Learning journey begins for this year’s young interns

Young adults from across our region are embarking on an exciting learning journey as they start on our Diocesan Internship Scheme.

The scheme brings together young people serving in churches across the diocese to stretch and challenge them in discipleship, to grow their gifts and skills and to help them discover more of what God is calling them to.

The new interns are spread over a large area, with interns based at churches in Leeds, Bradford, Huddersfield and Halifax including St Augustine’s Wrangthorn, St Matt’s Burley, Fountains Church Bradford and more.

The interns meet on Mondays at St George’s Leeds for a day of worship, reflection and learning, covering topics including discipleship, encountering God in scripture, spiritual disciplines, leadership, preaching and pastoral care.

The scheme is mostly financed by Strategic Development Funding (SDF) and ties into the Diocesan Strategy’s fourth goal of building leadership pathways, which is about having the right mechanisms in place to help people grow as leaders inside and outside the church.

Friendship pic takes top spot

Energetic commitment to Jesus featured prominently in the fantastic entries to this year’s Capture a Christian Summer photo competition, which was run through the Leeds CofE Camera Club Facebook page.

Images from across the diocese showed folk of all ages taking part in a wide range of activities, from spiritual summer camps, or moments of simple worship to full immersion baptisms in beautiful locations.

Choosing a winner was incredibly difficult, but a joyful picture taken at New Wine United, Peterborough by the Parish of Girlington, Heaton and Manningham, together with St Margaret’s Frizinghall was awarded the top spot.
Top class music at dementia cafe helps rekindle memories

**LEEDS** Opera North, a leading arts group based in our diocese, is working with church members to spark musical memories for people with dementia.

The world-renowned opera company is working with the Tea Cosy Dementia café in Leeds, founded by Christians including people from St Edmund’s, Roundhay, on a three week project engaging people with dementia using the music, visuals and smells of their past.

Guests and volunteers at the café have been joined by members of Opera North, and have enjoyed performances of pieces from operas including La Bohème. It was started after worshippers at St Edmund’s, a diocesan Resource Church, decided to work with people living with dementia, and is run in partnership with the nearby Methodist and United Reform churches.

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**Time for togetherness**

**Bishop Toby Howarth**

Well, it’s done. It’s happened. It’s all over. Winter’s here. Summer was safely gathered in and Autumn has been replaced by long November nights. After the fireworks (traditional or political) and the anarchic sparks of Bonfire Night, there is little to lighten the mood and I would urge us all to pray for those who feel alone and isolated as temperatures drop and daylight shortens.

While many of us anticipate the glorious spiritual illuminations of Advent and Christmas, this can be a depressing month for others. Loneliness and isolation at any age can be particularly acute at this time of year and with a harsh winter forecast and some food shortages anticipated, I know that foodbanks and those who provide shelter in the coldest months have appealed for extra supplies.

Within faith communities and minority groups, some are also experiencing increased levels of fear and isolation at this time. The Church of England, cares for the wellbeing of everyone in our parishes, no matter what their faith or beliefs. This is why I am particularly keen to support those who have a vision for thriving and harmonious communities where everyone can feel welcome and belong.

I am the Chair of Wellsprings Together, our diocesan charity which helps local churches reach out to people in their parishes in many different ways. Among its work, it supports the community network of Places of Welcome and there’s also Near Neighbours, which helps people explore local issues and find shared solutions. Also, a growing number of churches are open for school holiday clubs where families are fed and share activities.

Therefore, as we prepare for the dazzling wonder that is Advent, we should also be mindful of the emotional and spiritual darkness that so many people experience at this time of year. We give thanks for the generosity of people in our local churches and pray that God will give us the strength to welcome and serve our neighbours in the many ways we are able. The light does indeed shine in the darkness.

*Toby*

Bishop of Bradford
Rejoicing at launch of Bradford’s new city centre church

**BRADFORD** Fountains Church has held its first official service with 175 people celebrating Bradford city centre’s new place of worship.

As progress continues towards transforming a former nightclub above City Park into a new church building, Fountains is now meeting at the Life City building on Sunday afternoons.

“Our first meeting on Sunday was a time of great rejoicing!” said Fountains minister Revd Linda Maslen (pictured centre). “It really marked the end of applying for funding, recruiting team members and seeing who God was calling together to plant.”

Bishop of Bradford, the Rt Revd Toby Howarth announced and commissioned the team. “This is a wonderful moment for all of us, for our city and beyond,” he said.

Church’s £30,000 “Flush Fund”

**RIPON** Members of St Michael and All Angels Church at Linton Falls have set themselves the mammoth task of raising £50,000 in a ‘flush fund’ to help improve the facilities at the church for parishioners and visitors alike. “Working in harmony with an ancient building is an expensive affair,” reflected Rector David Macha. He was pleased that the Flush Fund had already raised over £30,000. “It has been wonderful to see how the church community has set to the task of raising the funds for this much-needed project,” he said. The church hopes to complete fundraising in the next few months. “We’ll be very relieved to have a working toilet!” said Revd David Macha.

New missional role at York Minster for one of our clergy

**HUDDERSFIELD** Canon Maggie Mclean of Christ the King, Battyeford is gearing up for an adventurous new role at York Minster.

In November, Canon Maggie will take up the newly-created role of Canon Missioner at York Minster. Her brief is to develop partnerships with Christian communities in York, the wider local diocese, the whole of the Northern Province and even with the Minster’s link dioceses in South Africa.

“Although I am obviously excited by the opportunity of working at the Minster, it is with sadness that I will be leaving the Diocese of Leeds,” Canon Maggie said. “I have always tried to be involved in the life of the Diocese beyond the parish.”

Green Weekend

**WAKEFIELD** A Wakefield church has celebrated the life of one of their congregation with an environmental weekend in her honour. Kath Duree was a mainstay of St John the Baptist Church at Coley, and when she suddenly died in the summer, it was a great loss and a shock to fellow worshippers.

Known for her love of the environment, the church decided to host an event called Kath’s Green Weekend in her memory, which would intertwine with its harvest service and brought worshippers and the community together.
New scheme launching to help parishes boost their finances

A new way to boost regular giving for Parishes will be launched across our Diocese in January 2020. The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is a proven way to boost levels of parish income and also offers a myriad of other benefits for parishes and givers alike.

Developed ten years ago, 27 dioceses across the UK already trust and use the scheme. PGS helps regular givers donate safely to their church by direct debit either monthly, quarterly or annually.

A key feature of this revolutionary scheme is the option to inflation-proof regular giving by linking it to the rate of inflation, thus helping combat static giving and boost a parish’s income.

The PGS team automatically claim eligible Gift Aid before transferring donations to the church’s bank account every month and that Gift Aid amount follows later the same month. This not only reduces the administration burden on church volunteers, but also helps parishes resolve their cash flow problems.

PGS is currently being piloted by eleven parishes across the Diocese until December 2019 and their feedback is very positive.

“It’s already proving to be fruitful for them,” said Stewardship Officer Janet Edmond.

Bishop Nick Baines also recommends the Parish Giving Scheme to the Diocese in a short video which can be viewed on the diocesan website.

Tribute to former Bishop of Bradford and radio presenter Roy Williamson

Bishop Nick has paid tribute to the former Bishop of Bradford, the Rt Revd Roy Williamson, who has passed away aged 86.

“I regret to announce that Bishop Roy Williamson has died. He was Bishop of Bradford from 1984 to 1991, when he moved on to the Diocese of Southwark,” Bishop Nick said.

“Roy was greatly loved in West Yorkshire, but also further afield through his broadcasting on BBC Radio 2.

“We commend him to God and pray for his family in their bereavement. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.”