Cathedrals and churches unite communities against hatred and division

Bradford, Wakefield and Ripon Cathedrals, Leeds Minster and other churches across the diocese became focal points last month for community solidarity against recent terror attacks in London and Manchester. Several multi-faith vigils have been held, the first taking place the day after the Manchester Arena attack on May 22 which killed 22 people, many of them children.

In Leeds, Bishop Nick and the Rector of Leeds, Canon Sam Corley, led a vigil attended by faith and civic leaders including the Lord Mayor of Leeds, the CEO and Leader of Leeds City Council, Hilary Benn MP, former MP Greg Mulholland, the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire and the Deputy Lieutenant of West Yorkshire. It was followed with vigils in Bradford and a few days later, Wakefield Cathedral, where the names of each of those who died in the Manchester attack was read out and a candle lit for each one. A group of over 150 Muslims, many carrying banners saying “I love Manchester” and “Islam means Peace”, processed from the Mosque in York Street up to the Cathedral for the vigil to join around 200 local people and representatives of the communities on the Cathedral steps.

A few days later, with news of the attack at London Bridge and Borough Market in the capital, Bradford Cathedral hosted a second vigil for those killed and injured. It was led by Bishop Toby Howarth and attended by the Lord Mayor of Bradford, Councillor Abid Hussein, together with other civic leaders, community representatives and faith leaders. Candles were placed at the chancel steps and prayers were led by faith leaders.

Speaking on BBC Look North Bishop Toby said, “What do we do with our anger, what do we do with our frustration and our fear and all those natural feelings which come up? And I think what I’ve been seeing in Bradford is that this is a city that chooses life, it chooses love, it chooses to stand together.”

Bishop of Leeds Nick Baines, on Radio 4’s Thought for the Day, the Monday after the London attack, said that Christian commitment refuses to give violence, death and destruction the final word.
Young people lead the way

Bishop Toby Howarth

I am looking forward this month to a weekend with a difference in Whitby. An extraordinary group of mostly young people with a range of religious, ethnic, social and geographical backgrounds and a good gender balance will share food, learning and laughter on a training residential.

This will be the second cohort of a group called, ‘Believing in Bradford’ which has come out of a partnership between myself and the city’s Lord Mayor. Having learned about one another, our city and region, and some of the skills needed to work together across deep difference, we will commit ourselves to be ambassadors for the city over the coming year.

Already, members of the group from the first cohort have been busy raising money for the Lord Mayor’s charity by rowing a Dragon Boat to victory in the annual race and leading vigils at Bradford Cathedral after the Manchester and London Bridge terrorist attacks. The Lord Mayor has asked members to join him on visits to schools and to help in citizenship ceremonies. In the autumn, we are planning a resilience training day should the city or district be faced with floods or another emergency.

It is vital that we engage with young people in our communities. The recent General Election has shown that young people can help to shape the future in an exciting and dynamic way. Tapping into this energy is one of the keys to bringing about lasting change.

I have enjoyed so much working with this group, particularly their entrepreneurial energy and the ease with which we can talk and share about faith, music, sport, work and so much more. It is a sign of hope and of the way God’s Spirit is leading as we pray for shalom, God’s peace in all the communities of our diocese.

+Toby
Bishop of Bradford

Spring Harvest announces move to Harrogate

Spring Harvest, the annual Christian teaching and worship event, which began in 1979 and attracts tens of thousands of Christians each year including many Anglicans, has announced that it will be held in Harrogate in 2018.

The traditional Butlins venues at Skegness and Minehead will still remain a firm part of the Spring Harvest calendar, but Harrogate will become the third centre for the Easter time event. The Harrogate Spring Harvest will be held from April 3rd to 8th, Easter Week (Easter Sunday in 2018 is April 1).

This Easter, 2017, both Archbishops spoke at Spring Harvest. Speakers and musicians are shared between the venues, and the daily programme includes teaching, worship, youth and children’s strands and entertainment.
Bradford Literature Festival invites church leaders to speak

The Bradford Literature Festival runs from June 30 to July 9 and this year senior church leaders will be speaking at several events. Bishop Nick is taking part in three events on Sunday 2 July, and Bishop Toby hosts an evening of sacred poetry at Bradford Cathedral on Sunday 9 July.

Highlights will include Bishop Nick taking part in a debate on ‘The World Today’ with Professor Paul Rogers at 1pm on Sunday 2 July at Bradford College.

On the following Saturday, 8 July, 10.30am, again at Bradford College, the Dean of Bradford Cathedral, Jerry Lepine, chairs an event discussing William Blake’s “Jerusalem” with Blake expert Jason Whittaker, cultural commentator Boyd Tonkin and poet Ben Okri.

And on Sunday 9 July at 6pm in Bradford Cathedral, Bishop Toby hosts an evening of sacred poetry and music from different faith traditions. Full details at the festival website.

Pentecost Praise

‘Be agents of change’ was Bishop Nick’s message at the Pentecost celebration for the diocese held at Wakefield Cathedral. The beacon event was the culmination of ten days of prayer across the diocese as part of ‘Thy Kingdom Come’, the Archbishops’ global prayer initiative. From May 25, Ascension Day, it has seen thousands of people across the diocese open their churches for regular daily prayer and engage in a variety of different ways of praying; from walks to different prayer stations to beacon events in all three cathedrals.

The service included a mix of modern and traditional worship songs and prayer. Those gathered were anointed and went out onto the Cathedral steps in song.

Festival of Faith

Life in its fullness is the theme of the second Upper Holme Valley Festival of Faith from July 1-7th. Events range from an open-mike night for young people, to the popular “beer and hymns” with a local jazz band. There is family forest church, sessions on reading, writing and faith, exploring new monasticism, rhythms of life, and even ‘God Loves Your Dog’, a celebration of our relationship with our pets. On Sunday 2 July, the former Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Revd John Pritchard, will share his Seven Stories and on Friday 7 July, he will bring his own insight into Brexit, Europe, fake news and Trump. Full details at www.holmevalleyfestivaloffaith.org

Ask an imam...

‘So-called Islamic State’s use of the Qur’an is wrong’ – a senior imam in Leeds has told members of St George’s. A group of people interested in the Middle East from St George’s, St John’s, Moor Allerton and the Leeds Jewish community, met Qari Asim, senior imam of the Makkah Mosque, Headingley, to talk about IS’s use of Qur’anic verses to justify its killing of Christians. David Kibble, who leads St George’s Dialogue and Reconciliation Network, says, “Qari campaigns tirelessly against the philosophy of so-called Islamic State.”
Meet our 20 new curates

Twenty men and women are ordained as deacons on July 1st at Bradford Cathedral where Bishop Nick will be leading two services. They will begin their ordained ministry as curates at parishes throughout the diocese. Leeds and Wakefield curates will be ordained at 11am, whilst Bradford, Ripon and Huddersfield curates will be ordained at 3pm. Please pray for them.

**LEEDS**

**Bob Bailey** will serve in the Elmete Trinity Benefice. He trained at Cranmer Hall, Durham.

**Chris Baxfield** will serve in the parish of Moor Allerton and Shadwell after training at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford.

**Angela Birkin** will serve in the parish of St Michael and All Angels, Headingley after training at St Hild College.

**Claire Corley** will serve as the curate in the parish of St Edmunds in Roundhay, Leeds. She trained on the Yorkshire Ministry course.

**Dan Ross** will serve in the parish of Christ Church, Upper Armley, having trained at Ridley Hall in Cambridge.

**Rolf Mason** will serve in the parish of St Luke the Evangelist (Beeston Hill & Holbeck, Leeds) after training at Ripon College Cuddesdon.

**WAKEFIELD**

**Rod Walker** will serve in the Parish of St Giles with St Mary, Pontefract, after training at St Hild’s College, Mirfield.

**Erik Peeters** will serve in the parish of St George’s Lupset and St James’ Thornes after training at St Hild College.

**Peter Clapham** will serve at All Saints and St Thomas Featherstone.

**Monika Doering** will serve in the Benefice of West Barnsley after training at St Stephen’s House, Oxford.

**Mark Burns** will serve as a curate at St Mary the Virgin, Barnsley Parish Church. Mark studied theology at The Queen’s Foundation, Edgbaston.

**BRADFORD**

**Gareth Howles** will serve in the parish of St Mary’s Burley-in-Wharfedale, after training at Ridley Hall, Cambridge.

**Derek Jones** will serve in the parish of St Oswald’s and All Saints, Little Horton, after training at Cranmer Hall, Durham.

**RIPON**

**James Handley** will serve in the parish of Harrogate St Mark, after training at St Hild.

**Abbie Palmer** will serve in the parish of Pannal with Beckwithshaw. She studied at St Hild College.

**Caitlin Carmichael-Davis** will serve in Ripon Cathedral parish after training at Ripon College, Cuddesdon.

**ALEX WHEATLEY** will serve in the parish of Christ Church, Skipton with St. Mary’s, Carleton in Craven. He completed his training at Westcott House.

**HUDDERSFIELD**

**Michelle Petch** will serve in the parish of Holy Trinity and St Jude, Halifax after training at St Hild College, Mirfield.

**Stephanie Hunter**, who will serve in the Benefice of Cumberworth, Denby, Denby Dale and Shepley studied at Ripon College Cuddesdon.

**Yvonne Hagan** will serve in Mixenden and Illingworth after training. As a self-supporting minister Yvonne will balance her curacy with full-time employment as a waste and recycling advisor for Calderdale Council.

*(Pictured are ordinands at last year’s service, who will be made priests on June 24th.)*