



# archdeacons'

## visitation news

Spring 2016 - issue 3

## Update on the Chancellor's Directions and Faculty Jurisdiction Rules

The Chancellor's Directions took effect on 1 January 2016 and encompass the new Faculty Jurisdiction Rules and the Churchyard Rules...

The new rules are aimed at simplifying the faculty process and mean that some minor works no longer require a full faculty application. Works to churches now fall into three categories:

**List A** – details minor works that may be undertaken without a faculty, providing the specific conditions set out in the right-hand column are met.

**List B** – details other works that may be undertaken without a faculty. However, before any work is undertaken, the written approval of the Archdeacon is required. The Archdeacon may impose conditions when giving approval.

If works do not fall into Lists A and B, then a faculty should be sought.

The new online faculty system came into operation on 1 January 2016. This can be used

for recording works on List A, seeking approval under List B and for making faculty applications.

To register for the online portal and to access a training manual, please visit **facultyonline.churchofengland.org/home** Information on all the above, as well as full details of the works permitted by Lists A and B, is available on the Chancellor's Consistory Court page of the diocesan website at **www.westyorkshiredales.anglican.org/legal/consistory-court**

If you have any queries regarding the new rules, maintaining a church building or about the online faculty system, please contact your Archdeacon or the DAC Secretary, Sylvia Johnson, at **sylvia.johnson@westyorkshiredales.anglican.org** or on **0113 2000 556**. Help is available!

## The diocese welcomes two new Archdeacons



The diocese has recently welcomed two new Archdeacons. The Venerable Beverley Mason will serve as Archdeacon of Richmond and Craven and the Venerable Dr Andy Jolley will serve as Archdeacon of Bradford. They were both collated and installed at Ripon Cathedral on 17 January. They bring to full strength the senior staff team of five area bishops and five Archdeacons, led by our diocesan bishop Rt Revd Nick Baines.

A former stockbroker, Beverley Mason came to faith while travelling in Africa and studied for ordination at Trinity College, Bristol. Prior to her appointment as Archdeacon, she was Vicar of All Saints Bingley for three years and before that Vicar of St John's in Upper Norwood where she was also Area Dean. Bishop Nick says, "Beverley brings wide experience of both the Church and the wider world and, from a firm base in anglo-catholicism, brings both passion for the good news of Jesus Christ and commitment to the growth of the church".

Andy Jolley used to work for Ford as a chartered mechanical engineer, then trained for ordination at St John's Nottingham, serving his curacy in Sparkhill, Birmingham before being made Vicar of Aston Parish Church in 2002. His doctoral research focused on the relationship between faith and work.

The Bishop of Birmingham, the Rt Revd David Urquhart, says of Andy, "West Yorkshire & the Dales is very fortunate to be getting a priest of such calibre and depth to serve on their senior team. Andy's heart for mission, strategic thinking and spirit-filled energy will be much missed here in Birmingham."

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# Floods and community spirit in the Calder Valley

Archdeacon Anne writes...

Boxing Day 2015 saw unprecedented flooding across the Calder Valley. In Hebden Bridge the water reached shoulder height and in Mytholmroyd St Michael's Church and Hall were flooded to a depth of four feet. The insurers (Ecclesiastical) and loss adjuster were on site the next day and are now working with the church to complete the drying process and begin remedial works. Communities up and down the valley have shown true Yorkshire grit in coping, and help has come in from far and wide.

Here are two stories about how people working together have made a difference and about how the churches have been involved at the heart of their communities in coping with the disaster of the Boxing Day floods.

## Teamwork diverts stream to save church at Luddenden

The Revd Ian Sparks writes...

One of the charms of St Mary's Church, Luddenden is its location nestled alongside Luddenden Brook and its weir. Here the waters are never still, but the sound can breathe calm to still the soul.

On Boxing Day things were different. People and property down below in Luddendenfoot, caught between the banks of the Calder and the canal, were powerless in the face of the rising waters. Up above, as water ran off the moors, Luddenden Brook swelled. Streams appeared from nowhere and a waterfall cascaded down to the bridle path. Instead of welcome footsteps of walkers coming to the church door, a surging stream swept under the locked kitchen door, through to the toilets and into the narthex. Fortunately diligent



church members had come to water flowers and they raised the alarm. Churchwardens were summoned and the Vicar arrived on his morning run. It was time for quick thinking. Bags of top soil were brought from nearby to act as sandbags and the flow through the outside door was at last diverted. Too late for the kitchen and toilet, now swamped in water, but at least the flow through to the main part of the church had been halted. Still the water level grew outside and swept around the side of the church toward the boiler house. Parishioners just out for a stroll joined to heighten the dam and divert the water away into the brook, widening a breach in the dry stone wall.

Despite all our efforts the boiler room was flooded and a store room beneath the organ was completely submerged. However, the damage would have been much worse had it not been for the quick thinking and improvisation of those first at the scene and those who literally waded in to help. Church was open for business on the following Sunday, albeit with no heat.

## Church heads relief effort

Canon Angela Dick writes...

On Boxing Day, here in Sowerby Bridge, we received the news that County Bridge in the town had been closed due to flooding.

Together with the churchwardens, I went to see what was happening and we immediately decided to offer the church as an initial shelter in case of need. Things took off from there!

Despite thinking that the church might be needed for a couple of hours on Boxing Day, it was in use for nearly a week as a key distribution point for flood relief down the Calder Valley. It was the place where items of clothing, cleaning materials, food and water were sent and from where these items were distributed out to flood victims. The church also served as a place for organising working parties to go further down the valley to Mytholmroyd and Hebden Bridge in one direction and to Brighouse and Elland in the other direction. Clare Calland, a volunteer coordinator by profession, was visiting family in the area and gave up her holiday to co-ordinate the relief effort. People travelled not just from Bradford and Batley, but also from Leicester and London to help, from churches, mosques and gurdwaras. Supermarkets and smaller local stores donated food and other practical items. Local tradesmen offered their professional skills for free. Local councillors and the Hon. Holly Lynch MP were present on a daily basis giving support. The Bishop of Huddersfield, the Rt. Revd Dr. Jonathan Gibbs, also visited.

The response has been phenomenal – the people of Calderdale are made of true grit and are full of compassion. People turned out by the hundreds – people of all faiths and none. We opened the doors of the church as the one way we felt we could offer assistance and, with the help of our amazing community, it provided much more than we could imagine. God took what was offered and the people came. It is our prayer that we helped to bring a glimmer of hope and compassion to all those affected.





St. Mary's, Radcliffe

# There when you need us

The end of 2015 was a traumatic time for many of our customers in Cumbria, Lancashire and Yorkshire. Extreme bad weather and floodwater caused by Storms Desmond, Eva, and Frank devastated many communities including their churches.

In total, 70 churches we insure were badly affected by floodwater, often many feet deep. At times of major incidents like this, our claims team pull out all the stops to provide quick and effective support to affected customers. This includes sending out our specialist claims handlers to meet customers, assess their situation and help with any immediate needs, such as providing emergency funds or securing alternative accommodation.

We also use the services of loss adjusters who work closely with us to help churches after major events. In this case we brought in our specialist restoration partners Richfords Fire & Flood who sent in an expert team from Cornwall, more than 400 miles from the affected areas!

## A sensitive response to Boxing Day misery

St. Mary's, Radcliffe, Greater Manchester, is a Grade I listed building dating back to the 13th century. On the morning of 26 December 2015, the nearby River Irwell burst its banks,

swamping the church along with hundreds of nearby properties. The flood water, at its peak, was waist high in the church so we sent in our specialist cleaning teams who started work to clear-up the devastation and with the help of our documentation specialists, we removed, for restoration, the delicate books, records and other artefacts that were damaged.

According to Rev Hayden: "Everyone (at Ecclesiastical) has been amazing; they've taken away a huge amount of the pressure. Ecclesiastical and their partners have gone over and above what I would ever have expected – they're so sensitive to working in a church building – it's made our life much easier as a result."

Flooding in your church and associated properties can cause inconvenience and heartache to your church community. It's impossible to fully flood-proof your church properties, but there are some simple actions you can take to reduce the damage a flood may cause on our website at [www.ecclesiastical.com/churchflood](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/churchflood)

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## Serving our customers

We survey you, our church customers on a regular basis to make sure we are continuing to deliver the service you have come to expect from us.

If you've called Ecclesiastical with a church query you will have spoken to our friendly customer service team. The team only deal with church insurance and are on hand to give you expert support no matter what the question. Out of all the customers we surveyed, we were delighted that **98% (684 responses) were satisfied with our service.**



Of course, how we handle claims is critical for our church customers and we were very pleased to see that **satisfaction with our church claims handling in 2015 is now at 99%** (393 responses) of all settled claims we surveyed.



To back up our customer satisfaction scores, we were also delighted to be awarded Corporate Chartered Insurer status which means that we have been

recognised for our professional commitment, service and ethical approach that places clients' interests at the heart of the service we provide.

## Recovery after a flood

If the worse happens and you are flooded make sure you:

- contact our claims team on:

**0345 603 8381**

for specialist advice on drying out, cleaning up and repairs

- take photographs of flood damage
- be aware that flood water could be contaminated
- keep any damaged items until our claims team say it is ok to destroy them.

**We will work with you to get your building back in use as soon as possible.**





## Looking for new fundraising ideas for your church?

**We were overwhelmed by the number – 424 – and quality of entries to our fundraising competition last year. There were so many great ideas that we wanted to share some of the most innovative with our customers.**

We are committed to supporting the churches that are at the heart of so many communities across the country and so we have made 25 of these ideas available to read or download on our website. The ideas include the winning entries but also those judged to be most helpful to churches looking for new ideas. **Read just one of these ideas opposite.** Plus, we have analysed all the entries and picked out the top tips for organising and publicising events. To see all the case studies, please visit [www.ecclesiastical.com/fundraising](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/fundraising)

New fundraising ideas

# The wisdom of crowds

Situated in a beautiful rural setting on the Isle of Man, St. Mark's church needed to raise £9,000 to install an LPG gas boiler and convert an old WC into a disabled toilet and shower room.

Alongside traditional fundraising events, the PCC decided to turn to social media, using a crowdfunding website to invite people to pledge a donation. They were unaware just how successful the approach would be, as the crowdfunding not only quickly met its target, but led to a number of other benefits too.

For a crowdfunding appeal, charities have to offer something in return to thank their supporters. St. Marks' offered the ability to use a shared space that would be for everyone, not just the church. The idea caught on with people from beyond the congregation, and during the TT races, the vicar was even interviewed on local TV as the church offered the new space as a refuge for bikers visiting the island.

The space is now used by a range of organisations beyond the church, including

local cyclists and motorsports groups, as well as the Isle of Man Post Office, which uses the hall for business meetings.

A social media campaign to promote the crowdfunding got St. Marks' noticed further afield, and the parish is now forging a relationship with the Trustees of St. Omer's Trust in Liverpool who are keen to provide escape breaks for family groups.

It has brought the local population together too, a priceless achievement in such a rural community. The World Wide Web has made all the difference to this global village.

**Find out about our 2016 Community use of Church Buildings competition and how to enter at [www.ecclesiastical.com/churchcomp](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/churchcomp)**



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Emily Draper

## Emily Draper, Stonemason

Emily originally trained in Fine Art and is an incredibly driven and interesting individual, who does not fit the stereotype of a traditional stonemason.

She is a stonemason at Worcester Cathedral, where she is in year three of a five-year course. She is employed by the Cathedral and is on a degree course sponsored by Ecclesiastical under the auspices of the Cathedrals' Workshop Fellowship (CWF).

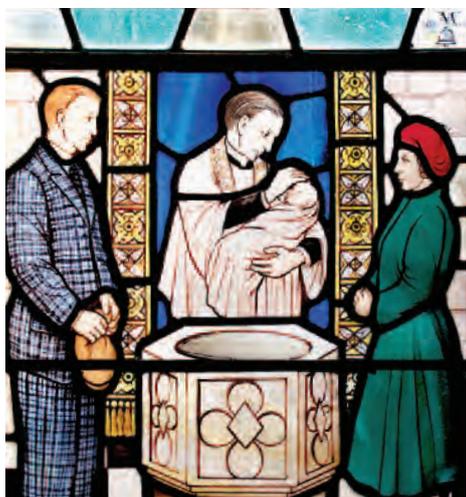
The partnership between nine cathedrals and the University of Gloucestershire has been supported for the last four years by Ecclesiastical. The students are nominated by their cathedrals and they study a range of work-based subjects, including ornamental carving, stone selection and geometry,

architecture, archaeology, structural engineering and practical conservation techniques, for just less than two years. Also included is a 'tailored' personal development programme, which the course graduates have all found highly valuable.

With HRH The Prince of Wales as its patron, and Ecclesiastical's support, the Fellowship's immediate future looks positive and thanks to the CWF the nation will continue to produce master stonemasons whose traditions reach back over a thousand years, yet whose eyes are firmly on the future.

# Allchurches Trust (ATL) Supporting the Church of England Baptism and Funeral projects

ATL provides support to many churches and charities through its grant programmes and also helps support some large special projects. One example of a special grant is for the Church of England funerals and baptisms projects which are aimed at increasing the engagement of the church with these key life events. You can read more about these projects below.



**The birth of a child and the death of someone we love couldn't be more different in the spectrum of human life experience, yet they're both significant moments when the ministry of the Church of England can really make a difference. Baptism and funerals have been the focus of two major projects of the Archbishops' Council, supported by a grant from Allchurches Trust. Extensive, independent research into these life events and offering specially produced resources to support ministry across Church of England parishes lies at the heart of the work.**

Every year the Church of England conducts over an average of 3,000 funeral ceremonies and 2,000 child baptisms every week. Together with weddings, this offers contact with half a million people each week – a huge opportunity show the welcome of the church and God's grace and truth, in times of joy and celebration, as well as in moments of sadness and grief.



**The Rev'd. Canon Dr Sandra Millar,** Head of Projects & Developments, and her team have been presenting to dioceses



all over the country, sharing all that's been learned through the research and explaining how the new resources can help.

Sandra said: "Being there for people at every stage of life is at the heart of parish ministry, whether it is discovering the good news of Jesus at the start of a life, or realising the comforting presence of God in times of sorrow. Reflecting on how we approach these core ministries can make a real difference to the local church."

There are two new websites for the general public: [www.churchofenglandchristenings.org](http://www.churchofenglandchristenings.org), and [www.churchofenglandfunerals.org](http://www.churchofenglandfunerals.org) which offer information and advice to those organising and/or attending a baptism or a funeral.

And [www.churchsupporthub.org](http://www.churchsupporthub.org) offers churches the research findings, access to customisable printed resources, plus shared ideas and articles, all in one place. There's even an online reminder system, [www.pastoralservicesdiary.org](http://www.pastoralservicesdiary.org) to help churches keep track of services, related finances and to follow up with contacts already made – a key driver of church growth.

For more information, and to find an event near you, visit [www.churchsupporthub.org](http://www.churchsupporthub.org)



## Let's talk about death

GraveTalk, the Church of England's café space to talk about death, dying and funerals, was launched through the Funerals Project and is making a big impact across the country. It is organised by the local church and can be held in a hall, a home or a real café. At each event, a pack of GraveTalk questions are distributed – there are no answers, just conversation. And it's open to people of all faiths and doubts. The Rev'd Mark Salmon successfully introduced it in Harlescott and said: "Marking space for people to remember loved ones and talk about death through GraveTalk is becoming part of the life of our parishes – we look forward to making this a part of our long-term pastoral care plan." Sandra Millar added: "The taboo of talking about death is coming under challenge and the Church of England is well-placed to be part of that momentum." If you'd like to know more, visit [www.churchsupporthub.org/article/gravetalk](http://www.churchsupporthub.org/article/gravetalk)

## Keeping in touch

**Following a Baptism project presentation in the Diocese of Durham, Curate Bryony Taylor, from Houghton-le-Spring, wanted to share her experiences via the Church Support Hub website.**

She was inspired to learn that 9/10 people say they welcome contact from the church after their child's baptism but churches could do better with staying in touch over the longer term. She said: "People do actually want what we're offering, they do want the good news, but we've been hiding our light under a bushel for too long. Keeping in touch need not be complicated or time consuming, so I decided to share some really simple, low-cost things we'd done to keep in touch with families in our parish." See Bryony's Article here: [www.churchsupporthub.org/baptisms/articles](http://www.churchsupporthub.org/baptisms/articles)

To find out more about Allchurches Trust visit [www.allchurches.co.uk](http://www.allchurches.co.uk) or call **01452 873189** or email [atl@allchurches.co.uk](mailto:atl@allchurches.co.uk)



## We can also insure your home!

Just call us for a quote on **0800 917 3345** or go online at [www.ecclesiastical.com/churchworker](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/churchworker)

# Keeping up to date

Don't forget our Church Matters website has a wide range of information, guidance and tools you can use to help you look after your church.

Full of risk management guidance and useful information, you can quickly find out about important topics like health and safety. Many customers also now get regular updates by email – just let us have your email address if you too would like to be updated in this way. For further information:

### Our website:

[www.ecclesiastical.com/church](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/church)

### Customer services:

call **0845 777 3322** or email [churches@ecclesiastical.com](mailto:churches@ecclesiastical.com)

### Claims:

call **0845 603 8381** (24-hour service) or email [churchclaims@ecclesiastical.com](mailto:churchclaims@ecclesiastical.com)

*Our customer service lines are normally open Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm, except for bank holidays. However, claims can be registered at any time during the day or night.*



## Arson advice for churches from Loyd Grossman OBE

We have enlisted the help of Loyd Grossman OBE, Chairman of The Churches Conservation Trust, to present a new video for us on the major disruption that arson can bring to churches and their communities.

Arson poses a major security challenge for church communities. Fires can be started deliberately, either by arsonists or thieves concealing their crime and churches are often viewed as a soft target. In the event of a serious fire, a church may take 2-3 years or more to fully restore causing major disruption to services and other church activities. Loyd explores these issues and provides some practical tips to reduce the risk of arson affecting your church.

Visit our website at [www.ecclesiastical.com/churcharson](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/churcharson) to find out more and also download our arson checklist.

# Building Works Made Simple

Churches call us all the time for advice about works they are having planned so we have introduced another in our Made Simple guide series to provide help and advice about the insurance implications.

The guide sets out when you need to contact us and the issues that might arise, such as different types of contract, hot works and scaffolding. Our website also includes simple forms to complete where you need to apply for confirmation of insurance cover to get faculty approval and for you to tell us about more significant building projects. Just visit [www.ecclesiastical.com/madesimple](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/madesimple) where you can view this and the other guides in the series.

### The Construction (Design and Management) (CDM) Regulations 2015

Don't forget, if your church is employing a contractor you have duties under the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015. The Regulations aim to protect the health and safety of people working in construction and others who may be affected by their activities.

The Health & Safety Executive (HSE)

website [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk) explains what clients need to do and you can find out more in our Building Works Made Simple Guide.



# Independent Financial Advice

**Do you need help with your finances?** Ecclesiastical Financial Advisory Services can offer you totally independent financial advice on investments, retirement and protection. They can also help parishes who have funds to invest. Please note, the value of investments can fall as well as rise and past performance is not a guide to future performance.

For more information call: **0800 107 0190** or email: [getadvice@ecclesiastical.com](mailto:getadvice@ecclesiastical.com)

# Working at the margins in the Wakefield Episcopal Area

Our churches are not just there for the congregations they serve. They are there also to serve the communities in which they are set. Below are two stories about how churches in the Wakefield Area are working to embrace the more marginalised members of society within the communities that they serve.

## Homelessness in Barnsley...

Fr Stephen Race writes:

*"Morning! You alright? Fancy a coffee?"*  
A normal greeting as we wake from slumber and roll out of bed? Perhaps. Except that for a small but growing group of people, the conversation is between a parish priest and those who have spent the night in the church porch. Like many town centre churches, St Mary the Virgin, Barnsley, regularly provides refuge for men and women who have slipped out of normal, everyday society. The church doesn't do this work alone but in partnership with other churches and agencies, supported by a small but significant fund raised by Barnsley Deanery.

Between Christmas Eve and The Baptism of Christ at least six different people curled up for the night in donated sleeping bags in the porch, struggling to keep warm and grateful for a hot coffee made for them by the vicar at 7:30am each morning. One gentleman is well known to the police as well as the church and has spent six months in prison. He is ill and dependent on alcohol and was locked up in the summer for violence against his partner. Persuading her to report him to the police was difficult, but it was good that she did. He was released just before Christmas and with nowhere to go, came back to church to chat and to sleep. Another person, only 19 years old, was at the church for three nights because of a family breakdown – he was successfully housed in a B&B in Bradford, which is better than ending up in prison. We all long for the day when this ministry is no longer necessary. But that is still a long way off.

## Ministry among Iranians at St John's Wakefield

The Revd Stephanie Buchanan writes:

We didn't go looking for a ministry among Farsi speakers but, over the past few years,

something special has been happening here at St John's, Wakefield, and in many other churches in the north of England. Many, many Iranians are coming to faith in Christ and are enriching the life of the churches in England.

Wakefield is one of five cities where asylum seekers spend two or three weeks before being dispersed to other towns and cities. In our case they are dispersed to towns across the north east. Iranian Christians from the hostel started to attend St John's and to bring others who were exploring the Christian faith for the first time and were desperate to find out more. As well as trying to meet their practical needs, we started a midweek Bible study/enquirers' group in Farsi to cater for their spiritual needs as well. Numbers vary from week to week but there can be as many as 30-40 there each week. Pouya Heidari, an Iranian Christian from ELAM Ministries (now an ordinand at Cranmer Hall), worked with us for eighteen months developing this ministry. Now our two current leaders are from Leeds. It is difficult to provide mature leadership in Farsi from amongst our own congregation as few Iranians settle long term in Wakefield.

It is really encouraging that the Bishop of Liverpool is exploring ways in which the Church of England can support churches in the Northern Province with a ministry among Iranian Christians. We wait to see how things develop.



## Churchwardens training...

**Bradford Episcopal Area** – Kadugli House, Steeton, **8 June at 7.30pm** (refreshments at 7pm) – new churchwardens training. St Philip's Gillington, **15th October 10.30 am** (refreshments at 10 am) – more-experienced wardens.

**Huddersfield Episcopal Area** – Dewsbury Minster, Rishworth Road, Dewsbury, WF12 8DD. **23rd June at 7.30pm** (refreshments at 7 pm) – new churchwardens training. **12th October at 7.30pm** (refreshments at 7 pm) – more-experienced wardens.

**Leeds and Wakefield Episcopal Areas** – St Peter's Church Centre, Lake Lock Road, Stanley, Wakefield, WF3 4HW. **22nd June at 6.30pm** – new wardens. **19th October at 6.30pm** – more-experienced wardens.

**Ripon Episcopal Area** – Times and Venues TBA. **29th June (eve)** – new churchwardens. **24th September (eve)** – more-experienced wardens.



## New DAC Assistant Secretary



**Jessica Thomas** began work with the diocese in January and is the new Assistant DAC Secretary, based at the Leeds Office.

Jessica joins us from Leeds City Council where she worked as a planning and conservation officer. She is working with Sylvia Johnson and Jen Read in the DAC office, helping with faculty applications and any DAC queries. Jessica is already familiar with these processes, being the PCC Secretary for the Dewsbury Team Parish! If you would like to contact her, her details are: [jessica.thomas@westyorkshiredales.anglican.org](mailto:jessica.thomas@westyorkshiredales.anglican.org)  
T: 0113 2000 546. The Leeds Office, St Mary's Street, Leeds, LS9 7DP.

# Confident Christians, Growing Churches and Changing Communities in the Leeds Episcopal Area...

## Archdeacon Paul writes...

The 86 churches of the Leeds Episcopal Area, serve a population of around 0.75 million people and are set in a variety of contexts from rural to inner city. Each faces unique challenges and opportunities in their bid to respond to the diocesan priority to encourage Confident Christians, Growing Churches and Changing Communities.

Here are stories from two churches where mission-shaped imagination, adaption and determination are bearing fruit and offering hope.

## Canon Alistair Kaye writes...

In 1996, if you met a Christian living in South Leeds, it's fairly likely they would be white, British, female and in their 60s. Today, the Christian you are likely to meet is black, African, male and in their 30s. Recent immigration has had a huge effect on the demographic of the inner city.

At St Luke's Holbeck we've been joined by Christians from Ghana, Nigeria and Poland. We often have 50 children in our Sunday School of up to a dozen nationalities. We needed a massive change of thinking to avoid the mistakes of the 1950s when the established church was so unwelcoming. New people to St Luke's have brought their God-given gifts. It's been great to form a Ghanaian choir and to have an increasingly multicultural music group. International meals are a joyful event – we have international music, the church is strewn with flags – and we enjoy food from all over the world. We've collected and trucked out 27 tonnes of clothes for Syrian refugees.

We've had to think about the church noticeboard. St Luke's is now 'Anglican' rather than 'Church of England' with its rather colonial connotations. Christians from around the world are bringing us new life.

*Below: "Let the nations rejoice"... at St Luke's Holbeck.*



## Canon Sam Corley writes...

In his book *'Anglicanism: Confidence, Commitment and Communion'*, Martyn Percy writes of how "the offering of an open building, and an outward-looking worshipping community, remain dominant signs on our cultural landscape, pointing to nothing less than the deep generosity and openness of God, who promises his people that 'there are many rooms in my Father's house.'"

The challenges facing Leeds Minster are well known: open but rarely visited, a rich history but struggling to connect in the present, physically dominant in one part of the city but distant from most of its life and vibrancy. We're working on all of that and it will take time. But as we pray and question and explore, so we're discovering that that deep generosity and openness of God is indeed at work in all kinds of ways. Our calling is somehow to hold it all together.

Standing, as we do, on the margins between vulnerability and power, poverty and wealth, between tragedy and joy, failure and success, faith and unbelief, we are hearing ourselves being called to become a place that helps people to find their place in the story of God's work in the world. It's not straightforward or comfortable. But it is where we are finding God. So please pray for us, as we pray for you.

Whilst Ecclesiastical has used reasonable endeavours to ensure that the information in this newsletter is correct at the time of publication, please note: (a) the information is not intended to constitute a definitive or complete statement of the law on any subject, (b) the information may over the course of time become incorrect or out of date; and (c) neither Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc. nor its subsidiaries can accept any responsibility or liability for action taken or losses suffered as a result of reliance placed on the information provided in this newsletter.



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visit **www.ecclesiastical.com/church**

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