

# Diocesan News

## August 2024

### Young people celebrate year of service and fun as Diocesan Interns



Our Diocesan Interns have celebrated a year full of learning, service and fun as this year's cohort prepare to move on.

At a celebration at St Matt's in Burley, the departing Interns shared all that had been good about their year, and praised those who had supported them every step of the way.

Interns Aidan, Briony, Isaac, Jon, Josh and Smarak spoke about the highlights of their years, speaking of the joys of serving in our churches, and how good it was to gather all together on Mondays for fellowship and training.

Interns Eli, Abi, Joshua, Rohan, Lyds and James came up to tell people at the celebration about all the people who had supported them in this year, including their line managers

and mentors, without whom none of the great things they have achieved would have been possible.

The Revd Derek Jones and the Revd Leah Leighton, coordinators of our Bradford hub that supports our Mission Apprentices in that area, also gave thanks for Susie, Laxmi and Lucinda, who are also completing their time with us.

Thank you gifts were given to line managers and mentors by the Interns, and gifts were also given to Revd Jude; the Revd Lottie Jones, who has been supporting the teaching of the Interns; and Katharine Greathead, Diocesan Internship Coordinator, who was praised by all Interns and others as a vital support for the successful running of the scheme.

### Packed farewell service for Bishop Tony Robinson at Wakefield Cathedral



The Rt Revd Tony Robinson, Bishop of Wakefield said many goodbyes at a special service of gratitude for his 27 years of service in our diocese.

Wakefield Cathedral was packed with well-wishers, bishops and clergy, reflecting Bishop Tony's great popularity as both a priest, and as a person throughout a total of 42 years of ministry.

Among those present were Ed Anderson, Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, the Rt Revd Philip North, Bishop of Blackburn and the Rt Revd Dr Martin Warner, Bishop of Chichester and many civic dignitaries.

The Rt Revd Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds said: "He could not have been a better episcopal colleague during a time of change, challenge and opportunity. I will miss his calm, steady commitment to our diocesan ministry and mission."

## Working from a place of rest

Bishop Toby

The long-awaited holiday month of August is underway and having begun with Yorkshire Day, it hopefully brings us much-needed time to relax and have fun with family and friends.

We often think of rest as something that we earn to recover from our work. Over the last few months, I've been trying to live the other way around. I'm learning to work from a place of rest.

Working from a place of rest means rooting our lives in God. Like the tree "planted by streams of water" that we read about in Jeremiah 17:8-9, God calls us to put our trust in Him, before we engage in the huge challenges our communities and our world are facing.

For many Christians, this means starting each day with Jesus, in silence, with the worship liturgy and Bible readings of Morning Prayer, in bringing our own needs and those of others to God. That discipline makes a statement to myself that when I start my work, whether responsibilities at home, in our churches and schools or with other partners in the Bradford District, I am doing so from a deep place of rest, security and peace in God.



A similar rhythm operates weekly, beginning on the sabbath, and annually, with extended summer holidays or with a spiritual retreat if possible.

Of course, there are situations in our lives when it can be almost impossible to hold onto any kind of daily prayer routine, for example if we're looking after small children. But even a snatched moment can bring us back to the rest that Jesus offers.

I was inspired by Adam Peaty's reaction to just missing out on an Olympic gold medal. He had worked so hard, but he wasn't devastated. His faith in Jesus and his church community had enabled him to emerge from a dark and obsessive place and to swim with the "liberation and freedom" of a child of God.

We may not all be Olympic swimmers, but we can claim with Peaty the promise that when we share with Jesus his 'yoke', we will find rest for our souls.

## New Licensed Lay Ministers commissioned in our diocese

Ten Licensed Lay Ministers have been commissioned at recent service, which also saw the whole ministry commended.

The service, which took place at the Community of the Resurrection, Mirfield, on Sunday, July 14, saw the Ven Bill Braviner, Archdeacon of Halifax and our Warden of Readers, commission the new LLMs, also known as Readers.

At the same event, the Area Wardens and Assistant Area Wardens for our episcopal areas were commended in their ministry, supporting LLMs in their parts of the diocese.

The Revd Helen Collings, Lay Training Team Leader, said: "It has been a joy to work with these students as they follow their calling to be Teachers of the Faith, Enablers of Mission and Leaders in Church and Society.

"We pray for them as they embark on their commissioned year in their parishes."



## Seven decades of church and community celebrated at Holy Trinity Mixenden



70 years of strong spiritual life and community engagement at Holy Nativity, Mixenden has been celebrated with a service of thanksgiving.

And the home of Rock Mass is also delighted to have just been awarded two important grants for much-needed building works and improvements.

Revd Robb Sutherland, Vicar of Mixenden said: "as a church built by public subscription by residents of the new Mixenden estate we have, and will always be, a church at the heart of the community, with the community at its heart.

"As Holy Nativity embarks on this new chapter, the church extends its gratitude to all who have been part of its journey and looks forward to continued growth and service."

Bishop of Huddersfield, the Rt Revd Smitha Prasad and the Archdeacon of Halifax, Ven Bill Braviner, led the service and were joined by distinguished guests including the Mayor of Calderdale, Councillor Anne Kingstone, and the Deputy Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, Virginia Lloyd.

The event saw a heartwarming turnout, with over 90 attendees comprising current and former church members as well as community residents. Guests travelled from near and far to reconnect and share cherished memories of their time at Holy Nativity.

The celebration commenced with a service filled with gratitude and reflection, followed by a bring and share lunch that fostered fellowship among attendees. Guests also had the opportunity to peruse an archive of old photos and memorabilia, reminiscing about the church's rich history and the many lives it has touched over the decades.

In addition to celebrating this significant milestone, Holy Nativity was thrilled to announce the receipt of two generous grants: one from the Bishops Development Fund and one from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. This funding will enable the church to move forward with appointing an architect for its much-anticipated building project.

## Some £72,000 awarded to churches across the diocese



The Diocese of Leeds is pleased to award some £72,000 as part of the latest round of the Diocesan Church Buildings Grants and Loans Scheme.

In the June/July round of the Scheme grants have been awarded to 25 parishes, and combined with the first round which took place this year the diocese has awarded grants of some £136,000 in 2024.

In this round there were two applications from the Bradford area, seven from the Huddersfield area, three from the Leeds area, ten from the Ripon area and three from the Wakefield area.

Works supported by grants in this round include roof repairs, improved lighting and heating controls, kitchenette improvements, LED lighting, new handrails and stonework repairs.

The diocese launched our Church Buildings Grants scheme in 2021, and in 2024 we received additional "Buildings for Mission" grant funding totalling £272,000, allowing us to broaden the range of projects that can now be supported.

## With the help of God

Ven Cat Thatcher  
Archdeacon of Pontefract



As you might expect, I've been doing a lot of reflecting recently – particularly about the new role I'm coming into, the new (to me) area, and about where I fit. In fact, the new role isn't entirely new, as I covered for the Archdeacon of Bradford when he had a sabbatical a couple of years ago – so I do arrive with some basic understanding of what it entails. But the Wakefield Episcopal area, which as well as the city and environs of Wakefield includes much of Barnsley, the Five Towns of Pontefract, Castleford, Knottingley, Featherstone and Normanton, and Ossett, and more, is entirely new to me.

And this has been discombobulating, to say the least. I have lived and worked in the Bradford area for the last 20 years of my life. I know where things are. I know how long it takes to get from place A to place B, and which roads I need to take – and which to avoid! I know where the good shops are, which the good restaurants and cafes are, and I know – I think I'm right in saying this – all of the clergy in that area, and which church they are attached to.

This isn't the case in Wakefield.

Although I quickly got used to finding my way to B&Q, Sainsburys, the Area Office, and the Bishop of Wakefield's House, for many of my other meetings, introductions and church services I have been absolutely relying on satnav. A common refrain in my car at the moment is 'there's a church.....THAT looks like a vicarage – I must be here!'

It has been a valuable reminder against being self-reliant. Recently I was at the Ordination of Deacons service at Ripon Cathedral, and I heard all the Deacons-to-be make their promises with the words 'with the help of God, I will'. Just as I can't find my way to a vicarage in the east of the Episcopal Area without the help of my satnav, and just as the Deacons will not be able to carry out their ministry without the help of God, neither can I. And every day I come back to this truth: that all I ever do or can ever hope to do can only be in the strength of God.

So thank you to everyone in the Wakefield area for your warm welcome (and navigational tips). And thanks and praise for God's constant, unfailing love and support. With – and only with – the help of God, I will.

## Lots of learning about rural joys and stresses at the Great Yorkshire Show



Bishop Nick Baines led a strong team of our senior clergy onto the slightly damp fields of the Great Yorkshire Show to meet and talk with farming action groups and other people who support rural communities.

Guided by Revd Canon Leslie Morley, honorary chaplain to the Yorkshire Agricultural Society, he and Bishop Anna Eltringham, Dean John Dobson, Dean Simon Cowing and Dean Andy Bowerman heard about current issues from the National Farmers' Union, the Country Landowners Association and more.

Archdeacon of Richmond and Craven, Jonathan Gough was also at the show and opened its second day with prayers in the bandstand, where he was joined by the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell.

