Saying “Goodbye” and saying “Hello”

The Diocese of Leeds bid a fond farewell to the outgoing Archdeacon of Halifax, Ven Dr Anne Dawtry, at a retirement service on Sunday, October 31 held at Halifax Minster. Around three hundred people gathered for the service, giving thanks to Anne for her ten years of faithful service as Archdeacon of Halifax and Warden of Readers.

Bishop of Leeds, the Rt Revd Nick Baines, lead the service. Archdeacon Anne said: “It has been a real privilege to have worked as part of Bishop Nick’s Senior Leadership Team and alongside Bishop Jonathan, the area deans and parishes of the Huddersfield Episcopal Area.”

Her replacement as Archdeacon of Halifax has been announced as the Revd Bill Bra-viner. Revd Bill is currently in the Diocese of Durham, where he is serving as the Incumbent of St Peter Stockton-on-Tees and St John Elton. Originally from South Shields, Revd Bill has lived all over England, both before his ordination and since.

Bishop Nick said: “I warmly welcome Bill to serve with us as the next Archdeacon of Halifax. He brings to the role long experience of parochial ministry, diocesan engagement and General Synod work on behalf of the Diocese of Durham. I look forward to him and Angela joining us in serving God and his church in this part of the world in the early spring.”

Making the most of a digital Christmas

Those involved in the digital side of church, whether that be social media, updating a website, producing videos or A Church Near You, are invited to attend a new webinar, exploring how online platforms can be used to share the Christian message this Christmas.

Richard Earnshaw, Digital and Social Media Officer for the Diocese of Leeds, said, “We’ve all made so many new friends through online worship - the question now is, how do we build on those relationships as we open our church doors?”

If you help to manage a digital platform for your church, you are welcome to book a place by emailing your name and church to comms.training@leeds.anglican.org.
Remember in November

Bishop Tony Robinson

It is November again and it is time to wear our poppies as we join as a nation to remember those who have died in conflicts past and present.

But what do you do with your poppy after Remembrance Sunday? Do you throw it away? Or keep it for next year? Does it languish in a drawer until you come across it in a few months’ time? Perhaps you have a very particular place for it? Will you put your remembering away until next year?

For many that isn’t what will happen because for some the remembering is personal, because with it is mourning – mourning what has happened to a colleague, a friend, a partner, a parent, a child. That isn’t something you can switch on and off in line with the calendar. But for many of us we are at more of a distance sharing in solidarity in that remembering and while it is not as personal for us, it still matters.

Right remembering is about more than setting aside a day in a year to remind ourselves of the facts of war and conflict. It is about how we live in the light of those facts. Especially today as a community, as a nation.

For right remembering we must have a vision for the future. God’s ultimate promise for us is that God will dwell with us, there will be no more mourning, no more crying, no more pain – we will get out of our cycles of violence and war because all of that has been gathering up in Christ who has shown us a different way. And that future starts with us, now, because there is no going back, only moving forward.

When you remove your poppy from the coat it’s been on, think about what you will do with it, and what will you do with the remembering that it symbolises. May I suggest you put it in a prominent place from where it’ll continue to nudge you in your remembering. Let it be a symbol of the vision God calls us to take up in our future – individually, as a community and as a nation – that by our living, we can and must help to build a better world.

+Tony
Bishop of Wakefield

Our bishops send warm Dwali greetings

Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, is celebrated on Thursday, November 4 this year, and our bishops have sent a warm message to Hindu friends, colleagues and communities.

“We send our warmest greetings to all those celebrating Diwali.

We are grateful for the good relations between the parishes and chaplaincies of the Anglican Diocese of Leeds and our Hindu communities.

The message goes on to say: “These good relations include Christian and Hindu neighbours and colleagues reaching out to one another during the coronavirus pandemic as well as community groups working together for the common good.”

The message concludes: “We pray that the lights of Diwali may symbolise the renewal of life and hope, and we wish you a joyful, peaceful and blessed Diwali.”
Leeds church achieves national Silver Echo Award for environmental work

One of our churches in the Leeds area has been awarded their Silver Eco Church award from A Rocha.

All Hallows Bardsey have achieved this by moving through the Eco Church survey, which measures how churches look after buildings and land; how they engage with their local community and in global campaigns, and the personal lifestyles of congregations.

The Revd Angela Hannafin, Vicar of the church, said: “There have been lots of things that we have done as we have moved from Bronze to Silver but the main two have been moving our gas to a carbon neutral supply and setting up our recycle hub in church.

“We now recycle batteries, crisp packets, toothpaste tubes, inkjet cartridges and stamps. The recycling of crisp packets and batteries is being done in partnership with our neighbourhood schools so in this way we are reaching out to our local children and our community.

“The church is open during the day, so we are able to take donations from our wider community at any time, not just from our congregation on Sundays.

“Our website has a special environment section, www.bardseyekparish.com/environment, which was particularly praised by the A Rocha award assessors. All our newsletters, which are also accessible via the website, always include an Eco chat item.

“We want to set an example for our parishioners of how to care for the environment, and are so pleased that our efforts are being recognised in this way.

“We are grateful to our Parish Administrator and Environment Coordinator, Elizabeth Otty, whose hard work enabled us to achieve Silver status.”

Refugees in our diocese have been experiencing the wonderful land we live in, thanks to the work of two people from the Huddersfield area.

The Revd Simon Crook, Vicar of Golcar and Longwood, and his wife Sam, run ACross Country, a charity which uses the outdoors and other activities to encourage personal, social and spiritual growth and recuperation.

Recently a group of refugees, from places across the world including Eritrea, Sudan and the greater Kurdistan area, went away for a weekend of adventure involving crafts, games, cooking, reflection and even abseiling.

The time offered chance for people to share their experiences, learn about different cultures, and enjoy an atmosphere of togetherness and security.
In July we celebrated the graduation of 16 interns, and 7 mission apprentices who had served across 13 different churches in our diocese.

They had spent the year intentionally investing in their discipleship, growing as followers of Jesus, serving the church and being stretched in ministry. They had each risen to the many challenges that the pandemic had thrown at them, many of them having to adapt to serving in very different ways to those they had originally signed up to.

Throughout the year we saw God at work in them and through them. Together they had the chance to explore their vocation and develop transferable skills for whatever area of work God called them into. Some of them have gone onto further theological study, some are serving God in a variety of jobs, and others are now working full time for the church.

This September saw the launch of two new learning communities – a cohort in Bradford and a cohort in Leeds who gather together once a month. The contexts in which they are serving include working amongst refugees, children’s ministry, youth, music, operations, and much more. From Cathedral ministry to a small church plant the range of placements is expanding each year. This year sees our first ever finance intern – serving with the diocesan finance team two days a week and with a parish two days a week.

It is a privilege to work with such an enthusiastic group of people who come from a variety of backgrounds, traditions and experiences but are all united in their desire to serve God and to see his Kingdom grow.

The Good Food Keighley shop was launched in July to help tackle food poverty in the West Yorkshire town.

Based in an Airedale Shopping Centre unit, the project currently welcomes between 40 and 60 users a week who are referred by support agencies and schools.

Behind the initiative is a partnership of eight organisations in the town – Keighley Parish, the Salvation Army, Roshni Ghar, the town council, Keighley Schools Together, Keighley Healthy Living, Holy Family School and Keighley Pathways.

The shop stocks a range of food items, and other essential products, donated as surplus by supermarkets and community organisations, such as Fountains Church in Bradford.