

Spotlight

July/Aug 2018

Sponging off slavery



Photo: Wolverhampton Express & Star

The Bishop of Lichfield proved himself a man of the cloth in a crackdown on the exploitation of workers at car washes through a new mobile phone app.

Drivers are being urged to join the national information-gathering campaign aimed at stamping out modern slavery in hand car washes. The Safe Car Wash App was launched by The

Clewer Initiative, the Church of England's campaign against modern slavery. Lichfield Diocese is working with Clewer and churches in Wolverhampton and the Black Country to tackle the issue.

The Safe Car Wash app can be downloaded free onto Apple and Android devices. Users can open it at the car wash and pinpoint their exact location using GPS. They are then taken [continues on p2 ->](#)



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LICHFIELD



The Church of England around Staffordshire, northern Shropshire and the Black Country

Clean break from slavery

<- continued from p1

through a series of indicators of modern slavery. They range from practical details - such as whether workers have suitable protective clothing and are paid a fair amount - to behavioural clues, such as whether they appear withdrawn.

If the answers indicate a high likelihood, users are directed to the Modern Slavery Helpline. Data will also be

anonymised and shared with the National Crime Agency (NCA) and the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA).

Bishop Michael wielded a sponge at the campaign launch outside Lichfield Cathedral with the cathedral's Canon Precentor Andrew Stead and Transforming Communities Together' Development Worker James Henderson.



Bishop Michael said: "As followers of Jesus we cannot turn away from our neighbour who may be in need. The Safe Car Wash App is a practical way to make a difference in our communities and bring change for those who are vulnerable."

Canon Andrew added: "Lichfield Cathedral is proud to stand beside Bishop Michael in this initiative to promote justice and respect for those most vulnerable members of our society."

Estimates suggest that there are more than 18,000 hand car washes in Britain's high streets, at the sides of motorways, and on abandoned garage forecourts. Many are run as legitimate businesses, but some exploit, force and threaten workers, trapping them in modern slavery. Find out more at www.theclewerinitiative.org

As well as the national campaigning, local newspaper and BBC local radio have been sharing the story - BBC Radio WM also put a video online.

The Diocese also joined forces with Southwell & Nottingham and Derby dioceses for a joint service at Derby Cathedral about modern slavery called 'Bread for the Wilderness'. It featured six prayer stations including one on fast fashion by Diocesan Director of Vocations Lindsey Hall who made a CHAD Living video on the subject.



Watch the videos now at www.lichfield.anglican.org/news/2018/06/08/crackdown-car-wash-slave-labour/ and www.lichfield.anglican.org/news/2018/01/08/chad-living-following-christ/

Hearing God's Call

This year's Encourage Festival on Saturday 7 July is approaching fast but tickets are still available.

Watch last year's speaker Kate Bottley explain why you should come at www.lichfield.anglican.org/encouragefestival/

The mini music and arts festival is about celebrating that we are all called to play our part in God's kingdom. It takes place at Shallowford House (ST15 0NZ) from 2-8pm. Doors open at 1.30pm.

Diocesan Director of Vocations Lindsey Hall said: "Everyone needs a bit of encouragement!"

"This family-friendly day is all about enjoying the things that other people are passionate about and seeing why they feel called to do the things they do. It will be brilliant for any friends, family or colleagues who have never been to church or are on the fringes of church."



Contributors this year include comedian and actress Sally Phillips, Goat Roper Rodeo Band, Rue Royale, Anam Caras, Wildfire Folk and Shrewsbury Youth Gospel Choir (pictured below). They will share their passions for art, music, creativity and a whole range of other subjects. There'll also be an outdoor demonstration kitchen which will be putting on demo's throughout the event plus face-painting, the Junk Orchestra and Bongo making workshops!

Come along and bring a friend to enjoy speakers, bands, locally-sourced food and drink and a whole lot more.

Tickets and further details are still available at www.encouragefestival.co.uk



It's a doc's life

When you put on a stethoscope, you don't expect to hear the voice of God. But that's what has happened for three GPs who were among 18 new deacons ordained at Lichfield Cathedral this Petertide.

Alison Storer, Robin Trotter and Abigail Walsh joined 11 other women and four men from a variety of backgrounds who have become curates after two or three years of training.

Following their ordination as deacons by the Bishop of Lichfield, the Right Revd Dr Michael



She will continue to work as a GP while being a self-supporting curate at her home parish in Penn, near Wolverhampton. "Medicine always was a vocation for me and one of the things I've struggled with over the years is whether it's possible to have two vocations in a life-time," she said. "It's going to be a new experience for the parish because they've never had a minister in secular employment. Where I work (as a GP) is a rich missionary field, it's inner city and deprived, it really is where Jesus would be. You are doing pastoral care on a daily basis and experiences in both roles support and feed what you do."



All 18 ordinands pictured on 28 June after finishing rehearsals for their ordination services sweltering outside Lichfield Cathedral. Immediately after, they all dashed off to their pre-ordination retreat at Shallowford House.

Ipsgrave, at two services, they start their parish ministry in a variety of places across Lichfield Diocese including several in non-stipendiary (self-supporting) roles.

Alison grew up in Manchester before heading off to London to study medicine.

Robin is a retired GP who has been a Reader and churchwarden at St Modwen's Church, Burton, for 30 years, where he has become a self-supporting curate. He said: "My NHS career finished just before I was 58 and the opportunity to deepen the Christian side of my lifelong ministry came up. The thing I'm

#NewRevs 2018

most looking forward to is that there's already a baptism booked for me to do. I'm seeing a great personal fulfilment and development but it's all really for other people as, I think, most of my medicine and ministry here so far has been."

Abbie Walsh is originally from Kent but has lived in Manchester for the last 11 years. She gave up her employment as a GP in Stockport to serve as curate in central Wolverhampton.



somewhere that's so diverse. Being in a church that's right in the midst of the city is a real gift and I'm excited to get going."

And one year after their ordination as deacons, 22 curates were made priests at services in Newcastle-under-Lyme, Wolverhampton, Shrewsbury, Uttoxeter, Ettingshall and Longton.



Celebrations after being ordained priest: Shrewsbury (top), Newcastle (left) and Wolverhampton (below).

"I first thought about ordination when I was really young. When I was about 12 or 13 I thought about being a priest," she said. "I'll be really sad to leave general practice - I've loved being a GP. But I do feel that God is calling me to something else. I'm really looking forward to moving to Wolverhampton. I'm looking forward to working



Watch the videos with Abbie, Alison and Robin at www.lichfield.anglican.org/NewRevs2018



Fostering Change

Uttoxeter vicar the Revd Joe Cant welcomed Emma Howitt and Jane Hewitt from Staffordshire County Council to take the Sunday service sermon slot at Christchurch, Upper Tean during Foster Care Fortnight.

children with learning difficulties or physical disabilities. You can also be a short-break carer (perhaps for a few days or a weekend) or can offer support to a fostering family you know.

“Emma is an Adoption & Fostering Recruitment Officer in the Families First team and Jane a Senior Family Support Worker. Part of their job is to talk with people about what fostering is really about.



Revd Joe Cant with Jane Hewitt (middle) and Emma Howitt

“Their presentation described fostering as ‘a way of providing a stable family life for children and young people, who are unable to live with their parents at a point in time.’ As Christians we are called to look after others, and although the Bible talks mainly about ‘widows and orphans’, children in difficulty surely fit the bill too. I became involved in fostering when I married Jeanette, a foster carer for 20 years. I’ve been massively impressed by the care given to children by people who are, at first, strangers to them.

“Emma explained that there are several types of fostering, including short-term or long-term placements, newborns right up to 21-year-olds and

“There are various myths about foster care, one of which is that Christians are not welcome. I am proof that even vicars can be approved(!) and the fostering service is now actively trying to promote links with all faith communities. A second myth is that you have to be a certain age but I’ve come across foster carers in both their 20s and their 70s.

“One of the songs we played at the service was ‘No Longer a Slave to Fear: I am a Child of God’. The words sum up how relevant fostering is to Christianity: we are all children of God, whatever our circumstances, and children should not be in fear or danger. With around 1,000 children in care in Staffordshire alone (not including Stoke-on-Trent) and only 370 fostering households, people of faith could make a real difference.”

Find out more about fostering at www.care4child.org/gottime

To watch a CHAD Living video on fostering by the Revd Sally Smith go to www.lichfield.anglican.org/news/2018/01/08/chad-living-following-christ/

From the Editor



Welcome to the summer edition of Spotlight. It’s been inspiring to see from inside the planning for the Encourage Festival. It’s shaping up to be a lot of fun, alongside the

question about ‘hearing God’s call to us all’. As always, please keep sending your stories to comms@lichfield.anglican.org

*Pete Bate,
Director of Communications*

Encounter and Inspire

Almost 2,000 students from 40 schools were inspired at Lichfield Cathedral in a unique interactive learning experience that blended art, music, learning and awe.



Inspire, the three-week educational programme run by the Diocesan Board of Education and the Cathedral Education Team, was open to Years 5, 6 and 8 pupils from all schools and academies within the Diocese.

Each year group spent a week in the Cathedral engaging in a range of activities including



an interactive video installation focusing on injustice called ‘The Cube’ provided by Youth For Christ.

They also learnt about the impact of war through the Cathedral’s Consequence of War exhibition, part of a year-long programme of Imagine Peace events in this Armistice year which will culminate in a peace woodland created from 1,918 trees around the Grade 1 listed building.



Claire Shaw, the Diocese’s Deputy Director of Education, said: “It’s been a wonderful three weeks. Through ‘The Cube’ the students explored who Jesus was and looked at the story of Zacchaeus and the theme of injustice. Children learned about empathy and wrote



some incredible prayers whilst others engaged in a wonderful singing workshop looking at the story of St Chad.

“Many thanks to the students who engaged so positively, to the Cathedral Education Team, Youth for Christ, our dedicated volunteers, Cathy Lamb, the Cathedral School and the team of Christian Distinctiveness Advisers.”

Meanwhile, pupils in Brownhills, near Walsall, took part in an Experience Pentecost week at St Peter’s Church. Vicar the Revd David Bishop explained: “The material produced by Jumping Fish, part of the Diocese of Gloucester, aims to provide an interactive way to discover more about Pentecost. This followed our successful Experience Christmas and Experience Easter weeks. We opened it up to the three primary schools in the parish and welcomed 15 classes during the week.



“The children love it because it is informative, interactive and fun. The teachers enjoy it because we provide all the resources, deliver the teaching and they have

the opportunity to see their children interacting positively with members of their community.”



Joining the PC brigade

A Black Country church has had a major upgrade to its popular IT community outreach project.

Short Heath Holy Trinity's UK Online Computer Centre welcomes 30 regular members a week, providing support with technology and teaching new skills like digital photography. It recently received a £10,000 boost for computers, printers and an interactive whiteboard. Half of the money came from the Lichfield Diocese Community Fund alongside a £3,000 grant from the Holy Trinity and £2,000 from members.

The centre holds three sessions a week. Its manager Roger Butt, aged 81, said: "It was mind-boggling to get such a great response from members. Thanks to volunteers Dave and Daz for all their work and Bevil and Gareth Williams of Repc Ltd for their work on the installation."

Fiona North, diocesan grant support officer, added: "Although many people can access computers in their homes, there's still a need for help with technology, as well as a welcoming



Photo: Wolverhampton Express & Star

environment. The IT Centre at Holy Trinity offers this and much more."

Lichfield Diocese Community Fund grants are for community projects in areas of high deprivation. You can apply for up to £5,000 and grants must be spent within 12 months. For more information email fiona.north@lichfield.anglican.org.

Bishop Welly

Bishop Geoff was presented with a 'boot-i-ful' gift when he visited the Church of St Mary in Colton, near Rugeley.

Church warden Katie Brown takes up the story: "Here at Colton we have a lovely lady called Joan Kinsman who decorates the outside of the church with care and love by the way of planted up old wellie boots. Bishop Geoff came to take the funeral of the Revd David Fairweather and Joan heard he was coming so very quickly produced some bishop wellies complete with crozier.

"Joan, although not a church member, has a gift for wellies in the right season. Some appeared just before Easter outside the church door



wrapped in wire which to our minds was very symbolic of the crown of thorns. It is wonderful to be blessed with her talents!"

Read it on the Grapevine

Smestow Vale is the place to be to receive an award-winning parish magazine. The team from St Benedict Biscop Church, Wombourne, were awarded the overall Silver Award from the Association of Church Editors (ACE) at Methodist Central Hall, Coventry.

"It was the holiday weekend, and Jan (Jan Glover, Chairman) and I decided that we really



couldn't give up that family time," says Olly Cadman, editor of the Smestow Vale Grapevine. "However, I had a telephone call telling us that Grapevine had won an award, and could we possibly attend. Awards only happen once in a lifetime - so we went."

Following the ACE annual general meeting came the Awards Ceremony: "We sat through the first two sections - three magazines which were 'highly commended' and six categories with individual awards [cover designs; layout and structure; creative headlines; graphics; clarity of the Christian message; and wider community appeal]. We thought that we may have a chance with the 'appeal to a wider community', but they all came and went. Not us! At this point in time, we thought that we had been bamboozled into attending - oh ye of little faith!"

"Anyway, we actually, rather Smestow Vale Grapevine, were awarded the Silver Award and it is such an honour. From now on the only way is down! The magazine which won the

Gold Award was a very worthy winner: a brilliant, monthly, magazine, which is a lot of work for the editor."

The Revd Preb Paul Brown, rector of the Smestow Vale Team of churches says "The award is a great tribute to our editorial team. It is good to be recognized for all the hard work they put in."



Lichfield Diocese is running its own Church/Parish magazine competition this year for the most engaging letters/editorial.

"Church magazines (or parish magazines with the church being part of it) reach the homes of many non-churchgoers. They provide a significant vehicle for the Christian message, not least through the vicar's letter or church editorial," says the Revd George Fisher, Diocesan Director of Mission. There will be a prize of £250 for church resources or a training grant for the best one and runner up prizes of £100 for 2nd and 3rd places.

Anyone may submit an entry they deem worthwhile. Entries must include the full magazine and an explanation of the context and circulation of the magazine and be sent to Mission Dept, St Mary's House, The Close, Lichfield WS13 7LD by Friday 25 January 2019.

"I'm glad to be supporting this competition," says Pete Bate, Diocesan Director of Communications. "Parish and village magazines are a great opportunity for offering a Christian perspective in the local community."

They will be judged in January 2019 by the Communications Department, the Mission Department, one lay person and one vicar.

Grassroots have spoken

Photos: Komlaish Achall



A ground-breaking project which has given Wolverhampton people a stake in shaping the services that affect them has reported back on its achievements.

The Grassroots Voices, City Shapers project is one of six Poverty Truth Commissions across the country which has brought those with an experience of living in poverty together with influential civic leaders.

An initial meeting was convened by Bishop Clive in March 2016 with the project then being led by Transforming Communities Together, Lichfield Diocese's joint venture with the Church Urban Fund.

It saw eight Grassroots Voices, who have lived experiences of poverty, meet regularly and form relationships with 18 business and civic leaders – known as City Shapers.

Together they identified three priority themes: support networks, housing and mental health. Small groups looked at practical changes that could be made in each area – the combination of the personal testimony

of Grassroots Voices and the City Shapers' reach within these areas making a powerful impact. This, for example, led to a direct change in practice at Job Centres following conversations with staff there.



Rachel, one of the Grassroots Voice, said: "I've learned how to build relationships. The rest of the world is going straight to tasks, but building relationships gets the very best out of everyone."

Helen, a City Shaper, added: "How you interact with people is crucial. We tend to start with how we can effectively deal with the issue and not the people. If we put people at the heart of it, we get better outcomes."

Rachel Arnold (on the right), one of the Grassroots Voices with a supporter (above). Evelyn Williams, Wolverhampton Poverty Truth coordinator (right).



Watch videos and download the full report from www.lichfield.anglican.org/poverty_truth

Learning key lessons

'What a brave decision!' wrote a bishop, on hearing that I was moving to become Priest-in-Charge of Ashburton and the Moorland Team. In 'Yes, Minister' speak, this is translated as 'What a stupid decision!' He may be right.

Certainly, I will have a lot to learn. Many things have changed in the sixteen years since I last worked as a parish priest. And I wasn't exactly proficient

at some of the detail even then.

Youth work

was a thriving activity but I remember the time I lost the keys to the minibus having taken the youth group ice skating. We had to return 18 young people in two estate cars with the seats down and every one laid out flat in the back. Their parents were not thrilled. Another time, I had driven the young people up onto the Bickerton Hills in Cheshire to play wide games. I had instructed them to stay in threes but... well, you know. At the end of the evening, Tom was missing. He had wandered off on his own and was nowhere to be seen. It was getting dark (and no mobile phones in those days) so I decided to cut my losses by leaving my helper - a sixteen year old girl - up on the hills, to wait for Tom. Meanwhile, I drove the others back to the church. By the time I returned to the hills, fortunately Tom had appeared and nothing bad had happened to my young female helper. However, it was not my finest hour, the parents of Tom and my helper were rightly furious and, today, I would have been disciplined for negligence. It looks like Health and Safety and Safeguarding training will need to be a priority in Devon.

It will be good to regularly conduct weddings again, too, but I am not exactly relishing all the form-filling and red tape that goes with it. When preparing and marrying an Egyptian Muslim man from Cairo to an English Christian woman back in the 1990's, I remember thinking

I had been quite clever in organising his banns of marriage to be read in the Anglican Cathedral of St Mark in Cairo. It was only later, after the wedding, that Crewe Registry office informed me of my highly irregular practice and that a Christian marriage of a Muslim/Christian couple could be seen as null and void back in Egypt. They helped rectify the situation and keep me out of trouble.

"Having heard God's call in this – 'to go and walk the talk' – I know that where God calls, he also equips"

As I move to oversee eight rural parishes on Dartmoor, I am acutely aware that I have a great deal to learn and will need help. Having heard God's call in this – 'to go and walk the talk' – I know that where God calls, he also equips. Still, it feels daunting. I hope that the Spirit will give me grace to go on learning how to be a better disciple and a more faithful follower of Jesus.



It has been a privilege to be a companion with you in God's Mission here in Lichfield Diocese. Mandy and I are extremely grateful for the friendship, kindness and love we have received from the people of Shropshire and the West Midlands. We shall remember you and pray for you as you continue to follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad. Please pray for us.

+Mark
July
2018

Bishop Mark's farewell service is at 6.00pm on Tuesday 17 July at Shrewsbury Abbey. All welcome.



Come follow Christ
in the footsteps of St Chad

DIARY



Quiet Day Retreat

Saturday 29 July
AMICA Centre, Ighfield

Details & bookings:
admin@amica.org.uk /
01948 890610

Farewell Celebration of +Mark & Mandy's ministry in Lichfield Diocese

Tuesday 17 July - 6pm,
Shrewsbury Abbey

Encourage Festival

7 July 2-8pm Shallowford House

Tickets and details of performers,
speaker and much more at
www.encouragefestival.co.uk

Music for Reflection

Glorious music, inspirational
setting. Part of the ongoing
Imagine Peace festival.

Lichfield Cathedral
Wednesdays 1.15-1.50pm

Every Wednesday from 18 July
to 29 August.

Details from lichfield-cathedral.org/peace