

CRUX

Church for a different world

25p

Issue 48
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**LOVE FOR
GOD'S WORLD**

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Manchester

CHURCH
FOR A
DIFFERENT
WORLD

CAN WE DO MORE ABOUT CHILD POVERTY?

Until a few years ago, the number of children living in poverty in England had been going steadily down. Sadly, that's no longer the case. Recent figures have shown child poverty on the rise again. In some parliamentary constituencies a majority of children are officially poor. To my surprise and shock, several parts of our diocese are in the worst ten places in the nation. Manchester may be a vibrant city, showing all the signs of economic success, but many of our youngest and most vulnerable citizens are not sharing in that prosperity.

A problem so big won't be solved without a real political will to address it. We should be challenging all who hold public office to give the wellbeing of children the highest priority. But waiting for somebody else to do something is not an acceptable option. Churches are already doing a lot, not least through running food banks and holiday clubs, and via breakfast and after school activities in our church schools. But in the light of these new findings, I believe that we must redouble our efforts.

And the burden must not fall solely on the church people in the poorest parishes. Just as our Winter Night Shelters have been blessed by volunteers coming from other parts of the diocese, I would like to think that parishioners in more wealthy areas will be willing to volunteer and lend a hand. Only with such help will we be able to extend and expand our work, and give Manchester's many poor children a better start in life.



David Walker
Bishop of Manchester

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

26 February - 11 March

"COME ON IN is the theme for this year's Fairtrade Fortnight", says Hilary Thomas from the Just Change group. It's a good time to put the spotlight on the farmers and workers who grow our food. "With Fairtrade we have the power to change the world every day."

Hilary is delighted that we have many Fairtrade churches, but knows that sometimes it has become a struggle, or people have forgotten (or don't know) why Fairtrade is such an important part of our mission. Supporting Fairtrade helps challenge unjust trading systems, and ensures that farmers and producers are paid fairly for their goods.

"Some people think that because there are Fairtrade goods in supermarkets we don't need Traidcraft stalls - but the truth is we need them more than ever. Supermarkets only stock a fraction of the goods available from Traidcraft", she says.

Traidcraft fights poverty through trade. Richard Darlington from St Anne, Lydgate, said "Traidcraft guarantees to renew contracts provided quality is maintained. As a result, Fair Trade producers choose their best coffee beans and tea leaves. Traidcraft can provide money up front so traders can buy raw materials, and gives advice on marketing."

So please choose Fairtrade wherever you can - what you put in your shopping basket can help to change the world!.

For support to start/re-start a Fairtrade stall, have a speaker or preacher at church or deanery synod, or to find out more, please contact Just Change: justchange@manchester.anglican.org

MESSY EUCHARIST

The first diocesan Messy Eucharist at Manchester Cathedral was an opportunity to see Messy Church in action, join in, ask questions and network.

Children's Officer, Karen Beal, said, "We had a wonderful time with a great team of volunteers! We were expecting about 50 people but almost three times that number came.

"There were a number of imaginative activities based around the Eucharist. The confession zone offered 'Fizzy Forgiveness' and the chance to think about saying sorry using plasters and paper people cut outs. In preparation for sharing the Peace we made flying doves and a peace banner. We created special cups, prayer bracelets and key rings. We also made an altar cloth which was placed on the altar during our celebration time."

Matilda, 3, said it was beautiful; she liked making the doves. Jorja, 8, enjoyed the different sections and particularly

making the prayer bracelets. She liked using pipe cleaners to make shapes during celebration time but would have liked that part to be a bit more active. Jorja is absolutely right and we learned lots from the experience. Cath, one of the adults, can't wait for the next one!

Karen would like to thank everyone who helped pull the Messy Eucharist together: to the team who hosted activities with great enthusiasm and creativity; Cathedral staff who were so helpful and accommodating; Mothers' Union members for providing refreshments. Also to Catherine and Mandy, local Messy Church coordinators, and to Canon Marcia and Archdeacon Cherry for leading the celebration time. And to everyone who came along to share in this special time. Look out for future dates.

For more information about Messy Church, contact Karen Beal, KarenBeal@manchester.anglican.org or 0161 828 1433.





MOTHERS' UNION

The Mothers' Union office at Church House, 90 Deansgate is the administrative hub of the organisation that has 2000 members across the diocese. The accompanying shop is a great place to purchase greetings cards and prayer books.

Andrea Walsh is the new Secretary to Manchester Mothers' Union, having taken over from Judith Hilton on her retirement last July. Andrea supports members and groups across the diocese by doing essential administration, organising meetings and handling enquiries about the Mothers' Union's many projects in the area.

Andrea said, "I love my work and I feel very privileged to be here. Every day is different and I love looking after our members. One day I can be helping members with queries or putting someone in touch with a parenting course. Another day I might be going to Thursday prayers, banking money or taking minutes of a trustees' meeting.

Copies of the Diocesan Directory are now available from the Mothers' Union bookshop on the 3rd floor of Church House, 90 Deansgate.

The Mothers' Union shop is open Tuesday to Thursday from 10am to 2pm and stocks a range of greetings cards including Mothers' Day, Easter, Ordination and Baptism. With the closure of St Denys bookshop last month, the shop is now also the place to get hold of a copy of the Manchester Diocesan Directory, priced £6.

To get your copy, pop into the shop any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, call 0161 828 1463 or email shopmothers@gmail.com. Payment is by cash or cheque, and copies can be purchased for mail order.

Thursday Prayers take place in the chapel at Church House (4th floor) at 12pm on the second Thursday of the month. You are welcome to attend, whether or not you are a member.

BRIEF ENCOUNTER:

Christine Faulkner

MY FROGS REMIND ME TO FULLY RELY ON GOD!



Being a member of the Mothers' Union and the central call to prayer go together for Christine. "My prayer life consists of spending time with God every day.

Especially first thing in the morning and then I can get through the rest of the day. If prayer is not central to everything then God is not central to everything." That's why she loves her frog collection for what they stand for: **I Fully Rely On God** - I pray for everything and everybody!"

Christine thoroughly recommends joining the Mothers' Union. "It's meant so much to me to be involved for so long - it's been so important in my own life. I always tell people who need a friend or some help that we are there for them. You don't have to go every week but the members will always support you."

www.mothersunionmanchester.org

Christine Faulkner has been a member of the Mothers' Union for 40 years and is the President of the Bolton Archdeaconry branch.

"I wanted to join the Mothers' Union because it was church based, prayer based and a worldwide organisation. It's so important to support mothers worldwide, as well as in your own country and your own home." For Christine having a Christian family life is vital. "That's the way I brought my children up - and it's the basis for everything I do in life."

The Mothers' Union supported Christine through divorce when her children were young and when she found herself coping on her own after her mother died.

ROADSHOWS

Invitations will soon be sent to parishes ahead of the Roadshows, where we'll be sharing progress on how we are becoming Church for a different world.

Please sign up to confirm your attendance and advise of any dietary or access requirements.



GREEN SHOOTS



It's official! Manchester Diocese has registered its commitment to work towards becoming an Eco Diocese.

Meet The Revd John Hughes, Diocesan Environmental Officer, pictured here with Bishop David Walker. John has been an important voice in the diocese, encouraging us to recognise the link between our faith and care of God's creation.

"I want to help churches to see that the environment is an area of our mission", says John. "My role is to help us explore what the issues are and develop a network of people that can share information and support one another.

"Facing up to environmental issues and working out what we can do about them are great ways to build and

strengthen links with people in our communities who share our concerns."

Find out more at a special service called Passion for the Planet? with the Bishop of Bolton on 18 March (see back cover).



WELCOME OUR ARCHDEACON

You are invited to attend the collation of the Revd Jean Burgess as Archdeacon of Bolton on Palm Sunday, 25 March, at 3pm at Bury Parish Church. For catering purposes please let Mrs Judith Popay know if you plan to attend. Light refreshments will be served afterwards.

RSVP to pa.archbolton@manchester.anglican.org or call 0161 761 6117.

NEW MEMBER ELECTED TO GENERAL SYNOD

The Revd Canon Dr Rachel Mann has been duly elected to serve on General Synod until 2020.



WARDENSHARE

St Mary the Virgin in Davyhulme has worked hard to open up the role of churchwarden to younger people, including those with work commitments and young children, and hopes the move will have the added benefit of encouraging younger people to come to church.

The Wardenshare project was recognised with a Church for a different world award by Bishop David. It's been successful in changing the age profile of churchwardens.

Vicar of St Mary's, Canon Chris Ford, said, "Wardenshare has involved looking collectively as a PCC at the expectations of the churchwarden role. Wardens are often expected to be available during the day to ensure the proper maintenance of church buildings and meet with contractors. Traditional expectations do not necessarily fit with people who are working or have children at school.

"As we appointed younger churchwardens, former wardens began to offer informal advice and cover for weekday duties. This developed into a mentoring arrangement. The wider congregation also recognised that if we are to serve a 'Church in a different world', our expectations about the availability and the role of the churchwarden might need a greater degree of flexibility – while nonetheless fulfilling core duties."

It is now the norm for St Mary's to have two churchwardens and two deputy churchwardens who have children of school age. Wardenshare has had the following tangible benefits:

- The role is more accessible to people with gifts of leadership
- There is an ever increasing pool of gifted people who have served as churchwardens and have a broad range of experience and expertise.
- The lay leadership within the church is becoming truly inter-generational.

Angela May, former deputy warden and now churchwarden, said "Our team of wardens complements one another brings different gifts to the table, including becoming great friends.

Chris adds, "Hopefully, with younger lay leaders being visible in our church, more young people and families will feel at home here. We want everyone to have a sense of belonging, but recognise the need to make disciples of young people who have challenging and changing patterns of life and responsibility."





MODERN SLAVERY

Modern slavery is real. It is happening in our community. It is an unseen crime that hides in takeaways, hotels, car washes, nail bars and private homes.

More than 200 years after the abolition of the slave trade, there are now more slaves worldwide than ever before – an estimated 45 million. Many victims of modern slavery will have also been victims of human trafficking.

Someone is in slavery if they are:

- forced to work through mental or physical threat
- owned or controlled by an 'employer', usually through mental or physical abuse or the threat of abuse
- dehumanised, treated as a commodity or bought and sold as 'property'
- physically constrained or have restrictions placed on their freedom.

The most common types of exploitation in the UK are sexual exploitation, labour exploitation and domestic servitude. Poverty, limited opportunities at home, lack of education, unstable social and political conditions, economic imbalances and war are some of the key drivers that contribute to someone's vulnerability to becoming a victim.

SPOT THE SIGNS

Stop the Traffik has resources to help you recognise the signs of trafficking. Possible signs include:

- A lack of self-esteem
- Acting as if instructed by another
- Injured or in need of medical care
- Distrustful
- Fearful and poorly integrated into the local community
- Living in overcrowded accommodation
- Lacking suitable clothing for a job
- Picked up by vehicles at unusual hours

WHAT IS THE CHURCH DOING ABOUT IT?

The Clewer Initiative is raising awareness in the Church of England of all aspects of modern slavery and helps provide victim support and care. Make sure you are familiar with the signs above. If you suspect that someone is at risk, report it!

Report non-urgent suspicious activity to the police by calling 101. For advice or support call the 24/7 confidential UK Modern Slavery helpline on 08000 121 700.

Sources of information:
The Clewer Initiative: www.theclewerinitiative.org
Stop The Traffik: www.stophetraffik.org
Modern Slavery Helpline: www.modernslaveryhelpline.org
The Human Trafficking Foundation: www.humantraffickingfoundation.org/

SUPPORTING VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

St Chrysostom's Church in Manchester won a Church for a different world award for its work supporting victims of human trafficking. It estimates that 150 people have benefited from the English language classes and pastoral care it provides.



In partnership with the Medaille Trust, St Chrysostom's has been working for over two years with victims of human trafficking. Recognising the immense scale of trafficking in the UK and around the world, the church wanted to provide pastoral care to the vulnerable people it comes into contact with.

They identified a need to help victims understand and speak English better, and to grow in self-esteem. Churchwarden, Alan Beck, said: "We set up language classes for the victims, which now run to four per week. We created a relaxed and friendly space and recruited volunteers from within and beyond the congregation, including volunteers from other churches. We obtained resources and training and, where necessary, involved translators.

"Most clients are men, but several women attend too. Many are vulnerable people, who benefit greatly from the lessons and the care shown to them. They come from all parts of the world,

especially Poland, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Central Africa and Vietnam. We have also had victims from England."

SELF-ESTEEM

The Rector, Canon Ian Gomersall, said "The classes are designed not only to teach basic English, but also to provide a welcoming place where people can get to know one another and grow in self-esteem. The classes are held in the church building, emphasising the calm and peace, and the welcome of the whole church. People can pray, light a candle or ask for prayer. Sometimes clients come to Sunday worship, where we do our best to help integrate them into our church fellowship.

"We place particular care on helping those who wish to remain in the UK to write CVs and learn how to apply for jobs. We also encourage people to get involved in other activities, such as learning an instrument or getting involved in community projects."

St Chrysostom's runs awareness evenings that outline the enormity of the issue of human trafficking, and how to look for the signs. The evenings have been well attended by local residents, university staff and police officers.

Volunteers are welcome. Please contact St Chrysostom's on 0161 225 2550; office@stchrysostoms.co.uk

APPOINTMENTS

The Revd David Austin, currently vicar of St Luke's with St Augustine's Norwich, has been appointed Incumbent of Holy Trinity Coldhurst and St. Stephen and All Martyrs Oldham. He will also work with the deanery cluster which includes St Mary with St Peter Oldham, St Paul Oldham and St Thomas Werneth.

The Revd Jan Harney, currently NSM Pioneer Curate at Astley, Tyldesley and Mosley Common, has been appointed to the House for Duty post of Priest-in-Charge of All Saints Glazebury in the Diocese of Liverpool.

The Revd Ivan Ruiters, currently Incumbent of Milnrow and Newhey, has been appointed to a post in the Diocese of Natal in South Africa.

RESIGNATIONS

The Revd John Armstrong, currently Team Vicar in Deane Team and Priest-in-Charge of St. Bede Bolton-le-Moors, has been appointed as Rector of Wombwell in the Diocese of Sheffield.

RETIREMENT

The Revd Gisela Raines, currently Incumbent of St Paul Withington, is to retire on 30 April 2018.



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REVD CANON COLIN CRASTON RIP

Colin Craston, a leading evangelical priest who served the diocese and the wider church, died in January, aged 95.

Colin was vicar of St Paul's Bolton, and later with Emanuel, for almost 40 years, his only incumbency. He was in his time rural/area dean of Bolton and a chaplain to the Queen.

He was honoured for his service to the Church with a Lambeth Doctorate, and in 2011 he was admitted to the newly created Order of William Temple "in recognition of his long and distinguished ministry within the Diocese of Manchester, the Church of England and the Anglican Communion".

He was a New Testament Scholar of some note and his sermons were so often based on St Paul's letters. He was the author of a number of books which did much to broaden the then current narrow evangelical views of the Church and the gospel message. His own theology, reflected in his writings, was shaped and evolved by his wide experience of a changing world.

He was a strong proponent of the ordination of women, putting forward persuasive arguments from an evangelical perspective in support of the priesthood of women worldwide.

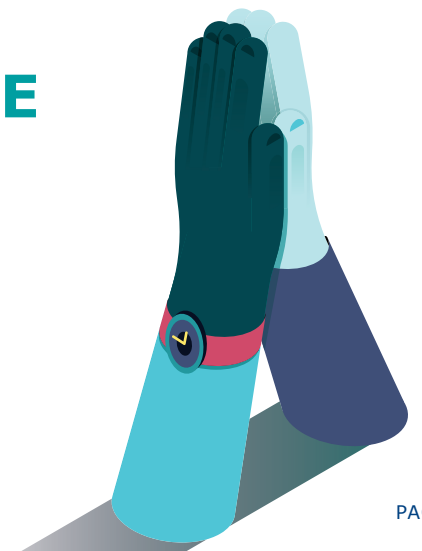
During the Second World War Colin served in the Royal Navy protecting the Arctic convoys in the most horrendous of weather conditions. The Russian Federation, as well as our own country, awarded him medals in recognition of his service.

In retirement Colin continued his writing and, along with his wife Brenda, served as Hon Assistant Priests in the Horwich Team where his funeral was held. Brenda, his children and grandchildren from his first marriage, and a great company of friends and colleagues gathered to speed Colin on the next stage of his journey towards the God he had loved and served so faithfully.

Ven Alan Wolstencroft

JOIN THE WAVE OF PRAYER

Thy Kingdom Come is a simple invitation to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for friends and family to come to faith. Now in its third year, participation has grown every year. Pledge to Pray and take a look at the ideas and resources at www.thykingdomcome.global



FREEDOM IN OBEDIENCE?

Rupert Hoare,
Assistant Bishop



Spring is here – so Lent has arrived. Spring speaks of freedom; but Lent of obedience. We like the first, but avoid the second. Yet surely the saints say: you can't have one without the other. Maybe Lent is the time to re-visit our obedience to Christ.

For Dietrich Bonhoeffer, obedience was crucial. His sculpture stands alongside other 20th century saints and martyrs on Westminster Abbey's west wall. I find his life inspiring, 73 years after his execution by the Nazis. Here was a German citizen, who (with other compatriots), sought to resist Hitler's terror from within Germany. Although our world is different from his, three stages in his life challenge us with what Christian obedience means today.

First, like the boy Samuel in the Temple, Bonhoeffer had to learn obedience to God's call. While remaining close to his family, obedience to Christ meant moving beyond that privileged circle, out of his 'comfort-zone'; it always does, as we're called to serve His world, whether we're lay or ordained.

Second, the Lutheran Bonhoeffer found himself delighting in Christians from other denominations: for example, Catholics in Spain and Italy, Anglicans (and doubtless others) in England and the USA. Companionship in obedience to Christ is what matters: a joyful, and challenging aspect of our Christian faith.

For Bonhoeffer, facing Hitler's racist ideology and increasingly horrendous practice, obedience also meant standing up for the Jews, being committed to them, although it involved denouncing fellow Christians. The ordinands he secretly trained had to grasp the enormity of the risks obedience to Christ entailed. In our own aggressively secular world, a welcoming, respectful commitment to those of other faiths remains integral to our Christian obedience.

Third, for Bonhoeffer, obedience came to involve resisting the German State, including associating himself with plans to assassinate Hitler. This meant going against the authority of Romans chapter 13: but he and his compatriots found God's word in Acts 5.29: 'We must obey God rather than men'. The call to obedience would cost him his life - but not before finding, in prison, awaiting 'trial' and death, a Christian freedom to live a fully human life, to which those around him bore witness.

Our situation is different, but I can't help thinking we should be exploring afresh our own obedience to Christ, in our secular, self-fixated worlds, and finding our deeper freedom in that obedience.

TRAVEL SAFE

Richard Curtis's film, Love Actually, speaks of the airport arrivals hall as a place where "love is everywhere". It's true – but not for everyone.

Some arrive at Manchester already exposed to exploitation, coercion or threats of violence. Others arrive with great expectations, having been enticed by offers of legitimate-sounding jobs, only to find reality in the UK much less appealing.

Manchester Airport chaplaincy works closely with the police and Border Force, often serving as 'responsible adults' for minors or vulnerable adults when detained or interviewed. It also receives referrals from the Forced Marriage Unit, which repatriates survivors of imprisonment and isolation abroad back to the UK.

17 SECONDS TO SAVE A LIFE

Border Force staff called a chaplain after midnight to be present for a safeguarding interview with a 17 year old Hungarian girl, thought to be a potential victim of trafficking. In the 17 seconds that immigration officers have (on average) to make a judgement, the officer decided to do some background checks on her and her travelling companion (an older man).

Checks revealed the male's history of prosecution for trafficking and prostitution. A missing-person report had been filed with Hungarian police by the girl's concerned mother.

Result: the boyfriend was arrested and the girlfriend refused entry to the UK for her own protection. Remember that when tempted to complain about the length of immigration queues!

WE'RE ON YOUR SIDE

Manchester Airport, its airlines, companies and community work together to protect vulnerable passengers from illegal exploitation through Travel Safe, which equips staff to spot the signs and respond to potential exploitation. The campaign also raises public awareness through posters, leaflets and screens in 20 languages, communicating that airport staff are on the side of the most vulnerable.

Manchester Councillor, Sameem Ali, spoke about her experience as a young girl: "I was taken to Pakistan [against my will] aged 13... I didn't know that I could approach staff at the airport.

"I wish there was something like this back then. Maybe, I would have been saved from the pain that I had to go through. I want to tell young people at risk of being taken out of the country that there are staff at the airport who they can approach."



Airport Chief Operating Officer, Tricia Williams, Councillor Sameem Ali, Stop the Traffik's Julia Pugh, Bishop Libby Lane and Airport Coordinating Chaplain George Lane at the launch of Travel Safe.

We want to hear your thoughts

CAN YOU FIND IMAGINATIVE WAYS TO INVOLVE YOUNGER PEOPLE IN CHURCH LEADERSHIP?

What will we do with your comments?
We will collate all the responses we receive and consider them as we develop our plans and priorities for the diocese.
We will not be able to provide individual responses, but we will provide updates in CRUX on how your feedback is shaping Church for a different world.

What would you like to see discussed in a future issue?

Continue the conversation
Website: manchester.anglican.org
Twitter: @DioManchester
Facebook: Church of England (Diocese of Manchester-official)
Email: differentworld@manchester.anglican.org

Thanks for your feedback so far

Send to:
Church for a Different World,
Diocese of Manchester, Church House,
90 Deansgate, Manchester M3 2GH

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH AT MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL?
EXPERIENCE EASTER
SATURDAY 17 MARCH (10.30AM AND 3.30PM)



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www.manchestercathedral.org/events

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Bishop of Bolton
The Rt Revd Mark Ashcroft**

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Diocese of Manchester

**CHURCH
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Location

**Emmanuel Church, Didsbury
M20 6TR**

Date and Time

**Sunday 18 March
6.15pm**

manchester.anglican.org