Church House is officially opened by Sir Gary Verity

Church House, the new Diocesan Office in the centre of Leeds has been officially opened by Sir Gary Verity, the Chief Executive of Welcome to Yorkshire. Guests, including the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Leeds were shown around the new HQ for the diocese, 17-19 York Place LS1 2EX. The building has replaced the offices of the former dioceses of Bradford, Ripon and Leeds and Wakefield, along with the Education office in Harrogate.

Sir Gary is pictured cutting the tape at the entrance along with Bishop Nick Baines, the Lord Mayor of Leeds, Cllr Gerry Harper and the Lady Mayoress, Miss Lynne Scholes.

Sir Gary said he was impressed by the friendly and professional feel of Church House. Having just announced the route of the Tour de Yorkshire 2017, he said, “The Tour de France and Tour de Yorkshire brought together people who’d never encountered each other before.

“We are about bringing communities together and bringing about social change. So we’re doing the same thing. One of us is concerned with inspiring people about the ultimate destination. The other is about inspiring a belief in God!”

Bishop Nick stressed that the new office was there to serve the churches and people of a diocese which covers a ‘wide and diverse chunk of Yorkshire’ - including the deeply rural, urban and suburban, from small villages to big estates.

“We’re not here for the sake of the Diocese of Leeds but for the people of this region”, he said.

‘Your Share’ film launched

‘Your share makes a difference’ is the message to churches as a new parish share system is launched in the diocese with a package of resources to help parishes. Every church has received its parish share request based on the new system alongside 20 copies of a booklet for PCC members explaining the scheme. The new Share scheme is the culmination of two years consultation across the diocese and was agreed last October by Diocesan Synod.

A short film called ‘Your Share’ is available for parishes and can be seen on the diocesan website. Along with it there is a PowerPoint presentation on the new Share system, a PDF of the explanatory booklet, Bible study notes and sermon ideas on giving. At the same time, a campaign to encourage generous giving, Giving for Life, has been relaunched.
Hope for 2017
Bishop Tony Robinson

2016 has certainly been a year of highs and lows for the world. We have celebrated the 90th birthday of our monarch, we have a new Prime Minister following the referendum on the European Union, the United States of America has elected a new President for the next four years. The number of conflicts and disputes continues into another year, not least the awful civil war in Syria and the fight against extremists and terrorists.

There will always be challenges facing the world, our country, the Church of England and our own lives. Life has always been so and will be no different in 2017. As usual, when you start looking back over every year it is good to focus on the highlights and then, hopefully, learn from the lows. Then we need to look forward with hope and faith that 2017 will be a year of adventure, love, happiness, good health and prosperity. We must always hope too, that whatever comes our way we handle it with dignity, strength and pride.

We live in a world of so much hopelessness, despair and depression. It is important to ask what is the basis for our hope. Why do we hope? People can use the word hope in a lot of different ways: “I hope that I get a certain gift for my birthday. I hope that my candidate wins the election. I hope that scientists will find a cure for Alzheimers.” We all have different hopes, but what does it mean to have Christian hope?

St. Paul tells us that everything in the Bible was written so that we might have hope. By hope we become new men and women. In hope we are saved. To live our lives, we need hope.

Making a wish for the New Year is the same as having hope.

+Tony
Bishop of Wakefield

Bishop Paul cooks junk food

LEEDS “An amazing gastronomic experience” was the response to Bishop Paul Slater’s cooking at a “pay-as-you-feel” event in All Hallows, Leeds last month. Bishop Paul teamed up with Adam Smith, the founder of The Real Junk Food Project to create a meal from food that would otherwise have gone to landfill.

The diners were amazed at the quality of the meal. One said, “I hadn’t quite expected such a wonderful gastronomic experience. But I’ve also had my eyes opened to the fact that we could feed the world from all the food that is wasted.”

All Hallows run a Real Junk Food café most days of the week, plus a bistro on Friday evening.
**Bradford Area map redrawn with new deaneries**

**BRADFORD** The map of Bradford Episcopal Area has been radically redrawn with four new deaneries coming into being on New Year’s Day. From January, parishes will be grouped into the deaneries of Inner Bradford (in red on the map), Outer Bradford (in blue), Aire and Worth (in green) and South Craven and Wharfedale (in yellow).

Leading each deanery from January will be four Area Deans: the Revd Canon Alistair Helm, Inner Bradford; the Revd Vaughan Pollard, Outer Bradford; the Revd Sandra Benham, Aire and Worth; and the Revd Canon Philip Gray, South Craven and Wharfedale. The changes will mean similar parishes can work together more effectively according to Bishop Toby Howarth: “The new deaneries are not only geographically focused, but also offer mutual support in mission.”

**Save the date for celebration**

**HUDDERSFIELD** Bishop Jonathan has announced a new date for the Huddersfield Area Celebration. The event, to celebrate all that churches are doing throughout the Episcopal Area, will be held at Halifax Minster on Sunday 12th February 2017 at 4.00pm.

Bishop Jonathan said, “We are looking forward to coming together to celebrate what God is doing amongst us to grow his kingdom across our Area, under the themes of Confident Christians, Growing Churches and Transforming Communities.” Churches will be sharing their stories and the event promises ‘worship, fellowship and a glass of bubbly’!

**Team award**

**RIPON** Six members of All Saints East Cowton church youth group have been recognised for their community spirit, commitment and hard work at the North Yorkshire Police Lifestyle Awards held at York Racecourse. The East Cowton young people created the Superbugs team to carry out local community projects and were overall winners. The team consulted with members of the community then cleared the local woods, created new signs, built a bug hotel, and organised a games and activity afternoon raising more than £230 for local projects.

**Pray, Grow, Act . . .**

**WAKEFIELD** . . . are the principles at the heart of a new Community of All Saints launched in Wakefield on All Saints Day by Bishop Tony Robinson. Almost 300 people gathered in Wakefield Cathedral for the Community of All Saints launch and more than 150 people signed up to the community.

Bishop Tony asked people to commit to putting the three principles of Pray, Grow and Act at the heart of their lives for the next 12 months. Each of those who signed up will spend the first few weeks praying and then committing to their own rule of life from Advent 2016 to Advent 2017.

Over the next 12 months there will be further study opportunities, quiet days and trips to places like Lindisfarne and Durham.
Leeds Minster was filled with colleagues, parishioners, friends and family of the Archdeacon of Leeds, Paul Hooper last month, to give thanks for 35 years of continuous ministry in the diocese.

In a Thanksgiving Service led by the Bishop of Leeds, Nick Baines, tributes were paid to Paul for his ordained ministry which began at St George’s Leeds as a curate in 1981 and ended with his retirement in October. In that time he was also Diocesan Youth Officer, Bishop’s Chaplain and Diocesan Communications Officer, Vicar of St Mark’s Harrogate and Director of Clergy Development. Bishop Nick paid tribute to Paul’s “generosity and enormous wisdom...”. He said that Paul had shown great wisdom and patience at a time of huge upheaval and transition. “We owe Paul a great debt,” he said.

With a large number of entries to the Diocesan Photo Competition, judges have had a difficult task picking the winners. The three winners and three runners up were each congratulated by Sir Gary Verity at the opening of Church House, York Place in December. There were three categories - Confident Christians, Beauty in our buildings and Why I love my school (the competition for children and young people). The three winning pictures are now on display in the reception area of the new diocesan office. Other entries are also on show in a mosaic of pictures on the ground floor at Church House. Pictured on this page are the three winning entries: ‘Confirmation’ by John Hart (Winner, Confident Christians category); ‘Wakefield Cathedral’ by Tim Brown (Winner, Beauty in our buildings category) and ‘Three Friends’ by Layla Silburn (aged 10), Kirkburton CE First School (Winner, Why I love my school category).