

March 2019

Chester Diocesan News

News, features, jobs...
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Growing stronger parishes

The Diocese set to bid farewell to Libby



The Diocese of Chester is preparing to bid farewell to Bishop Libby as she heads over the boarder to begin her ministry as the Bishop of Derby. A farewell service will take place at Chester Cathedral on Saturday 30 March at 11am.

Tickets have been allocated to each parish and the closing date for applications passed on the 25 February. If you would like to attend, please liaise with your incumbent in the first instance.

Bishop Libby will preside and preach and the service will be followed by a

simple reception in the south aisle.

Bishop Peter says: "We will miss Bishop Libby very much indeed. She has made a splendid impact upon the Diocese over the past four years."

Bishop Peter has begun the process of appointing a new Bishop of Stockport. Further details will be made available in due course.

Listen to Bishop Libby reflect on her ministry on Sunday 10 March at 8am on BBC Manchester.

How to say goodbye



I've been trying to think of something clever and profound to write for this final article for CDN. But really all I have to say is 'thank you'.

It's not only 4 years of episcopal ministry I'm looking back on. When we moved to the Diocese of Chester 18 years ago our children were just starting school, and they are now embarked both through post-graduate study and into the next stage of life. George and I have between us over that time, in various combinations, served as Diocesan Officer, Parish priest, Chaplain and Bishop. We have so much to be grateful for.

I've re-written this article a number of times, wanting to get just right the way to say goodbye – literally 'God be with You'. But I couldn't seem to get down what I'm wanting to say. So, I turned to scripture as we do so often when we can't find the words ourselves. I have

been reading Philippians as I prepare to move on - and Paul wrote all those years ago to the Christian community he loved in Philippi pretty much all that I want to say now:

'3 I thank my God every time I remember you, 4 constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, 5 because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. 6 I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. 7 It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you have held me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my [labours] and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. 8 For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. 9 And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight 10 to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, 11 having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.'

Be assured of my continuing prayers for you. May His love overflow in you, that your love in word and action will bear fruit. I am confident that God will bring to fruition the work being done in and through you - because our confidence is in Christ who has won the victory.

It has been my privilege and pleasure to live, serve and work alongside you all these years: thank you.

+ Libby Lane

A meal, bed and welcome for rough sleepers



A church-led night shelter has provided food and accommodation for 12 rough sleepers in Wirral. Organised by Wirral Churches' Ark Project, a Christian charity fighting homelessness in the area, the 12 guests enjoy a warm meal, welcome and bed every night for eight weeks.

The first guests arrived at the Salvation Church, Rock Ferry, on Monday 28 January. A further eight venues, including a library and an Age UK community centre, have provided a "rolling shelter" every night since then, continuing until the end of March.

Project Coordinator at Wirral Ark, Jackie Snell, says the initiative is a community effort with local people and organisations helping out: "There's been a really positive response. We've had offers of support from the Quakers, a local Mosque, churches of all denominations, the local library, Merseytravel and schools. It's a real community effort. Over 280 volunteers have come forward to give up their time.

"This church-led night shelter offers accommodation, with hospitality and welcome as its focus. The whole idea of the shelter is not to solve problems,

but to simply offer a warm, friendly welcome for our guests."

St Michael's Church, Pensby, opened its doors on 8 February. Bob Fiddaman, coordinated the work and says that his faith is driving his passion to serve others: "People are on the streets for a hundred and one reasons. The idea is to look after them and provide them with the basics for a decent night's kip. We'll talk with them, provide an evening meal, and in the morning, we'll give them a cooked breakfast and a sandwich to take with them."

A recent study showed that, on average, 93 new rough sleepers presented themselves every month to local housing support services across Merseyside. However, the true number could be substantially higher. Many, including people with no access to public funds due to their immigration status and others, do not present themselves to the authorities, creating a "hidden" community of homelessness.

The night shelter initiative has been funded in part by the All Churches Trust and The Anchor Foundation. Local churches have also made small donations.

How your church could save hundreds of pounds



Is your church energy supply a basket case? This is the question asked by Phil Roberts. Phil is an ambassador for the Church of England National Procurement Group with responsibility for the North West including the Diocese of Chester. Could your church save money on its energy bills? Is it as green as it could be? Can Parish Buying help? Here Phil Roberts lays out the case for adopting a strategic approach to parish buying.

“When did you last review your energy supplier for your parish? We are constantly told by people like Martin Lewis, the Money Saving Expert, that we should review our home energy supplier. But we should do the same for our parishes.

“That’s why the Church of England set up the Parish Buying Energy Basket to provide competitively priced electricity and gas. What’s more, 100% of the electricity supplied is from renewable sources. The Basket already supplies the Gas and Electricity for almost 3000 parishes and cathedrals.

But how does the Basket work? The Parish Buying procurement team buys energy in advance, throughout the year. They listen to advice from energy experts and buy when the price is right. At the end of 12 months they can then work out the price each parish will pay for the next 12 months.

“100% of the electricity is green, all from UK based renewable sources. The Parish Buying team negotiated with their energy supplier to provide green electricity at no extra cost, so you can save money and the environment!

So how can you join? First sign up to Parish Buying at www.paritybuying.org.uk/register with your details and that of your parish. Then either call the team on 0800 368 0887 or use the on-line form to give details of your meters which you can find on your current energy bill. Then the team will call or e-mail you back a price for the next 12 months. If you agree, they will contact your current supplier and make the switch.

“Two words of warning. Some of you

may have signed commitments to your current supplier and they will not let you switch until that commitment is finished. Parish Buying can arrange to put you on the new contract as soon as your current commitment is finished. Second, there are other people trying to supply your energy but Parish Buying is the only official and approved supplier of the Church of England. The Energy Basket was set up for the benefit of parishes, dioceses, and cathedrals.

“And you are not locked in to the

Energy Basket for ever. Each April you have the opportunity to leave. But as the Basket consistently provides significant savings and renewable energy to thousands of churches, why would you want to leave?

“Have I made a case for your parish joining the Parish Buying Energy Basket?”

Phil is a member of the CofE National Procurement Group, a retired Unilever global purchasing manager and a PCC member at St. Michael’s, Plas Newton.

Archbishops ask Christians to join in prayer



The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have published a letter (View full version here <https://tinyurl.com/yb6b2tnf>) in which they ask all Christians in every worshipping community to join them in prayer as part of Thy Kingdom Come, a global wave of prayer held annually between Ascension and Pentecost (Thursday 30 May – Sunday 9 June 2019)

Archbishop Justin Welby and Archbishop John Sentamu write: “After the very first Ascension Day, the disciples gathered with Mary, the mother of our Lord, constantly devoting themselves to prayer while they waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Like them, our reliance on

the gift of the Holy Spirit is total – on our own, we can do nothing. This is why through the centuries Christians have gathered at that time to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

“Thy Kingdom Come’ picks up this tradition. Over the past three years, more and more worshipping communities have rediscovered the riches of this tradition and have dedicated the days between Ascension and Pentecost to pray ‘Come Holy Spirit’. We are praying that the Spirit would inspire and equip us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with our friends and families, our communities and networks. It has been amazing how many varied ways there have been in which people from every tradition have taken up this challenge. The effects have been remarkable.”

Resources have been produced to help individuals, prayer groups, and churches to join in. They are available to download from the Thy Kingdom Come website.

A series of events are planned in the Diocese of Chester and more information will be released over the coming weeks and months.

A trip to Russia

Chester Cathedral, together with the charity St Gregory's Foundation, is organising a trip to Russia next August to visit Moscow, Kondopoga (the Cathedral's orthodox parish link) and St Petersburg, and you could join them. You will see the work of St Gregory's Foundation with disadvantaged children and families as well as seeing the main tourist sights. The trip will cost around £2000, all-inclusive apart from visas, and is taking place from 2 to 12 August 2019. Please contact Jane Jones on 01244 312188 for further details.



Dean of Women in Ministry

Following the recent consultation, and a very strong expression of interest, Bishop Peter has appointed the Revd Christine Broad as Dean of Women in Ministry, for an initial three-year term. Christine will be licensed in the opening worship at the meeting of Diocesan Synod on 16 March. Christine is currently Associate Vicar of St Saviour, Oxtou, and will shortly be instituted as Rector of Holy Cross, Woodchurch. She was previously a Team Rector in the Diocese of Lichfield.

Messy Church appeal

Could you or your church donate £100 to ensure the continuation of Messy Church? The Bible Reading Fellowship is the home of Messy Church and it has recently launched an appeal to raise the £280k it needs annually to continue to support the initiative and invest in growing Messy Church. Google "Messy Church Appeal" for further details.



Creating a culture of invitation

Join us in learning about how to become an invitational Church.
05 March 2019



Celebration of different abilities service

A service held at Chester Cathedral to celebrate the different abilities of all.
09 March 2019



Connect: Beyond the family conference

A networking day for all who minister or work with children and families.
22 March 2019



Leading from the second chair

A chance to explore leadership challenges for those who do not appear at the top of an organisation.
22 March 2019



Outdoor adventure day

An outdoor activity day which will include; canoeing, kayaking, orienteering and outdoor games.
13 April 2019



LOYG Network: Growing resilient disciples

An event for everyone who ministers with children and young people in churches.
27 April 2019



To book your place on these events and to view all of our events, please visit :
www.chester.anglican.org/events

We need your views

We produce the CDN every month. In it we try to share relevant news, events and information, along with a reflection from a member of senior clergy. We wanted to gauge what people thought

of the publication and whether it is something that we should continue to produce, or whether our time could be used elsewhere.

We need your views. Please answer the questions below and post your response to: Communications Team, Diocese of Chester, Church House, Daresbury, WA4 4GE.



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How can we improve CDN?

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Should the CDN continue in its current form?

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Should the Diocese investigate other ways of sharing news?

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How might we achieve this?

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