New film celebrates the church in action across the diocese

‘We are the Diocese of Leeds’, a new film celebrating the richness and diversity of church life across the diocese, has been launched to widespread approval.

The film focuses on a wide variety of positive and often innovative community activities and events which show churches making a difference in their local area.

Welcoming the new film, Bishop Nick Baines said, “This film is a wonderful window into the wide range of life, celebration and work done by thousands of confident Christians in diverse communities across the Diocese of Leeds. We have some inspirational people and places. It is hugely encouraging to see the many ways in which our churches are loving, living and learning in their communities.”

The film was shaped by responses to last year’s Lent workbook, Confident Christians; Growing Churches and Changing Communities.

Film maker, Norman Iveson, and communications officer, Jane Bower, spent six months filming projects across the diocese, and the result is a fast paced 17 minute film.

Jane Bower said, “Despite our differences – from tarn to town and everywhere in between - it is clear that community is at the heart of all we do: serving those around us; whatever their need may be; connecting and showing them a loving God; a God who loves his people where they are. Please use this film where you can – show it in your churches; your parishes; your schools, your church halls, your house groups, chapters and deaneries.”

To see the film, visit www.leeds.anglican.org and follow the main home page banner.
Friends of Cathedral

The former head of Wakefield Girls High School has taken on a new role – to head up the relaunched Friends of Wakefield Cathedral. Pat Langham, CBE, has agreed to take on the renewed Friends – an initiative to bring as many people from the city and beyond together to support the work of the cathedral.

Pat said: “I am honoured to chair the renewed Friends and look forward to working with the community to make this organisation fun and fruitful and to help this great building continue to flourish.”

The Friends are looking for new members and are working on a programme of social events from theatre visits to sightseeing and shopping trips as well as lunch and dinner dates. They have also teamed up with shops and businesses through the town to offer a wide range of promotions and incentives for members.

Outstanding
Bishop James Bell

Before Christmas, I had the joy and privilege of sharing in the Carol Service at the Forest School in Knaresborough: a very special school for very special people with special and complex needs. At the last Ofsted, the school was judged “Outstanding in every category.” On the Headteacher’s office wall this quote is prominently displayed: “The only thing that leaders do of real importance is to create and manage culture.” (From Edgar Schein, an American leadership and management expert.)

Thinking of business leadership expertise, the phrase “Culture eats strategy for breakfast (lunch and dinner)” was originated by Peter Drucker.

Reflecting on the renewal of the church in mission, Alan Roxborough suggested that the missional leader “creates a culture in which the people of God can re-imagine their future.”

St. Paul was continually seeking to create and manage culture (relying on the grace of the Spirit of Christ, of course). Any reference to being the body of Christ is accompanied by Paul identifying the values or virtues - the culture - of the body. That is principally love, the love that is expressed in forgiveness and forbearance and flows into sacrifice and service. The best way of all for the Christian community is love, vividly developed in 1 Corinthians 13; to comprehend the height, length and depth of the love of Christ, is fervently prayed for in Ephesians 3. “Let this mind be among you that was in Christ Jesus,” he urges in Philippians 2, a mind beautifully captured in Wesley’s phrase, “emptied himself of all but love.”

Lent is a great time to review and seek the renewal not only of our personal discipleship but our corporate discipleship, our being the body of Christ. And that is primarily and principally about the culture of the church, each church community. The growth of mutual love and the capacity to re-imagine the future would surely make us outstanding in every category!

+James
Bishop of Ripon
Artist and bishop to give Huddersfield Lent talks

HUDDERSFIELD  Artist Ashley Jackson and Bishop Nick will be among the line-up of speakers at a series of Lent talks in Huddersfield this month. Following the success of last year’s joint Lent venture between the town’s parish church and the university, the two institutions have teamed up again. A series of five lectures and discussions will take place every Wednesday through Lent starting on March 8 at 3pm in St Peter’s Church and again at Huddersfield University at 5.30pm.

The assistant curate, the Revd Simon Crook said: “Last year’s talks were a success, not just in the numbers that came, but in the amount of lively engagement that each speaker produced. In teaming up with the university we managed to reach a wider audience.”

Other speakers include Dean Jeffrey John, Bishop John Pritchard and the Revd Katy Cunliffe.

God and the Big Bang

LEEDS  Pupils at Abbey Grange CE Academy have spent a day debating God and the Big Bang, with the help of eminent scientists, gigantic bubbles and fire. Speakers included Tom McLeish, Professor of Physics at the University of Durham, and materials scientist Dr Jona Foster.

The conference for ninety students in Year 10 debated the interaction of science and faith and explored a range of topics, from the forces inside stars to the chemistry of bubbles.

Some of the students’ comments were: “I only believe in science or religion, now I know they go side by side”, “We had a chance to ask questions we wouldn’t normally ask”, and “The speakers were energetic and engaging - the day has really supported my faith”.

Cathedral gets messy

RIPON  Ripon Cathedral will be getting messy on Saturday 4 March when Lucy Moore, creator of ‘Messy Church’, will lead a training morning for church leaders and children’s group leaders across the diocese. The training morning, from 10am – 12 noon, will include creative ideas and encouragement, and a chance for churches to share their ideas with others. The content for the morning will include basics of Messy Church, Messy discipleship, and open space creative discussion. If you would like more information or to book a free place, please contact Sammi Tooze in the Church Growth department on: sammi.tooze@leeds.anglican.org.

Holocaust

BRADFORD  The President of the Bradford Reform Synagogue, Rudi Leavor, together with members of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, have taken part in an act of remembrance at Bradford Cathedral for victims of the Holocaust.

Bishop Toby and Dean Jerry Lepine were also joined by the Deputy Lord Mayor of Bradford, Bradford West MP, Naz Shah, the Leader of the Council and other civic leaders together with a congregation of more than a hundred people for the memorial. Rudi Leavor gave an address and sang a lament, Ahavat olam beit Yisra’el.
The Revd Canon Andrew Norman has been welcomed to the new post of Director of Ministry and Mission at a service in Ripon Cathedral. Andrew joins the diocese after seven years as Principal of Ridley Hall in Cambridge, an Anglican theological training college.

“I’m grateful for the warm welcome I’ve received to the Diocese,” said Andrew. “‘Living, Loving, Learning’ is a great motif and I’m enjoying doing plenty of ‘learning’ as I begin my time in post.”

As Director of Ministry and Mission, Andrew will lead a core team who oversee training, church growth, community work, vocations, and children and young people’s work.

The excitement of international cycle racing returns next month with the Tour de Yorkshire 2017. Last year, 2016, two million spectators came out for the race, which was televised. This year even more are expected as the Tour returns to some of the favourite stretches of the 2014 Tour de France.

The route on Day Two, Saturday 28 April, passes many churches in the Ripon Episcopal Area from Wetherby to Harrogate via the Dales. Day Three, Sunday 29 April, starts at Bradford and goes north through Grassington before heading south towards Halifax and Holmfirth.

Welcome to Yorkshire is keen to get the Yorkshire Flag onto churches and buildings that stand out. Information is available at www.letour.yorkshire.com with race routes, maps, timing and advice.

Ignite focus on young people

A day conference in Bradford this month aims to help churches develop work with young people. Ignite, on Saturday 25 March 2017, at Immanuel College, BD10 9AQ, will be led by Adviser on Church Growth, Canon Robin Gamble.

“Our churches are great at working with children,” says Robin. “The problems seem to begin as our children get older. Often they lack interest, disappear and fail to develop deep faith.”

The day begins at 10am and is led by a team including Robin, Sam Corley, Liz Morton and Adele Regan with talks, smaller groups and workshops. “Ignite aims to inspire and equip leaders, helpers and clergy,” adds Robin.

Contact Sammi Tooze on sammi.tooze@leeds.anglican.org for more information.

Are you en-route?

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