Three cathedral choirs in perfect harmony at Yorkshire festival

Singing together in perfect harmony, the three cathedral choirs of Bradford, Wakefield and Ripon joined together last month to hold a second Yorkshire Three Choirs Festival, first held in 2016 and now set to become an annual highlight.

Variations of the Yorkshire Three Choir Festival have been held since the 1970s, but 2016 was the first festival for the three cathedral choirs of the new diocese. This year, Wakefield Cathedral hosted the event with a Saturday concert and service of choral evensong. Later, the same weekend, the choirs changed places - Ripon travelled to Bradford, Wakefield to Ripon and Bradford Cathedral choir sang at Wakefield.

Hosting the Festival concert was Tom Moore, Music Director of Wakefield Cathedral. “Our aim is to keep this Festival surviving well into the future”, he said. “I think that cathedral choirs are consistently in danger. There are so many funding cuts these days making life very difficult.” But, he added, “I think it’s very exciting to put the choirs together because it’s an absolutely fabulous noise. Every choir, of course, wants to show that they’re the best and therefore that really encourages them to give of their very best when they all get together.”

Jon Payne, Assistant Director of Music at Bradford Cathedral, added, “It’s a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the music training and development which our cathedral choirs are able to offer children and young people within the Diocese.”

Wakefield to Exeter

The Dean of Wakefield, the Very Revd Jonathan Greener, is to be the new Dean of Exeter. Having served in the diocese for the past 14 years, Jonathan will leave later this month to become the 71st Dean of Exeter. Bishop Nick said, “I am delighted at the appointment of Jonathan Greener to be Dean of Exeter. He will bring gifts of vision, resilience and collegiality to his new ministry. Exeter is receiving a Dean who has helped shape a new way of exercising cathedral ministry in a diocese going through considerable change. I will miss his creativity, friendship and support.”

As Dean of Wakefield, Jonathan carried out the most complete makeover of any cathedral in recent times, raising £7.5 million and completely transforming the interior, which had been untouched since the 1970s.
**Remembrance Sunday**

**Bishop Tony**

Last year the world governing body of football, FIFA, imposed a fine on the England team who were due to play a match on Remembrance Day for wearing poppy armbands. Thankfully they have now decided that ‘poppies are not a political symbol’.

Poppies became a symbol for Remembrance following the famous poem *In Flanders Fields*, written by John McCrae during the First World War. Poppies grew in abundance over the graves of dead soldiers in Flanders.

As we wear our poppies this year, we should not forget that during the two world wars people discovered resources of generosity and kindness, of courage and bravery that they didn’t realise they had. There was also often a sense of being part of a strong community bound together by adversity, and, of course, people were needed – to fight, to nurse, to work in the factories, to grow food, to care for other people’s children.

This is an enormous challenge for us today. Can we do something for our country, for our community motivated by something other than personal gain through charitable and community work, and especially through the work of the church? We need the same solidarity and willingness to work for the common good as was shown in warfare.

Jesus said: “if any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it”.

Remembrance Sunday is a time to look back and honour the memory of those who gave their lives in war. But, if we were to allow it, the character that so many showed and some of the positive things that people discovered through the adversity of war, could also make this a time of great challenge for us in the present, and a time of genuine and peaceful hope for the future.

**+Tony**  
**Bishop of Wakefield**

---

**Reaching out made easier**

**LEEDS** Whether it’s a replacement cooker, school uniform, or a bike to get to work, the charity Acts 435, set up by the Archbishop of York, allows people to give money directly to others for specific requests.

Christ Church, Upper Armley, has recently got involved and the experience has been so positive, they’re encouraging other churches in the diocese to do the same. Vicar of Christ Church, the Revd Canon Arani Sen, said, “Acts 435 is an excellent mission tool to live out the teaching of Acts. It has enabled the church to raise its profile in the community and to demonstrate Jesus’ love in action.”

The church appoints Advocates who listen out for needs in the church and local community and then meet the person who has the need. The request is listed on the Acts 435 website.

If you’re interested in setting up Acts 435 in your parish, visit the website www.acts435.org.uk and/or email admin@acts435.org.uk
More Bradford church schools become ‘Life Savers’

BRADFORD Three more Church of England schools in Bradford have joined a pioneering Church of England schools saving scheme. Life Savers, which was piloted by the Church of England and Bradford Credit Union, has proved so successful that now it is being rolled out across the country. Under the scheme, savings clubs administered by credit unions in primary schools are encouraging children to save small, regular amounts of money. This academic year Christchurch C of E Primary Academy at Shipley, Westminster C of E Primary Academy, Westminster Rd, Bradford and Burley and Woodhead C of E Primary at Ilkley have joined the scheme. They join four Bradford schools where pupils have so far saved a total of £6231.

Give Peace a Chance

HUDDERFIELD Four schools have joined together in Huddersfield Parish Church to celebrate United Nations International Day for Peace.

Beaumont Primary Academy, Linthwaite Clough School, Spring Grove School and Woodley School worked with the assistant curate at the town centre church, the Revd Simon Crook to create the ceremony, using art, song, dance, poetry and some insightful letters to world leaders.

The children were joined by Huddersfield and Colne Valley MPs Barry Sherman and Thelma Walker.

Ripon Cathedral’s ancient nave was transformed last month as more than two hundred people enjoyed a spectacular four course banquet with jazz, entertainment from the Military Wives choir, an auction and a ‘silent disco’.

A record £26,000 was raised at the Dean’s Banquet, double the previous year.

The money raised will go to the ‘Ripon Cathedral Renewed’ project which aims to develop facilities at the Cathedral for the 21st century.

New canons

WAKEFIELD Two honorary canons were installed at Wakefield Cathedral and a new cathedral Priest Vicar licensed at a service led by Bishop of Leeds, Nick Baines. Providing the music after the service was the West Yorkshire Police Band, supporting the Revd Paul Cartwright, a former policeman, who was one of the two new canons. Paul, who is incumbent of St Peter and St John, Barnsley, is also Deputy Lead Chaplain to the West Yorkshire Police force. Diocesan Director of Ministry and Mission, Canon Andrew Norman, was also made an honorary canon.
The Church Carbon Footprint Calculator, created by Small World Consulting and Lancaster University for the Diocese of Leeds, is a new tool for churches to calculate their carbon footprint more easily. The project is being organised by Andy Ive of St Mary’s Church Ingleton and an introductory session was held last month at All Saints church, Burton in Lonsdale to introduce the trials. Participating churches will be given the opportunity to contribute to pioneering research into the new calculator’s impact on reducing carbon emissions.

Roll out plans

If the four week trials during October in Ripon Episcopal Area are successful, then the system will be rolled out and be available later this year to churches across the whole diocese. Churches involved in the trial include Burton in Lonsdale, Thornton in Lonsdale, Ingleton, Bentham, Settle, Giggleswick and Rathmell.

Jemima Parker, Environment Officer for the diocese, said, “I hope it will be a useful tool for all parishes and denominations to measure and reduce their carbon dioxide footprint.

“The Ingleton and Settle churches are trialling it for a four week period to iron out the glitches. Then it will be available across the diocese. We hope to run training sessions in each area to equip parishes to utilise it.”

Carbon footprint is defined as the total amount of greenhouse gases produced to directly and indirectly support human activities, usually expressed in equivalent tons of carbon dioxide (CO2). It is seen is a powerful tool to understand the impact of personal behaviour on global warming. The Church of England’s carbon footprint target is online with the UK Government target to reduce emissions by 80% by 2050. The new pioneering calculator aims to help solve the difficulty of calculating our carbon footprint.

Churches in the northern part of the diocese are taking part in trials of a radical new carbon footprint calculator which has been created by Lancaster University and will be rolled out across the whole diocese if successful.

The Church Carbon Footprint Calculator, created by Small World Consulting and Lancaster University for the Diocese of Leeds, is a new tool for churches to calculate their carbon footprint more easily. The project is being organised by Andy Ive of St Mary’s Church Ingleton and an introductory session was held last month at All Saints church, Burton in Lonsdale to introduce the trials. Participating churches will be given the opportunity to contribute to pioneering research into the new calculator’s impact on reducing carbon emissions.

If the four week trials during October in Ripon Episcopal Area are successful, then the system will be rolled out and be available later this year to churches across the whole diocese. Churches involved in the trial include Burton in Lonsdale, Thornton in Lonsdale, Ingleton, Bentham, Settle, Giggleswick and Rathmell.

Jemima Parker, Environment Officer for the diocese, said, “I hope it will be a useful tool for all parishes and denominations to measure and reduce their carbon dioxide footprint.

“The Ingleton and Settle churches are trialling it for a four week period to iron out the glitches. Then it will be available across the diocese. We hope to run training sessions in each area to equip parishes to utilise it.”

Carbon footprint is defined as the total amount of greenhouse gases produced to directly and indirectly support human activities, usually expressed in equivalent tons of carbon dioxide (CO2). It is seen is a powerful tool to understand the impact of personal behaviour on global warming. The Church of England’s carbon footprint target is online with the UK Government target to reduce emissions by 80% by 2050. The new pioneering calculator aims to help solve the difficulty of calculating our carbon footprint.

Churches in the northern part of the diocese are taking part in trials of a radical new carbon footprint calculator which has been created by Lancaster University and will be rolled out across the whole diocese if successful.