

Chester Diocesan News



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester

#EverydayFaith across the Dicoese of Chester

Meet the new Head of Counselling for the diocese

**Bishop Keith invites you to
pray with him. Pg 2**

**Out and about across the
diocese. Pg 6**

Cover story
Pg 4

Who will you be praying for in 2020?

Bishop Keith encourages us to pray from the heart.

“No surprises if I tell you I’m praying for the next Bishop of Chester (whoever he or she will be!).

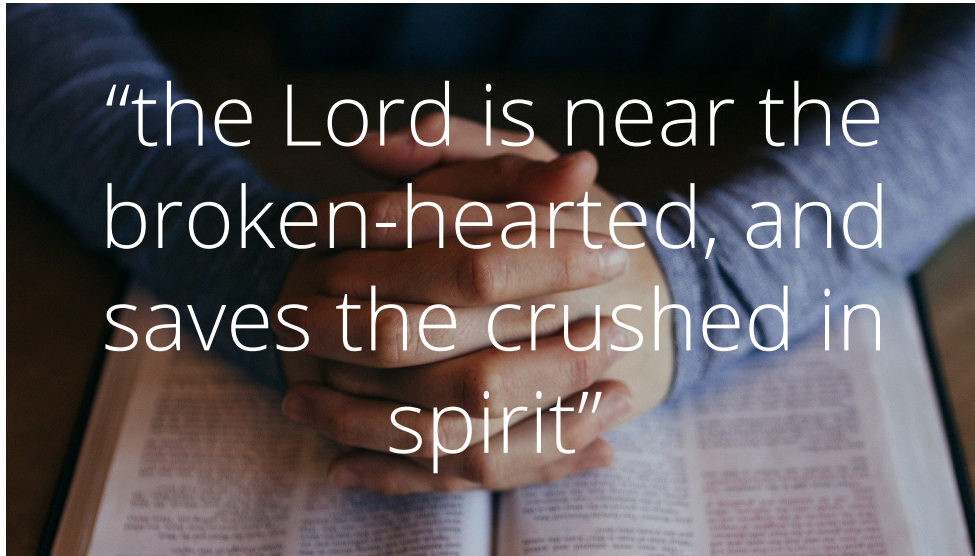
“I will use some of the prayers prepared for the diocese and found on the website and I hope you can join me at one of the prayer meetings arranged for us to pray together.

“I hope I will be praying on my own in my own words, sometimes not using words at all, experiencing what St Paul says in Romans 8:26: ‘Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.’

A word on that praying from the heart. Sometimes without words as we have seen.



Bishop Keith Sinclair



But that doesn't mean we shouldn't use words when we can, and they too can be from the heart!

"Have a look at Psalm 34. I've been listening to a wonderful gospel setting of the Psalm from the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir which you can find on You Tube. Go back to the words of just this one psalm; notice the emotive language:

'I will bless the Lord at all times';

'O magnify the Lord with me, let us exalt his name together';

'O taste and see that the Lord is good'.

"This is prayer coming from the heart, being expressed in praise, and not forgetting to

express prayer as a 'cry': 'When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears', prayer offered because the psalmist knows, 'the Lord is near the broken-hearted, and saves the crushed in spirit' (Ps 34:18).

"May our prayer in 2020 (whether for the

next bishop or not) be shaped by this kind of prayer.

"May the Lord hear our cry!

"With love in Christ."
+Keith

Next steps

Go to: www.chester.anglican.org/YourBishList

1. Download prayer resources to use during this time of transition as we await the appointment of the person God is calling to be the next Bishop of Chester.

2. Attend a prayer meeting on 29 January or 12 March in the days leading up to the meeting of the Crown Nominations Commission. More details can be found at the website above.



The new Head of Counselling

The counselling service is available to everyone in the Diocese of Chester via a team of dedicated counsellors, led by the newly appointed Head of Counselling Services, the Revd Peter McKriel.

“I feel very privileged to lead a team of dedicated volunteer counsellors. We offer a confidential service to anybody in the diocese who feels like they would benefit from talking things through with someone.

“Already in my role I’ve met clergy and ordinands who are facing challenges, asking significant questions about their ministries and about themselves and it’s a huge privilege to be able to support people as they reflect on those issues.

“Christians are not immune to suffering from mental health problems. We face the same challenges and stresses and life changes as the general population.

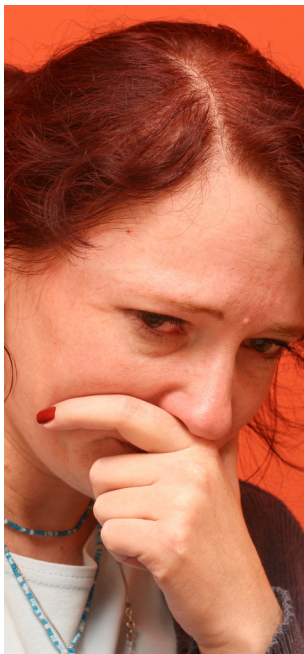
“Unfortunately, sometimes people feel, that as a Christian, they shouldn’t have mental health problems. This can lead to further complications because people don’t feel that they can own up to their own struggles or disclose them to others.

“We know also that within the Christian community, people can sometimes feel guilty

about things that are happening in their lives and in the lives of others. Finding out that they can talk about these issues to somebody can be incredibly liberating.”

Avoidance is better than cure

“Counselling isn’t just for crisis. Engaging in a process of supported reflection with a counsellor can help people with their personal development. Often this is a process of increased self-awareness, which I think is critical to people in public ministry. With-



out self-awareness we can sometimes not be as effective in ministry as we could be.

“A client once said to me that he realised one morning when he was shaving, that having a mirror is important. That’s exactly what we can offer to people as counsellors: a psychological mirror.

“The thing that perhaps characterises our service is that we are a Christian service and therefore people feel comfortable talking about faith alongside other issues. Sadly, Christians often find that they aren’t received

positively by counsellors in the secular world.

“I had that experience when I began my training. When I did an introduction to counselling at a local college, I

discovered that the tutor struggled with accepting anybody that was of the Christian faith even though we were being trained to receive everybody no matter what.

“Anyone using the diocesan counselling service will be safe in the knowledge that they’re working with counsellors who are Christians.”

Peter’s CV

- Ordained for 25 years.
- Served his curacy in Hale, and Marple.
- Vicar at Kelsall in 2011 before becoming Director of Studies in the Diocese of Chester.
- Appointed Head of Counselling Services in July 2019.

Need support?

The diocesan counselling service is confidential and open to all.

Contact the Revd Peter McKriel to arrange an initial telephone assessment. Following this, you will be offered a counsellor to work with confidentially.

E: counselling@chester.anglican.org
T: 07918 732 806

Out and about

across the Diocese of Chester



St Matthew's in Stockport has recently opened a brand new community space, right in the heart of Edgeley. Formerly the vicarage, the newly appointed St Matthew's Church House has four rooms available for community use.

Five churches in Middlewich came together in October for an ecumenical week of mission which included the 180 Youth Concert. During the event around 15 young people, with no formal contact with the Church, responded to the call to trust in Jesus.



Tom, Max, Jon, Ronan and Eve-Marie from the One Hope Team.



Mrs Linda Buckley and the Revd Jane Proudfoot with Bishop Beverley.

All Saints Church, Daresbury was the setting in November for a service to celebrate 50 years of women as Readers and 25 years of women as priests. The celebrant was the Bishop of Warrington in the Diocese of Liverpool, the Rt Revd Beverley Mason (*pictured centre*).

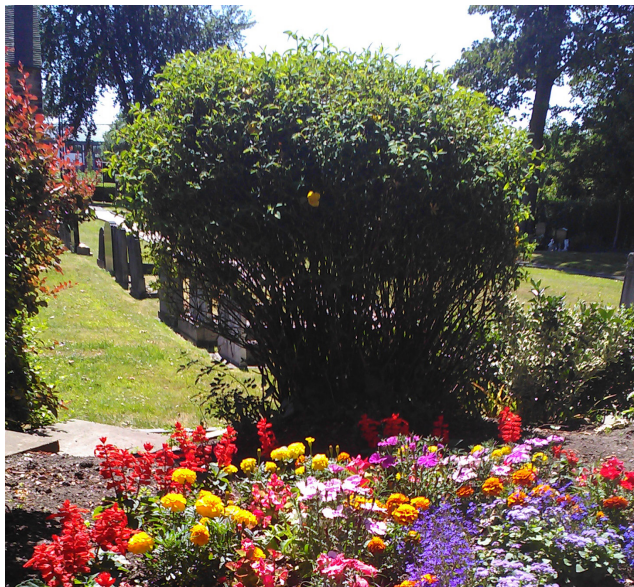
Holy Trinity Church, Blacon, on the outskirts of Chester, has received an Innovative Church Project award, from the Marsh Christian Trust. The Church's Outreach Project was runner up in that category, and won £500. The citation read: "Your innovative work to provide a safe space for all in the community and to improve people's wellbeing, particularly socially isolated and vulnerable individuals, are exceptional and have been recognised by the judging panel as outstanding."



Kathie, Lynn, Sue, and Tina from Holy Trinity.



Mrs Daphne Peers, Kathie, and Sue from Holy Trinity.

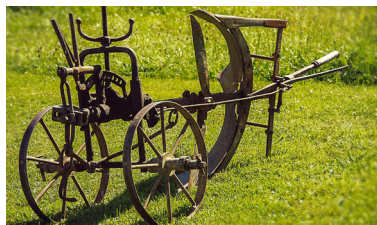


Part of the award-winning garden at St Mary's, Partington.

St Mary's, Partington has been awarded the highest "Level 5 – Outstanding Award" by the Royal Horticultural Society, for the transformation of a previously neglected area of the churchyard. A team of a dozen regular volunteers and others from the church and across the community, envisioned the garden to be a means of communicating the life of the church and the hope of the gospel.

Our events

Book via Eventbrite, or go to: chester.anglican.org/events



Traditional Plough Service

12 January 2020 - Chester Cathedral

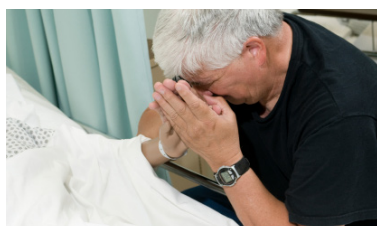
We will bless a plough and pray for favourable weather upon the land in 2020 and thank our farmers and their staff for all that they do to work the land and produce the food we eat.



Called to Serve

25 January 2020 - Frodsham

An opportunity for all Christians in the Diocese of Chester to explore their potential future vocation. We will focus on Pastoral Worker, Reader, Priest and ministry.



Being There: Bereavement

28 January 2020 - Daresbury

This five session course will look at caring for and supporting the bereaved; the grieving process; funeral practicalities, liturgy, and issues surrounding death and dying.



New approaches to Bible reading

30 April 2020 - Runcorn

Telling and retelling the story. This is a day to help those who would like to develop the skills to facilitate new approaches to reading the Bible with others. Led by Sue Richardson.



Lay Conference 2020

15 to 17 May 2020 - Swanwick

Exploring how we can all confidently live out our faith every day of the week, not just Sundays. For more information, go to: chester.anglican.org/lay-conference-2020