

# YBible Book Published



*Parishioners at Wilmslow parish with their YBible book*

Wilmslow Parish Church asked its congregation members to nominate their favourite bible verse and published a special book as part of the YBible initiative. The nominations have been accompanied by images and personal stories.

Revd Magdalen Smith, said; "I decided to mirror the YBible idea the Diocese has put together in our own parish to encourage members of the congregation, in a basically liberal catholic parish, to engage more with the word confidently. So I invited them to submit their favourite Bible verse or passage and to explain why. If they wanted to they could submit a picture as well. Some people really enjoyed this opportunity whilst others

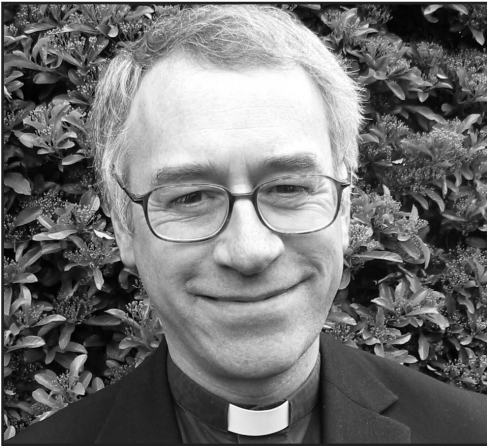
were a little reticent, worrying about their 'choice'. I gave the congregation a few months to send me their texts, gathered them all together, chose some images and our Parish Administrator kindly collated it all to produce a booklet."

The parish hopes to have several editions of the book and for it to become an ongoing project.

Magdalen added; "I did this in my 'Associate Priest' role in our parish of Wilmslow but in my DDO role I often ask candidates what their favourite Bible passage/verse is and why which can tell me much about each person!"

To find out more from Magdalen please email [revmagssmith@btinternet.com](mailto:revmagssmith@btinternet.com)

# Setting God's People Free



'But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.'

St Peter wrote these inspiring words to early Christians, encouraging them all to take seriously their calling to live as active witnesses for Jesus. As Christians, we are indeed all called to follow Jesus, and to live lives worthy of the gospel. This is true for every part of our lives, including right through the week, in our homes and workplaces, neighbourhoods and schools. We are just as much the church when we are dispersed in the community from Monday to Saturday as we are when we are gathered for worship on a Sunday. Sometimes it might feel as if church life is limited to an hour on a Sunday. But really, part of the point of gathering together is precisely so that we can be equipped to go out and live for Jesus for the rest of the time.

Earlier this year, a report was produced for the Church of England, called "Setting God's People Free". It calls for a great culture shift in the life of the church, so that there is much more emphasis on helping

all Christians – lay and ordained – to be effective witnesses by their words and deeds, Monday to Saturday. The Diocese of Chester is going to be one of the Pilot Dioceses in this initiative, chosen to help work out strategies for encouraging churches to make this shift.

One simple thing which any parish could do is something called 'This Time Tomorrow', which was developed by the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity. The idea is that on a regular basis, different people from the congregation are asked to say in the Sunday service what they are going to be doing at that same time on Monday, and the church then prays for them. It's a great way of supporting individual Christians in their daily lives and helping the whole church focus on witness.

Remember also that just as Jesus calls us to live for him in every area of our lives, so also he has promised to walk with us each step of the way. So be encouraged, and watch out for more news of this vital initiative.

**The Venerable Dr Michael Gilbertson**  
**Archdeacon of Chester**

## Chester Diocesan News

**EDITOR:** Stephen Regan, tel 01928 718834 ext 233. Email stories and pictures for the **December** issue by **18 October**, to: [stephen.regan@chester.anglican.org](mailto:stephen.regan@chester.anglican.org)

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# Upcoming programme at Foxhill

## Stop, Look and Listen Days

These mini retreats are a chance to step back from your busyness, and listen to what God is saying to you. Each day starts with coffee at 9.30am and ends with tea at 3.30pm. £21 per person – includes lunch and refreshments.

### Monday 13th November

With The Revd Dr Rob Munro - Vicar of Cheadle St. Mary

### Monday 11th December

Hosted by the Revd Jonathon Green – Director of Foxhill House.

## Residential...

### Thriving through Change

Wednesday 1st November 1pm - Friday 3rd November 2pm. £145 per person – Includes ensuite room, all meals and refreshments.

With Bishop Chris Edmondson

Many people find dealing with change difficult, whether at work, in personal circumstances, health or attitude- especially when it's forced on us.

Using a variety of means including Biblical reflection, discussion, prayer ministry and personal space, Bishop Chris will show how we cannot just survive change, but thrive and grow in and through the process.

### Coming to life in Advent

Friday 24th November 6pm - Sunday 26th November 2pm. £145 per person - includes ensuite room, all meals and refreshments.

With Bishop Libby Lane

Using poetry, music, and contemplative silence, this retreat draws on scripture and imagination to help us see ourselves and engage in our world afresh.

For more information and bookings

Email: [foxhill@chester.anglican.org](mailto:foxhill@chester.anglican.org)

Telephone: 01928 733777



## Encountering God – in Science and Creation

You are invited to a conference on science and faith to be held on Saturday November 4th 2017 at the Hartford Church Centre (CW8 1NP).

This event is being organized by Scientists in Congregations project members, from St John's Lindow, in collaboration with Bishop Peter, who will give the opening address. This is an opportunity to hear eminent mainstream scientists who are also committed Christians - who have thought deeply about the relationship between science and their faith. The conference runs from 10am to 4:30 pm. Further details at [www.engagementscience.org.uk](http://www.engagementscience.org.uk)



# Diocese of Aru and Boga

Bishop Keith and six travellers from the Diocese recently visited our link Diocese of Aru and Boga in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Those travelling were: Bishop Keith, Archdeacon Ian, John Owens, Ralph Kemp, Ruth Abbott, Philip Alston and Richard Cussons. They took part in a youth conference, feeling hugely blessed and humbled by the faith, sense of God and the Bible knowledge of the young people involved.

They visited the Anglican University, meeting with students and pastors from the diocese for discussions about our link and came away with many ideas for future link projects. Bishop Keith confirmed no less than 64 candidates during a fantastic service, followed in the afternoon by a Choir Festival hosted by Smith Anglican Church in Bunia.







# Fresh Expressions Conference

On the Road is the national Anglican Fresh Expressions Conference. It takes place on Saturday 25th November at St Michael le Belfrey Church (10am to 4pm) in the centre of York and there will be workshops in several of the other city centre churches.

The conference is for everyone committed to evangelism and growth. It is an opportunity for those involved in fresh expressions of church, growing our parish churches, church planting/grafting and pioneering, or who are interested in knowing more.

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, will be part of the conference and will deliver a key note address at the

start. The Archbishop said, "I am looking forward to participating in this year's Anglican Fresh Expressions Conference. During 2017 and 2018 I am undertaking weekend missions within each deanery in the York Diocese, encouraging all to share the love of Jesus Christ with those they meet. As a church we need to reach out to where people are, enabling them to find and explore the love that God has for them and the new life in Christ this brings." This is a ticketed event and is £12.50 to attend.

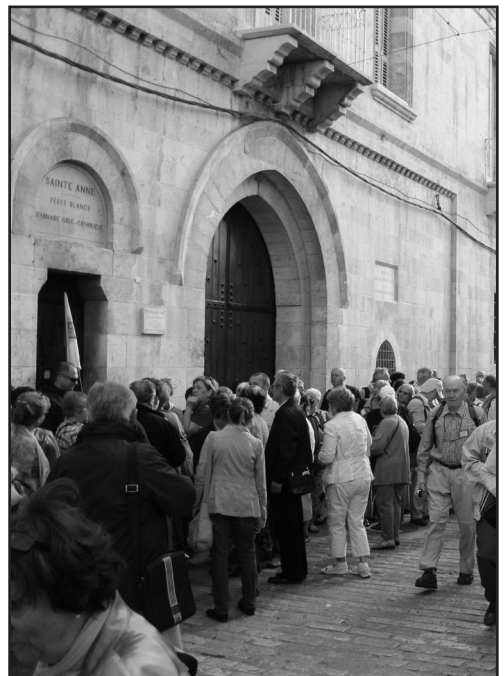
For more information, a full timetable and to book your ticket - please visit the ON THE ROAD Eventbrite page <https://tinyurl.com/y9ubcj77>

## Ecumenical Pilgrimage to the Holy land

Canon Chris Samuels will be leading a two centre Pilgrimage to the Holy Land from 14 - 24 May 2018. Return flights are from Manchester to Tel Aviv. He invites you to join him in what for many has been a life changing and faith inspiring journey.

The visit will include many of the sites where the most important events in Our Lord's life took place; in Jerusalem and the surrounding area and further north in Galilee. There will be several opportunities to meet our brothers and sisters living in the Holy Land . To have the chance to meet the 'living stones', the local Palestinians and Israeli Christians who are the ongoing, living church, is indeed very humbling.

For a brochure and further details please contact Chris on 07929 420423 or email [cwjsamuels@gmail.com](mailto:cwjsamuels@gmail.com)



# St George's Christmas Tree Festival

St George's Church on the A6 in Heaviley, Davenport is hosting its 11th Christmas Tree Festival from 29th November to 3rd December. The event will feature over 70 trees, decorated and illuminated according to themes chosen by their sponsors. The Festival will feature a number of live events such as schoolchildren singing carols, dance and hand bell performances. There will also be Christmas craft for children and refreshments throughout. Father Christmas will be there to meet children in the afternoon on Saturday 2nd December. There will be an entrance fee of £2 per person. Children get in free. Anyone who wishes to sponsor a tree should contact Kim Regan on 0161 440 0408 or at [d.kim.regan@gmail.com](mailto:d.kim.regan@gmail.com)



## New CEO of USPG



The Revd Duncan Dormor, Dean of St John's College, Cambridge, will be the next CEO of USPG. He succeeds Janette O'Neill, who retires after six years in post.

Commenting on his appointment Duncan Dormor (pictured) said; 'I am absolutely delighted to be offered this opportunity to lead USPG as it works with partner churches across the Anglican Communion in seeking to transform the lives of individuals and communities through the power of the gospel.

'Faithful to its history, radical in its proclamation, I have long admired the way in which USPG acts in solidarity to empower local churches across the globe in ways that respect their autonomy and culture.

'Having spent many years in ministry with young people I know first-hand of USPG's thirst to engage with the pressing global challenges of injustice and poverty that scar our world and I would seek to harness such vision to deepen and renew the life of the church across the world through USPG.'

# Safety Central - Lymm

Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service were once again at the Royal Cheshire Show. The stand is always popular with crowds: this year pride of place was given to the new rainbow engine. The Show is a good opportunity to engage with members of the public, deliver vital safety information, and distribute the famous children's yellow helmets. Following the Show, I was delighted to be invited to the new Fire Station and Safety Centre at Lymm and be given a personal tour as they prepare to open to the public.

Safety Central includes an e-safety lab, a shop, police custody suite and courtroom, a life-size 2 storey house with rooms highlighting risk for different aged occupants including a bedroom - before, during - and after a fire, an A&E treatment area, and a typical Cheshire road meandering through an urban and rural setting, with a farm, railway station, urban park, forest, canal side and open water.

This remarkable space will host educational programmes, targeted at

schools, new parents and the carers of older and vulnerable people. The aim is to reduce accidental deaths and injuries. Investing in prevention makes sense. Although the Fire and Rescue service is there when we need them, it would be better if, by taking greater responsibility for our own behaviours and choices, we needed them less often.

Recent events have reminded us how much we rely on our emergency services, and what we owe to those who put themselves in danger for our protection. The Psalmist prayed 'preserve my life, O God, for I trust in you', but sometimes we receive God's protection and grace through the service of those around us.

*"This above all is precious and remarkable  
How we put ourselves in one another's  
care,  
How in spite of everything, we trust each  
other."*

From a poem by John Wain

