

CHILDREN CAN TEACH ADULTS A THING OR TWO ABOUT FAITH



The Right Revd Nick McKinnel
Bishop of Plymouth

Sunday by Sunday, a small (but usually willing!) army of volunteers give their time to looking after and teaching the children and young people in our churches. Some run crèches in the back of the church, others lead children out from the service to special activities in the hall, often bringing them back in at the end to show the rest of the congregation a variety of artistic creations.

Through the week, youth leaders will be working with teenagers and afterschool clubs, teams run Messy Church with craft activities and games, and Open the Book flourishes across the Diocese. And that is not to mention the holiday clubs and youth camps held in the summer, or organisations like South West Youth Ministries and CATALYST with their involvement in schools across the county.

There is rarely a church that doesn't want to "bring in the young people", but much of this work is largely unseen - though hopefully it is prayed for and given a budget by the PCC. As is often said, young people are not the church of tomorrow, they are the church of today.

In fact, for Jesus, children can teach adults a thing or two about faith. When

the disciples try to protect Jesus from parents eager for him to touch their babies (Luke 18:15-17), his response is to say, "Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it."

Luke sets the story alongside that of the rich young ruler whose wealth and responsibilities so entangle him that he is unable to respond to the call, "Come, follow me". As we thank God for those who look after our children and young people, we too are not to lose the eagerness, curiosity and trust that Jesus commends.



CHURCH OF ENGLAND

DEVON

GOOD NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE OF EXETER | FEBRUARY 2019



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SPOTLIGHT
ON BISHOP
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SHAW

Revd John Fisher to join diocesan team in April as new Director of Ordinands

FOND FAREWELL TO BECKY... WARM WELCOME FOR NEW DDO

A new Diocesan Director of Ordinands has been announced, succeeding Canon Becky Totterdell who had been in the post since 2010.

The Revd John Fisher is currently Patronage Secretary at Church Pastoral Aid Society, and is expected to be in post in early April.

He was ordained in 1994 and served his title in the Diocese of Chelmsford. He was then an incumbent in Nottingham for 10 years. During this time, he was also Rural Dean and Chaplain to the East Midlands Ministerial Training Course.

He said: "To be a follower of Jesus is a wonderful journey of discovery, discipleship and witness to God's faithfulness. In the Church, all of us are called to serve others with joy, but I am really looking forward to coming alongside those people in the Diocese of Exeter who are prayerfully exploring if God may be calling them to serve as deacons and priests. Building on Becky Totterdell's work will be a privilege, as will



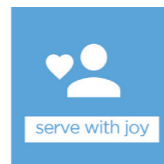
working with others in the Diocese to encourage more vocations to the ordained ministry."

In the meantime, Canon Andrew Godsall, who has also previously worked as a DDO, will act as interim DDO.

He said: "It has been a real privilege to work with Becky. For eight years she has conscientiously guided countless people through the discernment process. Happily, she will continue her own ministry

as a residentiary canon of Exeter Cathedral.

"John joins us from the Churches Pastoral Aid Society, a mission agency in the Church of England. He is well used to discerning who best fits where because his current job is basically helping churches find a new vicar. We look forward to welcoming him as leader of the DDO team and having the best job in the Diocese of Exeter."



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DIOCESE APPOINTS BBC JOURNALIST AS DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

The Diocese of Exeter has appointed an accomplished broadcast journalist as its new Director of Communications and Engagement.

Chloe Axford has spent the past decade working as a reporter and producer at BBC South West. She also spent two years working in creative arts, drama and video ministry at the Church of the Ascension in south London before moving to Devon in 2007.

Chloe said: "I am honoured to be appointed to this role, and I am really looking forward to starting the job.

"I am passionate about telling the stories that need to be told in a way that is creative and newsworthy, whether it is sharing the amazing work already being done by the Diocese and churches in Devon or illustrating Bishop Robert's vision for churches to grow in prayer, make new disciples and serve the people of Devon with joy.

"I am excited about working alongside the rest of the diocesan team to help Devon's churches to be as engaging, life-transforming and relevant as possible to the communities they serve."

The Rt Revd Robert Atwell, Bishop of Exeter, said: "We are very pleased that Chloe will be coming to work with us. There is so much good news, and so many opportunities to share it through traditional and digital media, but also through social media which gives us a different, perhaps more direct relationship with people.

"I am sure Chloe's knowledge, experience and clear enthusiasm will be of great benefit to the Diocese."

Chloe has led all age and creative worship at a number



of churches in Devon. She has worked as the producer for adult and youth venues at Spring Harvest and has been the Prayer House Coordinator. Chloe also contributes worship resources to engageworship.org.

Chloe lives in a south Devon market town with her husband, their two children, and a cat called Crumble.

She will start her new role in mid-February 2019.

PULLING OUT THE STOPS FOR DEVON

Two leading organists in the South West are hosting a day of gentle encouragement for Devon church organists.

The two-hour sessions will cover topics such as hymn registrations, leading the congregation, playovers and choosing seasonal voluntaries.

The tutors are Ian Curror and Bramwell Bourne, the South West's first and only accredited organ teacher

with the Royal College of Organists.

The sessions will be held in Emmanuel Church, Mannamead, on March 9. The cost for RCO members is £25 (£10 observer only) per session and £35 per session (£15 observer only) for non-members.

[For further information and to book online please go to https://www.rco.org.uk/events/hymns-and-voluntaries](https://www.rco.org.uk/events/hymns-and-voluntaries)

GRAB A PEW!

A number of pine pews are for sale at St Paul's Church in Tiverton.

Ideally, they will all have been removed by the end of

January so please act fast if you would like one!

For more information, contact the churchwarden, Peter Day, on pday1348@gmail.com or 01884 230752.

In this month's interview, the former Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, the Right Reverend Martin Shaw, gives us a glimpse into his spiritual life and what he needs to sustain it.

Spotlight on Bishop Martin Shaw

Was your Christian faith kindled from birth by church-going parents or was it more of a Damascus road experience?

My childhood church-going was about the words 'no' and 'don't'. At 14, I came across Anglo-Catholicism: where priest and people were inspiring, with earthy jokes.

When did you first feel called to ordination?

Two Franciscan priests, in my late teens, were invigorating preachers, lived simply and loved deeply. I wanted to be like them. I still do!

Who or what sustains you?

Elspeth, my wife, whom I love deeply and who gives love and strength to me; Spiritual Direction, along with the writings of the great mystics and poets; the practice of prayer, listening, watching and loving; skilled musicians.

When or where do you feel at your most spiritual?

In the early morning and, also, among the 'carceri' above Assisi, the cell where Francis prayed. Mostly my praying is inner dryness, with the occasional 'rumour' of God in the love I 'catch on the breeze'.

Who inspires you?

Richard Holloway. I was his curate in Edinburgh. He faces with courage the difficulties with belief in a world of uncertainty.

Simone Weil. The disturbing French mystic who wrote a book that goes with me everywhere: 'Waiting on God'. St Francis of Assisi. His simple prayer: 'Deus meus et Omnia'. [My God, My All]



What do you think is the most important aspect of being an ordained minister?

The practice of the priesthood of Christ: carrying the suffering of others. Presiding at the Eucharist, priest and people offer to Divine Love that which is being carried.

Are there areas in the Church of England that need to be changed or adapted in the great work of growing the Kingdom in the 21st century?

Some liturgy has little wonder and imagination; often lacking in the treasures of art and literature.

I'm concerned about propositional projects in the delicacy of intercultural discourse. The task isn't to take Christ out to 'grow the Kingdom', but to realise that he's already out there waiting for us to join him.

Safety and security now have pride of place, but they mustn't dilute the risk and costliness of the Christ-like life.

What do you do to relax?

The Movies. Reading daily. Walking the South West Coastal Path. Listening intently to music. Hearing good jokes, particularly Billy Connolly.

What book are you currently reading?

'Redeeming Time' on T.S.Eliot's 'The Four Quartets' by Kenneth Paul Kramer, the essential life of contemplative prayer intensified by the poetry.