

The Deanery of Burnham and Slough

News from around the Deanery

December 2024

Issue 30



Upcoming dates for your diary

Deanery Chapter: Tuesday 14th January online

Mission & Pastoral Committee: Tuesday 28th January 7.15 for 7.45pm at The Vicarage, Colnbrook

WELCOMING THE NEW BISHOP OF BUCKINGHAM



This week, we received a heartfelt and inspiring message from Revd Canon Dave Bull the new Bishop Designate of Buckingham during a meeting with Area Deans and Lay Chairs. When asked how it feels to step into his new role, he shared these words:

"It feels both peaceful and exciting to step into the role of the new Bishop of Buckingham. It's truly a real privilege to serve in this capacity. The transition has been smooth, and I'm deeply grateful for the warm welcome and the opportunity to embark on this journey of service and leadership."

His words reflect the prayerful, humble, and deeply spiritual character that so many of us have already come to appreciate. His calm confidence and sense of gratitude are encouraging as he prepares to lead our Archdeaconry with integrity and grace.

As we reflect on this moment, it is important to remember that stepping into such a role is not without its challenges. The responsibility of leadership is immense, but so too is the opportunity to guide and serve the people of God with faith and dedication. Those of us who have worked with him in the past, whether during his time as Area Dean or in other capacities, know that he embodies the qualities of a true servant leader—prayerful, gentle, open, and honest. As a Deanery, we are called to pray for him and stand behind him as he takes on this significant role. Together, we can ensure that he is supported as he works to shepherd and inspire us all in the years to come.

Let us also remember to pray for all leaders within our church during these times. Leadership, particularly within the church, requires courage, humility, and reliance on God's strength. May we as a Deanery embrace this moment with hope and faith, standing united as we journey forward together under his guidance.



**WISHING EVERYONE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS
AND A PEACEFUL NEW YEAR**

WYCOMBE DEANERY MISSION FUND APPLICATION PROCESS AND GUIDELINES



We are delighted to invite churches within the Deanery to apply for funding through the Wycombe Deanery Mission Fund. This generous donation has been designated to support new mission-related initiatives across our parishes. The aim is to encourage creativity and outreach in our communities, enabling churches to kick-start projects that align with their mission to serve children, families, the elderly, and isolated individuals.

This briefing provides details on the application process, project categories, and key guidelines to help you submit your application successfully.

Key Areas of Focus for Funding

We encourage applications that fall within the following categories. However, if you have other creative ideas for mission-related projects, please feel free to include them in your application:

1. Children's Activities
 - Projects aimed at engaging children and young families, such as Messy Church, Holiday Clubs or special themed events (e.g., Easter or Christmas activities).
2. Messy Church Expansion
 - Organise themed or outdoor Messy Church sessions that create spiritual and creative experiences for families in both indoor and outdoor settings.
3. Outreach to Isolated People
 - Initiatives that focus on serving elderly, isolated, or housebound individuals, such as creating home visit packs, organising technology help workshops, or delivering regular pastoral care.
4. Parent Support Groups
 - Regular gatherings for parents, where they can share experiences and support one another while their children participate in supervised activities.

Complete the Application Form

- Interested churches are invited to submit a detailed proposal using the provided Mission Project Funding Application Form provided separately and available on the Deanery Website.
- For further help with this please contact the Area Dean email: sloughburnhamdeanery@gmail.com



JOIN US FOR MESSY CHRISTMAS AT ST MARY'S DATCHET

SATURDAY
14TH DECEMBER 2024
2PM - 4.30PM

LOTS OF CRAFTS, THE CHRISTMAS STORY AND A FREE MEAL FOR EVERYONE CHILD



CHAPLAINCY OPPORTUNITIES AT WEXHAM PARK HOSPITAL

FRIMLEY HEALTH
NHS FOUNDATION TRUST



An exciting opportunity has arisen to support the Chaplaincy Department at Wexham Park Hospital, part of Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust. Due to recent changes in the composition of the chaplaincy team, they are seeking additional clergy support, particularly for out-of-hours emergency cover.

The hospital's Chaplaincy Department provides spiritual care and religious provision to all patients, regardless of faith or belief. A new full-time chaplain will be joining the team in January 2025, however the department remains in need of additional support for the busiest out-of-hours periods, especially for Anglican and Roman Catholic patients. To address this need, they are actively recruiting 'bank' chaplains on zero-hours contracts. These flexible roles allow individuals to choose which shifts they are available to work. This is an ideal ministry opportunity for non-stipendiary or self-supporting clergy, as well as those with Permission to Officiate, who feel called to offer their pastoral presence within the NHS context.

For those interested in joining this meaningful and flexible ministry, or to recommend someone who might be suitable, please contact the lead Chaplain directly jennifer.sistig@nhs.net. She is happy to discuss the role further and provide more information.

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us meet the spiritual needs of our community.



READING FOOTBALL CLUB

SPORTS CHAPLAINCY FOR THE WOMEN'S TEAM

Reading FC is looking for an assistant to Reading FC Women Chaplain. Sports chaplaincy at Reading has been in place for over 20 years for the men and 11 years for the women's team. As the first team women now train and play their games at Slough Town FC, I am looking for a female lay or ordained person with a commitment to Christ, a pastoral heart and an interest in or background in sport to assist me in chaplaincy provision.

The team train on Wednesdays and Fridays from 6.45pm -8.30pm and home games are at 2pm on Sundays although players arrive at 12.30pm. Attendance is required at one of the training sessions and for some home games. A willingness to travel to away games on occasions (usually up to an hour away max) would be beneficial. The role would be shared and there will be flexibility to accommodate other commitments.

Sports chaplaincy induction training (3 x evenings online) and ongoing support are provided by Sports Chaplaincy UK. No previous experience is necessary. If you are interested in this voluntary position or you would like further details, please contact Angy on the email below.

Angy King Reading FC Women Chaplain.
angy.king@sportschaplaincy.org.uk

PRAYING FOR OUR DEANERY During Advent

This Advent, join us for our weekly prayer gathering as we reflect on "Living the Hope of Advent – A Call to Action." Through prayer, Scripture, and reflection, we'll explore how to bring hope, embody Christ's love, and act for justice in our daily lives.

Let us prepare our hearts and lives for His coming together.



Do Join us for our weekly prayer gatherings which takes place at 4pm every Thursday during term time.

Please look out for the email confirming the Zoom log in details