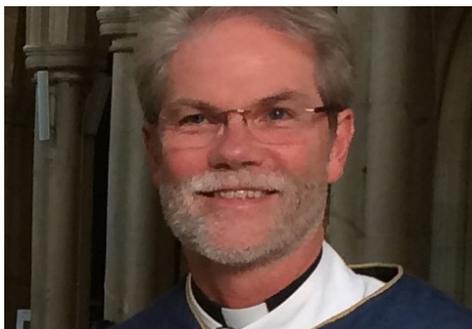


Dean Jerry to retire from Bradford Cathedral

Bradford Cathedral and the Diocese of Leeds will bid a fond farewell to Dean Jerry Lepine who retires from his role this summer.

Dean Jerry arrived at Bradford Cathedral in July 2013 and since then has built its reputation as a worship space and meeting place for all the city's communities.



Standout musical events, community engagement and interfaith relations have been hallmarks of his eight year tenure and Bishop of Leeds, the Rt Revd Nick Baines, said he will be greatly missed by all in Bradford and beyond.

Reflecting on his departure, Dean Jerry said:

"It has been such a privilege to lead the Cathedral and work with Bishop Nick and the other Deans of this Diocese.

"I will take with me some very special memories, such as being part of the creation of a new Diocese with its unique offer of three Cathedrals and our Cathedral Centenary Year

in 2019."

"I am very sorry to see Jerry leave Bradford Cathedral at this point, but wish him and Christine well in a well-earned retirement," Bishop Nick said.

"Jerry has worked hard, often in challenging circumstances, to lead the Cathedral and create a unique set of relationships with bishops, sister cathedrals and the wider civic and diocesan space."

Dial-in Lent group keeps congregation connected

A church in the Leeds area is helping its congregation stay connected this season with a dial-in Lent course.

The churches of Wortley and Farnley have worked hard throughout the pandemic to ensure that all congregation members, even those who find using the internet hard, feel part of what is going on.



Thanks to Denise Brogden (pictured), an ordinand on placement from St Hild, this has continued through Lent with a new group. Using a telephone conference call set up by a church member, people can now phone into a Lent Group that happens each week, running for half an hour.

Coping with trauma

Bishop Helen-Ann Hartley

Last week I paused to give thanks for seven years as a bishop. Into my inbox popped a greeting from Bishop Victoria Matthews. I was consecrated bishop in a service in New Zealand on the third anniversary of the 2011 earthquakes which hit the NZ South Island city of Christchurch, and the surrounding region. Bishop Victoria was Bishop of Christchurch, and I saw the burden that dealing with the aftermath placed upon her. The reality is, that while loss of life and destruction of buildings (including Christchurch Cathedral) was visible and raw, aftershocks affected lives in ways that are felt to this day.

In 2016, we invited Peter O'Connor, a professor of education, to run a workshop for clergy on trauma. He specialises in training teams to work with children using art and drama after disasters, abuse or violence. After the earthquakes, he offered practical strategies to schools such as restoring a 'cloth of dreams' for a child who discovered that theirs had been torn. He asked the children to describe the thread that would stitch it back together. Ingredients included '2/3 a cup of hope', and 'a teaspoon of



light from the darkest tunnel'. Peter asked one child how would they add the teaspoon of light, and they replied it would need to be sprinkled in. The child did that, and said, 'see, the light goes through everything'.

We haven't had an earthquake, but we are living through a crisis that has affected lives, communities, and exposed harsh realities. Lent is a reminder that the light does go through everything, and the cross is part of the light. I hope I can embody the cross, and the new life it brings me as a disciple seeking to proclaim a daily narrative of hope in Jesus Christ. I don't do that on my own, and my email greeting from Bishop Victoria was a timely reminder of shared joys and challenges of the global Church. Sunrise in one place is sunset in another, and so it continues. And God is in every bit of it, going before us and with us. The light goes through everything. Yes, it does.

Church provides free vouchers to feed children

A church in the Huddersfield area has provided £5,000 worth of supermarket vouchers to a primary school after a fundraising campaign prompted by publicity over inadequate food parcels for children on free school meals. The Revd Robb Sutherland, of Holy Nativity Church, on the estates of Mixenden



and Illingworth in North Halifax, West Yorkshire, has coordinated fundraising to buy a £10 Morrisons supermarket voucher for every child at the primary school on the estate.

He launched an appeal after seeing pictures last month on social media of inadequate food parcels for children on free school meals. The vouchers are the latest contribution by the church to help alleviate the economic impact of the pandemic in the local community.

Encouragement to hold Climate Sunday services across the diocese

The world's climate is high on the Church's agenda in 2021, and parishes across the country are being encouraged to hold a service this year focusing on global warming, as part of the Climate Sunday initiative.

A letter offering details about Climate Sunday was sent recently out to all clergy in the Church of England.

The letter asks churches to give one of their Sunday services to talking about the climate, and how they as a church should respond.

The letter also discusses other actions that can be taken, including details on how to begin the process of becoming an A Rocha Eco Church, as well as links to information on how to reduce a church's carbon footprint.

The initiative asks churches to commit to long term plans to reduce their carbon emissions, and to speak up for a cleaner, greener future.

The Church of England has committed itself to achieving carbon net zero by 2030, a target that the diocese also aims to achieve.

Jemima Parker, Diocesan Environment Officer, said: "The



Climate Sunday initiative is a great way for churches to show a commitment to caring for God's creation this year.

"With the COP26 conference in November, now is the time for churches to be taking the lead on this issue.

"I encourage all churches to hold a Climate Sunday service, raising our voices to protect this planet that God has given to us!"

World record from Catterick Garrison

A soldier who worships at one of our churches in the Ripon area has accompanied a colleague to complete a world record.

Major Billy McLaren, who worships at St Cuthbert's Colburn and serves at the Infantry Training Centre (ITC) at Catterick Garrison, has been running with Jacquie Barlow, who has been raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support.



The Revd Andrew Cromarty, Vicar of Hipswell Parish, said: "Billy's military colleague, Jacquie Barlow, had suffered from a brain tumour two years ago, and took up running, as a means of raising funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. "Jacquie has just completed her 61st half-marathon run on consecutive days, and Billy ran 24 of those with her!"

Congratulations to Jacquie and Billy for their impressive feat!

Lent during the corona crisis

The Revd Dr Hayley Matthews, Director of Lay Training

This Lent, COVID-19 is forcing us to reassess our work and life patterns so that we can serve the earth, the common good, our calling to be Christ's disciples, and also ourselves with a fresh positivity. It's a real opportunity to take stock of our lives of faith and spiritual, physical and mental health. The biggest question might be not that we know to whom we belong, but for why?

The disciples faltered in the face of Jesus' imminent crucifixion. Yet before Jesus faced the cross and physically left them, He really needed his disciples to grasp the cost of discipleship; they, too, must take up their cross and follow him. There is a need for self-discipline. But there also is a need for the disciples to encourage one another in their choices. Jesus needs them to take stock, as we are doing through our Lenten observances, and, particularly this year, through the Rhythm of Life.

The RoL is not about another set of rules for us to stand – or more likely fall - by. The



Rhythm of Life is about opening ourselves up to grace; allowing the spirit of God to chide and challenge us into new patterns of prayer and reflection that will deepen our relationship with Christ as well as our familiarity with the Bible. To enable us to share with and encourage others in ways that can seem unnatural to the world at large. To bless us with rest and celebration as we love ourselves as we are called to love others – and vice versa; to reawaken the creativity and celebration that being children of a creator God who delights in his people promises.

Let us look to Jesus seeking his desire for our lives, willing to walk the way of the cross, aligning ourselves with one or two disciples who will gently challenge as well as exuberantly encourage us. For the way was never promised to be easy; it never promised wealth, health and happiness; but it does promise riches untold, life everlasting and your lasting legacy in a kingdom that shall never be shaken.

Lay ministry webinar event

How we think about reader ministry in the diocese is the topic of an upcoming webinar for all our licensed lay ministers. This year sees the quinquennial renewal of licences for all licensed lay ministers (LLMs), also known as readers, and in preparation



there is to be a virtual event via Zoom on Saturday, March 27.

The Bishop of Leeds, the Rt Revd Nick Baines, will give the keynote speech, while other speakers will talk about the importance of LLMs in the future development of our mission and ministry.

Ian Grange (pictured), Area Warden of Readers for Huddersfield, said: "The meeting will look at LLM/Reader ministry and start to re-envision how we each play our part in building God's Kingdom in Yorkshire."