Children, Young People & Families team reaches full strength

Three new children and youth leaders have been appointed to the diocese this summer bringing the Children, Young People and Families Team up to full strength.

Joining team leader Liz Morton (pictured second left) and Anne Carter (third from left), are Katherine Grasham (far left), Dawn Moore (second on the right) and Graeme Bigg. The new roles are part-time and each of the five team members will be the first point of contact for one of the five Episcopal Areas.

Liz Morton, who is the first point of contact for the Wakefield EA and oversees training, said she was delighted that the team was now complete. Contact Liz on 0113 3530 237, liz.morton@leeds.anglican.org

Anne Carter is the first point of contact for the Ripon EA and will specialise in under 5’s ministry, baptism and all-age activities. Contact Anne on 0113 3530 239, anne.carter@leeds.anglican.org

Katherine Grasham will be the first point of contact for the Bradford EA. Her specialism will be in interfaith and global links. Contact Katherine on 0113 3530 235 katherine.grasham@leeds.anglican.org

Dawn Moore will be the first point of contact for the Leeds EA and her specialism will be recruitment and support. Contact Dawn on 0113 3530 234 dawn.moore@leeds.anglican.org

Graeme Bigg is the first point of contact for Huddersfield EA. Graeme will ensure young people play a full part in diocesan structures and the CofE Youth Council. Contact Graeme on 0113 3530 236 graeme.bigg@leeds.anglican.org

Resourcing Parishes role

Susan Rundle has been appointed as Director of Parish Resourcing for the Diocese of Leeds. The new role, which begins on September 1, will bring together a team to resource parishes in accountancy, stewardship, governance and funding.

Joint Diocesan Secretary, Ashley Ellis, says, “This is a significant appointment because the resources which Susan and her team will set in place will help release parishes from some of the tasks of financial management, giving them greater freedom to focus on mission and ministry.”

Susan has worked for the diocese for 10 years supporting and enabling parishes to develop and fund innovative projects. This included five years as Development Director for Wakefield Cathedral.
Ironwoman Headteacher

HUDDERSFIELD In an amazing feat of stamina, Claire Berry, Headteacher at St Michael & All Angels, Shelf near Halifax has completed a challenging Ironman triathlon in aid of the church in Tanzania.

Widely considered one of the most difficult one-day sporting events in the world, the Ironman Triathlon consisted of a 2.4 mile lake swim, a 112-mile cycle ride in the Lancashire countryside including the famous Sheep House Lane climb (twice) and a marathon 26.2 mile run from the Macron Stadium, through Bolton town centre before finishing in the shadow of the town’s Albert Halls. A member of Christ the King, Battyeford, Claire said, “After watching my husband at Bolton last year my two girls ages 8 and 12 said, ‘You could do that Mummy!’”

Alison chose to support the work of the ‘Safe House’ in Mara Diocese, after reading about its work as a refuge for girls fleeing the practice of female genital mutilation. “Reading about the work of Rhobi Samwelly at the Safe House was utterly awe inspiring.”

To Reach a New Generation

Bishop Jonathan Gibbs

At the start of the new school year, here are a few simple maths questions.

The Church of England is responsible for around 4,700 schools, of which 245 are in the Diocese of Leeds. This makes us one of the largest providers of Church schools in the country and puts us in daily touch with around 64,000 children, as well as in frequent contact with their families.

By contrast, a great many of our congregations have very few children and families, and the average age of church members is in excess of sixty years old. Based on the churches I have visited over the last two years, attendance by children and young people – and their families – is often patchy at best. We are facing a huge demographic problem in terms of the age profile of both our clergy and our congregations.

So why does the diocese put so much time and resources into the work of education – with the budget of the Board of Education at a little over £1 million per year, out of a total of around £25 million? There are two main answers to that question:

• Because the Church of England is committed to helping shape the lives of children and young people, enabling them to experience the “fullness of life” that Jesus offers, in line with our Diocesan vision of transforming lives and communities.

• Because our involvement with schools gives us a huge opportunity to pass on the story of the Christian faith, so that children and their families have a real chance to discover Jesus for themselves, as part of fulfilling our Diocesan vision of confident Christians and growing churches.

Let’s do the maths. Our investment in education is a crucial part of our mission and creates huge opportunities to reach a new generation with the good news of Jesus. We need to make the most of that investment in every parish in our Diocese.

+Jonathan
Bishop of Huddersfield and Chair of the Diocesan Board of Education

HUDDERSFIELD
Joyful river baptisms in the ‘Holy River’ Swale

RIPON The banks of the River Swale were crowded with family and friends last month as ten local people were baptised and several others renewed their baptism vows in the river at Brompton on Swale.

Wearing wet suits beneath their cassocks were the Archdeacon of Richmond and Craven, Ven. Beverley Mason and local vicars Revd Lindsay Southern and Revd Yvonne Callaghan.

It’s the third year in a row that the river baptisms have been held in the Swale by the local churches, recreating the historic scenes of the 600s when St Paulinus baptized thousands of converts in the River Swale, known then as the ‘Holy River’.

Leeds vicar’s Tall Ships victory

LEEDS Normally landlocked at St Aidan’s, Harehills, the Revd Andi Hofbauer has helped lead a group of 24 sea cadets to victory in a tall ships race in the Baltic Sea.

She has been on board the Sea Cadet corps’ tall ship TS Royalist as relief bosun, and the ship came first in class and second overall out of 48 ships. “I’m delighted. To do so well is a tremendous achievement,” said Andi. “As relief bosun I’ve been working on the deck, teaching 24 sea cadets aged between 15-21 how to sail a tall ship, which lines to pull, and how to work aloft safely as well as doing minor repairs and going on watches”.

Twelve different nationalities were taking part, and 50% of the crew have to be under 25 years. Andi first sailed on a tall ship when she was a Mission to Seafarers Assistant Lay Chaplain in 2000.

Messy Community

BRADFORD An ecumenical gathering of more than 70 people from across Yorkshire gathered at Bradford Cathedral last month for the second of three Messy Church training days organised by the diocese. Leading the training afternoon was Martyn Payne, from Bible Reading Fellowship. In a talk peppered with illustrations, interaction and activities, he told delegates to share resources and ideas and learn from one another. “Although we lead individual churches, we are one Messy Church family, committed to supporting one another and sharing our joys and our challenges, as well as resources and ideas.”

Follow me

WAKEFIELD The speakers who will be leading the fourth ‘Follow Me’ series at Wakefield Cathedral have been announced, a series of five evening teaching sessions for lay people and clergy. Speakers will include: the Bishop of Hull, Rt Revd Alison White who begins the series on 21 September; the Dean of Monmouth, Lister Tonge, on Thursday 19 October; Revd David Rhodes, ex-journalist and former director of the Bible Reading Fellowship on 23 November. In 2018 the speakers are Bishop Chris Edmondson on February 1 and Sister Carole, Prioress of Whitby, on April 12.
Young people from churches across the diocese have been in Ripon this summer for a “life-changing” holiday to remember, joining with hundreds of others from across the country.

Around 240 teenagers and young leaders have taken part in two Christian summer holiday venture weeks at Ripon Grammar School, led by married clergy couple, Rector of Leeds, Canon Sam Corley, and Curate at St Edmunds Roundhay, the Revd Claire Corley. Sam and Claire have been running the CPAS (Church Pastoral Aid Society) Ripon Venture weeks for around 18 years and say that despite their busy lives in the parish the rest of the year, they wouldn’t miss this for the world. “Yes it’s a big commitment but it’s also great fun,” says Sam.

Young people from churches in Harrogate, Leeds, Bradford, Wakefield and Halifax have taken part, with financial help to those from some inner city areas of West Yorkshire who would otherwise be unable to pay. This year’s programme has included everything from gorge scrambling and caving to sports, games, crafts, music, computers – and of course trips out to places like Lightwater Valley. Discussion groups, talks, testimonies, and worship are also central to the ventures, a place where young people can grow in faith and ask difficult questions. “They get space to ask the questions they really want to ask and get answers that are honest,” says Claire. “To watch young people grow in faith is such a privilege.”

Sam and Claire have been leading a team of around 50 young leaders at each of the two weeks and see this as equally important to giving the younger teenagers a great time. “I am passionate about seeing young people as leaders in their churches today, but particularly raising them up as leaders in their generation,” says Sam, and he adds: “I’ve got a personal ambition to get as many people as possible that I know ordained!”

Events, moves and appointments - www.leeds.anglican.org