



THE PASTORAL ASSISTANTS

THE
DIOCESE
OF
BLACKBURN

DB PA

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2018

A QUIET DAY FOR ALL
PASTORAL ASSISTANTS

Friday 19th October

St Wilfrid's Church, Riverside, Ribchester, PR3 3XS

10am coffee – 3pm

Or

Saturday 20th October

Tabor Centre, 169 Sharoe Green Lane, Fulwood,

Preston, PR2 8HE

10am coffee – 3pm

Mandy Stanton, Discipleship & Lay Ministry Development Officer, Diocesan Offices, Clayton House, Walker Office Park, Blackburn BB1 2QE

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**FROM THE WARDEN OF PASTORAL ASSISTANTS,
MRS MANDY STANTON**

Dear Colleagues,

I wonder how many of you watched the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex – Harry and Meghan – in May? Of course, there was a lot of comment on the dress, the music and the family dynamics, but I was struck as well by the level of interest on social media and by the newspapers and television commentators in Bishop Michael Curry's talk. Although some religious professionals were critical of the Bishop's theology (and others complained about the length of his talk), many people were bowled over by his passion, his enthusiasm, and his positive message. Ed Miliband, for example, commented that Michael Curry 'could almost make me a believer' (@Ed_Miliband on Twitter, 19th May).

The key message of the speech (not, technically a sermon) was, of course, what MP David Lammy referred to as 'the redemptive power of love' (@DavidLammy on Twitter, 19th May). The Bishop invited his listeners to imagine a world 'where love is the way'; the difference this would make to our homes and families, our communities, governments, business and commerce.

I believe that what motivates many Pastoral Assistants and Pastoral Visitors is the desire to share God's love and Christ's compassion with others in ways that make a difference in our churches and in our communities. But to do that, we need to be in tune with what God wants for us and for other people, and part of that is being connected to God through prayer.

We are offering two dates for our next Quiet Day, as we know that not everyone is available on Saturdays. The Quiet Days will be held on Friday 19th October at St Wilfrid's Church, Ribchester and Saturday 20th October at Tabor Centre, Fulwood (we will make sure we send directions to people who book, after some people had problems finding our last venue!) The Quiet Days will be led by the Revd Canon Patricia Impey, and will explore ways of prayer using all our senses. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Thank you to those who attended the March training days on supporting relationships. The resource sheet has been put up on the PA page of the Diocesan website, so if anyone is looking for helpful organisations to support marriage and

close relationships, please do take a look. The books on the resource sheet are available to look at in the library at Clayton House – please do contact me or Rosie if you would like to look at them.

Mandy Stanton

PA TRAINING MORNINGS

The Autumn Quiet Days will be held on Friday 19th October at St Wilfrid's Church, Ribchester and Saturday 20th October at Tabor Centre, Fulwood. There is limited parking next to St Wilfrid's so if for medical reasons you need a close space, please indicate so on the booking form. There is plenty of parking in the village car park which is just 5 minutes' walk away. Please note that these Quiet Days will be making use of our senses, including taste, so if you have any allergies please let us know. Please bring your own packed lunch.

The Training Mornings will be led by Revd Canon Patricia Impey.

PASTORAL ASSISTANT EMERITUS/RETIRED

Janet Edwards from St Mark, Dolphinholme has retired her role as Pastoral Assistant after eight years of service. John Tempest from St Anne's, Shevington has retired his role as Pastoral Assistant after 22 years of service.

If you would be willing to receive general updates and the PA newsletter by email to save on paper usage and postage, please can you let Rosie Strachan know. You can do this by emailing her on rosie.strachan@blackburn.anglican.org or by including your email address on the booking form for the Training Day.

A full list of Chaplains and their contact details can be found below:

Accrington

Revd. Lawrence Carson-Featham
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01254 233763

Blackburn with Darwen

Revd. Andrew Horsfall
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Blackpool

Revd. Deborah Prest
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Burnley

Vacant

Chorley

Vacant

Garstang

Vacant

Lancaster & Morecambe

Vacant

Leyland

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Pendle

Vacant

Poulton

Vacant

Preston

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