



# Easter 2019

## Lay Ministry Matters

**Easter Greetings to you all!**

A late Easter has meant that most school holidays were before Easter, so some of you will have enjoyed the opportunity to rest after Holy Week, while others were immediately back in the routine of term time, which tends to set the patterns for many of our church activities.

I want to begin by thanking the many of you who prayed for me while I was recovering from surgery in December. All went well, praise God, and I was back in the office in February and am now fully recovered. Your prayers and cards and messages were much appreciated.

It felt as though there has been plenty to catch up on and May has already begun, when the big event this month is the licensing of another 17 new LLM's at the Cathedral on 18<sup>th</sup> May.



This photograph was taken in March at their Pre-licensing Retreat at St Colomba's Retreat House in Woking. In the course of the weekend each one met with Bishop James to talk about where they thought God might be leading them as licensed ministers, and the variety of their gifts and callings was really good to see.

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That weekend was my first opportunity to meet with most of the group and to begin to get to know them. Their parishes represent rural and town centre settings, wealthy parishes and parishes where poverty is an ever present challenge, and they cover a wide range of churchmanship. Most certainly **#CalledTogether!** Their individual photos with a few words about each of them will be circulated on social media after the licensing. Please be praying for them all as they look forward to 18<sup>th</sup> May.

With very best wishes



**PTO and PTM - THANK YOU** to all of you who have sent back your Permission renewal forms (PTO and PTM). Some of you will be waiting for your Area Deans or Vicars to recover from the busy-ness of the past week or two. If you haven't yet made contact about talking through your form – please would you make that a priority. ***If you have mislaid your form, please get in touch and we will send a replacement.***

## **SAFEGUARDING TRAINING**

Only a small number of Lay Ministers have not done the C3 module now. IF you were among the cohort of people who did Facing the Unthinkable in 2016, you must do C3 this year.

All the available C3 days are now listed on the website at:

<https://www.rochester.anglican.org/resources/safeguarding/c3/> and they are booking up. Please book soon, because we will have to suspend licences/permissions/commissions if you are not up to date.

(If you can't remember what your most up to date safeguarding training was or when, please contact Tricia - usual office days Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays - who will be able to look up what you did and when).

## **DEPUTY WARDENS**

Jackie Bennett (pictured right) was one of the original Deputy Wardens of Lay Ministry, commissioned in October 2014. At that time Jackie was working full time at Maidstone Hospital, hoping to cut her working hours.

We are all aware of the pressures of all who are working in the NHS and as each year has passed Jackie's work hours have increased. I am immensely grateful to her for all she has done despite her lack of time to do it, alongside her parish ministry as commissioned Evangelist at East Peckham with Nettlestead parish.



Jackie will formally step down from this role at the licensing service on 18<sup>th</sup> May – and I am pleased to be able to tell you that we can now announce her successor in this role – Hilary Sutton, (Pictured right) Reader from St Andrew's Paddock Wood.

Hilary will be commissioned at the Cathedral on May 18<sup>th</sup>

## **LEADING A QUIET DAY**

On Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup> Susanne Carlsson and Sister Diane Reynolds will be leading a Training Day on "How to Lead a Quiet Day" at St Benedict's Centre, from 10am (10.30 start) to 4pm.

The day will include input on how to plan a quiet day, and the opportunity to practice in small groups.

To book please contact [susanne.carlsson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:susanne.carlsson@hotmail.co.uk)

## HEARING AND SPEAKING GOD'S WORD

Not all Lay Ministry has a focus on up front speaking or preaching, and whilst all Readers under the previous scheme undertook preaching modules, and some Evangelists undertook an additional preaching module, this was not part of PA training.

From reading some of the forms which have come in for renewal of PTM, clearly there are some of you who do occasional preaching or speak in care home services.

**Hearing God's Word** and **Speaking God's Word** are two short courses designed for occasional preachers or for those who find themselves occasionally asked to speak but have not had any formal training. The courses are each 6 evenings or 2 Saturdays –and they have been run in a number of Deaneries. If your initial training DID include a preaching module but it feels a long time ago now – this could be a very useful refresher course. If you would be interested in doing this, more details are available at:

[www.rochester.anglican.org/ministry/courses/](http://www.rochester.anglican.org/ministry/courses/) If you contact Ethlyn or Jane they will be able to tell you if there is a course planned in your area, and if not and others are interested, we might be able to run more courses. (Those who want to book for Speaking God's Word need to have completed Hearing God's Word.)

## CHAPLAINCY

*“At a time when UK society seems increasingly dominated by secular habits and assumptions, and when religious attendance and affiliation seem to be in decline, there are more and more stories of chaplaincy spreading into new settings. No longer – if indeed it was ever the case – are chaplains limited to Anglican clergy in a few institutional settings. Today chaplains are everywhere and include figures of all faiths and none.”*

Ben Ryan, a Researcher at Theos in a 2015 report.

One of the workstreams of Called Together has been supporting chaplaincy. The licensing service on May 18<sup>th</sup> will break new ground as Bishop James will licence a new LLM to both her parish and to Rochester Prison, and there are other licences for hospital Chaplaincy being talked about. Not all Health Chaplaincies are in hospital; and whilst Vic Twine is known to us as a Reader and Deputy Warden, he is known to the Ambulance Crews he works with as their chaplain.



Previously there has not been an organized record of who is doing what in Chaplaincy. From the Renewal forms for PTO and PTM which have been returned there are a wide variety of chaplaincies where lay ministers are present. Some of our Lay Chaplains are full time as paid employees, others spend a significant part of their week in a chaplaincy context.

If you are involved in any sort of chaplaincy – and even if you have just mentioned it on your LMDR form or PTO renewal - please would you email me [karen.senior@rochester.anglican.org](mailto:karen.senior@rochester.anglican.org) – call your email **CHAPLAINCY** and tell me WHERE you are involved in Chaplaincy, when you began that involvement, and how frequently you are involved – for example an afternoon a week.

*“Chaplaincy is a very modern ministry, one that seems especially suited to modern British society and that seems likely to become a dominant feature of the ever-changing landscape of religion in Britain”.*

Ben Ryan

## TRANSFER to LLM

As I have said on numerous occasions, there is no pressure on Pastoral Assistants, Evangelists or Readers to transfer to LLM, but the option is there, and we no longer specify that this only applies to those whose training was with Lampeter or Christ Church Canterbury. If you feel that your ministry is evolving and transfer might be where the Lord is leading, the closing date is the end of May. Application forms are available from [Ethlyn.Roy-Johnson@rochester.anglican.org](mailto:Ethlyn.Roy-Johnson@rochester.anglican.org)

## A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY – 5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER- Christ Church Orpington Lay Ministry conference day 2019 with Bishop Simon, and Ruth Haldane.



Bishop Simon was our speaker last October and needs no introduction, but Ruth's name may not be familiar to you all.

Ruth's CV covers an assortment of ways of serving God: "Chair of Governors at our local primary school for 8 years, Vice Chair of Governors at the local secondary school for 7 years, as well as working for a medical publisher, administrating a part time bible college and working in a senior management position for a large housing association – at the same time achieving an Executive Diploma in Management - have all been part of my life journey.

I was brought up in the Baptist denomination and first found faith there, was a member of independent churches, and joined the Church of England when we moved to Clitheroe. Another part of my life journey was in 2008 with the death of my son Jon at aged 20 in a tragic accident.

Graham and I are now befrienders for Care for the Family – Bereaved Parents network, helping other parents going through grief.

I have a passion to reach out the community with the message of the Gospel – both in word and deed. I manage a Trussell Trust foodbank in the Ribble Valley, with 75 volunteers from local churches, two centres, and a 15% rise in numbers in the last year. I have always been very involved in church, and am on the leadership team for St James (a sub-group of the PCC), with a particular focus on mission – including our local CAP centre."

Ruth was also licensed as a Reader in 2015 and has recently been appointed as Central Readers' Council Project Manager, as CRC focuses on how Readers **AND OTHER LAY MINISTERS** can be better equipped and prepared to minister beyond the confines of the church on Sunday in a society where less than half of people (\*53%) now classify themselves as having any religious faith, and three out of four 18-24 year olds say they have no religion.

\*British Social Attitudes Survey 2017

The Lay Ministry Conference will also be where **Life Together** - our Diocesan Rhythm of Life - will be launched. The working group have developed this – which has been shaped by, and some of you will have been involved in piloting, trial groups which have included local parishes, dispersed groups (Diocesan Youth Council, and LLM students) and thematic groups (Formation and Ministry Team).

The frame for the Rhythm is based around obeying and abiding; small groups form and agree how, together, they will love God, love their neighbour, and love themselves. This intentionally pulls together learning with activity which puts that into practice.

## CENTRAL READERS' COUNCIL

**Don't stop reading just because you are not a Reader!**

Central Readers' Council – CRC – has a new Trustee this year.

Alan Mitchell, (pictured right) LLM at St Augustine's with St Luke's Bromley, was last month elected as a Trustee of CRC and Chair of the Editorial Committee of "The Reader" magazine. His career in publishing has included being Head of publishing for the Archbishops' Council.

Alan is a Vocations Adviser in our diocese (not all dioceses have lay people as vocations advisers!) and is on a steering group implementing the Called to Grow Strategy, and is excited about the opportunities this new role leads him into "in particular to explore how our publications can support a renewed vision for lay ministry in the church".



## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Church life can be busy – whether we have a leadership role in a church, undertake slots on various rotas or are simply trying to juggle all the demands on our time. The gathered life and worship of a church is a vital expression of our faith, but how can this time together better nurture our life of faith across the week?

Go to [www.churchofengland.org/mondaytosaturday](http://www.churchofengland.org/mondaytosaturday) and sign up for regular emails.

### WHAT DO READERS WITH PTO DO?

Readers and LLMs over a certain age are currently in the process of applying to renew their Permission to Officiate, and recently the forms of all 7 Readers with PTO from Dartford Deanery came to the office at once. (Thanks Olga!)

I listed some of the many things they do, and the list included:

Preaching, Teaching, taking Home Communion to housebound people, leading Lent and Advent courses, supporting LLMs in training, giving homilies at Midweek Communion, taking services in Nursing homes, leading Prayer Groups, involvement in local Active Retirement groups, spending time with bereaved families, Holiday at Home for older people, Messy Church, Holiday Club for children, Baptism prep, Kondoa link person, Sea Cadet Chaplaincy, Lay Chaplaincy at the Cathedral, Mental Health Chaplaincy.

4 of the 7 are authorised to conduct funerals, and between them they have conducted about 50 funerals in the last year.

In addition to all this some are kept busy with Grandparent duties!

If that doesn't convince you that you can go on serving God after retirement age – CARE have launched a new website – with Facebook group and weekly mailings – go to <https://afterworknet.com/> to find out more.

**Thank you ALL for all you do,  
in lay ministry in parishes, in chaplaincies, in local  
communities, in schools, in deaneries, up front,  
out of sight, with the youngest and the oldest,  
daytime and evening.**



Rochester  
CATHEDRAL  
Growing in Christ since AD604

FREE EVENT!



THY KINGDOM COME

# Come & See!

**Saturday 8 June, midday onwards  
Rochester Cathedral**

Enquiries:  
[TKC@rochestercathedral.org](mailto:TKC@rochestercathedral.org)

Bring a friend, a picnic, a rug/fold-up chair and join the mega-picnic in Rochester Cathedral's 900-year old nave.

Displays and prayer stations from all 17 deaneries of Rochester Diocese and many diocesan schools

Concluding worship 3pm, led by  
the Rt Rev Simon Burton-Jones, Bishop of Tonbridge

**An event full of fun for all ages:**

Singing workshops - Labyrinth - Prayer ministry - Bell ringing - Prayer with icons - Puppets - 'Be a monk' tours



Photo credit: Clive Tanner