

CRUX

Church for a different world

Sept|Oct 2022



 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Manchester

CHURCH
FOR A
DIFFERENT
WORLD

IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS; FOR THIS IS GOD'S WILL FOR YOU IN CHRIST JESUS.

(1 THESSALONIANS 5.18)

It has been a tough few years for all of us in one way or another and many charities have warned that we face a challenging winter ahead - something that will resonate with many of us.

So how do we make sense of the words of St Paul to the Thessalonians? This is not a call to ignore nor diminish the challenges and sorrows of life. Indeed, our Christian faith compels us to take those sorrows very seriously, as Jesus did. Now, Paul calls us to give thanks in everything and not for everything – an important distinction in my experience.

The Scriptures and our liturgy call us to be a thankful people – we a people who have the Eucharist, the Great Thanksgiving, at the heart of who we are and what we do. But am I thankful, are we thankful?

Many years ago, I was given an exercise to help develop a spirit of thankfulness. I want to share it with you as we enter the Season of Creation – a time that asks us to take seriously both the call to give thanks to God for all His blessings and the pain and brokenness of the world, praying for and offering help to those in need.

Give this simple exercise a go:

- Write down the names of three people or things you want to give thanks for.
- Have a conversation with someone and share with them what you're most thankful for.
- Tell someone that you're thankful for them. (They may be surprised!)
- In the words of the Prayer Book – find a way to show forth your thanks not only with your lips but in your life. Prayer and action go hand in hand.
- Reflect on the difference expressing your thanks has made in your life and in your relationship with God and others.



Bishop Mark Davies

READERS

We have four brand new Readers who will be serving in the diocese.

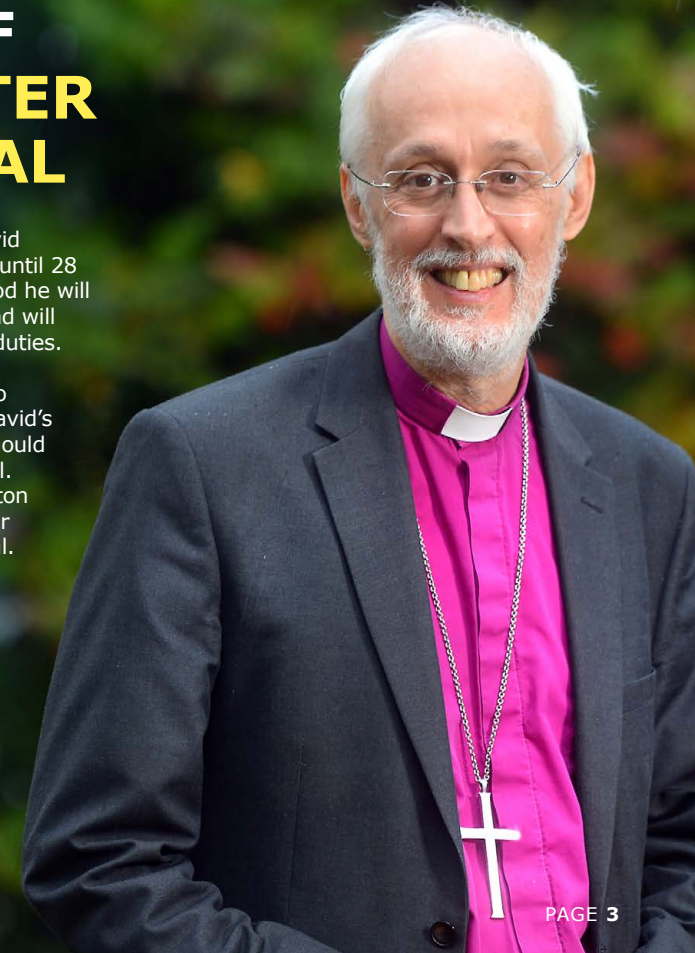
Lizzie Bomber (West Bolton), Mark Knight (St Anne, Tottington) and Lucie Reilly (Clarksfield and Waterhead) were licensed at Manchester Cathedral in July. Viola Kawome (Ordsall and Salford Quays) will be licensed in September.



BISHOP OF MANCHESTER SABBATICAL

The Bishop of Manchester, Dr David Walker, is currently on sabbatical until 28 November 2022. During this period he will be largely studying from home and will be taking a break from diocesan duties.

The Bishop's office will continue to operate as usual during Bishop David's sabbatical and correspondence should be sent to Bishops Court as normal. The Bishops of Middleton and Bolton will be providing appropriate cover during the period of the sabbatical.



GOOD THINGS COMING AT ST WERBURGH'S

Situated in a prominent position on Wilbraham Road in Chorlton, St Werburgh's Church is undergoing a transformation that promises 'good things coming' for the community.

In 2020, the Diocese of Manchester invited James and Emily Neal to lead a new initiative in South Manchester. With support from the New Wine network and additional funding from the Church Commissioners, St Werburgh's as a resource church: a church designed to plant and revitalise churches.

Getting going in the middle of the pandemic meant that the new team couldn't invite people in, so they put all their effort into looking outwards and beginning to forge relationships with local groups and neighbours as far as they were able. WhatsApp and social media were great for this. They found that people were hungry for community and enjoyed the Advent activity bags and online services on offer.

Last Spring, with lockdown easing, the church began running 'Little Werbs' - a parent and toddler group in the church hall. As well as offering fun activities for children, the group is a big hit with parents who value the friendship and support on offer. The church has had 250 children through the door and Little Werbs is being recommended by healthcare professionals in the area.

The Youth Worker, Becca, is beginning to connect with the streams of young people who walk past the church every day on their way home from school. Refreshments and activities are offered, which the young people enjoy and appreciate.

Amy Hawkins, the Operations Manager for St Werburgh's, is excited to see what has happened in the last two years and what is still to come. She said:

“

Since we got going in September 2020, we've realised that building good relationships with the community has been key. We were able to build community online and now we've got our baby and toddler group running. We've had garden parties on the front lawn and Andy Bird, our curate, is running a football men's ministry. So there's lots going on and that's helping us to connect with the community and build relationships, and means that we're starting to see people being attracted to come to our church services.

”



Andy Bird is the curate who has been at St Werburgh's for a year and is known as the 'team evangelist' because of the ease with which he naturally connects with people. He is learning a lot and thoroughly enjoying being based at St Werburgh's.

Andy said: "It's been great to join such an amazing team of mature and experienced Christians who have a heart for Chorlton and for reaching out to people who don't know God's love for them yet. It's been great to be with people who have such experience, knowledge and passion and I'm absorbing as much as I can." Andy and his wife Beth, who is training for ordained ministry, hope to plant a new church from St Werburgh's in the near future.

There are also exciting plans to improve the church building at St Werburgh's. The physical space is being renewed to make it fit for purpose for the growing mission and ministry of the church. Building work began in May and should be complete by the end of this year, when a big community celebration is planned. The building works include improving access for people with buggies and wheelchairs, creating a new welcome area at the front of the church, and sympathetically improving the flexibility of the worship space.



Little Werbs team - from L-R, Becca, Emma, Emily, Beth, Amy and Andy

ENERGY FOOTPRINT TOOL - JUST ANOTHER PIECE OF ADMIN?

Small actions can make a big difference, not least with the Energy Footprint Tool (EFT). We set a target of more than 50% submissions, and our churches delivered. This year, 168 (53%) of churches submitted their returns, up from 26% in 2021, and a total of 190 (60%) of churches engaged.

In addition to a publicity campaign to increase returns, a successful series of EFT training and online drop in sessions ran in July. People who had not engaged with the EFT before had their questions answered. Special mention goes to churches who responded whilst in vacancy and to everyone who sought to overcome the barriers of technology. This is a huge encouragement and your efforts made a difference.

Work on the EFT represents a small but significant step towards the target of net zero carbon by 2030. Our priorities are now to show why the EFT matters and how to build on what has been achieved. Deanery Transformation Support Officer, Matthew Barber-Rowell, will join the Church of England Environment Team at our diocesan Giving and Thankfulness conference on 24 September. Their workshop will link local action and national strategy and guide the steps in between, from reducing our CO2 footprint, to addressing our finances, to fundraising for new heating systems, to developing local mission within our Mission Communities and Deaneries. A new course, enabling environmental action to support our mission goals of growing, nurturing and serving, is planned.

Looking out into the world we can see a lot of uncertainty. However, positive engagement with the EFT shows that within our church communities there is a lot to be hopeful about too.



ECO CHURCH GOING FURTHER

Since receiving our Bronze Eco Diocese award in December 2021 we have made good progress. 115 churches are registered with the Eco Church programme, 29 have bronze awards, and 13 have silver. Even more encouraging, as these snapshots of three churches at different stages of their Eco Church journey show, ongoing commitment and creativity are strong.

St Mark, Heyside registered with the programme in May 2022. Eco Church enjoys the full support of the PCC, and has been introduced to the whole congregation. A monthly "Top Eco Tip" designed to encourage church members to think carefully about their impact upon God's earth is now shared via the church newsletter. The survey is complete, and the church is already close to bronze standard.

Christ Church, Brunswick received a bronze award in July 2019. This year with help from Manchester City Council and the University of Manchester, the church installed two EV (electric vehicle) charging points in the carpark as part of their Refurb building project. These are the first publicly available charging points in the immediate area. It is hoped that access will encourage more local people to consider a greener option for their next car purchase.

Holy Angels, Claremont received a silver award in November 2021. The church is currently planning a 'Party in the Paddock' to mark Harvest and the beginning of 'Great Big Green Week'. This open, community event will include family activities, Fairtrade stalls, and collections

for Wateraid and local charities: Salford Loaves; and Fishes and Nourish. It will also feature news on the church's innovative 'Tiny Forest' project, designed to create climate proof, nature friendly urban areas.

If these stories inspire you to go further, help is at hand. Special events to support progress towards a first or higher award, including a visit to a Gold Eco Church, are planned for this Autumn. Keep an eye on the diocesan website for more details at www.manchester.anglican.org



The new wildlife garden at St Chad Ladybarn which has transformed a once-neglected corner of the parish.

OUR NEW PRIESTS AND DEACONS

Congratulations to all our new deacons and priests who were ordained at Manchester Cathedral in July. Twenty-three new curates were ordained deacon and 26 were ordained priest. The new clergy have been welcomed by their new parishes and are settling in and getting to know the communities where they will serve for the next stage of their ministry.

Bishop David said "We are very blessed in the Diocese of Manchester in both the number of candidates coming forward for ordination and the qualities they bring. Each comes with their own passion, to live the love of Jesus Christ and to make that love known among those to whom God is sending them. Together, they represent a huge diversity of backgrounds, church traditions and previous experience, a diversity that will enrich us as we continue to grow the church, serve the people of Manchester, and nurture one another in faith."



BRIEF ENCOUNTER: JOEL DOWSON



“When a collection of believers come together and work together well – this can have a powerful impact.”

Joel Dowson joined the Diocese in April as the Deanery Transformation Support Officer for the deaneries of Bolton and Bury & Rossendale. He has grown up and spent his whole life within the Church of England – his dad is a vicar in Harrogate and his grandfather was also a vicar.

In terms of Joel’s own faith and his new role, he says: “I want to see a church – one that has a presence – in every place across the two deaneries. For me it’s about building the local community and being known within that community; seeing where we can grow and how we can nurture the people that are already in our churches and serve those from the community who don’t necessarily come into the building.

“The serving element of this is the one that I am most passionate about. Jesus was the most amazing example of someone who was very counter-cultural in who he helped. I want churches to be more ‘servant hearted’ than ever before. And we can definitely do that – mission communities allow people to do that more.

While Joel’s role isn’t ‘front-facing’ at a parish level, he is passionate about the idea of lay people being empowered within the local community, including those who may be from more disadvantaged backgrounds. “If you empower people, then you get something that is seen as more authentic – something that is being nurtured from the bottom

up rather than top down. That might mean giving them the right training and supporting them in other ways.

“My faith has always been with me. I committed to Christianity when I was about 13 at a Christian summer camp in 2009. My faith has grown and developed, shifted and changed over the time. I still have the fundamental belief that Jesus was a person; He is God; He came and He died and He rose again. For me, that is the core of my faith.

“Being part of the wider church you see what can happen when a collection of believers come together and work together well – this can have a powerful impact. And that has happened to me with smaller churches and local churches where their influence has changed me. I went in to an internship in a family church in Ripon when I was 18. It was a really powerful time for me, learning about my faith and learning about myself.”

Joel has always grown in the same kind of churches – evangelical and charismatic. He says



There is, perhaps now, a questioning and a shift. My journey with Jesus has sometimes been one of ups and downs but I definitely feel a presence with me, particularly in times of quiet.



GIVING AND GENEROSITY CONFERENCE – 24 SEPTEMBER

Registration for our ‘Generosity and Thankfulness: Inspiring and equipping our churches’ conference is now open.

It will take place online on Saturday 24 September between 10am and 4pm, and will build on the success of our first giving conference in February 2020. This conference aims to inspire the development of generosity and thankfulness as part of the mission of every church across our diverse diocese.

The Archdeacon of Manchester, Karen Lund, who has been helping to shape the conference says: “We trust in God that our vision and mission are like ‘trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither’ (Psalm 1:3). Therefore, as we encourage others to share in our generosity and thankfulness activities, this should be done in a way which is confident and clear.

“I pray you will use this valuable opportunity to register your own attendance and workshop choices. We very much hope to be welcoming clergy and lay representatives from every church in the diocese to the conference. There are plenty of spaces available for each church to be well represented.”

Please register now for your free place online at [whova.com/portal/registration/domgc_202209](https://www.whova.com/portal/registration/domgc_202209).

We have recruited some fantastic speakers, workshop leaders and exhibitors. We are also grateful to our generous sponsors for supporting the event.

If you have any questions, please contact Paul Bailey, Diocesan Giving Advisor, paulbailey@manchester.anglican.org.

CRUX MEETS KAREN BEAL, CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES PROGRAMME MANAGER

Karen Beal will be known to many of our parishes. As Diocesan Children's Officer for the last six and a half years, she has supported churches in their ministry with children.

She has also organised the annual Year 6 Leavers' Services at the cathedral, which have helped an estimated 20,000 children mark the end of their time at our church primary schools as they make the move to secondary school.

Karen has now taken up the new role of Children, Young People and Families Programme Manager, which is part of the diocese's Transformation Programme. She will line-manage a new Children, Youth and Families Worker in each deanery and an Early Years Worker who will be working across the diocese. Working alongside churches and by building teams in mission communities, their roles will be to create opportunities for children, young people and their families to develop their own faith journeys by, for example, offering distinctively Christian toddler groups and building relationships between churches and schools.

Building on the learning from the Children Changing Places Project in Bolton, initiatives will initially be focused in one mission community per deanery and will centre around

transition points, such as moving from nursery to primary school or primary to secondary school. Through collaborative working, all the churches in a deanery will benefit. Working alongside Diocesan colleagues, it is hoped that all of this will be one way in which the church can 'grow younger and more diverse'.

Karen says, "Children and their families often need extra support at times of transition and there is a massive opportunity to connect with them through our church schools and parishes. I'm looking forward to seeing a range of different initiatives emerge from this work and to seeing children, young people and their families flourishing in their faith journeys."

Look out for the Children and Families Worker job vacancies being advertised at www.manchester.anglican.org/vacancies



NEW OFFICES FOR MANCHESTER DIOCESE

The diocese's offices will be moving from Church House Manchester to St John's House in Bury in the new year.

Bishop's Council has agreed plans for the refurbishment of St John's House, Bury, which has been chosen as the new office base for the Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF) and the Diocesan Board of Education (DBE). Our partner organisations, Mothers' Union, Greater Together Manchester and the Diocesan Registrar will also be making the move to Bury.

This follows the recent sale of Church House in central Manchester, following an extensive marketing exercise. Church House is now over 100 years old and would have required significant capital investment to make it fit for the future. The sale has released funds which will be invested to ensure a positive future for the diocese in support of our mission and ministry. The move to Bury is expected to take place early in 2023.

St John's House is already owned by the DBF. It is a modern office building in a town-centre location with good transport links. The new building will be refurbished so that it has excellent facilities for staff and the diocese more widely. We are also taking the opportunity to invest in environmentally friendly heating and lighting systems as part of the diocese's commitment to the Church of England's Carbon Net Zero programme.

There has been a formal consultation with employees on the relocation to Bury, nine of whom have opted to take voluntary severance because of the move.



#MORETHANSUNDAY IS COMING TO MISSION COMMUNITIES

This September sees the first group of mission communities taking part in #MoreThanSunday, following on from ten pilot groups who previously completed the course.

One key aim of #MoreThanSunday is to enable all of us, both clergy and laity, to live out our faith during the week and try simple ways to encourage this to happen across the whole Church. Through monthly sessions from September to May, #MoreThanSunday explores Seven Shifts that churches can try out, which are small changes to prayers, worship, communications and other areas of church life, to support all of God's people to have confidence in faith Monday to Saturday.

Over the next three years all mission communities will be invited to take part in #MoreThanSunday. Five Mission Communities are taking part this September, all from different deaneries. Mission community 2 from Salford and Leigh Deanery is one of those taking part. Mission community Leader David Cooper comments:

“

We are really looking forward to engaging with #MoreThanSunday as a mission community! From the moment we started discerning how we could grow together and build opportunities for mission together, it became clear that our capacity to do this would be turbo-boosted by helping our congregations to deepen their relationships with each other and with God first: to live more faithfully and vibrantly every day! This is what #MoreThanSunday seems to be all about - so we are keen to dive in!”

”

As well as encouraging confidence in faith throughout the week, the model of #MoreThanSunday this year brings clergy and laity from across a mission community together in-person, providing a great opportunity for building relationships and getting to know more about the life of the individual churches.

The #MTS Team is looking forward to working with the mission communities this September and welcoming all of them to take part in #MoreThanSunday over the next few years.

#MoreThanSunday

SEVEN SHIFTS TO INSPIRE EVERYDAY FAITH

BISHOP OF BOLTON TO RETIRE



The Rt Revd Mark Ashcroft has announced that he will retire as Bishop of Bolton in February 2023. He was ordained in Manchester Diocese in 1982 and consecrated Bishop of Bolton at York Minster in 2016. Bishop Mark will be 68 later this year and the exact details of his retirement will be announced in due course.

Your prayers for him and the family are appreciated over the coming months.

PARISH SHARE

Over the last few months a task group has been meeting to review the Parish Share system resulting in some proposed changes to the current system. The outcome has resulted in some proposed changes to the current system. We would like to take the opportunity to share and discuss the proposals with parishes before they are submitted to Diocesan Synod in the autumn. To achieve this, three events will be held, each from 7.30pm to 9.00pm.

6 September at the St John Centre, Old Trafford

12 September at St Bartholomew, Westhoughton

19 September – a virtual meeting over Zoom.

To attend an event, please select from the calendar at www.manchester.anglican.org/calendar and register on EventBrite.

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GENEROSITY AND THANKFULNESS

Inspiring and equipping our churches



Saturday 24 September 2022
Online Conference—register here:

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