

Together in Faith

Diocese of Leeds Lay Conference



Together in Faith is a unique opportunity for lay people throughout the Diocese of Leeds to come together to learn, share, and be inspired. Some 1700 active and motivated lay church members will meet on *Saturday 9 June 2018* at the *Harrogate Convention Centre*. They will hear from a range of stimulating speakers and learn of the latest plans for the diocese to support and encourage lay people. Every participant should leave refreshed, renewed and affirmed in their efforts to live out their faith in parishes, schools and at work.

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Self-select Sessions

Participants will need to select either Main Auditorium Option A or B and one other session. Please see www.leeds.anglican.org/lay-conference/schedule-and-self-select-sessions for information on availability and timings on sessions, as some topics are only available once.

God's Call, The Old Testament and Me - Bishop Jo Bailey-Wells (Main Auditorium Option A)

In the Old Testament, unlikely, willing and reluctant people, young and old, are called to serve God in surprising ways. This session will explore the relevance of this for today and for each of us.

Seeing God at Work - Neil Hudson + Guests (Main Auditorium Option B)

How can we view the workplace as an arena for God's activity and Christian vocation? This session aims to re-ignite our call as Christians to make a positive impact during the week.

The Power of Story - Kate Nicholas

Today we can use our own stories of faith to help people to know the good news of Christ. This session will look at the power of story and telling our own story.

God and Science - Denis Alexander

Do you have questions about God and science? This session will tackle some of the challenging issues that contemporary science raises for faith.

Wellbeing, Mental Health and Making a Difference

What does it mean for Christians to take wellbeing and mental health seriously, as they seek to be 'salt and light' in today's society, help build up the body of Christ and look after themselves?

Living Faith in Rural Areas - Amiel Osmaston

This will explore practical and imaginative ways of being church, deepening faith and engaging with the local community in rural areas.

Living Faith in Urban Areas - Damian Feeney

How can we contribute to human flourishing in urban areas, as members of local churches? And how can what we do and say communicate the living reality of Christian faith?

Help! We Don't Have Any Young People - Nick Shepherd

How do we encourage young people's faith? How do we make connecting with younger generations a priority in our churches? What practical steps can help us to re-engage?

Starting Something New - Nic Findlay

How can we connect imaginatively with those who don't usually come to church? This session is for those who feel drawn to pioneering creative forms of outreach, in their parish and beyond.

Developing Young Leaders

How can young people fulfil their potential and become exceptional leaders in church and society? This considers the different components of leadership development for young people.

Caring for God's World

What distinctive perspectives can Christians bring to caring for the environment? And how might each of us make a genuine difference? This combines theological reflection with practical steps.

Overcoming Obstacles to Faith

Why do people dismiss Christianity as irrelevant or a thing of the past? How should we respond when people raise objections to believing? For all ages, but particularly issues young people face.

Faith in Business - Cal Bailey

What does it mean for Christians to engage in business life with commitment and discernment, informed by their Christian beliefs? How can local churches support business people?

Engaging Confidently with People of Different Faiths - Bishop Toby Howarth + Guests

How can we relate with sensitivity and understanding to people of different faiths, in our parishes and at work? And how can we talk about their faith and ours with greater confidence?

God's Call and People with Disabilities - Roy McCloughry + Guests

This session explores challenges and opportunities faced by Christians with disabilities as they deepen and live out their faith, informed by personal testimony and practical considerations.

Fear, Trust and God-centred Leadership - David Runcorn

In challenging times we tend to look for heroic leaders. The church is no exception. But is that God's approach to leadership in the Bible? What does the biblical vision of leading look like?

Young People as Disciples

How can young people be supported to grow in faith at church, school and college? How can they contribute fully to the life of these places?

Social Engagement and Sharing Your Faith - Paul Hackwood + Guests

As we engage with social need, how open should we be about our Christian motivation? How can engaging with deprivation and injustice be sensitively combined with faith-sharing in a post-Christian society?

Prayer for All Seasons

How can we develop a life of prayer attuned to the changing circumstances we find ourselves in? What does it mean for each of us to deepen our 'prayer life'?

Keynote Speaker - Mark Russell

In 2006, at the age of 31, Mark Russell was appointed as Chief Executive of Church Army. He is best known for his passionate commitment to issues facing young people and social justice. He has been a contributor to various TV and radio shows and has addressed major Christian gatherings all over the world. Mark grew up in Northern Ireland and read Law at Queens' University in Belfast. In 1999, Mark was awarded the 'British Gas Tomorrow's People Award'; presented to him for his cross-community work, bringing Catholic and Protestant young people together across Northern Ireland in the run up to the Good Friday Agreement. In 2000, he was appointed as a Youth Minister in South West Hertfordshire. Mark is a member of General Synod and has been elected to the Archbishops' Council of the Church of England. He is a member of the Archbishops' College of Evangelists and an Honorary Canon of Worcester Cathedral. He is also a fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts. Based in Sheffield, Mark loves to travel and keep fit in his spare time and has a strong social media presence, particularly on Twitter (@markrusselluk).

Schedule for the day:

08:50	Registration and Refreshments
10:00	Opening Worship Introduction by Bishop Nick Baines
10:15	Keynote Address: "Our plans and God's: doing something useful with our lives" Mark Russell (Chief Executive, Church Army)
11:00	Magazine Slot - including testimony, podcast and interview with Cal Bailey and Bishop Jo Bailey-Wells
11:20	Refreshment Break
11:50	Self-Select Session 1
12:50	Lunch and Marketplace
14:00	Self-Select Session 2
15:00	Refreshment Break and Marketplace
15:45	Magazine Slot - including Online Training Platform, lay ministry pathways, "Setting God's People Free" and 'take-home'
16:15	Closing Worship
16:45	Depart

For all the latest information and how to register your place, please go to:

www.leeds.anglican.org/lay-conference

For queries please contact:

layconference@leeds.anglican.org