



The Diocese of
Canterbury

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

**CANTERBURY
DIOCESAN
ASSOCIATION OF
READERS**

Warden of Readers: Hilary Richter
Honorary Secretary: Nigel Collins

Newsletter



Summer 2009

Editorial

Welcome to the Summer edition of our Diocesan Readers' Newsletter. It appears slightly later than I had originally hoped. I hope you find it helpful.

Every Blessing. Enjoy!

Nigel Collins

Honorary Secretary/Editor

The next edition (Autumn):

Submission of material: by 15 October Copy to be circulated: end of October

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**“Comings & Goings,
People & Places”**

Warden/Honorary Secretary

We CONGRATULATE those Readers who were licensed by Bishop Stephen on 19th July. They are: **Mike Bowditch** (St Martin, Dover), **Wendy Bowditch** (St Martin, Dover), **Emma Sivyer** (St Mary of Charity, Faversham) and **Lynne Watson** (SS Peter and Paul River).

We also CONGRATULATE **Lizzie Hubbard** (All Saints, Whitstable) and **Richard Taylor** (St Peter-in-Thanel: St Peter the Apostle) on being granted the title of Reader Emeritus on 19th July.

We offer a **WARM WELCOME** to the following Readers on arrival from other dioceses: **Alice Pettit** (from Malmesbury Abbey, Bristol Diocese) and **Mavis Smith** (from Bridlington Priory, York Diocese).

<p>CELEBRATION OF READER MINISTRY SERVICE Sunday 19th July</p>	<p>Nigel Collins Honorary Secretary</p>
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Our annual service was an uplifting occasion and a real celebration of Reader ministry in our diocese. It was a joy and a privilege to have taken part in the occasion. I was also hosting representatives of our neighbouring Diocesan Wardens of Readers, they thoroughly enjoyed the event.

I recall Bishop saying a number of times that he didn't wish to be quoted in writing! However, I shall quote something he said that will remain in my mind for sometime as I reflect on the role of Readers in the Church. He quoted the oft stated line that we (Readers) are 'lay theologians', but asked 'are we current/up to date lay theologians?' It strikes me that it is not acceptable to rely upon the training we received without a commitment to 'lifelong learning' (or discipleship, if you prefer). I like to think I am 'up to date', but am I? Are you? When was the last time I undertook some training as part of my continued ministerial education (CME)?

<p>SPOTLIGHT ON... The Readers Board members: Fiona Clay and Frank Conley</p>	<p>Sharing our journeys of faith</p>
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Name: **Fiona Clay**
 Readers Board Role: Canterbury Archdeaconry Representative
 Occupation: Part time teacher (Primary), Parish Administrator
 Reader: at Crundale with Godmersham

I grew up going to church with my mum and was fortunate to be part of an excellent Sunday School in the village of Allhallows (near the Isle of Grain). My understanding of faith changed greatly when my dad returned from a six month posting in the Falkland Islands where he had become a Christian. From that

point onwards my faith became a living one and I was confirmed in the summer of 1985.

I began to explore a vocation to ministry in the early 1990s while at university and started Reader training at SEITE while expecting my first child in 1996. The training took me four years as I had a break in the middle to have our second child! While it was not easy juggling babies, sleepless nights and essays I thoroughly enjoyed the course and the challenge to think about and understand my faith better. Soon after I completed the course we moved up to Staffordshire and I was eventually licensed in Lichfield Cathedral in January 2001.

We returned to Kent at the end of the same year due to my husband's work and settled in Chartham where I was a Reader for several years and enjoyed assisting with worship and leading an adult study group. During this time I began working as a teaching assistant and undertook part-time teacher training for primary education. I have found that much of my work, both in and outside of church, is about teaching, and that both kinds of work inform each other.

We have been at Godmersham now for three years and I work as part of a team of people planning and leading worship in a monthly celebration style service, as well as leading Mattins monthly and taking an Iona service on fifth Sundays. Outside of the parishes I act as our deanery's Reader Advisor and have recently been accepted as a member of the Reader's Board.

When not "Readering" I work part-time as a teacher and as Administrator for the United Wye Benefice. I am increasingly seeing ministry as a patchwork, a complete whole, made up of all the different parts of life - home, work, church - and am excited by developments in lay ministry across the diocese; the chance for everyone to find their unique calling within the body of Christ.

Name: **Frank Conley**
Readers Board Role: Canterbury Archdeaconry Representative
Reader: at St John's, Folkestone

During one of our training sessions we were asked to "map" our journey into Reader ministry. Mine showed a few straight lines and a lot of wavy ones. After I retired from teaching in 2002 I looked around for something to do, but every avenue led to a dead end. Then I mentioned to the vicar that the new reader training programme looked interesting. The PCCs said "go ahead" which I took as a clear sign that it was meant to happen. Difficulties during training coupled with a long interregnum in my original benefice meant that I was parked at St.

John's, Folkestone at the beginning of 2006, initially for a few weeks. I've been there ever since.

Even before that I had realised that to be effective in bringing the good news of God to people I would either need to live where I minister or minister where I live. At St. John's I do all the usual things; lead services, preach, administer communion, take funerals especially during our own recent interregnum. But for me ministry is so much more than that. Saying "good morning" in the street to someone who may not have spoken to anyone else that day; listening in the supermarket to someone who has a problem or has lost a friend. This would not be possible if I just parachuted in on a Sunday.

I still maintain one connection with my former parishes in visiting the primary school roughly once a month. The children are not only lovely to work with; crucially they go home and talk about what they've heard, a very practical form of mission. For the last year I've been a day chaplain at Cautley House. Leading worship and taking part in healing services is only part of my ministry there. Just being around for people who need to talk, or cry, or pray, is equally vital.

When I wrote my first assignment five years ago outlining my journey so far, I quoted Job's words of confidence, "He knows the way that I take." There have been many times when I have needed to cling on to that as the way became unclear. What direction that way will take I have no idea: but in the meantime, I'll "praise him for all that is past, and trust him for all that's to come."

<p style="text-align: center;">CME Residential "Keshet" course</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Donald Baldwin Reader, Woodnesborough & Staple</p>
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What is "Keshet"? "Keshet" is a Hebrew word meaning connected. The "Keshet" course was about connecting our Christian faith with its Jewish roots. As my wife and I are both Readers, this course looked interesting so we applied and went. The course consists of 9 or 10 sessions, normally two hours long, and each comprising - opening worship including singing some Hebrew songs (helps to create the atmosphere) - looking at a Hebrew word and its connected words, followed by a study on the Jewish connections of our Christian faith. The studies ranged from "the Jewishness of Jesus," and "Jesus the Rabbi," to the development of the Christian attitudes towards Jewish people, including the state of Israel. The course is run by the "Church's Ministry among Jewish people" (CMJ), www.cmj.org.uk (one of our Partners in World Mission).

Usually the course is run in the evenings over 10 weeks, but this was the first time it was residential (from Monday 22nd June to Saturday 27th). It was run at

Willersley Castle in Cromford in the Derbyshire Peak District, one of the 6 Christian Guild holiday hotels. The sessions were held in the mornings and in the evenings (the evening sessions being condensed to 1½ hours), leaving the afternoons free. With good teaching, good food and good company, we came away feeling spiritually enriched, and having enjoyed a holiday among other sincere Christians - there were about 30 on the course.

Another residential "Kesh" course is being considered, probably in January or February in another Christian Guild Hotel, in Cornwall or Devon. For further information, contact CMJ (above).

BOOKS	Nigel Collins Reader, Dover Deanery
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Bishop Robert Paterson (the new Chair of the Central Readers Council) highly commends this new book about Reader ministry:

Cathy Rowling & Paula Gooder, *Reader Ministry Explored*, SCM, 2009.

I have received my pre-ordered a copy and am dipping into it when I get a chance. It looks to be an excellent book that gives a great overview of the past, present and future of Reader ministry in the Church.

EVENTS AND DIARY DATES	Please take note
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*Unless otherwise stated to book ONLINE follow the link:
www.canterbury.anglican.org/whatson and find the relevant course entry*

Diocesan Gathering 2009

4-6 September

Venue: Canterbury

"Celebrating Canterbury"

See Outlook for more details (or the Gathering website access through the diocesan website)

TO BOOK: see Outlook or the Diocesan website

Diocesan Adult Protection Training Event

Saturday 19th September 2009, 9.30am - 12.30pm

Venue: Seasalter Christian Centre 49 Faversham Road, Seasalter, Whitstable CT5 4AX
Contact: Sheila Rooke, srooke@diocant.org.uk

Teams in Leadership Workshop

Saturday 3 October, 9.30am-12.30pm

Venue: Nackington Barn, Nackington

Cost: Free (Sponsored by the Local Ministries Team in the Board of Ministry and Training Speaker: Archdeacon Philip Down

Addressing:

- Spiritual Dimensions of Sharing Leadership
- The Strategic Significance of Leadership Teams
- Leading Change effectively

The more members of your team who can attend the better!! Numbers are limited so book early to avoid disappointment

Contact: Sarah Lucas, tel: 01227 459401

Basic Child Protection Training Facing the Unthinkable

Saturday 3 October 2009, 9am – 1.30pm

Venue: Whitstable Community Centre, Oxford Street, Whitstable

Tutor: David Pearson, CCPAS

Cost: £19.50 (to include the workshop booklet)

An intensive morning workshop on Child Protection aimed at church leaders, youth leaders, children's workers, Parish Child Protection Coordinators and anyone else in the parish who works with Children and Young people

Topics covered includes

- How to deal with allegations of abuse?
- When to contact Social Services / Police
- Marking Churches safer for children and young people
- Recruiting workers and volunteers

Contact Sarah Lucas, slucas@diocant.org, 01227 459401

The Year Ahead: Looking at Luke

Saturday 24 October 2009, 10am-4pm (register from 9.30am)

Venue: St Mary Bredin Church, Nunnery Fields, Canterbury.

A seminar day on preaching the Gospel According to St Luke

Course Leader: Revd Dr Michael Thompson.

Cost: £15.00 including lunch

Book online or via Diocesan house

Diocesan Adult Protection Training Event

Friday 13th November 2009, 6.30 – 9.30pm

Venue: St Paul's Church Boxley road, Maidstone ME14 2AH

Contact: Sheila Rooke, srooke@diocant.org.uk

Pastoral Teams; 'Old, New and Not Yet'

Saturday 21 November, 9.30am-12.30pm

Venue: St Paul's Church Centre, Canterbury, CT1 1NH

Cost: Free (Sponsored by the Local Ministries Team in the Board of Ministry and Training)

A morning event to encourage lay pastoral teams to have:

- A thought out spirituality as a basis for their ministry
- Good practice in creating and sustaining teams in ministry
- A learning ear to what is happening in other pastoral teams

Neville Emslie, Diocesan Ministry Development Officer will speak on the 'Sprituality of Pastoral Care'. This will be followed up through relevant group work activities and examples of good current practice.

Contact name: Sarah Lucas slucas@diocant.org tel:: 01227 459401

Central Readers Council National Conference 23-25 July 2010

Venue: Lancaster

The annual National Conference of the Central Readers Council.

Theme: Preaching in the Age of the Internet

Speaker: John Bell, The Iona Community

Cost: yet to be confirmed

TO BOOK: Awaiting details

END NOTES	
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FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION PLEASE:

1. 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.

2. 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

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

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www.canterbury.anglican.org/bmt/lmts/readerministry/index.htm

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NEXT EDITION (AUTUMN):

Submission of material: **by 15 October**
Copy to be circulated: **end October**
