

Diocesan News

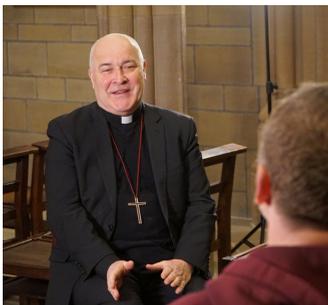
February 2024

The Archbishop of York's Missionary Journey to Wakefield

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell has been on a special visit to the Wakefield Episcopal Area.

Archbishop Stephen took part the monthly breakfast meeting for Wakefield's business and community leaders, which is hosted by the Rt Revd Tony Robinson, Bishop of Wakefield. Bishop Tony said: "Everyone was uplifted and encouraged by meeting with Archbishop Stephen. We spent a very varied day in Wakefield, meeting with people from across the district, including business and community leaders, those in our prisons, and with people exploring faith and discipleship." Archbishop Stephen and Bishop Tony were welcomed at HMP Wakefield where they preached and presided at a Eucharist service.

After lunch at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Archbishop Stephen and Bishop Tony visited HMP New Hall Prison and Young Offender Institution and helped



in supporting in group-led conversations. Back at Wakefield Cathedral, the Archbishop finished the day by speaking on the topic of vocation at a Follow Me event, one of four sessions hosted by Bishop Tony for lay people in the Wakefield Area to encourage them in their discipleship. Archbishop Stephen said, "Having previously worked as the Diocesan Missioner and Bishop's Chaplain for Evangelism in what was then the Diocese of Wakefield, this part of the country holds many fond memories for me. "It's been wonderful to be back to this place, to hear and see the hope that the present holds for this area. I've had the opportunity to meet with local people from across the social boundaries, each with their own story and experiences."



Our bishops to lead Rhythm of Life retreats this Lent

Our bishops will be leading retreats across the diocese this Lent as part of our Rhythm of Life initiative, helping us to pray, reflect and learn together in the season.

Five retreats are being led by our bishops and others including the Bishop of Bradford, the Rt Revd Toby Howarth; the Bishop of Ripon, the Rt Revd Anna Eltringham; the Bishop of Kirkstall, the Rt Revd Arun Arora; and the Rt Revd John Pritchard, former Bishop of Oxford.

The retreats will feature a mix of reflection, encouragement, challenge, prayer and worship. The Revd Canon Andrew Norman, Director of Ministry and Mission for the diocese, said: "These Lent retreats are a great opportunity to pause and reflect on our rhythms of life."



That's Temptation

Bishop Tony

A little boy in a grocery store was standing near an open box of peanut butter cookies. "Now then, young man," said the grocer as he approached the young man. "What are you up to?" "Nothing," replied the boy: "Nothing." "Well, it looks to me like you were trying to take a cookie." "You're wrong, mister, I'm trying not to!"

That's temptation!

Jesus was tempted as we are. Temptations are not bad in themselves, but it is what we do with them that can help us turn to God or away from God.

At the beginning of Lent the Church always takes us into the wilderness with Jesus, to face the power that is opposed to the Gospel. The Good News is that we do this with Jesus and in the company of his followers.

None of us should have to face the wilderness alone; none of us should be thrown back on our own resources. We are all tempted; we all fail; we all sin.



Sometimes we might wonder if there is an exit from the wilderness. All of us need to hear, like Jesus, the voice of the Father that recognises us as his beloved children. When we hear that voice, the call to repent is the call to stay in the company of the one who loves us. The Gospel challenges us to change our minds about the way we think, change our hearts about the Gospel we ignore, and change our ways about habits of sin.

This is a lifetime's task. Jesus did not overcome Satan in the wilderness – he achieved that only in his death. Lent reminds us of our need to begin again facing the enemy within us. And the Good News is that when we do that, we take the road that leads us to the kingdom of God.

During Lent try to see your temptations as ways to turn to God rather than rely our own resources?

Sad news of the passing of the Rt Revd David Smith, former Bishop of Bradford

It is with great sadness that the death of the Rt Revd David Smith, former Bishop of Bradford, has been announced.

Born in Hertfordshire in 1935, he was ordained in 1959 and served the former Diocese of Bradford from 1992 until his retirement in 2002, when he was succeeded by Bishop David James. Prior to that role, he had served as Archdeacon of Lindisfarne, Bishop of Maidstone and Bishop of the Forces.

The Rt Revd Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds said in tribute: "This is very sad news. Bishop David was loved and respected in Bradford and will be remembered across the faith communities for his faithfulness.

"May he rest in peace and rise in glory. We send our love and condolences to Mary."



Puppets help bring new families to worship in a Bradford church

Bubble Church, an exciting new Jesus-centred service packed with puppets and designed for babies, toddlers and young families has kicked off successfully at one of our Bradford churches.



Revd Chris Chorlton at St Martin's, Heaton has brought the innovative idea to his church as part of renewed engagement with the local community after the Covid pandemic. Based on the idea of a safe social "bubble", families gather on a circular carpet and puppets are used as fun props to engage children in the telling of Christian stories and messages.



At its launch, 19 local children and 15 adults joined nine of the Bubble Church Team for the first ever service. "Those attending were evenly divided into half regular church members and half first timers," Revd Chris said.



"We were blessed by how many people wanted to thank God for something and how the songs were enjoyed by all. "Most stayed for food and fellowship afterwards. Considering it was dark and Storm Isha was battering the country we feel it was a very encouraging start."



21 new Headteachers welcomed by our schools this academic year

A cohort of 21 new Headteachers took the reins at our schools this academic year and 14 of them met recently at Church House, Leeds, for a special induction meeting.

It was a chance for the new leaders to share their thoughts and learn about the help and advice offered by our diocesan Education Team. Headteacher Caroline Butterworth of Sandal Castle (VA) Community Primary School said it was wonderful to meet like-minded professionals who are excited about their journey ahead. "The staff from the Leeds Diocese were hugely welcoming and knowledgeable in their presentation and I can already sense the opportunity of amazing support that will guide me over the forthcoming years," Caroline said.

Helen Lever, our School Adviser to Senior Leadership, said it was great to welcome so many in person and to witness great enthusiasm: "We all look forward to getting to know and work with our new Headteachers in 2024 and beyond," Helen said.



Serving the Church

Revd Ian Greenhalgh
Area Dean, Bowland and
Ewecross

2024 marks a very special year in my life. On January 11th I had my birthday and I find it hard to believe I am now 75 - or as my daughter tells me 27,394 days old.

As I look back over the years there are so many special memories; Ordination in 1977 in Liverpool Cathedral, getting married in 1978, the birth of our daughter in 1981, joining the RAF in 1984 and the birth of our son and then, in 2004, becoming the Vicar of Austwick and Clapham.

One major influence in my life has always been sport, and soon after Ordination I ran in my first Marathon in Bolton. Regular training, improving times and then running for the RAF took me to many amazing locations including Washington DC, Las Vegas, Cyprus, Berlin, Cape Town, Falkland Islands and more recently The Sea of Galilee Marathon. This usually meant raising money for a whole range of charities.



One of my favourite verses is Hebrews 12: 1 - 'Run with Perseverance the Race that is set before you, looking to Jesus the Pioneer and Perfecter of your faith'.

As I begin my 76th year, fortunate to still be able to run and cycle, I see that verse as an inspiration for my whole life and also for the coming years.

As the Diocese marks its 10th Anniversary, over the weekend of April 19-21, I thought it would be good to cycle and run 75 miles. I plan to cycle part of The Way of the Roses from Settle to Ripon Cathedral on the 19th and then jog and walk to Bradford Cathedral on the 20th.

I hope my effort alongside my son, Tom, and also some friends and volunteers, will raise some money for the Church I love to serve.

All welcome at a Lunar New Year Fair in Leeds Minster

One of our churches with a thriving congregation from Hong Kong is helping run the first ever Lunar New Year market to be held at Leeds Minster.

"It takes place on Saturday, February 10 from 11am to 2.30pm," said Dave Ho Young, vicar of St Barnabas, Alwoodley.

Stalls will be set up around the Minster with a chance to enjoy food and drink, Chinese calligraphy, tea tasting, games and music, and to buy from arts and crafts stalls.

Revd Dave said: "We will be celebrating the Year of the Dragon and the Chinese churches we are working with have a large number of people from Hong Kong in their congregations.

"Everyone is invited to join us and celebrate the Lunar New Year, and we would especially love to welcome locals as well as Hong Kongers and the wider Chinese and East Asian community."

