

# Diocesan News

## May 2024

### Diocese marks 10th anniversary with service at Bradford Cathedral



The Diocese of Leeds has marked its 10th anniversary with a special service at Bradford Cathedral.

The service was in part led by the Most Revd Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York, who has been visiting our region as part of the celebrations, and was attended by civic dignitaries from across the diocese.

The service featured worship led by the Bradford Cathedral Choir and the worship band from Fountains Church Bradford, and was organised by the Revd Pete Gunstone, Minor Canon for Worship & Nurture at Bradford Cathedral.

Archbishop Stephen was welcomed by the Bishop of Leeds, the Rt Revd Nick Baines, before moving to a time of hearing about the work of God in our five episcopal areas.

As part of his sermon Archbishop Stephen said: "The story of the Diocese of Leeds is nothing other than the story of God's love for us in Christ – the story of persistent love, and the story of a love that lives and learns.

"The Diocese of Leeds – its people, parishes, the beautiful, complex, diverse, challenging communities it serves; this is the place where God is pleased to dwell, and out of this fair land, and built upon this rock, the people of God here, by the power of the Spirit, bear fruit."

The service ended with a commission from the Archbishop to all to carry on faithfully serving God in our region, before Bishop Nick and students from Lepton School cut the cake made to mark our anniversary.



### Rambling Revd to walk some 160 miles to raise money



One of our Ripon area priests is going to be walking some 160 miles to raise money for his churchyard and support his local fell rescue group.

This spring the Revd Darryl Hall, Vicar of the United Parish of Upper Nidderdale, is looking to walk both the Rob Roy Way and the Great Glen Way, in the highlands of Scotland, a total of approximately 157 miles.

Along with his wife Sharon, and friends Richard and Helen, Revd Darryl will be doing this walk to raise money for much-needed works in the Wayside Cemetery, which belongs to the church of St Mary's Greenhow.

Revd Darryl said: "As part of our mission action plan, we are committed to making our churches and churchyards fit for purpose as a spiritual and community resource."

## Walking with purpose

Revd Jo Jones

Assistant Curate at Leeds Minster and Deputy Head of Chaplaincy at Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust

Working as a deacon in chaplaincy has been an enlightening journey, shaping my perspective and deepening my understanding of ministry. Each day presents unique opportunities for growth, reflection, and service. One of the most profound aspects of this role is the sense of purpose it instils. Being able to provide spiritual care to individuals in their moments of vulnerability reaffirms my calling and strengthens my commitment to serving others.

In chaplaincy, empathy is not just a virtue but a necessity. Engaging with people from diverse backgrounds and accompanying them through their struggles has expanded my capacity for empathy. Whether consoling a patient in the hospital or supporting a grieving family, I've learned to truly connect with others and share in their joys and sorrows. Chaplaincy has exposed me to the resilience of the human spirit. Witnessing individuals facing illness or loss draw upon their faith and inner strength to persevere has been incredibly inspiring. Their stories serve as powerful reminders of the enduring presence of hope and the transformative power of faith.

Spiritual growth is inherent in the chaplaincy journey. Through prayer, reflection, and



engagement with various religious traditions, I've deepened my own spiritual understanding and developed a richer relationship with God. Each encounter serves as an opportunity for both ministry and personal enrichment.

Collaboration lies at the heart of chaplaincy. Working alongside healthcare professionals, religious leaders, and community organizations, I've learned the value of teamwork and the importance of collective efforts in meeting the needs of those we serve. Together, we form a supportive network dedicated to holistic care and support. In chaplaincy, the sacred is found in the everyday. Whether it's offering a prayer, lending a listening ear, or simply being present, every interaction holds the potential for profound spiritual connection. It's a humbling experience that emphasizes the importance of humility, openness, and the transformative power of presence.

Overall, working as a deacon in chaplaincy has been a journey of profound significance. It's a privilege to walk alongside others in their spiritual journeys, offering support, compassion, and companionship along the way. As I continue this path, I am grateful for the opportunities for growth, learning, and service that chaplaincy offers.

## Diocesan Interns prayed for by Bishop Nick

Our Bradford Mission Apprentices and Leeds & Harrogate Interns, all part of our Diocesan Internship Programme, enjoyed a great start to their summer term thanks to Bishop Nick's invitation to a lunch at Hollin House recently.

After a morning of worship and prayer at St Michael's Parish Hall, with a reflection on Luke 2 and 'The Boy Jesus at the Temple' led by the Revd Jude Smith, Diocesan interns and leaders were welcomed by Bishop Nick and his wife Linda at their home for a lunch provided by Nurture, the food and catering arm of St George's Crypt.

In response to their many questions, Bishop Nick shared about the joys and challenges of his role, the spiritual disciplines and approaches that sustain him in his busy schedule and his experience as a member of the House of Lords.

Reflecting on Jesus' encounter with blind Bartimaeus in the gospel of Mark, he encouraged each one of them to "Take heart. Get up. He is calling you."



# Archbishop of York visits many of our confident Christian communities



The whole diocese of Leeds welcomed the Archbishop of York on a missional tour that helped launch our 10th anniversary year.

The Most Reverend Stephen Cottrell met Christian communities and projects from the region's tip to its toe as he visited each of our five Episcopal Areas.

Leyburn is where the visit began, first at the church of St Matthew's.

Leyburn Auction Mart was next, for a guided tour by its chaplain, Revd Chris Lawton, who works within the farming community.

Young people convicted of serious crimes are looked after to the best of everyone's abilities at Wetherby Young Offenders Institution and Archbishop Stephen was keen to talk with some of them and its managing chaplain, Revd Andy Rowe who has been in post since 2023.

Some of the brightest and best at Bishop Young Academy in the heart of Seacroft, welcomed Archbishop Stephen and the Rt Revd Arun Arora, Bishop of Kirkstall, when he moved into our Leeds EA on the Friday afternoon.

Children, cake and fun featured at St Richard's, Seacroft – an estate church which engages lovingly with its people in a hard-pressed part of Leeds.

An early start on Saturday at Lighthouse at St George's Crypt, Leeds gave Archbishop Stephen the chance to join its morning service for a Christian community "battered and bruised by the storms of life" in the words of founder Revd Jon Swales.

A "resurrected church" is how Revd Jimmy Hinton describes St Stephen's West Bowling, which Archbishop Stephen visited along with the Rt Revd Toby Howarth, Bishop of Bradford

Sunday morning began at St Mary's in our Wakefield EA with the Rt Tony Robinson, Bishop of Wakefield and Revd Phil Maries of the Central Barnsley Benefice welcoming the Archbishop for a Eucharist service in the town centre church.

The Jo Cox More in Common Centre at Huddersfield University hosted a large gathering of lay people, clergy and guests including local MP Kim Leadbeater, for a discussion of the diocesan prayer project Rhythm of Life.

As the sun dipped over Mixenden, Archbishop Stephen, Bishop Smitha and Archdeacon of Halifax, Bill Braviner went to a Rock Mass at its Holy Nativity church.



# Revd Ian cycles and runs 75 miles to mark diocesan 10th anniversary



One of our clergy has raised some £2000 for our parishes with a 75 mile sponsored journey to mark the diocese's 10th anniversary.

The Revd Canon Ian Greenhalgh, Area Dean for the Bowland and Ewecross, and his son Tom, rode on his bike and ran across the Ripon and Bradford areas raising funds to help support our churches.

Revd Ian said: "When I had my 75th birthday in January and thought about the 10th Anniversary of the Diocese of Leeds, I felt inspired to challenge my fitness levels and to raise money for the Church I love to serve.

"A special thanks to our backup team Melanie and Rye, to Tom especially, and to all who supported us!"



## A month for celebrating?

Revd Sonia Kasibante  
Trust Chaplain, Leeds  
Teaching Hospitals NHS  
Trust

“That must be really difficult” – this is frequently the comment from friends and strangers when we talk about me being a hospital chaplain. And yes, it is the case – indescribably difficult at times. This is not where it ends, however. It is a privilege to be alongside people in hospital including those who embrace death as part of their journey with God. More often, I witness people being discharged from hospital, healed or well on their way to recovery. There is a sense in which the hospital is the world in concentrated form - a world that is tormented by suffering and untimely deaths, and still with much to celebrate.

The month of May, it would seem to me, is designated by the Church as a season for celebration. The many occasions for celebration include Ascension Day, Pentecost, Trinity, Corpus Christi and the Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth.



In addition, we have a few Saints' days as well: Philip and James, and Matthias (Apostles). And if you were to Google “significant days in May 2024” (please do!) you will find a long list of other very interesting dates to mark, including, on Sunday, May 5, “World Laughter Day” – this, I trust, is not cruel humour, but in the spirit of celebration of good humour.

The Christian faith is good foundation for holding in tension the paradoxes of our world. We have, once again, marked the violent death and celebrated the glorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus. As senseless violence and various forms of injustice continue to mar the lives of many, hope is kept alive by those who respond with compassion and care. Christian hope is kept alive by Jesus' defeat of death. May the opportunities for celebrations in May be a resource for facing whatever comes our way.

## Two of our primary schools celebrate recent SIAMS successes

Two of our primary schools are celebrating recent successes with their SIAMS inspections.

Trinity All Saints Church of England Primary School in Bingley and St Matthew's Primary in Leeds both have been inspected as part of SIAMS, the Church of England's statutory inspection mechanism.

Trinity All Saints Primary was found to be a welcoming and supportive community: “Everyone is welcomed and accepted for who they are at this loving Church school.”

Of their recent very positive SIAMS result, Gemma Crawford, Headteacher of St Matthew's Primary, said: “The whole school community at St Matthew's C of E Primary School are incredibly proud of our most recent SIAMS outcome.

“It was an extremely positive experience and a joy to be able to share how St Matthew's is living up to its foundation as a church school.

