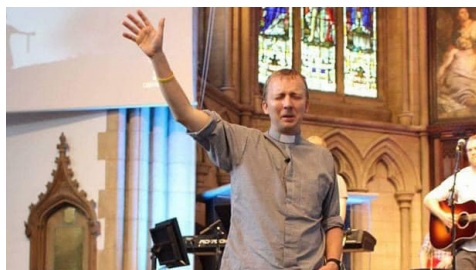


26 prayers for the planet ahead of COP26

The Climate Emergency has prompted the publication of 26 prayers dedicated to the environment by Leeds-based priest Revd Jon Swales.



An Associate Priest at Leeds St George, Revd Jon has long been a champion of green issues and active in efforts to promote awareness of threats to the environment.

In advance of the COP26 climate conference in November, he has produced a dedicated collection of prayers and videos, which are endorsed by the Bishop of Kirkstall, the Rt Revd Paul Slater and many others.

“Over the last few years I have become increasingly concerned about the Climate and Ecological Emergency,” said Revd Jon.

“As part of my response I wanted to encourage the wider church to both pray and act so that we are better equipped to be the justice-shaped people we are called to be.

“I set myself the challenge of writing 26 prayers and recording a short video at 26 different locations in and around the Leeds area.

“I am pleased that these prayers are being used around the world by individuals, churches and by activist groups. Prayer not only seeks to cry out for the resources of heaven, but also challenges and changes us. My hope is that these prayers wake us up to our urgent situation so that we look and love more like Jesus.”

The 26 prayers can be downloaded here: atyourservice.arocha.org/en/26-prayers-for-the-climate-and-ecological-emergency/

New Prayer and Spirituality Co-ordinator

Promoting the power of prayer is the key task of the diocese’s new Co-ordinator of Prayer and Spirituality, Revd Henriette Howarth.

Speaking of her recently announced appointment, Revd Henriette commented:

“I’m very happy to have been asked to take on the role as Co-ordinator of Prayer and Spirituality in the Diocese



of Leeds and to build on the excellent work of Paul Maybury,” she said.

“I look forward to working with others in the diocesan team and with people in the local churches to develop a strong sense of spiritual connection and reliance on God’s Spirit so we can be fruitful in our ministry and mission.”

Collaboration in the body of Christ

Bishop Helen-Ann

One of the opportunities of the quieter month has been to do some different things aside from the regular routine of my role. Taking a time of rest and refreshment has been a vital aspect of this break from the demands of the diary.

A free Sunday enabled me to volunteer as a marshal for the Dalesman Ironman Triathlon which was based in Ripon. Alarm duly set for 4am, about an hour later I found myself clambering through the early dawn light at Ripon race-course in search of the marshal mustering point. I was welcomed, given my instructions, and headed off with my companion to the lake situated in the centre of the race-course. Our job was to count the swimmers in and out of the lake.

For the full Ironman competitors, their day began with a 2.4 open-water swim, followed by 112 miles on the bike, and after that, a marathon. Full respect! For me, getting around Fountains Abbey for a 5k parkrun every Saturday morning is a goal I celebrate; this however was on a wholly different scale of human endeavour.

As the swimmers returned and made their way out of the lake,



one person was clearly struggling with cramp. He managed to drag himself out of the lake, and lay on the slip-way in some distress. Another swimmer closely followed, and stopped to help the man by stretching out his stiff calf-muscles.

It was a powerful scene: competitiveness set to one side to help, and provide comfort and relief. Soon, they were both on their way again with effusive words of thanks, and claps from the marshals and spectators. An image from the Pauline corpus in the New Testament bears repeating: how the collaborative potential of the Body of Christ promotes a fullness of life that truly is a vision of God's Kingdom.

For some, it means setting aside personal agendas, for others, it means accepting help from unlikely sources. My prayer for this Autumn season ahead is that I will have the wisdom when required, to do both, and remain open to the gift of God in Christ Jesus each new day.

**+Helen-Ann
Bishop of Ripon**

Leeds vicar reaches for the sky

High-flying Holbeck vicar Alistair Kaye has taken to the skies to help raise cash for a Leeds-based Christian charity that works with young people in challenging circumstances.

Revd Alistair of St Luke the Evangelist did a tandem sky-dive on Sunday, August 22 in aid of Reestablish and the total raised so far is more than £2,500.



"I jumped from 15,000 feet (3 miles up) and the free fall (2 miles) took a minute before the parachute was pulled and then it was five minutes floating to the ground," said Revd Alistair. "Three teenagers also jumped and they were incredible. They really enjoyed the freefall and seemed fearless - unlike the adults!"

"A team of us wanted to raise money to create opportunities for young people surrounded by deprivation in South Leeds," said Revd Alistair. Anyone wishing to support Alistair's daredevil efforts can do so at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/reestablishskydive>

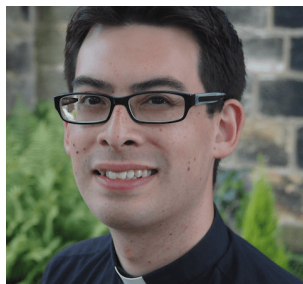
New national support network for Chinese-heritage clergy

One of our priests from the Leeds area has been part of the launch of a new national support network for clergy and ordinands of Chinese heritage.



The Revd Dave Young (Chinese name: Ho Ming Lun, pictured below), vicar of St Barnabas' Alwoodley and St Paul's Shadwell, took part in the launch of The Teahouse in London last week.

Dave, whose father is Hong Kong Chinese and whose mother was white British, is



one of only 0.2% stipendiary clergy in the Church of England who have Chinese heritage.

He is also the only clergyperson with Chinese heritage in the Diocese of Leeds.

The Teahouse is a network of clergy and ordinands across

the Church of England who share a Chinese heritage.

It was founded by the Revd Mark Nam, a curate in the Diocese of Bristol, and began in 2020 with a WhatsApp group and Zoom meetings. The Teahouse celebrated its launch with its first in-person meeting in London recently.

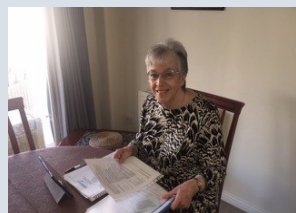
Eleven clergy and six ordinands met for worship at Southwark Cathedral and St Martin-in-the-Fields (where there is a Cantonese and Mandarin speaking congregation), as well as a lunch in Chinatown and a gathering with Chinese community leaders at the China Exchange in Soho.

The Revd Mark Nam said: "I hope that in the years to come, the Teahouse will have a real impact on the life of the church and the wider community in helping to reflect the diversity in our country."

Mothers' Union support Afghan families

The Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Leeds has been supporting arriving Afghan refugees in Manchester by helping to provide for families.

"Early in August, before the Taliban took over in Kabul," said Mothers' Union President Jean Thurman, "we discovered help was needed for quarantining Afghan families in hotels. A Manchester hotel manager, son of an MU member who lives in the Huddersfield Episcopal Area, is our contact. Working alongside Manchester Diocese MU, we



sent outdoor toys and games for when the Afghan children had time outdoors.

"We were asked for warm coats for the children and our members have worked very hard collecting hundreds of good quality coats. We recently supplied new underwear for the children too. We will continue this support for however long the arriving Afghan people need us."

Back to school, and growing in faith

**Revd Gary Waddington,
St Wilfrid, Harrogate**



40 years ago this September, I started Secondary School in Skipton! I can't remember my first day - but vividly recall the buying of shoes, bags, pens, and PE kit and most of all: the new school blazer.

We decamped on the bus to Keighley and eventually in the middle of M&S, mum declared we'd found the right one. She'd sew the badge on when we got it home. "Perfect!" she exclaimed, but I wasn't so sure.

After all, it simply didn't fit, did it? The sleeves covered half my hands, it was rather roomy and seemed to finish closer to my knees than where I thought it should. She smiled, as mothers do, and simply said: "But you'll grow into it!" And of course, she was right.

When we baptize someone here at St Wilfrid's in Harrogate, we place a 'white garment' over the new Christian after their baptism. It's an ancient practice – the newly baptized emerged from the baptismal waters to be clothed in white – for decency, and to show the community

they were a new Christian, washed clean of original sin. It's where 'Christening gowns' originate.

When I place a white garment today, it often drowns the neophyte, it's far too big. But it's a metaphorical sign that they will need to 'grow into it' – the vocation they have received in the waters of baptism to follow Jesus, and to live out the virtues of the Christian life in faith, hope and love.

That's of course a challenge – one that's life-long. We all must continue to work at growing into Christ, in his body the Church. We can't just tailor Christ to fit us, lopping off the bits we don't like. To paraphrase St Augustine, if we pick and choose our own religious 'tailored fit' - it's not the Gospel we might inhabit, but our own ego.

So, if you happen to spot an oversize blazer this September ask yourself: how am I called 'back to school' to grow in faith and who am I called to encourage to grow in prayer and worship?

Pair of new Anglican chaplains join NHS Trust

A brace of new Anglican chaplains to the Mid Yorkshire NHS Trust serving Pinderfields, Dewsbury and Pontefract



Hospitals have been licensed by the Rt Revd Tony Robinson, Bishop of Wakefield.

Revd Charlene Smith and the Revd Glenda Webb are pictured with Bishop Tony and other members of the Chaplaincy Team.

"It was really good to be able license Charlene and Glenda as Chaplains as it is a while since we have had an Anglican Chaplain working in the Trust," said Bishop Tony.

The Chaplaincy Team offers a confidential listening presence to complement medical and nursing care and is a point of contact with the appropriate faith community.