

## Between here and eternity



I was privileged to attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace in May. At the portico where the Prime Minister's car sweeps in and she alights to tender her resignation to The Queen, I found myself musing on how quickly times change. Yet I can't help also but notice that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has reigned for the whole of my life. Theresa May is her thirteenth prime minister and soon there will be a fourteenth. The Queen appears to me to be an icon of stability and security.

Of course, this is too much for one person to bear. The human life of every single one of us is transitory. Eternity is reality but it is not our lived experience. The span of the universe and the whole of God's created order is much greater than that of our three score years and ten+.

This begs a number of questions about the footprints we leave behind us for future generations as we walk our life's journey. I notice at present:

- The mistrust between nations and differences of vision for Europe and the world that have ended one prime minister's career and may lead to a breakdown in the World War II settlement.
- A leadership vacuum that is allowing to a growth in populism and the emergence of crowds shouting at each other to assert their own self-interests.
- Levels of consumerism, waste and pollution fed by our desire to own more things for a few years before they become detritus. Something that fails to appreciate the beauty of the God-given lives we have.

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### ***Continued from P1***

For a few weeks in May we housed a bespoke installation in the South Transept created by David Mach RA called *Two Twisted*. It was a piece of conceptual art that many found difficult to read. Perhaps they were looking for answers when in fact it simply stated the problem that besets us. *Two Twisted* was formed of two cars spilling out of shipping containers on a sea of waste newsprint. It was with us only for a few weeks. This is but the blink of an eye,

much like our lives, careers, homes and things. This is even true of our beautiful 1000-year-old Cathedral. In the span of eternity, it is here for just the blink of an eye.

We put so much into the immediate gratification of ourselves in the here and now. I wonder what investment towards the next generation and eternity beyond we might be capable of.

**Very Revd Dr Tim Stratford  
(Dean of Chester)**



***The 'Two Twisted' Exhibition at Chester Cathedral***

## New funding for church work with kids

Allchurches Trust has launched a new grants programme – Growing Lives – aimed at helping churches and Christian organisations throughout the UK and Ireland to connect with children and young people.

Grants of up to £25,000 are available, with the amount dependent on project cost and the level of need in the community, ranging from 10% of project cost through to 80%. Churches can apply for funding under this programme even if they have received a grant from Allchurches Trust within the last two years.

Grants will be available to fund changes to buildings and for new equipment, but will not normally support salaries or running costs.

In April the Diocese of Chester organised an outdoor adventure day in partnership with the Oakhanger Project, a Christian based organisation providing a range of outdoor and adventure activities. On the day, 55

people came along to enjoy activities including canoeing, kayaking and games, as well as an adventure around the lake.

To inspire young generations is one of the Diocese of Chester's priority areas.

Jonathan Masters, Youth, Children and Families Missioner says: "The Diocese of Chester is passionate about creating church communities for all generations, accessible to all ages, and encouraging the wonderful sense of family which the Church has historically provided. We believe that the mission of God includes sharing the grace and love of God with all. The new grants programme from Allchurches Trust will help towards that aim and I would encourage all churches to consider applying."

For an informal chat or for advice on youth and children's ministry, contact Jonny Masters at Church House, Daresbury on T: 01928 718834 Ext 231.





# Celebrating 50 years of women Readers

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“...there were  
a few people  
who would  
not receive  
the chalice  
from me...”

Molly Dow

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This year marks 50 years since the first women were licensed as Readers in the Church of England.

To celebrate, the Diocese of Chester is hosting a special service and afternoon tea at Foxhill House and Woodlands on Sunday 28 July.

Warden of Readers in the Diocese of Chester, the Revd Vivien Gisby, says: "We wanted to mark the occasion with a celebratory service at Foxhill followed by tea, cake and fellowship. The event will be an informal opportunity for our Readers to meet and chat and for us all to give thanks for their ministry in our Diocese and across the Church as a whole."

Men have been licensed into the role since 1866, but it was not until 1969 that women were permitted to train to

become licensed Readers.

Readers play a vital role in the Church of England. They are lay people from all walks of life that are trained and authorised to preach, teach and lead worship. Every year a cohort of Readers in the Diocese of Chester is licensed by the Bishop of Chester at a special service held at the Cathedral. In the Diocese of Chester today, there are 343 Readers of which 150 are women.

In the Diocese of Chester, we are fortunate that several women licensed in the early 70s and are still serving as Readers today.

If you are interested in becoming a Reader, contact Revd Vivien Gisby

T: 01928 573798

E: [vivien.gisby@chester.anglican.org](mailto:vivien.gisby@chester.anglican.org)

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## Molly Dow

One of the first Readers was Molly Dow, licensed in the Diocese of Rochester in 1970, and now a member of the St. Chad's leadership team in Romiley, near Stockport.

She says of her decision to train in 1969: "I took a little persuading, but eventually agreed."

Her husband, Graham, a curate in the Church at that time, had encouraged her to train. She was exempt from most of the essays as she had previously studied Theology at Oxford.

In 1981, they moved to Coventry where Graham became Vicar of Holy Trinity. She says: "He had made it clear to the four churchwardens that having him as their Vicar meant having me as a Reader. Despite one or two reservations, they agreed. Early on, there were a few people who would not receive the chalice from me, but that changed over time."



# Flying high for the angels

On 26 June, the Revd Heather Atkinson will be straying well outside of her comfort zone by taking on the zip-wire challenge above Penrhyn Quarry, North Wales. She's doing it in a bid to save the nineteenth-century wall paintings of angels found at St James', New Brighton. The challenge will help to raise a proportion of the £300,000 needed to conserve the damp-damaged works of art.

Heather will be joined by three other members of her congregation.

Last year the dampness in the building was cured through an extensive restoration project, largely funded by a £250,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The walls are now drying

out, which will enable work to save the angels to begin.



## Foxhill celebrates fifty years of ministry

As Foxhill celebrates fifty years of ministry this year, it's looking for items of memorabilia and photographs to display at Foxhill. If you have any such items which you would be prepared

to loan please contact either Jonathon Green or Chris Wood at  
E: [foxhill@chester.anglican.org](mailto:foxhill@chester.anglican.org) or  
T: 01928733777.

## St Peter's, Little Budworth, marked the season of Rogation

Rogation is about asking and gifting - asking God to bless the land and those who work it, and acknowledging our reliance on the gifts of God and the gifts of those whose labours bring us the necessities of life.

As in Roman times a dog was involved, though in this case more a case of having his tummy rubbed than being sacrificed.



# Events

To book or view other events, visit:  
[www.chester.anglican.org/events](http://www.chester.anglican.org/events)



**This Month**

## **Explorers of Church Building Projects: St Paul's, Compstall** **09 July 2019**

The Explorers of Church Building Projects series is a popular learning programme for those interested in developing and caring for church buildings and halls in furthering mission and ministry. In June, we are delighted to be visiting St Paul's Church, Compstall.



**This Month**

## **Understanding young adult faith** **09 July 2019**

This day will explore issues around young adult identity, worldview and faith formation. Including how we might reach, disciple and encourage a generation growing up without the hope of faith in demanding and uncertain times.



**This Month**

## **New Churchwarden Training** **17 July 2019**

As Informative training session for new Churchwardens allowing the chance to learn and network. Talks will be given by both Ian Bishop and Mike Gilbertson and other diocesan staff. 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.

## **Looking further ahead**

### **Managing Events in Your Church - 07 September 2019**

This interactive workshop for people who run events in and for their church will give the basics of event management and planning.

### **How to write a successful grant application - 02 October 2019**

During the one-day workshop, you will learn about key planning documents and about establishing a clear fundraising strategy and how to make a compelling case for funding.





THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Chester



# Women Readers

A golden jubilee celebration to mark 50 years of women Readers in the Church of England.

**Foxhill, Frodsham**

28 July 2019 | 2pm – 5pm

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EVENTBRITE