

Small Ads and Notes

- The Anglican Church is alive and well at Birmingham University, with services on Sundays and weekdays, Bible studies and an Anglican Society. The Chaplain, the Revd. David Roland Smith, will be pleased to meet new students at the university and give information about pre-term ecumenical conference from 21st - 24th September. His 'phone number is 021 455 0287. Other colleges and universities have Anglican chaplains - contact the Revd Peter Wright, adviser in chaplaincy in higher education at the General Synod Board of Education on 071 222 9011.
- Did you enjoy "450th Praise" in the Cathedral last October? Do you wish you had been able to go? There is a Prom Praise in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester on Saturday, 24th October, with two performances (2.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m.). Noel Tredinnick and the All Souls Orchestra are joined by Elizabeth Crocker (soprano) and Bishop Michael Baughen. Tickets from the Manchester Central Library Box Office (tel: 061 236 7110).
- Bernard Wall is a retired Chester city guide, who writes a weekly column about the history of Chester in one of the local newspapers. He has written a series of books under the title *Tales of Chester*. Volume two focuses on the Cathedral - "Cathedral Cameos". This book is on sale at bookshops in Chester for £2.99. It is an interesting collection of stories and pictures.
- Nominations are invited for the Whitbread Volunteer Action Awards. The overall Volunteer of the Year wins £2,000, with other prizes for regional winners and young volunteers. The closing date for nominations is 30th September - nominations must be on a standard form obtainable from: Whitbread Volunteer Action Awards, Freepost (BS6647), Bristol BS1 4YU.
- "Religion is a fascinating and complex thing" - so says the Revd. Colin Morris, who is well known as a broadcaster, orator and Methodist minister (described on radio recently as "the best speaker in Britain"). He sets about the task of discovering "how religion works" in a ten part series of programmes on BBC1 at 9.15 a.m. on Sundays, starting on 6th September.
- Opus XI, a Warrington based unaccompanied vocal group, is looking for a bass/baritone capable of singing all styles from madrigals to close harmony at a high standard. For details (or to book the group!), contact Marion Massey on 0925 37089.
- The parish of St. Andrew, Cheadle Hulme has various supplies for a Gestetner 4130 duplicator and 1591 stencil cutter for sale. Contact Iain Lyttleton on 0925 702404 (day) or 061 486 0774 (evenings).
- The Men's Society at All Saints' Church, Cheadle Hulme, is celebrating its 40th anniversary with a service on Thursday, 19th November at 8 p.m., at which the preacher will be the well-known speaker, Canon J.R. Smith, Rector of Bury. All men are welcome to attend this service, especially those with links with All Saints' Church, but contact Mr. Hubert Green on 061 439 2852 so that the parish has an idea of numbers of intending visitors.
- Organists are required at:
 - St. Michael's Parish Church, Newton, West Kirby; contact the Revd. Ian Davenport on 051 625 8517.
 - St. Catherine's Church, Tranmere, Birkenhead - especially for 11 a.m. service; no choir duties; good organ: contact the Revd. Simon Beckley on 051 645 4533.
- There is an organ recital by John Belcher of Tewksbury Abbey at Christ Church, Gloucester Street, Chester on Monday, 7th September at 7.30 p.m. Admission £2 at the door.
- As part of the Chester literary festival, SPCK will be sponsoring a lunchtime talk by Steve Henshall, author of *Not always murder at the vicarage*. This will be on Tuesday 6th October at St. Peter's Centre, The Cross, Chester, at 1 p.m. Admission free. Mrs. Henshall will sign copies of her book after the talk.
- In the wake of the recently published report of the Archbishop's Commission on Church Music, *In Tune With Heaven*, the organisation MOSTLY MUSIC is running a course in south Manchester entitled *Church music and Christian worship* on twenty Monday evenings between September 1992 and July 1993. The course is designed especially for those preparing for the Archbishops' Certificate in Church Music. Details of this and other courses are available from MOSTLY MUSIC, 28 Carlisle Close, Mobberley, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 7HD (tel: 0565 872650).
- There is a flower festival at St. Philip's Church, Alderley Edge with the title "Celebration of Restoration" from 25th-27th September. Food is available all day and parties are welcome. Details from Josie Dawes on 0625 582626.
- The people of St. Mary's Handbridge, in Chester want to demonstrate that the church is really people - not a building - and that Christians are alive and active in Handbridge. An exhibition will be held from 25th - 27th September in the church and its hall to show what it means to belong to the church by portraying many aspects of the church and parish - worship, mission, care in the community, school and youth work, links with other parts of the world and social life. Visitors will be very welcome: details from Michael Bell on 0244 675072.



Chester Diocesan News

SEPTEMBER, 1992

No. 803

The Bishop of Birkenhead retires this month after 18 years' ministry in the diocese. The people of the diocese are invited to gather in the Cathedral on Thursday, 10th September at 7.30 p.m. to say farewell to him - do come with a group from your parish!

Bishop Ronald here looks back with *CDN* at these eighteen years.

What were your thoughts on becoming a bishop 18 years ago?

Astonishment is not too strong a word - then apprehension and then acceptance of God's call. I hoped the job would be as satisfying and enjoyable as being a parish priest. The night before I was consecrated, the then Archbishop of York, Dr. Donald Coggan, assured me in this respect, saying "I feel sometimes that I should pay the Church Commissioners each month, instead of vice versa". After eighteen years, I endorse that. I have had great pleasure and satisfaction in being a bishop.

What are the most significant changes over the past 18 years?

Great changes in worship: whichever book is used, I think more care goes into preparation for worship these days, and standards are high. New music has poured in, some of it rubbishy and much of it good. Some of my favourite hymns are those I have learned during the past ten years or so. It is good to see more lay involvement - not only in worship, but in choosing a new vicar, in decision making, in accepting responsibility for evangelism and church life generally. In our vast diocese, I have seen a growing feeling of belonging together as a family. The 1000 x 1000 appeal, the Church Urban Fund work, the Bishop's Christian Faith and Life Course and other things have played their part in this.

Bishop, you have had responsibility for a number of areas of diocesan life. Can you tell us a little about this part of your work?

I was a Warden of Readers for 12 years, when we saw great expansion of readers' ministry. I chaired the Parsonages Board for 14 years. My continuous concern has been for education, and especially with church schools. The foundation of the Bishops' High School was a great joy and it has fully realised all our hopes and expectations. A church school is the best way of contact between a parish priest and the children of his parish: I long that all our church schools should be good schools first. In their efficiency, ethos, worship, religious teaching, they should convey the love and purpose of God - in every part of school life. We have many dedicated teachers who give marvellous service.

What are you looking forward to in retirement?

All kinds of things! I love using my hands to work with wood and bricks - alas, not with soil and plants. I will pick up my golf bag after an interval of several years. I will continue my writing: I'm especially interested in using humour to communicate the Gospel - it is vital in teaching. There is a quotation that "a lesson taught with humour is a lesson remembered". I have another book, entitled "Good Lord" coming out in November.

Finally, bishop, is the church in better or worse shape than when you began your ministry?

I believe that we have gone through a period we can describe as the second reformation - in ecumenism, in worship and in the rediscovery of lay apostolicity. All that is good. We now face the major task of evangelism: it is as though God has been reshaping the Church for the task of spreading the Gospel. In many ways it is harder than before, with so many distractions and counter-claims. Our great need is not for success, but for faithfulness - for it is God who gives the increase. And the great fact is that people need God: there is a gap in every life which only God can fill. We need to witness to the joy and satisfaction that comes from knowing God in Jesus Christ.



This picture of our three bishops was taken at the launch of Bishop's Brew last year. It has been reprinted as a postcard, which will be available at the Cathedral on 10th September and, in packs of 10 (costing £1), from Bishop's House, Abbey Square, Chester CH1 2JD

Youth News

- Following the pilgrimage to Taizé with the Archbishop of Canterbury, there will be a Taizé-style youth service at the Cathedral on 27th September at 6.30 p.m. All are welcome.
- Youth weekend at Wistaston Hall near Crewe from 9th - 11th October for 16-19 year olds. Cost £30. Theme: YTS - your turn to serve. Details from Youth Officers at Diocesan House.
- There will be a "Lock-in" at the Cathedral on All Saints' Eve (31st October) - an all-night event for those aged 15-21, including worship, teaching, workshops and lots of fun on the theme, "Saints Alive". Admission by tickets purchased in advance from the Youth Office, Diocesan House, Raymond Street, Chester CH1 4PN - £3.50 for each ticket; cheques payable to Chester DBF.

Faith in the City....



"Faith in the City..." a national exhibition of 30 photographs showing the work of projects supported by the **Church Urban Fund** is to visit Chester Cathedral in September.

The exhibition will be displayed in cathedrals around the country between May and December this year, is a striking portrayal of life in England's inner cities and outer estates. The photographs, by documentary photographer Sam Tanner, were taken around the country in areas where there are projects supported by the Church Urban Fund. The photographs concentrate on people and their relationships with each other.

The exhibition will open on Saturday, 12th September and visitors to the cathedral will be able to see the exhibition during normal opening hours until 8th October.

The Diocese of Chester has raised over £615,000 towards our target of £650,000 for the Church Urban Fund. Nearly there!

EDITOR'S NOTES

Please send all material for *CDN* to the Revd. T.R. Barker at All Saints' Vicarage, Highlands Road, Runcom, Cheshire, WA7 4PS (tel: 0928 575666; fax 0928 581868)

News About Church Schools

The National Society, diocesan Directors of Education, church colleges and serving teachers have worked together to create a national **Certificate in Church School Studies**, validated by the church colleges of education, to help Church of England schools to identify, understand and maintain the distinctive qualities for which they are rightly known.

The Certificate is designed for serving teachers (primarily, but not exclusively, those in church schools), undergraduate students, governors, and anyone in the churches who has a concern for the quality of church schools. The initial modules will be: church school ethos, worship in church schools, and RE in church schools. They will be available from September onwards at Chester College and in a number of other centres in the diocese. For further details, please phone either the Registry or Ruth Ackroyd at Chester College (0244 375444), or Jeff Turnbull at Diocesan House (0244 379222).

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The National Society has been active in the support of church schools for over 175 years. David Lankshear, the Schools Officer of the Society (and formerly Director of Education for this diocese), has now published a book which seeks to guide teachers, governors, parents (and all who are concerned with the well-being of church schools) to maintain a clear vision of what a good church school can and should be in the 1990s. Based on the author's wide experience as a headteacher and Diocesan Director of Education, the book contains a wealth of anecdotes and stories drawn from real-life events in the classroom. Highly recommended!

David W. Lankshear: *A Shared Vision - Education in Church Schools*, published by the National Society and Church House Publishing (available from all good religious bookshops; price £5.99)

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The schools team in the diocese is joined this month by **Gaynor Pollard**, who comes to the diocese from a senior lectureship in RE and philosophy at the College of St. Mary and St. John, Plymouth. Gaynor will spend part of her time as senior lecturer in religious studies at Chester College, part as diocesan's children's officer, which will involve her in advising on RE and worship in schools.

Harvest Hymn

The September edition of *CDN* would not be complete without a mention of Mrs. Nellie Brocklehurst's harvest hymn. Mrs. Brocklehurst, who lives at Ladderstile Farm near Congleton, writes a new harvest hymn each year and offers it to parishes and schools. If you would like a copy, please send a s.a.e. to the editor of *CDN*.

Around the Diocese

- The Movement for the Ordination of Women is holding vigils on Tuesday, 8th September at St. Thomas' Church, Stockton Heath, on Monday, 28th September at St. Paul's Church, Helsby and on Tuesday, 27th October in the Lady Chapel at the Cathedral (all at 7.30 p.m.) in preparation for the vote about the ordination of women to the priesthood at the General Synod in November.
- Chester Cathedral will be looking magnificent during the flower festival from 4th-6th September, with thousands of flowers and paper and cloth sculptures. Entitled "The Spirit of St. Benedict", the festival (described as "unprecedented in scale and scope") has been designed by members of the Cheshire area of the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies to celebrate the 900th anniversary of the Cathedral's foundation as the Abbey of St. Werburgh. For further information, please contact Mrs. Dorothy White on 061 962 4205.
- The Crewe and District Committee for Church Social Work is holding the Thanksgiving and Offering Service at St. Chad's Church, Wybunbury on Thursday, 1st October at 7.30 p.m. The Archdeacon of Chester will preach.
- Nigel and Christine Elbourne of Odd Rode Vicarage shared their silver wedding celebrations in August in a service of thanksgiving with other couples who wanted to thank God for their marriages. They took their lead from the Mothers' Union study course *I believe and trust*.
- The Christian Initiative Trust of 103 High Street, Oxford OX1 4BW is launching the Church Magazine of the year Award for 1992, with prizes of £1,000 for the best magazine and best newsletter, judged on how clearly the publications identify their audience and how imaginatively they address that audience. Send an A5 s.a.e. to the Trust's office for an application form (to be returned by 30th September) and rules.
- If you are a parent of young children, are you always confident in the way you cope with your children? The basic parenting programme, "What can a parent do?", helps parents create a framework of discipline and respect in their families. On Thursday, 15th October, there will be a training day at Bramhall, near Stockport, for people interested in running this programme in the diocese. Such people should be good listeners and interested in being better parents themselves. Details from Tricia Munn, Family Life Education Adviser at Diocesan House, Raymond Street, Chester CH1 4PN (tel: 0244 379222 or - home - 061 439 3483).

- Fr. Gabriel Sanford CR will be in St. Thomas' Church, Stockport on Friday, 25th September to hear confessions between 9.45 a.m. and 12.30 p.m.
- Michelle Godfrey has sung in the choir of St. Michael's Church, Bramhall for the last five years: last October, she won the title "BET Choirgirl of the Year", plus £2000 for her choir and £250 for herself! As a result of this success, Michelle has been invited to sing at several major functions at the House of Commons and the Royal Albert Hall, in the "Joy to the World" concert broadcast last Christmas. Michelle has been presented to HRH The Princess of Wales.
- We congratulate Canon Stanley and Mrs. Jo Beckett on their golden wedding anniversary celebrations in July. Canon Beckett was Vicar of Daresbury and Secretary of the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the care of Churches until his retirement.



The Financial Challenge

A combination of factors, including the current recession and an increase in the pensions bill for retired clergy, has forced the Church Commissioners to reduce the amount which they allocate to diocese to pay clergy stipends and support the building and maintenance of parsonage houses. The reasons for this are complex and the Commissioners have issued a short report answering some press criticism of their investment policy (copy available from the Diocesan Communications Officer, whose address is in the editorial box - please send an s.a.e.).

However, the result is that parishes will have to increase the amounts they pay towards clergy stipends, as well as coping with the implications of the introduction of the council tax next year. On average the increase for 1993 works out at over £1400 extra per parish, on top of existing stipend payments.

How do we tackle this challenge and the related challenge of increasing the giving in our parishes? The Bishop's Council has recommended that we carry out extensive consultation at PCC and deanery level on how we handle the situation in this diocese. This will start with a Diocesan Conference at Ellesmere Port on Saturday, 26th September, to which all incumbents, churchwardens and PCC treasurers are invited. During the autumn, there will be conferences in every deanery for all PCC members to consider the issues in detail.

There will be a report on the September Conference in the November edition of *CDN*.