

# Chester

## Diocesan News

September 2019

News, features, jobs  
[chester.anglican.org](http://chester.anglican.org)

Growing stronger parishes

Elisabeth and I would like to express our great gratitude for the gifts which were presented to us at our Farewell Service. These will be put to good use in our new home.

As I look back on my time as Bishop, what have been the highlights? This is a very difficult question to answer, as there have been so many.

The dozen or so clergy and lay conferences have certainly stood out, when I have had time to relax with clergy or lay people from across the Diocese, usually with excellent speakers and activities.

The four diocesan pilgrimages to the Holy Land are also prominent in my memory, when I have been able to spend over a week with my fellow pilgrims: a total of over 400.

And there have been my three visits to our partner province of Melanesia,

on the other side of the world. We have been greatly enriched by this partnership, which has recently been augmented by a developing relationship with two dioceses in the long-suffering Democratic Republic of Congo. The Church is a world-wide, universal Church, or it cannot be true to itself.

Yet beyond these and other special activities, the real highlight has been the regular sequence of local parish visits. I have been to every church in the Diocese – at least once, and typically on a number of occasions. The local Church is intrinsically also the universal Church, and vice versa. I have been constantly amazed at the faithfulness and dedication of those who maintain and lead the life of our parishes.

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In addition to our parishes I have visited most of our church schools, and the hospitals, prisons, hospices etc. where Anglican chaplains are at work.

Throughout I have worked with a very special team in my fellow bishops, archdeacons, and all the cathedral and diocesan staff.

It has all been humbling and enjoyable in equal measure.

As Elisabeth and I leave for our Scottish home, we wish the Diocese every blessing for the future. Be confident! Be of good courage! Rejoice in the Lord always – and again I say rejoice!

**+Peter**

## **School bank teaches the value of saving**

School children from Bishop Wilson Church of England Primary School are celebrating the launch of a pioneering project arming them with vital life skills including how to save money and budget.

The school is one of the first in the North West to unveil its own bank and general store as part of an ambitious business sponsorship scheme giving children practical experience of

handling money.

The Bishop Wilson Bank and Mere Stores opened in July in a special celebration event hosted by the school's governors and drawing support from parents, pupils, teachers, training providers and business sponsors.

The concept has involved the development of a unique school currency, the Mitre.



## Everyday Faith: Revd Dr Jenny McKay

Jenny was ordained a deacon on 30 June 2019. Rather than go into a parish to minister, Jenny will serve as a self-supporting minister in a secular setting: her workplace.

She's the Head of Veterinary Anatomic Pathology at a global company, IDEXX. Her own team of 12 veterinary pathologists work in a lab diagnosing veterinary diseases, with a total of almost 280 people on site

She says: "If your pet is ill, a biopsy might come to us for testing. I love my job and I feel my calling is to minister in the workplace. I wear my dog collar in the lab and I'm recognised as a priest. I see it as a good opportunity to work alongside people and share my faith at the same time."

Jenny explains that it differs to chaplaincy as she's not paid to carry out her religious duties but is simply identified as someone who is a priest and also in a paid secular job. She works alongside others in the workplace sharing all the normal ups and downs work can bring.

Jenny says: "People know I've been trained to be a priest and they do tend to ask about pastoral things. I'll have conversations in the coffee room and I'll ask them about their weekend. It opens up the opportunity for deeper conversations.

"It's important that as Christians we're confident and bold enough to share our faith every day of the week. I would encourage all Christians to look for those opportunities to share what you believe. You can bring it into conversations quite casually by simply telling someone you went to church on Sunday – sometimes that's all people need for them to ask questions and start a conversation."

At times Jenny says her role goes beyond the casual conversation, and staff

will occasionally share their fears and troubles.

"Sometimes people will come to my office and it will be more confidential. For example, somebody recently came to speak with me as they'd just been diagnosed with cancer. She was really scared and wanted to know what would happen.

"At other times people feel shame that they've not been to church for a while and want some advice. I always try to approach these conversations by talking a little about my own faith journey. I explain some of the doubts I've had along the way and the fact that I haven't always gone to church regularly. I try and show compassion and love to them and show that they're not alone. I say that even if they don't go to church, God is still looking out for them.

"My employer has been very supportive. They're quite laid back and very happy for me to come in in my collar, and as long as I get my normal lab work done, they're happy to have me in this role."



**Revd Dr Jenny McKay in the lab**

# Bishop Peter's leaving service

Hundreds of well-wishers journeyed to Chester Cathedral from across the Diocese of Chester on Saturday 20 July to mark Bishop Peter Forster's long ministry as the Bishop of Chester. Joining Bishop Peter and his wife at the emotional and joyful farewell service

were their four children and their families.

Representatives from parishes right across the Diocese attended to give thanks for Bishop Peter who is due to formally retire on 30 September.





# Foxhill marks 50 years

Foxhill hosted a celebration event to mark its 50th anniversary on the 19 and 21 July.

South Korean students, visiting at the time, entertained on Friday evening with dance and on Sunday afternoon Bishop Peter led and celebrated a service of Holy Communion, also to

mark the 50-year anniversary.

People who have been closely involved in the ministry at Foxhill were invited to attend.

Jonathon Green, Director of Foxhill, delivered a sermon in which he gave thanks to all those who had ministered there.



**In 2020 St Peter's, Prestbury will mark its 800th anniversary.** They would like to hear from any other churches that have held celebrations to mark

similar milestones in recent years. Do you have some advice on the dos and don'ts? If so, contact Jim Leonard: [jim.leonard99@gmail.com](mailto:jim.leonard99@gmail.com)

#YourBishList



# The next Bishop of Chester

The Church of England is looking to appoint the next Bishop of Chester for the first time in nearly a quarter of a century.

We are seeking your views on who that person should be and the qualities he or she should have.

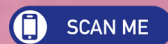
**Participate in three ways:**

**Complete the online survey** | by 10 September

**Attend the public meeting** | 25 September, Hartford

**Write to the appointments secretaries** | by 30 September

For full details go to:  
[www.chester.anglican.org/YourBishList](http://www.chester.anglican.org/YourBishList)



# Events

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



## **Anti modern slavery training** **11 September 2019**

The two-hour training is brought to you in conjunction with The Clewer Initiative, a Church of England project helping dioceses to raise awareness of modern slavery and provide support and care to the victims.



## **Leaders of Young Generations: Evangelism for Everyone** **13 September 2019**

This event will give you the opportunity to consider your own strengths in evangelism and to explore the relationship between proclamation and response. You will find out how to empower children and young people to live out evangelism themselves.



## **How to write a successful grant application** **12 October 2019**

You will learn and develop skills in writing strong fundraising applications, understand what the funders are looking for, how to identify grant making trusts and about establishing a clear fundraising strategy.



## **Explorers of church buildings: sharing ecumenical space** **31 October 2019**

Hear from Oakhanger Church in south Cheshire. Historically, there were both Anglican and Methodist buildings in the rural village of Oakhanger, but together they built a brand-new building in 2018, including kitchen and toilets.