Boom! Our 15 New Deacons Ordained At Wakefield Cathedral

Our 15 new deacons have been welcomed into their diocesan roles at two ordination services at Wakefield Cathedral.

“Boom!” was the word the Bishop of Ripon, the Rt Revd Dr Helen-Ann Hartley used in her sermon to describe the overwhelming sensation of joy to be felt at such moments in life.

She was quoting the single word answer given by Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp when asked how it felt when his team beat Manchester City. Addressing the ordinands she said: “You might not feel ‘boom’ at the point of the laying on of hands, but in a sense that is what is happening.

“The Holy Spirit is being invoked to enable you to take on the role of deacon, and there is plenty of form in the Biblical narrative that the result often was ‘boom’.

“We don’t know what lies ahead, but we do have a hope that is grounded on the resurrection of Jesus Christ, everything that preceded it, and its light that illumines our path in the present.

The Bishop of Leeds, the Rt Revd Nick Baines carried out both ordination services. Formal photos from both services can be viewed on our website www.leeds.anglican.org

Cathedral Academy is TES school of 2019

The Cathedral Academy, Wakefield is celebrating after winning Secondary School of the Year at the national Times Educational Supplement Schools Awards 2019.

“We teach our students to believe in themselves and that the skills they need to succeed are within their own potential,” said the Academy’s Principal, Rob Marsh, pictured holding the award with staff at the event with host Harry Hill.

Around half the Church of England secondary school’s pupils are classed as disadvantaged, but their development over the past two years has put the school in the top 10 per cent for progress nationally.
Pilgrims stride out in Spain on 100km farewell walk for vicar

Walkers from the United Benefice of Darton, Staincross and Mapplewell have just returned from a 100km pilgrimage along the Camino de Santiago in Northern Spain.

Led by Fr John Fisher, many who attended joined the hiking group that he set up at the start of his curacy three ago to get himself fit.

“The small group ranged from age 30 to 75 years old and the 100 kilometres allowed each of us to walk alongside fellow Christians from around the world and share faith together,” Fr John said.

“It was very humbling to share the journey with so many hundreds of people and pray with them too.

The pilgrimage was, in part, a farewell trip for Fr John, who is leaving the diocese and heading north to take on three parishes in the Diocese of Durham.

A well-earned rest?

Bishop Jonathan Gibbs

By the time you read this, the schools across our Diocese will be taking a well-earned break. Staff and students will (hopefully) be enjoying some lazy days in the sunshine, and thoughts will not quite have turned to either exam results or to getting ready for the new term. (BTW Congratulations to Cathedral Academy, Wakefield and Bradford Academy for their fantastic success at the TES Awards!)

Taking a break is vital to maintaining our physical and mental well-being, and a weekly Sabbath is meant to be a time for rest and relaxation, even if many of us spend it either busy at church or doing some shopping!

We live in an increasingly non-stop culture, subjected to the 24/7 demands of our smart phones, and it really isn’t good for us. There is growing evidence that our lack of “down-time” is raising our stress levels and damaging our health.

May I therefore encourage you to give yourself a break over the month of August? You may not be able to get away on holiday, but how about taking a break from some of the things that crowd our lives for the rest of the year?

Could you make a start by daring to be separated from your smart phone for twelve hours a day for a week or two? Get into the habit of leaving your phone outside your bedroom (I bought an alarm clock a few months ago, so I don’t even have that excuse) and de-stress yourself by not looking at emails until at least after you have had breakfast.

Most of all, why not set aside a few minutes each day simply to remember how much God loves and cares for you – perhaps quietly repeating to yourself “I am loved. I am cared for. Thank you, Lord” – as an antidote to all the anxieties that so often fill our minds?

Think of it as a well-earned rest for your soul.

+Jonathan
Bishop of Huddersfield
Bradford Academy comes top of the class in national awards

Bradford Academy is celebrating after winning the Community and Collaboration Award in this year’s prestigious Times' Educational Supplement Awards, following on from Wakefield Cathedral Academy’s success.

Delighted Executive Principal at the CofE Academy, Tehmina Hashmi said: “The awards, celebrating their eleventh year, recognise outstanding contributions made by education teams and individuals to help students around the country to succeed, both inside and outside the classroom.

“This award recognises the exceptional work taking place with our many partners which prepares our young people to be good citizens, taking pride in their community and having a say on the issues that concern them.”

Harrogate churches celebrate changing the lives of children

The lives of 1,000 vulnerable children around the world are being changed thanks to the support of people from across the Harrogate postcode.

The HG1000 campaign has seen churches, schools and businesses from across Harrogate come together over the past five years to support child development charity Compassion UK, by sponsoring 1,000 children who are living in poverty in developing countries and giving a further 1,000 families access to safe water.

Guy Donegan-Cross (pictured above) commented: “This has been such a great project, with support stretching from across the whole community, with lots of people being able to get involved.”

Pets receive a bishop’s blessing

All creatures great and small, including a Shetland pony, filled St Peter’s Church in Rawdon last Sunday for their tenth Animal Blessing Service.

The Bishop of Kirkstall, Rt Revd Paul Slater, blessed all the animals who brought the church building alive with yelps of excitement as they led their human companions to the pews.

Organiser, Ros Smith, Coordinator of Animal Christian Concern, said: “The event led by Revd Mark Smith, focussed on the ever-growing concern for the plight of animals in the modern world, not only the welfare of pets, but also on wider issues such as animal suffering.”

Dales day out

Asylum seekers from war-torn countries have enjoyed a weekend of peace and outdoor activity in the Dales, thanks to a charity run by the vicar of St John’s Golcar and St Mark’s Longwood Fr Simon Crook and his wife Sam set up ACross Country in 2004 and recently took a dozen people from Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Guinea, Libya, Iraq, Kenya, Afghanistan into the countryside for abseiling and other pursuits.

“We listened to people’s stories, told and re-told with more detail as the weekend progressed.”

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Fifteen men and women enter ordained ministry across the diocese at two services in Wakefield Cathedral on Saturday 29 June led by Bishop Nick. They include an electrical engineer, a sales assistant, former primary school teachers, an educational psychologist and an expert in Computational Astrophysics.

Siân Lawton will serve at Masham & Healey after training at St Mellitus North West in Liverpool for the past two years.

Sally Pickering moves to Starbeck. For many years Sally worked as an Educational Psychologist and lives in Ilkley.

Anthony Bennett will become assistant curate at Haworth & Cross Roads. Prior to ordination Anthony provided water consultancy work and wrote for magazines and journals about environmental issues.

Pete Gunstone will serve at the new Fountains Church, Bradford. Born in Manchester, he has previously held various positions within music, such as a conductor, organist and church music director.

Mike Green goes to Brownhill. Prior to ordination Mike started work as an apprentice Electrical Engineer, working his way up to be an Engineering Manager in a leading company in Leeds.

Dan Miles begins ordained ministry at Erringden after eight years as a primary school teacher in central Bradford.

Debbie Nouwen will serve her curacy at Emley with Flockton and Lepton. She previously supported teams of volunteers who care for those living and working around the inland waterways.

Chris Balding is looking forward to serving at St Edmund Roundhay after spending the last couple of years in Cambridge where he has been training for ordination.

Judith Clark moves to Leeds City Parish. She spent the two years before starting ordination training working as a Pastoral Assistant.

Rachel Ford begins ordained ministry at Abbeylands following her ordination training at St. Hild College in Mirfield.

Sarah Harrison will serve at Pudsey. Sarah grew up in Wales and has worked as a teacher and director of music.

Jean-Louis Pecher goes to Holbeck to start his ordained ministry. He was born in Belgium and has lived, studied and worked in a variety of different countries.

Julia Wilkins is looking forward to serving at St George’s Leeds. Whilst completing her studies at St Hild College she has worked as a schools and young families outreach pastor.

Kathryn Goldsmith looks forward to worshipping and working with the people of Chapelthorpe & Wooley with West Bretton after completing a PhD in Computational Astrophysics at the University of Leeds.

Jay Hewitt will serve at Barnsley. Jay became a Christian whilst living in the United States and has worked as a business manager for Tom Ford. His interests include 19th-Century maritime history, Egyptology and Greco-Roman myth and history.