



# Crux

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25p

 THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Manchester  
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Diocese of Manchester : United in prayer, together in mission

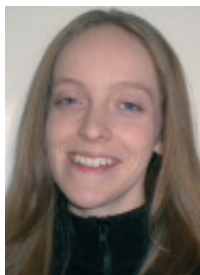
## In training for the Olympics

Putting 'Run the Race' into topical practice



### Young vocations

Penny's call to serve could be yours too



### A school in each parish

Affiliated and influenced by Christian values



**BISHOP NIGEL'S  
THOUGHT FOR  
THE MONTH**



## Vulnerable family members

WHATEVER views people have about the security barrier running through Bethlehem (and Israel), it separates families, divides people from their work-place, and can cause suffering to the elderly or pregnant waiting for ages to cross the border - including, of course, Palestinian Christians.

Nevertheless, Israel is now the only place in the Middle East where Christians are physically safe - a point the Church should remember. Assaults on Christians are disgracefully self-inflicted, such as Greek Orthodox and Armenian clergy fighting recently inside the Church of the Nativity.

We should currently be concerned about Christians in other parts of the Middle East (some were in our cathedral for the midnight service). In Iraq, after many attacks, the Christian population has all but fled. In Egypt and Syria, Christians are increasingly vulnerable.

This diocese is home to communities with roots in the worldwide Christian diaspora. We have a duty to pray for and support our brothers and sisters in Christ in those countries - including those in the Middle East that form the historic cradle of Christianity.

May they never have cause to quote Martin Luther King: "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies but the silence of our friends."

## Bishop Martyn to retire from Beverley

The Bishop of Beverley, the Right Reverend Martyn Jarrett, has announced he will retire in September 2012.

Bishop Martyn, formerly Bishop of Burnley, has been Bishop of Beverley for the past eleven years. Over that time he has been encouraged by renewal and growth he has experienced, resulting in an increasingly significant contribution to the life of our church.

Now in his 68th birthday year, Bishop Martyn and his wife Betty look forward to retirement in Worksop. He is immensely grateful for the privilege of having been able to serve the Church as the Northern Provincial Episcopal Visitor, a ministry he has thoroughly enjoyed.

The Archbishop of York said: "Bishop Martyn has served the Province with a real pastor's heart, with cheerfulness and Christian virtue. The people and parishes he has looked after as the Provincial Episcopal Visitor will miss him greatly and so will the bishops.

"I will miss his generous and wise counsel, and his friendship. Betty is a professional counsellor, and has helped so many people. She will also be greatly missed."

## EXPERIENCE EASTER

TWO churches will set up Taster Events of **Experience Easter** and how it can be used to tell the story of Holy Week and Easter. These events take place on :

☛ **February 21** at St Mary, Moston, Nuthurst Road, M40 0EW (7pm to 9pm - with pancakes!)

☛ **February 27** at St John, Brooklands, Brooklands Road, M33 3PB (also 7pm to 9pm)

If you are not thinking of running Experience Easter in 2012 but would like to see it in action, try your local church or come to Manchester Cathedral during Holy Week or Easter week where the zones will be set up.

## GROWING CHURCHES

**Growing Church** through Enquirers Courses will be held (7.30pm to 9pm, refreshments from 7pm) on:

☛ **March 5** at St Andrew, Over Hulton, Crescent Avenue, Over Holton, Bolton

☛ **March 20** at St Stevens Astley, Manchester Road, Astley, Manchester, M29 7BT. Contact Canon Evangelist, Tony Hardy for more details. 0161 438 2834 or e-mail: [tonyhardy@manchester.anglican.org](mailto:tonyhardy@manchester.anglican.org)

## Bondo exhibition at cathedral

IN THE north aisle of the cathedral until February 20 is an exhibition focusing on two projects supported by The Bondo Fund.

Bondo Diocese is by Lake Victoria in Kenya, and Bishop Johannes Angela and his wife Elizabeth from Bondo came to Manchester diocese in 2008 before the Lambeth Conference.

The Bondo Fund, featured in CRUX in December 2009 and April 2010, was set up by the Revd Henry Mayor to support projects in or around Bondo Diocese, and has raised £15,660 to date. Several parishes in Manchester Diocese have contributed.

People living with HIV/AIDS are the focus of the two projects displayed in the cathedral.

Founded by a clergy widow and a lay reader respectively, one brings a full range of support and treatment to families where there is HIV infection, while the other brings together each Saturday some 200 children orphaned through AIDS for a meal, sports and supplementary schooling.

Find out more by visiting the north aisle whenever the Cathedral is open, or contact Henry (0161 434 2955 or henrywmayor@hotmail.com). Prayer partners and donors are also welcome.



ABOVE : Bishop Johannes and Elizabeth Angela at the Manchester Lambeth reception.

### 'Do we need creeds?'

*THIS is the provocative title for a conversation between Jane Barraclough and Andrew Shanks in the cathedral on Thursday February 16 at 7pm, marking the 350th anniversary of the decisive historic parting of the ways between the Church of England and Nonconformists.*

*Jane Barraclough is the minister of the Unitarian Church, formerly Cross Street Chapel, founded by Henry Newcombe.*

## William Temple honour for Canon Craston

**CANON** Dr Colin Craston, who recently celebrated the 60th anniversary of his ordination, became the first ordained member of the Order of William Temple at a service in All Saints Church, York in December.

The Order, which was founded to mark

the 90th anniversary this year of the consecration of Temple as Bishop of Manchester, is awarded rarely and honours those who have served with distinction both in the



Diocese of Manchester and the wider mission of the Church of England.

The Archbishop of Canterbury paid tribute to Colin's considerable role on the Anglican Consultative Council, which he served for 15 years, six of them as chairman; and the

Archbishop of York spoke appreciatively of Canon Craston's ministry within the Church of England and as an outstanding parish priest in Bolton.

# Jubilee planning on track

IT WAS the spring of 2010 when the bishop invited parish-based clergy within each metropolitan borough of Greater Manchester and Rossendale to take on the additional task of being his Borough Dean. (The title Civic link-officer had also been mooted, which perhaps assists in defining the role.)

Eleven of us were subsequently licensed in the cathedral and commissioned for this task.

After induction training and briefing, February 2011 saw the two archbishops visiting Manchester, and given their agenda of looking at the link between Church and communities of this diocese, the chance to involve Borough Deans and their civic counterparts proved a fruitful springboard for the work.

The broad aim is that Area Deans are charged with concentrating more on 'in-house' deanery matters; Borough Deans, armed with Church & Society resources from Alison Peacock, can help local authorities review their Cabinet Work Plans, policies and strategies in the light of our statistics and maps, and provide a conduit, foster dialogue, and be ambassadors for the Church, alongside interfaith structures and partners, and allied voluntary third sector partners.

Experience in Salford suggested the city council was hungry for such encounters, and regular meetings with deanery clergy and civic officers began. I was privileged to be the Mayor of Salford's Chaplain, providing me with visibility and the chance to build relationships within the council, and these

have proved very beneficial.

Clearly where the deaneries are co-terminous with the local authority boundary these things work more efficiently, but even where a local authority area crosses the diocesan boundary (e.g. Wigan, Stockport and Tameside) much is still possible, and, above all, our engagement is welcomed.

This year, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee has provided the Borough Deans with a specific task in facilitating our three bishops and the Lord Lieutenant being present in each borough to celebrate this momentous year.

Looking ahead, the role is surely a vital commitment and encouragement to our churches to participate fully in public life, strengthening the bishop's three-fold challenge through his parish pilgrimages to 'serve our communities'.

Strategic partnership in shaping local authority thinking is a task we surely need more than ever, as the economic pressures bear on what are often fragile communities in our diocese.

Perhaps we can demonstrate the government's much vaunted 'Big Society' has a real outworking though our ministry and mission, and in which Borough Deans are privileged to have a pivotal role.

**The Revd Mark Haworth, Vicar designate of Rochdale, lately Team Rector of Salford All Saints Team Ministry & Bishop of Manchester's Borough Dean for the City and Borough of Salford**

## DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION TIMETABLE

**5 Feb** County Service at the Cathedral, 3.30pm  
**26 Feb** **Bolton** : St Peter Bolton, 3.30pm  
**4 Mar** **Tameside** : St Michael & All Angels Ashton, 3.30pm  
**18 Mar** **Salford** : Salford Cathedral, 3pm  
**25 Mar** **Rochdale** : Rochdale Town Hall, 3pm  
**29 Apr** **Trafford** : St Matthew Stretford, 3.30pm

**13 May** **Bury** : St Mary Virgin Bury, 6.30pm  
**27 May** **Rossendale** : St Mary Rawtenstall, 3pm  
**3 Jun** **Manchester** : St Ann Manchester, 4pm  
*(Bank Holiday/National Celebrations)*  
**10 Jun** **Wigan** : St Mary Leigh, 5pm  
**17 Jun** **Stockport** : St Elisabeth Reddish, 3pm  
**24 Jun** **Oldham** : St Mary & St Peter, 3pm

# Penny's thoughts on vocation

**THIS MONTH we start a new series of features on vocations. Penny King, who worships at St Chrysostom's Church in Victoria Park, tells us about her journey to ordination. She currently studies at Mirfield College and hopes to begin a curacy in Manchester next year. Aged 25, Penny says whatever your age, you are not too young to be thinking about being a priest.**

"YOU'RE a bit young to be training to be a priest aren't you?!" "No. I'm not actually!"

It comes as a surprise to some that God calls and equips all kinds of people for all kinds of ministries within the Church. Young people in particular, can offer gifts of enthusiasm, energy and imagination, a voice of challenge and vision for the future.

There is a great need in the Church and the world for young role models to display Gospel values as examples to the younger generation.

My journey of vocation continues to be the most challenging - and the most exhilarating experience. It's not about discovering "what job God wants me to do" but about discerning who God has made me to be.

I was about 14 when I began to discern my vocation to the priesthood, stemming from a simple desire to share the love and goodness of God. At university I continued to think, pray and seek guidance and increasingly the quiet but intense feeling that I had was affirmed by friends, family and even strangers.

After graduating in theology and religious studies, I worked as a Parish Assistant at St Chrysostom's Church, Victoria Park, which has a longstanding tradition of encouraging young vocations. I got fully involved in the breadth and variety of parish ministry and was inspired by the dedication of the church being at the heart of

its local community and the joy in its worship and work. But I also experienced the challenges and frustrations of parish life - it's a huge amount of fun but is hard work!

I'm now training at the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield. College life is a combination of theological study, practical placements, prayer and worship, living and studying alongside a variety of students from different backgrounds. I'm looking forward to continuing at college, and God willing, to returning to

Manchester to serve my curacy next year.

I'm excited by the challenge of parish ministry, of finding ways to serve and care for the local community, creatively embracing traditional worship, prayer and pastoral care in a way that is relevant to people's everyday lives, experiences, struggles and joys.

I'd advise young people considering any kind of vocation to ministry to ask questions, see what it's about and what opportunities there are. See if you can get some experience - could you shadow your parish priest or school/university chaplain for a day? Most importantly, pray,

seek God's guidance and the wisdom of others.

And no, you're not too young to be thinking about it!

## Events to help you discern God's call God, the future and me...

A diocesan day conference for young adults (16-25+) on March 17 2012 (10.30am-5pm) at St Peter's Chaplaincy, Oxford Road (for more details see back cover of this edition of CRUX)

## SCP Vocations Conference

For 18-30s thinking about ordination in the Anglican Church. Manchester, Friday April 27-Sunday April 29. More information can be found at [scpvocations.wordpress.com](http://scpvocations.wordpress.com)



*PENNY KING : 'There is a great need in the church for young role models'.*

## Affiliated Schools : Trust, Christian values and aspiration

**A NEW scheme has been launched by the Diocesan Education Department to extend the number of schools and academies across the diocese where there is Church of England input and influence on the education of our young people. Assistant Director of Education, Malcolm Finney, writes:**

WE ARE rightly proud of our 191 VA and VC Church schools and academies. We have more Church of England school places than any other diocese in the country.

However, there is not a CE school in every parish, and this new initiative offers an opportunity to 'grow the church' further while serving communities.

Many thriving, productive relationships already exist between our parish churches and their local community schools. We had been asked if provision might be made for a more public way of recognising these strong links, and so the Affiliated Schools Scheme has been developed.

Essentially this is a three-way, non-statutory relationship where school, parish and the Diocesan Education Department enter in to an agreement to work together for the benefit of children and families.

The agreement is based on trust, shared Christian values and the common aspiration of enriching the community.

Practically speaking, Affiliated Schools:

- receive information on training, support, resources and activities provided through the diocesan education officers and advisors;
- have access to training opportunities to strengthen RE, collective worship, spiritual, moral, social and cultural education;
- may wish to be included in the visits made by the Chairman of the Board of Education,



*Jenny Kilvert and Mike Smith at Lostock College :  
Aiming to be the first affiliated school in the diocese*

Bishop Mark, and the Diocesan Director of Education, Maurice Smith;

- with Year 6 pupils, are invited to an annual Leavers' Service at Manchester Cathedral;

- receive an invitation to attend the diocesan annual Schools' Conference and regular local meetings for headteachers and Chairs of Governors.

The initial suggestion to explore the possibilities offered by the Affiliated Schools Scheme may come from either the school or the parish.

An information brochure is available which outlines details and the procedures. Contact [malcolmfinney@manchester.anglican.org](mailto:malcolmfinney@manchester.anglican.org)

Assistant Director of Education, Malcolm Finney, has already visited Lostock College's Acting Head Teacher, Mike Smith, and Chair of Governors, Jenny Kilvert, to discuss the progress they have made in developing the school's Christian ethos and their link with All Saints, Stretford.

They are aiming to be the first Diocese of Manchester Affiliated School. It should be the first of many!

## Soccer hero's prize draw at St Catherine's

THE pupils at Bolton St Catherine's Academy bagged their best results ever last year; the headline indicator of 5 x A\*-C grades at GCSE rose to 42 percent (it was 17 percent when the diocese took over in co-sponsorship with the Crosslands two years ago).

A Presentation Evening offered pupils the opportunity to celebrate their achievements and receive their awards from Bolton Wanderers superstar and captain, Kevin Davies.

Maurice Smith CB, the Director of Education for the CE Diocese of Manchester, said: "In times when professional footballers are criticised for their millionaire lifestyles, it was fantastic to see Kevin and his wife and little daughter turn out on a cold winter evening to support our youngsters in their achievements.

"He spent an hour after the formal proceedings patiently posing for photographs with individual students. The town of Bolton and its football club should be proud of their ambassador."

Academy Principal, Lee Harris, said: It was a wonderful evening when we celebrated the hard work and achievements of the class of 2011.

The students at St Catherine's decorated the hall in opulent style for the event, evidencing their successful course in hospitality management; this is a skill that they are taking into the community as a business venture (contact@boltonstcatherinesacademy.org.uk).

In April the pupils move into their new state-of-the-art, all-age £35m academy building which will also accommodate the pupils of Firwood Special School in an integrated environment.

The diocese is investing £1.5m in endowment sponsorship at St Anne's (Middleton) and St Catherine's Academies, bringing distinctive Church of England education to some of the most challenging estates in the diocese.



*Yvonne Kirkman receives her award for Outstanding Achievement in German from Bolton Wanderers captain Kevin Davies.*



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*Questions and answers at an Olympic-themed Sports Quiz*

## GET

**More Than Gold** es make the most of training day that provides strategies, skills and fun. Running a Community every age-group an elective covers you, and prayer.

**Thornleigh School** 4.30pm. Cost £10 per your choice of world.

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# On your marks!

## ARE you ready for The Games?

Tony Hardy, Canon Evangelist, says "Everyday life gives plenty of opportunity for evangelism, sharing faith with others and telling our story as Christians. Also, from time to time, particular opportunities for evangelism arise and when they do its great to seize them with both hands!

"One of these is the 2012 Olympic Games. Some of the sporting events will happen in Manchester! So here are a few ideas for how we may do evangelism in the run-up to the Games."

### Prepare early!

We anticipate most people will want to watch the Games while they are on, so plan your events during the build-up when excitement will be mounting and interest high! We don't recommend trying to complete with the Games by holding an event when they are on!

### Community and school events

Consider holding guest events with local sporting heroes, mixing the Christian message with sporting themes. Organise a church sports day - something lightly competitive and fun for all.

The local primary school will almost certainly pick up the Olympic themes. What can be done between church and school? Maybe a joint event, assemblies, a special 'Olympics Prize' to be given in school awarded by the church!

Consider organising a sports-themed craft day or flower festival, or make a trip to the Manchester Cathedral flower festival (July 23-29) which will have an Olympic theme.

### Themes for talks or events

Think about the games themselves and the kinds of activity we will all be watching. Pick up on the bishop's challenge to 'Run the Race' and what that might mean for each of our churches and for us as Christians.

Talk about fitness or practice, about the importance of team, about a good diet and watching our weight and the parallels in Christian living.

Athletes talk about having a 'positive mental attitude', so could people take up a sport or exercise as an act of spiritual discipline (like fasting - doing something hard sharpens the mind and resolution)? This could be linked to a prayer or worship event and even a Lenten theme.

## T CLUED UP FOR THE OLYMPICS

**Gold**, the agency established to help church-ost of the 2012 Games, is running 'Get Set', a at promises to give churches 'new ideas, ls and resources'. There are full-day sessions Community Festival. Using Sport to impact up and Being a games pastor. The choice of s young people, the torch relay, your commu- r.

**School, Bolton: March 31, 10.30am-** £10 per person. Book in advance to secure 'workshop at [www.morethangold.org.uk/getset](http://www.morethangold.org.uk/getset) ristian sports outreach organisations are avail- w.uksportsministries.org and find one that can ch.

**Ready-made sports quiz.** If the idea of a sports quiz takes your fancy, you'll be interested to know that Christians in Sport has developed a free 2012 Sports Quiz!

A team of trained speakers will be available from March, to host the quiz and deliver a relevant evangelistic talk.

To accommodate the anticipated demand, a 2012 Sports Quiz DVD package is also available, complete with a 10 minute filmed talk and six rounds of sports questions.

For churches that might struggle to do evangelism, this quiz could be an easy thing to invite people to and could give you confidence to do a follow-up event.

More information or to order the free Sports Quiz pack visit [www.christiansinsport.org.uk/quiz](http://www.christiansinsport.org.uk/quiz)

## LOVE BURNAGE : How one parish is preparing

IN BURNAGE, the 'Love Burnage' Big Family Fun Day promises be bigger and better than ever for 2012.

Scheduled for Saturday June 16, the event will be a celebration of the London Olympics, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Centenary of Girl Guides at St Margaret's Church.

Revd Ian Thompson reports that planning is already well advanced.

"There will be the usual attractions like face painting, coconut-shy, bouncy castles, climbing wall and the like.

"New for this year will be an attraction called 'Q-Ball Crazy' and one or two typical school sports day events such as egg and spoon, sack and three-legged races.

"A variety of musical contributions will



also be on offer including choirs, a steel band and Trinity High's Big Band, plus an arts project with an Olympic theme which will engage community groups".

By popular demand, George, the puppet, will also be there, along with his 'handler' Dave Glover.

They will also be visiting local primary schools to take part in assemblies and classes, and in talking to children and adults at the Fun Day.

"We hope many will come along and enjoy the day, which is offered free (but not without cost!) to the whole of the local

community of Burnage.

"It's our way of saying we love Burnage - and, more importantly, God does too."

## *St Denys rises from the ashes*

FOUR Manchester vicars visited our link Diocese of Lahore to offer friendship and support and hear from the newly consecrated Bishop Irfan Jamil his plans for mission and evangelism in Pakistan and pastoral support for clergy.

The highlight of the visit was to St Denys School in Murree near Islamabad. The school has been at the forefront of education for more than 100 years, catering for girls, including boarders, with parents overseas or homes in remote rural areas. It was destroyed in an arson attack in 2009, and later the Diocesan Retreat Centre, which was being used by the school, was also set on fire.

Now the school is being rebuilt. The academic block was nearing completion when we visited, but work on the administrative block and boarding house needs more money.

Bishop Malik is keen to raise funds for the project and has requested financial help from the Diocese of Manchester. This is the time to show friendship and solidarity with our Christian brothers and sisters whose faith remains strong and who are continuing to serve their community



under threat of violence and prejudice.

Bishop Nigel has set up a Lent Appeal with the aim of raising £20,000 towards the £200,000 required to finance the rebuilding work.

The Manchester delegation of Phil Rawlings, Dave Thompson, Judith Ware and Falak Sher encourage everyone to give generously. If you would like to contribute, please send a cheque (payable to MDBF) to Church House, 90 Deansgate, M3 2GH. Please write Diocesan Lent Appeal on the back of the cheque.

**Fr Falak Sher**  
**Vicar of Gorton and Abbey Hey Team**

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## *Saving on parish running costs*

A NEW service has been launched by the National Stewardship Committee aimed at helping parishes of all sizes save money on everyday running costs.

At [www.parishbuying.org.uk](http://www.parishbuying.org.uk) you can save money on a whole range of items from energy bills, office products, IT software, photocopying and fire safety.

So, if you're interested in potentially reducing your costs, register on the website and see what you may be able to save.

The whole service is entirely free of charge and represents a major stewardship initiative, in response to the growing number of requests

that were being received from parishes facing steep rises in their costs.

The initial signs have been encouraging - more than 200 churches have registered, and current users of the site will make a total estimated savings of some £55,000.

We hope many parishes across the diocese will take advantage of this fantastic opportunity! So if you haven't already done so, please register today - it's free and doesn't commit you to anything, but will give you the chance to compare your current costs and see what is available to benefit your church in 2012 and beyond.

## Urge supermarkets to crack the Real Easter egg, says Bishop Mark

THE Bishop of Middleton is calling on congregations to support the Real Easter Egg 2012 campaign after supermarkets have failed to order sufficient quantities of the UK's only faith Easter egg, despite overwhelming demand from their Christian customers last Easter.

The Real Easter Egg is the only Fairtrade Easter egg to explain the Easter story on the box and give money to charity.

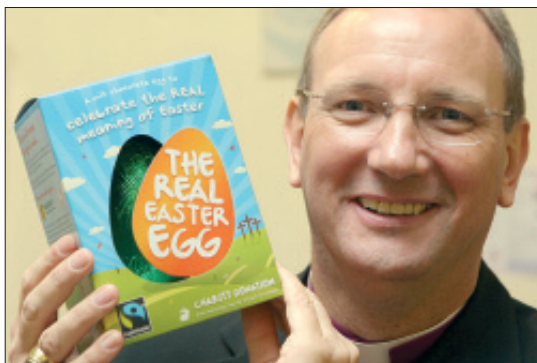
It was launched last year as a mail order gift after the supermarkets turned it down. Churches and schools joined a campaign to establish the egg by placing orders through mail order.

Morrison's, Booths, Coop and Waitrose later changed their minds and decided to trial The Real Easter Egg just before Easter 2011. They all sold out within days.

With such demand, the Manchester-based Meaningful Chocolate Company, which manufactures The Real Easter Egg, expected an increase in supermarket orders this year. However, one major retailer is reducing its order and will only have 24 eggs in stores serving our biggest towns.

The Bishop of Middleton said; "We thought we had proven that people were not afraid to buy an Easter egg which mentions Jesus, gives money to charity and which helps in communicating the true meaning of Easter. It seems incredible that the only Easter egg gift on the market, which caters for the Christian community, is rejected or marginalised by our biggest retailers. If we have to continue to campaign, by placing orders online to establish The Real Easter Egg, then so be it."

A spokesperson, from the Meaningful Chocolate Company, said: "There seems to be a clear cut agenda to keep credible products, with any connection to Christianity, off the shelves."



### ***Bolder, brighter ... and it tells the story***

THIS year's Real Easter Egg box uses brighter colours and the Easter story is a colourful visual.

There is a bible quote under the lid and three crosses on the front. The eggs sell for £3.99.

#### **How to buy a Real Easter Egg**

To ensure supply, churches are advised to visit [www.realesteregg.co.uk](http://www.realesteregg.co.uk) and place a bulk order by the end of February. Traidcraft will also have major stocks available through its online shop and its network of church re-sellers.

**Fairtrade  
Fortnight :  
February 27  
to March 11**



In 2012 the Fairtrade Foundation is asking everyone to take a step for fairtrade.

It can be a simple step, like swapping your tea to fairtrade, or asking everyone in your office to do it.

For more about this year's campaign step lively and hot foot it to [www.fairtrade.org.uk/step](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/step) -where you'll find all you need to get busy planning your events for Fairtrade Fortnight and beyond.

# Following festive feasting comes a focus on fasting

## says Bishop Rupert

PERHAPS it is salutary that soon after feasting at Christmas we find ourselves called to fast in Lent.

Of course, for some there will not have been much feasting this Christmas, and life may seem like one continuous fast. But while most of us may have had to cut back to some extent on our Christmas celebratory meals this year, we still have a standard of living which enables us, if we want, to distinguish our feasting from any fasting.

Judging by my own performance, we are better at feasting than fasting. And, if we do embark on fasting, it is often only to correct the results of earlier feasting.

Christianity affirms both feasting and fasting, but fasting always comes before feasting: Advent precedes Christmas; Lent precedes Easter. But in our world, 'Christmas dinners' swallow up Advent, and chocolate Easter eggs pervade the supermarkets before Lent has even arrived.

As I look back over my life, I have to admit I've not given fasting the seriousness which the Christian tradition, and indeed Jesus himself, gave it. I find myself admiring both the Jewish and Muslim practice of fasting, and also wanting to learn from earlier Christian wisdom about it.

There is a temptation nowadays to imagine that our efforts to lose weight will fulfil our Lenten obligation. Of course it is important, even a civic duty if we can, to look after our weight, but that is not Christian fasting.

Fasting is meant to take us out of our pre-occupation with satisfying our own needs, to re-direct our attention away from ourselves, not to assuage our anxieties about being overweight.

Jesus fasted in the wilderness to prepare for his God-given ministry towards humankind. He told his followers (*Matthew ch. 6*) not to flaunt their almsgiving or prayer or fasting before others (which would 'reward' their own self-impor-

tance), but to do all those things in the secret place where they were alone with God. For prayer, almsgiving and fasting are responses to God's love for us, and their reward a deepening of relationship with God.

To go to our Anglican tradition: when Cranmer was creating what became the Book of Common Prayer, he called the Sunday next before Lent 'Quinquagesima', thereby marking it the fiftieth day before Easter.

He laid down that on Quinquagesima we should pray "for that most excellent gift of charity", and should read Paul's paean of praise to love in I Corinthians 13. So just before we enter the season of Lent we should pray for the gift of love, and direct our minds and hearts, via the Lenten fast, to the feast of Easter.

So fasting in Lent was to help us focus on God's love for us and, arising from that, on our love first for God, then for our neighbour, and only lastly for ourselves. In this way we would prepare for the festival of Easter. And the practical wisdom of previous generations of Christians is that this involves a degree of abstinence in when and what we eat and drink.

The prayer for the "most excellent gift of love" has now been transferred in Common Worship to the second Sunday after Trinity. That's fine: we always need love! But there was a stroke of genius and wisdom in putting it just before Lent and reinforcing the point by reading I Corinthians 13 (as Lutherans still do).

And maybe it would help our fasting in Lent if we were to re-introduce both into our own prayers the Sunday before Lent begins (February 19) to give us a purpose and a framework for our fasting, orientating it towards the great festival of Easter, 50 days on.

*The Rt Revd Rupert Hoare  
is an assistant bishop in the Manchester Diocese*

## Creating a new welcome

ADVENT saw the introduction of a number of changes around the cathedral. Most prominent was in the visitors' centre: the management of the cathedral café was out-sourced to Create Foundation, a Community Interest Company.

All successful eateries share a key ingredient; excellent food. As customers we may forgive the odd decor, surly staff and even the price increase. But the food must always meet our expectations. With its new menu, the cathedral café is now delivering on a core brand promise of the Create Foundation, 'where good food matters'.

What's more the café is delivering on the second element of Create's brand promise 'where people matter' - having established the café as a finishing school for trainees of its Salford-based Academy.

Over at the Academy, Create is recruiting 10 to 12 new faces to take part in its comprehensive training programme designed to deliver improvements in key skills, personal development and customer care - all essential tools to re-entering the work place and rebuilding fulfilling lives for

those struggling with the challenges of homelessness. And all funded by profits from catering at the cathedral, its café and cathedral conference, and by providing award-winning food for corporate clients across Greater Manchester.

As we head towards Spring there will be further changes, many visible and some less so, all aimed at improving the offer to be found at the cathedral café and providing more training and support for the homeless.

The cathedral has also set up its own volunteer programme with Job Centre Plus. As this grows, the cathedral environment will be offering various job roles to help people back into work.

The Dean, the Ven. Rogers Govender says: "I am delighted to welcome Create to the Cathedral Visitors Centre. We have established a good partnership to assist some of the most vulnerable people in our communities. I wish Steve and his colleagues every success in this joint venture and ask everyone to support this very worthy establishment."

### OBITUARY

#### Canon Alfred Cyril Sharples

AT THE ripe old age of 102, Canon Alfred Cyril Sharples died on December 17, having served the whole of his ministry of more than 40 years in this diocese.

He began at Rochdale Parish Church, one of two curates, with Canon Sam Hutchinson. He moved from Rochdale to Cheetham Hill, St Mark's; then to Middleton and finally to Saint James, Hope in the Deanery of Salford, where he remained for 25 years.

He was an exemplary parish priest who produced in turn several outstanding ordinands, including his own son. The continuity of the Church of England meant everything to him and inspired his teaching in schools and his pastoral work among doctors, nurses and patients at Hope Hospital. At that time St James had one of the best youth clubs in the diocese.

He is remembered with much gratitude for his total integrity, and the diocese conveys sympathy to his son and daughter, to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Canon David Wyatt**

### APPOINTMENT

#### Deborah Dalby

DEBORAH Dalby has been appointed Director of Church and Society for the diocese.

Deborah's background is from the Voluntary and Community sector and she previously worked with the Social Responsibility Department at Liverpool Diocese.

The Bishop of Manchester has warmly welcomed Deborah's appointment. He says: "Manchester Diocese has a high percentage of deprived parishes, and has excellent links with most sections of our very diverse local communities.

"The Church and Society department has an important role, resourcing the churches and speaking prophetically for justice in these difficult times.

"I am very pleased that Deborah is to take on this role of leadership."

## CATHEDRAL DIARY

*If you have queries regarding events at the Cathedral, ring 0161 833 2220.*

**TIMES OF SERVICES - SUNDAY** : Matins 8.45am (said); Holy Communion 9am (said); Sung Eucharist (Common Worship - Cathedral Choir) 10.30am; Evensong (sung - Cathedral Voluntary Choir) 5.30pm. **WEEKDAYS** : Morning Prayer 9am (Mon-Sat); Holy Communion 1.10pm (Mon-Fri), Evensong 5.30pm (said Mon & Fri, sung Tues, Wed & Thurs), Evensong 3.30pm (sung, Sat only).



## EVENTS during FEBRUARY & MARCH

*January 24 to February 20 : Bondo Charity Exhibition*

### FEBRUARY 2012

- Wed Feb 1** 12.45pm Turning of the Leaves  
**Thu Feb 2** **Presentation of Christ in the Temple**  
 12noon Forward in Faith, Reform and Women's Chapter Vigil  
 5.30pm Sung Eucharist for Candlemas  
 7pm Organ recital: La Nativité du Seigneur  
**Sun Feb 5** 3.30pm Greater Manchester Lieutenancy Service in Queen's Diamond Jubilee Year  
**Mon Feb 6** 1.10pm Holy communion celebrating 60th anniversary of the Queen's accession  
**Tue Feb 7** 1.10pm Chetham's Lunchtime Concert  
**Wed Feb 8** 1.10pm No Holy Communion (Midday Prayer will be said at St Ann's, 12.15pm)  
 3.30pm Evensong (BBC live broadcast)  
**Thu Feb 9** 12noon Mothers' Union Prayers  
**Sat Feb 11** 12noon 'Be a Chorister for a Day'. For boys and girls aged 7+ Places limited and need to be booked. Contact Katy Leese on 0161 833 2220 ext. 238 or email [katy.leese@manchestercathedral.org](mailto:katy.leese@manchestercathedral.org)  
**Sun Feb 12** 2pm Inaugural Service of Greater Manchester Wing Air Training Corps  
**Wed Feb 15** 12.45pm Turning of the Leaves  
**Thu Feb 16** 7pm Theological Society Lecture : Do We Need Creeds? by Jane Barraclough, commemorating 350th anniversary of The Great Ejection (Andrew Shanks).  
**Sat Feb 18** 11am Coffee Concert with Saffron Jones and Tim Allan  
**Tue Feb 21** 12.30pm Julian Prayer Group  
 1.10pm Chetham's Lunchtime Concert  
**Wed Feb 22** 5.30pm Ash Wednesday Sung Eucharist (The Ven David Bailey)  
**Sun Feb 26** 12.30pm Bring and share lunch plus questions and conversations with the Scargill Team  
**Mon Feb 27** 7pm Chetham's School of Music Ensembles Concert. Tickets £8 (children £3) available from 0161 838 7244.  
**Wed Feb 29** 12.45pm Turning of the Leaves

### MARCH 2012

- Tue Mar 1** 7pm Quiz Night and Pie & Peas Supper. Tickets £8.50 from Edwyn Pym : e-mail [beingpartofit@manchestercathedral.org](mailto:beingpartofit@manchestercathedral.org) or tel : 07867 595 285  
**Tue Mar 6** 7pm Lambchop and special guest Cortney Tidwell concert. Tickets available from [www.alt-tickets.co.uk](http://www.alt-tickets.co.uk)  
**Thu Mar 8** 12noon Mothers' Union Prayers  
**Fri Mar 9** 7.30pm Charity Concert for Flood Victims in Pakistan  
**Sat Mar 10** 12noon 'Be a Chorister for a Day'. For boys and girls aged 7+ Places limited and need to be booked. Contact Katy Leese on 0161 833 2220 ext. 238 or email [katy.leese@manchestercathedral.org](mailto:katy.leese@manchestercathedral.org)  
**Mon Mar 12** 9.30am - 4.30pm Diocesan Formation Day  
**Tue Mar 13** 12.30pm Julian Prayer Group  
 1.10pm Chetham's Lunchtime Concert  
**Wed Mar 14** 12.45pm Turning of the Leaves  
**Thu Mar 15** 7.30 pm Sinead O'Connor concert. Tickets from [www.alt-tickets.co.uk](http://www.alt-tickets.co.uk)  
**Sat Mar 17** 11am Coffee Concert : Laurie Ashworth and Jeffrey Makinson. A performance of 'Les Angelus' by Louis Verne and English songs. Tea, coffee and cake available.  
**Sun Mar 18** 9am Common Prayer Holy Communion 10.30am Choral Matins  
 12 noon Common Worship Eucharist (said)  
 5.30pm Choral Evensong  
**Thu Mar 22** 10am Schools Music Association Festival  
**Sun Mar 25** 5.30pm Evening Prayer  
 7.30pm St John Passion. Tickets £20, £15, £11 available from 0161 833 2220, 0844 871 8819 and [www.alt-tickets.co.uk](http://www.alt-tickets.co.uk)  
**Mon Mar 26** **Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
 5.30pm Sung Eucharist  
**Wed Mar 28** 12.45pm Turning of the Leaves  
**Fri Mar 30** 5.30pm Evensong with the Queen Elizabeth Humanities College Choir  
**Sat Mar 31** 11am Chetham's School of Music Founder's Day Service

## Small Ads

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GRAVE TENDING SERVICE (Greater Manchester). Memorial washed, removal of

debris, flowers placed. Contact Lorna on 07989 453613 or 0161 775 2917; lornani06@aol.com

LLANDUDNO - KENMORE HOTEL, 28 Trinity Avenue. Special weekly terms for 2011 - £240 per person for dinner, bed and breakfast. All rooms en-suite, colour TV and tea-making facilities. Non-smoking hotel. Open all year. For brochure Tel: 01492 877774.

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## EVENTS

**FREE Church Website Seminar - 9 Feb.** How to improve your existing church website? What makes an effective church website? You will

benefit from this seminar run by Church Edit, which has good advice and tips. For venue and timing, visit: [www.churchwebsitetips.co.uk](http://www.churchwebsitetips.co.uk)

## COMINGS AND GOINGS

### APPOINTMENTS

The Bishop of Manchester has appointed the **Rt Revd John [Jack] Nicholls** as Honorary Assistant Bishop in the Diocese.

**The Revd Susan Edwards**, Team Vicar in the Leverhulme Team, is to become Team Rector of Leverhulme.

**The Revd Lars Olav Ruden**, full time Priest in Charge of Christ Church, Healey, is to become Priest

in Charge of Christ Church, Healey and of All Saints, Hamer.

**The Revd David Woodall**, Team Vicar in Bacup and Stacksteads, is to become Priest in Charge of Norden St Paul with Ashworth St James and Assistant curate of St George, Oakenrod and St Michael Bamford

### RETIREMENT

**The Revd Arthur Ross Brockbank**, Incumbent of St John the Baptist, Bircle, retires on April 3 2012.

## CRUX : REACHING THE HEART OF THE DIOCESE EVERY MONTH

**CRUX reaches clergy, churchgoers, schools and charities connected to Greater Manchester's 355 Anglican churches.**

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