

# CRUX

Church for a different world

25p

Issue 50  
February 2020

JOIN THE  
BIG CHURCH  
SURVEY

 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Manchester

CHURCH  
FOR A  
DIFFERENT  
WORLD



# PLAYING A ROLE IN RECONCILIATION

**It has been good to hear, at the beginning of this year, government and others beginning to talk about a process of national reconciliation. With the General Election behind us, as a government with a clear working majority, many of the divisive battles of the last couple of years now lie in the past. Reharsing the vitriol over Brexit will do little little good for anyone.**

The challenge is that reconciliation is, like Brexit itself, a word that is capable of diverse understandings. Sometimes the victor, stretching out their hand in an apparent gesture of reconciliation, is saying little more than, "We won. You lost. Get over it".

A real process of national reconciliation will require far more by way of magnanimity and the restoration of trust. Participants from all sides of the debate will need to sign up for it, and it will have to be led by individuals and institutions that are not allied to the chief protagonists.

There will need to be apologies for the damage done to truth telling over these recent times, and a credible willingness from all sides of the spectrum to acknowledge that we need to restore better standards in public life.

It's a hard ask, but one that I believe we can rise to. Not least our churches, at every level from the local parish to our national institutions, can play a vital role. I hope and pray that 2020 will show we can rebuild our nation.



David Walker  
Bishop of Manchester

# #LIVELENT: CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION

**#LiveLent: Care for God's Creation is the Church of England's Lent Campaign for 2020. With weekly themes shaped around the first Genesis account of creation, it explores the urgent need for humans to value and protect the abundance God has created.**

This year's #LiveLent challenge offers 40 short reflections and suggested actions to help you, your family and your church live in greater harmony with God, neighbour and nature.

For more information, visit [www.churchofengland.org/livelent](http://www.churchofengland.org/livelent)



# HELPING YOUR CHURCH TO LEAP INTO THE FUTURE OF GIVING

**An exciting conference is being organised to help the many churches in our Diocese who are looking at various ways to increase giving and fundraising.**

This event will help parishes to continue to support much-valued charitable activities in their communities, and maintain their places of worship and other parochial buildings.

Bishop David will be in attendance to host the event. He is well aware of the challenges facing our churches and diocese as overall levels of giving in the last few years have been at best static. His message is one of confidence that it is possible to increase levels of giving and he is encouraging all of our churches to attend the conference.

It will include a range of national and regional speakers who will outline new strategies to help you to meet the challenges of giving and fundraising, including digital methods, and attract financial support from your community.

An invitation from Bishop David has already been sent via email to Area Deans, Parochial clergy, PCC Secretaries, Treasurers and Gift Aid Secretaries. A maximum of **two people per church** will be able to attend.

**For further assistance please contact Paul Bailey, Digital Giving Officer: 0161 828 1464 / paulbailey@manchester.anglican.org or Simon Ambrose, Communications and Events Officer: simonambrose@manchester.anglican.org**

**Saturday  
29 February  
Central Manchester  
9.30am – 4.30pm**

# DWELLING IN THE WORD

## Where the Spirit does not open the Scripture, the Scripture is not understood even though it is read - Martin Luther

For most of my Christian life my understanding of studying the Bible has been quite straightforward. On your own, or in a group, you select a particular passage of Scripture and then, using a commentary or study guide, you read about what it means... simple! However, over the years I began to find that this approach to the reading the Bible was leaving me somewhat cold. Yes, learning new information was interesting but if I was honest it wasn't engaging my heart and soul.

A few years ago I was invited to a workshop on Dwelling in the Word, a spiritual practice of engaging more deeply with a biblical text in expectation of not only receiving information but of being transformed by the Living Word

of God. This may sound somewhat strange but in a noisy culture of fast paced information overload, the workshop introduced me to the unique opportunity of allowing God the space to speak as we patiently open ourselves to what God may be saying in and through a selected Bible text.

Like any new practice this took me a while to grasp. After years of a more formulaic and informationally based approach to reading the Bible (where I shaped what I read) it was difficult at first to let the Word shape me. However, as I learnt to listen more deeply to God and others my heart, mind and soul began to gain new insights and understandings of texts I previously thought I knew everything about.



### How to Dwell in the Word

Using the steps below this is best done in groups of 6-8 people.

1. Choose a Bible passage to dwell on (perhaps from the lectionary or a passage meaningful to you or your group).
2. Prepare for your time of listening by inviting God's Spirit's to help you be aware of any words or phrases that capture the attention of your mind, heart or soul. Then read the text aloud, not rushing it but allowing the words to linger, and finish with a short time of silent reflection.
3. In pairs, take turns listening to each other about what you heard from the passage. It could be something that surprised you, challenged or caught your imagination or it may have raised something you would like to know more about. Listen carefully, because next you will be feeding back to the group about what your partner said.
4. As a group, each person introduces their partner and what they shared about the text (meaning, challenges, etc.) Be aware of any common themes or particular reflections emerging that may be significant for others in the group.
5. End the meeting by reading the Scripture text one more time. Pray that God will continue to speak to the group through the Scripture in the coming week(s). Bring the Scripture text to the group in the same manner at the next meeting.

**Jamie Mackenzie,  
Local Ministry Officer**

#### Isaiah 40:8

The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.

## APPOINTMENTS

**The Revd Caroline Hewitt**, currently 0.5 Priest-in-Charge of St. Michael and All Angels Lawton Moor, has been appointed as 0.5 Incumbent of St. Michael and All Angels Lawton Moor. This is in addition to the post of 0.5 Team Vicar in the Wythenshawe Team.

**The Revd Jonathan Moores**, currently Team Vicar of Seven Saints, New Bury with Great Lever, has been appointed to the three year post of Interim Minister in the Leverhulme Team.

**The Revd Jane Warhurst**, currently Incumbent of St. John the Baptist Irlam, has been appointed in addition as Area Dean of Eccles Deanery.

## RETIREMENT

**The Revd Stephen Fletcher**, currently Team Rector of Horwich and Rivington is to retire on 30 April 2020.



## GM FAITH SECTOR SUMMIT ON FAMILY HOMELESSNESS

**The number of homeless families across Greater Manchester currently exceeds 1,500, with evidence showing that hidden homeless households could take this figure to 10 times higher than official statistics.**

Manchester has the highest number of children living in emergency and temporary accommodation and Oldham has seen the second largest increase in the number of homeless children over a five-year period.

Children who experience homelessness are more likely to experience homelessness as adults; homelessness has a significant impact on children's physical health, their mental health and emotional wellbeing and children who sofa surf or live in temporary accommodation are much more likely to fall behind in school due to exhaustion, emotional distress and a lack of quiet space to do their homework.

With levels reaching crisis point, the Shared Health Foundation has been working with agencies and council teams, as well as families with lived experience of homelessness, to investigate the difficulties being faced.

Greater Together Manchester is joining with Methodist Central Hall in Manchester to call for the Faith Sector to gather, in conjunction with colleagues from the Greater Manchester Homeless Action Network, for another Homelessness Faith Sector Summit.

It will take place on **Thursday 12 March 2020** from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Methodist Central Hall, Manchester, M1 1JQ. Book tickets via Eventbrite: <https://tinyurl.com/yj9pw27f>

## BRIEF ENCOUNTER:

### Dylan Edwards



**"Relying on God to open up doors."**

Dylan joined the Antioch Network as a Church Planter in the Rochdale Diverse Plant at the end of last year.

He had been going to church since an early age and started attending Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) camps since around 5 years old. By the time he was 11, he put his trust in Jesus. "I'd been hearing about Jesus and how he had died for me and I wanted to be like him."

He describes his mother as a person of faith and someone with a passion for Jesus. "Unfortunately, there were lots of issues around my father, including alcoholism, so it was also difficult at that age."

"But then when I was around thirteen / fourteen I started falling. I was drinking and smoking and doing all kinds of things. I was attending a Catholic convent secondary school and I had to leave because I was getting in to all kinds of trouble."

By the time Dylan was fifteen, he stopped going to church. He left school at 17. "I didn't have a clue what I wanted to do. I just wanted to have a drink, be with the lads and play football and do my own thing." He always wanted to be a professional footballer and despite the challenges he experienced he successfully completed courses as a football coach and gym instructor.

But in 2016, a chance encounter with Helen, a CEF worker, helped him on his journey back to God. She asked Dylan if he would like to come back and be a leader with one of the Summer camps. He was delighted to be given this opportunity.

Dylan started to go back to church and things began to change. "After the CEF camp, I attended a Christian event and I had such a strong encounter with God. We were singing and the words really affected me. I just started crying. I just knew how much God loved me and how much He wanted to have a relationship with me. And then my lifestyle and my desires started to change."

However, it wasn't easy. His old lifestyle was still there and he was still struggling. It took 18 months to find himself.

"And I remember I just wanted to know God, to be in a relationship with God and to walk with God, and to serve Him and to tell people about Him. By 2018 my prayer life was growing and I was reading the Word and I felt a call to ministry, to serve God and to evangelise. I've been relying on God to open up doors and the last 18 months have been the best in my life."

Alongside his work with Antioch, Dylan has been studying for BA in Theology with the Wilson Carlile Centre in Sheffield and so his life is rich.

# A BIG SNAPSHOT LEADING TO A BIG CONVERSATION... JOIN THE BIG CHURCH SURVEY!



**Have you ever wondered how often church members invite non-Christians to your services and events? Or how confident they are in sharing their faith with others? Would you like to know more about how their growth in understanding and relationship with God is supported?**

The Big Church Survey, a project supported by the Church of England, the Evangelical Alliance and Hope Together, seeks to provide answers to these and other questions. This new initiative gathers information on three main areas: demographic data such as age and ethnic background, postcodes to identify the areas in which respondents live, and their practice of Christian discipleship.

Its findings have the potential not only to improve our knowledge of who attends our churches, but also our understanding of how people currently live out their faith in church and community.

## Who benefits from the survey?

**Churches** taking part in the survey receive their own report enabling individual churches to easily see how they are helping people grow in faith, discipleship and mission. This report will help you to better understand your church and surrounding area but individuals will not be identifiable (all information gathered by the survey is kept in strictest confidence).

**Dioceses** can learn how churches are helping people to grow in each of these areas. Here in Manchester information gained from the survey can support our progress towards our three mission goals:

- Growing – new disciples in missionary communities which are younger, more diverse, active and spiritually engaged.
- Nurturing – nurturing new and existing disciples.
- Serving – present for all, speaking and acting prophetically for justice, supporting pastorally the vulnerable, deprived and excluded.

In each priority area, the Big Church Survey can show us what's working well and identify where more support is needed.

The leadership and national officers of the Church of England can also use the information gathered by the survey to develop more effective strategies and resources that support our calling to be a Christian presence in every community.



## Who can take part in the survey?

It is designed to open to any church wishing to participate. It can be completed by any church in any area or of any size, including churches meeting in schools or community buildings, Fresh Expressions of Church and new church plants. The greater the variety, the greater the opportunity to see what's really working across regions and different types of places as well as people.

It is open to everyone, including children and visitors. The more people in your worshipping community who join in, the more you learn.

## How easy is the survey to complete?

The Big Church Survey is free, accessible, and consists of a series of "tick box" questions that can be completed in less than ten minutes.

The survey is designed to be flexible so that it might accommodate different circumstances and preferences. For example participating churches are not restricted to a single Sunday, but can select the most convenient time to complete the survey within a set time period.

Church members can also choose how to complete the survey. It is available in three formats: online, App and a traditional paper form.

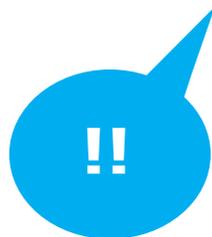


## How can my church take part in the survey?

Participation in the survey is entirely voluntary. If you are keen to get your church involved, you can opt into the Big Church Survey by taking these four simple steps.

1. Find an enthusiastic volunteer or champion willing to run the survey in your church (or, if you prefer, more than one). The church champion does not need to be an expert in numbers or computers. It is more important to be passionate about sharing their Christian faith and bringing new people to their church!
2. Once you have identified the right person for the job, the champion signs up to register your church on the survey website. The champion receives a "welcome" email with an information pack and step by step guide on what to do next.
3. The champion publicises the survey for the date your church has chosen and supports the congregation to complete the survey. Help is available! In addition to the champion information pack, posters, flyers, and even instructions on how to make a Big Church Survey box are available to download.
4. Once the congregation has completed the survey, the champion downloads the summary report to share with clergy and congregation. It's completely up to you what you do with this, but your conversation about faith, life and church today based on your unique church snapshot is ready to begin.

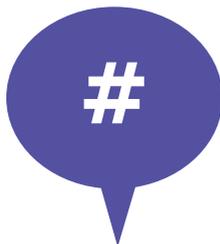




### What can we do now?

The Big Church Survey will be up and running in May and June. Churches in Manchester Diocese are warmly encouraged to take part.

Look out for further information about the survey on e-news, the diocesan website and on social media. You may also wish to contact the Diocesan Champion who is available to support participating churches (details below).



Over the next few months, here are three things you can do to prepare for the Big Church Survey:

1. If you are already keen for your church to take part, register your interest on the Big Church Survey website.
2. If you would like to find out more, check out the "Q&A" section on the survey website (a form for additional questions relevant to your circumstances is also provided). Or contact your Diocesan Champion for an informal conversation.
3. If you want to ensure that people are fully informed and involved in the decision to take part, now is the time to start the conversation about the survey and its potential benefits to your church. Why not begin by sharing the video on the survey website?

**To find out more about The Big Church Survey visit [www.bigchurchsurvey.org](http://www.bigchurchsurvey.org). To contact the Diocesan Champion, email [AlisonPeacock@manchester.anglican.org](mailto:AlisonPeacock@manchester.anglican.org).**

## NIGHT SHELTER: A VOLUNTEER'S PERSPECTIVE

**The Greater Together Manchester Night Shelter is just one of the ways in which Greater Together Manchester has been working with churches and other partners to offer hospitality and shelter to rough sleepers.**

Its fantastic team of volunteers provide necessary respite and relaxation from the daily efforts homeless people face. But why volunteer?

For many volunteers, faith is a strong motivator to offer time and skills to support others. Martin, who has been volunteering with the project for 18 months, explains.

"As a Christian we are constantly being told that God wants us to give. I give a few hours a week over the winter months to help those who are in need of shelter, a hot meal and somewhere warm and dry to sleep. Our guests come from all walks of life.

"To be homeless isn't anything to be ashamed of as it can happen to any of us. There are numerous reasons that can lead to homelessness. These can include the breakdown of relationships, redundancy, the termination of rented accommodation, and mental health problems. Or just the fact of being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

"Our guests may be going through one or many of these. I too have suffered in the past from some of these issues, and appreciate the help and love I was given when I was down.

"The presence of God in my life was certainly the main factor that got me back on my feet. Now, more than ever, I try to give back as much as I can to God, to church, to church groups and other organisations, using the skills and gifts that God has given me. Giving up one evening a week is not too much to ask anyone.

This rolling shelter will run through the worst of the winter months, but hopefully we will see this move into a twelve month operation and run a bed all year round for those who are so desperately in need."

**If you are interested in volunteering visit <http://greatertogethermanchester.org/homelessness/>**



## CHRISTIAN MUSLIM FORUM

**In December, the Dean of Manchester Cathedral hosted the national network, Christian Muslim Forum to bring together Imams and Clergy and other representatives of the two faiths within Greater Manchester.**

The afternoon focussed on initiatives that build strong relationships, involving young people and women, addressing online hate and the power of friendships. There are plans for another get together in February 2020. For further information, please contact Near Neighbours Coordinator, Samra Kanwal: [samra@greatertogethermanchester.org](mailto:samra@greatertogethermanchester.org)

# WHAT A DIFFERENCE ONE PERSON CAN MAKE!



Bishop Mark Ashcroft

**"The world will face irreversible heating unless firms shift their priorities soon, the outgoing head of the Bank of England has told the BBC".**

2019 was an astonishing year in the world of the environment and climate change. Who would have thought that Mark Carney, the Governor of the Bank of England, would have instigated a stress test on banks particularly to do with the climate crisis? - and that he would also be highlighting the fact that current company policies indicate a rise in climate temperatures to nearly 40 C way beyond the 1.50 C that is seen as the maximum.

Although environmental issues did not feature as highly as they might have done in the election campaign - remember the melting ice figures - the Conservative party manifesto promised **"the most ambitious environmental programme of any country on earth"** and in fact every party made significant promises on the environment.

All of this change is due to a growing awareness about environmental issues, the rise of Extinction rebellion and two particular individuals who have captured the public imagination in this country and around the world: Sir David Attenborough whose films on the natural world and particularly the effect of plastic on our ocean life have been a game changer, and then Greta Thunberg who has done more to raise the profile of climate change than any other this last year - whether or not you agree with everything she says.

This year Britain is hosting COP 26 in Glasgow as the nations gather to look at the current state of affairs in respect to the climate crisis and plan together for future action. It is our moment to hold governments (including our own) to account and to shift the debate forwards. Countries like Kenya have already completely banned plastic bags. Other countries in Africa have found ways of making hard to recycle plastic into floor tiles. Our governments target for net zero emissions is by 2050 but Manchester is going for the earlier date of 2038

In our churches we are at risk of falling behind. Our heritage of historic buildings doesn't always help us to be carbon neutral. But one way or another we can't ignore the climate crisis and its impact on the poorest communities throughout the world. Just as the Fair Trade movement taught us that our cheap coffee and tea was at the unacceptable price of poor working conditions and pay in the global south, so too climate change activists are telling us that cheap travel across the world and cheap goods from countries that pollute the atmosphere in fact cost the earth.

What Greta has shown us is that even one or two determined individuals can change the world - perhaps we can write to our new MP on environmental issues or be an Eco champion in our church and at least help us together down the path of becoming an Eco Diocese. One person can make a big difference.

# TALKING WITH GOD

**As children we are shown how to pray, 'hands together and close your eyes'. As adults we are just told to pray, but somehow, we seem to lose that childlike ability to just talk to God.**

The Alternative Prayer Course, hosted by Christ's Church Harwood, was a recent recipient of the Church for a Different World Awards. The course, spanning four weeks last summer, was set up in response to the feeling that people were crying out for help with prayer and seeking something new.

'I find it easier to express feelings in pictures. Art is a way of relaxing so I can better hear God's voice.'

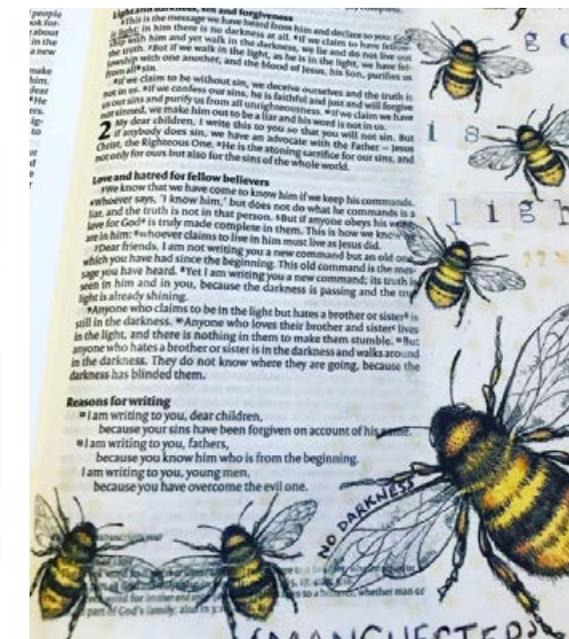
As the course facilitators, Gail Spence and Rebecca Webster, explained, 'it opened people's minds and got them thinking about the different ways they could engage in conversation with God - one that didn't involve kneeling in silence with nothing coming through; or trying to be like the person next to you, or the person leading the intercession in the service. The course also provided an opportunity to listen - after all, prayer is a two-way conversation.'

'Prayer is the unspoken word with someone who knows you better than you do.'



Each week, the participants focused on a different method inspiring alternative prayer: Bible Journaling, colouring, pottery and the Psalms. In the pottery session, prayer pots were made: 'the base represented yourself and each of the five coils represented a person close to you, who you wanted to pray for. Afterwards, you could write down your thoughts and your prayers and put them in to the pot.'

Feedback from the course was very positive: 'The course was very thought provoking. It opened my mind to new experiences and helped me with my praying'; 'I enjoyed the quietness. A time to think in a different way and put away some home stresses and switch onto a new way of prayer and meditation'.



We want to hear your thoughts

# HOW CAN MY CHURCH HELP PEOPLE GROW IN FAITH, DISCIPLESHIP AND IN MISSION?

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What would you like to see discussed in a future issue?

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Thanks for your feedback so far

**What will we do with your comments?**  
We will collate all the responses we receive and consider them as we develop our plans and priorities for the diocese.  
We will not be able to provide individual responses, but we will provide updates in CRUX on how your feedback is shaping Church for a different world.

**Continue the conversation**  
**Website:** manchester.anglican.org  
**Twitter:** @DioManchester  
**Facebook:** The Diocese of Manchester  
**Email:** differentworld@manchester.anglican.org

**Send to:**  
Church for a Different World,  
Diocese of Manchester, Church House,  
90 Deansgate, Manchester M3 2GH

## WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH AT MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL?

### TERRIFIC TUESDAY AT MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL

**Tuesday 18 February, (10.15am to 12 noon)**

Come along to the Creation Station at Manchester Cathedral where there will be plenty of crafts and activities for families to enjoy.



## SMALL ADVERTS

**WANTED: VINYL RECORD COLLECTIONS.** We pay the best prices for Rock & Pop record collections (sorry, no Classical) in excellent condition from smoke free homes. Please call Mark (practicing Christian) on 0161 798 4992 or 07717 648 349.

**SPIC 'N' SPAN SPECIALIST CLEANERS** leather suite cleaners, oven and hob cleaning, carpet and upholstery cleaning, UPVC conservatory, gutter fascia and soffit clean, driveway patio decking power-washed, house clearance, rubbish removal. Call Jonathon: **07423 325192** for free quote

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**LAKE DISTRICT HOLIDAY LET**  
A well-appointed and equipped 2 bedroom apartment in Bowness with parking and garage. Offering a balcony with views of Lake Windermere. **www.swallowsrest.org** For more information call **07719 966990**; email **info@swallowsrest.org**

**To advertise in CRUX contact:**  
Simon Ambrose, **0161 828 1410**  
**sambrose@manchester.anglican.org**

The copy deadline is the **first of the month** prior to publication. Payment is in advance. Small ads cost 50p per word (maximum 40 words) plus VAT.

**Editorial:**  
All editorial items to Ann Mummery, **0161 828 1470**  
**amummery@manchester.anglican.org**

To order CRUX or amend your order:  
**John Golding**  
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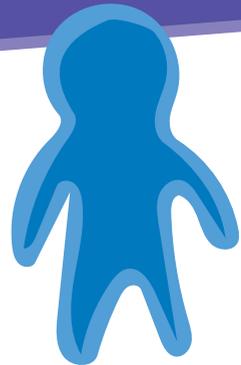
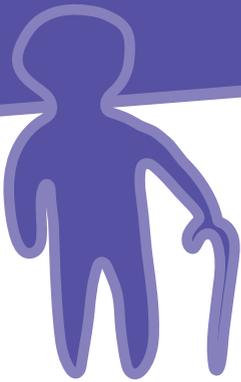
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The  
**BIG**  
Church Survey



A **BIG** snapshot leading  
to a **BIG** conversation...  
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