£1.5m grant for new student outreach programme

Thousands of students in Leeds and Huddersfield who have never been to church will encounter the Christian faith, thanks to a £1.5 million Church of England grant.

The funding will be shared between projects to engage with young adults at two of our churches and the Rt Revd Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds welcomed this fresh investment in mission:

“This is a wonderful opportunity to do new work and we are grateful for the generosity of the church that makes it possible,” he said.

Church@HydeParkCorner, run from St Augustine’s Church in the heart of the Leeds student area will host a new Sunday afternoon service and expand its reach through social media, activities and events aimed at young people at the city’s universities.

The project is supported by St George’s Church, Leeds, and its Rector Lizzy Woolf said: “We are very excited to be working with students in creative and innovative ways, as we plant a new student congregation in Leeds.”

In Huddersfield, “Holy Trinity at 6” will be formed on Sunday evenings at the town’s Holy Trinity Church, and will build on its existing links with Huddersfield University.

Revd Mike Wilkins, vicar at Holy Trinity said: “We’re thrilled at the opportunity this funding gives us to make new connections with the thousands of students and young adults here in Huddersfield and to invite them to explore the Christian faith and church in ways relevant to them.”

Sam Corley to become Bishop of Stockport

The Rector of Leeds Minster, the Revd Canon Sam Corley, has been named as the new Bishop of Stockport. Sam will take up his new position as a suffragan bishop in the Diocese of Chester later this year.

“It will be a real wrench to leave the Diocese of Leeds,” Sam said.

“Sam has served the Diocese of Leeds and the wider Church of England in a variety of capacities with great diligence, wisdom and generosity,” said Bishop Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds.
Unexpected opportunities

Bishop Paul Slater

A couple of weeks ago, I was in a church in the Leeds Episcopal Area. At the end of the service, I asked the churchwarden to give out the notices. After the usual ones about a mid-week service and home groups, he said something like: “Amidst everything, the pandemic has brought all sorts of unexpected bonuses and opportunities….because we now keep the church doors wide open to ensure better circulation, I have just enjoyed seeing a great tit come into the porch and perch itself on so-and-so’s bicycle handlebars for a few minutes.”

There have been and are opportunities for new things. We are now in ordination season and I have been having pre-ordination meetings with those who are being ordained priest this Petertide after extraordinary deacon’s years. They have all had a story to tell about how different it has all been to what they expected but how God has put new opportunities in the way for them to grasp. Getting to know well the congregation in which they are serving has been a privilege because of the circumstances.

I wonder what God has been offering to you as a new opportunity as a result of this last year. You may be familiar with the four questions for organisations, originally posed by the Royal Society of Arts, which, if asked carefully, might help to clarify how best to emerge from the pandemic. But these questions could easily be applied to me as a Christian, seeking to live faithfully to God in this time of change: 1) I have done this as a response to the last fifteen months but it is specific to the crisis; 2) I have been able to stop this during the crisis and I don’t need to return to it; 3) I have been able to try this new thing and I think it has changed me for good; 4) I have had to stop this during the last fifteen months but I need to pick it up again;

This could apply to me in all sorts of ways. How might I change the way I spend my money as a result of the pandemic, how might I spend my time, how might I organise my prayer and Bible reading……….the list goes on....

+Paul
Bishop of Richmond

Huddersfield school wins three awards

A hat-trick of awards has been awarded to one of our Huddersfield schools

St Aidan’s CE Academy in Skelmanthorpe has been awarded the National Nurturing School Award, the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award and the Primary Science Quality Mark.

St Aidan’s CE Academy is a Church of England Academy, catering for children in the age range 4–10 years old. The school is organised into six classes and is part of the Learning Accord Multi Academy Trust.

The National Nurturing Schools Programme is a whole school approach to develop and embed a nurturing culture.

Laura Willimott, Headteacher at St Aidan’s CE Academy, said: “The school’s long-standing commitment to nurture has rightfully earned it this prestigious award.”
Cathedrals Cycle Route launches with ride between all cathedrals in the country

Cyclists from all three of our cathedrals have joined a network of riders going between every Church of England cathedral, to help launch the Cathedrals Cycle Route.

Our part of the route covers the whole diocese, coming from the north to Bradford, then on to Wakefield via Dewsbury, before heading on to Sheffield.

Bradford cyclists put on their helmets, oiled up their chains and fuelled up ready to tackle their twenty-mile journey to Wakefield Cathedral, a journey which takes in the beauty of the Spen Valley Greenway and which featured a refreshment break at Dewsbury Minster.

From there, Wakefield cyclists had the opportunity to enjoy the next route, a near 30-mile journey to Sheffield Cathedral, stopping at St. Mary’s Church, Wombwell on the way for a refreshment break.

Bradford’s Cathedral Cycling Champion, Maurice Manktelow, said of the event: “As a keen and passionate cyclist, I was excited to become one of the champions for the Cathedrals Cycle Route.

“This is a great event for cathedrals to work together, as well as with many other groups, and through establishing this relay and the routes will help encourage positive physical and mental health in those taking part, as well as supporting a sustainable way of travelling!”

Revd Tim Carroll, Wakefield Cathedral Curate and Cycle Champion said: “It’s been great to be involved with the Cathedral Cycle Route this year, a fantastic initiative promoting cycling across the country.”

New Bishop for link diocese of Rorya

One of our link dioceses has a new bishop.

Revd Canon Musa Yamo was consecrated as the second bishop of the Diocese of Rorya in Tanzania on Sunday, May 23, by the Archbishop of Tanzania and twenty other bishops.

The diocese of Rorya was created out from the diocese of Mara in 2011.

Bishop Musa, who at age 43 is the youngest Bishop in Tanzania, said: “The cathedral was packed for my consecration service which began at 9am and lasted for over four hours.

“The preacher was Bishop Dr Dickson Chilongani, my former principal at Msalato Theological College.”

The new bishop faces some big challenges in one of the poorest dioceses in Tanzania, including literacy, finance, infrastructure and transport for clergy.
Faiths together cope with crisis

Revd Jenny Ramsden, Interfaith Adviser

In my role as interfaith adviser for the diocese one of my responses to the COVID 19 pandemic has been to keep a ‘blog’ entitled, ‘Keeping Faith – an interfaith response to the coronavirus pandemic’. I asked my friends and colleagues of different faiths from across our diocese the question, “What is helping you keep your faith during this time of physical distancing, lockdown and quarantine?” and the blog is a collation of their responses.

It was important to me from the outset of the pandemic to consider the role of faith. People from different faiths have had shared experiences during the current pandemic - our places of worship have been closed, we have had to mark and celebrate festivals in lockdown, we have faced the loss of loved ones and been unable to mark their deaths in the way that we would have wanted. The blog was a chance for people from different faiths to share how their faith has kept them going during such unprecedented times.

As I collected the pieces together it was particularly poignant to read how faith had inspired people to join together in very practical ways to help others; by coordinating the provision of food to vulnerable people in our communities, by opening bereavement helplines, by telephoning those who are elderly and isolated. Rudi Leavor, Chair of the Bradford Reform Synagogue said this - “In the current anxious times when I am not allowed to go out of the house both my Muslim neighbours bring food round very regularly and another Muslim lady fetched my newspaper and medications until she herself was confined to the house as well. They do it out of kindness, knowing full well that I am Jewish”. During what are exceptionally difficult times it was heartening to hear about these many small but significant acts of kindness from faith communities across our diocese because, as another contributor said, “It is that as much as anything else that will enable all of us to come out of this, and hopefully build a more accepting and caring society”.

No holds baa-ed at St Chad’s lamb blessing service

The annual Blessing of the Lambs Service took place in a windy, but thankfully dry Nidderdale with help from Bishop Helen-Ann Hartley (pictured).

Organised by Revd Darryl Hall and worshippers at St Chad’s, Middlesmoor, this special service in the parish of Upper Nidderdale has been a regular event for several years at which local farmers bring their lambs to be blessed on behalf of the wider community.

Thanks is given for the work of our farmers in providing food for our table and wool for our textiles.

For more news, help and advice for parishes, visit www.leeds.anglican.org