Royal approval for Bishop Paul to become Bishop of Kirkstall

Her Majesty the Queen has approved the creation of a new bishop’s title, the Bishop of Kirkstall.

The See of Kirkstall has received the royal seal, enabling a change of title for the suffragan Bishop of Richmond, the Rt Revd Paul Slater, to better suit his role serving the Episcopal Area of Leeds.

“The job remains the same, but the name Kirkstall makes much more sense. It’s a place that Leeds people know and it’s a place of ancient worship and service within such a modern, go-ahead city,” said Bishop Paul.

The move, supported by Bishop of Leeds Nick Baines and the Archbishop of York John Sentamu, was voted through by the Church of England’s General Synod in London in February. Bishop Nick said: “I’m delighted that the Bishop responsible for

the Church of England in the city of Leeds now has a title that locates him here. Kirkstall reminds us of our Christian history and calls us to be faithful to the people, churches and communities of Leeds.”

The suffragan ‘See of Richmond’, a title last used in 1921, was revived in 2015 to provide a swift means of creating an additional and much needed area bishop for the then newly formed Diocese of Leeds. Paul Slater was consecrated as Bishop of Richmond in Ripon Cathedral in July 2015 with his main responsibility becoming pastoral oversight for Leeds itself.

Thy Kingdom Celebration

Thy Kingdom Come is described as a ten-day global wave of prayer from May 10-20. And this year, at Bradford Cathedral, there will be a Thy Kingdom Come diocesan celebration on Sunday May 13th from 3pm – 6pm. Worship will be led by a variety of musicians including the Voices in Praise Gospel Choir from the New Testament Church of God in Leeds as well as Christian musician, Joe King and band.

Bishop Nick will speak at the event and throughout the afternoon there will be prayer spaces and creative ways of engaging with the priorities of Thy Kingdom Come. The Cathedral will be filled with information stalls from a variety of organisations with refreshments and resources.
Breathe again
Bishop Nick Baines

Welcome to the “merry” month of May! Winter is past, spring is in swing, and summer is pressing for attention.

But May is also the month of Pentecost when we celebrate the empowering by the Holy Spirit of a bunch of previously terrified people. These men and women had seen their hopes bleed into the dirt of Calvary before having strange encounters with the risen Jesus - the same Jesus, but different. They have hidden themselves away, waiting for whatever was going to happen to them next. Of course, the next thing might well have seen the Romans doing to them what they had done to Jesus only a few weeks before.

Yet, at Pentecost these frightened people, filled with the Spirit of God, went out into the streets, spoke boldly about the good news of resurrection, and started living a life that saw poor and vulnerable people cared for by people they didn’t even know.

Pentecost “happened” to the friends of Jesus as wind and fire. As they knew God’s Spirit to be breathing through them, so they in turn could breathe again - losing their anxieties and opening themselves up to a potentially hostile world.

It is the very same Spirit who promises to inspire and move us.

Is this just for someone else? Well, the message of Pentecost is simply that, however we experience it, the Spirit is there for each of us, individually and as the church.

The period between Ascension Day and Pentecost is being celebrated by Christians globally under the title “Thy Kingdom Come” and will include in this diocese a big service at Bradford Cathedral on Sunday 13 May. Clearly, this line from the Lord’s Prayer goes to the heart of it all: when the Holy Spirit inspires and empowers us, we live not for ourselves, but to see God’s kingdom come right here and now - his way, his presence.

Breathe again. Come and celebrate.

+BNick
Bishop of Leeds

Church goes Contactless

HUDDERSFIELD Contactless payment is now permitted in parishes across the diocese following a nationwide launch by the Church of England. The Revd Robb Sutherland at Holy Nativity, Mixenden, has seized the opportunity and already has a terminal to take instant payments of fees or donations.

“I’m really excited to see how we can make best use of it,” Robb said. “For visitors and people new to the church it just makes sense – I never have cash on me anymore and I know lots of people have the same problem when they come to church for a big family event. We have the Rock Mass every month, and I can see that congregation being really up for trying something new. I’m thinking about how we can have it available at the back of church after baptisms and big services.”

He added, “It was so easy to set up, literally took me three minutes and even someone with no technical knowledge could have it up and running in 10 minutes.”
Ilkley heritage project award

All Saints church, Ilkley, has been awarded £543,700 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for its plans to tell the stories of the historic parish church, from its Saxon crosses and Roman fort through to medieval, Victorian and 20th century developments. The HLF grant will be added to other funds raised by the church of over £600,000, which will enable work to start early in the summer on a £1 million+ project to and open up the interior of the church to reveal the heritage within. The church is one of the most historic places in Ilkley, standing on the site of the former Roman Fort of Olicana, a Scheduled Ancient Monument founded in 80 AD.

New Leeds NHS chaplaincy head

The new head of chaplaincy for Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust has arrived to start work at his father’s birthplace. Ben Rhodes has come north from his previous role as head of chaplaincy at King’s College Hospital, London and will lead spiritual care across St James’, Leeds General Infirmary, Chapel Allerton, Wharfedale and Seacroft hospital.

“My Dad was born in St James’ 75 years ago and I still have lots of family in the city,” said Ben, pictured at Church House with colleagues after being licensed in the role by Bishop Paul Slater.

“The Trust promotes the Leeds Way, which has five key values regarding fair, patient-centred care that are in tune with the Gospel - one of the reasons it was a place I wanted to come and work here.”

Is it a record?

Audrey Kirk has just celebrated 66 years as a member of the Mothers’ Union, and a call has gone out to find out if this is a record.

Audrey’s mother, Ethel Windmill was a founder member of the St. James’ Ryhill Branch in Wakefield in 1927. Audrey followed in her footsteps, joining in 1951 when she was 24. She now lives in Deansgate Care Home and was recently presented with flowers and a long standing certificate of membership at a short service with members of the branch and staff at the care home.
All change at Church House as diocese says farewell to Ashley

It was farewell to long serving Joint Diocesan Secretary, Ashley Ellis (pictured right) at Easter. Ashley became Finance Manager for the Diocese of Wakefield in 1992 before becoming Diocesan Secretary in 2000. He became Joint Diocesan Secretary for Leeds, along with Debbie Child, in 2014. Now, after 26 years he is leaving the diocese to head a charity dedicated to helping parish volunteers.

Paying tribute to Ashley, Bishop Nick said, “Alongside Debbie Child, Ashley worked beyond the call of duty in bringing the three dioceses into one, creating new structures, setting up an entirely new office and administration, and bringing together systems, people and cultures. I am very grateful to Ashley for his contribution to all this. As he moves on, he goes with our gratitude, our prayers and best wishes for the future.”

Also saying farewell is Bryan Lewis, Diocesan Finance Manager, who joined the Diocese of Wakefield in September 2001. Diocesan Secretary, Debbie Child, said: “Thanks very much to Bryan for all he has contributed over many years of service. We wish him all the very best in his retirement.”

The diocese’s new Chief Finance Officer Geoff Park (pictured below) is busily learning about the Anglican church to best understand future challenges and opportunities.

“I come from a Methodist and Baptist background and so it’s fascinating to learn all about the Church of England’s structures,” said Geoff, who originally hails from Garsdale on the edge of the Lake District. Married to Gill, a lecturer on museums and their management, he now lives in Otley.

Sign up for Synod

If you have ever considered playing a fuller part in diocesan life, then why not take the opportunity this month to stand for Diocesan Synod, the ‘parliament’ of the diocese.

Synod is the forum where clergy and laity from every deanery gather three times a year to debate issues and make decisions that govern the direction of the diocese. Subjects are wide-ranging from environmental improvements to care for refugee groups or the latest plans for church growth.

The two hundred elected members of Synod are evenly split between clergy and laity and a complete election process takes place every three years. Nominations papers for candidates wishing to stand in the 2018 election will be sent out on April 19. Nominations close on May 17 and those who go forward will take up their office from August 1.