



The Diocese of  
Canterbury

THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

## CANTERBURY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION OF READERS

### Special points of interest:

- Readers' Admission, Licensing and Emeriti
- Schools: A Mission Shaped Opportunity
- CRC Conference Report
- Residential Weekend
- Continuing Ministerial Education
- CME Funding

# Newsletter

Autumn 2005

**This time around I would like to thank fellow Reader and Diocesan Director of Education, Rupert Bristow for writing an informative article regarding local church schools and the important role that we as Readers have in education.**

**Gerald Mack our CRC Representative, helpfully unpacks the Reader Conference for us, highlighting the key points, not forgetting the inspiring Walking the Tightrope – Balance in Reader Ministry sessions led by Bishop Graham. Two articles that deserve our attention, if we are to make a difference for Reader Ministry in the church and society today.**

**More inside.....**

**As you will be aware we would like to issue Newsletters and other documents concerning your Reader Ministry by e-mail. To help us, please ensure that we have your correct e-mail address by advising any changes to our Hon. Secretary, Donald Baldwin. Of course if you do not use e-mail we will continue to send items by surface mail.**

## A Date for your Diary - 2005

18 – 20 November 2005 - Readers' Residential Weekend at Aylesford Priory

18 March 2006 – AGM at Harrietsham

## New Reader Admissions

Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Phil 1:6

We welcome the following **new Readers**:

Admitted at the end of their second year of training:

**Lesley Bowring**, SS Peter and Paul, River

**John Mulrenan**, St Dunstan, Cranbrook

**Peter Toon**, St. Stephen, Canterbury

At the end of their three years of training and having already been admitted in 2004, the following Readers have received their **Bishop's Licence**:

**Millie Hart**, Len Valley Benefice: the parishes of St. John the Baptist, Harrietsham, All Saints' Ulcombe, St Mary, Lenham, St. Nicholas, Boughton Malherbe

**Angela Lewis-Johnson**, St. Leonard, Hythe

**James Sullivan**, St. Leonard, Deal with St. Richard, St. Nicholas, Sholden and St. Martin's Great Mongeham

**Christo Thiardt**, St Nicholas ad St. Faith, Thanington

We also congratulate the following Readers, giving thanks to God for their ministry, as they become **Reader Emeritus**:

**Kenneth Adams**, St. Nicholas, Sturry with St Mary the Virgin, Fordwich, All Saints, Westbere with Hersden

**David Downes**, St. Nicholas, Ash with Westmarsh

**Tony Johnstone**, St Mary the Blessed Virgin, Eastry, St. Andrew, Tilmanstone with St. Augustine, Northbourne with St. Mary Virgin Betteshanger and St. George, Ham

**Arthur Smith**, St Dunstan with Holy Cross, Canterbury

**Gillian Metcalfe**, The Stone Group: St. James the Great, Elmstead, All Saints, Petham, St. Mary Stelling, SS Peter & Paul Upper Hardres, St. Bartholomew Waltham.

**Peter Mortley**, All Saints Staplehurst.

**Please pray for those candidates currently in training for the Reader Ministry:**

THIRD year - **Lesley Bowring** - SS Peter & Paul River,

**John Mulrenan** - Cranbrook

**Peter Toon** - St Stephen Canterbury;

SECOND year - **Hilary Baldwin** - Woodnesborough,

**Frank Conley** - Alkham Capel-le-ferne & Hougham,

**Angela Daniel** - Milton Regis,

**Anne Talbert** - Ash,

**Tessa Taylor** - City Centre Canterbury,

**David Wright** - Whitstable,

**Terry Wright** - St Dunstan Canterbury

FIRST year - **Lesley Brookes** - Sheldwich,  
**Michael Hibbird** - Holy Trinity Broadstairs,  
**Philip Nelmes** - Grove Green

## Schools: A Mission-Shaped Opportunity

Rupert Bristow  
Diocesan Director of Education  
([rbristow@diocant.org](mailto:rbristow@diocant.org))

So it's all change for school inspections this year, both for the dreaded OfSTED inspection system and for the less well known Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools (SIAS). The principles are the same: self evaluation, self evaluation, self evaluation. Suddenly, schools will have to show that they are meeting requirements and aspirations not just when inspection looms but all the time. Because of the very short notice that inspectors will give in future, schools will need to make sure that all that is required of them can be proved at the drop of a hat and are mainstreamed into the whole way the school operates. Perhaps this is as it was in many schools (and happened automatically) before the inspection process was systematised and regularised the way it is today!

The Diocesan Education Team at Lady Wootton's Green comprises a small team of officers and support staff serving the 105 church schools (including two Methodist schools) in all deaneries of the diocese. For a minority of these schools, 30 in all, the buildings as much as what goes on inside them are the responsibility of governors, supported by the diocese and grant aided (hence the term voluntary aided) by the Department of Education and Skills. Whether it be minor improvements, large extensions (eg new classroom block and community sports facilities at Ashford Christ Church) or complete rebuilds (eg, at Cartwright and Kelsey in Ash), a great deal of negotiation as well as professional oversight goes on to ensure schools get what they need (if not always what they want!). The Board of Education is fortunate to have as a subsidiary company Diocesan Architectural Services Limited, which carries out these major and minor tasks on behalf of the schools.

Meanwhile, religious education (or religious studies) is the fastest growing examined subject in England at present. In Kent, the locally agreed Kent Syllabus for Religious Education is currently under review and the team has a major input into the syllabus which is used in all maintained schools in the county of Kent. Even in our voluntary aided schools, where variations can be made, we do commend the syllabus to the schools, with additional Christian material where appropriate. Not many people realise also that collective worship in county (now termed "community") schools

should be Christian more often than not. So if you are doing your bit in leading assemblies in such schools, don't be afraid to make them Christian as it will help the school meet its legal responsibilities! Of course, the themes you choose and the way you lead those assemblies must be talked through with the headteacher or the person responsible for collective worship in the school. However, schools are always looking for ways of making assemblies interesting and useful and Readers have an important role to play in doing just that. In church schools, of course, we have a collective duty to ensure that religious education is not only good but outstanding, and for the acts of collective worship in assemblies to be clearly Christian, wholly enjoyable and, where possible, inclusive of families at least once a week. In "Mission Shaped Church" terms there are marvellous examples of how, for some parents and grandparents, church **is** that weekly worship in their local church school.

As a Reader myself, I do believe that our ministry in parishes and deaneries can help to make the difference between a good relationship with local schools and an indifferent one. Why not give particular attention this year to making Education Sunday in your church a really fulfilling experience for congregation and school community alike? This coming year it will be on 12 February, but any Sunday around that time will do. We also have an annual service of celebration of Education in the Cathedral: this coming year it will be on 26 February at 6.30 pm, when Bishop Stephen, who chairs the Board of Education, will be preaching. All are welcome and there will be a chance after the service to meet together in the International Study Centre for a drink.

By all means contact us by telephone, post or email, or go to our website (<http://www.canterbury.anglican.org/schools>) for further information on people, resources and issues. Above all, please keep on thinking and doing creative things in the field of education with your local schools, colleges and universities (yes, there are now two universities based wholly in Kent, as Canterbury Christ Church University has just got full university status). Your ministry to and with educational institutions and all who study and work in them is certainly at the centre of the diocese's mission to the communities we serve.

**Central Readers Council  
Conference  
at Hayes Conference  
Centre, Swanwick  
22 – 24 July 2005**

**Gerald Mack  
CRC Representative**

## Walking the Tightrope: Balance in Reader Ministry

### **Bible Study – Rev. Beau Stephenson**

After what seemed like a whole day in the car park (the M25 and M1), we slipped into the magnificent Hayes Centre just in time for a hasty supper. The superb Bible Study that followed was immediately captivating, sweeping aside doubts that we were too exhausted to absorb anything that evening. The study was based around Acts 10 and 11 – how the apostle Peter was led by God to break from the mould of his religious tradition to be guided directly by the Holy Spirit – challenging us to confront apparent contradictions and see God powerfully at work in paradoxes. Here are some of the main points:

- Just as geologists find clues and patterns in rocks, so God speaks to us in Scripture.
- The real danger is when people say, “I know God” and select Scripture to back up their own ideas.
- God presents eternal truths in opposites – e.g. “peace as the world cannot give”, “I come not to bring peace but a sword”; sometimes God chooses to be silent.
- Just as grit can be polished to a state of beauty, so apparent extremes should be held together until a contradiction becomes a paradox.
- In Acts 10, Cornelius is something of a paradox: member of an occupying army, yet kind to the Jews; religious, but possibly not in the way a Jew would have understood the term.
- God is also preparing Peter; in a dream he is commanded to go against what he believes to be the truth according to his tradition.
- Peter has to journey, during which he learns Cornelius’ story.
- When Peter and Cornelius meet, the Holy Spirit unites them and they discover they are similar.

- The principle being, *things change from the grass-roots, when opposite sides meet face to face, they learn to know each other as people*
- Acts 15: The Church meets at the point where the Holy Spirit has already led it!

## **Morning Worship**

A choice of Eucharist, Prayer and Praise, Celtic Worship, Morning Prayer or Meditation. For me, the Eucharist wins every time (although, I was nearly drawn into the Celtic). But how exciting that we are being encouraged to explore different styles. I recall the days when such gatherings would have waded through a full 1662 MP as a matter of course. One feels bound to comment that the very folk you would love to experience such richness in worship are often the most difficult to persuade to come away to events like this! If this is you why not give it a try next time?

## **Balance in Reader Ministry – Walking the Tightrope A presentation by Bishop Graham Cray**

Here are the highlights from two full and stimulating keynote sessions led by our own Bishop Graham. To find out more get hold of Mission Shaped Church – ISBN 07151 40132

- Think of Reader Ministry as trying to balance on a tightrope! We try to keep a balance between: the world – then/now, Church/world culture, decline/growth, lay ministry then and now, what a Reader is expected to be then and now.
- The world has changed rapidly in the last half century – to the extent that for some it is easier to take refuge in an unchanging church. Among significant changes; rapid progress in technology, leading to more extensive communication and choice; decline of the importance of *local* community with the norms and values that it implies, choice has become a core value and desire an end in itself. Increased mobility (such that people are away on Sundays), lack of life-long commitments, a feeling that we as individuals have become more powerful, yet these things bring with a sense of vulnerability.

- Pastoral costs: pressure of choice, depression (including eating disorders, addiction, increased suicide rate), no sense of permanence or transcendence.
- Spirituality: becomes a commodity among many, a pick and mix approach to religion (if it is considered at all) – “nothing in my life lasts longer than my life.”
- Church needs to face realities: more than 50% of people today have never been to church, so whatever goes on in church will be a mystery, obscure and irrelevant. We need to meet people *where they are* (both in the geographical and spiritual sense); should be related to daily life, some people can only attend church during the week.
- The ministry of Reader is a vital one in the 21 Century church: mission is too urgent to be dogged by jealousy or rivalry, nor is their space for a fortress mentally among a plethora of lay ministries. The Office of Reader is *not* a stepping stone to other ministries. It is a preaching and teaching ministry defined by its opportunities in the 21st Century.
- The Reader can build bridges between the Church and the World; to be at the point where the two meet.
- The Reader is a biblically and theologically trained teacher who may well know the world better than the clergy (given the ignorance in our world and astonishingly sometimes within the church regarding the Gospel message – don’t we need teachers now more than ever before?)

## **Finally a short reflection on a Seminar about Ecumenical Opportunities**

Many churches are still entrenched in the *way* things are done and in devotion to buildings. Often it is the eventual collapse of a building that brings congregations together. It is madness that tiny groups of different denominations meet separately in the same area. Mention was made of advances made in rural areas, in fact there is often one building (not always Anglican) where people from different traditions have naturally come together rather than venture beyond the community. Certain festivals and events can bring congregations together, so why not create a few more events? Some were able to share details of local Christian initiatives, such as drop in centres, run

by a group of churches. Most encouragingly, there is a lot of work among children and youth being done inter-denominationally – which hopefully will mean the next generation of Christians will be less tied to the “way we have always done it!”

Since I became a Christian (through the effective ministry of an Anglo-Catholic Church with all the trimmings!) I have regarded myself as just a plain Christian first and a particular tradition second. It was good at the conference to be unaware of churchmanship and in a few cases denomination. It would be interesting to hear your views on this.

A final thought: DIG WELLS; DON'T BUILD FENCES!

**An invitation to the Readers Residential weekend at Aylesford Priory**

**18 - 20 November 2005**

***Enriching your ministry: Reflecting, receiving and responding***

Open to all Readers...

Our guest speakers will be: Peter Brett

Colin Baker

Carolyn Clapperton

Dinah Roe Kendall

who will help us explore spirituality through our senses

there will be time too for us to reflect in the quiet surroundings of Aylesford; space in a busy life. Now that sounds good!

Attendance options:

Resident

full board from Friday evening & dinner to Sunday lunch

single room \* £ 99

shared twin-bedded room £ 95

ground floor rooms available as well as a disabled room with ensuite

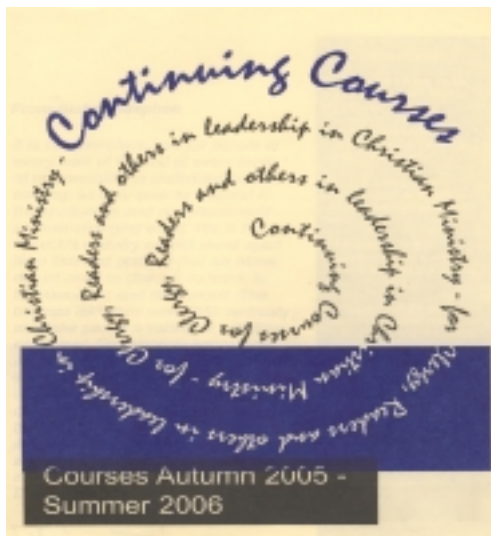
Non-resident

Friday evening including dinner £ 12

Saturday all day full board except breakfast £ 30

- Please note that, compared with the last residential in 2004, the cost much reduced

In view of the short timescale, it would be of much help if you would please indicate whether you wish to attend or not. If you wish to attend, please also indicate your attendance option. Emailed responses to Paul Burch [pburch@diocant.org](mailto:pburch@diocant.org) )



## Continuing Ministerial Education (CME)

"Everyone undertakes in-service training as they seek to respond to an ever-changing world. We in the Church's ministry cannot stand apart"

+Stephen

The **Diocese of Canterbury** has launched the 2005/06 series of courses available from Autumn 2005 to Summer 2006. Bishops Stephen and Graham encourage us to take part in some form of training each year. Why not take a look at the Diocesan Booklet "Continuing Courses Autumn 2005 – Summer 2006" to see what courses you would like to book..... If you have any suggestions for future courses please send them to our Warden; Hilary.

## More Opportunities!

**Ridley Hall Cambridge – Resource and Refresh** provided especially for resourcing and refreshing Readers. It is a rolling programme of short residential events in April and September, each year. If you would like further information – dates of future events, programmes and speakers either see [www.ridley.cam.ac.uk](http://www.ridley.cam.ac.uk) or write to: The Administrator, Reader R&R, Ridley Hall, Cambridge, CB3 9HG.

## Interested in a Postgraduate Degree?

**The University of Wales at Lampeter** offers MA Courses by distance learning in Church History, Theology, Celtic Christianity, Ecological Theology, Religion, Politics and International Relations, World Religions and Liturgical Studies to name a few. If you prefer research Master of Ministry/Philosophy or Doctorate of Ministry/Philosophy is available. For information, contact the Academic Registry on 01570 424748 or email: [pg.trs@lamp.ac.uk](mailto:pg.trs@lamp.ac.uk).

## Readers and Continuing Ministerial Education (CME) funding in 2005

Readers are, of course, encouraged to continue developing their knowledge and understanding, skills and spiritually throughout their active ministry. It is part of this encouragement that the Diocesan Board of Readers has been allocated £ 2500 for CME during 2005 from Diocesan funds. It should be noted though that when this amount is exhausted, there is no additional money available in the current year.

The Board's aim is to ensure an equitable allocation of funding, particularly since Readers are not necessarily accustomed to apply for such financial assistance. At a recent Readers' Board meeting the following policy was decided for the allocation of these funds. This policy applies not only courses offered in the Diocesan 'Continuing Courses' booklet - autumn 2005 to summer 2006 - but also to other forms of ministerial education offered outside the Diocese:

- Requests for assistance for up to £ 50 will be agreed by the Warden of Readers on a first-come-first-served basis.
- Requests for assistance over £ 50 will be considered by the Warden and another member of the Readers' Board. They will take into account the level of funding Readers may have received from this Diocesan account in a previous year so that Readers who received substantially more than £ 50 will not be granted more than £ 50 the next year.

Readers are also encouraged to consider the courses run outside the Diocese by Ridley Hall, for example. If transport costs are paid by the Reader, then applications for funding course fees are welcomed. These will also be considered by the Warden and another Board member. Details of these courses are to be found in the Reader magazine and this Newsletter from time to time.

Grants towards the fees for longer courses of study such as degree courses may be available from the Adams Fund, administered by the Central Readers Council. Application for Adams Fund grants are made via the Warden.

October 2005

<b>Suggested Reading</b>	<b>The Editor</b>
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### **Boundaries and Pleasant Places**

#### **Healing Division in the Church and the World**

Enid Morgan

ISBN 1853115266

SCM Canterbury Press, 2004

To say this book should be mandatory reading for all Western Christians might be over the top, but it certainly deserves the widest possible readership.

The Christian Gospel takes us across boundaries, boundaries of culture, gender, identity, race, religion and social status to name but some, and Enid Morgan explores the implications of that, pushing at those boundaries. Some may think she pushes them too far, but perhaps it's the rest of us who all too often don't push them far enough, preferring to avoid the deeper challenges Christ's message brings. If God can be reconciled with humanity, can any human barrier remain in place?

Each chapter examines an historical situation where some taboo has been broken, a forbidden boundary has been crossed. This is followed by a Bible study and discussion with a set of questions suitable for private or group use. Read and be challenged.

### **God and Enchantment of Place**

#### **Reclaiming Human Experience**

David Brown

ISBN 0199271984

Oxford University Press, 2004

Brown argues for the importance of experience of God as mediated through place in all its variety. He explores the various ways in which such experiences once formed an essential element in making religion integral to human life and argues for their reinstatement at the centre of theological discussions about the existence of God. In effect, the discussion continues the theme of Brown's much praised earlier volumes, *Tradition and Imagination* and *Discipleship and Imagination*, in its advocacy of the need for Christian theology to take more seriously its relationship with the various wider cultures in which it has been set.

We do hope that you have found this edition informative and interesting. The Newsletter is sent by e-mail and surface mail. Please keep Donald informed of any changes to your email or postal address so that we may keep our records up to date - Many Thanks.

If you have any comments or items for future editions, please e-mail or write to David Kemp, Reader at Holy Cross, Bearsted with St Mary, Thurnham.

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