The next Dean of Wakefield Cathedral announced

The next Dean of Wakefield will be the Revd Canon Simon Cowling. Simon is currently the Rector of Bolton Abbey in the Yorkshire Dales, where he has helped enhance its reputation as a place of worship and as a visitor destination.

Introducing Simon at Wakefield Cathedral, Bishop Nick Baines said: “Simon has wide parochial and cathedral experience, and, working with good colleagues, he will bring significant gifts, knowledge and wisdom to the task of leading Wakefield Cathedral.”

Ordained in Ripon Cathedral as deacon in 1991 and priest in 1992, Simon’s roles since ordination have been characterised by contrast: as a curate in Chapeltown and Far Headingley, Leeds; as a vicar in Roundhay, Leeds; as Precentor and Residentiary Canon at Sheffield Cathedral; and most recently as Rector of Bolton Abbey.

Simon says he relishes the move to Wakefield. “It is a huge privilege to have been invited to become the next Dean of Wakefield and to join colleagues on Chapter in the next phase of the cathedral’s journey under God.”

“The Wakefield Cathedral describes itself on its website as ‘a place of conversation for all faiths and none’. I am looking forward immensely to joining the conversation, to learning more about the many good things that are going on in the cathedral, the city and the district, and to engaging with them.”

Simon’s service of installation as Dean at Wakefield Cathedral takes place on Saturday 29 September at 3pm.

Tributes to Lord Lieutenant

Bishop Nick has led tributes to the Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire, Barry Dodd, who has died in a helicopter crash.

“This is a tragedy beyond words. Barry was a brilliant Lord Lieutenant, a successful businessman and a great friend and advisor. He will be greatly missed. My heart goes out to Frances and their family. May Barry rest in peace and his family be comforted in their grief.”

A spokesperson for Ripon Cathedral said: “The Dean of Ripon, the Very Reverend John Dobson and the whole Cathedral community are shocked and saddened. Barry Dodd was popular and effective, uniting people to work together, and a supportive friend of the Cathedral.”

Barry Dodd, CBE, with wife Frances and Dean John
World Cup
Bishop Nick Baines
This month will either be a joy or a torture for you.

I know that the World Cup will be a source of great excitement for some; it’s also a cause for wailing and the gnashing of teeth for others. When the footie gets going, the sensitive go shopping. Apparently.

Some years ago I complained about the Church of England’s special World Cup prayers. They were boringly churchy. So, they challenged me to write a better one. I did. In fact, I wrote three. But, only one was deemed acceptable and the funniest was dropped. Except that when asked in radio interviews about the acceptable prayer, I always let them know there was another, and then I had to tell them what it was.

Things got worse as the tournament went on and England got worse. My later prayer simply said: “Oh God, ...”. Not everybody was impressed, but it had the benefits of both brevity and honesty.

This is what prayer is supposed to be. Not an endless talking to God, but an honest crying out of what is in the heart if not on the lips. To this extent, prayer is not about telling God what he already knows; it is not about protecting God from things uncomfortable to delicate ears; rather, it is about honest openness to God, knowing that this God of the Cross can probably handle the desperations of my soul.

By the time you read this, the World Cup will be half-way through. This might be either a mercy or a torment. But, the emotions of those competing as well as those spectating - even via the telly - will tell us something powerful about commitment and passion. Passion comes at a cost, especially when the object of our enthusiasm lets us down. Commitment to the team might be disappointed by the team’s lack of commitment to us. Elation might be tempered by misery. And this for a game.

So, if you want to, you can see in this a metaphor for Christian living: commit, be passionate, but learn to live with disappointment and the rollercoaster of emotion. God can handle it - read the Psalms.

Nick
Bishop of Leeds

Pupils meet the Mighty Zulu Nation
HUDDERSFIELD Pupils at Kirkburton CE First School near Huddersfield have been treated to a day of Zulu culture with a visit by The Mighty Zulu Nation Theatre Company. The children were wowed by a lively – and loud – performance by the group as an exciting way to start the day. “We were shown a variety of songs and traditional dances incorporating some impressive athletic moves,” said assistant head teacher, Andrew Hancox. They then took part in a number of different workshops – Key Stage Two learned an energetic dance, Year 2 used African djembe drums while Reception and Year One donned their wellies and boots to perform a traditional ‘Gumboot’ dance.

Vicar of Kirkburton and Shelley, the Revd Amanda Grant commented, “It was so lovely to see the community enjoying such a powerful and uplifting evening. Events like this one really bring everyone together.”
Pentecost confirmations at Kirkstall Abbey

LEEDS A memorable and historic service took place at Kirkstall Abbey, Leeds, on May 20, Pentecost Sunday. Bishop Paul Slater presided at his first confirmation service as the Bishop of Kirkstall – within the ancient ruins of the Abbey itself.

The sun shone on the combined congregations of the Abbeylands Team churches as they gathered in the chancel of the 12th century building for the confirmation of 10 of their members. One of the candidates, a student at Leeds Trinity University, had been baptised by full immersion outside St Margaret’s Horsforth the day before while the oldest candidate had been baptised in hospital on the day she was born 65 years ago.

Last month, a petition to the Queen to re-designate Bishop Paul as “Bishop of Kirkstall”, having been known as the “Bishop of Richmond”, was successful.

Bradford Literature Festival

BRADFORD Bishop Nick is taking part in six events at this year’s Bradford Literature Festival. He joins Dennis Skinner MP for ‘Nature of the Beast’ on Friday 6 July, 6pm at the National Science & Media Museum.

On Saturday 7 July, he will be on the panel for ‘Brexit: Where Next?’, 1pm at the Banqueting Suite, City Hall. He is in conversation with Samira Ahmed for ‘Difficult Women’ on the same day, 2.45pm, in Henry Mitchell Hall, Bradford College when they discuss real life heroines. ‘Who is Driving the Russian Machine?’ will be the topic later that day, at 4.30pm at City Hall when Bishop Nick joins a panel to discuss Russia.

The Song of Solomon is the subject on Sunday 8 July, at 1.30pm at the Alhambra Theatre when Bishop Nick is joined by others to discuss the text. Finally, comedian actor and writer, Robin Ince, is in conversation with Bishop Nick on Sunday 8 July, 5.30-6.30pm at the Alhambra Theatre. More at: www.bradfordlitfest.co.uk

Bishop blesses banners

WAKEFIELD Historic miners’ banners on display at Wakefield Cathedral as part of a festival celebrating the 150th anniversary of the TUC were carried through the centre of the city on Sunday 20 May.

Following a cathedral service, the Bishop of Huddersfield, Jonathan Gibbs blessed the marchers at the ‘With Banners Held High’ Festival, the culmination of a week of poetry, performance, and culture.

Brand new pilgrimage trail

RIPON Thirty nine pilgrims including the Bishop of Ripon, Helen-Ann Hartley, have inaugurated a new pilgrimage trail to celebrate the northern saint, Robert. Last month the pilgrims joined the 7½ mile trail from Pannal to Knaresborough to honour the Knaresborough saint, whose 800th anniversary is being commemorated this year. Walkers came from as far as Sheffield and Glasgow, and included the Vicar of St Robert’s Pannal, the Revd John Smith and curate, the Revd Abbie Palmer.
Meet our 18 new curates

Eighteen men and women enter ordained ministry across the diocese at two services in Ripon Cathedral on Saturday 30 June led by Bishop Nick. They include a former member of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, a police communications officer, a fishmonger, a construction engineer from Zimbabwe and a university lecturer from the United States.

**RIPON**

Tony Cantlow will serve at Skipton with Carleton. For many years Tony served as a communications officer with North Yorkshire Police and prior to ordination served as verger of Bolton Priory.

Chris Clayton (pictured) moves to St Peter Harrogate. Chris trained for ordination at Cuddesdon.

Kim Mason will become Assistant Curate at St Mark Harrogate. Prior to ordination she was the Young Families Ministry Leader at All Saints, Ecclesall, Sheffield.

**BRADFORD**

Brian Greenfield will serve at Sutton with Cowling and Lothersdale after training for ordination at St Hild College.

Steve Nuttall goes to St John Greengates and St John Thorpe Edge. He works as a butcher for North Leeds charity, Caring for Life, and Bradford Street Angels.

Hannah Raitt (pictured) will serve at West Bowling & Bankfoot. She is moving from Shotton Colliery, where she trained on the Cranmer Urban Track through Cranmer Hall, Durham.

Philippa Slingsby will serve in the parish of Tong and Laisterdyke, after training for ordination at Cranmer Hall in Durham.

Natasha Thomas will be curate at Keighley. Prior to ordination she has worked as the CEO of a charity in Shipley addressing health inequalities and poverty.

**HUDDERSFIELD**

Jenny Clarke will serve at Bradshaw and Holmfield after training for ordination at Ripon College, Cuddesdon.

Jane Finn is looking forward to serving at Halifax Minster. She trained for ordination at St Mellitus College in West London and at Mirfield.

Carol Hawkins will serve her curacy at St Peter Huddersfield after 19 years as a Teaching Assistant.

Jessica Malay (pictured) will serve in the Almondbury Team while continuing teaching English literature at the University of Huddersfield. She grew up in Washington State, USA.

Neil Walpole will serve in Dewsbury Team Parish having been a Church Army captain at Kirkheaton Parish Church in Huddersfield from 2007-11.

**LEEDS**

Matthew Broughton will serve in the parish of St Paul's Ireland Wood after training for ordination at Ridley Hall, Cambridge.

Rob Denton begins ordained ministry at Osmandthorpe & Halton after training at Trinity College Bristol.

Ericsson Mapfumo (pictured) will serve at St Aidan, Leeds. Originally from Zimbabwe, he has a background in construction and trained for ordination at St Hild College.

**WAKEFIELD**

Andrew Griffin (pictured) will serve his curacy at St Catherine Sandal and St Andrew & Mary Wakefield having been a chef, a coffee shop owner and a psychiatric nurse.

Blair Radford will become assistant curate at St Paul Monk Bretton. He served in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders on operational and staff tours overseas, including working as an advisor to the US Army.