



The Diocese of  
Canterbury



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

## CANTERBURY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION OF READERS

Warden of Readers: Hilary Richter  
Honorary Secretary: Nigel Collins

# Newsletter



Summer 2008

### Editorial

I sn't it comforting to know that there is strength in weakness? Especially as I now apologise for my weakness in not completing my second attempt at this Newsletter on time! Even though it was me that set my own schedule!

This edition is a little 'thinner' in content than the previous one. This is partly because it follows on so soon and that there was so much to update you on last time.

By now you should have received a letter from Bishop Graham outlining the new policy concerning the granting of permission to officiate and the title Emeritus to Readers. His letter also contains a list of Deanery Reader Advisers for your reference.

All being well, the next edition of the Newsletter should be circulated in October, so I would welcome any articles you might have (resources, news from events, courses, book reviews) by 3 October at the very latest please.

Every Blessing. Enjoy!

*Nigel Collins, Honorary Secretary/Editor*

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<p><b>NEWS FROM THE READERS BOARD</b></p> <p><b>Getting ready for 2020...</b></p>	<p>Nigel Collins Honorary Secretary</p>
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The Board hasn't met since the last edition of the Newsletter. However I can report that we expect 4 candidates to commence Reader training in September – please pray for them, their families and their local churches as they embark on the next stage of their journey with God.

<p><b>CELEBRATION OF READER MINISTRY</b></p> <p><b>Sunday 5 October 2008</b> <b>Canterbury Cathedral</b></p>	<p>Nigel Collins Honorary Secretary</p>
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This year's service promises to be a wonderful celebration of the diverse ministry of Readers in the diocese. As always it will include the annual admission and licensing of new Readers in addition to providing an opportunity for us all to be re-commissioned. Those due to be admitted and licensed are listed below.

**Admissions & Licensing (2008)**

To be admitted on 5 October:

**Michael Bowditch**, St Martin of Tours, Dover

**Wendy Bowditch**, St Martin of Tours, Dover

**Anthony Hyde**, St Margaret-at-Cliffe with Westcliffe and East Langdon with West Langdon

**Emma Sivyer**, St Mary of Charity, Faversham

**Lynne Watson**, St Peter and St Paul, River

To be licensed on 5 October:

**Lesley Brookes**, St Leonard Badlesmere with St Laurence Leaveland, St Mary the Virgin Selling, St James Sheldwich and St Michael and All Angels Throwley

**David Wright**, St Peter, Whitstable

Please pray for them as they prepare for the next stage of their journey.

<b>“Comings &amp; Goings, People &amp; Places”</b>	Honorary Secretary
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We welcome **John Vaughan** transferring into the diocese from Rochester diocese.

We say “Farewell” to **Janice Kendrew** who moved to Lincoln diocese following the retirement of her husband, Revd Andrew Kendrew.

Two Readers were ordained deacon in June: **Adie McCall** and **Rosemary Siebert** we wish them well in their calling.

<b>Reader Upbeat: quickening the tempo...</b>	Nigel Collins Reader, Dover Deanery
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The National Report on Reader Ministry was considered at the recent meeting of General Synod. It is entitled “Reader Upbeat: Quickening the tempo of Reader ministry in the Church today” and can be found via the Church of England website (see below for details of the link).

The Readers Board will be considering the Recommendations of the Report and we will keep you informed in due course.

Following debate, General Synod passed the following amended motion, after a division by houses. The voting was as follows:

	Bishops	Clergy	Laity
In favour	17	72	102
Against	2	27	23
Abstentions	6	16	12

'That this Synod welcome the report on Reader Ministry, celebrating the ministry of Readers, and call upon the dioceses, deaneries and parishes of the Church of England, along with the House of Bishops:

- (a) to encourage the study of the report, and in particular by clergy and Readers;
- (b) to consider how its recommendations and action points may be pursued nationally and in each diocesan and local situation; and
- (c) in the case of dioceses, to report back to the Ministry Council of the Archbishops' Council by July 2010 on initiatives they have taken to implement one or more of the recommendations.'

The Report is 120 pages long and can be viewed by following this link: [www.cofe.anglican.org/news/gsjul080705.html](http://www.cofe.anglican.org/news/gsjul080705.html) it is also possible to listen to the full debate using this link. If you are unable to access the internet the report will be published at some stage in the near future.

<p><b>SPOTLIGHT ON...</b> The Readers Board members</p>	<p>Sharing our journeys of faith</p>
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Name: **Terry Wright**  
Readers Board Role: **Selection & Admissions** (with Margaret Hawkins)  
Married: to Veronica with two sons Paul (married to Joanna with two grandchildren), and Stephen.  
Occupation: Retired school teacher and civil engineer  
Reader: at St Dunstan's with Holy Cross, Canterbury

Since 1970, Veronica and I have lived in our present home in St Dunstan's parish, Canterbury, and both our spiritual journeys have moved forward together, as we have shared in the life of our parish. For some 27 years I was Churchwarden and whilst this position was somewhat prescribed and often mundane, it was also most rewarding. For the first time in my Christian life I found myself

ministering to people. From fellowship to deep personal friendship, from confidant to councillor, I found that people put their trust in me, and that serving God in this way, demanded a lot more than merely calming down excitable PCC meetings or attending to Quinquennial Reports. Having the right words to say to someone who is in trouble, or who is worried or lonely was (is) more important than the nuts and bolts or down pipes and drains. I believe that being Churchwarden was an excellent training ground for these essentials of ministry.

For most of my working life I worked in civil engineering, but in my late forties, I gained a Post Graduate Certificate in Education, and moved into teaching. Throughout my Christian life I have worked with and alongside young people. Now retired from school teaching, I work as a volunteer guide out of the School's department at Canterbury Cathedral. My work with young people is one area of my Christian life, where my personal spiritual journey has become part and sometimes the beginning of others' spiritual journeys.

Of course, being a Reader is not only about preaching, teaching and meeting the needs of others. It is also very much about self, and meeting with God on a personal level. It is God who has called us to this ministry and it is His Spirit that leads and guides us. It is his Spirit that prompts and helps us, and gives us the words to say; and it is his Spirit that is assisting us to deepen our God given skills.

My calling to the Reader ministry did not come as a loud voice from heaven. No loud voice, but rather many soft words in conversations, where, unbeknown to them, friends echoed the words of others and confirmed the personal sense of vocation that I was feeling. My calling came as a shock and a necessary wake up call in my Christian life. It was as if the various roles that I had held – practical aspects of church life/leadership/teaching – all had been stepping-stones towards Readership.

It is a great challenge and honour to be a Reader and as a fairly new recruit to the Readership ministry, it is a privilege for me (with Margaret) to be able to meet with and challenge the vocation of those who also feel called to serve our Lord in this ministry.

<b>BOOKS</b>	Nigel Collins Reader, Dover Deanery
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Here are a couple of books that I've found particularly interesting...

Brian D. McLaren, ***The Secret Message of Jesus – uncovering the truth that could change everything***, Nelson, 2006.

I came across the book on the Amazon website and thought it was worth looking at. I confess that I'm just over halfway through it at the moment, but I've been pleased with the insights he gives and I'm glad I took a chance on it. I believe that McLaren does offer some fresh perspectives on Jesus' Message and it's worth reading.

Steve Chalke & Alan Mann, ***The Lost Message of Jesus***, Zondervan, 2003.

Having given mention to McLaren's book, I thought I should also give mention to this book of a similar title. I read it some time ago and was impressed. I've even quoted some sections in the odd sermon and used some extracts in discussion groups.

Both books cover similar ground but from different angles – I would recommend them both.

<b>EVENTS AND DIARY DATES</b>	Please take note
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*Unless otherwise stated to book ONLINE follow the link:  
[www.canterbury.anglican.org/whatson](http://www.canterbury.anglican.org/whatson) and find the relevant course entry*

### **Resource and Refresh**

**2-4 September**

**Venue: Ridley Hall, Cambridge**

Residential courses for Readers 'The Gospel of Mark' with Revd John Procter, and 'Stepping into God's Glory; Mediating God's Presence in Ministry' with Revd Dr Ron Jackson.

Starts 4pm on 2 September and ends at lunch on 4 September.

Cost: £160 full residence (shared bathroom), £35 en-suite supplement

TO BOOK: contact Elaine Thomton at Ridley Hall

### **Central Readers Council National Conference 12-14 September**

**Venue: University of North Wales, Bangor**

The annual National Conference of the Central Readers Council.

Theme: Unity in Diversity: Celebrating the Breadth of Reader Ministry.

Keynote Speaker: Canon Christina Baxter, Principal of St John's College, Nottingham  
Cost: £190 (accommodation in single en-suite rooms) – cheques payable to Central Readers Council

TO BOOK: Contact: Alan Wakeley, CRC Secretary, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3NZ, email: [crcsec@c-of-e.org.uk](mailto:crcsec@c-of-e.org.uk) or Susan Salt, Conference Chairman, Christ Church Vicarage, Meadows Avenue, Thornton-Cleveleys, Lancashire FY5 2TW, email: [nsalt@waitrose.com](mailto:nsalt@waitrose.com)

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## **Preaching Workshop**

**Tuesday 16 September, 7.30pm**

**Venue: Wye College**

**Leader: Revd John Richardson**

Predominantly for clergy and readers

7.30-7.40pm      **Stewardship**

7.40-8.25pm      in groups of 3, 5mins per person preaching with feedback

Topic:              **Stewardship: This will involve some preliminary preparation by participants**

8.30-8.43pm      Plenary drawing out the best bits

Leave by 9pm

*Please bring your own refreshments*

TO BOOK: online or email: [rdale@diocant.org](mailto:rdale@diocant.org) or ring 01227 459401 by 9 September

## **Bishops' Day for Laity**

**Saturday 20 September 10.30am-4pm**

*(coffee available from 10am)*

**Venues: Wye Parish Church, Wye College & Wye Methodist Church**

**Theme: Hope for the Journey**

Keynote Speaker: Mr Mark Russell, CEO Church Army

Bring your own lunch or there are places to eat in Wye

[www.canterbury.anglican.org/bishopsdayforlaity](http://www.canterbury.anglican.org/bishopsdayforlaity)

TO REGISTER AN INTEREST and to receive information updates:

email or ring Sarah Lucas at [slucas@diocant.org](mailto:slucas@diocant.org) or ring 01227 459401

## **Celebration of Reader Ministry service**

**Sunday 5 October, 6pm**

**Venue: Canterbury Cathedral**

Incorporating the admission and licensing of new Readers, granting of permission to officiate and Reader Emeritus and the annual re-commissioning of all Readers.

Readers and clergy to robe in the Chapter House.

Light refreshments in the Chapter House following the service.

The Board look forward to seeing you there – please make every effort to attend.

NO BOOKING NECESSARY – “COME ON AND CELEBRATE!”

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**Ways in Prayer VII**                      **Saturday 18 October, 10am – 3.30pm**

**Venue: The Archbishop’s School, St Stephen’s Hill, Canterbury CT2 7AP.**

Choose Three Workshops from:

- “Fools for Christ’s Sake”
- Imagining a Gospel Story
- Spirituality and Discipleship
- Creative Prayer with Children
- Reflective Storytelling
- Meditative Prayer through Seventies Pop Music

Please bring a packed lunch, drinks will be provided.

It is recommended that you bring warm clothing. Although the school is warm people can get cold when sitting for long periods.

Cost £7-50

Contact:

Mrs S. Rennison, 11, Richmond Gardens, Canterbury CT2 8ES Tel: 01227 765872

**Diocesan Conference**

**4-6 September 2009**

**Venue: Canterbury**

Details to be confirmed

TO BOOK: details yet to be confirmed

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<b>END NOTES</b>	
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**FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION PLEASE:**

1. If you haven’t already, make a date in your diary to attend the Celebration of Reader Ministry service on 5 October at the cathedral. What an excellent opportunity to celebrate the breadth of Reader ministry in the diocese and to catch up with colleagues.
2. Consider attending some of the opportunities for training or booking onto a residential conference/workshop. If you do, there may well be some financial assistance (CME) available to you – contact the Warden.

3. Consider contributing to the next edition of the Newsletter. It could be books or resources you'd recommend, or sharing personal stories, anecdotes and information from training you've attended.

## **A Final word from the Editor**

I hope you've found this edition informative and interesting. 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 me. Of course if you do not use e-mail we will continue to send items by surface mail.

Please send your comments or items for future editions by e-mail (preferable) or write to me at my address shown below.

## **CONTACT DETAILS**

[www.canterbury.anglican.org/bmt/lmts/readerministry/index.htm](http://www.canterbury.anglican.org/bmt/lmts/readerministry/index.htm)

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## **NEXT EDITION (AUTUMN):**

**Submission of material:**                           **by 3 October**  
**Copy to be circulated:**                           **mid-late October**