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begin well

ANTENATAL COURSES IN CHURCH

Find out how YOUR church can get involved



NEW CHAMPION FOR FEMALE MINISTRY

Jackie Taylor tells us about her new role as Dean of Women in Ministry

JOY 2020

"It's a fantastic opportunity for us as the church in Devon to get out and about and for people to discover the joy we have.

"Not just the joy within but the joy for communities beyond church."

The Reverend James Grier, the Diocese of Exeter's Mission Enabler, is heading up Joy2020 (Bishops in Mission) and is excited about what is being planned.

He is working alongside teams in each of Devon's four archdeaconries (areas of the diocese) to plan four long weekends which will see Bishop Robert, Bishop Jackie and Bishop Nick out and about taking part in activities as diverse as Bish&Chips, The Big Sing at the Big Sheep, Unsung Hero dinners, beach events, sports, drama and more.

It all kicks off in Barnstaple archdeaconry (6-8 March), before moving to Exeter (20-22 March), then Totnes (1-3 May) and finally Plymouth (26-28 June).

James says: "I think churches



are wonderful in what we do and are hidden gems.

"But we are not necessarily as connected to our communities as we'd like to be, we get stressed about it and worried about it.

"But when the bishops come for these long weekends in each area, each archdeaconry, it's the chance for some catalyst work.

"Bishops bring a level of engagement where people like head teachers and business people will open doors to a bishop that they wouldn't necessarily to a church.

"It's an opportunity for us to open doors that we've longed and prayed will open and then for us as a church to go through those doors and capitalise on those opportunities."

Bishop Robert said "The hope is that these weekends will

encourage all of us to share our faith with greater confidence and enable local people to see that the church in Devon is alive and well, and that Christianity has much to offer them in today's world."

The Reverend Derek Arnold is on the team planning The Big Sing, a free event at the Big Sheep in Bideford, which will see 18 local community, school and church choirs performing a song each and Bishop Robert, Bishop Jackie and Bishop Nick compering.

"We look forward to welcoming the bishops and the people of North Devon, to what we hope will be an inspirational, joy filled afternoon of singing," he said.

If you would like to join the Joy2020 planning team please contact James Grier:

james.grier@exeter.anglican.org



CELEBRATING GOD'S LOVE IN DEVON

OPPORTUNITY TO HOST ANTENATAL COURSES IN YOUR CHURCH



Did you know free antenatal classes are no longer offered to all? Would your church like to fill this gap? If so, come along to the Old Deanery on 20th January to find out about Begin Well, an antenatal programme designed by Christian health professionals, to be delivered in the community. Meet Karen and Sarah, the creators of the programme and hear from Holy Trinity Church, who have been delivering these antenatal classes in North Devon. This is a great opportunity to support and reach out to families in your area.

To find out more or book a place go to: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/begin-well-antenatal-tickets-85468232785>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Begin Well Antenatal Classes Information Session
20th January at 10.15am

The Big Green Event
22nd January, Exeter Cathedral, 10am-4.30pm

Pilgrimage from Exeter to Oberammergau
18-21 May

St Mellitus College Open Days
21 January, 25 February, 17 March, 21 April, 19 May, 16 June

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land
19-27 November

To find out more go to: exeter.anglican.org/events

JOY 2020 Dates

6-8 March:	Barnstaple archdeaconry
20-22 March:	Exeter archdeaconry
1-3 May:	Totnes archdeaconry
26-28 June:	Plymouth archdeaconry



SERVING WITH JOY: PORRIDGE ON THE GO!

The church of St George & St Paul in Tiverton have been serving porridge and coffee to passers by on their way to school or work. Rev Andy Humm said "The first morning we did it around 50 people stopped. This is about saying 'we are your local church and we want to give you something for nothing'. It is a simple but effective idea."



THE BIG HELLO

12 bishops and their partners from around the world have been invited to spend a week in Devon from 14 to 22 July 2020 ahead of the Lambeth Conference, the once-a-decade meeting of the worldwide Anglican church, in Canterbury, which begins on 23 July. Devon is just one of a number of dioceses making the most of this opportunity to engage with our church family from around the world, in what is being called The Big Hello. We are organising a series of events and visits to parishes around Devon. Find out more here: <http://www.lambethconference.org/thebighello>



JACKIE TAYLOR

Jackie has recently taken up the role of Dean of Women in Ministry for the Diocese of Exeter. She is rector of three churches in the South Hams. She tells the Magazine about how she came to faith, and why it is so important for women to talk to someone if they feel called to ordination.

Were you brought up in a Christian family?

My family were not a family of faith but I cannot remember a time when I didn't believe in God. I came into a place of powerful spiritual awakening when I was 30. I journeyed through different denominations but when I walked into my local Anglican church I wept because I knew I had come home.

Did you work in other sectors before you felt the calling for ordination? When did that happen?

In the past I have worked in supporting young people with special educational needs. It was when I was a churchwarden that I had a really strong sense of calling. I kept kicking that out all the time and telling God that it can't be me, but it kept coming back all the time.

What do you do in your role as Dean of Women in Ministry?

My role is to support and be an advocate for the full inclusion and flourishing and equality of women in every area of ordained ministry. We've come a long way with equality but there is still a lot to do.

How important is it to you that more women are encouraged into ministry?

When women have a call they may, for whatever reason, think "it can't be me" or "this can't be the time". It's so important that when we have that calling we go and seek support. When God puts his hands on our lives and calls us, it's so important to follow that through and talk that through with people.

Serving with joy...



If you were a political party, what would be your manifesto?

In my role as Dean of Women in ministry my manifesto would be the full inclusion, flourishing and equality of ordained women in every part of church life.

What would you say to encourage ordained women to come and serve in Devon?

Devon is not only a beautiful county, it is a great place for women in ministry. I have felt fully supported as I moved from being a Priest-in-Charge, to Rector, to Rural Dean and now as Dean of Women in Ministry.

What do you think is the role of the church in ensuring unity for our country going forward?

We are in a place that is deeply concerning to so many of us. The church needs to be a place of healing and reconciliation where different views are respected. Our nation is so divided, so fractured and we in the church need to be that vehicle of reconciliation and healing as we move forward together as a nation.

There might be a tendency in church not to mention politics. What would you say to people who feel this is important but don't know how to broach the subject?

Getting together and sharing views isn't easy for people as it may make them feel vulnerable. But in sharing our vulnerabilities and sharing our fears and passions this is how we grow with one another.

LET'S TALK ABOUT UNITY

The Venerable Andrew Beane, Archdeacon of Exeter



This might sound like a contradiction in terms, but diversity is one thing we all have in common. We are all different, we are all unique in terms of our physical characteristics and our personalities. There will never be anyone else quite like you.

But at the same time we are all human, part of the same family no matter where we come from, and that is what binds us together.

As Christians we are also united by our faith in Jesus Christ. As St Paul wrote in the book of Romans: "We are one body in union with Christ."

Yet, as most of us involved in church life will know, a united faith in Jesus doesn't always mean a united front! Church communities are full of amazing diversity, differences of opinion and not always perfect unity.

From 18th to 25th January there is a special week of prayer for Christian Unity. It is a chance for us as Christians to reach out to others in our own church communities and those outside our church communities, to listen to each other and try to understand each other better.

In the aftermath of the general election in a nation divided and bruised by Brexit, this week of prayer for unity could not have come at a better time.

This year the week of prayer is being led by the church in Malta, an island nation which has itself been

experiencing turbulent times recently. Christians in Malta celebrate the Feast of the Shipwreck of St Paul, giving thanks for the arrival of Christian faith on their island.

They have used the book of Acts chapter 27 and 28, which tell the story of the shipwreck, as the key text for the week of prayer: *"Once safely on shore, we found out that the island was called Malta. 2 The islanders showed us unusual kindness. They built a fire and welcomed us all because it was raining and cold."* Acts 28: 1-2

The hospitality demonstrated in these verses is a much-needed virtue in our search for Christian unity. It calls us to a greater generosity to those in need.

The people who showed unusual kindness to St Paul and his companions did not yet know Christ, and yet it is through their kindness that a divided people were drawn closer together.

We can draw closer as a church family, not only by showing hospitality to one another but through loving encounters with those who do not share our language, culture or faith.

This January let us celebrate our diversity, our difference, the broadness of our traditions and denominations. And let us never forget our call to show kindness and hospitality and to humbly reflect the Jesus who said: *"I was a stranger and you welcomed me."* Matthew 25:35-40