



The Diocese of
Canterbury

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

**CANTERBURY
DIOCESAN
ASSOCIATION OF
READERS**

Warden of Readers: Hilary Richter
Honorary Secretary: Nigel Collins

Newsletter



Winter 2009

Editorial

Welcome to this New Year edition of our Diocesan Readers' Newsletter. I hope you had a Blessed Christmas.

As I write I can confirm that this year's Readers Day and AGM will again be held at Harrietsham on Saturday 4th April. This will be Bishop Graham's last Readers Day with us as our Chair. We will use the occasion to say our 'farewell'. If you would like to contribute to a farewell gift, please send your contribution to our Warden c/o Diocesan House to arrive by 27th March (cheques should be made payable to 'Canterbury Diocesan Board of Finance').

Thank you to everyone who has sent me material for this edition of the Newsletter and to those of you who have let me know what you think of it since I took over as editor. All good so far!

I look forward to seeing you at our Readers Day - at the moment we are still waiting to confirm the keynote speaker.

Every Blessing. Enjoy!

Nigel Collins, Honorary Secretary/Editor

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AN UPDATE FROM THE READERS BOARD	Nigel Collins Honorary Secretary
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Deanery Reader Advisers are invited to attend the annual meeting with Bishop Graham on Monday 2nd March, 7.30pm at Diocesan House. Advisers are asked to send a representative if they are unable to attend in person.

Readers Day and AGM will be taking place on Saturday 4th April. This year it will be held at Harrietsham Village Hall this because we couldn't find a suitable venue in the Canterbury area. At the time of going to press the speaker is still to be confirmed. We will take the opportunity to say farewell to Bishop Graham. The papers will be circulated in March.

The Celebration of Reader Ministry service will be returning to July, more details in the next Newsletter.

A small group has been formed to consider the diocesan response to the National Report on Reader ministry. It is intended to facilitate discussion of the Report at Deanery Synods and at diocesan Synod between now and September. It is hoped that the Deanery synods will invite deanery Readers to attend the discussion.

Readers Board meetings this year are to be held on: 23rd February, 27th April, 21st September and 30th November.

Reader Ministry Review The annual review meeting with your incumbent provides you with an ideal opportunity to reflect on your Reader ministry over the past year and to identify any needs you may have for training (CME - continuing ministerial education) and spiritual refreshment. The annual Review papers will soon be arriving in the post, please complete them as requested and return to the Warden.

“Comings & Goings, People & Places”	Warden/Honorary Secretary
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We will be saying “FAREWELL” in April to **Bishop Graham** who has been chair of our Readers Board since becoming Bishop of Maidstone. We wish him well in his new role as Archbishops’ Missioner and Team Leader of Fresh Expressions.

We say “FAREWELL” to the following readers who have moved on or away: **Colin Ash, Andrea Aveyard, Sue Goodwin** who has moved to Canada to be with her

family; and **Ros Stocks** who has moved back to the Newcastle area. Also to **Lesley Jordan** who has resigned her Readership. We thank them all for their Readership within this diocese.

We WELCOME **Sue St John** who has moved from the Diocese of Southwell to Whitstable. Sue has been licensed to St Alphege, Seasalter. We welcome her to this Diocese.

Robert Hilton, Len Valley Benefice, decided to retire from public ministry; he was accorded the title Reader Emeritus and presented with a certificate in Harrietsham in November.

In memoriam In sadness we record the deaths of: **Bob Drayson**, Reader Emeritus and **Arthur Smith**, Reader Emeritus, offering our prayers to their family and friends.

We continue to hold our Readers-in-training in our prayers. They are: **Mike Bowditch** (St Martin, Dover), **Wendy Bowditch** (St Martin, Dover), **Katy Carter** (St Paul's Maidstone), **Richard Duncan** (St Mary, Teynham), **Alex Finlow** (St John's Folkestone), **Kevin Fulcher** (All Saints Staplehurst), **Alison Gilbert** (Appledore, Ebony, Stone, Wittersham & Woodchurch), **Anthony Hyde** (St Margaret-at-Cliffe w Westcliffe & East Langdon w West Langdon), **Kim Palmer** (St Paul Cliftonville), **Emma Sivyer** (St Mary of Charity, Faversham), **Judy Vinson** (St Mary the Virgin, Rolvenden), and **Lynne Watson** (SS Peter and Paul River).

Reader Upbeat: quickening the tempo...	Nigel Collins Honorary Secretary
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By now you will be aware that July's *General Synod* debated the National Report on Reader Ministry. There should be an opportunity to discuss aspects of the Report at Deanery synod meetings and at Deanery Readers' meetings. We shall also take a look at it at the Readers Day in April.

There are 30 recommendations in total addressed to dioceses, deaneries, parishes and Readers themselves. The 10 recommendations and 6 action points that are addressed to Readers are reproduced below:

Recommendation 1. We recommend that Readers keep before them their calling to be examples of those who are bearers and interpreters of the Word in the context of their daily occupation, be it paid or voluntary.

Recommendation 2. We recommend that dioceses encourage Readers to see their core ministry of preaching and teaching and leading worship as both

a significant part of the Church's ministry to equip lay disciples for their mission in the world and the opportunity to engage in mission on the boundaries of the Church.

Recommendation 3. We recommend that dioceses strengthen the provision of Reader CME, and in particular the development of the skill of Readers as preachers, catechists and educators enabling them to interpret Christian Faith as it engages with daily life and work.

Recommendation 4. We recommend that dioceses indicate their support for Readers as interpreters of the gospel in daily life by encouraging the use of Readers as preachers at the main parish Sunday service of Holy Communion.

Recommendation 10. We recommend that the office of Reader, in keeping with other ministerial categories in the Church, is to be seen as fluid rather than static and part of an ongoing journey of vocation, the nature of which is regularly discerned afresh. To address this, dioceses will need a team of vocations advisers to cover the full range of ministries.

Recommendation 20. We recommend that Readers, as licensed ministers, and in a similar way to ordained ministers, have working agreements with their incumbents and deanery, regular ministerial review and appraisal, the provision of pastoral care other than their incumbent, access to grievance procedure and that they receive the regular communications in the diocese that are received by clergy.

Recommendation 21. We recommend that dioceses extensively promote training and support for collaborative ministry which all incumbents with Readers are expected to undergo, as well as Readers and all lay ministers.

Recommendation 22. We recommend that dioceses ensure that Readers, as licensed ministers, are consulted over the appointments of incumbents and assistant clergy, as a matter of course.

Recommendation 26. We recommend that dioceses should encourage Readers and all Licensed Lay Ministers to attend to their own spiritual refreshment and development with times in which they step back from active involvement and by provision of financial support for courses relevant to their vocation.

Recommendation 29. We recommend that on-going support be given in the dioceses for Readers to explore their vocation to ministry and to specific missional tasks, including the possibility of ordained ministry either to the vocational diaconate or the priesthood.

Action Points:

- Readers study the theology of work so as to inform their preaching about daily life.
- Throughout the formation process Reader candidates are encouraged to reflect with others on their gifts and ministries.
- Pastoral care for Readers in a diocese is shared between the incumbent and the Warden of Readers.

- Readers positively welcome and support those finding their ministry in the various forms of lay ministry which are developing.
- Readers must expect that a CRB clearance will be necessary if their licence is to continue.
- Readers take care to reflect on their spiritual and vocational development, with someone to accompany them, renouncing the attraction of status, but recognising that for those who are called there is always the possibility to test a vocation to the diaconate or the priesthood.

I hope that you will reflect on these recommendations for yourself and with colleagues. If there is anything you would like to feed into the diocesan process of responding to the Report then please feel free to drop me a line or an email.

The full Report is available on the Central Readers' Council website (link: www.cofe.anglican.org/news/gsjul080705.html). There are hopes that it may be published in due course but as yet there is no news on this.

<p>The Year Ahead: Looking at Mark Wednesday 5 November 2008 Led by Dr Mark Bonnington</p>	<p>Prim Williamson Reader, St Mark's, Ramsgate</p>
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Due to road works and traffic, unfortunately my Vicar and I were late arriving, in spite of the request for a prompt start at 10 o'clock! Consequently we missed the introductory worship and the start of the course (and coffee!) Sorry! Nevertheless, after that embarrassment I really enjoyed the day and found it very helpful. The points that stood out for me were the calls to discipleship in Mark's gospel - yes, the call to follow Jesus is wide - it is open to all, but narrow in that all who take up the call must take up their cross and follow him - there is a cost. That came out very strongly in our afternoon session when we split up into groups each with a different commentary on the passage about the rich young man in chapter 10. The commentary I had made the point that the young man's interest in the next world - (his question to Jesus was, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?') - was not sincere enough to enable him to give up his preoccupation with this world - was the problem really great possessions or discipleship - did he want Heaven without the cost of living for Jesus here? Surely still a challenge for us as we preach in our churches today - and it might not be riches or possessions, but relationships and other concerns. I found my commentary helpful - I was just glad that I didn't have the ones with lots of Greek in them! We were encouraged to use commentaries to check we don't say anything stupid or leave anything important out - which I also hope I don't do

with this article! I can only report what meant a lot to me on the day and what I found helpful.

There was a session on 'What is preaching?' and 'What makes a good sermon?', with many tips, some obvious, like preparation - not leaving it until Sunday morning for instance! Preach on the text - work on it. Use stories and illustrations, as Jesus did, give the Good News, give a challenge, know your congregation (if possible), pray for your congregation, were some of the suggestions. We heard a five minute sound-bite from one of Dick Lucas' sermons and were asked to comment on it. It was very much of his time and for his audience - lunchtime businessmen from decades ago, but there were still things we could learn from it - the style and appropriateness of it, his authoritative tone, and teasing out the text. It came out how it is the last cultural form where you're not allowed to answer back, which puts a lot of responsibility on the preacher. We later listened to Mark preaching on the parable of the sower, although, as Mark said, perhaps it should be called the parable of the seed, and what happens to it. He also told us a more modern parable with a hidden meaning - fortunately he did explain it afterwards, as Jesus did with his disciples! It was from the book '*The Parables of Kirkegaard*', for those who would like to source others. After a good sandwich and wraps lunch (thank you to those involved) Mark explained the parables as a 'Marcan sandwich' - very appropriate! A - parable, B - mystery, C - explanation. Perhaps the parables can be summed up by something I wrote down - *listening is easy, but perceiving hard - hearing is easy, but understanding is hard.*

I was struck by the verses in Mark chapter 6 where it seems that Jesus was going to pass by his disciples when they were in trouble with the wind and the waves in their boat on Galilee, and he was walking on the water. They had to call to him for help, just as we need to, and those to whom we are preaching. Mark referred us to Job 9:11 where it seemed that the Lord passed by Job - on both occasions was it to see if they would call on Him? Mark pointed out that we need to know these verses from Job - as preachers we need to know our Old Testament as well as the New - and it is our job to tell our hearers the New with reference to the Old. Yes, we need to preach on the Gospel for the day, but not to the detriment of the Old Testament readings.

So, a short summing up - the Gospel of Mark ends mainly with the emphasis on the centrality of the cross and only briefly on the empty tomb - as if leaving the question - 'what do *you* make of the empty tomb?' It is theological, not chronological, more concerned with who Jesus is. There are calls to discipleship, but at a cross - even Jesus had failures eg the rich young man - which I found encouraging!

<p>Recollections of Bishop Morris Maddocks A man of vision...</p>	<p>Tony Johnstone Reader Emeritus</p>
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In 1989 I went on an Acorn training course at Burrswood led by Bishop Morris. Since then Bishop Morris and Anne became close friends with me and my doctor wife, Jean. We visited them at Chichester, wrote and telephoned frequently; we hoped to play golf together after Anne died.

Morris and Anne sacrificed the office and status of a bishop to renew our Church's Healing Ministry.

They set off armed with a suitcase of books, but instead of reading them, they listened to God. Much fell into place including their HQ at Whitehill Chase, a house in 6 acres, left to them and opened by Princess Alexandra. All this is to be in his autobiography. Morris wrote many excellent books on the Healing Ministry with Divine guidance and much hard work. One, *A Healing House of Prayer* published by Hodder and Stoughton was said to be a classic. It certainly is with so much wisdom. It gives us daily nourishment. It ran into 3 editions but Hodder were taken over and so it has been neglected. It is a priceless treasure.

It was written by a true Christian gentleman who knew Our Lord Jesus just as St Paul did.

Morris was a man of Vision, Vision but not of Castles in the Air but of our Green and Pleasant Land. We sorely need his book today for Health and Wholeness in difficult times amidst a secular unbelieving society. We need a modern Elijah equipped with Morris' vision for our land which he loved and our Church to whom he was devoted.

<p>SPOTLIGHT ON... The Readers Board members</p>	<p>Sharing our journeys of faith</p>
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Name: **Rosemary Walters**
Readers Board Role: Representative of Deanery Reader Advisers
Occupation: Senior Lecturer in Primary Education (RE and History),
Canterbury Christ Church University
Reader: at St Martin and St Paul Canterbury

I was born and brought up in Launceston in North Cornwall where I attended St Mary Magdalene parish church and became a member of the choir. This gave me a lifelong love of church music which lasted through RSCM residential courses to a variety of church choirs as a student, and to a group I still sing with on holiday in a different Cathedral each year.

After studying History at university in Norwich and Education in Liverpool I went for my first teaching job to Walsall in the West Midlands. During this time I lived in Lichfield, and wanting to do some more study, I joined a lay education group doing the three year Lichfield Diocesan Bishop's Certificate course. This got me hooked on theology and when it finished I went on to do a year on Ministry with the Reader candidates. I can't quite remember how this all happened but I became a Reader in 1987 and since then have always enjoyed and got excited by preaching as an opportunity to share the exploration of text and experience with the congregation.

At school I was asked to take on teaching RE as well as History because I was known to go to church! After more study this led to becoming the RE Support Teacher for Walsall, a fascinating five years of working with many primary and secondary schools in a multi faith community and eventually helping to produce the LEA RE Syllabus.

A highlight of my time at Lichfield was being on General Synod during the vote on women's ordination, which really seemed like being a part of history. I am also convinced that collaborative ministry which brings in the lay perspective is vital. Relating faith to work is an area that needs a higher profile in parishes; lay ministry has a unique opportunity to share the Monday-Friday concerns of the laity.

In 1993 I saw the advertisement for a Schools Officer at Canterbury Cathedral and after 20 years at Lichfield I took the plunge and moved to Kent. Since then I have been very happy at St Martin and St Paul in Canterbury and from time to time enjoying singing, tennis, and acting as well as meeting and sharing life with Ray, who sadly died last year.

The ten years as Schools Officer at the Cathedral were a positive and unique experience. Being a Lay Canon has kept me feeling part of the Cathedral family since leaving to lecture at Christ Church in 2003. It is very stimulating and refreshing to work with students who are training to be primary teachers and to discuss with them the potential of religious education and history in the school curriculum.

I have always wanted to go on asking questions about faith and being a Reader has been a great gift to me. Being part of church communities has provided love

and support in good and more difficult times through my life and Reader Ministry is definitely something to celebrate and give thanks for.

A NEW YEAR READ? Book Review	Rosemary Walters Reader, St Martin & St Paul, Canterbury
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WHAT IS THE POINT OF BEING A CHRISTIAN? By Timothy Radcliffe OP

Timothy Radcliffe is a Dominican friar who has taught theology at Oxford and is among those who are being mentioned as a possible next leader of the Roman Catholic Church in England. The chapters of the book can be dipped into or read straight through and it is an imaginative, accessible and inspiring reaction to the question of a friend who asked him "Why be a Christian?"

The reviewers comment "The lives of Christians should be marked by some form of hope, freedom, happiness and courage. If they are not then why should anyone believe a word we say? Radcliffe's argument for and interpretation of Christian Gospel is couched in a deep understanding of human nature and the problems and anxieties of modern men and women. This book is a breath of fresh air at a time when such a thing is sorely needed".

The book is published by Burns and Oates, a Continuum imprint and the latest edition is 2007. Your bookshop can order it for you or see www.continuumbooks.com

SOME MORE BOOKS	Nigel Collins Reader, Dover Deanery
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Jesus told many stories to illustrate his teaching. There are some good compilations of anecdotes and illustrations around, but I have found the following books particularly useful:

- J. John and Mark Stibbe, *A Box of Delights*, Monarch, 2001.
- J. John and Mark Stibbe, *A Bucket of Surprises*, Monarch, 2002.
- J. John and Mark Stibbe, *A Barrel of Fun*, Monarch, 2003.
- J. John and Mark Stibbe, *A Bundle of Laughs*, Monarch, 2005.

The following books and the website offer some excellent ideas for all-age church. Messy Church originated in a Portsmouth church back in 2004 and since then a network of 'Messy' Churches has evolved across the country. I lead a

monthly Saturday Messy Church at Cross-Links in Dover and it has been an effective way of engaging with adults and children alike. Perhaps I shall share something of our story in the next edition.

Lucy Moore, ***Messy Church – fresh ideas for building a Christ-centred community***, BRF, 2006.

Lucy Moore, ***Messy Church 2 – ideas for discipling a Christ-centred community***, BRF, 2009.

There is also a website: www.messychurch.org.uk

I'm sure you have found particular books useful in resourcing your Reader ministry. I would welcome details of any resources that you might like to share. These could be books, DVDs, films, seminars, workshops, websites - whatever you would like to share.

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*

Deanery Reader Advisers meeting **Monday 2 March**

Venue: Diocesan house, Canterbury. 7.30pm

This is the annual meeting of Deanery Advisers with Bishop Graham. Advisers are asked to send a representative if they are unable to attend in person.

Contact Warden of Readers

Vocations Day - 'Changing Places' **Saturday 7 March**

Venue: St Paul's Church Hall, Canterbury. 9.30am-12.30pm

Every vocation 'is a calling to be a place where God's son is revealed'.
An opportunity to explore with others our response to the gift of faith.

Contact Sarah Lucas tel: 01227 4549401 or email: slucas@diocant.org

50 Ideas To Refresh Your Children's Ministry **Saturday 21 March**

Venue: St Francis Church, Ashford. 10am-1pm

(coffee from 9.30am, lunch follows at 1pm)

Tutor: Mr Ted Hurst (Diocesan Children's Ministry Adviser)

Cost: £8.00 (including a light lunch)

Is your children's work getting stale, boring, same old thing week after week. Looking for fresh ideas – something different.

In this workshop will explore lots of different ways of working and ideas for doing work with children in a church backed group. Whenever and wherever that is: mid week; after school / before school; Saturday; Sunday; any day or time of day.

- Large number of Ideas suitable for use by children's workers
- Suitable for new people and those with experience
- Explore useful resources
- Have a go
- Have fun

Contact: Sarah Lucas [slucas @diocant.org](mailto:slucas@diocant.org)

Good Practice in Safeguarding Children Workshop Monday 23 March

Venue: Kingsnorth Parish Church, 7.30-9.30pm

Tutor: Mr Ted Hurst (Diocesan Children's Ministry Adviser)

Cost: Free

A practical workshop dealing with how we put the theory of child protection and safeguarding into practice in church backed children's groups and clubs. For:

- Anyone working with children or thinking about working with children.
- People who children confide in
- Sides people; welcomers
- Anyone with a leadership role where children are involved

What is safeguarding / child protection? What to expect / look out for. Dealing with confidentiality - who needs to know [and who doesn't]. Answering children's questions/worries.

Contact : Sarah Lucas slucas@diocant.org

Readers Day and AGM

Saturday 4 April

Venue: Harrietsham Village Hall

Further Details in due course.

Please make this a priority for your diary.

Holy Week Lectures

6th, 7th & 8th April

Venue: Canterbury Cathedral

Speaker: Dr Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury

Theme: "GROWING IN PRAYER - what the saints tell us about the spiritual journey"

Monday 6th - The Early Church

Tuesday 7th - Reformers, Catholic and Protestant

Wednesday 8th - The Quest for God in the Modern Age

no tickets required

Diocesan Gathering 2009

4-6 September

Venue: Canterbury

“Celebrating Canterbury”

Further details to be confirmed

TO BOOK: details yet to be confirmed

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. Any contribution towards Bishop Graham’s farewell gift from the Association of Readers should be sent to The Warden c/o Diocesan House to arrive by 27th March (cheques payable to ‘Canterbury Diocese Board of Finance’).
3. Please complete your annual Review and return it promptly to The Warden.
4. Make attending the Readers Day and AGM on 4th April a priority.
5. 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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NEXT EDITION (SPRING):

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Copy to be circulated: mid April
