



RESPONDING TO REFUGEE CRISIS



Inside:

BIBLE SOCIETY ROADSHOW COMES TO DEVON

BRIGHT FUTURE FOR RURAL CHURCH

This month as we mark Rural Mission Sunday (15 July), we hear about one of the first projects of our Diocese's Growing the Rural Church (GtRC) initiative....

Huntshaw church in north Devon is showing new signs of life following a community consultation led by GtRC.

As a result, a new Friends Group (see pic) has been set-up to raise funds and keep St Mary Magdalene Church at the heart of community life. Events so far have included a book launch with cream teas and children's treasure hunt, and a flower festival. A new all-age worship service with craft activity has been well supported.

Local family the Hoopers have been involved in both the Friends Group and new service, and said: "Wow! How uplifting it was to have the church lively and full of music and people. We are all working together as a team and moving forward positively".

PCC Treasurer Peter Denard said:



"With the help of Marian Carson from GtRC, we organised a community consultation on the future of Huntshaw Church. To our surprise we learnt that we would increase attendance if a more modern service was available. The Friends enhance the profile of the church and are also bringing the community together. The future is now very bright!"

The GtRC project hopes other good news will emerge as it engages with rural churches across the Diocese. Project Manager Marian Carson said: "We've now been working with rural mission communities across Devon for 18 months. It has been wonderful

to journey with some of our rural congregations and help them develop the use of their building. This month we are encouraging all our mission communities to celebrate Rural Mission Sunday, and we look forward to hearing back."

For more about the GtRC project visit the diocesan website.

For ideas and resources for Rural Mission Sunday, visit: www.germinate.net.

GtRC want to showcase Devon's rural churches. Send them a short video clip (20 seconds max) for their Rural Mission Sunday film.

BIBLE SOCIETY ROADSHOW HITS EXETER

Comedian Paul Kerensa and The Bible Course creator, Dr Andrew Ollerton, will be in Exeter on 13 July to deliver a night of laughter and learning, as the big story of the Bible is unfolded in The Greatest Story Ever Toured.

Diocesan Mission Enabler Barry Dugmore said: "We are so excited about hosting one of the Bible Course roadshows in Exeter Cathedral. Given that 65% of Anglicans struggle to read the Bible and many people who come to faith today have very little knowledge of the Bible, this course could be just the things to help us grow as followers and help others who are on a journey towards God."

The new Bible Course (DVD and course manual) helps unpack the book, the characters, epic events that form



one story from Genesis to Revelation.

For details visit www.biblesociety.org.uk or for tickets, costing only £6, go to: <https://bit.ly/2KrDtI6>

CHANGES IN THE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Rebecca Paveley, Director of Communications and Bishop's Press Officer is leaving our diocese after nine years in the role. She is going to work for the National Trust, but will continue to support Exeter Cathedral's communications.

Nicky Davies, Publications Officer, is also moving on,

after four years. Nicky, who was ordained priest in 2015, will be focusing on her ministry in the team of seven churches where she is based in the New Forest.

Both are sad to leave the diocese and wish to thank many people who have offered their encouragement over the years.

HUNDREDS PRAY AT THY KINGDOM COME CATHEDRAL EVENT

Churches and communities around our Diocese were busy praying in all sorts of creative and inspiring ways as part of this year's Thy Kingdom Come (TKC) global wave of prayer.

Launch events took place with Bishop Robert in Sidmouth and in Plymstock with Bishop Nick.

TKC culminated in our Diocese with a beacon celebration on Pentecost Sunday in Exeter Cathedral.

To see a video of the service, go to the news pages of the diocesan website.



Diocesan Mission Enabler Barry Dugmore and wife Suzanne, along with a local children's choir perform River of Life, a song written especially by Barry for this year's TKC.

When the refugee crisis hit the headlines in 2015 Anna Roderick began to ask God what she could do in response? Three years later Anna is Project Manager of Abide and helping to settle a refugee family in Devon....

Learning to listen to God



P rayer that leads to action is one of the best sorts of prayer, says Anna Roderick of Ottery St Mary.

Anna is Project Manager of Abide, a community project to resettle a refugee family into the local area through the government's Community Sponsorship scheme. Last September a Syrian family of four arrived, having fled their home when it came under attack. The family had spent five unsettled years living as refugees in Jordan. They are now settling into Devon life and the father has started work experience.

Anna is passionate about responding when there is a need. She said: "Sometimes it is not enough just to give money."

When Anna saw the refugee crisis hit the headlines in 2015 she began to pray and ask God what she could do? She said: "I didn't want to pursue the idea of Community Sponsorship unless it's what God wanted... I felt that God was clear and in it!"

Growing up Anna explains that she started going to church aged five. She said: "As a child I had faith in God. It was as a teenager that I began to question."

Aged 18 she had the opportunity to live for a while in a Christian School in India. She describes this experience as a 'profound turning point' in her faith.

"I was away from home and surrounded by people who were passionate about their faith." This experience helped Anna to settle into life at university, before she went on to do year's course at Navigators UK in Birmingham, a worldwide mission partnership.

She then got married and the couple lived on an inner-city estate in Birmingham where Anna honestly recalls "I struggled in that time. It brought me face to face with many of my limitations!" Having had two children, the family moved to Devon 11 years ago and had a third child. The family love their life here.

Anna finishes: "I am quite an activist but I'm gradually learning to listen and wait and see God doing it in his way. A lot of my prayer at the moment is about

letting go and surrendering things to God's will and timing."

"I'm gradually learning to listen and wait and see God doing it in his way... surrendering things to God's will and timing"

THERE'S POWER IN LOVE



The Ven Douglas Dettmer
Archdeacon of Totnes

This magazine has a long lead time for publication! So it is that I am writing in May, just after the marriage of Prince Henry of Wales and Meghan Markle at Windsor. As a child of the USA myself, I watched the broadcast of the wedding of a British prince to an American citizen with particular interest. The clear desire of this highly motivated couple to serve the community and to help make the world a better place was reflected in the beautifully crafted liturgy, which was inspiring in its inclusiveness and left me feeling hopeful for the future.

With millions around the world listening in, the sermon was delivered by the Presiding Bishop of the American Episcopal Church, Bishop Michael Curry—the first African-American to hold that position—who lived up to his reputation as a superb preacher. His words are worth taking to heart.

“The late Dr Martin Luther King Jr once said... ‘We must discover the power of love, the redemptive power of love. And when we do that, we will make of this old world a new world, for love is the only way.

‘There’s power in love. Don’t underestimate it. Don’t even over-sentimentalise it... The reason has to do with the source. We were made by a power of love, and our lives were meant—and are meant—to be lived in that love.’”

Any church wedding is an opportunity to proclaim the gospel. The good news of self-giving, sacrificial love and its redemptive power is a word the world needs

to hear. It is a word which first summons those who profess and call themselves Christians, to which we all need to listen again and again.

For when our church life is marked by anything less than other-regarding, generous love, we fail to proclaim God as he is, and we waste the greatest power for good the world has ever known. But where such love is at the heart of a local church, in the words of Dr King, ‘We will make of this old world a new world.’ That is because, in the words of the old Christian hymn quoted later in Bishop Curry’s sermon, “Where love and charity are, God is there.”

By God’s grace, may this be true of every church community in Devon as we seek to pray, grow and serve with joy in him.

