Rejoicing as 24 men and women ordained deacons at Wakefield Cathedral

Twenty four men and women have begun ministry as deacons in parish churches across the diocese following two packed services held in July at Wakefield Cathedral. They include a former GP, a head teacher, a magistrate, and a former telecomms trainer.

The services were held at Petertide, July 2nd. In the morning service, nine men and women who will be serving as curates in the Leeds and Wakefield Episcopal Areas were ordained.

Later, at 3pm, a second service was held for the fifteen men and women who will serve as deacons in Ripon, Huddersfield and Bradford Episcopal Areas.

Two services were needed to allow space for the many family, friends and supporters of the ordinands to attend – even then ticket numbers had to be limited.

Leading the service was the Bishop of Leeds, the Rt Revd Nick Baines, while the preacher at both events was the Revd Canon Charlotte Methuen.
A letter from our bishops

Following the EU referendum, our bishops have written to all clergy calling for the Church to be an agent of reconciliation. This month we reproduce their letter.

As we come to terms with the enormity of the Referendum result and the deep divisions within our communities which it has revealed, many people will be calling for a period of reflection. As well as listening to what the country has said, we need also to listen for what God is saying to us at this time.

Over these coming weeks, months and years, our nation and its neighbourhoods will need wise and courageous leadership. This is not just about negotiating trade deals, but about enabling healing and reconciliation in and between regions, age groups, and ethnic communities. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have issued a helpful statement. And Bishop Nick has blogged on the outcome.

It became clear after the murder of Jo Cox MP that many people look to the Church (and their local churches) at times like this for safe spaces as well as language and symbols to help them express what they are feeling.

We would like you to consider, if you’re not already planning to do so, making our churches available to anyone who wants to pray or just sit in silence or light a candle. You may want to make people aware, through local and social media, of your regular times of prayer, with an invitation to people to come and join you in praying for our nation and more widely.

As well as inviting people into our churches, however, let us also encourage our congregations to be people who take with us an attitude of prayer, listening and reconciliation into our homes, schools, places of work and neighbourhoods. Blessed are the peacemakers.

This comes with our prayers.

+Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds
+Toby Howarth, Bishop of Bradford
+Jonathan Gibbs, Bishop of Huddersfield
+Paul Slater, Bishop of Richmond
+James Bell, Bishop of Ripon
+Tony Robinson, Bishop of Wakefield

All aboard the Ark bus

LEEDS A yellow double-decker bus has been transformed by South Leeds churches into a social and activity centre for local teenagers and other groups.

Soon to be launched by churches in Lofthouse, Rothwell, Oulton and Methley, the ARK Bus, which is fitted with wi-fi and video games, will hit the streets to give local teenagers a safe place to hang out. It’s also hoped it will be used to teach the elderly and vulnerable how to use tablets and computers, and how to access the internet.

The project was the idea of the Revd Mandy Rhodes, Vicar of Lofthouse Parish Church. She said, “It is, primarily, about taking God’s love out into the world beyond our church walls and showing others that they are loved and valued beyond measure.”
A new emergency defibrillator has been installed on the wall of St Peter’s Church in the heart of Harrogate town centre – and has already been deployed.

The initiative to have the life saving equipment in a prominent place on the church wall, right opposite HSBC Bank, was conceived by Rev. Sue Pearce a member of St. Peter’s clergy team, whose late husband John’s life was saved by a defibrillator in January 2003.

The unit is available 24 hours per day, 7 days a week and was funded by donations.

The Harrogate Lions Club raised half of the £1800 cost and members of St. Peter’s, Tesco, G23, Harrogate Rotary and Harrogate Inner Wheel the other half.

MU supports dementia work

The Mothers’ Union in the Wakefield Area is leading the way in creating new dementia friendly items to help soothe the restless and agitated patients in the Mid-Yorkshire Hospitals Trust.

Members have produced a number of tool and gardening belts for dementia patients. Each belt has pockets containing tools or gardening implements. These provide stimulation for the active hands of patients with dementia and promote increased flexibility and brain stimulation as well as helping to evoke memories of hobbies they may have had.

“I’m absolutely delighted with the items that the Mothers’ Union has created for us,” said Anita Ruckledge, lead dementia nurse at the Trust. “Everyone I spoke to thought it was a great idea to have something for those who may have had gardening as a hobby or loved DIY.”

The belts will now be given to the Dementia Champions to trial with patients and their families and gather feedback.

Keighley United

A fresh chapter of church life is beginning in Keighley as a new single Church of England parish has been created from the historic parishes of St Mark, Utley, St Barnabas, Thwaites Brow, All Saints Keighley and St Andrew Keighley. Next month (September 17) the new Team Rector, the Revd Mike Cansdale will be inducted to complete a team of three full-time Anglican clergy, two Methodist ministers and an array of paid staff, self supporting clergy and many volunteers.

The Rt Revd Toby Howarth, Bishop of Bradford, said, “This is an exciting time for Keighley and I am delighted at the appointment of the Revd Mike Cansdale to lead the team.”

Harrogate church with a heart

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Pants to Harvest

St Thomas’ Bradley in Huddersfield plan to celebrate Harvest in an unusual way this year. The church is building a ‘knicker mountain’ of new underwear to be given to the homeless and disadvantaged in Huddersfield. Ruth Coates, a member of the Outreach Team at St Thomas said, “Many of our church members volunteer at the Huddersfield Mission which runs an evening café during the winter months for the homeless and they give out at least three pairs of underwear a day to those in need. Small and medium sizes are most needed.”
Five big events to celebrate church growth

Celebrate 5 is the name of five major celebration events being held in each episcopal area this autumn to celebrate and encourage church growth.

Revd Canon Robin Gamble, the Bishop’s Adviser for Church Growth, said, “Celebrate 5 will be both a ‘coming together’ for each episcopal area and it will help build an emerging culture of growth in every church.”

Each event will include traditional and contemporary worship, a sermon from the area bishop, examples of local growing churches, a prayer installation and litany for growth and a final ‘take away’ challenge to each PCC.

Robin adds, “We hope that every church will send along clergy and lay leaders plus two or three young people (teenagers and young adults). “Please come and support your area, and help build a culture of growth in the diocese.”

Celebrate 5 is in your area...

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<td>17 September</td>
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<td>24 September</td>
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<td>Leeds Minster</td>
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<td>1 November</td>
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Photo competition

The diocese has launched a photo competition, ‘This is the Diocese of Leeds’, the winners of which will appear on the walls of the new diocesan office in Leeds.

The deadline is September 30, and Debbie Child, Joint Diocesan Secretary, said, “We’re looking for exciting and slightly unusual images which show the ways in which the Church has a positive impact on people and communities.”

There are three categories and prizes to be won in each:

1. **Confident Christians, Growing Churches, Transforming Communities.** Open to all.

2. **The Beauty in our Buildings.** A quirky or unusual look at some of our architecture or architectural features. Open to all.

3. ‘Why I love my school’ or ‘Why I love my community’. Children’s category with three age groups, 7-11, 12-14 and 15-17.

Entrants are limited to five pictures which should be sent at medium resolution (no more than 2mb) to photo@leeds.anglican.org