

our Diocese

A monthly snapshot of Church of England life around Derbyshire

The Venerable Carol Coslett, Archdeacon of Chesterfield writes...

Bishop Alastair's Farewell Service

The farewell service for The Rt Revd Dr Alastair Redfern, Bishop of Derby, will be held at Derby Cathedral on Saturday, 14 July 2018 at 3.30pm. All are warmly welcome and invited to attend this special service of celebration and thanks.

Common Fund - How it counts

Canon David Truby, Wirksworth Team Ministry, writes...



The amount that each parish is required to pay towards the cost of ministry in our churches is called 'The Common Fund'. The clue is in the title, it's a fund, into which we all contribute, to provide for the clergy in our parishes. The less we pay, the fewer clergy there will be to share around, and as those numbers are dwindling across the nation, then as a diocese we need to ensure that there will be a large enough 'fund' to provide for the future of our parishes in Derbyshire.

Generally, it's hard work to raise that money, and even if we all paid our share of the fund in full then it would still not be sufficient to cover all the costs. The Diocese of Derby still receives a subsidy from the Church Commissioners to 'top up' the required amount.

In recent years, it's become quite common for a group of churches to work together, perhaps as a united benefice or within a deanery. The Wirksworth Team Ministry has been in existence since 1982, and over the years it has recognised the value of working together across the area that it serves to provide for adequate staffing of our parishes. Though we all recognise the value of lay ministry, the clergy still remain one of the Church of England's most valuable assets in our communities. Stipendiary ministry enables the clergy to be available not just for the people who come to church, but for the wider population many of whom look to the Church of England for their spiritual needs. The Common Fund contributes to the mission of the Church as we work to reach out to the people in our parishes through creative ministry as well as the 'bread and butter' of Sunday services and the occasional offices - baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Within the Team Ministry, the parish treasurers meet twice per year to monitor finances and, in November, to allocate the amount that each parish within the benefice will pay towards the Common Fund payment that is asked of us. There can be some animated discussions! In the end, however, it is recognised that we need to support and encourage each other, which means that those parishes which are struggling financially are often helped by the others. There may be a new roof to pay for, or a broken boiler that needs to be fixed. Large payments are not uncommon when it comes to maintaining old buildings.

Working together enables flexibility and the chance to work strategically across the benefice. Along with good stewardship and the promotion of Gift Aid, it is possible to make the best use of our financial resources, but vitally, to provide for clergy to be available in the future.

The Power of Love



The Royal Wedding was watched by an estimated 1.9 billion people worldwide. In Derbyshire, I witnessed the marriage of Elizabeth Bennett to Mr Darcy performed by the Hathersage Players - a great performance!

Love is definitely in the air, and after the passionate address by Chicago-born Bishop Michael Curry those billions of people can surely be left in no doubt about the Gospel message of Love for all people. Wouldn't it be great if we all had that captive audience every Sunday? We would get amazing results in those statistics showing signs of growth and enough pledges to the common fund to support all our ministry needs. Above all, the kingdom would grow, full of people willing to show love to one another and make a difference in the world. This was partly born witness by the number and variety of guests The Duke and Duchess of Sussex invited to their wedding who had contributed in some way to change lives and show love to their neighbours. This is Christian witness.

We are all called as Disciples of Christ to live out our Baptismal promises which means telling the Christian Story, the Gospel of Love to our families, friends and neighbours. The Ministry of All Believers, our Church, our Diocese, our Faith will only grow if we live out this Love in Action in all parts of our lives. We have to BE the church as best we can for every time and every place.

Since becoming your Archdeacon of Chesterfield, I have been wonderfully welcomed and embraced by the people of God.

As we are getting settled as a family, we are experiencing the wonder of this beautiful part of the world. Various people have shown me around the different areas, visiting the different churches and attending special events. I am excited to be invited to come along and preach or take a service, and it is just lovely to be part of the communities. At this time of year too we have celebrated Ascensiontide following the Archbishops call to prayer "Thy Kingdom Come." Churches all over the Diocese have hosted events, some focused on Christian Aid week as we 'Stand Together' with one voice for the injustice in our world.

This is what it should all be about. At the Ascension we remember Jesus's departure from his resurrected body to a heavenly body, symbolised by the disciples looking up to the Heavens. Jesus is no longer contained, but Free for all the world. We can make that happen! The horse chestnut - the Ascension Tree - is now in full flower. If you look carefully you will see that the flowers are like big candles pointing to heaven and the leaves point in all directions - to the ends of the earth!

As Bishop Michael Curry preached, "There is great power in love, and If you don't believe me, just stop and imagine. Think and imagine a world where love is the way. Imagine our homes and families where love is the way. Imagine neighbourhoods and communities where love is the way. Because when love is the way, we know that God is the source of us all, and we are brothers and sisters, children of God."

So, wherever you are, whoever you talk to, try to be an agent of Love in the world, to speak out, and enable signs of growth to flourish and go deep into every heart.

"What the world needs now is love, sweet love. It's the only thing that there's just too little of".
(Burt Bacharach / Hal David)

“Drive Away” modern slavery with the “Safe Car Wash” app

Drivers are encouraged to join an unprecedented national information-gathering campaign, launched by the Church of England and the Catholic Church in England and Wales, aimed at eradicating modern slavery in hand car washes.

Anti-slavery campaigners (including The Rt Revd Dr Alastair Redfern, Bishop of Derby), and other key agencies are backing the Safe Car Wash app, launched by The Clewer Initiative, the Church of England's campaign against modern slavery, and the Santa Marta Group, the Catholic Church's anti-slavery project.

The Safe Car Wash app is free to download on to Apple and Android devices.

Users can open the app when they are at a car wash and pinpoint their exact location using GPS. They are then taken through a series of indicators of modern slavery ranging from practical details - such as whether workers have suitable protective clothing - to behavioural clues, such as whether they appear withdrawn. If the answers indicate a high likelihood, users will be directed to the Modern Slavery Helpline.

Data from the app will be anonymised and shared with the National Crime Agency (NCA) and the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA).

Kevin Hyland, Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner said: *“The value of this app is that in addition to immeasurably improving the lives of victims of modern slavery being cruelly exploited in car washes today, it also empowers a community to act.”*

The App is also endorsed by the National Police Chiefs' Council, the Local Government Association and the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner.



Diocese of Derby to become an Eco Diocese

Synod voted unanimously to become an Eco Diocese, following a presentation by the Environment group at Diocesan Synod in June 2018.

The motion, proposed by the Archdeacon of Chesterfield and seconded by Dr Richard Henderson-Smith, was: "This Synod agrees to start to implement the process of becoming an Eco Diocese through the efforts of Parishes, Deaneries and Diocesan Officers and Offices as it moves towards applying the gospel mission of caring for God's Earth for the sake of God's creatures. This is agreed to be reported, shared and celebrated at Deanery and Diocesan level."

In the coming months, we will bring you more details about the Eco Diocese and how your church can become actively involved. In the meantime, we encourage you to learn more about Eco Church, developed by A Rocha UK.

From meditation to insulation, from location to invocation; loving God and his creation should impact everything in our church lives. Eco Church is a brand new award scheme for churches in England and Wales who want to demonstrate that the gospel is good news for God's Earth.

Eco Church is the successor to Eco-Congregation (in England and Wales only) and they would love your church to take part in this exciting initiative, which will challenge and equip you to care for God's world in all areas of your life together.

To participate in the Eco Church scheme, register your church at www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk

The Diocese of Derby has released a short video "A tale of two churches" that illustrates how two churches in the Diocese have taken different approaches to going green. The video is available on both the Diocese of Derby website and YouTube channel.

“Alexa, Who is God?”

The Church of England has launched its Alexa skill, enabling millions of users to ask the Church of England for prayers, explanations of the Christian faith and location-based information about local church events and services.

You can activate the Church of England skill by saying: "Alexa, open the Church of England"



Elected Members to Crown Nominations Commission

The following members elected from the Vacancy In See Committee will serve on the national body, the Crown Nominations Commission, to choose the next Diocesan Bishop for the Diocese of Derby. The six named will serve alongside six national representatives, chosen by the General Synod of the Church of England, together with the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of York.

You are invited to contact any one or more of these members. Any e-mails sent to vacancyinsee@derby.anglican.org will be forwarded to all of the people listed:

Mrs. Kat Allread
Mrs. Molly Andrews
Revd Alicia Dring
Very Revd Dr Stephen Hance
Revd Julian Hollywell
Canon Mark Titterton

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