

The light of God's love

IN NOVEMBER we move into what I often think about as the 'Remembrance Season'. It's not just because of Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day, but because of All Saints and All Souls, and the fact that there's practically a saint a day to remember: martyrs and mystics, theologians, social reformers and men and women who were simply holy. This 'great cloud of witnesses' walks with us as we end the liturgical year and prepare ourselves again to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, God with us, Christ our Lord.

The point of all these saints is not to make us feel inadequate, but to encourage us in our pilgrimage. We don't worship them, but see in their examples ways in which we can worship God with our lives as they did, ways in which we can help to change and challenge the world in Christ's name, ways in which we can show the world that it need not be the way it is because God's love in Christ has come to make all things new.

2015 draws to a close with more displaced people in our world than at any time since the end of the Second World War: more migrants, more refugees, more people fleeing the violence of others, more people terrified for their children, more people for whom the future holds little promise. As we move into the season of Advent, when we hear again the stories of the liberation of God's people from slavery and fear, and



the promise of salvation and abundant life with the birth of Jesus, let us commit ourselves anew to bringing the Good News of liberation from sin and death and fear to our world in word and action today: there is nothing our world needs more at this time of deep darkness for so many than the light of God's love in Christ.

The signature of The Very Revd Dr Jonathan Draper.

THE VERY REV'D DR JONATHAN DRAPER, DEAN OF EXETER



CHURCH OF ENGLAND DEVON

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GOOD NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE OF EXETER
NOV 2015

DEVON RESPONDS TO REFUGEE CRISIS

As the refugee crisis continues Devon Christians have been working with others to express their concerns and care for people displaced by conflicts in the Middle East and elsewhere. Vigils and services to pray for refugees, and the national response to the crisis, have been held in Exeter Cathedral and St Andrew's, Plymouth. The Bishop of Plymouth, Nick McKinnel, spoke out calling on Britain to rediscover its "generous heart" and to welcome some of the refugees fleeing war and suffering in countries like Syria.

Clothing and other items have been collected in different parts of Devon for the benefit of refugees in the UK and elsewhere, including a carload of donated goods taken to the 'Jungle' refugee camp at Calais.

The Diocese has also set up a group to co-ordinate refugee support across Devon in partnership with other organisations. Martyn Goss, Director of Church and Society said: "The diocese has a strong track record of working with vulnerable people seeking sanctuary and refuge. As long ago as the



1970s local churches and others offered hospitality to the Ugandan Asians who were housed temporarily in Honiton. More recently, a number of church projects, especially in Plymouth, have been co-operating to support individuals and families from different countries who have been dispersed to Devon whilst seeking asylum."

Marlene Schuster who co-ordinates About Time in Plymouth, a project which as part of its work offers free lunches and language classes to refugees or asylum seekers and others in need, said that demand for meals and language classes was increasing.

Prayers and other resources for those seeking to respond and help are available on the diocesan website.

"Amazing Grace" tours prisons and churches

ODDMENTS THEATRE has been touring prisons and churches with their new theatre production 'Amazing Grace.' It follows the true and inspiring story of John

Newton, set in the height of the slave trade in the 18th Century.

The play is offered to prisons as a free resource and is often performed as

a special event. It is also available for small to medium sized churches for only £125. To find out more call 01935 471547 or email oddments.theatre@gmail.com



New deacons ordained in a joyful service at Exeter Cathedral

Bishop Sarah leads Ordinations

TWENTY ONE new priests and 16 new deacons have been ordained to serve across the Diocese.

Bishop Sarah ordained four new priests in Ottery St Mary and Sampford Peverell, and in doing so became the first woman bishop in the Church of England to lead an ordination service. She said: "It was a great privilege to join these curates at such a significant point in their journey of faith. Their ordination as priests occurs in the midst of the communities they serve and as I join them in their significant day, it is another step towards making women bishops a normal part of the Church of England."



Bishop Sarah with Rev Sheila Walker and Rev Leisa McGovern, ordained as priests in Ottery St Mary

NEWS IN BRIEF

Earth Matters, Faith Matters Devon Earth and Faith Network is running this free day on faith and climate justice from 11am to 4pm on 1 November at the Old Deanery in Exeter. The main speaker is Indian activist and speaker Satish Kumar. Places are limited. To book call Joanie Harris on 01392 294940.

No Rehearsal Nativity This great new resource from Bible Reading Fellowship is full of ideas on how to run a nativity service with no rehearsal necessary. Author Janine Gillion uses her skills as a teacher, actor and vicar's wife to produce this helpful manual, adaptable to each unique setting. *No Rehearsal Nativity* costs £8.99.

Speak Up For Fairtrade is the name of a half-day workshop being held in The Old Deanery, Exeter from 10.30 to 2.30pm on 21 November. It is aimed at inspiring people to speak about the benefits of Fairtrade in their churches during Fairtrade Fortnight 2016. To book your place email sally.farrant@exeter.anglican.org

“I was in prison
and you visited me”

MATTHEW 25:37

PETER KENNEDY was a probation officer for 34 years before responding to God's call to become a prison chaplain. Peter, a Reader in the Ashburton and Moorland Team, had been working at Channings Wood Prison, near Newton Abbot, for three and a half years when he saw the part-time chaplaincy post advertised. Channings Wood is a category C training prison with over 700 offenders and Peter works closely with colleagues in the multi-faith chaplaincy team.

Peter explains: "When the probation service was making redundancies I decided to apply for voluntary redundancy. I then applied for the chaplain's role and I am sure it is what God wants me to do." He was appointed and has been serving there since 2010. He worked closely with the Revd Preb Nick Martin who has recently retired as the Managing Chaplain.

Of the work of a prison chaplain Peter says: "Prison inmates suffer the same range of problems and emotions as everyone else but lack the freedom to pursue help from their friends and family. As a chaplain I am in a unique position to help and hopefully make a difference."

Peter combines the chaplaincy work with his role as a Reader, something he has done for ten years.

He adds: "I am a prison chaplain because I think God wants me to be here. This job is very diverse and different. It can be challenging and it pulls at the heart strings. In what other job would you meet so many different people?"

Prisons Week runs from 15-21 November. Church resources are available by visiting www.prisonsweek.org. If you would like to know more about supporting prisoners visit www.swcc-pi.org

Bishop Nick with Peter on a recent visit to Channings Wood prison

