

Readers Summer Bulletin

No 12 - July 2016



Summer Greetings

This is my third Summer Bulletin since I was appointed as your Warden. As always in my bulletins I state what a real privilege it is for me to represent, support and walk alongside my fellow Readers in our shared calling to this distinct ministry.

Since my last Bulletin in January the **Reader Taster Sessions** have proved once again to be popular attracting many people from across our Diocese. There were two events held, which led to a number of candidates being interviewed. The following candidates were approved by Bishop Richard and will commence their training in September:

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| Nicola Archer - Walton Breck, | Deborah Ball - Walton Breck, |
| David Barker - UpHolland, | Ann Campbell - Grassendale |
| Wendy Clarke - Childwall, | Sharon Collins - Widnes, |
| Joy Gambardella - Fazackerley | Rita Hayes - Grassendale |
| Pamela Morris - Banks | Justus Nadar - Huyton |
| Steven Shuttleworth - Widnes. | |

Please remember them in your prayers as they embark on their new journey.

Following the **Reader Special Committee Meeting** in January, I published the outcomes on the Readers website. This special meeting reorganised its approach to our work and appointed two working groups. One to review communications with Readers and the second group to review our approach to recruitment and selection. Both groups are due to report back to our September meeting. This reorganisation was in response to the committee considering a number of Diocesan Strategic Initiatives and how this 'army' of Readers are in a position to respond to Bishop Paul's call to Mission and ensure that we are fit to undertake this work.

The **Summer Study Evenings** have taken place and we thank, once again, Rev Canon Rod Garner for his continued involvement in organising and facilitating these evenings. How timely the sessions were as we considered the changing, dangerous and challenging world of St Augustine and his response. The feedback from the three evenings is currently being evaluated but early indications are that they were a success once again. All three evenings were very well attended and all concluded for the first time with a service of Night Prayer (Compline). I am grateful to Bishop Richard for agreeing to reduce the number of evenings to three in recognition of the demands placed on Readers at this time.

Clearly the major event of the year for Readers was the celebration service in All Hallows London to commemorate **150 years of Reader Ministry. This achievement will be celebrated at this year's Licencing Service which follows the AGM on the 24th September.**

Readers Summer Bulletin continued

During this year there has been much progress made on producing guidance and support for churches seeking to improve their support to **Dementia issues** and in addition producing guidance on **Mental Health for Licensed and Ordained Ministries**. Over the next few weeks I will be publishing a short advice note for Readers on dementia support. There will be a launch in early October of the Diocesan Mental Health Guidance Initiative.

Finally preparations are underway for the **Bishop of Warrington's Reader Conference to be held 20th November 2016 at the Select Stadium Widnes**. Guest Speaker/Facilitator on the theme of 'Discipleship' is Rev Canon Paul Rattigan from Liverpool Cathedral. This is another speaker/event not to be missed!!!!

Please remember to access the Reader webpage on the Diocesan website. It contains the details of our discussions at Reader committee as well as an events page and other information.

I would like to thank Bishop Richard and Wendy Pooley for their continued support.

A prayer to remember why and where God has placed us in His creation:

*God of love, show us our place in this world
as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.*

*Enlighten those who possess power and money
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
that they may love the common good, advance the weak,
and care for this world in which we live.
The poor and the earth are crying out.*

*O Lord, seize us with your power and light,
help us to protect all life,
to prepare for a better future,
for the coming of your Kingdom
of justice, peace, love and beauty.
Praise be to you!*

Amen. (Pope Francis)

I thank you for your continued prayers, encouragement and support as I continue to be your humble servant in Christ.

God bless

Spem Webster, Warden of Readers