

# Chester Diocesan News

#EverydayFaith across the Diocese of Chester | July 2021



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Chester

## Let's talk vocations!



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# Let's talk vocations!



Director of Vocations, the Revd Canon Sarah Fenby, writes about the ways in which we can all play our role in encouraging vocation, in ourselves and others around us, through relationships, conversations, and careful listening.

Canon Sarah Fenby

**H**ow do we grow a vocations culture in our parishes?

Vocation, is from the Latin *vocare*, meaning: 'to call upon, summon, name.'

God summons each one of us by name - and though it can seem like a cliché to say it - we are called to the greatest of adventures: of knowing, trusting, serving, and being transformed, as a part of His people and His purposes. Our vocation (read: summons, calling) is then to be caught up in His ventures, becoming a visible witness to His name and love, in many varied expressions, contexts, and sectors of life.

Often it is as we begin to talk to each other about God that we begin also to work out our sense of our purpose as His people and of our individual lives. Talking God is good vocations talk! Deaneries have touched on God-talk: God active in His world; God who sees and believes in us all; God who cares about injustice, alienation, welcome, relationships, worship, proclamation of good news, and the planet; God who does amazing things in and through us, despite our mess and failures; God who knows us personally.

There is an invitation to us each to talk out our own vocation(s) at each stage of life. These maybe callings to certain relationships, to social roles and community engagement, they may be ministerial callings of one kind or another. It would be great if we could just find our vocation in a shop, but we discover our vocation by sharing the things that are most precious within us, our uncertainties

and enquiries, our sense of God's whispering to our soul, with others (and God) in conversation. We do need to talk it out, share it with others.

Deaneries have Vocations Advisers, both lay and ordained, who are offering that listening and talking space, using some excellent materials for exploring God's call. My colleagues and I in the vocations and ordinations teams at Church House can offer that listening and talking space too, but we can each offer it as well. Every incumbent and licensed lay minister, every lay small group leader, every parent and friend, might have great vocation conversations, asking questions such as: 'what will you do with your one wild and precious life?', 'what energises and is life-giving for you?' 'What do you see yourself being and doing for God's glory?', 'what change would you be for the world or the church?' 'What do you see of the Lord's imagination for this situation? Your life?' 'What is the Lord unfolding to you of himself at the moment?'

I like to imagine the great conversation around vocation ongoing in each church community, and in many places besides, (that's my prayer), but I suspect we could all be better able to listen, and ask good questions, of ourselves and others. Let's keep the conversation alive, for it's in relationship and talking out that we build momentum and the beginnings of a culture where all find ourselves contributing to the visible witness to God's reconciling love, and to a generative vocations culture.

**Canon Sarah Fenby**  
**Diocesan Director of Vocations**

# Are you being called?

**H**ave you felt God speaking to you, calling you to help spread the Christian faith and to help others who need help and guidance? Sometimes God speaks to people clearly and precisely when there's no mistaking what he is asking of us.

To others, he speaks quietly and gently, over a period of weeks, months or even years, nudging us along the

path of discovery and realisation. He communicates in a way that works for each individual, a conversation between him and you that will culminate at a moment in time when you understand what God is asking of you. For some, it will be to become an Ordained Vicar, for others, to help in the church cafe. We are all equal in the eyes of God and by listening to what he asks of us, we are better able to spread the word of God and to help others.

## Hana's story

The Revd Hana Helvadjian became a priest this year. From a young age she was involved with the wrong people; her life was chaotic and her only aspiration was to get pregnant so that she could get a council flat. Then one night she found a Bible and everything changed. Watch her video below.



## Jonny's story

The Revd Jonny Frost was made a deacon on Sunday 04 July, but it's the many years working in the motor trade and as a landscape gardener and youth worker that have shaped him into the person he is today, and why he believes God is now calling him into the priesthood.



## Jo's story

What if you could combine ordained ministry with a love of ice cream? Well, for Jo Rodman that's exactly what she intends to do. She begins her ordination training in September and hopes to combine this with her ministry running a social enterprise ice cream business in Poynton.



# Ordinations 2021

The ordination of priests took place on 19 June and the ordination of deacons took place on 04 July. Here are some photos from the two days.



If you'd like to explore your vocation or maybe understand how God is calling you, you can contact Canon Sarah Fenby, our Diocesan Director of Vocations. She will be happy to offer help, support and guidance on hearing what God is saying to you. Sarah can be contacted on T: 07714 587250 (normal office hours) E: [ddv@chester.angican.org](mailto:ddv@chester.angican.org)

# Events



## How to include those with disabilities

12 July 2021 - Online

This session is presented by members of the Diocesan Disability Forum and provides an ideal starting point for churches looking to be fully inclusive to all. [More](#)



## Rural Ministry Forum

12 July 2021 - Online

Meet with others in rural ministry to talk about the distinctive joys and challenges which come from ministry in rural parishes? [More](#)



## Consecration of Bishops

19 July 2021 - Chester Cathedral

The consecration of Julie Conalty and Sam Corley as the Bishops of Birkenhead and Stockport will take place at York Minster. [More](#)



## Training for new Churchwardens

20 July 2021 - Online

The aim of this session is for new Churchwardens to leave feeling confident in how to fulfil their role and who to turn to when difficulties arise. [More](#)



## Training for all Churchwardens

02 October 2021 - Northwich

The aim is to update Churchwardens with latest information on a number of topics to help them with the smooth running of the parish. [More](#)