

From the Warden of Readers

I must admit I am a bit of a chocaholic. It has to come with a 'health' warning though, it must be milk chocolate, not dark, it must not have too much cocoa solid or it has the wrong effect on me. All of this seems a bit odd, but we are just about to celebrate the fantastic season of Easter, any excuse for some more chocolate. But Easter is not just simply about chocolate it has at its heart the glories of the risen Lord. After the triumphal scene of Palm Sunday, we travel through Holy week to the sweat and agony of Good Friday to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord on Easter Day, Alleluia! He is Risen! It is this message of the Easter Story that we shall be sharing with members of our Community this Easter. As Churches Together in Standish we take an Easter egg out, offering the times of our services, but essentially a copy of the Easter story. It is written cartoon style but is an essential and accessible read of the most important event in our lives as Christians. It always amazes me how quickly the Easter egg is taken, but how much slower it seems the message is received. But the message for all of us at this time of the year is to express what we believe as fellow disciples that Jesus rose for you and me. However, you celebrate this Easter may it be a time of great celebration and may your joy reflect what Christ has done for you and me. Alleluia!

Thank you to all those who supported our recent training day at Whalley Abbey. Led by Canon Rowena Pailing we shared something of preaching the 'thorny' issues we face in our daily lives and ministries. Rowena really inspired us to think through the issues the Church faces today. We were wonderfully cared for at Whalley Abbey and our sincere thanks to all those who made the day a great success.

Our Reader Selection Day this year is Saturday 8th June. Is there someone you would like to encourage to Reader Ministry? Do pray for the vocations team currently helping those discerning a call to licensed ministry in our Diocese. If you would like to be in touch, please do to discuss whom you might be discerning to Reader ministry.

In September we look forward to a visit from a group of colleagues coming from our link Diocese of Braunschweig. They will be with us from Monday 16th September – Friday 20th September. They will be staying at Whalley Abbey and taking the opportunity whilst with us to look at some of the exciting areas of ministry in Blackpool, Preston and Lower Darwen. We are hoping to plan an informal evening, tickets will be available for this, on one of the evenings during their stay so that we can come together and share. My thanks go at this stage to Margaret Ives for helping to plan and be our wonderful link officer with our colleagues in Braunschweig.

Our Admission and Licensing of our new Readers this year will take place on Sunday 22nd September 3.00pm at which Bishop Jill will Preside and Preach.

As we come to celebrate Easter thank you for your gift of ministry in the places where you serve. Thank you for your encouragement of others in their call to ministry. In this time of growing disciples in our Diocese who are you prompted to encourage to be a Reader?

With prayerful best wishes in this Easter season,

Andrew