



AD CLERUM: Passiontide 2018

Dear Colleagues

I write this as we enter Passiontide and prepare to walk the way of the cross. For some Good Friday is just one more shopping day with nothing 'good' about it. Others hurry past it in an effort to reach Easter Day. But the route to resurrection is always via Gethsemane and Golgotha, and we need to be faithful in our witness to Christ crucified. 'Take up thy cross the Saviour said, if thou wouldst my disciple be.'

Diocesan Vision

I am delighted by the way our vision to grow in prayer, make new disciples and serve the people with Devon with joy is being received. As I visit parishes, schools and mission communities, I see evidence of these priorities taking root and flourishing. We are already seeing growth and change which is why the central team of the Diocese is working hard to ensure that all our resources are aligned to fulfilling these priorities and supporting your work. At our Diocesan Synod this month, I will be speaking (via video!) on continuing to shape and refine our vision, to ensure that as the people of God we travel together into God's future. If you aren't at Synod, we are hoping the video will be made available to all mission communities and Deanery Synods. It is produced in sections to allow you to engage and discuss with each other. And we want feedback please!

Farewell to Bishop Sarah: Sunday 18th March at 4pm

You are all invited to join in saying farewell to Bishop Sarah and Eamonn at evensong in the cathedral on Passion Sunday as they exchange leafy Devon for the hustle and bustle of London. No tickets are required. We have all been blessed by Sarah's ministry. In the short time she has been with us she has made a huge impact, building bridges with local communities, giving focus to our mission initiatives and organisation, and bringing her extraordinary energy to people and situations in her witness to Jesus Christ. We uphold her in our prayers and wish her well in her new role as Bishop of London. Her installation in St Paul's Cathedral is on Saturday 12th May.

The new Bishop of Crediton

The process for the appointment of Sarah's successor is now under way. The Archbishop, following the recommendation of the Dioceses' Commission, has given his consent for the episcopal vacancy to be filled and the Bishop's Diocesan Council has approved the role description for the new bishop. I have appointed an Advisory Group of lay and clerical members drawn from the Barnstaple and Exeter archdeaconries to assist me in the process. Details are posted on the diocesan website. Please pray that we discern the right person under God to succeed Sarah and who will complement me and Bishop Nick.

Cathedral

As we say goodbye to Bishop Sarah on Passion Sunday, it will be a pleasure to say hello to the new Canon Precentor as he is installed at evensong on Palm Sunday. James Mustard comes from St Albans Diocese where he has been Rector of East Barnet and Area Dean of Barnet. He read music at Exeter University and so this is something of a homecoming for him. At the same service Canon Mike Williams will be installed as Canon Treasurer. Mike is already a member of Chapter and his new role recognises his considerable experience and energy in giving him particular responsibility for the Finance and Works Departments of the Cathedral. Interviews for the new Canon Chancellor take place shortly.

Vocations Sunday: Sunday 22nd April

If we give our mind to it, we can change the landscape of vocation in England today. The Fourth Sunday of Easter, variously called Vocations Sunday or Good Shepherd Sunday because the readings invariably focus on John 10, sees the launch of a national campaign entitled **The Great Vocations Conversation**. We need to get more and more people talking about what God is calling them to do. The challenge is directed principally to ministers, both lay and ordained, to have at least one conversation about vocation with someone different each time every month for the rest of this year. To be launched on 16th April, the Church of England website www.churchofengland.org will have some devotional material and ideas about how to stimulate such conversations. Hannah Alderson, our Vocations Adviser, is always on hand to be consulted, email vocations@exeter.anglican.org. Cast your bread on the waters!

Thy Kingdom Come: 10th – 20th May

Last year responses to Archbishop Justin's invitation to join a wave of global prayer between Ascension and Pentecost was taken up by many different churches and denominations and resulted in a wide variety of prayer activities, events and gatherings spanning every mission community. There were events in churches, GP surgeries, cafes, parks and schools, culminating in a fantastic beacon event in the Cathedral on the Day of Pentecost. This year the theme is 'The River of Life' taken from the prophet Ezekiel's vision of the outpouring of God's Spirit for healing and renewal. Ezekiel visualised the stream of water flowing from God's temple growing from a trickle into a mighty river, with trees on the banks with fruit and leaves symbolising the healing of the nations. Information to resource your 'Thy Kingdom Come' planning will soon be sent via email, together with details about the final celebration event to be held in the Cathedral on the evening of Pentecost, Sunday 20th May. The site www.thykingdomcome.global already has a number of free resources which can be down-loaded and more can be purchased via www.cpo.org.uk/thykingdomcome. This

initiative represents a wonderful opportunity to work imaginatively with our ecumenical partners. For further details, contact Barry Dugmore in the Old Deanery.

Upload Youth Event at Exeter Cathedral: Saturday 12th May

Two years ago 1,500 young people came from across the Diocese to the Cathedral for *Upload*. The aim was to get young people thinking about faith in the midst of a fun-packed night. Even more important than the night itself was its lead-up and legacy. It was intended to be a catalyst for churches and youth projects to have something to invite young people along to and to act as a springboard for new initiatives. *Upload* was so successful that we are holding another one on Saturday 12th May at the Cathedral. The evening will run from 7-10pm and is aimed at secondary school between 13 and 18 years old. Please use it as something to bring youth from the fringes or outside of church life to, as well as Christian young people. There will be bands, inflatables, a pamper zone, gaming areas and lots more besides. 13% of young people who are practising Christians attribute visiting a church building as a key factor in bringing them to faith. We are aiming to have a night which blows away their preconceptions. Our theme will be 'Sharing your story', with the bands and others sharing their faith. What happens as a result of the event and how the story continues is of course up to you in your churches and communities. Entry is free, but it costs about £8.90/head. So if your church is able to give a donation or at least seek to cover the cost of the young people you might send that would be great. We're also busy recruiting 200 adult volunteers to cover various roles. If you'd like to know more or to volunteer or receive a promotional pack, please contact James Grier or visit the Upload website – uploadexeter.com

SWMTC Anniversary Lecture: Saturday 14th July

The South West Ministry Training Course (SWMTC) celebrates its 40th anniversary at Marjon in Plymouth with a lecture to be given on the morning of 14th July by Archbishop Josiah Idowu-Fearon, the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion. Prior to taking up his post, he was Archbishop of the Province of Kaduna in Nigeria. Many clergy and readers in the Diocese trained on SWMTC and look back on their training with affection. The lecture is open to all, but places need to be booked in advance. Please email principal@swmtc.org.uk to book a place

Plymouth Marjon University

If you are coming to the lecture, it will give you a golden opportunity to see at first hand the considerable changes that have happened at the University of St Mark & St John under the leadership of the new Vice Chancellor, Professor Rob Warner, not least in the refurbishment of its entrance and student facilities. It has a single campus, a long heritage and specialisms in creative arts, education, health sciences, speech and language therapy, and sport. As a Church of England foundation, we can be justifiably proud of Marjon and the way in the highly competitive market of tertiary education today it is more than holding its own, and going from strength to strength.

A new Clergy Handbook for the Diocese of Exeter

An entirely new Clergy Handbook has been published on the Diocesan website to support you in your ministry. You can access it at <http://exeter.anglican.org/ministry/ordained-ministry/common-tenure/>. The handbook falls into two parts. *Clergy Terms and Conditions*

of Service amplifies the details set out in the Statements of Particulars which each Diocese is required to issue clergy on Common Tenure with under the Ecclesiastical Offices (Terms of Service) Regulations 2009. *Bishop's Guidelines for the Ordained Ministry* distil good practice, offer guidance on key issues in mission and ministry, and set out sources of support. Some of the content is contained in Canon Law, Measures and Acts of Parliament, whilst some reflects local diocesan practice. These Guidelines are addressed principally to clergy, but I hope they will be useful to Readers and Licensed Lay Workers as well. The Clergy Handbook is published on the diocesan website, rather than in hard copy, because it will need to be updated as new national policies are introduced or amended. If you have suggestions for improvements, please let my office know. I hope that it will be a real support to you and contribute to the building up of the Body of Christ across Devon.

DisABILITY

At this month's Diocesan Synod we will be giving consideration to a Diocesan DisABILITY policy and I commend it to you and your PCC. Disabled people are often isolated by experience and it is particularly painful when they are excluded by the church. We need to ask ourselves not so much how the church can care for disabled people or what we can learn from them, but rather how the whole church can respond to our calling and how disabled people can not only participate in it, but become witnesses to and leaders of it.

IICSA and Safeguarding

Over the next three weeks the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) will hold its first public hearing into the Church of England's record on safeguarding, focusing on the Diocese of Chichester as a case study. Safeguarding and the Church will be at the forefront of public consciousness. It will be a difficult time for all of us when survivors, who have been brave in coming forward, share their stories, and church officers are called as witnesses. Sadly the Church has sometimes added insult to injury by not responding well when survivors have come forward to disclose the abuse they have suffered. It is likely that the media coverage will generate a wave of negative publicity and this may well unsettle people. It is important, therefore, that we are all able to explain what the Church is doing to prevent such abuse both locally in our mission communities and as a Diocese, and nationally as an institution. The Church needs to be at the vanguard of fostering a change of culture across society. We need to embody best practice in safeguarding in our parishes, schools and chaplaincies as part of our commitment to excellence in pastoral care. As an organisation, it is vital that we keep people safe, repent and apologise for the wrongs of the past, that we support survivors of abuse and, to the best of our ability, help them to flourish.

Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC)

The DAC helps parishes to manage any kind of change to their church buildings, be it repairs, reordering or building extensions. Their responsibility is to advise the Chancellor as he makes decisions about whether or not to grant a faculty to permit the proposed work. Not surprisingly, the DAC can have a major impact for good on parish life in the Diocese and its chairperson is a key appointment. Frank Eul retires later this year after five years of faithful service in the role. He has done a brilliant job. After Easter I will be writing to you again as we begin the process of finding his successor, but it is good to alert you to the impending vacancy now so that we can find the best person possible.

Finally, may I take this opportunity of recording my thanks to Prebendary Nick Shutt who has been covering for the Archdeacon of Plymouth who remains unwell and is currently off work. Queries in the archdeaconry should be addressed to him rather than to Archdeacon Ian for the time being.

Bishop Nick and Bishop Sarah join me in sending you greetings for Holy Week and Easter. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in the Cathedral on Maundy Thursday at the Chrism Eucharist when we renew our ministerial promises. May the crucified and risen Lord renew us all with his grace.

+ Robert Exon