

Chester Diocesan News

#EverydayFaith across the Diocese of Chester | October 2021



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester

Revd Mike Loach joins Camino to COP walk



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BLACK LIVES MATTER

inspires cathedral exhibition

On behalf of the Diocese of Chester and the Diocesan Race and Ethnicity Forum, may I welcome you all to our 'Global images of Christ Exhibition' which is being held at Chester Cathedral (see pg 4).

This exhibition came as a result of the 'Black Lives Matter' which was ignited by the unlawful killing of George Floyd in America on 25 May. George Floyd's death triggered massive protests across the globe.

As a way of response the Diocese of Chester decided to launch the 'Global Image of Christ' exhibition. This is our aim to boldly claim that "Black Lives like any other lives do matter in the eyes of God".

Saying Black Lives Matter is not about excluding anyone in the eyes of God. It is about focusing on the deepest need

of the marginalised voices. It is our hope that this Global image of Christ exhibition will not only be an opportunity to listen, learn and be transformed but bring all God's people to an understanding that the God we worship is neither black or white but a God who calls all people John 2:32, "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself".

All lives do matter so let's prove that by living that truth as a society and a church in the 21st century. May God bless you all as you listen to the theologians, speakers and recorded voices of people all sharing just one story of a Righteous God who embraces all life irrespective of disability, colour or ethnicity background. God bless.

Revd Canon Lameck Mutete



"Saying Black Lives Matter is not about excluding anyone in the eyes of God."



Global Images of Christ opens

Global Images of Christ: Challenging Perceptions opened to invited guests at a special event held at Chester Cathedral on Thursday 23 September.

The exhibition, made up of over 50 paintings, African and Chinese sculptures, and orthodox icons, aims to challenge the Western depiction of Jesus Christ and his followers. It runs until the end of October.

The works, which include contributions from artists such as Mark Cazalet, Peter Eugene Ball, and Lorna May Wadsworth have been collected from churches across the UK.

The exhibition is a collaborative venture by Chester Cathedral, the University of Chester and the Diocese of Chester and represents a desire by all to promote equality and diversity in a community partnership.

The central piece is Lorna May Wadsworth's depiction of the Last Supper, the final meal that Jesus shared with his apostles in Jerusalem before his crucifixion. Wadsworth portrays Jesus as a black man. Her composition is based on the late 15th-century mural painting by Italian artist Leonardo da Vinci.

Diocesan Inclusion Officer, the Revd Vanessa Layfield says: "The Last Supper image of a black Christ may be shocking to some, but why? One might argue that an image of a white Christ is just as dishonest as an image of a black Christ, for Christ was neither black nor white, but a brown

Middle Eastern Jew.

"The exhibition helps us to reconsider our unconscious bias and our assumptions about others and in so doing will help us create a more inclusive Church."

Artist Lorna May Wadsworth says: "I'm thrilled that Chester Cathedral has put together an exhibition of inclusive representations of Christ. This show embodies everything I wanted to convey when I embarked on my Last Supper altarpiece 12 years ago."

Global Images of Christ: Challenging Perceptions is open until Saturday 30 October. Entry is free and donations are welcome.



Some of those attending the opening event of Global Images of Christ Global shared their thoughts on why it is an important exhibition to hold now.

[Watch the video and find out more about the exhibition.](#)

01-12 NOV 2021
GLASGOW

COP26



The 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, also known as COP26, is the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference. It is scheduled to be held in the city of Glasgow between 31 October and 12 November 2021, under the presidency of the United Kingdom.

The Church of England has pledged to become carbon 'net zero' by 2030, a decision made at General Synod in February 2020. The Diocese of Chester is working towards this goal. The diocesan Environment Forum aims to help parishes understand environmental issues and help reduce the effect we all have on the world that we live in.



Camino to COP is a pilgrimage for climate justice, which began in London and will finish in Glasgow in time for the United Nations Climate Change Conference which starts on 31 October 2021. On 29 September 2021 Rev Mike Loach, Chair of the Diocesan Environment Forum joined the group as they passed through Handforth.

[Watch the video here](#)

In the lead-up to COP26, the Environment Forum is coordinating a number of initiatives to raise awareness of COP26 and the ways in which we can begin to make an impact on our environment, in a positive way.

A four-week creation care course - 07 October

This course is a unique collaboration between the Diocese of Chester, HeartEdge, Melanesian Mission UK, and Southampton University. By attending you will gain vital information about climate change, its impacts on people, and have the opportunity to reflect with others on our role as Christians in taking practical climate action.

Week 1: Caring for Creation (7 October)

We will take a theological perspective on creation care and tackling climate change, using bible studies and a wide range of theological resources.

Week 2: Understanding Climate Change (14 October 2021)

We will look at climate change, its drivers and impacts from a scientific perspective.

Week 3: Living Climate Change – Stories from Melanesia (21 October)

We will learn about the effects of climate change on people and draw upon examples of climate impacts and human responses in Melanesia.

Week 4: Taking Action – Caring for the Environment, Caring for People (18 November 2021)

We will hear about various options for climate change mitigation and adaptation that we can take as individuals and as parishes.

Chester Youth Climate Change Conference - 23 October

Chester Youth Climate Change Conference is an opportunity to raise awareness of Climate Change Issues in Cheshire, and to give a platform to those under 25 to engage with the issues by hearing from international and local speakers of a variety of ages. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

[Book to attend these events here](#)

Events



4 Week Creation Care Course - Week 1

07 October 2021 - Online

Learn more about climate change, the theology, science, the impact on Melanesia, & church responses. We will take a theological perspective on creation care and tackling climate change. [More](#)



Bishop of Stockport welcome Service

14 October 2021 - Stockport

An opportunity to praise, pray and offer thanks for the ministry of Sam Corley, Bishop of Stockport, as he begins his ministry amongst us. [More](#)



Wellbeing of all God's people

14 October 2021 - Handbridge, Chester

Step back with us for a day of reflection and discussion as we mark World Mental Health Day with a conference arranged by the Mental Health Forum [More](#)



Fundraising in a Box

20 October 2021 - Online

Find out about the new fundraising resource for Ecclesiastical Insurance customers. A simple step by step guide, full of tips, suggestions and resources to help churches with their fundraising. [More](#)



Living in Love and Faith with Young People

19 October 2021 - Online

Learn how to engage young people with the LLF resources to enable conversations about identity, sexuality, relationships and gender. [More](#)