

# OLDHAM & ASHTON DEANERY

## Newsletter – November 2023

### Welcome

Welcome to the newsletter for everyone involved in our Deanery of Oldham and Ashton. Nothing here is confidential – we will be circulating as widely as we are able to and invite you all to share the information with your PCCs and congregation members.

We'd love to hear your news from around the Deanery too, so if you have anything you would like to share from your Parishes or Mission Communities, you're most welcome to send it in.

**Please do let us have details of any changes of officials, as well as advising the Diocese, so that we can make sure that everyone receives regular updates about what's going on in our Deanery.**

### Message from our Area Dean

#### Intercultural Worshipping Communities

Dear Friends,

The year has flown by. Now it's time to tidy up the gardens for winter, and Advent season is knocking at our doorsteps. As we welcome so many people in our All Souls, All Saints, Remembrance and Advent services – I would like to offer you some insights into a ground-breaking work across the Church of England with Interculturalism.

I recently had the privilege of listening to Bishop Martyn Snow, Bishop of Leicester, and his work around Intercultural Worshipping Communities. The aspiration is for communities in which members have a deep understanding and respect for all cultures, where everyone – whatever their background – learns from one another and grows together. What this looks like in practices includes sharing food and stories, singing and praying in multiple languages. Still, most importantly, it normalises questions about who is being included and who is excluded, who I need to listen to more, and what I have still learned.

This aspiration is a very different approach to assimilation – telling people of other cultures that they can't be a part of our church or society unless they become 'like us'. It's also a different approach to multiculturalism, which celebrates the coexistence of numerous cultures and, to its credit, allows minority cultures to survive and avoid assimilation into the majority culture. However, multiculturalism often means living parallel lives – so we have 'Black majority churches' or 'Iranian churches' or 'Gujarati churches' – all segregated with little mixing.

Interculturalism pays attention to the way that people of different cultures interact, and it encourages that interaction. Interculturalism seeks to ensure that everyone feels that they belong, can contribute, and are open to receiving from others.

Bishop Martyn reflects by saying – "... Interculturalism may sound like an attempt to reconcile what cannot be reconciled. So, I realise that the approach of the intercultural church is asking a lot of those with no other safe space. Can this Anglican Church be trusted? Will they welcome me as a token of diversity but expect me to change and become like them? No one can blame people for asking such questions, nor for saying, 'I've been hurt too many times before; I am not going to take the risk'. Much easier and safer to be with 'people like me'".

I will continue to reflect on this theme in the next edition of our newsletter.

So, as we welcome nearly 24 nationalities across our churches in Oldham and Ashton deanery, may we continue to journey in becoming intercultural worshipping communities which value each individual as a gift and not a guest.

***With Prayers and Kind Thoughts,***

***Revd. A. Daniel Ramble, Area Dean, Oldham and Ashton***

## Lay Chair Notes

If any lay officers could use some help with any matters, please do feel free to contact me. My email address is on the contact list at the end of this newsletter.

Registration is now open for the **2024 ALM courses**, with the deadline being in early January. Authorised Lay Ministers (ALMs) are lay people active in church life, who have been identified by their parish as having a particular gifting, vocation and calling to lay leadership, i.e. those called to work collaboratively alongside their incumbent and wider ministry teams with a distinct focus on growing, nurturing and serving the local parish community. To find out more, please see - [Authorised Lay Ministry](#)



At Deanery Synod in October, our guest speaker was Rick Otto, the **Diocesan Children's Officer**, who led a truly inspiring session on the fantastic work being undertaken in churches and schools around the Diocese. One of the key points raised was how we encourage children to continue their faith journey as they make the move from primary to secondary school. The Shaw, Crompton and Thornham parishes have recently introduced new services for this age group, and you can read their news here - [New Youth Service in Shaw, Crompton and Thornham](#)

Another essential topic at Synod was **Safeguarding**. Instructions have recently been issued to parishes about the correct wording legally required to be published on parish websites and A Church Near You pages, and this led to a much wider discussion about the importance of safeguarding, particularly in the context of church/school interaction.

You can find out about the correct wording for your website and ACNY page here - [Safeguarding information on your website](#)

For Policies and Guidance, and how to access the Parish Safeguarding Handbook, see - [Safeguarding Policies and Guidance](#)

Finally, please don't forget about our **Deanery Social Media**. We regularly share news from around the Deanery and Manchester Diocese as it happens, so please do join our Facebook group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/558087035869690> , and follow our Twitter account - <https://twitter.com/OADeanery> to stay completely up to date.

With all good wishes,

Liz

## News from our Mission Communities

The Barnabas Centre in Oldham has been awarded the prestigious "**Quality in Action**" award by local Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise organisation - Action Together.

L-to-R: Uzma Khaliq (Action Together); Revd. Paul Monk (Vicar and project leader); and MaryAnne Oduntan (Community Worker at the Barnabas Centre).



St. Andrew's Church, Droylsden has an organisation at church that has become quite active again after the lockdown, called W.O.F. (**Women of Faith**).

After a recent outing, we had a photo taken showing our link with Ghana. Picture shows our group following a meal at 'Heroes' in Ashton recently. Gorton Monastery, a concert at

Stoller Hall, plus other meals in the Tameside area have also been on our agenda. St. Andrew's has strong links with Ghana and in a recent visit back home, one of our members arranged for special 'stoles' to be made in the Ghanaian colours, which could be worn by our group when on an outing.

# Financial Matters

The **Treasurer's Report to Deanery Synod** for the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023 has been circulated separately to Synod members, and the key points are shown below.

## **Parish Share in Oldham and Ashton Deanery - up to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

Thanks to the information you provided we can report that -

- So far this year churches in our deanery have paid 43% of their Parish Share, when they should have paid 75%
- 20 of our 47 churches are on target for paying in full; 16 estimate that they will only be able to pay less than 50%.
- The Deanery Parish Share allocation is £1,436,720 and our estimated payments will be £902,856, which is just 62% of target and is 8.5% less than was paid in 2022.

## **What's happening** to improve the situation –

- Twice-yearly meetings between the Archdeacon, Area Dean, Lay Chair, Deanery Budget Secretary and Diocesan Finance Officers have taken place in May and September of this year.
- Carolyn McGloughlin has now been appointed Parish Support Officer (Finance) and is currently trying to arrange meetings with two of our Mission Communities to establish links and to talk with those parishes experiencing difficulties in meeting Parish Share commitments.
- Discussion and Agreement meetings are also being planned within Mission Communities, where we will discuss realistic levels of Parish Share. Concerns have been raised regarding the impact on Parish Share of large numbers of families attending midweek services, and this will also form part of the discussion.
- Further help with increasing giving within your parish can be sought from Paul Bailey, the Diocesan Giving Advisor, and his team. Paul's email address is [paulbailey@manchester.anglican.org](mailto:paulbailey@manchester.anglican.org)
- Have you a parish budget? Creating a budget could be very helpful in assessing your church's financial health, and the diocese has created a suggested template that is simple to use and consistent with the annual Parish Return. For help with budgeting please see - [manchester anglican support for parishes budgeting](#)

Finally, thank you for collecting the **Income Survey forms** during October. Please keep the sealed boxes safe – you will be contacted shortly to arrange collection.

Jan Ratcliffe, Deanery Treasurer/Budget Secretary

## Man Dio Growing Faith News

Thank you to all who came to our Autumn Deanery Hub for Oldham and Ashton. Three have taken place across this year, in three of our Deanery churches and we've met with some wonderful people who lead and support the children, youth and family ministries in our churches. The purpose of our Hubs is to come together, reflect, worship, pray and then share wisdom, insight and stories on a subject connected to children and youth ministry.

The first Hub saw us explore our hopes and dreams, what we already have taking place in these ministries and what we would dare to dream would happen for the children and young people of Oldham and Ashton and how God might move for them. We then delved into building good foundations for our children, youth and families, how God is central to that foundation and what we might need to build it.

Lastly, we looked at Intergeneration, specifically Intergenerational Worship, what it is, how it applies to us as church people and ways in which we can partake in it within our church contexts, with absolutely everyone involved. Church is for all; everyone is valued and all should be able to access it.

We focussed on that beautiful verse in Mark 10,

***"Let the children come to me...whoever does not receive the Kingdom of Heaven like them will not enter it."***

As we continue on the pursuit of building brilliant opportunities for our children, youth and families to tap into within our churches, schools and mission communities, let us remember this verse. Jesus says it all, if we do not let the children come to him, we are restricting their access and view of the Kingdom of Heaven. My prayer for our Deanery is that we see its children and young people come to know Jesus in personal and amazingly individual ways and that in creating pathways to discipleship for them we can remember our discipleship identities too and how much our God loves us.

We will launch Hub dates for 2024 soon.

Please get in touch with me if you'd like a chat, support or further information on any of the above.

Thank you

Laura Tebay. Man Dio Growing Faith Deanery Enabler for Oldham and Ashton



## Eco News

Congratulations to St Matthew & St Luke, Chadderton and St John, Roughtown, who are now registered with Eco Church.

September saw the launch of **Eco Stepping Stones**, a new resource freely available to use by all churches. It consists of 3 videos and a supporting workbook. Designed to be run as a study group over 3 sessions, it allows us to explore the ideas of Growing, Nurturing and Serving in an eco-context, with examples from around the Diocese.

At the launch event, we heard from Bishop John Arnold of Salford and also had the first commissioning of Eco Champions by our new Bishop of Bolton, Matthew Porter. Matt Carson, your Deanery Eco Champion, had the privilege of being one of those commissioned! To find out more, or to sign up to receive the new bi-monthly Eco Champions Newsletter - available for all, please see:

<https://www.manchester.anglican.org/faithlife/ecodiocese/eco-stepping-stones/>

You can also watch the Eco Stepping Stones videos here: [Eco Stepping Stones YouTube Playlist](#), and download the Workbook from:

[www.manchester.anglican.org/content/pages/documents/eco-stepping-stones-workbook.pptx](http://www.manchester.anglican.org/content/pages/documents/eco-stepping-stones-workbook.pptx)

If you are looking to promote environment issues in your church and gather momentum in Eco Church work, then a new series of posters has been made available to download and use by A Rocha UK. On the same webpage, you can also request Eco Church leaflets or print them out or electronically share them yourself. And also book A Rocha to come and speak at your church: <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/promoting-eco-church/>

Funding opportunities for Eco projects include - Looking to develop land or plant trees, read up about the Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund:

[www.facebook.com/groups/2007834829476620/permalink](http://www.facebook.com/groups/2007834829476620/permalink)

And on the 21<sup>st</sup> Nov – 2 CofE webinars about how to find and access Statutory Funding (i.e., from government) for eco projects, one for small to medium size churches:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1367392217147045>

and for larger churches: <https://www.facebook.com/events/3440309819553861>

Finally, in 2015 Pope Francis issued the **Laudato Si** encyclical (basically a pastoral letter written by the Pope to the whole Catholic church). This is a very important document demonstrating concern for our planet and impetus to respond as Christians across the globe. At the start of October, he issued a follow up, **Laudate Deum**, 'an apostolic exhortation to all people of good will on the climate crisis'. Neither is short, but worth dipping into when you've got a cuppa and a biscuit to hand:

[vatican enciclica laudato](#) and [vatican exhortations laudate deum](#)

Thanks,

**Matthew Carson**

## Deanery Contact Details

<b>Area Dean Revd Daniel Ramble</b>	Email- <a href="mailto:DanielRamble@manchester.anglican.org">DanielRamble@manchester.anglican.org</a>
<b>Lay Chair Liz Dent</b>	Email - <a href="mailto:laychair.oadeanery@manchester.anglican.org">laychair.oadeanery@manchester.anglican.org</a>
<b>Deanery Lay Secretary Barbara Micklethwaite</b>	Email - <a href="mailto:laysec.oadeanery@manchester.anglican.org">laysec.oadeanery@manchester.anglican.org</a>
<b>Clergy Assistant Secretary Revd Amy-Elizabeth Sheridan</b>	Email - <a href="mailto:amy_sheridan@outlook.com">amy_sheridan@outlook.com</a>
<b>Deanery Budget Secretary Jan Ratcliffe</b>	Email - <a href="mailto:Treasurer.Oadeanery@manchester.anglican.org">Treasurer.Oadeanery@manchester.anglican.org</a>
<b>Clergy Representative Revd Canon Daniel Burton</b>	Email - <a href="mailto:ashworthburton@hotmail.com">ashworthburton@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Lay Representative Eric Bynon</b>	Email - <a href="mailto:ericbynon@gmail.com">ericbynon@gmail.com</a>
<b>Deanery Eco Champion Matt Carson</b>	Email - <a href="mailto:environment.oadeanery@manchester.anglican.org">environment.oadeanery@manchester.anglican.org</a>
<b>Deanery Transformation Support Officer John Evans</b>	Email - <a href="mailto:JohnEvans@manchester.anglican.org">JohnEvans@manchester.anglican.org</a>
<b>Man Dio Growing Faith Deanery Worker Laura Tebay</b>	Email - <a href="mailto:LauraTebay@manchester.anglican.org">LauraTebay@manchester.anglican.org</a>