

Holy Trinity

(without the walls)



Norris Road, Blacon, Chester. CH1 5DZ

June 2020 40p

Welcome Bishop Mark



The NEXT Bishop of Chester

REACHING OUT WITH CHRIST TO ALL



Dear friends,

Welcome to the June 2020 Holy Trinity Parish News.

This month there are articles about 2 new bishops, The history of St Chad's Church, the predecessor to Holy Trinity, thoughts from Su Colly, Tina and Louise, as well as the usual puzzles and features too.

We do not know how long this lockdown will go on for and we will continue to provide you with a printed magazine. Have faith for God WILL see us through.

***The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;
my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge,
my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold
Psalm 18:2***

Jason Clarke
Magazine compiler

If you would like to share your experiences during this time of crisis in a future parish News magazine, please either email htcpneditor@gmail.com

Great Is His Faithfulness

It feels like a world away, but it was only in March that I was attending events with dozens of people in a small room. Only a fortnight later we were in lockdown. At first, I had many conversations about how long would it go on for, and what we would do once it was all over. I have not spoken to anyone on those lines for a while. There is still a longing for it all to be over, but trying to second-guess when we will be back to that other world we call 'normal' happens less often now.

What if now is 'normal'? What if life is not on hold, but is just as meaningful, just as valid, just as important now as it was three months ago? Certainly, the way things happen are far from what we would want them to be. Certainly the freedom of movement, freedom to meet up with friends and family as we want to, freedom to worship in church as we used to, is something I long for, as I am sure

most of us do. But that does not mean that we stop functioning, stop living, and kind of hold our breath until we can get out and about again.

I firmly believe that God is wanting us to make the most of every single day he gives us right now. He is wanting us to give thanks with grateful hearts for what we do have. He is wanting us to grow in our relationship with Him. He is wanting us to trust Him, and to love Him, with all our heart and mind and soul and strength.

The Israelites went through their own version of 'lockdown' when they wandered through the wilderness on their way to the Promised Land. They escaped Egypt (in such dramatic circumstances, the Red Sea parted so they could escape Pharaoh's army) only to find themselves in the middle of a desert, no food, no water, and life was grim. They grumbled, and began to think that God had

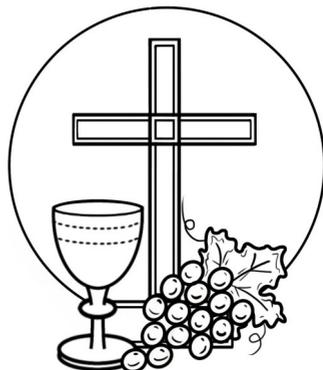
forgotten them, that their life there was not what was important, but it would all be better when they finally reached Canaan. But the journey ended up so much longer than any of them expected. God became angry when they proved to have very little faith in Him. When they failed to thank him for the food and water he provided for them. When they turned to worship other gods, or did things in their own strength, instead of trusting God.

Some powerful poems written at that time, which we now call the book of Lamentations, speak of enormous suffering at that time. It begins evocatively 'How lonely sits the city that once was full of people' (Lam 1.1). Then it goes on to describe great pain and mourning and weeping. But the source of that is seen as the sinfulness of the people. God is full of steadfast love and mercy, which is 'new every morning' (Lam 3.23). God rewards those who wait for Him, even (perhaps especially) if the waiting feel agonisingly long. 'The Lord is good to those who wait for

him, It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord....to sit alone in silence when the Lord has imposed it' (Lam 3.25-28).

We are going through our own exodus right now. God looks at how we respond to Him each and every day, how we relate to Him whether on our own within our own home, or out and about and meeting others. Turn to the Lord and thank Him for all the good things He has given you today. Wait for Him, in silence, and He will answer you, He will give you comfort and peace beyond understanding. Because the steadfast love of the Lord never fails, great is His faithfulness.

Tina Upton



The New Bishop Of Chester



The Rt Revd Mark Tanner has been named by Downing Street as the next Bishop of Chester, succeeding the Rt Revd Dr Peter Forster who retired in September 2019.

Bishop Mark is currently the Bishop of Berwick in the Diocese of Newcastle, a post he has occupied since 2016.

“It will be hard to say goodbye to the North East,” he says, “however, Lindsay and I are really excited to return to Chester where I was ordained, and both of our children were born.”

Mark says: “It is an honour and a joy to be appointed to the Diocese of Chester at such a key time in the life of our communities, nation, and Church. In Christ, God offers a gift of hope beyond our imagining; there is no greater joy or privilege than enabling others to step into this freedom and life, whether in deeply practical service or beautiful wonder and worship. God is here for all.”

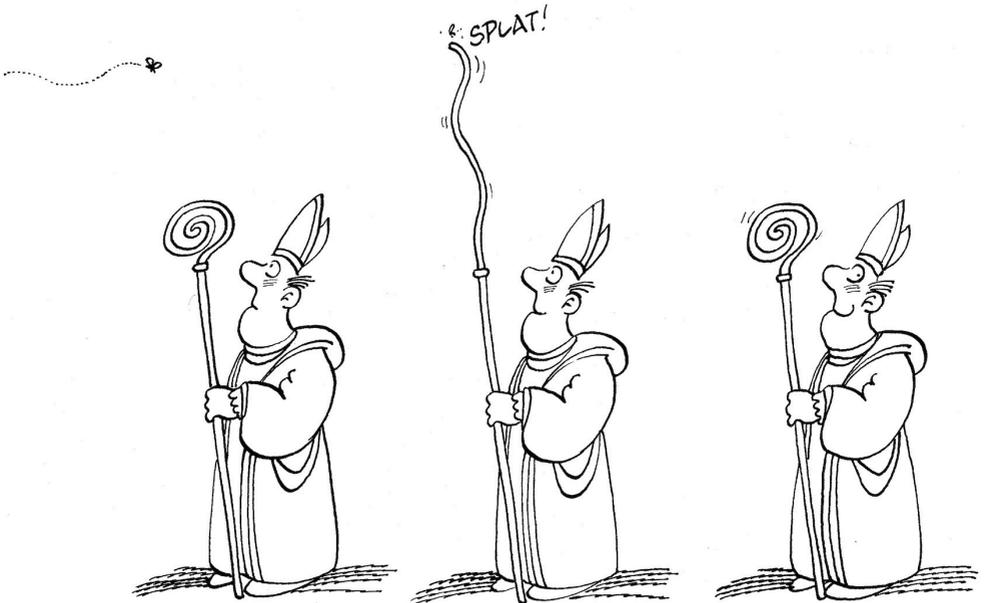
Bishop Mark and his wife, Lindsay, were introduced to the diocese online via a series of live-streamed events, and videos of those can be found on the diocesan website.. “Although I cannot physically be

with you today, I look forward to getting to know the people and communities of the diocese from the coast to the Pennines, as we refresh and renew our service of every member of society within our diocese.”

Bishop Christine, the Bishop of Newcastle says: “It has been a real joy to work with Mark as a key member of the team here. I have appreciated his friendship and counsel, his kindness and great sense of fun, and most particularly, his focus on those

whom we are called to serve as Christ’s church today. He has been instrumental in helping us establish our Resource Church and imagine new possibilities in terms of ministry and mission. I know the Diocese of Chester will be blessed through his ministry there.”

The timing of Bishop Mark’s move to the diocese is uncertain under the present circumstances, but will be announced in due course.



New Archbishop of York

Bishop Stephen Cottrell will be confirmed as the 98th Archbishop of York at 11.00am on Thursday 9 July 2020, in a service broadcast entirely via video conference due to the Coronavirus restrictions.

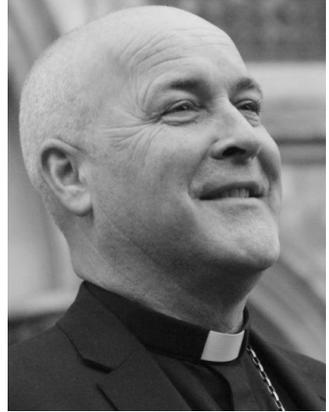
As Presiding Judge, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Justin Welby, has granted permission for the virtual service to take place.

The service, which had been due to take place in York Minster, will be in two parts: a legal ceremony with readings, prayers and music; and a film marking the start of Bishop Stephen's ministry as Archbishop of York.

Bishop Stephen will offer his first address as Archbishop of York. Prayers will be offered for the Archbishop, the Diocese of York and the Northern Province of the Church of England as well as for the wider world in these difficult times.

Commenting on the service, Bishop Stephen Cottrell said: "I

am looking forward to beginning my ministry as the 98th



Archbishop of York. This isn't quite how I imagined it would begin. It is certainly the first time an Archbishop's election will have been confirmed via video conference. But we're all having to re-imagine how we live our lives and how we inhabit the world. These are difficult times. My hope is that through this service the love of God that is given us in Jesus Christ will shine out, perhaps even to those who while never attending a service in York Minster, might have a look online.

I can still just about remember what it's like to not be part of the Christian community. What inspired me to follow Jesus is that

vision of a new humanity that I see in him. Following in the footsteps of my many predecessors, I look forward to serving our nation and bringing the love and peace of Christ to our world, especially here in the north.”

The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby said: "Like so many across the Church of England and Anglican Communion, I am looking forward to welcoming Bishop Stephen to his new ministry with joy, thanksgiving and hope. He radiates the love of Jesus Christ wherever he goes, and along with my fellow bishops, I look forward to serving alongside him. These are difficult times for everyone, and frightening and painful times for many. But we believe as strongly as ever that Jesus is the light that shines in the darkness. I pray that this new beginning for Bishop Stephen as he becomes Archbishop of York is also a moment that refreshes our hope, deepens our faith and sends us out with new energy to love and serve others in Christ's name.”

The Confirmation of Election is the formal legal process that completes the appointment of senior bishops.

The service will be available on the Church of England website at www.churchofengland.org. Arrangements for Bishop Stephen's enthronement service will be announced later in the year.

Prayer on the announcement of the Archbishop of York Designate

*Generous God, we give you thanks:
you have heard our prayer,
guided your people
and raised up Stephen
to serve as the next Archbishop of York.*

*By your Holy Spirit, grant to him
good counsel, holy insight and
joy in the gospel,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

Some of you may remember that Bishop Stephen was part of the team that came from Wakefield Diocese for the Jigsaw mission in 1996. He was Diocesan Missioner for that Diocese.

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Dealing with **Loneliness** and **Isolation:** **FIVE TOP TIPS**

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/news-and-views/incidents/coronavirus-covid-19/how-to-get-help/dedicated-helpline.aspx>

Dealing with **Loneliness** and **Isolation:** **FIVE TOP TIPS**



1. Pray – light a candle, if safe, and pray for hope, faith and strength to keep loving and caring for each other during this time of struggle.



2. Talk about how you feel.

This may be difficult if you are self-isolating, but use the phone, internet and social media. If you need to contact a counsellor, this can be arranged by your GP, local agencies or privately. Samaritans are there 24 hours a day, every day, and it's free to call them on 116 123.



3. Focus on the things that you can change, not on the things you can't.



4. Look after yourself – physically, emotionally, spiritually.

Plan things that you enjoy at regular intervals during the day – a TV programme, a phone call, a book, a favourite dish, a game.



5. Look after others – even if only in small ways, but do what you can:
a smile, a kind word, writing a letter or an email.

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Living by faith and not by sight

As I write I am thinking about Pentecost, the day that the church exploded into life through the power of the Holy Spirit. God's incredible gift of his own personal presence. It makes me wonder, how much of my life is about living as a child of God, led and empowered by the Holy Spirit? How much am I led by my own desires? And, am I any good at working out the difference?

I came to faith in the charismatic tradition. So, I believe that the gifts and the fruit of the Holy Spirit operate in the church today as they did among the first disciples. Sadly, even though I have been through theological college and ordination I have not found a faultless God-radar. Obviously, anything that contradicts the Bible is out – the Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount are a good start. But many choices are not

clear cut. Particularly in the current uncertainty thrown up by Covid-19.

Thomas Merton explores this dilemma in his prayer:

“My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of
me. I cannot know for certain
where it will end.

Nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think that I am
following your will does not mean
that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to
please you does in fact please
you. And I hope I have that desire
in all that I am doing.

I hope that I will never do
anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this you
will lead me by the right road
though I may know nothing about
it. Therefore, will I trust you
always though I may seem to be
lost and in the shadow of death.

I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone."

I may not always have a clear idea of what is of me and what is of God. But I can see what God is doing. God is doing what he always does with chaos. He is breathing in new life and bringing order, just as he did at the start of creation. He is restoring lives and repairing brokenness. One by one, fragment by fragment. I see the work of the Holy Spirit in a million tiny gestures. He inspires people to kindness such as the spontaneous surge in gestures of appreciation and solidarity with key workers. He encourages selfless acts of consideration and generosity. Even when there are over 343 thousand grieving families worldwide, and no

end in sight, God is working to heal and restore.

So, I trust that my desire to please God does in fact please him. And I pray that, at Holy Trinity, we have that desire in all that we do.

Because if we do then God himself will lead us to join in his mission of healing and restoration, though we may only recognise it with hindsight.

Therefore I will trust Him always.

Louise Annison



THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

The work of the church is essential.

The work of caring for the lonely, the marginalized, and the oppressed is essential.

The work of speaking truth to power and seeking justice is essential.

The work of being a loving, liberating, and life giving presence in the world is essential.

The work of welcoming the stranger, the refugee and the undocumented is essential.

The work of reconciliation and healing and caring is essential.

The church does not need to “open” because the church never “closed”. We who make up the Body of Christ, the church, love God and our neighbours and ourselves so much that we will stay away from our buildings until it is safe.

We are the church.

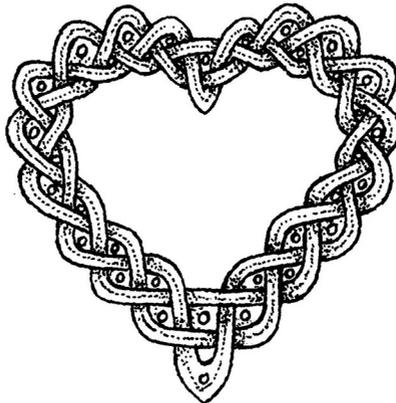
Bishop-elect of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Missouri, Deon K. Johnson (taken from posting on Facebook)



Ah let Him in

I am praying my heart out, letting you in
That all you desire in me may begin.
I have no compassion save that that is you,
And fall to my knees for the things that you do.
You call in the darkness and make no mistake,
You whisper my name and the path I should take.
Not always I hear you; hear what you have said,
But deep in my spirit or just in my head
A feeling, a knowing that something is lost
But must be sought out now whatever the cost.
I sing of the love that has brought me to you;
The truth of the loving that I never knew.
They say you'd have gone to the cross just for me?
The lowest you have that the weakest may see.

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Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel 17:1-50

The Philistine and Israelite armies
faced each other. For 40 days, the gigantic
Philistine champion, Goliath, taunted them..

I will fight the best soldier in Israel's army and if I win, you will be our slaves



A man with a beard and a crown-like headpiece stands in the background, looking on.

David's brothers were in Israel's army. He came to bring them food, and he heard Goliath.

He is insulting God!



David's brothers were not happy.

You just came to watch the fight. Go back to your few sheep.



But David didn't stop..

and king Saul heard what he said.



We shouldn't be cowards. I will fight him!

You don't stand a chance.



I have killed lions and bears with God's help.

Then go ahead. You can wear my armour.



I can't move with all this on!

So David took it off.

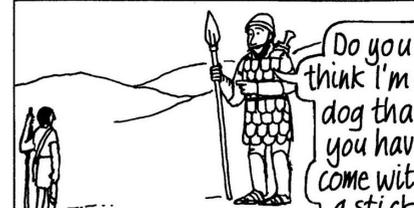


He took his sling and chose 5 stones from the stream bed.



Goliath couldn't believe what he saw.

Do you think I'm a dog that you have come with a stick?



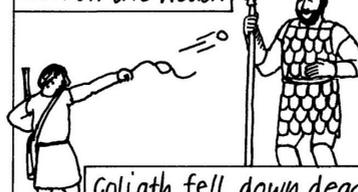
I have come to fight you in the name of the All-powerful God. The Lord always wins His battles

As Goliath came forward..



David slung his stone and hit him on the head.

Goliath fell down dead.



The Philistines ran away, chased by Israel's army.



Ponderings

Firstly, I do hope that you are fit and well and managing the Lockdown as best as you can.

Just some things I don't or can't do!

I am fairly quirky in some ways as some of you will no doubt have already guessed. I may even be a rebel, but there is usually a cause. When we pray earnestly, 'Lord, hear our prayer', I always say, 'Lord, you hear our prayer.' This is not to be contrary like Mary, rather it is in thankfulness that He always hears us because He just does - not because we ask Him if He will. See? With me so far?

So I have added the 'you' here. I do it again. This time more emphatically. The Lord's Prayer. 'You lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.' This one is really important to me. I just can't say it the traditional way. For me, I can't believe it was what Jesus said. It doesn't make sense for Him to have said it, that we should ask the Father to not do something He would not do!!

I have to confess the next one is one that pops up most days in what I may read or hear but it really is a little like Lion's nails down a blackboard.

The Creed. Ahem. "We believe in The Holy Spirit. The Lord, The Giver of life".

So, if He is himself, (Holy Spirit) and He is Lord, giver of life, how can He be 'The' Holy Spirit? I am not the Su Colly ; I would never introduce myself other than my name, I am Su. And it isn't like saying, God The Father, God The Son and God The Holy Spirit. A deed or prayer offered in our triune God is different, although I'm not really clever enough to explain it in other than my thus far simple term. It is this mis-use that manages to turn Him into a floaty cloud-like essence or a kind of wind rather than the person He is. And it isn't a crime of course, it just isn't quite right. He is the One who gives life itself and I want it just more right when we declare it. Are there any more great wrongs I wish to put right??

Continued on page 24

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Praying for Blacon



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- | | |
|----------------|--|
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| 14 June | Rawson Road, Nant Peris, Plas Dinas, Glyn Garth & Sealand Road |
| 21 June | Muir Road, Elm Muir, Beech Muir, Silver Muir, Birch Muir & Ash Muir |
| 28 June | Hafod Close, Nevin Road, Penmon Close & Treborth Road |

*“When right-
living people
bless the city,
it flourishes”*

*Prov 11:11
The Message*



The **July issue** of the Parish News will be available on or about Sunday, 28th June 2020. All contributions should be submitted to Jason Clarke (htcpneditor@gmail.com) by **Thursday, 11th June 2020**. Thank you. If you would like to subscribe to our magazine please contact the Church Office on 01244 376085 - annual cost is £4.00.

(Continued from page 20)

Yes, hundreds!! I'm alone during most covid days and clearly it's beginning to show.....

Next time, I'll share some things that I really get excited about!!

With my love and faithful prayer. X

Su Colly

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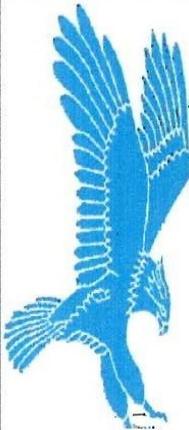
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Sudoku

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Crossword

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Across

- 1 See 23 Across
- 3 Where the thief on the cross was told he would be, with Jesus (Luke 23:43) (8)
- 8 Invalid (4)
- 9 Blasphemed (Ezekiel 36:20) (8)
- 11 Adhering to the letter of the law rather than its spirit (Philippians 3:6) (10)
- 14 Shut (Ecclesiastes 12:4) (6)

Crossword Clues

15 'This is how it will be with anyone who — up things for himself but is not rich towards God' (Luke 12:21) (6)

17 Mary on Isis (anag.) (10)

20 Agreement (Hebrews 9:15) (8)

21 Native of, say, Bangkok (4)

22 Deaf fort (anag.) (5-3)

23 and 1 Across 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of — to work it and take — of it' (Genesis 2:15) (4,4)

Down

1 Struggle between opposing forces (Habakkuk 1:3) (8)

2 James defined this as 'looking after orphans and widows in their distress and keeping oneself from being polluted by the world' (James 1:27) (8)

4 'The one I kiss is the man; — him' (Matthew 26:48) (6)

5 'Be joyful in hope, patient in —, faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (10)

6 St Columba's burial place (4)

7 Swirling current of water (4)

10 Loyalty (Isaiah 19:18) (10)

12 'God was pleased through the foolishness of what was —, to save those who believe' (1 Corinthians 1:21) (8)

13 Camp where the angel of the Lord slew 185,000 men one night (2 Kings 19:35) (8)

16 'There is still — — — Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet' (2 Samuel 9:3) (1,3,2)

18 David Livingstone was one (4)

19 Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (1,1,1,1)



Sudoku Solutions

Easy

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 1 |
| 8 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 9 |
| 7 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 3 |
| 3 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 4 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 5 |
| 9 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 7 |
| 4 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 8 |
| 5 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 6 |
| 1 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 2 |

Medium

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 2 |
| 7 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 3 |
| 4 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 8 |
| 3 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 9 |
| 8 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| 5 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 7 |
| 6 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| 2 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 4 |
| 9 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 6 |

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | A | R | E | | P | A | R | A | D | I | S | E | |
| O | | E | | | R | | F | | O | | | D | |
| N | U | L | L | | P | R | O | F | A | N | E | D | |
| F | | I | | A | | E | | L | | A | | Y | |
| L | E | G | A | L | I | S | T | I | C | | | | |
| I | | I | | L | | T | | C | | P | | A | |
| C | L | O | S | E | D | | S | T | O | R | E | S | |
| T | | N | | G | | A | | I | | E | | S | |
| | | | | M | I | S | S | I | O | N | A | R | Y |
| S | | D | | A | | O | | N | | C | | R | |
| C | O | V | E | N | A | N | T | | T | H | A | I | |
| O | | L | | C | | O | | | | E | | A | |
| T | R | A | D | E | O | F | F | | E | D | E | N | |

A HISTORY OF ST CHAD'S CHURCH

*Compiled by Mr CE Gent (former churchwarden of Holy Trinity Blacon),
from an unknown source*

The earliest mention of Blacon in the Parish Records, records the son of 'Mr. William Norreys Esquire " by parson Beck at Blacon on the 20th February 1598 and that the mother was churchd at Blacon on the 17th March. This would not necessarily prove the existence of a Church in Blacon as both the christening and churching could take place in a house.

It is known that the Manor of Blacon was granted to the Mainwaring family at the time of the Norman Conquest and passed by marriage to the Trussel family. From them it passed to John de Vere, the fifteenth Earl of Oxford whose grandson, Edward, alienated the estate in the time of Elizabeth 1. The Norris family were then residing at Blacon Hall. It was about this time that the

Manor was purchased by the Crewe family. It would appear that all the land manor has now been disposed of by the marquis of Crewe.

The writer has vivid memories of Blacon before the 1st World War when there were only about two dozen houses there. About 4 trains a day in each direction stopped at the station: the road in places was wide enough for one cart and for some distance the hedges along the main road, met to form archways.

When the Manchester, Sheffield and London Railway Company bought land in Blacon off Lord Crewe in 1888 for the Chester Northgate to Wrexham and Seacombe railway line, the company were required by Lord Crewe to build a station at Blacon and to stop at least 4 trains a day

in each direction at the station. At the opening of the line in 1890, five trains in each direction stopped at Blacon on weekdays and three in each direction on Sundays.

It was about this time that a small plot of land between the railway and Saughall Road at the eastern end of the newly erected railway cottages was given to Holy Trinity Church, Chester by Lord Crewe for the erection of a District Church for Blacon.

A drawing appeared in the December 1894 Parish Magazine together with an estimate of costs for building a church in Blacon, totalling £538.15.00, and an appeal was started.

The Rev. Edward Marston died 28th May 1895 and the Rev. L.M.Farrell succeeded him in July of that year. His concern was for Mission work within the Parish – families almost untouched by the Church’s influence – received by the Church – visited and buried -

seldom, if ever, enter a Church for worship. There were many reasons for this – one very much on the surface – they had no “Sunday clothes”.

In September 1895, Blacon committee did not consider it advisable to proceed with the erection of St. Chad’s, the population only being 150. In January 1896, a new Mission Hall in Commonhall Street, Chester, was opened. 6 months later, the Blacon committee met in the vestry and agreed to transfer £148.07.09 to the Mission Fund, out of the £334.02.04 raised.

In the early 1920’s interest was centred on Blacon when a Mr. Whitehead bought some of the land and disposed of it as building plots. One of the first new houses to be erected was built on land close to where the searchlight was operated during the later part of the 1st World War.

A small sum of money was afterwards collected towards the

building of a Church, but it appears to have been used for another purpose some years earlier. (See addenda). When the Rev. P. Skinner became Rector of the Parish in 1927, after the death of the Rev. L.M. Farrall, he became aware of the need for a District Church in the rapidly growing district of Blacon. A fresh effort was made by Mr. Skinner and the foundation stone was laid by the Bishop of Chester on the evening of the Feast of St. Barnabus, the 11th June 1929. The Church was erected by Mr. William Tennyson, a Blacon resident and local builder.

In addition to making direct payment, a number of local residents assisted in the furnishing of the Church by buying chairs; others paid for various necessary items. The Chalice, Paten and Wafer box, all in silver, were given by the Rector of Saughall in memory of his father, the Rev. Edward Marsden, who was Rector of Holy Trinity when the present

building, now the Guildhall in Watergate Street, Chester, was built to replace the old 'Church' which was said to have become ugly through constant repairs, being partly of brick and partly of stone, with wooden pillars and gloomy galleries.

During the time between the installation of Mr. Skinner and the dedication of St. Chad's by the Bishop of Chester, services were held in the open air on weekday evenings at Smith's Corner (junction of Blacon Point and St. Chad's Road) and in Mr. Venables field through which the new portion of Saughall Road now runs. At other times, the services on weekday evenings were held in the Nook Hall (located on Saughall Road on the opposite side to the junction with Stamford Road). The Nook came later to be known as the Village Hall and it was by the kind permission of its original owner and builder, Mr. Nevitt, that this was allowed.



St Chad's Church Blacon. Exterior & Interior

