

Pilgrim Porch at Chester Cathedral

Earlier this year all churches in the Diocese of Chester were invited to contribute to a permanent artwork which is to be installed at the west doors of Chester Cathedral. Called the Pilgrim Porch, it aims to capture a snapshot of worshipping life across the diocese and has been commissioned to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. John Coffey, who has a very keen interest in the history of St Cross, kindly agreed to provide St Cross's contribution, reproduced here together with his photos.



THE STORY: 'The Good Samaritan, an ever-relevant example to us all'

The engraving is a detail from a 3-panelled stained-glass window in the south-west of the nave of St Cross church in the Cross Town district of Knutsford. It commemorates Annie, the wife of Charles John Galloway, a wealthy Victorian industrialist and church warden who lived with his family in a grand house in the parish. The large, magnificent west end window

commemorates Percy Galloway, their son who died in India in 1893. Both windows were designed by the distinguished artist Edward Burne-Jones.

The church was built in the mid 19th century through a deep desire of the local Cross Town community to have a church of their own, close by. The congregation also raised money to build and staff the first day school. For decades the church was the centre of community life, with the adjacent parish rooms being used for activities and events such as Guides, Scouts, dances, parties, Christmas pantomimes and amateur plays. In recent years we have hosted spectacular Christmas Tree Festivals for the town.

Since the Galloways' time the population of the parish has grown greatly as many houses have been built since 1960.

Our church continues to welcome all.

We do not know why Galloway chose this Bible story to remember his wife; perhaps she was a notable Good Samaritan. The name has passed into our language for anyone who gives practical help to their fellow man or woman without fear, prejudice or expectation of reward. The message is timeless and universal: You go and do the same - or as they said in Galloway's time, "Go and do thou likewise".



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The Vicar writes...

We may recall favourite stories from our childhood that were read to us. When I have been into school assemblies and used a well-known story to illustrate a point the story generally goes down well, particularly with those who know it already.

And as a grandparent I'm enjoying seeing our granddaughter become more and more engaged with life as she sees new sights, hears new sounds, and the whole new world is a beautiful and fascinating place with no cares or concerns. There is also the fascination, when visiting us, of seeing the aircraft fly over the church into the airport. But when she shuffles across to the toy box on our living room floor and she rummages around looking for a toy or a book, a smile comes to her face as she finds a familiar story book. It's not just the story book she wants but also the same storyteller to read it and bring the story to life. I'm learning the story of 'Thomas Goes Fishing' almost off by heart!

During Lent, I have been using the book 'Reflections for Lent', which contains insights from senior Anglican clergy based, so far, on readings from the Old Testament including Genesis and the rise to power of Joseph. The story of Joseph is a much-loved Bible Story and possibly more widely known these days through the Lloyd Webber musical. It is a powerful story of how, eventually, reconciliation and forgiveness came to Jacob's (Joseph's father) family, and we see the hand of God on

Joseph's life from a young age. It is, like so many Old Testament stories, a story of faith and trust in God, and a love for God. Each time we read scripture, and stories like that of Joseph, we see new insights and perspectives.

April is a busy time, but a time of hope as we look forward to hearing once again the gospel accounts of Jesus' death and resurrection. We cannot avoid the sadness or shirk away from the reality of Good Friday, for so many reasons, but not least because we see the love of God in Christ magnified for us on the cross. Experiencing Holy Week and Good Friday means Easter Day is the glorious and triumphant event to follow. The next chapter, but not the end. But the true story of Easter Day fills us with hope, love and joy and one should never tire of hearing the stories of the Risen Jesus.

Do you have a favourite gospel story, particularly one about the Risen Lord?

It is hard to choose for they are all special, but I do, as a priest, love the recollection of Jesus meeting Simon Peter on the beach, where he asked Peter three times, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me?'

We too, should not tire of giving the response Peter gave, 'You know, Lord, that I love you'.

Yours, in Christ
Paul

This picture was taken by the Church of the Primacy of St Peter by the Sea of Galilee, near to the place where it was believed Peter was commissioned by Jesus to 'feed his sheep.'



Occasional Offices

Funerals

9 March **Peggy Swain**
31 March **Edith Morris**



Readings for Services - Sundays and Wednesdays

	MP = Morning Prayer (Audio) E = Eucharist	Evening Service
Sunday 3 April Lent 5	MP/E Isaiah 43.16-21 Philippians 3.4b-14 John 12.1-8	6.30pm Celtic Eucharist Psalm 35.1-9 Luke 22.1-13
6 April Wednesday	E Daniel 3.14-20, 24-25, 28 John 8.31-42	
Sunday 10 April Palm Sunday	MP/E Philippians 2.5-11 Luke 19.28-40	7pm Compline (Zoom)
13 April Wednesday	E Isaiah 50.4-9a John 13.21-32	
14 April Maundy Thursday	E Exodus 12.1-4 [5-10] 1 Corinthians 11.23-26 John 13.1-17, 31b-35	7.30pm Sung Eucharist & Washing of Feet
15 April Good Friday	Readings to be decided	12 noon—3pm
Sunday 17 April Easter Day	MP/E Acts 10.34-43 John 20.1-18 or Luke 24.1-12	
20 April Wednesday	E Acts 3.1-10 Luke 24.13-35	
Sunday 24 April Easter 2	MP/E Acts 5.27-37 John 20.19-end	7pm Compline (Zoom)
27 April Wednesday	E Acts 5.17-26 John 3.16-21	