

Chester Diocesan News

#EverydayFaith across the Diocese of Chester | August 2021



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester

The consecration of Julie and Sam



The consecration of Julie and Sam Pg 2

Time for Rest? Pg 4

Wellbeing of all God's people Pg 6

The consecration of Julie and Sam

At York minster, on Monday 19 July 2021, Julie Conalty and Sam Corley, were consecrated as the Bishop of Birkenhead and the Bishop of Stockport respectively. Julie was previously Archdeacon of Tonbridge and Sam was Rector of Leeds Minster. They will arrive in the Dicoese of Chester in September. Here are some photos. You can see more on our [Facebook gallery](#).



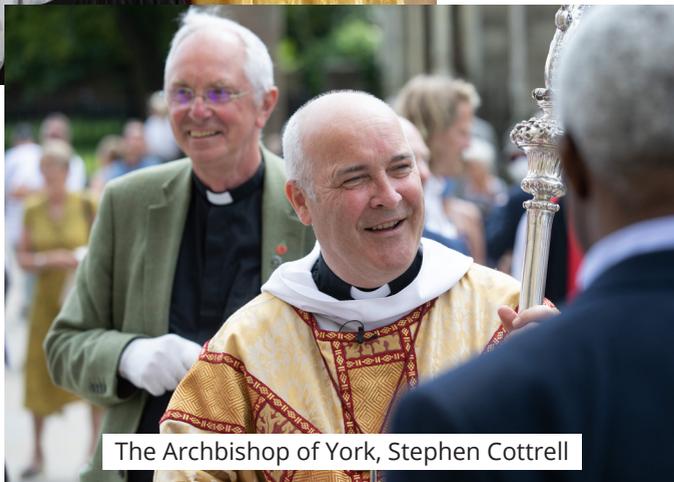
Julie Conalty, Bishop of Birkenhead



Sam Corley, Bishop of Stockport



The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, performs the laying on of hands with Julie Conalty



The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell



Bishop of Chester, Mark Tanner; Bishop of Stockport, Sam Corley; Bishop of Birkenhead, Julie Conalty; Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell

Time for rest?



A reflection from the Revd Christine Broad, Rector of Woodchurch and Dean of Women in Ministry in the Diocese of Chester.

"O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with Thee
The silence of eternity
Interpreted by love!"

The lines above are taken from the well-known hymn, "Dear Lord and Father of mankind" written by John Greenleaf Whittier. The hymn itself is taken from a longer poem by Whittier in which he calls worshippers away from frantic activity and commends purity and simplicity in approaching God.[1] In this verse, he turns to the joy of keeping the Sabbath as an aspect of such pure and simple worship.

I wonder what that word, "Sabbath" means to you? One day in seven set aside for rest and recuperation and dedicated as holy? The Sabbath is inaugurated in the creation narrative of Genesis- "God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation" Genesis 2:3. The Sabbath is affirmed in the narrative of the new creation. On the Cross as he dies Jesus states, "it is finished", (John 19:30) and the following day, the Sabbath, his body rests in the tomb. On the first day of the new week there is New Creation- Resurrection.

The rhythm of activity and rest inaugurated in creation and affirmed in the new creation is offered as a gift to humankind, but we live in a world, in a culture, in a society which never stops, there is always another task to

accomplish, e-mail to answer, call to make...where is that rhythm of activity and rest in our lives today?

In Mark 2:27 Jesus says that "The Sabbath was made for humankind and not humankind for the Sabbath". The gift of a rhythm of activity and rest is not another thing to feel guilty about if we don't quite achieve it, it is something to be considered, accepted and enjoyed as a gift to enrich our lives.

As I write it is the busiest weekend of the year for travel and many people head for holidays, it is that time of year when we might well be thinking about stopping our regular activity and resting for a while, leaving the tasks the emails and the calls to one side- and if that is possible then that is just great. But thinking about Sabbath in the context of the holiday season reminds me that whilst holidays are wonderful, making time for Sabbath rest as part of an ongoing sustainable and sustaining rhythm of life is perhaps a greater gift. Thinking about Sabbath reminds me that its OK to stop, for a day in each week, for some time in each day, for a moment in each hour, the tasks will wait as we share with Jesus even just for a moment the silence of eternity, simply offering our thanks for his presence with us as our offering of worship. The gift of Sabbath is a gift of love.

Revd Christine Broad

Wellbeing

of all God's people

World Mental Health Day is on Sunday 10 October and an in-person conference will take place in the days after for everyone in the diocese.

Titled [Wellbeing of all God's People](#), the conference is on Thursday 14 October and will be an opportunity for people to step back and reflect on the mental health challenges we face at the end of 2021.

Head of Counselling Services and member of the diocesan Mental Health Forum, the Revd Peter Mackriell, says: "We have been living through extraordinary times which will have traumatised some and created challenges for many people's mental health. Step back with us for a day of reflection and discussion as we mark World Mental Health Day with a conference arranged by the diocesan Mental Health Forum."

Keynote speaker, the Revd Dr Carla A. Grosch-Miller, is a practical theologian working

in the field of congregational trauma. She is the author of *Trauma and Pastoral Care* (Canterbury Press, 2021) and a contributor and co-editor of *Tragedies and Christian Congregations: The Practical Theology of Trauma* (Routledge, 2019), as well as a number of poetry books.

From a parish perspective, the other keynote speaker is the Revd Lesley Currie, Associate Minister at All Saints, Marple and Rural Dean for Chadkirk Deanery. As part of her church ministry, she has developed a passion for supporting people struggling with mental health and wellbeing which has become even more significant through the pandemic.

Workshops led by the keynote speakers and other local leaders will help those attending engage in further discussion.

The conference will take place at St Mary's Parish Centre, Handbridge. With just 80 tickets available, early booking is recommended.

Wellbeing of all God's people

Step back and reflect with us on the mental health challenges we face at the end of 2021.



Wellbeing of all God's people - 14 October - Chester
[Book Here](#)

Key note speaker: Revd Dr Carla A. Grosch-Miller

Carla has spent over 20 years in parish ministry in the US and the UK and 12 years as a theological educator in diverse ministerial training institutions.

As Senior Minister of a Chicago area United Church of Christ between 1996 and 2003, she led the church through responses to the Columbine High School shooting, the 9/11 terrorist attack, as well as less extraordinary church family crises.

She has academic expertise in practical theology and qualitative research, and an informed interest in narrative, liturgy and poetics. Her work as a minister and educator leading short courses in theological education institutes enables her to share her practical knowledge and skill with trainees.

She is the author of *Trauma and Pastoral Care* (Canterbury Press, 2021) and a contributor and co-editor of *Tragedies and Christian Congregations: The Practical Theology of Trauma* (Routledge, 2019), as well as a number of poetry books.



Events



Facilitator Familiarisation: LLF

21 August 2021 - Online

Facilitators are an important part of the Living in Love and Faith course. They create braver and safer spaces for discussions about human identity and sexuality. [More](#)



Rebuilding Children and Youth Work

02 September 2021- Online

If you're wondering how to rebuild your children and youth work as we emerge from lockdown, this webinar is for you. [More](#)



Being There: Taking Funerals

16 September 2021- Online

A five-session course - Readers and Pastoral Workers can attend this course as part of the preparation for undertaking funeral ministry. [More](#)



Digital Advances

16 September 2021- Online

Almost every church has used digital technology, but which of these changes will be part of our churches going forwards? [More](#)



Wellbeing of all God's people

14 October 2021- Online

We have been living through extraordinary times. Step back and reflect with us on the mental health challenges we face at the end of 2021. [More](#)