

## Two new bishops for our diocese consecrated at York Minster

Two new bishops for the Diocese of Leeds have been consecrated by the Archbishop of York at a packed service in York Minster.

The Rt Revd Smitha Prasadam, formerly Chaplain of St Albans, Copenhagen, is now the Bishop of Huddersfield, while the Rt Revd Anna Eltringham, formerly Team Rector of Oxted, is now the Bishop of Ripon.

Family, friends and colleagues from across the country gathered in the historic setting for the service, led by the Most Revd Stephen Cottrell, which included the consecration of the Rt Revd Dr Matthew Porter as Bishop of Bolton and a sermon by the Rt Revd Dr David Hamid, Suffragan Bishop in Europe.

The new bishops will begin their ministry later this summer.



Welcoming them into their roles, The Rt Revd Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds said:

“These are excellent appointments and we are delighted to welcome Smitha and Anna into our diocese.

“Smitha has travelled a long way since she was a University of Leeds student and her wealth of experience in ministry at home and abroad will bring great benefits.

“Anna will greatly support our diocesan mission to encourage Christian confidence across the Ripon Episcopal Area and beyond.”

## Bradford church greens community with new eco garden

One of our Bradford churches is helping their area be greener with their new eco garden.

Denholme Shared Church recently officially opened their new Community Eco Garden.

The brainchild of members of the church's Vision Group, the project is part of working towards the Eco Church Bronze Award which the church hopes to achieve very soon.

Robert Priestley, a keen gardener and longstanding member of the church, has designed the garden.

It has been designed with wildlife in mind and includes: plants to attract insects, a bug hotel, bird boxes and feeders, native fruit trees, a rockery with a solar powered water feature, and seating areas for member of the public.



# The passage of time

## Bishop Tony

I recently came across a book of pictures from my home town of Bedford. It shows many images from 100 years ago in the Edwardian era. One of the pictures shows a family group walking along a street and I reflected on the fact that in their wildest dreams they couldn't possibly have imagined how that street would look in 2014. They couldn't have imagined for a minute the multi storey buildings that have replaced many of their shops and houses, much less the cars that would be driving along that street at speeds beyond their imagination.

It's the same for us. Can we even begin to imagine how our neighbourhoods and town centres will look a hundred years from now and the changes that might have taken place? We simply have no idea, any more than the Edwardians would have had. Imagination and reality are going to be worlds apart. Despite all our hopes and plans, even our "dreams" we have no idea what the future holds for us and it becomes an important test of our faith and trust in God that, ultimately, we are content to leave such things entirely in his hands.



In our area even a few years ago people would not have imagined the amalgamation of our three dioceses and the enormity of the change that will take place.

In one of his songs, Secret o'Life, James Taylor says, "The secret of life is enjoying the passage of time" not of course enjoying its passage but enjoying it as it passes. In other words, life isn't just a journey from birth to death, it's about how we spend the time along the way. As Christians, we would have to add that it is about the purpose of our life, our ultimate goal, eternal life. While our sights are fixed on the future as we await in joyful hope the coming of our Saviour, at the same time that awareness and anticipation should bring our focus very much back to the present because it is in this world, in the here and now that "we live and move and have our being".

Bishop Tony

# From Altar Cloths to stunning Christening Gown

A beautiful christening gown made from altar cloths donated by St Michael's and All Angels, Linton is being offered for use in churches, thanks to the generous work of two local women.

When Grassington resident Jo Prowse discovered that the altar cloths from St. Michael's and All Angels Church in Linton were being offered to the public, she felt she had to find a way to re-purpose them after they had been damaged by damp and mildew during a storage period during Covid. She came up with the idea of creating a christening gown which could then be used by families christening their babies in Church.



# New deacons ordained at Bradford Cathedral



Services of joyful celebration have been held at Bradford Cathedral as we ordained this year's class of new deacons.

Seventeen deacons were ordained across two services by the Bishop of Leeds, the Rt Revd Nick Baines, as they prepare to begin curacies in all five of our areas.

The Eucharistic services included sermons preached by the Rt Revd Tim Thornton, formerly the Bishop of Lambeth and now an



Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Salisbury.

Bishop Tim preached about the role of a deacon, and challenged them to be alert, ask questions and offer challenges as they share the gospel in the areas they are serving.



The new deacons then made declarations, before the congregation promised to support them in their ministry.

After prayers and the laying on of hands, the deacons were presented with a Bible, before being welcomed by the congregation.

## People of Knaresborough 'Worship Local' at new service

Some 130 people recently gathered at Holy Trinity Knaresborough for the first ever 'Worship Local' event, drawing Christians in from across the town; some who already worship in Knaresborough, but many who live in the town but worship elsewhere.

Led by the Revd Stroma McDermott and the Revd Jen Bradley, and supported by Christians Together in Knaresborough and Kairos Network Church, the service aimed to gather people to celebrate Knaresborough and all the things God is doing in the community and to have an opportunity to connect with each other, perhaps for the first time.

The worship was led by a group made up from people from different churches, and the service included a time of conversation an opportunity to comment on post-it notes what they love about Knaresborough, what is God already doing, what people would like to see happen and their prayers for Knaresborough.

The feedback then formed the basis for prayers.



## What Shall I Do With My Life? The Wrong Question?

Revd Canon Derek Walmsley  
Diocesan Director of Ordinands  
and Vocations

So the annual ordination services have taken place and we have another “batch” of deacons and priests serving in the diocese. Could you be joining them in a few years’ time? What would it take for you to offer yourself to explore ordination? It would be easy to think that each of our new clergy had a special moment when God spoke to them in a clear audible voice - something like the Apostle Paul’s experience on the road to Damascus road. But what happened to Paul was descriptive, not prescriptive. God’s call comes in a variety of ways. However, it’s true that (like for Paul) the call of God can often come as a surprise. Some of our new clergy would tell you that. It’s actually unusual for God to give a quick answer when we ask anything! If we pray, “Lord, what shall I do with my life?” It’s rare to get a rapid response! After his sabbatical in 2019, Bishop Nick’s first sermon was at the Chrism Eucharist in Ripon Cathedral, and these were his first words, “Never ever take your vocation – to



lay or ordained discipleship and ministry – for granted. For when you do, it will have become a private possession, a personal commodity, an exercise in vanity. The call of God is and has always been very clear: it is not primarily for me/us; rather, it is to me/us, but for the sake of the world and the church through whom the world is to be reached.”

Later he added, “I have come back this week with a renewed conviction that vocation must never become about me, my gifts and weaknesses, my ministry, my needs – unless these are held in the clear conviction (in practice as well as theological or ecclesiological theory or aspiration) that the church and her ministers are called to lay down their life for the sake of the world.”

What shall I do with my life? Perhaps a better question might be, “Christ gave his life for me, so am I willing to do whatever it takes – to lay down my life – for his sake?”

## Archbishop’s award honours Wakefield Cathedral’s Canon Theologian

Wakefield Cathedral’s Canon Theologian, Dr Mark Oakley, has received a prestigious award from the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Mark was at Lambeth Palace for a special ceremony to receive the Lanfranc Award for Education and Scholarship, which is one of the annual Lambeth Awards made to individuals by the Archbishop of Canterbury in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the Church of England, the Anglican Communion, and wider society.

The citation for Mark’s award said that it was for his writing, speaking, leading conferences, study days and retreats, and being in huge demand for helping church people and those not of faith to understand the relationship between poetry and faith.

