

archdeacons'

visitation news

Spring 2020 - issue 4

Destination 211 plays its part in Diocesan Strategy

Dewsbury Team Parish and Dewsbury Church of the Nazarene have set up a partnership with Dewsbury and District Street Angels to form *Destination 211*, a new bus ministry operating in the Chickenley area of Dewsbury.

Destination 211 fits well with the diocesan strategy objectives of growing churches, transforming communities and enabling confident Christians. Its aims are to make disciples, sharing the good news of Jesus whilst offering practical support, such as access to food banks and Christians Against Poverty.

The bus opens to the public in time for the end of Orchard Primary School's day, becoming a drop-in for parents and their children who are served with cake and drinks. The session includes a Bible story, craft, games and worship songs. This is followed by a session for young people, where a meal is shared and conversation about life and faith takes place. The bus ministry also hosted a Light Party on Halloween and was part of the Christmas light switch on in Dewsbury,

where hundreds of people enjoyed making Christmas crafts.

Rev'd Neil Walpole, who heads up the project, said: *"This is a really exciting ministry, with over 20 people from different churches in Dewsbury taking part in different ways, as we reach out with the love of Jesus through our words and actions. When we see God move, and members of communities begin to grasp, that transforming love, so we as a team, are also being transformed and growing in our own discipleship."*

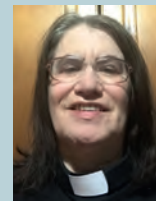
Bishop Jonathan, who opened the bus officially on 4th December 2019, added: *"This is a fantastic new ministry among the children and young people in a community that faces many challenges – taking the Christian message out from the church and onto the streets – quite literally."*

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Growing Young People as Christians – Crumpet Church

St Robert's, Pannal, are committed to 'Growing Young People as Christians'. They currently do really well, but felt that there was more to do. Particular challenges faced were a capacity problem for Junior Church on a Sunday and competition from sports matches, too, as well as some children not wishing to be separated from their parents. These all led the Vicar, The Rev'd John Smith, the Curate, Abbie Palmer and the congregation to seek new ways of engaging with local children and families.

After much conversation and prayer, they felt the call to start something new. This is always a cause for anxiety. Will anybody turn up? Will it run to plan? Will it be sustainable? There was need for research, deliberation and planning. What models were around? What was the right format? When and where? What resources were required?

In praying for guidance 'Crumpet Church' emerged, a new child-friendly worship service, straight after school, starting with a snack, followed by a short church service that was active and engaging, rather than a resource-heavy craft-based format. It included lively action songs, used 'Open the Book' material as the biblical input and there was a prayer box for participative intercessions.

Now all they needed was folks to attend. Publicity was largely through social media and via the local schools, none of which are church schools. They did experience a bit of a buzz going around about the service but didn't expect 90 people to turn up, two-thirds of whom were children. God's Spirit was truly moving in this place!

So be encouraged and have a go. Next week, Pannal are going to need some more crumpets!

Holy Trinity Cookridge

In our diocese, we call upon every Christian Community to 'create confident Christians, grow churches and transform communities'.

In November 2017, the new Vicar of Cookridge, Father Paul Atkinson, decided to celebrate Mass on five days each week, doing so, he says, "in the belief, as an Anglican Catholic, that prayer and the Sacraments are the centre and summit of Christian life and that real and sustainable growth can only begin when we encounter God in the person of Jesus Christ through prayer and worship."

Growth at Holy Trinity, since those first days, has been significant, with attendance at the Sunday Mass often in the high 90s, with young families with children accounting for around 50% of the congregation. As many people only attend fortnightly or monthly, the church is attracting even more worshippers over a month than this. Attendance is also growing at mid-week Masses, and often includes children. In the last two years, the parish has held 35 baptisms, admitted 46 children to Holy Communion and confirmed 12 new Christians.

Growth at Holy Trinity is consistent and sustainable. In Father Paul's view this is "simply the result of hard work and prayer, helped in our case by the beauty and dignity of our worship and the growing confidence of the people already committed to Christ and His Church.

"New people have been welcomed and embraced, through invitations to attend

worship and family occasions, including the Bake Off, Family Fun Day and the Angel Festival. The message has gone out that Holy Trinity is a church for the whole community that she serves."

Mission is expensive. However, giving is another measure of growth. The congregation pay their contribution to the Common Fund in full and support local and national charities. Additionally, in the last two years, they have raised almost £100,000 towards the Future Three @ HTC Project, the aim of which is to create a building fit for purpose, which will transform the community of Cookridge, both now and into the future.



Transforming Community through Laughter and Tears



Finding a safe space to share our stories has been a key aim for an interfaith partnership between the Ingleborough Team of Churches and the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust. Bringing together Christian women from local churches and Muslim women from the Bradford area, a group meets for life-changing weekend residentials at Broadrake Bunkbarn in Chapel le Dale, nestled between Wherside and Ingleborough. Faith stories, food, traditional crafts and walking are squeezed in between a great deal of laughter and tears

about what it means to live in our Yorkshire communities today. "I didn't know what to expect the first time we met to talk about our faiths, and to be honest we were all quite nervous. Yet I've been so encouraged in my own faith through understanding more about the importance of faith in my new Muslim friends. I wouldn't miss it for the world," said Christine Bosman from St John's Church in Bentham. "The weekends have been life-changing for many of us as we listen and support each other," added Team Rector, The Rev'd Anne Russell.

Following the yearly weekend residential, the women then meet again for a day at the Gillington Community Centre in Bradford where they have the opportunity to meet with other local Muslim community groups. And the next part of this Yorkshire interfaith journey will be a visit to Israel/Palestine in spring 2020 to meet Muslim, Christian and Jewish women, to visit their homes as well as some of the holy sites of all faiths.

We have donated more than £325,000 to churches around the UK

Trust130 is a special promotion to increase our support to local churches and their communities. It was initially introduced as a one-off giving programme in 2017 to celebrate and thank our church customers for trusting us over the previous 130 years.



Raise money for your church with a Trust130 donation – now extended until 31 December 2020

Trust130 is very simple... For every new direct home insurance policy taken out with Ecclesiastical, we offer to donate £130¹ to an Anglican church or cathedral of the policyholder's choice.

A donation of £130 may not sound much, but churches and congregations have used the donations to fund all sorts of things. From the restoration of church artworks to new sound systems, from family BBQ and fun days to new chairs to replace pews, and from structural repairs to new noticeboards and kitchen equipment, the money really does make a big difference.

There is no limit to the number of donations you can receive, so start spreading the word.

If you would like some posters or postcards to help you promote this locally, please don't hesitate to contact us on **0800 783 0130**.

If you or your church family would like to know more, or to get a quote, simply call us on **0800 783 0130** quoting **AVNEWS20** or visit: www.ecclesiastical.com/trust130

Has your church benefited from one of our Trust130 donations? We'd love to hear how the money has helped your church. Please send your story to: trust130@ecclesiastical.com

¹ Subject to terms and conditions – please visit www.ecclesiastical.com/trust130



Contains promotional material

Do you need financial advice you can trust?

We know how important having reliable guidance about your finances can be. That's why our Ecclesiastical Financial Advisory Service (EFAS) provides expert, unbiased, independent financial advice for clergy, church people and PCCs including:

- fully-independent pension and retirement planning advice about the clergy pension, other church pension schemes and all other plans and schemes you or your partner have from previous employers or insurance companies across the market
- saving and investing for your future (including ethical investments and PCC funds)
- life assurance and protection for you and your family
- mortgage advice and specialist advice for those living in tied accommodation who want to buy a home, or re-mortgage.

To find out more about the advice we can offer, contact our team on

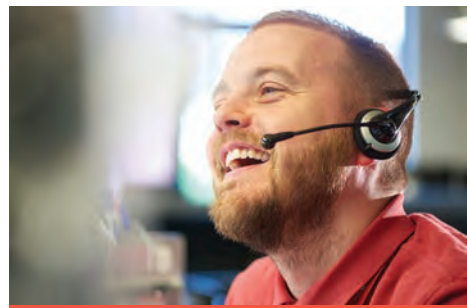
0800 107 0190 or email: getadvice@ecclesiastical.com

Please note: the value of investments can go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount invested. Your capital is at risk. Your home may be at risk if you do not keep up the repayments on any mortgage secured on it.

Taking a sabbatical in 2021?

Ecclesiastical's Ministry Bursary Awards provide financial support for members of the clergy taking extended study leave, and we are now accepting applications for sabbaticals taking place in 2021. You can find out more about the Awards, check the eligibility criteria and apply on our website. Find out more: www.ecclesiastical.com/mba





Risk Advice Line

We know that managing the risks associated with church premises can be a demanding responsibility. That's why we offer a Risk Management Advice Line. Whenever you need information about managing risk, and can't find what you are looking for on our website, our experts are here to help.

We also have a preferred supplier network of market leaders in their chosen fields offering a range of risk management products and services available at preferential rates.

Call our Risk Management Advice Line **0345 600 7531** or email us at: risk.advice@ecclesiastical.com.

Please have your policy number to hand when you call. The line is open from 09:00 to 17:00 Monday to Friday excluding Bank Holidays.

Information at your fingertips

More than ever, it's important to feel informed. Please also feel reassured that we continue to be here for you.

We are updating our website regularly with the latest **COVID-19** advice. The website is also a fantastic source of information from safety to security and grants to outreach, plus our products and services.

Find out more at: www.ecclesiastical.com/church

For our latest **COVID-19** statement please visit: www.ecclesiastical.com/church/coronavirus



Parish **Pixels**
Regional winners

Show your support!

The first stage of our Parish Pixels competition is complete.

Congratulations to our nine Regional winners.

Now our judges would like your help in deciding the overall National winner. Please 'show your support' for your favourite entry by voting online at:

www.ecclesiastical.com/parishpixels

Vote now



1 Scotland

St Cuthbert's: Like the ice appears to break the window, we are a beautiful church in a broken world doing our best to live as Jesus commanded.

2 North East

St Stephen's C of E Church: We are a church family that is open and active every day to support our local community through the beautiful chaos of life and help people to discover the love and grace of God.

3 North West

Freedom Church: We may not have our own church building and we may live in an area of deprivation, but we believe that it doesn't matter where you meet to worship God, as long as you meet to worship God.

4 East Midlands

St Stephen's: We will not be beaten by metal thieves!

5 West Midlands

St Luke's: The St Luke's family has been sparkling like a diamond at the centre of the community of Kingstanding for over 80 years, shining out the love of God for all to see.

6 Wales

St Teilo's: A place for quiet reflection.

7 Eastern

St Paul's: We are open every day of the week, welcoming all, offering space, time and hospitality to our local community and beyond.

8 South East

Parish Church of St Stephen: Inspired by the angels, our choir fills our beautiful building with uplifting music to worship the Lord and feed our souls.

9 South West

All Hallows: We celebrate our faith joyfully.

Our Movement for Good awards



Ecclesiastical has always believed in supporting the causes that can make a positive difference to people's lives.

That's why we work closely with the communities we serve to tackle the issues that are important to them.

We recently launched our Movement for Good awards for 2020 – a programme designed to give £1 million to charities.¹

These awards are a way of recognising and supporting the efforts of these dedicated men and women – people who devote their energies to changing people's lives for the better.

We've opened up the awards to exempt charities so are delighted that churches can be nominated for a donation – don't forget to tick the exempt box on the registration form.

More details about the awards programme can be found on our website at: www.ecclesiastical.com/movement-for-good

¹ Please note, anyone can nominate but only eligible charities can win an award. Go to the website address above to view the full Terms and Conditions.



Do we have up-to-date contact details for you?

If you need to update us on changes to names, email addresses, phone numbers and changes to PCC members, you can do this by calling our team on **0345 777 3322**



Funeral plans

A funeral plan from Ecclesiastical is an ideal way to make financial provision for your funeral, as well as reducing the worry for your loved ones at a difficult time. You can pre-plan your funeral in as much or as little detail as you like. Making your funeral wishes known in advance and providing for the cost makes sound financial sense.

Please contact us for your **FREE information pack** or visit www.funeralplans.co.uk to find your nearest funeral director.

Call: 0800 055 6503
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Ecclesiastical Insurance Services offers extra tailored motor insurance to the clergy, with benefits including business use (relating to the church), no direct charges, no administration fees for changes to the policy, and up to £500 cover for church goods in the car.

Our Clergy Motor Insurance isn't available through price comparison sites or online, because we think it's important to speak to you so we understand your specific needs. Give us a call today to find out more.

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Another million pounds to support church youth work

Another million pounds is being made available by Allchurches Trust – owners of Ecclesiastical Insurance Group – to support churches and Christian organisations to connect with young people.



The latest round of grants took the total amount of Growing Lives funding awarded by Allchurches Trust to over £1.3 million pounds, benefiting more

than 140 projects. St Margaret's Church in Aspley, Nottingham, has a £7,000 Growing Lives grant to develop its 'Bee family' programme – an after school community group aimed at young families who live on the local estates.

With demand for grants still high, Allchurches has decided to continue the Growing Lives programme into 2020, making another million pounds available.

Allchurches Trust chairman, Tim Carroll, said: "Our Growing Lives grants programme supports a wide range of projects with young people at their heart. It's always inspiring to read about the innovative ways in which the organisations we fund are working together to meet local need and realise the power of young people to strengthen community."

Under Growing Lives, grants of up to £25,000 are available and the amount depends upon the cost of the project and the level of need in the community, ranging from 10% of project cost to 80%. Churches can apply for a grant under this programme even if they have received funding from Allchurches in the last two years, as long as it is for a different project. The programme is also open to cathedrals.

You can find out more at:
www.allchurches.co.uk/growinglives



St Margaret's Church in Aspley, received a

£7,000

grant to develop its 'Bee family' programme...



Keeping in touch

More than ever, it's important to keep in touch. We hope that you, your church and community are well and finding new ways to stay connected.

We send updates and useful advice by email once a month. If you or anyone else in your church would like to be added to the list, please visit: **www.ecclesiastical.com/signup**. If you no longer wish to receive them, you can unsubscribe at any time.



Nurturing Lay Discipleship

From September 2018 to March 2019, Pat Harrington was part of a group of laity and clergy from St John's Clayton who participated in the Personal Growth and Leadership course run for the Outer Bradford Deanery...



Designed by the Archdeacon, Andy Jolley, the Lay Training Officer, Sharon Bavington and Personal Growth and Leadership Trainer Neville Hilton, the course combined principles of personal growth and leadership found in both the Bible and the best of contemporary workplace wisdom. It addresses goals 3 and 4 of the Diocesan Strategy (**Nurturing Lay Discipleship and Leadership Pathways**), and does so by emphasising **Clergy and Lay** learning together.

For Pat, the course was a really positive experience: "The course helped spark my spiritual growth through learning, applying the lessons from the course and reflecting on them with the team from my church.

By watching others and 'having a go', I have stepped out of my comfort zone, learning to ask myself 'why not?'

Following the course, Pat was elected as one of St John's Churchwardens for the first time. "The Personal Growth and Leadership course was really important for me in growing my confidence to agree to being nominated as churchwarden. This is now giving me an unexpected reward in serving the church."

Pat also has a passion for growth. She has been a key part of growing a culture of invitation at St John's, seeing members of the congregation intentionally going out and inviting guests by personal invitation to events such as the Alpha course. She says of Alpha and the Personal Growth and Leadership Course, now being run across the Bradford Episcopal Area. "Both these courses have helped me to grow personally. I have a better understanding of my identity, reality and am now more confident sharing my faith, wherever I am."

Mission Apprentice Leadership Pathways

Sarah Hulbert and Claire Perkins (back row, right) are two of seven Mission Apprentices working with a Resource or Resourcing church in Bradford and Keighley. Enabled by Church Commissioners' Strategic Development

Funding, the Mission Apprentice Scheme gives a focused opportunity to develop missional leaders, while providing additional energy to help the placement churches grow numerically and spiritually.



As part of their two-year role, the Mission Apprentices take the lead in developing an area of missional activity in their parish. They are also on a leadership pathway themselves. As well as training and support from their local clergy, they meet fortnightly with the other diocesan interns in their own learning community. Part of their role is then to grow others in their placement churches in discipleship and into leadership.

Sarah's mission focus is Keighley town centre, reaching out to, and learning from, people she describes as being 'battered by the storms of life'. She says, "I've really enjoyed getting to know the community of street drinkers and addicts around Keighley Shared Church. Spending time with these men and women has taught me lots about generosity. Although they have so little, they open their homes to others in need. I love being able to express God's love for them in very practical ways but, as I build relationships, also being able to share my own life story and Jesus's love for them."

Claire helps with St John's Great Horton's outreach programmes, including the 'Tuesday Friends' lunch and Share Table (a foodbank). She is also involved with following up enquirers' courses, and is now running the Start course. For Claire, "It's an awesome privilege to serve the people I meet throughout the week and on Sundays. It's so much more than a job!"

St Luke's Holbeck Leeds and Transforming Community



In the media, Holbeck and Beeston Hill don't often receive a good press. Drugs, crime and prostitution, every month a tragic story seems to hit the headlines. If you delve a little deeper however, there are many stories of hope. So many people love their neighbourhood and want to engage with their community, working together to make things better.

St Luke's Holbeck has moved into the church primary school whilst a community hub is being built onto the west end of the church, creating a space for community rooms, accessible facilities and a large purpose-built kitchen. In 2020, the church

will start to engage with local charities and organisations who can use the building as a base to deliver their projects to the local area. The church will also be a hub for workers providing youth work, social cohesion and employability skills in the area.

St Luke's is also a Resource Church involved in a church planting partnership with the neighbouring parish in Hunslet. Over the past year, they have begun a monthly All-Age service at St Mary's School. It's early days yet, but 30 local people are now attending the Sunday afternoon meeting, and there is a plan to start a second service each month.

This work cannot be done without prayer, or by working alone. Inner city work can be challenging and costly but 'Rooted in Christ – Growing Community' has been a useful strapline as the parish seeks to engage with their inner city neighbourhood and move forward with others into 2020.

Reaching Out in the Pontefract Archdeaconry

St Helen's Athersley – Urban

St Helen's Athersley, like all parishes, is unique. Four large, mainly council, estates make up the parish. There is no real centre except a large road junction and small shopping centre which is primarily passing trade. The parish faces many social problems and struggles with poverty, drugs and unemployment.

Over the years, St Helen's Church has tried to address some of these areas of need, seeing outreach as central to the living out of the Gospel message. *The Romero Project* offers practical help in areas of finding employment, literacy, foodbank support, alcoholics anonymous and drug support. *Athersley Cares*, in contrast, operating from the Church Hall, offer a more social activity approach including Guides, Brownies, Rainbows, Karate, Elderly Care, Men's Club, Zumba and Line Dancing. All this activity is underpinned

by the Daily Mass, a rich prayer life and through pastoral outreach built up through our connections with the local schools, baptism contacts and the care of those seeking weddings and funerals. Through these pastoral encounters, a confirmation group has been nurtured. Father Peter Needham, the Vicar of St Helen's says: "Through all of this I believe that Christ's life is being lived out daily and yearly, through Sacrament, Prayer and by Christ in Action through his Body, the Church."

St Martin's Womersley – Rural

Father Andrew Martlew writes: "My text is from that wise man, Bob the Builder who said, 'Yes, we can'. In the past the word from the ancient rural church of Womersley was 'No'. Can we bring Year 6? Can we have a concert? Or host a talk about the fascinating Victorian history of the village? Of course what we actually said was,

'Yes... but we don't have a lavatory' which amounted to the same thing.

"We did once host the pre-school Nativity – with potties. Just once. And then we met young parents who live in our small village who'd never set foot in the church. And were amazed by it, and by the welcome they got.

"There's no guarantee that our new kitchen, level access and lavatory will convert the village. But we will be able to say 'Yes, we can' to those who want to come to church. Which is why we called the project 'You're welcome!'"



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