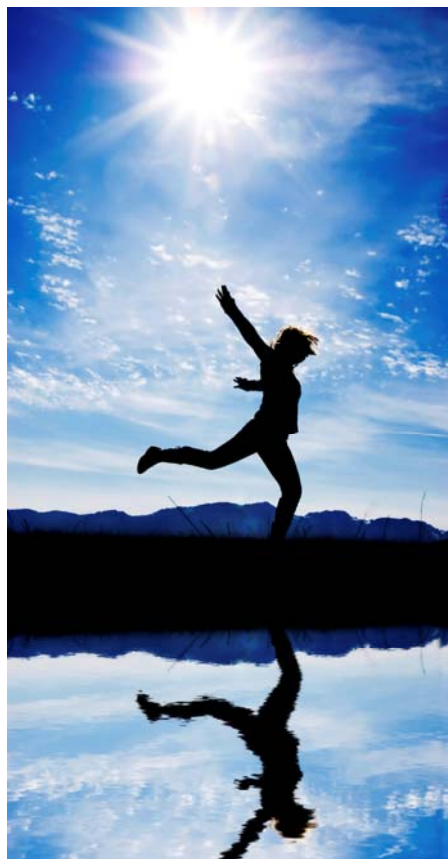


# Sunshine and much, much more

By Judith Giles, Reader (St Luke, Halliwell, Bolton)



**Unity in Diversity** was theme of the Reader National Conference 12-14 September 2008 at the University of North Wales, Bangor

Three Readers from the Manchester Diocese attended this year's conference. We journeyed down in beautiful sunshine and our rooms were more than adequate with all mod cons.

We were formally welcomed by Dr Susan Salt, Chair of the Central Reader Council, and also by the Dean of Bangor. The Bishop of Carlisle and Warden of Readers, Graham Dow, took us through several of the points raised in the report on the national review of Reader Ministry, 'Reader Upbeat'. Bishop Graham referred us to 1 Peter 4v10 and re-iterated that Readers need to both work alongside and complement their Incumbents.

The weekend's keynote sessions were superbly led by Dr Christina Baxter, Principal of St John's College, Nottingham. These sessions were the highlight of the whole weekend as Christina led us through 1 Corinthians 12 on a practical and theological journey in our Reader ministry. What a treat to be able to listen and absorb

good teaching!

There was the opportunity to attend specific seminars and, on the Saturday evening, we were given a talk 'Preaching with all our Souls' by Canon Leslie Francis, a psychologist and Canon Theologian at Bangor. Once again for me this was a highlight of the weekend as Canon Leslie is an accomplished speaker.

After the final session on Sunday morning we took part in the Eucharist which included the opportunity of anointing for an in-filling of the Holy Spirit. For me this was my first time at this style of communion and I found it not only moving but spiritually fulfilling.

We made our way home, still in glorious sunshine, satisfied and grateful for the teaching and fellowship, but also for the contacts made and the information shared amongst Readers from all over Europe. Please can I encourage you my fellow Readers to seriously consider attending the next conference to be held in 2010 (date and venue to be decided). As a final encouragement, it is not all work and no play as Saturday afternoons are traditionally left free.

## Walking to a different drumbeat....

### Readings & Prayers through Advent

The new **St John's Advent Book** for 2008 contains a series of readings covering the advent period. The meditations and prayers have been written by staff and students at St John's College. All profit from the sale of the books will be used for the student bursary fund and the college development fund.

Revd Dr Ian Paul, Dean of Studies writes: There are many pressures for us to keep in step with the world around us, and these seem particularly strong in the run up to Christmas. How can we resist being squeezed into the pattern of parties, presents and purchasing as we are told more and more loudly that this is the good life, this is the only way to have fun-even, this is our duty to maintain our consumer culture?

And yet God invites us to dance to a different tune, to walk to a different drumbeat, one that arises from what God has done for us in Christ and finds its energy in the promise of hope that God gives us at Advent. These reflections, written by staff and students of St John's, Nottingham, are offered to enable you to reflect on how to live distinctively in the light of what God has done and how he will bring that to completion on Jesus' return.

To order by phone, contact Beata Burda on 0115 925 1114 Ext 241 or email [b.burda@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk](mailto:b.burda@stjohns-nottm.ac.uk)

To order online, go to <http://www.stjohns-nottm.ac.uk/show/66>

To order by mail, provide the details below and send this with payment to:  
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Please state how many copies of *Walking to a Different Drumbeat* you require, and include your name, address and postcode, e-mail and telephone.



## Readers' Digest

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Manchester

Supporting Reader ministry

November 2008

## Introducing our Warden of Readers, Chris Bracegridle

"The Church of the 21<sup>st</sup> century needs to recognise the contribution of all people in ministry.... To be a Reader is challenging, exciting and immensely rewarding.... Over ten thousand people from all walks of life have found this for themselves." These words, from a book on the nature of Reader ministry are some that enthuse and inspire me as I become Warden of Readers in our diocese. So far so good – but what precisely does a Warden of Readers do?

The Warden of Readers is appointed by the diocesan bishop and under his authority, to have an overall responsibility for Reader ministry throughout the diocese. In particular, this work involves oversight and pastoral support for Readers and Readers Emeriti, together with providing strategic direction to the development of Reader ministry in the diocese.

*"I am optimistic about the shape of ministry in the Church"*

There is a significant element of collaborative working with, amongst others, the sub-warden, assistant warden, archdeaconry chaplains and those involved in Reader training. The role is also advisory to the diocesan bishop on all matters relating to Readers, and is representative of the diocese's interests at national level.

Hopefully this short description gives a flavour of the key areas of responsibility. However, these are only effective if they impact at deanery and parish level and my hope is that not only do we keep Reader ministry on the map at the local level but that its profile develops as more people are challenged to engage in this exciting and vital lay ministry.

Gone are the days, thankfully, when the a Reader's job was to "help" the vicar in his/her work. Readers are engaged in a God-given ministry in their own right, called to work collaboratively with other ordained ministers and lay leaders in proclaiming the gospel in our communities. It is precisely

this ministry that I hope and pray will continue to grow and become even more significant in our diocese and in the wider church.

And the autobiographical bit....! I grew up in Bolton and taught for three years before beginning training for ordination. Following ordination in 1985 and a curacy in Blackburn, I returned to this diocese in 1988 and have served in a number of parishes as Team Vicar, Team Rector and currently as Vicar of Christ Church Heaton in Bolton, working alongside Reader colleagues in each place. I have been Area Dean of Bolton since 2005. Throughout my ministry I have had a particular interest in the recruitment, selection and training of ordained and lay ministers and have served the diocese in a number of roles associated with these areas of ministry. Married for 20 years to Gill, a senior staff nurse at St Ann's Hospice, we have two sons, David, 19 and Philip, 17.

As I begin to engage with what it means to be Warden of Readers, I remain excited and very optimistic about the shape of ministry in the Church of England in



The Revd. Canon Dr Chris Bracegridle,  
Warden of Readers

general and in our diocese in particular. Our 250 Readers and Readers Emeriti are key participants in that ministry as they live out their faith and vocation in the communities they serve. Please pray for them and for me as together we seek to be faithful in the ministry to which we believe that God has called us.

## Christine Sandiford: our new Sub-warden



Mrs Christine Sandiford, Sub-warden of Readers

I am a Reader at St James' and Emmanuel, Didsbury, and was licensed in 2006. I received the sub-warden's badge from the Bishop at the Reader Service in July 2008. Although previous sub-wardens know about the inscription on the badge, others may not – the badge has the words 'tolle lege' ('take up and read') printed on it – a very apt quotation for all Readers from the Confessions of St Augustine.

I arrived in Manchester in 1969 as a new bride, having met my husband David, an Englishman, while he was a Visiting Professor of Physics in Connecticut in the same University. We have two daughters, both in their thirties, one in London and one in California.

Continued at bottom of page 3

# Diocesan Reader Conference 2008 God's Opportunities, Our Responses

By Raylia Chadwick, Reader (St Margaret's Prestwich)

Our diocesan Reader Conference was held on one of the few gloriously sunny days in September 2008. Between sixty and seventy people attended the day, held at Christ Church, Heaton, in the Archdeaconry of Bolton. We began our day with a short service in church followed by a welcome by Canon Chris Bracegirdle, Warden of Readers.

Bishop Chris Edmonson, Bishop of Bolton, presented a Diocesan view of the report. Afterwards, the Bishop of Carlisle, the Right Revd Bishop Graham Dow, presented the main points in the national review of Reader Ministry *Reader Upbeat!*

This was detailed under the headings Potential and Flexibility; Gifts for Ministry; Deployment of Readers. The full report of this review can be found on the internet at [www.cofe.anglican.org/about/gensynod/agendas/gsl689.rtf](http://www.cofe.anglican.org/about/gensynod/agendas/gsl689.rtf).

Following this there was ample opportunity for questions addressed to both Bishop Graham and Bishop Chris, and we took full advantage.

A generous and delicious buffet lunch in the sunshine of the gardens or under a shady tree, allowed us to mix, to chat and to meet friends old and new.

In the afternoon, a choice of workshops (Pastoral, Preaching, and Leading Worship) provided time and space for discussing good practice and bad practice in each of these three areas, arising out of our own experience. The day ended with a Eucharist in church.

More such days are planned. It is so good to be able to come together, from across the Diocese, in warm fellowship, and in the exploration of our Reader Ministry as it develops in these contemporary times.

## Advent Quiet Morning for Readers

Saturday, December 6  
at St Thomas's Church, Kirkholt  
led by the Revd. Sue Morgan

Arrive 9.30am for 10am start - concludes at 12.30pm  
St Thomas's Church, Kirkholt, Cavendish Road,  
Kirkholt, Rochdale OL11 2QX

Contact Revd James Read, on 0161 652 3090  
if you can go, and if you want lunch



## Dates for your Diary

6th December	Quiet Morning for Readers at St Thomas's Church, Kirkholt
7th February	Reader Selection Day at Church House, 90 Deansgate
6th June	Reader Selection Day at Church House, 90 Deansgate
12th July	Reader Licensing Service - Sunday at 3pm in the Cathedral

### Reader Ministry in the Diocese of Manchester

**Warden of Readers:**  
Revd Canon Dr Chris Bracegirdle  
01204 840 430  
[chris@bracegirdles.co.uk](mailto:chris@bracegirdles.co.uk)

**Sub-Warden of Readers:**  
Mrs Christine Sandiford  
0161 434 1343  
[christine@sandiford.info](mailto:christine@sandiford.info)

**Deputy Warden of Readers:**  
Mrs Beryl Proctor  
0161 794 6040  
[berylproctor@talktalk.net](mailto:berylproctor@talktalk.net)

**Manchester Archdeaconry Chaplain:**  
Revd Bill Raines  
0161 224 1310  
[wraines@btinternet.com](mailto:wraines@btinternet.com)

**Bolton Archdeaconry Chaplain:**  
Revd Julian Hartley  
0161 790 2957  
[Rev.Hartley@hartley.me.uk](mailto:Rev.Hartley@hartley.me.uk)

**Rochdale Archdeaconry Chaplain:**  
Revd James Read  
0161 652 3090  
[revjames.read@btinternet.com](mailto:revjames.read@btinternet.com)

**Director of Ministry Training**  
Revd Peter Reiss  
0161 828 1455  
[preiss@manchester.anglican.org](mailto:preiss@manchester.anglican.org)

**Vice Principal of OLM Scheme  
and Reader Training**  
Revd Jayne Prestwood  
0161 828 1456  
[jprestwood@manchester.anglican.org](mailto:jprestwood@manchester.anglican.org)

**Warden's Administrator**  
Mrs Natty Gray  
01706 358 550  
[pabishopmark@manchester.anglican.org](mailto:pabishopmark@manchester.anglican.org)



## If your details change, please let us know

contact: Natty Gray  
The Hollies, Manchester Road,  
ROCHDALE, OL11 3QY  
01706 358 550  
[pabishopmark@manchester.anglican.org](mailto:pabishopmark@manchester.anglican.org)

Ideas and/or material for the next Readers' Digest can be sent to Christine Sandiford by email to [christine@sandiford.info](mailto:christine@sandiford.info) or by post to 330 Lapwing Lane, Manchester M20 6UW

# A warm welcome to our new Readers



At the Reader Service on 15<sup>th</sup> July in Manchester Cathedral, we welcomed nine new Readers in the Diocese: Pamela Corps (St Margaret, Burnage), Venitia Flaherty (Christ Church, Ainsworth), Michael Howarth (Holy Trinity, Littleborough), Barbra Malone (Christ Church, West Didsbury and St Christopher, Withington), Diane Newton (St Paul, Norden), Martin Tonks (St Edmund, Whalley Range), Derek Urhoghide (Cheetham), Joanna Watson (St Paul, Norden), and Ann Whittleworth (St George, Unsworth).

There were also several Readers who became new 'Emeritus' Readers and received certificates from the Bishop.



## From the Warden of Readers

### Licences, Permissions to Officiate and Ministerial Review

**Thank you** to all those Readers and Emeritus Readers who have been in touch to remind me that their licences are in need of renewal and to enquire about ministerial review. By the time you read this newsletter, we will be in the process of a updating all licences and permissions to officiate. Once this is done, and in collaboration with other colleagues, I hope to be able to introduce a pattern of ministerial review for Readers.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

### Readers and baptism....

**Baptisms:** Although there is much debate in various circles, current diocesan policy (and Canon Law) is clear that baptisms should be done by clergy not Readers, even though Readers may have done much to prepare a family or individual and may take a significant part in the service. Only 'in extremis' does canon law permit baptism to be done by lay people – historically midwives where an infant is dying. To avoid any misunderstanding, "in extremis" would not include Readers officiating at baptisms during a time of vacancy in a parish.

## Christine Sandiford our new Sub-warden

*Continued from page 1*

A significant part of my parish ministry is co-ordinating a team doing Godly Play with children on Sunday mornings. As well as involvement in my parish church, deanery and the diocese, I have worked with the Citizens Advice Bureau for over 20 years.

David is a City Councillor and became Lord Mayor of Manchester in 2006, a month after my licensing, and I became the Lady Mayoress! This was very unexpected, following the sad death in office of the previous Lord Mayor.

I am looking forward to getting to know many of the Readers throughout the Diocese, although it may take some time, and hope that I can be a support to them in their varied ministries. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of help.