

# Diocesan News

## August 2021

 THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Leeds  
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## Twenty new deacons ordained at Ripon Cathedral

Twenty men and women have begun ministry as deacons in parish churches across the diocese following two joyful ordination services at Ripon Cathedral.



The Bishop of Leeds, the Rt Revd Nick Baines carried out both services, which were held on Saturday, July 3.

They include former teachers, an academic in the field of Italian Studies, a Professor of Victorian Studies, a social worker and four were ordained at the same time as their husband or wife.



The morning service saw Bishop Nick and the three deans welcome; Emily Tidball, Amanda Ogilvie-Berry, Simon Walters, Emma Walters, Jo Glenwright, Leah Thompson,

Lottie Jones, Joshua Peckett, Lindsey Fox and Anna Lumb.

The afternoon service saw the ordinations of Gemma Fleury, Jonathan Fleury, Sam Fletcher, Nick Murray,

Linzi Blundell, Jenny Bradley, Michelle Lepine, Rosemary Mitchell, Claire Honess and Diane Komorowski.

## Generosity Week comes to the diocese this autumn

Generosity Week is coming to the Diocese of Leeds this autumn, helping us all to celebrate the generous love of God.

During Diocesan Generosity Week, running from September 26 through to October 3, churches are invited to hold services, run group



sessions, broadcast podcasts, and distribute readings on the theme of generosity to their communities.

Becky Nicholson, Lead Stewardship Officer, said: "Generosity is a spiritual gift and as Christians we learn about how to grow this gift as faithful disciples of God."

# A summer of refreshment and renewal

## Bishop Toby Howarth

One of the highlights of my recent sabbatical (I'm writing this on my first day back) was a retreat on the island of Iona off the west coast of Scotland. It was on Iona that St Columba arrived on his journey from Ireland in the year 563 to establish a monastic centre from which the Christian faith was, in turn, spread far and wide. This year we celebrate the 1500th anniversary of Columba's birth.

In 1938, the visionary Church of Scotland minister George MacLeod re-established a Christian community on the island from the Depression-hit docks of Glasgow. He did this by bringing unemployed skilled craftsmen and trainee clergy to Iona to rebuild the ruins of the ancient Abbey.

The Iona Community, based in Glasgow and on Iona itself thrives to this day, with a strong voice for creative and inclusive worship in liturgy and music grounded in a fierce commitment to social justice. Songs of Praise was recently broadcast from the Abbey.

The Iona community is deeply hospitable and welcoming. But it is also good at, as the Warden told us with a smile, "kicking its guests off the island" at the end of their stay.



Iona, she told us, is a place to be refreshed by its rugged beauty and peace, drenched in Celtic spirituality. But after that time of refreshment, renewal and re-commitment to Jesus, it is a place from which to be sent back to the situations, relationships, joys and challenges to which God calls us in our everyday lives. For that reason, members of staff and volunteers followed the Iona tradition of escorting us to the ferry to help us with our bags and wave us off with a prayer.

I very much hope that you will have an opportunity to take some time for a break from your usual routines over the summer, even with the remaining Covid restrictions.

But I also pray that at the end of that time, whatever it looks like, you will know the Holy Spirit calling you back, refreshed and with a renewed commitment to worship, justice and to sharing the good news of Jesus as it was shared from and with these islands all those centuries ago.

# Former inspector takes the reins as a rector

A former police inspector has been made rector of Thornton-in-Craven, Marton and Broughton.

Revd Robert Findlow was inducted by the Archdeacon of Richmond and Craven, Jonathan Gough at a service led by the Bishop of Leeds, Nick Baines on the first day church congregations were



allowed to sing again after a year and a half.

Members of his former parish in Rochdale, Greater Manchester, joined his wife and two sons and his mother along with members of his new parish at the evening service held at the church of St Mary the Virgin, Thornton on July 19. The congregation sang several hymns although the advice was for people to continue wearing face masks and to use hand sanitiser.

Revd Findlow recently retired from Greater Manchester Police after 30 years. He had previously earned a degree in agriculture from Edinburgh University.

# Living in Love and Faith lifts off in Huddersfield Deanery

*Living in Love and Faith is about honest conversations within the breadth of Anglican opinions and understanding, writes Area Dean of Huddersfield, Revd Rachel Firth. Here is an extract from her reflections on running the LLF course with her parish.*

Huddersfield is a small, but diverse Deanery with church communities from across the spectrum of Anglicanism.

I'm fortunate to be Area Dean here, and as someone with a passion for inclusion, I've



looked forward to engaging with Living in Love and Faith.

I have always believed that the breadth of Anglicanism is a strength.

LLF engages honestly, kindly and makes every attempt to achieve balance across that whole breadth and our



Deanery clergy team has tried to follow its pattern of kind engagement and mutual support.

As a Chapter we held two of the sessions together as an 'experiment' to help us all think through how we might use the materials in our varied parishes. At the end of the course we held an extra session at the request of the group to discuss how we thought it had gone and what feedback we wished to offer to the process.

The group's recommendations include sending some direct feedback to all our bishops, plus feeding back to the Diocesan LLF advocates. There is also a recommendation that we try to run the course again specifically inviting the under 30s in our congregation to participate.

*For the full piece, visit [www.leeds.anglican.org/news/living-love-and-faith-lifts-huddersfield-deanery](http://www.leeds.anglican.org/news/living-love-and-faith-lifts-huddersfield-deanery)*

## RSCM August course for young singers

Young singers are invited to join a Summer Singing Course for eight to 18-year-olds at Rishworth School, near Halifax.

This non-residential course runs from Monday, August 23 to Thursday, August 28, and is being organised by the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM). The RSCM is an educational charity whose mission is to 'promote the study, practice and improvement of music in Christian worship.' Applications are anticipated to be open until the end of July.

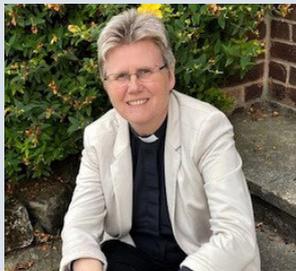


Four days of rehearsals, worship and workshops led by enthusiastic and experienced choral directors have been planned in order to enable young people to lift their voices together in song.

More details and booking can be found on the RSCM website: [www.rscm.org.uk/courses/summer-course-halifax/](http://www.rscm.org.uk/courses/summer-course-halifax/)

## Pontefract in bloom

**Revd Canon June Lawson, Pontefract**



As a parish priest in Pontefract, one of the many delights of living in the town happens at the hands of faithful volunteers who want to ensure that the town is beautified with colourful blooms throughout the summer period. In spring the bare soil is planted up and over the ensuing months the dark soil is lost beneath the canopy of colour provided by a rich variety of flowers planted in a variety of displays in the town and parkland. This year the displays have been especially lovely, maybe because of the 'dark' times that Covid has presented us all with.

Our local flower shops make their own contribution with their window displays and none of us could have failed to raise a smile at the vast array of sunflowers that greeted the shopper entering Marks and Spencers. Sunflowers have a lovely capacity to delight the eye of adult and child alike. Better still when they are growing still in a large field, standing several feet tall, the land a sea of yellow as far as the eye can see. Growing

sunflowers confidently tilt their heads to always face the sun. Once fully grown they still maintain an eastward facing position.

The Christian church is no stranger to the significance of facing eastward for prayer and worship. It is rooted in ancient tradition -the Garden of Eden planted in the East and a belief that the messiah would approach Jerusalem from the East.

Perhaps the sunflower models a deep truth for us, that growth into maturity comes through orientation towards the sun's light and warmth. As Christians we are called to prayerfully orientate our lives in the direction of the Son of God, whatever the weather. Rowan Williams has written a recent book entitled 'Looking East in Winter'. It's an evocative title. The winter of covid is not yet past, our lives may have held other 'wintry moments' in recent times, but let the sunflowers inspire us to keep 'looking east', to keep praying for the transformation of our lives and our world.

## Nominations open for General Synod election

Elections for General Synod are taking place this year, and the diocese is asking: could you stand?



The nomination period to stand opened on July 30, 2021 and closes on September 8, 2021.

General Synod is the legislative body of the Church of England and, together with the Westminster Parliament, is one of the only bodies in the land entitled to make national law for England.

Bishop Nick said: "The General Synod needs people who are committed to their parish and diocese, constantly looking at national issues through that local lens as we seek to serve the church. We need younger, more diverse members who can hold the big picture and particular 'issues' in tension."