

Chester

Diocesan News

March 2018

News, features, jobs...
chester.anglican.org

Growing stronger parishes

Prison work for Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union supports many projects across the Diocese by giving their time, their prayers and through their action. Two prisons within Chester Diocese - Thorn Cross Men's Prison and Styal Women's Prison are supported through chaplaincy teams.

The newest project at Thorn Cross and at Styal is to provide Release Bags for prisoners. Draw-string bags are provided containing grocery items, toiletries, foil blankets and waterproof ponchos for those released into a homeless situation to help them over the first few days. So far, 100 bags have been donated and there are plans to donate 200 more this year.

Viv Ley, President of the Mothers' Union, Chester Diocese, said; "One of our members is a volunteer Chaplain at Styal Prison. We provide her with Bible

Story books for use in the sessions she runs. The Mother and Baby Unit is provided with Baby Boxes for the new mums. These contain basic items for the first few weeks after the birth of the new baby. Many of the women then keep the box for use as a container for their baby things. We have also responded to a recent request for warm winter coats for the women prisoners."

Over 800 cards are written by MU members and given to prisoners at both prisons, showing them that they are being thought about. The cards are well received as one prisoner wrote; "Separated from my young family this Christmas, your Madonna with Child is pinned to my cell wall. I really appreciate the time and effort taken to send the card." For more information on Mothers' Union projects, please go to www.mothersunion.org



Chester Diocese Members at the National Meeting in Edinburgh with June (centre), the wife of the Archbishop of Melanesia.

What is a cathedral for?

I have been privileged to be Acting Dean at the cathedral while we await the arrival of a new Dean. During this short time I have considered the answer to the question 'What is a cathedral for?' The cathedra – literally meaning , 'the seat of the bishop' - is primarily here, as with all churches for worship to God through Jesus Christ. Morning prayer, midday communion and evensong or said evening prayer are part of the daily rhythm. Of course there is a refectory and a shop and the cathedral is used for concerts, meetings and sometimes fine dining events, but primarily it is a place to worship God. Many visitors come quietly to light a candle: along with other cathedrals, we have found there has been an increase in people using the candle banks. We are very fortunate to have honorary canons who spend a day in the cathedral, (even in the cold of winter) praying and simply 'being' in the cathedral readily available for those who want to talk: a ministry which is greatly appreciated by many visitors.

We are pleased to be able to welcome many of you to worship in larger diocesan services: you may have visited the cathedral for an ordination, confirmation, licensing of Readers or Pastoral workers or last year for the national prayer wave of 'Thy Kingdom Come'.

One of my favourite quotations is from 'Howards End' by EM Forster where the heroine says 'Only connect! That was the whole of her sermon'. Having lived and worked near Stockport on the eastern side of the Diocese, I am very aware of how remote the cathedral can seem to some churches and how the cathedral doesn't seem to 'only connect' at all.

We would like to connect more with the churches and you are all warmly invited to connect with us in whatever way you

are able. Here are three ways we might better connect:

Your church could plan a congregational visit on or around the dedicated day for the saint of your church. If you let us know in advance, we can include your church in the prayers or invite one of your party to read a lesson.

Cathedral clergy are very willing (with plenty of notice) to preach at services.

Your church could plan a pilgrimage to the cathedral and invite cathedral clergy to join with you in prayer, Bible study or worship.

Prayer is the first and foremost way of Christians connecting. The cathedral clergy pray the diocesan cycle of prayer daily naming clergy and ministry teams. It would be wonderful and we would be very grateful, if you too occasionally prayed for us.

Jane Brooke (Acting Dean)





Zumbathon event



'Thy Kingdom Come' event

For the diary...

Next month CDN will feature details about Thy Kingdom come (10-20th May) and The Big Church Day Out (1-2 June). More information from our website at:

www.chester.anglican.org/mission

 **THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**
Diocese of Chester

Chester Diocesan News

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“And so we came to Rome.” (Acts 28:14)

Clergy, and some spouses, recently “came to Rome” for three days of visits and lectures on the art of the churches of Rome, with special reference to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Organized by the Revd Canon Jane Brooke, Acting Dean of Chester Cathedral, and the Deputy Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome, the Revd Marcus Walker, we spent a day with Professor James Hadley, of the American University in Rome, looking at representations of Mary and the infant Jesus from the 2nd to the 16th centuries.

Visits to local churches included Santa Maria Sopra Minerva and the Pantheon where we were able to gain access to the original 7th century icon of the Virgin and child *The Madonna ad Martyres*. We also visited Santa Maria Maggiore, Santa Prassede (with its exquisite 8th/9th mosaics in the Chapel of St Zenobius) and the relatively modern Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

The following day Marcus took us through the ancient Jewish Quarter, on the bank of the Tiber, which was very moving – we saw a number of small brass memorials outside the doors of houses whose inhabitants had been deported and had died in concentration camps during World War II – and then we crossed to Tiber Island and to the Church of San Bartolomeo, which has made a feature of 20th and 21st Century Christian martyrs in its side chapels, including one remembering members of the Melanesian Brotherhood who were murdered in 2003.

This short visit to Rome was spiritually uplifting and intellectually satisfying, giving all of us, including those who had been to the Eternal City before, a wonderful insight into the life and theology of the early Christian Church.

The perspective of history is, of course

all pervasive. We were staying in a convent guest house just around the corner from the Largo di Torre Argentina where, in what are now the ruins of Republican temples and other buildings, a certain Julius Caesar was assassinated on the 15th March 44BC!

We were also able to see something of the problems facing Rome in terms of the plight of migrants, and others who end up on the streets. We learnt something of the loving and caring service towards the homeless undertaken by Rome's Christian communities, and other local charities. In all ways our visit was very much a continuing education: artistic, ministerial, theological, historical, as well as topical – and we are very grateful for the opportunity afforded us by the Diocese and the Anglican Centre in Rome, and for the organizing work of Jane Brooke.

The Revd Alec Brown

Vicar of St Mary and All Saints,
Great Budworth.





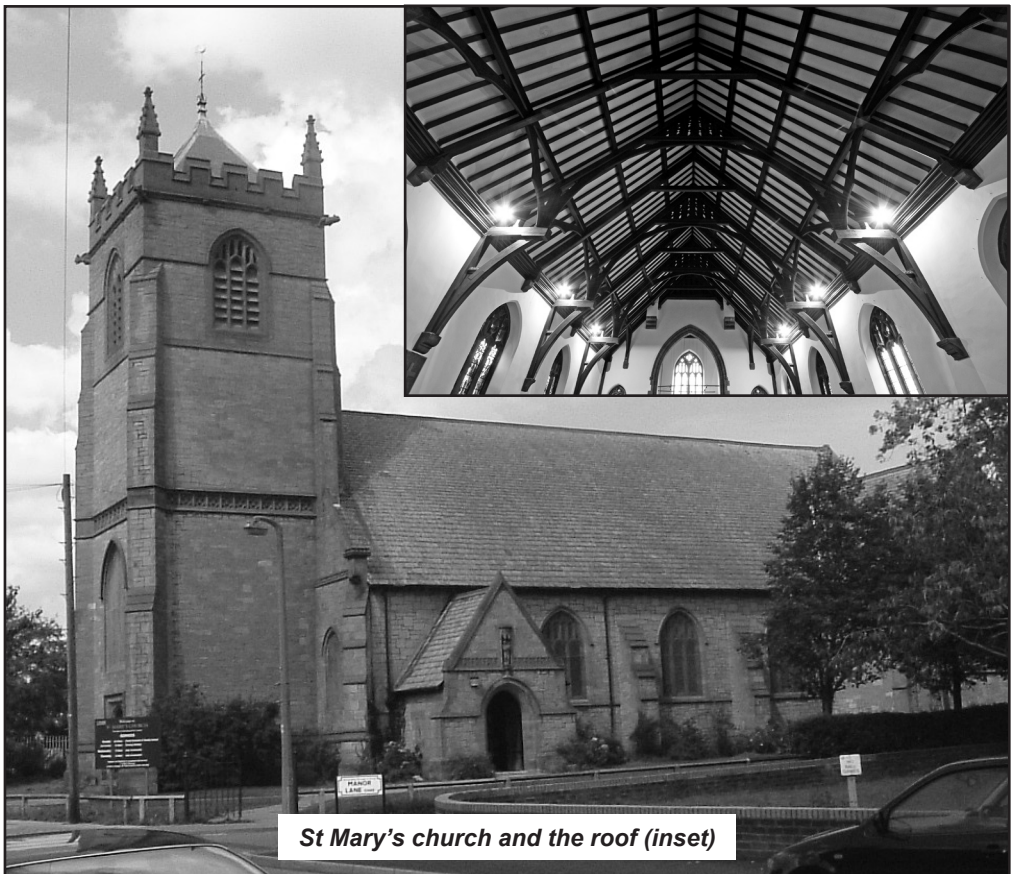
Church restoration in Liscard

St Mary's Church, Liscard, a Church of England parish church in Wallasey, has received £35,381 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for a project that will enable the building's restoration to be carried out and its heritage to be more widely understood by schools and the community. The project began in January, with building work to be completed by Easter and the project as a whole completed by Christmas 2018.

St Mary's was opened in 1877. Its future was put at risk by a major outbreak of dry rot, with part of the roof now held up

by scaffolding as a result. Things looked so bad that Historic England placed the church on its Heritage at Risk Register. The church community will be contributing towards the cost of the project, helped by fundraising by parish groups.

Commenting on the award, Church Warden David Harvey said "everyone at St Mary's is delighted to have received support thanks to National Lottery players and we are confident that this important part of Wallasey's heritage will now remain as a focus for our community long into the future."



St Mary's church and the roof (inset)

Everything including the Adrian Plass kitchen sink!

This summer join Adrian Plass and a range of speakers at Foxhill House and Woodlands.

Thy Kingdom Come – Bringing out the God colours in the world!

Led by the Revd Lyn Weston: How might God be asking us to bring his colours into the world? What might God be asking of us individually and corporately as we play our part in making change in the world? How can we reach those who don't yet know Christ, considering that we just might be the answer to our prayers? Monday 14th May 2018 9:30am – 4pm

Talking to New Neighbours

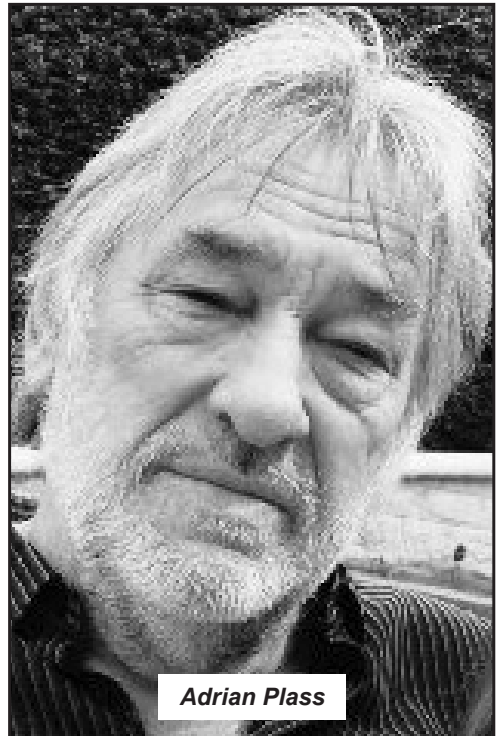
This session is open to all those who have built relationships (or hope to) with people of other faiths, refugees, migrants and asylum seekers or who have welcomed people of fresh cultures into their church community. Monday 4th June 2018 13:30 – 4pm. The event is free to attend, and includes tea and cake but places must be booked in advance via Hannah Jones: hannah.jones@chester.anglican.org Tel: 01928 718834 Ext 271

Risking Creative Failure

Led by the Revd Andy Stinson: Failure is something many of us fear and avoid as the wounds from past hurts steel us against taking risks. Yet, the path to creativity, to making new things, often travels through this wilderness. Through reflection, words, music and image, we will explore these ideas together, listening to God's voice as we seek to answer his invitation to create and shape things for his glory. Monday 11th June 2018 9:30am – 4pm Stop, Look and Listen Day

The Kingdom and the Kitchen Sink (Residential Retreat)

Led by Adrian and Bridget Plass: There can appear to be an alarming gap between corporate and official expressions of what it means to be a Christian, and the reality of day-to-day struggles that are part of our attempt to follow Jesus faithfully. Over these two days Adrian and Bridget invite you to cool down, calm down, laugh quite a lot, and perhaps shed the odd tear, as together you discover what Jesus actually teaches about the most important aspects of being useful to him. From 4pm 11th June 2018 to 2pm 13th June 2018. £165 Foxhill is the Diocese of Chester's centre for prayer, study and mission. To book email foxhill@chester.anglican.org or call 01928 733777



Adrian Plass

Diocesan Peace light

In late December 2017 St John's Church, Great Sutton, held a service for the reception of the International Peace light.

The Peace light was first established in Austria 29 years ago. Each year an Austrian child travels to the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem to take a light from the eternal flame which burns there. This light is then passed through the Scouting and Guiding communities right across the world.

Local Scout member, Les Howard, went to collect the flame for St John's.

During the service there was a talk about the Prince of Peace, and then the church lights were dimmed and the Peace light was brought into church and used to light the Paschal Candle. Scouts and Guides, along with members of the Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade, came forward to light their own

candles, then a prayer for peace was said.

More information about the Peace light can be found at www.peacelight.org.uk

