



Real Partnership



By Bishop Nigel

I am very pleased to have this opportunity to express gratitude, under God, to you all for your faithful ministry and witness in Christ's name, that you continue to exercise throughout the parishes of our Diocese. Real partnership in ministry between all who are licensed, both lay and ordained, is vital to the health and mission of the local church; and I am delighted that, in this diocese, Reader ministry is flourishing.

The role of the Warden of Readers is of course key in enabling this flourishing to happen. In Bishop Michael, we had a first class Warden who did much to enhance the Reader Ministry – and that was well expressed at his Farewell in the Cathedral. I want also to pay tribute to Hugh Morley, and Beryl Proctor, who as Sub- Warden and Assistant Warden respectively, have done so much to support this work. I am especially grateful to Hugh for his willingness to accept my request for him to 'hold the fort' during the current vacancy and for his commitment to this

role; and to Natty Gray, (editor of this newsletter itself), for ensuring the smooth running and oversight of much of the administration involved.

Having consulted with Bishop Michael before he left, and latterly with members of

my Bishop's Staff, I hope to be able to announce in a few weeks time, the appointment of a new Warden of Readers.

The new Warden will work closely with my office at Bishopscourt to ensure that Reader ministry continues to be nurtured, resourced and supported within this diocese. As part of this commitment, the intention is for Readers' licences to be renewable every three instead of five years, and for there to be a special service in the Cathedral, as the Mother Church of our diocese, at which this will happen

I and my colleagues look forward to sharing in those occasions with you, in addition to the opportunities that exist currently for Readers to join the clergy in Holy Week as they renew vows, and for the annual Readers' Service of renewal and welcome to new readers. May I take this opportunity to wish you every blessing in your ministry at the start of this New Year and to assure you of my prayers.

Holding the Fort



Hugh Morley, Sub-Warden of Readers, is available for all queries until a new Warden is appointed. Please do not hesitate to contact him. By post: 'Herongate', 2 Whitings Grove, Ladybridge, Bolton, BL3 4PU Tel: 01204 417864 or by e-mail: hugh.morley@ntlworld.com

New Reader Group



Beryl Proctor, Assistant Warden of Readers, has instigated the setting up of a new Consultative Group in the Diocese for Readers. Its main remit is to map Reader Ministry in the Diocese, to be a think tank for the future growth and development of Reader ministry, and to be a support group for the work that Beryl has agreed to undertake.

The Group membership consists of eight Readers, representative across the three Archdeaconries, and includes Beryl, Judith Giles, the Lay Eucharistic Assistants Registrar, the Sub-Warden of Readers, Hugh Morley. The Revd Jayne Prestwood, Vice Principle of OLM/Reader Training, is the Group Chair.

The Group held its inaugural meeting on Tuesday 6 November 2007 and plans to meet four times a year. Initially it plans to look at the current picture of Reader ministry across the Diocese as viewed by the Group and also to look at the current Diocesan list of Readers, as well as to carry out a consultative exercise with parishes.

The Group will also welcome direct communication from Readers on any relevant consultative matters via Beryl 's e-mail: berylproctor@talktalk.net

Reader and Lay Eucharistic Assistant's Quiet Morning

Judith Giles, Reader at St Luke Halliwell, reports on the quiet morning held on Saturday 1st December 2007 at St Margaret, Prestwich

Our quiet morning was held on a cold but very sunny day. This was to prove quite fortuitous when we came to our times of contemplation. Around 30+ people attended the day.

The morning was led by Raylia Chadwick who is Reader Emeritus, at St Margaret's, the topic was 'Lectio Divina'. We began our day with a time of Communion led by the Rev. Debbie Plummer to focus our thoughts and to bring us together around God's table. Raylia then spent time reading a passage from the Bible, thoughtfully and repetitively, giving us time to allow it to speak, not only to our ears, but to our hearts, listening for a word or phrase to pray upon and ponder further.

We later had the opportunity to go as individuals and seek a quiet spot to meditate or reflect on what God had said to

each of us personally. Many of us took advantage of the weather and location and walked the very short distance into Heaton Park to spend some time just enjoying the beauty of God's creation around us.

We finished the morning with opportunities, for those who so wished, to say what they felt God was saying to them and to pray together.

As a simple practice of praying the scriptures, Lectio Divina becomes part of you, and when taken into your daily life can help to change not only your life, but the lives of those around you for the better.

Could I encourage you, if you have not yet attended one of these events, to consider them for this coming year. It is good to come together and share in these experiences.

Staying fresh!

Here are some ideas for staying fresh in your Reader ministry this year:

Thursday 07 February *Theology Study Day – The mystery of the atonement* (Canon Slade School , Bolton ; 09.45 am – 3.30 pm). A study day with some exceptional speakers for curates and readers in post-licensing years, but any Reader is welcome. Booking (free) and info from Helen Fallone , 0161 828 1411 (hfallone@manchester.anglican.org).

Saturday 01 March *Experiencing Easter in Art* (Diocesan Church House, 10 am – 3.30 pm). A day for personal enjoyment and growth, with insights you can draw on for Easter worship and preaching. Led by Andrea Sarginson; details and booking from Helen Fallone as above.

Tuesdays 22 April and 20 May *Summer seminars* (Diocesan Church House, 7 pm – 9 pm. Reader-only evenings on ideas and issues for Readers – details to follow, but if there's anything you think should be on the programme please contact David Foster .

Friday 12 – 14 September *Readers National Conference – Unity in Diversity* (Bangor University). For Readers, by Readers – the national conference with keynote speaker Dr Christina Baxter. For details see *The Reader* magazine, or Reader website: www.readers.cofe.anglican.org/news.php?e (you can use your CME grant).

David Foster, Training Officer: CME and Laity Development 0161 82 1448
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2008 Dates for your Diary

31st January **Deadline for Reader Training Applications**

17th April **Reader Chapter, Salford & Eccles Deaneries,**
7.30pm at St Paul's Church, Moor Lane, Kersal, Salford 7
Guest Speaker: The Very Revd Rogers Govender
Dean of Manchester Cathedral. Everyone welcome including Lay Eucharistic Assistants & Clergy. The Dean will speak of his vision for Lay Ministry, 2008 and beyond. Light refreshments follow.

3rd May Reader Selection Day, at Church House
Please pray for all candidates exploring their ministries.

12th July Reader Licensing Service 3pm at the Cathedral
(Note it is on a Saturday this year)
(which is also the Battle of Boyne Day!)



The Rt Revd Michael Lewis, our former Warden of Readers, at his enthronement as Bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf at the Cathedral in Nicosia, Cyprus on 24th November 2007

If your details change, please let us know

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