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E-Bulletin

News from the Diocese of Chester



CORONAVIRUS BRIEFING



Following the announcement from the PM last Saturday, the Church of England in [statement](#) said it 'will study the detailed regulations and continue to liaise with Government departments to offer clarity to churches.'

No further Church guidance has been made available at the time of writing. We will communicate any updates as soon as we can via the [Coronavirus Briefing](#).

From Bishop Mark

Here we go again...

I don't know how you feel today, but that was one of my first thoughts of the day. There will be some good things in the next month, but there is also a lot of weariness, isolation, anxiety... and we all face some of these feelings as we look at this lockdown. And, I do mean 'we', as I feel it too.

One of my repeated prayer-focusses at the moment is around Christ walking on the water in the storm and meeting the disciples. I am so aware that the disciples could only meet Christ by being in that storm because that is where he was. It doesn't make it easy, but it does frame the challenge for me, and keep me looking for the Lord.

How, then, do we face this challenge?

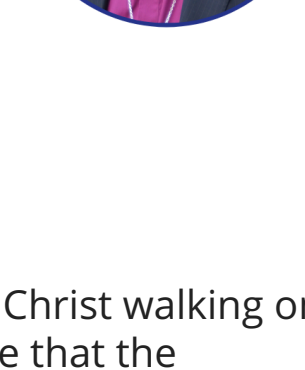
As Archdeacon Ian said so powerfully earlier this week in a [moving and honest video message](#), if we want to make this journey, we must deny ourselves and take up our cross in service of others; and as the Archbishops have said in [their letter to the nation](#) this week, we must all be calm, courageous, and compassionate in our response to the difficulties of the second national lockdown in England. All of this is good and wise advice. We need to do this for others, and we need to receive this love and service as others look out for us.

You are already doing this and I just want to say, as we enter this season of lockdown, that I am deeply grateful for all that you are and do. This year has stretched us in ways we could not have foreseen, and may yet get harder before it gets better, but it has been a thing of utter beauty to see how the Church community has continued to be a beacon of hope and light to so many in our diocese.

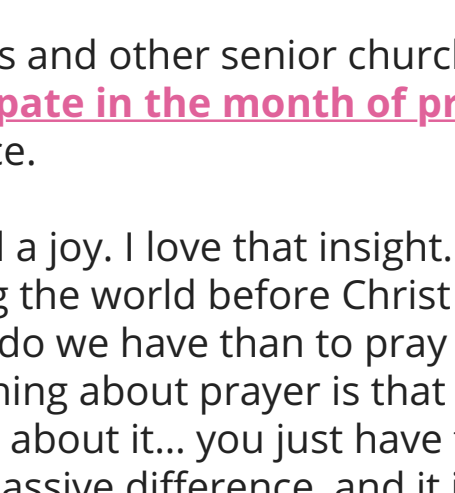
Do keep going... however wild you find the storm to be, keep looking for Christ. He is here, and He is utterly faithful.

Be assured of my continued prayers at this time.

➔Mark



#PrayerForTheNation



Prayer for the Nation

Bishop Mark has joined with the Archbishops and other senior church leaders to invite Christians across the nation to [participate in the month of prayer](#) as the second lockdown in England comes into force.

Bishop Mark says: "Prayer is both a duty and a joy. I love that insight. What greater privilege could we have than to bring the world before Christ and seek his blessing? And what higher responsibility do we have than to pray for our neighbours, communities, and nation. The thing about prayer is that you don't have to be good at it, fired up for it, or go on about it... you just have to give it a go and God does the rest. Prayer makes a massive difference, and it is our privileged calling, join me in [#PrayerForTheNation](#) this month if you can."

- [Read the letter from the Archbishops](#)
- [See the daily resources](#)
- Share comments on social using the hashtag: [#PrayerForTheNation](#)
- Join in with a collective moment of prayer at 6pm each evening, if you can



Filling the Gap in Eastham

While arguments over funding meals to poorer families have been prominent recently, thankfully parishes across our diocese are rolling up their sleeves and taking action. Eastham parish is one such parish as you can see [from this short video](#). They spent half term feeding children and their families, as well as offering them fun activities to take home with them.

With the Christmas holidays fast approaching, the need will only grow. For more information contact [Wendy Robertson](#) on T: 07956044573 or [download a starter pack](#) here.



Quiet acts of remembrance

Last month, the Revd Jenny Bridgman unveiled a memorial stone dedicated to all lives lost through miscarriage, abortion and stillbirth. Since then, people from across the diocese have come to the memorial to express their own quiet acts of remembrance. [Jenny writes](#) about the past few weeks.

Latest News

Archbishops join call to allow public worship to continue

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York, together with the Bishop of London, have joined national faith leaders in calling on the Government to permit public worship during the lockdown in England. [Read their letter here](#).

Church House operating with reduced staff

In light of the lockdown measures, Church House is operating with a small skeleton staff of those who need to work from Church House to enable basic functions to continue. However, most staff are working from home and are contactable by email, or by mobile phone in some cases. For [emergency repairs on clergy housing](#), there are contractors available, but please consider whether it really is an emergency before calling.

New parish buying page for Audio-Visual

One of the consequences of the Covid pandemic is that many churches which have not considered it before are now wanting to share their services online. To support this, a new category is now available on [Parish Buying website](#), along with guidance.

Fundraising landscape webinar

In collaboration with the Directory of Social Change, a [fundraising webinar](#) by Ecclesiastical Insurance will share expert views into the opportunities and challenges in the current fundraising environment; helping you plan and make informed decisions. It will be held online on 10th November 10.30am for 90 minutes and is free to register.

Learn more about fundraising

Sign up to receive further charity [fundraising information](#) provided by Ecclesiastical Insurance in partnership with fundraising experts. Click on the 'Learn more about fundraising' sign up button to register for updates.

The Once and Future Parish Conference

This is an ecumenical conference on the role of the parish in Christian ministry and is being organised by The [Centre for Applied Theology](#). It costs £45, and will take place from 4 December to Saturday, 5 December 2020 (on Zoom). The conference will address the question: Does the parish remain 'fit for purpose'? Do its buildings and other structures represent an encumbrance, or can they be seen as channels through which to engage God's people?

Can church halls benefit from increased local authority business support?

The Chancellor's recent announcement on increased support packages may lead to more financial support for your area. It is not yet clear whether any will be applicable to services and activities taking place in church buildings or church halls. A suggestion is to keep an eye on your local authority funding website and make enquiries as you see fit. Relevant local authority hyperlinks are detailed at the bottom of the [CharityTaxGroup webpage](#).

How Clergy Thrive: Insights from Living Ministry

This resource, by Liz Graveling (2020) is a resource for all clergy and those who care for them, offering significant insights into the factors that allow ordained ministry to flourish, as well as the pressures and challenges that hinder it. Thrive can be ordered through the Clergy Support Trust and is also [available online](#).

Connecting without the internet

The internet is a great way to connect with people in the community, but what about those people in the community who don't use this type of technology? How can they continue to benefit from [hearing regular church services](#) as churches, once again, have to close their doors for public worship?

Events

Archdeacons' Visitation service

An online meeting to swear Churchwardens into their posts.





Archdeacons' Visitation services 2020

Various date options - Online services

*"My sincere apologies to those Churchwardens who were unable to gain entry to the service on Wednesday due to a technical error. This has been resolved and should not affect future dates. If you were affected, if possible please register for one of the other two dates available."* Jim Butterworth, Comms

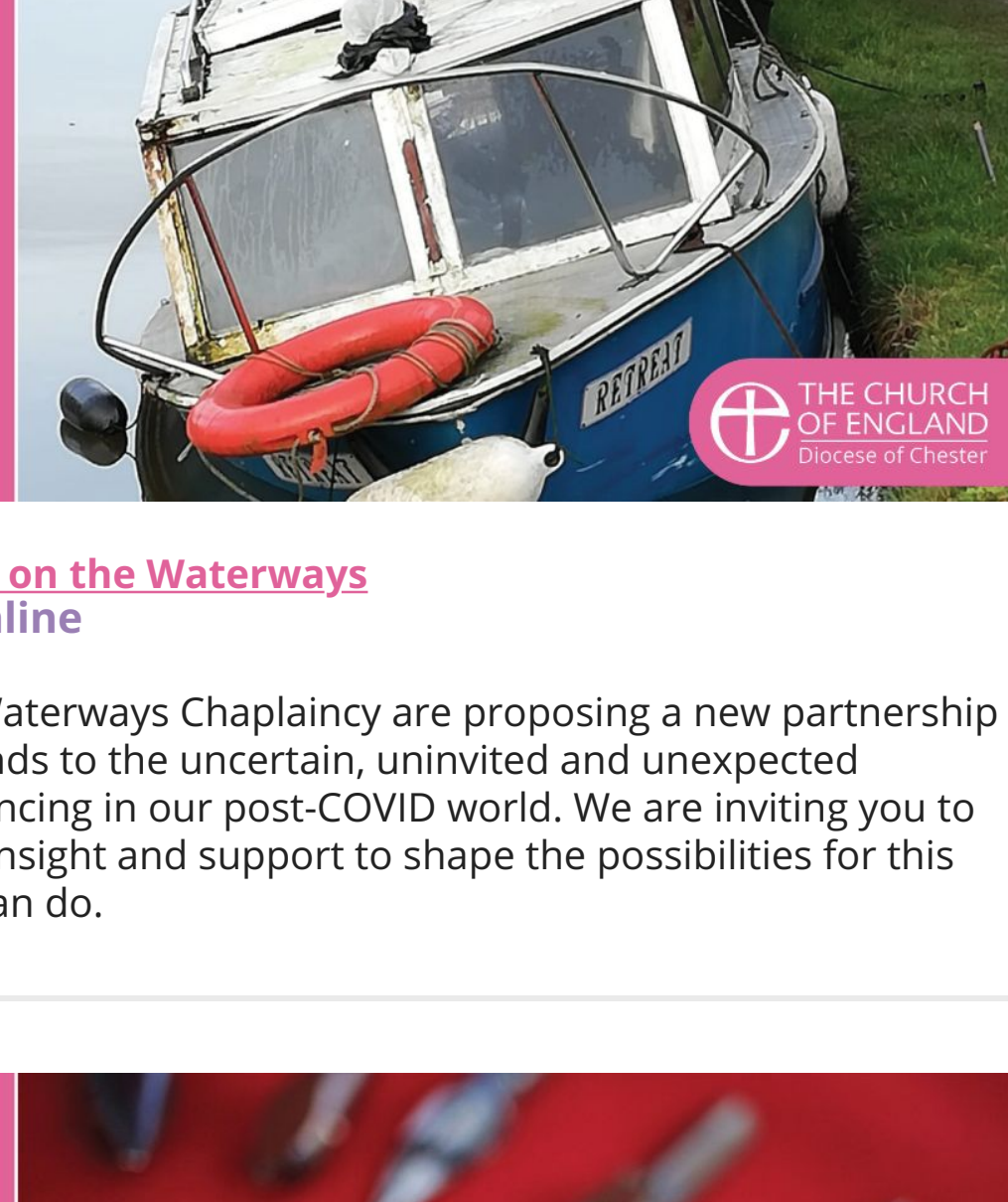
Due to the ongoing pandemic, this year it will not be possible to hold the Archdeacons' Visitation services in church. This is indeed regrettable as we very much enjoy welcoming the Churchwardens into their role in person.

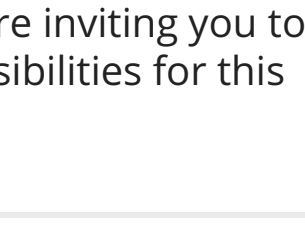
There is, however, still a need to swear Churchwardens into post so this year this will be carried out via Zoom. These will be affected. There are three dates available:

[23 November 2020](#)    [08 December 2020](#)

Curating Spaces of Hope on the Waterways

A zoom meeting to discuss the impact of the current climate on those living on our waterways.





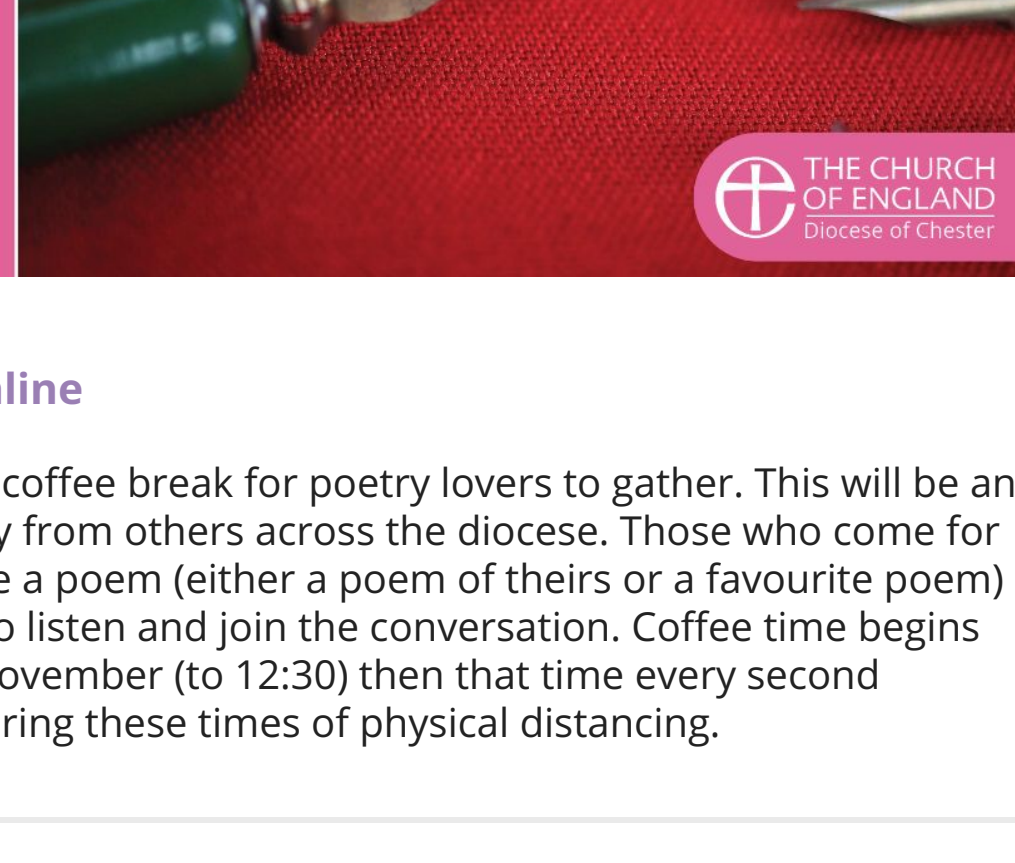
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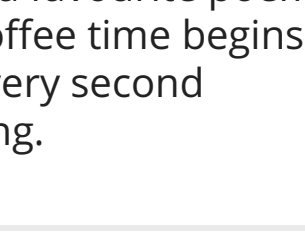
11 November 2020 - Online

Spaces of Hope and the Waterways Chaplaincy are proposing a new partnership led network, which responds to the uncertain, uninvited and unexpected conditions we are experiencing in our post-COVID world. We are inviting you to this surgery to seek your insight and support to shape the possibilities for this network and the work it can do.

Poetry Break

An opportunity to share or just listen to poetry from others across the diocese.





Poetry Break

12 November 2020 - Online

Poetry Break is a monthly coffee break for poetry lovers to gather. This will be an opportunity to hear poetry from others across the diocese. Those who come for coffee will be able to share a poem (either a poem of theirs or a favourite poem) or they can come simply to listen and join the conversation. Coffee time begins on Zoom at 11.00 on 12 November (to 12.30) then that time every second Thursday of the month during these times of physical distancing.

New Eyes for Reading

Looking at the Bible in a time of uncertainty and promise.






New Eyes for Reading: Looking at the Bible in a time of uncertainty and promise

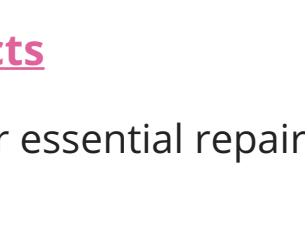
18 November 2020 - Online

A series of three fortnightly gatherings in the run up to Christmas to consider how we engage with the Bible to 'read the signs of the times' with regard to our encounter with the Covid-19 virus and its impact on our lives, as we journey into Advent and we prepare ourselves for new possibilities.

Fundraising surgery for church building and hall projects

An informal space to begin thinking about how to fundraise for essential repairs or improvements.





Fundraising surgery for church building and hall projects

25 November 2020 - Online

An informal space to begin thinking about how to fundraise for essential repairs or improvements to church buildings or halls.


Preaching Mark's Gospel

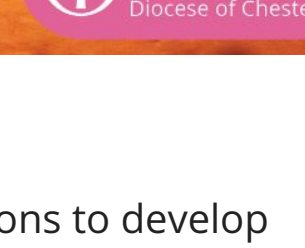
25 November 2020 - Online

Organised by the College of Preachers, this workshop will examine how Mark presents the Good News of Jesus and how we as preachers can interpret that message, and its challenges, for our congregations today. Ticket prices: General, £10; Ministry Student, £7

The Strength of the Circle

How to use Circle Process to build relationships and resilience.





The Strength of the Circle

26 November 2020

This session is to help anyone who facilitates group conversations to develop their skills and consider how a few changes in format and structure vastly improving the quality of the outcome.

Women's Voices conference

26 November 2020 - Online

The conference is a joint conference between Chester Diocesan Readers and Chester Cathedral. It's an online event so you'll have to provide your own coffee and cake! There will be a number of speakers including Bishop Mark Tanner who will provide the welcome.

Vacancies

Children and Families Worker

Chester

All Saints church, Heole is looking for someone who is passionate about following and obeying Jesus and committed to seeing children come to faith and grow as disciples.

Head Teacher (teaching head)

St Mary's CE Primary School, Bosley

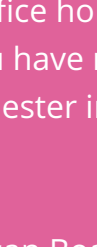
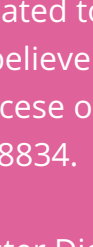
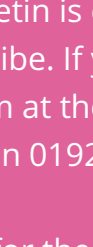
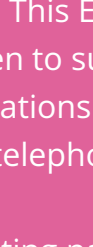

The Governors of Bosley St Mary's CE Primary School are looking to appoint a motivated, successful leader and classroom practitioner with proven track record of teaching to an excellent standard to fill our position of substantive Headteacher with regular teaching commitments.

Head Teacher

Latchford St James' Primary School, Warrington

Governors are seeking to appoint an inspirational and highly motivated Headteacher with the vision and energy to continue to build on our achievements, working with the staff and Governing Body to develop a robust strategy for continued improvement.

View all vacancies [here](#)



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