



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Leeds

Wakefield
Episcopal Area
December 2017

Welcome to the latest edition of Wakefield Area News Xchange

Introduction to Xchange from Bishop Tony



Can the Christmas story really speak into the brokenness of our world? Or is it just a bit of escapism, in the same vein as overdone shopping and parties, the new Paddington film and whatever is on the telly over Christmas?

I would say this, wouldn't I? But I really do believe that the message of God coming into our world, as a vulnerable baby, becoming a refugee, suffering hardship and persecution, relying on strangers for a bed, for the next meal, and ultimately for a tomb: God really entering and knowing our human condition – that message is exactly what we need to hear today.

Jesus Christ knows what we go through. He knows about bereavement, loss, betrayal. He

knows about humanity's enormous capacity for inhumanity. And when people suffer today: hunger, pain, loss, fear, confusion: he has been there and can be with us in that. And when we mess up and bring suffering on ourselves: he is there alongside us and also to forgive and accept us. As I do my usual thing and visit Wakefield prison on Christmas morning I will reassure those men who have messed up big-time, that God can still see his image in them, that they can find forgiveness and peace, and start over again. Christmas is about God being with us in the muckiness of life. It is about him accepting us whoever we are and whatever we have done. It is about hope and peace and a future that means something. Jesus Christ really offers us all of that. Have a wonderful Christmas. Know Jesus at the heart of it all.

Yours ever, Bishop Tony

Bishop Tony is delighted to announce that

Jonathan MacGillivray has accepted the role as Acting Dean of Barnsley



whilst Stephen Race takes a well-earned sabbatical from Epiphany to the 8th April.

j.macg@virgin.net

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Please note that Church House, Wakefield, will close for the Christmas holidays on Thursday 21st December and will re-open on Tuesday 2nd January 2017.



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Loving.
Living.
Learning.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

CONFIRMATIONS 2018

Following the success of the Confirmation Preparation at Wakefield Cathedral this year I have booked another opportunity on:-

Sunday 4th March
4.30pm to 6.30pm

Please do encourage any candidates you might be preparing or thinking about Confirmation to come along.

There will be an Area Confirmation Service on:-

Sunday 15th April
3.30pm to 5.30pm

Booking details will be sent out in January.

YOUTH EVENT

Another Youth Event has been booked for **Friday 16th March from 7.00pm** at Wakefield Cathedral. Details are still in the planning stages, more information will be sent out in January.

FOLLOW ME 4

1st February: The Rt Revd Chris Edmondson, former Bishop of Bolton and now Honorary Assistant Bishop in our Diocese. "Seven whole days, not one in seven" - Exploring how we can live out our Christian discipleship 24/7, rather than falling into the danger of it being only a compartment of our lives".

12th April: Sister Carole, Prioress of Whitby will be the final speaker in this series.

Feel free to join us for Evensong at 6.30pm.

Food will be served from 7.15pm.

Teaching sessions from 7.45pm until 9.15pm.



Events in the Wakefield Episcopal Area

To sign up for the Follow Me sessions please send your RSVP with any dietary requirements to Caroline:
caroline.asquith@leeds.anglican.org

**Wakefield
Interfaith
Network**



**Invites you to a
Christmas Party & Film
Show on
Saturday 9th December, 4pm**

People of all faiths and none are invited to a traditional (children accompanied by parent/carer welcome)

**Wakefield Baptist Church
Barnsley Road WF1 5JY**

Party food, crackers, singing and games

At 5.30pm: A showing of the film *Joyeux Noel* (WW1 Christmas 1914 football match on No Man's Land) Running time approx 2 hours followed by discussion : suitable for over 12s

OPEN HANDS

St Catherine's are starting a new service for their food bank users and vulnerable people.

"Jesus says "No one can snatch them out of my hand". (Jn10.28)



A Christian Service for those who need a helping hand.

Every Monday at 7.00pm starting from the 8th January
St Catherine's Church Centre,
Doncaster Road, Belle Vue,
Wakefield, WF1 5HL
Tel: 01924 211130
Free dinner provided

ARCHDEACON'S VISITATION 2018

Thursday 24th May, 7.00pm
Wakefield Cathedral

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL SERVICES



Saturday 9th – 11.00am

Messy Cathedral – Advent themed activities and worship for families and children, lunch served at 12.30pm.

Saturday 9th – 5.00pm

Missa at the Chantry – contemplative worship – refreshments from 4.15pm

Saturday 9th – 7.00pm

Skelmanthorpe Male Voice Choir Christmas Concert – further info from www.skelmvc.co.uk.

Sunday 10th

Regular services at 8.00, 9.15 and 11.00am.

2.00 & 5.00pm - Wakefield Hospice 'Light up a Life' Services - for further info contact the Hospice on 01924 331401.

Monday 11th – 7.00pm

Wakefield Hospice Carol Concert with Wakefield Girls' High Junior School – contact the Hospice as above.

Tuesday 12th – 1.00pm

Lunchtime concert – Wakefield Girls' High Senior School – free admission, donations welcome.

Wednesday 13th – 7.00pm

Civic Carol Service with the Mayor of Wakefield District – for more info contact mayor@wakefield.gov.uk.

Thursday 14th – 9.00pm

Lazy Compline – relaxed night prayer and music sung by the Men of the Cathedral Choir.

Saturday 16th – 2.00pm

Children's Christmas Party – contact Ea Nilsen in the Cathedral Kitchen for further details.

Saturday 16th – 7.00pm

Yorkshire Philharmonic Choir Christmas Concert – tickets from Cathedral Shop, 01924 364862 or www.yorkshirephilharmonicchoir.co.uk.

Sunday 17th

Regular services at 8.00, 9.15 and 11.00am.

3.30pm - Service of Lessons and Carols sung by Wakefield Cathedral Choir.

Monday 18th – 7.30pm

Ackworth Community Choir Christmas Concert – info from rhianjim@aol.com.

Tuesday 19th – 1.00pm

City Carols – readings & carols for choir and congregation – free admission.

Friday 22nd – 7.30pm

Carols by Candlelight – annual concert of carols and Christmas music with Wakefield Cathedral Choir – tickets from Cathedral Shop, website or 01924 373923.

Saturday 23rd – 5.00pm

Missa - contemplative worship – refreshments served from 4.15pm.

Sunday 24th

Regular services at 8.00 and 10.00am.

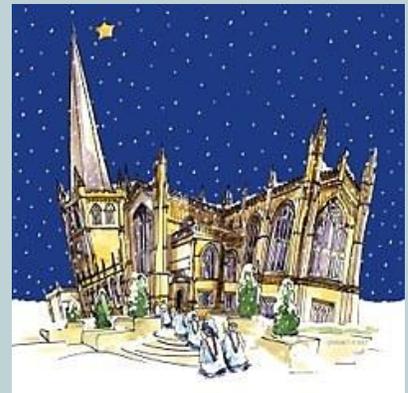
1.00pm – Christmas Lunch – further details from Cathedral Kitchen.

4.00pm – Christingle – service for families and children.

11.00pm – Midnight Mass celebrated by The Bishop of Wakefield.

Monday 25th

Services at 8.00, 9.15 and 11.00am.



For details of regular service times and opening hours between Christmas and New Year, please visit www.wakefieldcathedral.org.uk.



'Leading your Church into Growth' for Urban Estates Churches

There will be a special LYCIG course taking place at Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick from June 25th – 28th 2018, which is tailored specifically to the needs of lay and ordained church leaders who work on urban estates.

The challenges of leading estates churches into growth are especially acute. It is often hard to grow lay leaders from such communities, Churches can be under-resourced with troublesome buildings and it can be particularly hard on estates to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in a way that connects with people's lives or answers the questions on their hearts.

LYCIG has always had a reputation as a resource which is effective for urban Churches, and in June we will seek to amend the content of the course in order to hear and meet the needs of estates practitioners. We are writing in the hope that you will draw this course to the attention of the estates Churches in your Diocese.

The cost per place is £299 and often clergy can find this from their CME budget. However LYCIG is proven to be most effective when clergy bring with them one or two key lay leaders, and so if a parish sends both a lay and an ordained leader we will offer a total discount of £50. LYCIG has access to very limited funds and so we hope in addition that Dioceses will be able to offer some degree of subsidy to lay attendees and would ask you to give this some consideration.

It has been very exciting to see how the need to renew church life on our urban estates has risen up the agenda in recent years, and we believe that LYCIG can play a very useful role in offering some answers to the questions of how we sustain vibrant church life in this context.

To book on the course please contact Tracie Hunt, Administrator at LYCIG through the website: <http://www.leadingyourchurchintogrowth.org.uk> or by email tracielycig@yahoo.co.uk

+ Philip Burnley

*On behalf of every one at Church House,
Wakefield
we wish you a
very Merry Christmas and a
Happy, Healthy & Prosperous New Year*



CONTACT DETAILS FOR AREA BISHOP, ARCHDEACON AND PAs

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