

Chester

Diocesan News

May 2018

News, features, jobs...
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Growing stronger parishes

Rural Deans named as new canons



Revd Alison Clare Cox



Revd Ronald Edward Iveson

The Bishop of Chester has appointed the Reverend Alison Clare Cox and the Reverend Ronald Edward Iveson, to be Honorary Canons of the Cathedral Church of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary at Chester. Ms Cox is Priest-in-Charge of Dukinfield St Mark and Rural

Dean of Mottram Deanery. Mr Iveson is Vicar of Bidston and Rural Dean of Birkenhead Deanery. They will be collated and installed by the Acting Dean during Evensong in the Cathedral on Tuesday 8 May 2018 at 5.30pm.



Every one of us is invited to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for family and friends to come to know the love of Jesus. Can

you even begin to imagine the impact across our region as these prayers are answered? Have you considered that you might actually be the person to play your part in answering these prayers?

See pages 4&5

In March +Libby and I were part of the Moving Mountains Mission in Carlisle Diocese.



With great teams we presented the gospel to hundreds of children in schools and were part of a whole range of events organised by the local churches.

My assembly in primary schools focused on the story of the two sons (the Prodigal, though the story is not just about him); in every school one of the children always knew what he ended up eating (Luke 15:16)! I used my Bishop's Crook, Cope and Mitre to illustrate being led by the Father as Shepherd, Enveloped by the love of Jesus the Son, and indwelt by the fire of the Spirit, and said that this was what the younger son knew as he came back and was welcomed home. I asked if the older brother had let himself be led back, be enveloped by love and be filled with the Spirit. In the story we don't know because Jesus wants us to respond to the Father's invitation ourselves.

I hope you are ready to participate in the Thy Kingdom Come prayer initiative (see Lyn Weston's article). Would you pray especially for children and young people in your community (yes your parish, but also outside your parish, if the young people go to secondary schools that may be elsewhere). It was a great encouragement to me this year at Ellesmere Port University Church of England Academy Easter Assembly to be able to share my story of coming to

Christ through the witness of teachers at my secondary school.

Pray too for Congo. You'll see good news from Aru diocese and their thanks for our friendship. Please look at the diocesan website page on Congo (under World Mission) for an update on the situation across the Ituri Province which Aru and Boga are both in. A small team of us including Archdeacon Ian were in Bunia the largest town in Boga Diocese last July. The town is now full of refugees from the neighbouring villages and there is much fear. Please listen out for more news which may well have reached you before this letter as the situation has been deteriorating. Please pray for all our brothers and sisters, in the name and the love and the power of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, Thy Kingdom Come.

With love in Christ

+Keith

Chester Diocesan News

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Chester Diocese Congo building

We have received pictures of the new hall complex that has recently been completed in the Diocese of Aru (one of our link dioceses in the Congo). Much of the finance came from the funding that the Diocese makes to Aru each year out of parish share.

The hall, which stands close to Aru Cathedral, will be a wonderful multi-purpose facility for mission and will enhance the remarkable ministry of the Diocese in many ways. When the team from Chester visited in July the building was used as the refectory, but at that stage it had no windows and no floor and so it is great to see the place fully finished and ready to be used.

Bishop Ande writes: "Many greetings to you all in Chester Diocese. I want to express our heartfelt gratitude for the wonderful blessing of God through Chester Diocese. You have been empowering the Aru Diocese in different ways by prayers, visits, teachings, pastoral/Episcopal ministries, celebrating together, leaders training, infrastructure... you can see the multi-purpose hall completed with your kind gift. It's now greatly used. To all of you: THANK YOU. God bless."

The picture shows the completed hall in January 2018.



Thy Kingdom Come 2018

I am hoping and praying that churches all across the diocese, along with our ecumenical partners, will join together this year for what is surely a rather remarkable and ever-growing Global Wave of Prayer. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York launched Thy Kingdom Come 2018, which runs from 10th – 20th May, to an enthusiastic team of inter-denominational champions from across the nation in late January 2018.

Now in its third year, participation has grown significantly every year. In 2016, 100,000 Christians prayed together during Pentecost, astonishing the original small team who had prayed for 5,000 to come together to pray. Remarkably, by 2017 more than half a million pledged to pray in more than 85 countries and every diocese in the Church of England was involved. To support the scale of this movement of prayer, this year sees the introduction of a brand-new Thy Kingdom Come website and a Thy Kingdom Come devotional app created by leading Christian publishers SPCK, in addition to a whole collection of prayer resources. We will be updating resources regularly through the diocesan website.

Last year in the Diocese of Chester, we were blessed to see so many parishes get involved locally, with all sorts of prayer events and a host of creative prayer stations being created. This year, we will be following the same structure with even more focus on working in partnership with Link Up in Chester and Cheshire Churches Together. In addition, we are delighted that Bishop Libby and Archdeacon Ian will be dedicating 10 days to lead Prayer Walks throughout the Macclesfield Archdeaconry and hoping for many to join them.



We are very excited about The Journey, which will be a weekend full of worship, prayer and exploring God's word for children in years 7 to 11. There will be creative workshops, games, good food, camping and lots of time for fun and friendship. This exciting youth event will be held between the 18th and 20th May at Foxhill House and Woodlands and the young people will then join in with the Foxhill to Cathedral pilgrimage as it approaches Chester.

All of the above listed diocesan events will be detailed on the diocesan website along with all the resources www.chester.anglican.org/mission/thy-kingdom-come/

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby said: "There is no limit to what the Kingdom of God does, and so the moment we start praying Thy Kingdom Come we look outwards. When we pray for the Kingdom to come, the Kingdom will transform individuals, society, the globe and the cosmos." The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu said: "Please join me in praying Our Father who art in Heaven.... on the hour, every hour when you are able."

Revd. Lyn Weston

Diocesan Missioner and Thy Kingdom Come Champion



Raising candles at last year's Cathedral service



Arts Project

The Arts and Faith Network is producing a list of artists who are prepared to offer their services to local churches and community groups. Workshops, performance and consultancy are some of the examples of what's being offered. The list is available on the diocesan website at www.goo.gl/b9Pkb7. There's

a link in the notes on the list for any artists who want to apply to join the list. Art forms being offered include drama, poetry, collage, weaving, dance, storytelling, sculpture and painting. At a recent gathering of the Arts and Faith Network, Cheshire artist, Stephen Broadbent, pointed out that many artists are looking for patrons. The Network helps to promote artists and to help churches. Contact david.herbert@chester.anglican.org for more details about the Arts and Faith Network.

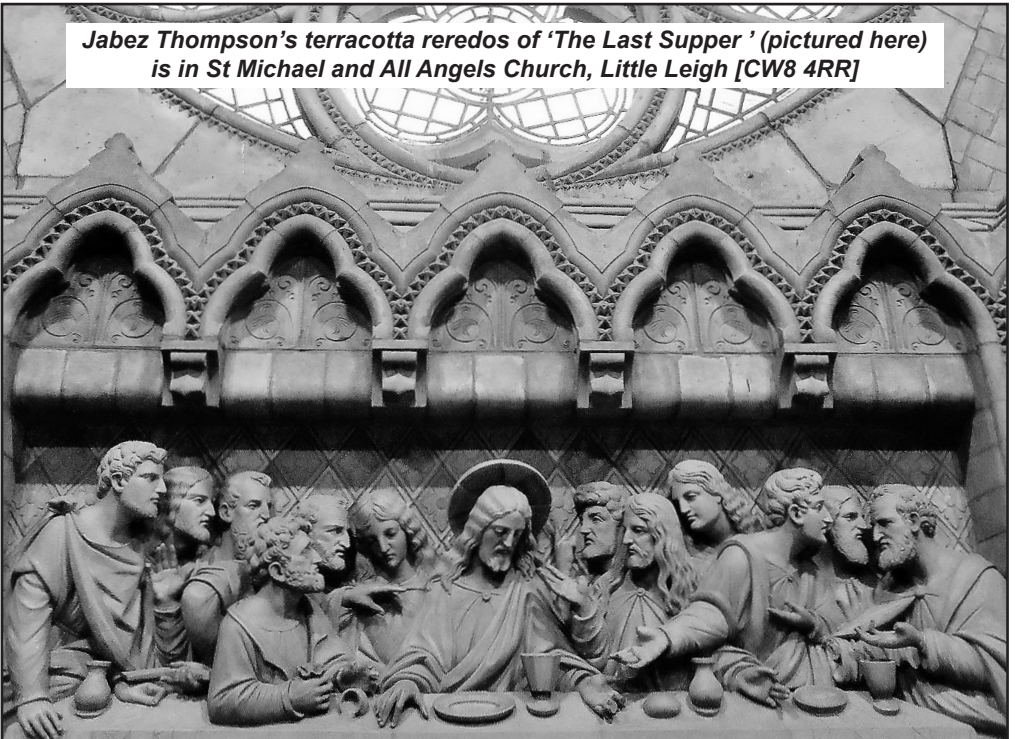
Jabez Exhibition

This summer the reredos will be explored in 'The Jabez Thompson Exhibition' at the Lion Salt Works in Northwich. From 5 May to 14 July, the church will be open every Saturday from 11am to 4pm for visitors to see the reredos, and

other terracotta decoration by Jabez; with a church trail, village history and light refreshments. Come by car, or walk 'The Little Masterpiece Trail' from the museum.

Please contact David North (01606 891 864) to arrange a group visit, or if you have an identical terracotta Last Supper reredos made by Jabez in your church.

Jabez Thompson's terracotta reredos of 'The Last Supper' (pictured here) is in St Michael and All Angels Church, Little Leigh [CW8 4RR]



Bebington Medieval Church gets Big Heritage boost

Major roof repairs to St Andrew's Church, Bebington have received a huge boost with a Heritage Lottery Fund grant totalling £223,700, which will enable the work to commence in March 2018 and be completed by November 2018.

For some years rainwater has been entering the church through failures in the roof coverings and drainage systems causing decay in structural timbers and damage to historic artifacts, pews and floor coverings. Investigations identified the need for major repairs with over 50% of the roof slate covering to be replaced

plus stonework and gutter repairs. The overall cost of the work is £416,000.

Commenting on the award, the Rev David Vestergaard, Rector of the church, said "We're delighted that we have received this support thanks to National Lottery players. The church has been at the centre of the community for centuries creating lasting memories in many local family lives, and it is great to know we are close to preserving it for another century".



LOTTERY FUNDED



Unique royal parish celebration

A special service was held recently to celebrate the bi-centenary of the consecration of St Peter's in Delamere.

Delamere is the only Crown Benefice in the diocese. This means that Her Majesty The Queen is its Patron. As such, the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, David Briggs MBE KSTJ, attended the service on behalf of the Crown.

The service was conducted by the Rector, Revd Elaine Ollman, and Bishop Peter preached the sermon and led the congregation in an act of re-dedication. Former clergy, representatives from local churches, the Deanery, county and local

councillors, staff and pupils from Delamere Church of England Primary Academy, together with long-standing friends of the church and community were also present to share the celebration with the church family.

A Time Capsule, assembled by the congregation and the school to be opened in December 2067, was dedicated and, after the service, placed inside the altar.

At the conclusion of the service celebratory soft drinks were served and a large cake was cut and distributed.

