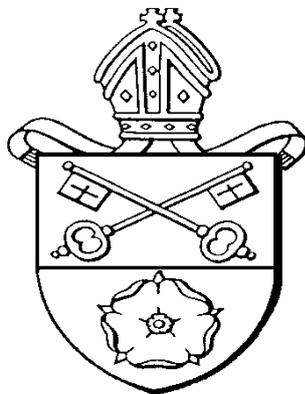




DIOCESE OF BLACKBURN
READERS' NEWSLETTER
AUTUMN 2016



What's Where in this Newsletter

Diary dates	page 3
Wardens' letters and introductions	page 4
Secretary's Report	page 10
CMD Report and future events	page 12
Reports on Diocesan events	page 14
Further Reports and Reflections	page 22
Book Reviews	page 30
In Memoriam	page 35
Deanery Reports	page 37
Deanery Secretaries and Chaplains	page 38

Dates for your Diary

Times and venues to be confirmed later unless given below.

Saturday October 8th Autumn Conference and Licensing
at St Paul's, Scotforth, Lancaster

Sunday December 11th Return of Annual Report forms

2017

Saturday March 4th Lent Quiet Day at St Wilfrid, Standish

Saturday May 13th Day Conference

Monday September 11th Evening

Saturday October 21st Triennial Relicensing at the Cathedral

2018

Fri 2nd to Sun 4th March Residential weekend at Scargill House

Monday June 11th Evening

Wed September 12th Evening

Saturday October 13th Autumn Conference and Licensing
at St John, Baxenden

From the Warden of Readers:

It is a little over a month since my Licensing at the Cathedral during that magnificent service to celebrate 150 years of Reader Ministry in the Church of England, it was a privilege to preach at such a special service.

During the service I was aware that, since my ordination as a Deacon, at every Church I have served there has been a Reader. On being made a Deacon and serving my 'title' in a parish in Blackpool I learnt as much from our Reader as I did from my training Incumbent. Consequently I feel very privileged to have been asked to become Warden of Readers for the Diocese of Blackburn.

So who is Andrew? I was born in 1962, living in various parts of the country until I settled in London where I worked until I discerned a calling to the priesthood and left to go to theological college in Oxford. On choosing a 'title parish' in Blackpool my ordained ministry began, as did my ministry in the Diocese of Blackburn.

From Blackpool I moved to Poulton-le-Fylde, and there I met my wife Vanessa. Vanessa is a civil servant, a keen cricketer, playing for Lancashire until retiring as a player to become a coach and now a scorer for Yorkshire and England. From Poulton I moved to St James, Leyland, marrying Vanessa in the October after I had moved in the previous June. We spent a formative period there, but then felt called to St Peter, Darwen. It was some five years ago that I left Darwen to move to Standish to become its Rector.

Along the way my interests in church architecture, the sacred spaces that we are all familiar with and which are our biggest tangible sign of mission and outreach in every community, meant that my love of the Churches of the Diocese and beyond grew and this led me to being appointed Vice-Chairman of the DAC. This is the advisory Group serving the parishes of the Diocese as they seek to care for and maintain our church buildings.

In the last couple of months, I have become aware of the great contribution that Mandy Stanton has made as my immediate predecessor as Warden. Things have not stood still in her care of you, and I personally would like to record my thanks for the fantastic contribution she has made to the life and witness of Readers in our Diocese.

Ministry is constantly evolving as we seek to discern what God is asking of us now. I think that we are being asked to recapture the distinctive ministry that Readers contribute to the life and mission of the Church. In the coming months, working with colleagues, the Readers' Executive (I hope that instead of 'Executive' we shall now use the word 'Forum'), with you as Readers the length and breadth of our Diocese, and with the outcomes of our forthcoming Diocesan Mission, I trust that we shall place Reader Ministry at the very heart of ministry in the Diocese.

We are, I would suggest, at the cusp of an exciting time to be Church for our generation and for those who follow us. It is with that in mind that I would like to suggest a couple of priorities for the next twelve months. Firstly, as I get to know you, and you me, we take time to reflect on what is distinctive about the ministry we are offering. This may be reflected in the parish in which we are serving, or the ministry we are involved in through our place of work, or where we seek to serve in the wider community in which we live.

The second priority is to encourage the call to Reader ministry. Who do you think is being called in your local context to this exciting ministry? We need to be building up the call to the vocation of Reader ministry in our Parishes – when was the last time you discussed it at a PCC or at a Church gathering, on those occasions in which we are able to share what your ministry brings the whole Church?

In October at the Autumn Conference and Licensing, we shall meet to study and share together.

I do hope you will make this day a priority so that we can celebrate together. I hope there will be some time and space to share something of what we are doing to build up Reader ministry in the Diocese.

Do please pray for one another, pray for me as I pray for you in the ministry to which God has called us, and pray especially for those who will be Licensed by Bishop Philip in October.

With love and prayers,
Andrew Holliday

From the former Warden of Readers:

Living Discipleship

Dear colleagues,

This is my final 'official' letter in the newsletter. Most, if not all, of you already know that the role of Warden of Readers has been taken up by the Revd Canon Andrew Holliday, who was licensed at the service at Blackburn Cathedral on 19th June which celebrated the 150th anniversary of Reader ministry, and who has introduced himself in this Newsletter.

I am not going anywhere! I remain a Reader and a full-time employee of Blackburn Diocese, but was asked to step aside from the Warden's role in order to free up some of my time and energy to encourage a greater emphasis on discipleship within the Diocese. I am sure that Andrew will be an excellent Warden – I wish him well, and will try not to get under his feet too much...

Encouraging discipleship is a cause close to my heart: some of my greatest joys in ministry have been helping people to explore their faith, come to a new understanding of what God's presence can mean to them, discover their gifts and explore new forms of service. This is not just a matter of 'doing a course', although there are some very helpful published resources.

Living discipleship requires knowledge of the heart as well as the mind, affecting the way we live, how we practice our faith, and how we can be a Christian presence in our workplaces, our homes and our communities.

One of the challenges is working out how much people can do and need to do for themselves, and what support can most usefully be offered at parish/benefice and Diocesan level.

A recent report by Simon Foster for the St Peter's Saltley Trust (free download available on <http://www.saltleytrust.org.uk/publications/>) suggests that many individual Christians are highly self-motivated, but also feel quite guilty, mostly blaming themselves when they feel they are not growing in discipleship as much as they think they should.

There are lots of things which churches can do that help people to grow in faith – not just running courses, but providing engaging worship and preaching, encouraging spiritual practices, and providing opportunities for developing leadership and practical service.

I know that many Readers help with these activities, and I hope that you will also look out for individuals in your churches who might be looking for their next step in their journey of faith, to encourage and support them. Ideas for resources will shortly be appearing on the Diocesan website, if they are not already there by the time this appears – but I am very happy to talk to Readers or clergy about what might best suit your church's specific needs, or to come out to discuss this with PCCs or other groups, if this would be helpful.

I have enjoyed my time as Warden of Readers, and I am sure that Reader ministry in Blackburn Diocese will continue to grow and to thrive. Thank you for all your help and support over the last three years. I look forward to seeing many of you at Diocesan Reader events in the future.

Mandy Stanton

And introducing our two Deputy Wardens:

Ruth Haldane (*St James, Clitheroe*)

I was brought up in Cambuslang, Glasgow, and lived in Edinburgh for seventeen years after going to university there. I married Graham, and had three children, Chris, Jon and Ben. We moved to Godmanchester in Cambridgeshire, living there for nineteen years, before moving to Clitheroe four years ago. My family is of the utmost importance to me and, sadly, in 2008 Jon died tragically whilst at university. It's a great joy, however, to have our grandchildren, Zoe and Erin, Chris and Anna's children.

I have been a Christian since I was a child and have had the privilege of being involved in church, and growing as a Christian, in many different ways. Whilst in Cambridgeshire, I administered a Bible College and was very involved in school governing as well. My passion is to preach and teach and this was fulfilled through church leadership and the senior role I held in social housing.

I have a heart to reach out to those in the community who cannot speak up for themselves, to the poor and needy. For the last three years I have managed the Ribble Valley Foodbank and have a wonderful team of 75 volunteers who work with me to reach out with God's love to those around us in crisis. I also work very closely with the CAP Centre based at St James.

Since moving to Clitheroe, I have trained as a Reader and have become part of the leadership team at St James. It has been great to be more involved in the Diocese as a Vision Champion and now as Deputy Warden of Readers for Blackburn Archdeaconry. I look forward to getting to know and to support other Readers and to being a part of the church turning outward to our communities, to see lives changed and people come to faith in Jesus Christ.

Elizabeth Swarbrick (*St Thomas, Garstang*)

Being Licensed as a Reader in 2007 was not only a milestone in my life but the start of a new journey. In my working life, as a midwife and midwife teacher both in this country and in Uganda, and then as matron of St. Catherine's, Lostock Hall, from its birth until it was a teenager (!), becoming a Reader was another challenge. I had been involved in church life, as a Mission Partner with CMS, as a choir member, study group leader, and the hundred and one things there were to do, but now it was a more official role with different responsibilities and opportunities.

I have really enjoyed the challenges of these years. The discipline of the Lectionary has enabled me to learn so much more about the books of the Bible, and the freedom to serve God in new and different ways is a blessing. It is amazing how many people take time to discuss things about their lives, to share both joys and sorrows and to pray. One of the lovely things is taking Communion to those who are now resident in Care/Nursing Homes.

This has given me a different view on life, time to reflect with them on the years they have enjoyed and time to be part of a new ministry in their own lives. I had the joy of preparing a 90 year old for confirmation - she wanted to be 'complete before I meet my God'. There have also been opportunities to be with those who are reaching the end of their journey and to pray with them and their families. When I look around and see the number of years of praying, loving and caring represented in those times of being together in Christ, I feel overwhelmed at the greatness of God and his love.

I also continue my involvement with the church in Uganda and during the time I have been a Reader I have had the tremendous privilege of being able to edit the memoirs of a very special, brave and holy man, Bishop Geresom Ilukor, who held his people in an amazing way through the difficulties of the Amin regime and the ensuing Civil War in eastern Uganda.

Now I have the privilege of being asked to be Deputy Warden of Readers for Lancaster Archdeaconry. I look forward to a new challenge, a new opportunity to meet so many Readers, and to all that we can learn and achieve together as we seek to be the Kingdom of God in Blackburn diocese.

From the Secretary:

2016 is an important and significant year for Reader ministry. A century and a half has passed since the office of Reader was re-established by a gathering of Bishops and Archbishops from England, Ireland and Wales at Lambeth Palace on Ascension Day, 10th May 1866.

There have been numerous celebrations. The CRC held a Festival Eucharist at All Souls' Church, Langham Place on Ascension Day (5th May) attended by the Patron, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. The Archbishop of York presided and The Rt Revd Robert Paterson, Chair of CRC, preached the sermon. Mandy Stanton and Bishop Geoff were present at the service.

The day festival *Follow 2016* at the De Montfort Hall, Leicester, on 16th July was billed as 'A gift from the CRC to the Church' and included first-rate speakers, inspiring worship and children's activities. Many more details of these events, including photographs, and also of the AGM at St Botolph's Without, Aldgate, attended by Margaret Ives, can be found on the CRC website, www.crc.readers.anglican.org.

Within our own diocese, the 150 year period has been duly acknowledged. There are currently monthly articles in *The See* involving our more photogenic Readers writing about their activities, with particular reference to mission. About seventy of our number, robed and in procession, were present at Choral Evensong in the Cathedral on 19th June when our ministry was celebrated.

You will have noticed changes within the Reader (Executive)/Forum on this newsletter's inside front cover. Our former Warden, Mandy, has moved to focus on discipleship within Vision 2026. Sincere thanks for three years of hard work on our behalf must go to Mandy who received gifts of appreciation from Canon Sue Penfold at the Cathedral service. The same occasion witnessed the Licensing of Mandy's successor, Canon Andrew Holliday, and the Commissioning of two Deputy Wardens, Ruth Haldane (Blackburn Archdeaconry) and Elizabeth Swarbrick (Lancaster Archdeaconry).

Reader selection panels were held at Clayton House on two dates in May and June. The five interviewees faced a full day and a procedure more rigorous than we have used previously. There were formal interviews, a pastoral exercise, a group work scenario and a practical demonstration of a simple (?) task with light-hearted audience-attempted repetition. With hindsight, the new format was considered to have been valuable, allowing as it did for a more extensive appraisal of the candidates' church backgrounds, temperaments, and grasp of the nature of Reader ministry.

Reader training now being under the auspices of All Saints Centre for Ministry & Mission, there has been a change in the tutoring arrangements. Canon Brenda Harding kindly offered to take up the post of Director of Studies for Blackburn temporarily, and we thank her for that. Now we are pleased to welcome Revd Matthew Allen (Accrington, Christ Church) who has replaced her in this important role.

As usual, the annual Reader Report Form (Advent 2015–Advent 2016) for those licensed and with PTO is enclosed with the newsletter. More than once in these columns, I have detailed the reasons why it is important that there should be a full return of these forms. Last year about sixty forms were not returned, a poor reflection on commitment and a willingness to fulfil an obligation of the Bishop's regulations. You will see that the requested do-by date is 11th December. I know that some of you are pleased to receive the form online; I will respond quickly to an email asking for this.

Almost seven years have passed since Dr Ann Dawson offered to take on the editorship of our newsletter for, as she thought, a short time prior to a longer term replacement. Ann has now made known her wish to retire from the position of editor. We have a great deal for which to give her our thanks. Ann has worked hard on the production side of our twice-yearly publication, encouraging contributions at every opportunity and expanding its content in respect of articles of interest, book reviews and knowledgeable obituaries. Over time, prior to distribution, Ann and I (and Mrs M) have fine-tuned Newsletter printing, packaging and enveloping to an art form. Ann's service will rightly be recognised at the Autumn conference. There remains, of course, the matter of a successor - could it be you?

Our congratulations and prayers for their future ministries go to three former Readers. At the recent Petertide ceremonies, Hannah Boyd (Layton and Staining) and Gary Bullock (Heapey, St Barnabas & Withnell, St Paul) were ordained Deacon, and Revd Carolyn Leitch (Poulton, Carleton & Singleton) was ordained Priest. I am also aware that Angela Lee (Ribby cum Wrea and Weeton, St Michael) will soon have completed 25 years as a Reader – well done!

It is good to know that arrangements for the Admission and Licensing Service at Lancaster St Paul Scotforth on 8th October are well in hand. All being well, Grace Donhue will be licensed in her own church. I look forward to seeing many of you at this event.

R.I.P. Carol Ann Walker

David Matthews

CMD Report

There has just been one event specifically for Readers since my last letter. In March we held a residential weekend at Whalley Abbey. About 13 Readers were residential and were joined by 35 others for the Saturday.

Whalley were very welcoming in spite of the flooding which meant that four of the bedrooms were unavailable and which also meant that the teaching space had to double as eating space. Many thanks to the staff there, who were willing to move equipment to accommodate us.

Revd Kate Bruce from Durham was our speaker on 'Preaching with Imagination'. Kate gave us examples of how we can vary our preaching to paint pictures, to draw people in, and to encourage them to think differently about how they see a particular Bible passage. Her talks were informative and full of ideas, not all of which would need access to anything such as projectors. Kate then put into practice what she had been saying by preaching at the Eucharist on Sunday morning.

The feedback has been overwhelmingly enthusiastic and positive about Kate's style and ideas. Several comments were about how Kate had made them rethink their preaching style. One Reader commented that they thought it was the best weekend they had attended. Another that they had come with high expectations, which were exceeded. And another that they felt challenged and inspired.

Many thanks to everyone who was involved in the weekend whether in planning, organization, as participant or leading worship. Special thanks to Kate for leading an excellent weekend and coping with all my emails. My particular thanks to Rosie in the office who somehow kept track of all the replies and of who was attending.

Our next residential weekend will be Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th March 2018, at Scargill House. More details later, but please put this date in your diaries.

The Readers' Autumn Conference and Licensing will take place on Saturday, 8th October at St Paul's Scotforth. A flyer is enclosed with this mailing. Andrew Holliday and Dave Champness will be our morning speakers. Bishop Philip will join us for lunch and then be our afternoon speaker, before conducting the Licensing.

The theme is 'Vision 2026: Who on earth is going to do it?', looking especially at how Readers can and will be involved.

Andrew and I have been putting together a programme of events for Readers over the next two years, up to and including the Autumn Conference and Licensing in October 2018. There is a list of dates and of confirmed venues on page 3 of this newsletter. We have tried to vary the events and timings to enable as many Readers as possible to attend. More details will follow nearer to the times but please put these dates in your diary.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to all events. If there is some training you feel should be provided, or ideas or themes for future events, then please include this on your report form.

Patricia Wilkinson

Durham Preaching Conference
The Craft of Preaching
September 17th, 9.30am – 3.45pm, at St John's College,
3, South Bailey, Durham, DH1 3RJ
£25 including refreshments and a light lunch

Contributors include David Wilkinson, Geoffrey Stevenson,
Kate Bruce and David Day.

To secure a place contact Sue Hobson on 0191 334 3877
Payment by card over the phone or by cheque.
Parking in the Prince Bishops car park

Reports on Diocesan Events

'Igniting the Heart': Preaching and Imagination: Revd Dr Kate Bruce

I came to this weekend with high expectations, from reading Kate's book of the same name: I left with my expectations surpassed. It was a great weekend – hard work, but stimulating and rewarding.

First, a word of thanks to our Reader organisers and the Whalley staff: the recovery from flooding must have been hard work, and we were left uncertain we would be there until close to the weekend, but the rooms at the main level were, as ever, immaculate, and the chapel (and kitchens) had been restored to complete cleanness. Also, the programme was well planned so that Saturday attenders got a good deal, while those of us who were there for the weekend felt the Friday starter session and the Sunday morning were really helpful.

Friday night gave us **Dipping our toes in**. We considered what we might get from the weekend – and were asked the question about our preaching: What is God saying through me? Kate gave us three texts to ponder: Isaiah 50:4-5: Attentive; Luke 15.8-10: Imaginative; 2 Timothy 4.1-5: Resilient. An excellent dinner and Compline followed.

Saturday morning, after a remarkably full breakfast and greeting our day conferees, Kate launched us into **Exploring the Deeps: What do we mean by 'Imagination'**? She gave us four functions of imagination: sensory, intuitive, affective and intellectual. Two ideas inside the first function sparked off further thought: *Walking the landscape of scripture*, and *Wandering the malls of contemporary culture*. This section was illustrated by a sermon on Ezekiel 37 (the dry bones).

After coffee, we moved to **Hallmarks of Imaginative Preaching**. This started with Sensory appeal 'getting the text off the page.' How can we use sight, touch, smell, taste and sound to help our congregations connect with the text? This was illustrated by an Advent sermon on Matthew 3.1-2, contrasting John the baptizer with Christmas goodies. We went on to think about images, instances and illustrations. Then into 'Shaping intuitive connections' where the preacher can use phrases or references that nod to other parts of Scripture or to current culture (like adding harmony to a unison line of song). Possibly leaving a pause towards the end of a sermon allows people to think what the text and the sermon have done for them.

We also thought about 'imaginative delivery': use of space, wearing something different, your movement, use of direction of look (for example, if dramatising a dialogue). And only then lunch – soup and sandwiches.

The afternoon took us further in with **Setting the Imagination Free**. This started with the serious warning: whatever you do with a text do the spadework! That's all the reading round, perhaps using Ignatian meditation on the text, setting it in context, using commentaries.

Then Kate gave us a huge range of possibilities – including dramatic monologue, retelling the story in modern words, extending the story (*What did they say to each other as they rushed back from Emmaus to Jerusalem?*), pictures, film clips, snatches of song or hymns, a running tag line or repetition of a phrase. Kate illustrated this with a dramatic monologue for Mary Magdalene.

Some ideas will work for some preachers and congregations, some for others. I don't think mine would take kindly to a planted heckler! - though they have reacted positively to me assuming a character from the set text.

After a tea-break, we continued with **Taking the text with total imaginative seriousness**. Here Kate encouraged us to try an Ignatian approach to the text. For those like me, who aren't strong on sensing, she suggested visualising a sequence of images, like a news photo montage, to summarise what is happening. We tried this with Isaiah 6.1-13, and then Luke 5.1-11. After farewells to the day attenders, we relaxed with dinner, a quiet quiz, and Compline.

Sunday dawned with morning prayer, another excellent breakfast, and then **Diving into the deeps**. We studied, alone and together, the text for the Lent 4 gospel, the parable of the Prodigal Son. A huge variety of ideas appeared and bounced off each other. It was a great summation of the weekend, and an even better preparation for Kate's sermon on this passage in the late morning Eucharist.

She used a short modern story before the gospel – and then riffed on this and the text in a most challenging way. An excellent lunch closed the weekend and we thanked her with deep gratitude.

Ian Wells (*Holy Trinity, Tarleton*)

Readers' visit to Goslar, 30th May to 3rd June 2016

Six Readers from the Diocese assembled at Manchester Airport on Monday 30th May, only to be told that Amsterdam airport had been closed because of thunderstorms and our flight would have to be re-routed. We were transferred to a British Airways flight to Heathrow, where we had to wait for 7 hours before boarding an evening flight to Hanover. Fortunately, thanks to Judith Addison, we were able to send messages via iPad to our hosts in Braunschweig, who very kindly arranged hotel accommodation for us at Hanover Airport, where we eventually arrived at 00.15 am.

This was not the best of starts to our visit, but we had all recovered sufficiently by the next morning to be ready to travel on to Goslar when our hosts arrived at the hotel to pick us up with their minibus. The sun shone brilliantly as we entered Goslar by the Medieval gate with its twin towers, and we were soon ensconced in a café on the Market Square for a refreshing drink while we re-arranged our programme.

After lunch in a near-by restaurant, we then proceeded to the village of Liebenburg to meet the artist Gerd Winner who has had many commissions from Braunschweig cathedral and who showed us round his studio in the Baroque chateau which is now his home. We felt it a great privilege to learn about his methods and see some of his religious paintings and sculptures and then to hold our Evening Worship in the chateau's own chapel. Joyce Willacy led this service, which included a beautiful meditation on the uniqueness of each individual stone which we were asked to take from a basket she handed round.

We were then the guests of Pfarrer Glufke and his wife, Pradikantin Glufke, who minister at the 700 year old Liebenburg church. They had prepared a wonderful barbecue for us in the vicarage garden, which went ahead despite threatening dark clouds. We eventually had to retreat indoors, but the thunder held off until after the second round of sausages and burgers accompanied by various salads.

Our second day was spent in Goslar itself although, unfortunately, we had to forego our guided walk round the town because of time constraints. Our Lutheran hosts led Morning Worship in the main church, the Marktkirche, where we were treated to a magnificent recital by the organist Herr Gerald de Vries on the recently installed new organ. Landesbischof Dr Meyns then met us and talked to us about the work of the Pradikanten and Lektoren in the Landeskirche Braunschweig and the vital rôle they play. He is greatly looking forward to his visit to Blackburn later this year and also to a walking holiday in the Lake District.

After this we found our way to Oker, on the other side of the railway line, where Pradikant and Pradikantin Herr and Frau Bengsch run an International Café in their parish, cooking a three course midday meal twice a week for asylum seekers and refugees and on this occasion doing the same for us (asparagus soup, white asparagus with ham, strawberries and cream, these items being currently in season).

Then it was back to Goslar for a tour of the Rammelsberg ore mine, now closed, but preserved as a cultural heritage. Here, after donning hard hats, we had a really excellent English speaking guide who showed us first of all the changing rooms where the miners had to put on their waterproof clothing and then led us into the cage to descend down the shaft to the wagons waiting to take us to the work face. We astonished the Germans at this point by singing 'Heigh-ho, heigh-ho, it's off to work we go' and we were equally astonished that they did not seem to know the Disney version of Snow White and the Seven Dwarves.

At the work face the guide explained how the chisel, shovel and pick were indeed used to extract the ores (zinc, lead, copper and some silver) which had formerly made Goslar so rich.

Emerging safely from the mine, we next went to the Clauskapelle in the Frankenberg district, where the miners used to pray every morning before starting their shifts and where today there is a memorial book listing the names of all those who had perished in mining accidents. Blackburn Readers had again been asked to conduct Evening Worship and Margaret Ives led a short service of Celtic prayer.

The main church in the Frankenberg district is that of St Peter and St Paul, beautifully situated in the grounds of a former monastery which in earlier times had also run a hospice for the care of the sick and elderly and which is now the Gemeindehalle or church hall. After our evening meal here we had an exchange of views with the Goslar Lektoren and Pradikanten, led by Dr. Steinmann, about how to further the Meissen agreement between the Anglican and Lutheran churches and, in particular, their licensed lay ministries.

The next day was to have been a day of pilgrimage along the new Harzer Klosterwanderweg, visiting several former monasteries and sacred sites. Unfortunately, a violent thunderstorm in the morning followed by heavy rain rendered this impractical and 'Plan B' had to be put into action. Herr Pfarrer and Frau Pfarrerin Lundbeck, who were to have been our leaders, produced a video they had made on a previous occasion, so we crowded into their vicarage and had a 'virtual' experience, stopping at the places where we should have stopped for prayer, meditation, and pilgrim songs.

Obviously, this did not take as long as the real walk and this then gave us the opportunity to fit in a visit to the Marktkirche library which had had to be cancelled earlier in the week because of our late arrival. The retired area dean, Herr Helmut Liersch, is now making a new catalogue of this fascinating collection of incunabula and early Reformation books, many of them with hand-written annotations showing how their readers had grappled with the new theology.

Herr Liersch produced volume after volume for our inspection and we could have listened to him for hours, gaining many new insights into Reformation history.

As the weather had gradually improved our hosts decided to organise a fleet of cars to take us to Woltingerode, at the end of the pilgrim trail, where a farewell evening meal had been booked for us in a local restaurant. The former monastery at Woltingerode, now a luxury hotel and spa, was famous for its special brandy, and although the religious orders have now gone, the brandy production remains, a local speciality known as 'Wolti'. So, of course, we had to sample it - it goes very well with Spargel (asparagus), again one of the main items on the restaurant menu.

Although we only had three full days in Goslar, returning to Manchester on 3rd June, we all felt that it had been a very successful visit, during which we learnt so much about the history of the Lutheran church and its role and work in Germany today. Our Goslar hosts were remarkably generous in their hospitality and I hope we can repay them in some way at some time in the future.

We would also like to thank the Diocese for giving a small subsidy in support of this visit, which has assuredly strengthened our partnership with the Landeskirche Braunschweig and contributed to mutual understanding.

Margaret Ives (*St Paul, Scotforth*)

As someone who had not taken part in an exchange programme since my school days some twenty five years ago, it was with some trepidation that I decided to go to Goslar. As Margaret has covered the places we visited, I will write about what I have taken away from the experience.

I only had a brief acquaintance with one of the other Readers who was going but I discovered that this did not matter a bit, nor did the fact that I was considerably younger than the others.

What I found was a group of people who also had a love of Christ and his church, and this was also the case with our German hosts.

I was hosted with another Blackburn Reader with a lady who called herself a farmer's wife - she was far from that! She worked in a bank, was a mother and was a Reader in rural parishes.

She showed us her home church and described what went on there, such as her idea of having cake and film nights which were a way of reaching out to those who would otherwise have another TV evening alone. She spoke about the Saturday morning youth groups, which were packed, and her enthusiasm for her ministry was infectious.

She even asked our advice on attire in church as the Lutheran Church has no official dress for their 'Readers'- she wore a suit with a scarf draped over her shoulder in the appropriate liturgical colour with a matching wallet for her sermon. What I found interesting was that she showed us where she sat in the congregation and then said she went out to preach and then back as she felt she was part of the congregation, which is in contrast to the situation of robing each week which many Readers do.

Our host was actually a Scoto-phile, if such a term exists, and was well acquainted with English culture. She was a keen observer of human nature and our conversations on the journeys between Goslar and her home were full of laughter.

One of our German counterparts said of our group that we had joy. He said that he was quite a serious person but enjoyed our company. I certainly enjoyed the company of my fellow Blackburn Readers and our hosts. I was reminded that we are part of a large family and that we are all brothers and sisters in Christ.

Jocelyn Merris (*St David, Fleetwood*)

Further Reports and Reflections

Time aside with God

What a privilege to spend a week worshipping God, meditating on his Word and working with him on a very personal level. A week at Harnhill Christian Centre of Healing in Gloucestershire on one of their Healing Retreats is just that. The Centre began life in 1986 following a conversation between the owner Robert Henley and local Anglican vicar, Canon Arthur Dodds. It is based in a 16th century manor house in the Cotswold countryside about 3 miles from Cirencester.

The manor house has the visitor accommodation, including lounge, dining room and bookshop, whilst a converted barn nearby contains a main room accommodating up to 150 people and equipped with multimedia facilities, small counselling/prayer rooms, and a refectory. There are large grounds and lovely peaceful gardens. Harnhill Parish Church is adjacent to the centre.

The centre has a residential team of six and brings in others from the outside team to help with the residential weeks. Throughout the week there are intercessors praying for all the activities and work of the centre. There is a time of prayer after breakfast each morning for all the residential staff and members of the outside team for that week. There are other teams praying for the individuals attending the healing week. In fact, every aspect of the work of the centre is supported and surrounded in prayer. Around 8,000 people visit the Centre each year through conferences, courses, healing services and residential stays.

In June, I spent a week there with seven other people from around the country, arriving on Monday afternoon and leaving after lunch on Friday. The whole week is structured and begins with a dinner on Monday followed by worship and details of the programme for the week. There is no TV or Wi-Fi and you are advised to switch off your phone after letting people know that you have arrived safely. Did I miss any of these present day means of communication? No! In fact it was a blessing to be without them for a week.

Before attending the Healing Week each person is asked to pray over issues in their lives and ask the Lord to reveal what he wants you to bring to him during this week aside with him. During the stay there is daily worship, different ways of meditating on Bible passages, teaching about different aspects of the healing ministry, two sessions of individual prayer ministry with two members of the trained prayer team and a mid-week healing service in which others from the local area attend. The week finishes on Friday with a Eucharist and the opportunity for prayer for healing is available in that service.

God was certainly at work in the centre during that week, and I received deep healing as I was open to and drew near to God. But healing is a process and I know God will continue to work in my life to bring further restoration until the time my journey here on earth is over and I return home to heaven to be constantly in his presence.

This was my third visit over the 30 year period the centre has been open. Each visit has been different as God dealt with different aspects of my life. This time he dealt with deep hurts and, because of it, I have taken a step forward on my Christian journey. I have come home refreshed and renewed to serve him in my Reader ministry in the Parish of Lytham St Cuthbert.

Whilst away, I read Canon Arthur Dodds book 'Desert Harvest' about his life and healing ministry leading to the setting up of the Harnhill Centre. There was one sentence in particular which captivated me: 'The western philosophy of materialism and scepticism was one of the most undermining factors in Christian faith and action including opposition to Christian healing.' I would go so far as to suggest that this continues to be the case today.

If you are interested in finding out more about the centre or attending a Healing Retreat details can be found at www.harnhillcentre.org.uk

David Chapman (*St Cuthbert, Lytham*)

Centenary of the Battle of the Somme, 1st July 2016

Visit to Accrington Pals' Memorial at Serre

'What is Accrington famous for?' people sometimes ask. Accrington Stanley? Accrington Brick? Or what about the 'Accrington Pals' – perhaps you've seen the 1981 play written by Peter Whelan which focuses mainly on the lives of the women and children left behind at home.

So, who were the 'Accrington Pals'? I'm sure you all know that during the First World War, when more soldiers were needed, General Kitchener formulated the idea of 'Pals' Battalions', in which men would serve alongside neighbours, friends and workmates from their own town – with the belief that this would promote a greater sense of camaraderie and encourage more men to join up.

The 11th (Service) Battalion (Accrington) East Lancashire Regiment was formed in this way, heavily promoted by the Mayor of Accrington, Captain John Harwood. It included men from the neighbouring towns of Burnley, Chorley and Blackburn. The recruits were inspired by a sense of adventure – a change from their mundane, poorly paid jobs in factories and mines. They were sure they would be home by Christmas with plenty of heroic tales to tell their loved ones back home.

Of course we know that wasn't true! On Saturday, 1st July 1916 at 7.20 am the first 'wave' of the Battalion 'went over the top'. The German soldiers mowed down the advancing lines of infantry with machine gun and rifle fire. Within 24 hours the battle for the hilltop fortress of Serre was over and from 720 Accrington Pals, 584 were killed, wounded or missing. Hardly a household or street in the Accrington area was untouched by bereavement, almost a whole generation of young men had been wiped out.

Prior to this year's Centenary visit, I had been three times to the World War One Battlefields with groups led by local historian Steve Williams of 'Chorley Remembers' and had laid wreaths at the Accrington Pals' Memorial at Serre.

The 2016 visit from Hyndburn Borough (Accrington and surrounding townships) was, however, going to be different as we would be there 100 years to the date and time when the Pals 'went over'. As a Borough Councillor and also licensed Reader, I was invited to lead part of the short Commemoration.

My Facebook blog for that day reads:

"When interviewed by Radio Lancashire early on Tuesday morning I was asked how I would feel to be actually on site at Serre on the Centenary of the Battle of the Somme. I'd already been thinking about this - I'd been to the Accrington Pals' Memorial three times before and laid wreaths, but this would be different. Visiting the World War One Battlefields isn't in any way a cause for sentimentality - far from it - our men died the most brutal and appalling deaths, as did those from other nations including 'the enemy'. Those German soldiers were also 'ordinary men' who had left behind parents, wives, sweethearts, children and friends, to fight for a cause that their government deemed to be right.

But what of the Accrington Pals and the men from other Pals' Battalions? In an age of duty and patriotism they had responded to the call of General Kitchener. We must all have seen the recruitment poster with the 'accusing' finger pointing – 'Your Country Needs You!' The Mayor of Accrington, Councillor John Harwood, had taken up the cause in our area and had resolved to recruit a battalion.

Who were these men, some teenagers, little more than boys, who responded to the call? Well, they weren't 'professional soldiers', they were young men, 'Lancashire lads', who wanted to do their part to defend their country. They worked in cotton mills, coal mines, and in textile engineering. They were poorly paid, living with their families in small terraced houses in Accrington and the surrounding district.

The wartime propaganda was such that they thought they were going off to a big adventure with their workmates and neighbours.

They were proud to 'take the King's shilling', after all, the War would be over very quickly and they would be home by Christmas, full of heroic tales to tell the loved ones they'd left behind at home. Alas, nothing could be further from the truth, as we all know. They were mercilessly butchered in the 'war to end all wars', again a misguided sentiment for the 'Great War' had only been over for 20 years when the Second World War broke out, just as brutal and devastating, with more sophisticated methods of warfare and a more widespread impact on civilians.

We left our hotel in rather sombre mood to gather for our Commemoration at Serre, which was to take place at exactly the same time as the lads 'went over the top' 100 years ago. Hyndburn Mayor, Councillor Tim O'Kane, and Mayoress Melanie Storey (Tim's sister) were our Civic Representatives. Our young Mascots, Emily-Rose Hughes (aged 9) from Accrington Royal British Legion and Luke Holmes (aged 6), wearing the uniform of the World War One re-enactment soldiers, seemed to take in the solemnity of the occasion as they laid their wreaths, watched by proud family members. It was a day I shall never forget as we paid tribute to those young men of our Hyndburn townships who gave their lives so that we could live in freedom.

If you were to travel through this region without knowing any of the background of the First World War, you would find an area of towns, villages and acres of agricultural land where French people carry on their normal lives involving family, work, school and community. I wondered how much awareness there was of the First World War, in particular the Battle of the Somme, especially among the youth of the early 21st century.

Arriving by arrangement at the brand new village hall in Puisieux, we were met by the local Mayor and his colleague the Mayor of Bapaume. The third local Mayor was also a teacher at the village school and spoke good English. She had been preparing the children and younger teenagers for our visit. They read out passages and poems, some in English, remembering the Accrington Pals who had fought and died in their area.

The main point of the visit was for the Mayor and Mayoress to formally hand over bound books prepared by Accrington's Walter Holmes to the local Mayors. The books were the result of years of painstaking research by Walter, who has continued the work of his colleague the late Bill Turner.

The books constitute a 'Roll of Honour' for the Accrington Pals, hopefully to be treasured and appreciated by the present inhabitants of the area where the Pals fell in battle."

Postscript

As the Centenary of the First World War was approaching in the summer of 2014, I felt moved to compose and preach a sermon in my own church on 'Where was God during the First World War?'. I think it was the hardest sermon I have ever tackled. If you are interested in this topic I can recommend the book I bought and read at the time, 'The Church of England and the First World War' by Alan Wilkinson (paperback published by the Lutterworth Press reprint 2014 – ISBN 978 0 7188 9321 7). It currently retails on Amazon at £22-50 or £17-56 Kindle edition. Used hard copies are available more cheaply. My own view is that we shouldn't shy away from the hard topics!

Judith H. Addison (*St Paul, Oswaldtwistle*)

Christians against Poverty (CAP)

I retired as Property Secretary for the Diocese of Manchester two years ago last April and at the time decided to take a complete break for 18 months, no extra commitments, just relax and enjoy my new found freedom. I made sure those in authority knew that and, fair enough, they didn't approach me with any extra commitments. It must have been almost 18 months to the day that Sheila our Christians Against Poverty office manager approached me and asked for my help in getting the message out about the work we do. I went on a two day training course to become a Community Links Coordinator and in that role I would like to share with you what we as a Christian charity do.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is an award winning UK wide charity with offices throughout the UK. We have been operating here in Blackburn for 10 years, although the office was run by another church for 6 years prior to that. Briefly, anyone who finds themselves in debt can call our central office Freephone 08003280006 where their details are taken and their local CAP office asked to contact them.

To be absolutely clear, we do not pay off people's debts for them. Once we have made contact, we arrange to visit the client in their own home to formulate a debt release plan. This obviously entails listing all creditors and income, and once this information is obtained it is sent to head office caseworkers who negotiate with the creditors on the client's behalf for the best deal we can get. Once completed, a realistic budget is drawn up for the client and presented to them. Once the client has agreed to go ahead, a CAP Plan is provided for them to enable them to make the debt repayments and our caseworkers deal with the creditors on their behalf. Providing the clients stick to the budget their debts will be cleared in the time specified as part of the budget.

CAP also offers support to our clients throughout the period we are dealing with them. Each client is given a named befriender who they can contact if they are finding themselves in difficulties.

We organise regular client events where they can meet others in their situation, share experiences and enjoy some entertainment and food together. There are some cases where the only option is insolvency and we can then offer specialist advice and, if needed, debt coaches are available to attend court with them.

CAP provides financial budgeting training to stop people falling into debt, the charity also runs Job Clubs, Release Groups, groups dealing with addictions, and is branching out into Life Skills training. Martin Lewis, the Money Saving Expert, says the following about CAP, 'When people are most desperate and need most help, the place I send them is to CAP because it works.' He also said, 'CAP are unsurpassed when it comes to the debt help they give people across the country.'

Christians Against Poverty is, as the name suggests, a Christian organisation, however we monitor our services to ensure that everybody receives the same caring service regardless of race, nationality, religion, age, gender, marital status, sexual orientation or disability. CAP is always on the lookout for volunteers to help run the programmes. We need befrienders, volunteers who will come alongside people who have found themselves in debt. A befriender also accompanies the debt counsellor on their visits to clients. We are also looking for Life Changers, people who will donate financially to our work.

I paraphrase what I like to call Jesus' manifesto: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to bring good news to the poor, sight to the blind, release to the captives and healing to the broken hearted. This work has been a blessing to me. It has enabled me, as a Reader, to bring my lay skills to bear in my spiritual life outside the confines of the church building. To find out more simply google Christians Against Poverty or telephone the number above. You may also know someone who is desperate for help...we're here, ready and waiting.

Geoff Hutchinson (*The Benefice of the Redeemer, Blackburn*)

Mosamaria Trust Fund

Since being appointed to the role of Blackburn Diocese Mosamaria Trust Fund Chairman, it has been my aim with the help of God and trustees, members and friends to attempt to highlight the need to raise the profile and funds for the Mosamaria AIDS Ministry, which is a non-profit organisation in the Free State, South Africa. This organisation caters for 650 orphans and vulnerable children, reaches over 3,000 people per month through its HIV counselling and testing service and empowers over 6,000 people through an extensive HIV Treatment Literacy Programme.

I came back from my visit as a lay worker for the whole of August 2015, a very much changed individual, and recently this poem came from my reflection of the place.

Peanut Butter Sandwiches

Mosamaria Children's Centre is etched on their minds, where
They've walked for miles in some cases to find.

Smiles are upon their faces as the workers greet.
Yes a sorry start, but a
Time to shake off the HIV/AIDS title placed at their feet.

The children learn and they try so hard.
They get to mix and be like kids for a short space of time
Not labelled with the poor/disadvantaged card.

It's where bountiful amounts of love are found and care, too.
Then it is time for the much longed for break where
Peanut butter sandwiches and squash must do.

And they play as if they had not a care.
But we know different, it's called life, sometimes hard to bear.

Gloria Birdsall

Book Reviews

'Igniting the Heart': Preaching and Imagination.

Kate Bruce (*SCM Press, 2015*) ISBN 978 0 334 05319 4

Unlike many books on preaching, which can be as boring as a bad sermon, this one fizzes with ideas and is illustrated with actual sermons. Kate teaches preaching at Cranmer Hall in Durham, and her students are very lucky. The book is based on a PhD thesis, and the first two and the final chapter show this, but the whole book succeeds in its main title. The chapter headings neatly lay out the thesis, after an excellent introductory note: 1. Imagination, What it is and Why it Matters 2. A Theology of Imagination 3. Preaching in the Lyrical Voice 4. The Sacramental Potential of Preaching 5. Imagining the Preaching Task 6. Lighting the Blue Touch-Paper – Implications for the Practice and Teaching of Preaching.

The first two chapters are the groundwork, well illustrated by sermon extracts. Chapter 3 lifts off, exploring imaginative engagement. As a lay preacher mostly preaching within the Eucharist, I found chapter 4 very stimulating. But it was chapter five that really got to me: 'Just who do you think you are as a preacher? Six metaphors for the preacher – teacher, spiritual director, herald, artist, jazz musician, jester.'

From this, I come away with the realisation that my default mode of preaching is as teacher (hardly surprising, as I was bred from teachers, and though I've kept out of teaching as such, in every job I've done I've ended up with the teaching element!).

But occasionally, I preach as a performer, with a dramatic monologue, and this puts me somewhere between artist and jazz musician – though as an occasional folk performer and writer, I would prefer the metaphor of folk singer. I take the story handed down to me and retell it refracted through my own personality.

The book closes with a stimulating afterword, and then gives us the full texts of the sermons that were quoted in the chapters. Every re-reading prompts some new insight: if you only buy one book on preaching this year, make this it. If you never buy books on preaching, make this the exception!

Ian Wells (*Holy Trinity, Tarleton*)

Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus: A devout Muslim encounters Christianity. Nabeel Qureshi (*Zondervan, 2004*)
ISBN 0 8361 9267 2

I was given this book as a Christmas present and really enjoyed reading it. The author came from a devout Muslim family and was brought up in Scotland until his teens when his father took up a post in America. They were a modern and moderate family who approached their faith with reason and academic study. The love between them was evident from the start. What would happen if one of the family left the faith?

Nabeel met up with a Christian student who engaged in debate in a reasonable and intellectual manner, producing Biblical evidence and being prepared to listen to counter argument. This was no overnight conversion but took years of study.

This is the book for anyone seeking to find out more about Islam and to understand how the Qu'ran is not representing the real Jesus to Muslims. Nabeel became a lecturer on the international circuit and an inspirational speaker.

Judith Robson (*St John the Evangelist, Little Thornton*)

A Cross-Shattered Church. Stanley Hauerwas
(*Darton Longman and Todd, 2010*) ISBN 978 0 232 52785 8

Stanley Hauerwas is an American theologian, ethicist, and public intellectual. Serving as the Gilbert T. Rowe Professor of Theological Ethics at Duke University Divinity School (with a joint appointment at the University's School of Law), he also tutors in Theological Ethics at the University of Aberdeen. A Methodist who worships at an Episcopal church, Hauerwas previously taught at the University of Notre Dame. He is considered by many to be one of the world's most influential living theologians and was named 'America's Best Theologian' by Time Magazine in 2001.

This book is a collection of sermons. Hauerwas is also a lay preacher and it is this aspect of his 'glittering career' that he considers the best way to 'do' theology. Permission to preach is a great privilege and responsibility for him. In the introduction he writes of preaching in a way that is as thought provoking as his sermons.

He writes:

"I have increasingly come to the recognition that one of the most satisfying contexts for doing the work of theology is in sermons. That should not be surprising because throughout Christian history ... the sermon was one of the primary places in which the work of theology was done. For the work of theology is first and foremost to exposit Scripture ...

The way these sermons hopefully submit to the words of Scripture should remind us that the words of the sermon are not ‘mine’ or ‘ours.’ ... I think it is a mistake ... if theology comes to mean a position taken by an individual thinker. Theologians are not ‘thinkers’. We are servants of a tradition in which the creative challenge is how to be faithful to what we have received ... sermons are an ongoing exercise in what might be called the politics of speech ... I fear that attempts to ‘explain’ or ‘translate’ Scripture too often manifest our attempt to make God conform to our needs. Of course God does love us, but his love usually challenges the presumption that we know what we need. The presumption that the gospel is ‘all about us’ too often leads us to think ‘good’ sermons are those ‘I got something out of’. But sermons, at least if they are faithful to Scripture, are not about us – they are about God. That a sermon should direct our attention to God does not preclude that we should ‘get something out of it’. But you will have an indication that what you got may be true if you are frightened by what you heard.”

The sermons are grouped in sections entitled ‘Seeing’, ‘Saying’, ‘Living’, and ‘Events’. There are also a few essays in the Appendix.

One of his most recent works is a commentary on the gospel of Matthew for the Brazos Press. In the Appendix of this he describes his worry about adding to the plethora of commentaries. However, by being forced to read Matthew theologically, he ‘discovered a new world’ and found the ‘familiar strange’.

The sermons similarly succeed in making us experience anew those Bible stories we know well. The American contexts are not so dissimilar from those of the UK to make the references or questions irrelevant. And although we are reading rather than hearing them, the sermons capture Hauerwas’ voice – both in reverence and humour.

We, too, are privileged to preach. And the sense of our awesome responsibility is brought home by the examples in this book.

Canon Andrea Titterington (*St John Baptist, Broughton*)

Fierce Goodbye: Living in the shadow of suicide. G Lloyd Carr and Gwendolyn Carr (*Herald Press, 2004*) ISBN 0 3105 1502 5

Following our son David's suicide in March of this year, I was left with many questions about what the Bible says about suicide. What would our son's ultimate fate be? Would we meet again? How could I come to terms with what he had done? A close friend gave me this book, which she had read after she experienced the same tragedy in her own family.

G Lloyd Carr is Professor Emeritus of Theology and Biblical Studies at Gordon College, Massachusetts, and began to ask similar questions when his daughter-in-law died by suicide. His wife Gwendolyn wrote poetry in response to the tragedy and her poems are placed between the chapters of the book. The book does not over emotionalise the issue and deals straightforwardly with the Biblical references to suicide and what the Bible says about it. It also looks at the early church theologians and how some teaching about suicide has developed without Biblical foundation.

The poetry was very brief but touching, to quote one of the poems:

You picked your way
to the other side,
where those tired of living
hide.
And the bridge you crossed
so instantly,
left spans of sorrow here
for me.

I read the book about three months ago and must return it to my friend but I actually feel like re-reading it, to take in the poetry and to get a handle on what my son had been feeling at the time or, indeed, in the years leading up to his death.

If anyone finds themselves touched by this particular tragedy, the book is well worth reading and is easy to pick up and put down as needed. It certainly left me feeling comforted.

Judith Robson (*St John the Evangelist, Little Thornton*)

In Memoriam

Carol Ann Walker, Reader, St Barnabas, Darwen (1942- 2016)

From the tributes at Carol's funeral:

Carol's funeral took place at St Barnabas, Darwen, on March 8th. She had left instructions with her friend Glenda about the hymns at the service: 'Just as I am', 'When peace like a river' and 'When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound'. All three hymns reflect her firm belief in life beyond death. Her final instructions to Glenda included 'Tell the music group to start practising, I want these three songs, in this order of progression and, with the last one, tell them to raise the roof!'

Carol's early years were spent with her parents and grandparents, growing up on a small dairy farm in Atherton. Farming wasn't an easy occupation, the work was hard and the days long and when her brother Kenneth was born Carol, at eight years old, became a mother figure in his life as her parents were so busy running the farm. Despite the eight year age gap, this meant that a deep bond developed between Carol and her brother which remained to the last days of Carol's life. Each of them knew that in times of need they would always be there to support each other.

At eleven Carol went to Hindley and Abram Grammar School where her passion was English Literature. She left with seven good GCE passes and began a career as a clerical assistant in what is now the Department of Work and Pensions. During her years there she was promoted to eventually become Higher Executive Officer. After her retirement she cared lovingly for both her parents during their final days.

Carol and her parents had moved from Bolton to Worston, where they became members of Christ Church. Here, Canon Butlin and his wife Muriel encouraged Carol to train as a Reader.

After being licensed Carol ministered at Christ Church for many years until she felt called to seek another place of worship. She first attended St Barnabas Darwen for a friend's funeral and this led to her move there and to a faithful ministry at St Barnabas and at St Mary, Grimehills.

At St Barnabas, she became friends with Glenda Parkinson, whose father had met Carol whilst on holiday and been so impressed that he encouraged Glenda to meet her. When Glenda called on Carol she asked who prayed with her. When Carol replied 'No one,' Glenda replied 'They do now', meaning herself. A very special and firm friendship followed, which both agreed was God given and which soon included Glenda's whole family.

Everyone who knew her agreed that Carol's sermons were inspirational and challenging, leaving the congregation with much to ponder, and also that she was a good storyteller, often with tales based on her days on the farm. Her ability to compose Bible based stories were much appreciated by the children of St Barnabas' school where she led a monthly worship assembly.

Carol's teaching and encouragement touched many people and she will be sadly missed. Her faith was unquestionable and that faith was her strength upon being diagnosed with terminal cancer just a few weeks before her death. Indeed, when the doctor knelt by her bed, with tears in his eyes, telling her the prognosis, she said, 'Don't be sad for me, I know where I am going, I know who I am going to, my Bible says threescore years and ten and I've had three extra, I am at peace.'

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Deanery Reports

Blackpool

We have had one meeting, in March, when Mandy Stanton came to speak to us about the development and involvement of Readers in the diocese. She reminded us, as Readers and Pastoral Assistants, that development is not only for the ordained but also for all those involved in lay ministry, with support from the diocese.

Mandy was delighted that Readers and Pastoral Assistants were working together in our Deanery which she was convinced would help all of them in their various ministries. At this point she was Warden for both groups, but about to step down as Warden of Readers to be more involved in developing discipleship.

Mandy then went on to talk about our involvement further afield, particularly in being willing to help out in other deaneries when needed. Her hopes for both groups were that they would be involved in the ministry of the church wherever they were placed.

We were to have had a Quiet Day in July but as our chaplain Mike Ward, who was to lead the day, is in bad health at the moment, we had to cancel that and hope to rearrange it for another time. We would be grateful if you would keep Mike and his wife Liz in your prayers.

Ken Andrew (*Bispham, All Hallows*)

Lancaster and Morecambe with Tunstall

We have had two meetings so far this year. In early April, Gloria Birdsall joined thirteen of us at Shireshead and gave us a very lively presentation about her time in South Africa and the work of the Mosamaria Trust Fund.

We then met as usual in late June for our annual Social Evening, this year we were at the Ascension, Torrisholme.

Our evening began with Holy Communion, where we joined the regular mid-week congregation at which the vicar, Revd Chris Holden, presided and our Reader colleague, David Wilde, assisted.

As the day had been very wet we abandoned our plans for a walk up to Torrisholme barrow. Half of our group of sixteen stayed in the church hall to chat whilst the rest of us walked with Alan Forshaw, our other Reader colleague at the Ascension, to various places of interest in the immediate area, including the new bypass – soon, we hope, to be completed. Back together again, we joined in our usual splendid Jacob's Join supper before embarking on a couple of quizzes.

Our next meeting is planned for October 21st, at St Martin's Church Centre on Westgate, which the Orthodox community rent at weekends. We will be joining them for Vespers at 7.00pm and then learning more about the Orthodox church and its worship.

Ann Dawson (*Benefice of East Lonsdale*)

Deanery Secretaries and Chaplains

Accrington

Secretary: Mr Alan Freeman, 21, Owen Street, Accrington,
BB5 6AU 01254 235960
freeman.alan1@sky.com

Chaplain: Revd Stephen C Brown, St Peter's Vicarage,
St Peter's Avenue, Laneside, Haslingden, Rossendale,
BB4 4BG 01706 213838
highlow@talktalk.net

Blackburn with Darwen

Secretary: Mr Philip Beresford, 30, Catterall Street, Blackburn,
BB2 4LR 01254 260503

Blackpool

Secretary: Mr Ken Andrew, Flat 4, 13, Hesketh Avenue, Bispham,
Blackpool, FY2 9JX 07507 640889
mandyken@hotmail.com

Chaplain: Revd Mike Ward, 509a Lytham Road, Blackpool, FY4 1TE
mh.ward@btinternet.com 01253 404204

Burnley and Pendle

Secretary: Mr Michael Cooper, 11, Bankcroft Close, Padiham,
BB12 8SQ 01282 771287

Chaplain: Ven Dr Stephen Adesanya, St Cuthbert's Vicarage,
Barbon Street, Burnley BB10 1TS 01282 450346
dtndsn@yahoo.com

Chorley

Secretary: Mrs Joan Hayward, 52, Broadfields, Chorley, PR7 1XR
joelizhayward@btinternet.com 01257 234706

Garstang and Poulton

Secretary: Mrs Judith Robson, 3, Whitecrest Avenue,
Thornton Cleveleys, FY5 2AQ 01253 867592
judithrobson2@gmail.com

Chaplain: Revd Stephen B Grey, St Thomas's Vicarage,
Church Street, Garstang, PR3 1PA 01995 602162
revsbgrey@btinternet.com

Lancaster and Morecambe with Tunstall

Secretary: Dr Ann Dawson, Well House, Lowgill, Lancaster,
LA2 8RA 015242 62936
ann@hindburn.com

Chaplain: Revd Canon Brenda Harding, 14, Ascot Close,
Lancaster, LA1 4LT 01524 66071
brendakharding@hotmail.com

Deanery Secretaries and Chaplains continued

Leyland

Secretary: Mrs Joan Hayward, 52, Broadfields, Chorley PR7 1XR
joelizhayward@btinternet.com 01257 234706

Chaplain: Revd Richard Plant, 12, Granville Avenue, Hesketh Bank,
Preston, PR4 6AH 01772 815257
richard.plant1@yahoo.co.uk

Preston

Secretary: Dr Brian Hitchen, 120, Waterloo Road,
Ashton-on-Ribble, Preston, PR2 1EP 01772 726163
doc.bplh@btinternet.com

Whalley

Secretary: Mrs Lynda Leadbeater, 59, Fairfield Drive, Clitheroe,
BB7 2PS 01200 425475
lyndaleadbeater@aol.com

This list of Deanery Secretaries and Chaplains is correct at the time of printing but please inform both Andrew Holliday and David Matthews of any future changes.

And, finally, from the Editor:

This is the fourteenth and final Newsletter which I will have edited. I have enjoyed doing this, although it has meant that the months of January and August in each year have been rather busy.

I am most grateful to all those who have submitted reports, articles, reflections and book reviews over the years and trust they will continue to do so for my successor.

I must also record my particular thanks to our Secretary, David Matthews, who is the best proof reader I have ever known.

Between us we have endeavoured to let very few errors slip through!

Ann Dawson