. www.fdcsof.org.uk

Ordinations

Due to a clerical error the Rev Judith Evans was missed off the list of those to be priested printed in last month's Chester Diocesan News. Judith was ordained on 17 June at the Cathedral along with 15 other clergy. She is serving in St Wilfrids Grappenhall. Please keep her in your prayers.

Chester Diocesan News

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Can you help source core funding?



The Bishop of Chester brings two projects to the attention of the wider Diocese in the hope that a source of core funding might be identified...

As is well-known, the Diocese has two partnership relationships with dioceses in the Anglican Communion: with the Province of Melanesia (the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu), and the Dioceses of Aru and Boga in the Congo. Both links have been rich sources of mutual blessings, in many ways.

Two potential projects have arisen - one in each partner Diocese. Both operate in areas of high deprivation (80% of houses in Melanesia have no electricity or running water, and the Congo is ravaged by poverty, strife and civil war). Both projects will help meet local needs, and both will help to generate longer-term financial stability.

Search for core funding

You can read about the projects on the opposite page. Each has been professionally assessed and each scheme would cost around £1 million, although some limited partnership funding is likely to be available for the Congo project.

We would like to be able to assist our overseas partners. The Diocese of Chester does not maintain excess reserves, because it is our policy to leave as much resource as possible for use as local parishes decide. If we are to help our partner dioceses with these projects, we will need to launch a major appeal, but experience tells me that such appeals are likely to fail unless substantial core funding is established in advance.

For this reason, I am drawing these needs to the wider attention of the Diocese in the hope that a source of core funding might be identified. Should a major donor emerge for either or both projects, we would be happy to discuss how this might be acknowledged locally at the schemes themselves.

I realise that folk have many other commitments, and not least laudable charitable commitments, but I felt it would be right to make these needs of our partners in the wider Church known.

I very much hope that we can find a way to fund both projects. If you can assist with core funding them please contact my office on 01244 350864.

+Peter



Project 1 - Expanding Chester House in Melanesia

In Melanesia, the project is to double the size of 'Chester House', the guest house which we have previously established for the church in the centre of the capital of the Solomons, Honiara. As well as adding 16 good bedrooms, the scheme would also provide a modern meeting room for the church, which is currently lacking. The surplus income from lettings at Chester House is used to support the work of the Melanesian Brotherhood. Chester House is well run (and verified personally by me last year), and currently contributes around £18,000 per annum to the wider missionary work of the Brotherhood, throughout the Solomons and neighbouring countries.



Chester House welcoming visitors while raising an income.

Project 2 Hydro-electric plant in the Congo

In Aru, where people survive on subsistence farming, the diocese would like to develop a hydroelectric scheme. This would both provide the electricity which is needed to help the

local communities develop socially and economically, and also provide an income which would support the wider mission of the church. If this comes to fruition it could lead to an economic boom.



Sunday school teachers and the leaders of the youth of 35 parishes in the Diocese of Aru and Boga.

Celebrating County Life



Celebrating County Life

In her role as President of the Royal Cheshire County Show, Bishop Libby Lane begins a series of features which aims to highlight organisations, business and issues which affect people across the county.

When I was asked to become President of the Royal Cheshire County Show I accepted because I wanted to help celebrate the best of the county. The Royal Cheshire County Show is more than a two day event.

It brings together businesses which operate across the year from small farm holders to large luxury car manufacturers. It brings together the best of food produced through the seasons from home-made produce to major manufacturers. It brings together communities which serve us all every day from the Fire Service to

education providers in the county. Over the next year I hope to highlight, pray for and celebrate this rich diversity across the county.

The origins of the Show are fascinating. Today the Royal Cheshire County Show is the largest and longest established two-day, 'show case' event of its kind in the North West and is enjoyed by over 80,000 visitors each year. There are more than 500 exhibitors and producers on show along with hundreds of entries to the competitions.

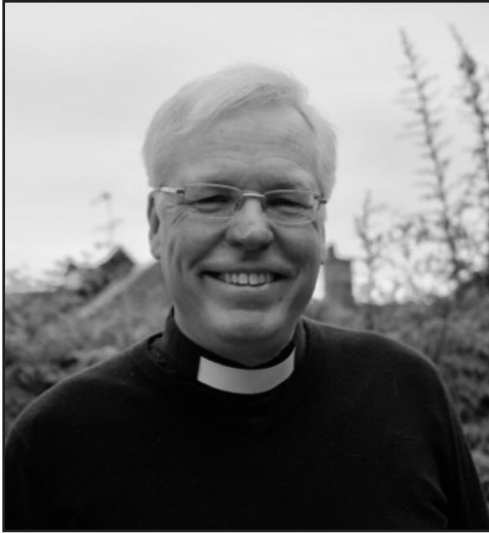
As the Psalmist said: 'The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it.' Please join with me in thanksgiving for the county and the blessings we have received, in prayer for those who are excluded or struggling, and in commitment to giving the best we have to offer to our common life.

Origins of the Cheshire Show

The Cheshire Agricultural Society, which runs the Show, was founded in 1838 by the landowners of the county. Its mission statement for over 100 years read: "To promote agriculture and encourage the industrious and moral habits of the labouring portion of the community". Although the show is now very properly more egalitarian and more inclusive, the series of competitions for farms, crops and livestock are largely unchanged to this day, though with more variety.

There were many competitions for communities to be involved with: prizes for 'the neatest and cleanest cottage,' including the thatch and lime wash both inside and out'; 'the neatest and most productive cottage garden', 'the best fatted cottage pig', 'best pair of cottage heifer calves'. There were competitions to encourage the better use of manures, including 'bones' and 'marl'; and especially for drainage and also for building works.

New Residentiary Canon announced



Chester Cathedral has announced that The Revd Canon Dr Barry Wilson will become Residentiary Canon of Chester Cathedral this September.

Dr Wilson is currently the Rector of Nantwich where he has served since March 2013.

Commenting on this appointment Barry said: "I am thrilled to have been chosen for this position. I am looking forward to getting to know the cathedral staff, choirs and congregations. It will be a privilege to serve the many communities which look to the cathedral as a place of support, prayer and welcome."

Dr Wilson will be installed at a special service at Chester Cathedral on 3 September 2017.

Media Training Course



It will be led by: David Marshall, our acting Director of Communications and Stephen Freeman, our Design and Communications Officer.

To reserve your place call Joanne Ridley on 01928 718834 ext 252 or email joanne.ridley@chester.anglican.org

The course will cover:

Publicising parish activities

The marketing mix; Editorial tips for parish magazine / newsletter; Engaging with the local community.

Working with the Media

Getting to know your local media; How to prepare an effective press release; How to handle press enquires.

Beginner's guide to building a website

Setting up a website from scratch; Basic design principles; Content production.

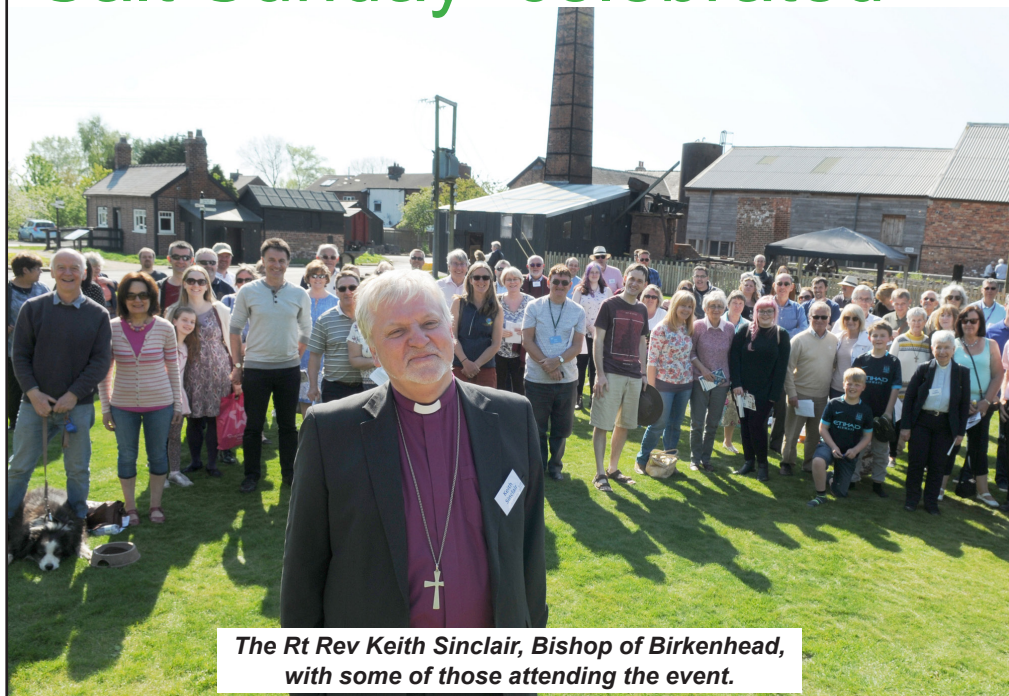
Digital photography

Digital cameras and their settings; Choosing your subject and composition; Preparing pictures for publication.

The FREE training course in media skills is being offered by the Diocesan Communications Department. The course is suitable for anyone interested in developing media skills for parish use. Lunch will be provided.

The day will be held at Foxhill, Tarvin Road, Frodsham, WA6 6XB on Wednesday 13 July, from 9.30am to 3pm.

Salt Sunday celebrated



***The Rt Rev Keith Sinclair, Bishop of Birkenhead,
with some of those attending the event.***

Families enjoyed an imaginative, fun-filled afternoon in May when the Northwich-based Lion Salt Works museum joined forces with the Christian network - Salt of the Earth, for another exciting Salt Sunday.

Salt Sunday is part of the 'Salt of the Earth' initiative set up in 2008 by local representatives from industry, churches, community groups and schools to recognise that salt has always been a major contributor to the region.

Speaking about the event Bishop Keith said: "Salt is a wonderful God-given resource for the North-West. We enjoy a thriving chemical industry because salt was a natural catalyst for the early chemical industry; salt is a key ingredient in our famous Cheshire cheese and generations of workers and their prosperity have resulted from open-pan salt-making

and salt mining. This legacy continues with numerous salt and salt-related industries still providing employment and support to the community. Salt Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to come together and give thanks for this abundant natural resource as well as having a lot of fun."

This year's programme included contemporary worship with the Bishop of Birkenhead and a community drama from Mr and Mrs Theatre Company as well as messy science and a series of packed-out 'taster talks' by salt-related industries.

The Salt of the earth network brings together people who believe that church, businesses and communities should be united. 'Salt of the Earth' means a person of great goodness and is one of over 30 phrases involving salt used in the Bible. For more information about the Salt network see saltoftheearthnetwork.net