

Building bridges following death of aid worker

Brother of murdered hostage visits Bradford

The brother of murdered aid worker, David Haines, has met with the Bishop of Bradford, Toby Howarth, and with worshippers at Bradford Central Mosque during recording of a programme for BBC television.

Mike Haines featured in the BBC Songs of Praise episode broadcast on Sunday December 28th, speaking about his desire to build bridges with other faiths and continuing his brother's legacy. Mike and Bishop Toby prayed together and lit a candle in memory of David Haines, before travelling together to Bradford Central

Mosque where they met with worshippers.

In his video diary (available online) Bishop Toby says that he found the experience very moving. "He (Mike Haines) has come here to the cathedral, we've been having a talk – it's been very moving actually, very emotional – about his legacy he wants to continue for David."

David Haines (44), who was raised in Perth, was kidnapped in Syria in March last year. Islamic State militants released a video of his be-

heading in September. But in the programme, Mike Haines says that while radicalisation remained a threat, the

Mike and Bishop Toby ... lit a candle in memory of David Haines, before travelling together to Bradford Central Mosque.

Muslim faith and people of Middle Eastern descent were not to blame for the Islamic State group.

Bishop Toby added that he hopes he and Mike Haines will be able to continue working together in the future. "What's been really helpful is to say that it doesn't have to be just today... that Mike is willing to come down again and that we can talk in the Mosque about how we can take this on, how we can involve some young people and how we can make this into a process and not just a 'one-off'."



Lent is coming

Bishop Nick Baines

Let's face it: Lent is a bit of a trial, isn't it? We are encouraged to give up things we like, do things we don't want to do, and examine our souls in the process. I think the reason I don't look forward to Lent is simply because the examination of my own soul is not a pretty exercise.

Yet, it is precisely this self-examination that keeps us clean(ish). A couple of years ago I began Lent with an address that focused on Jesus's words in the Sermon on the Mount: "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." And that's where the problem started: I wasn't convinced my heart was where it should be. There was a gap between my perception of the object of my worship ... and the reality. I suspect I am not alone.

But, this recognition is actually the beginning of freedom and the key to Christian discipleship. Acknowledging the gap between reality and aspiration means I can only receive the grace of God in forgiveness, reconciliation and renewal. No claim, no right, no demand - just receipt.

Now, some will say this is just a religious version of the sort of navel-gazing spirituality that we see in magazines. Here we see people obsessed



with their own self-realisation - a sort of narcissism that elevates 'me' and 'my needs' above any others and justifies all sorts of selfishness. But, this is not what the self-examination of Lent is about.

Let me put it like this: if I have the courage to expose my heart, I will turn not inwards (to self-obsession), but outwards to the world to which God commits himself through me. Faith might be personal, but it can never be private. In this election year the examination of our treasure - our values and how we use the resources we have ... our generosity or otherwise - must then shape the way we vote. Or, to put it differently: if I claim to love my neighbour, what will that look like in terms of which policies I will support?

Lent is there as a gift for those who are brave (and disciplined) enough to look in and turn out.

+Nick

Honour for Bradford teacher

BRADFORD A long standing teacher, author and deputy head at a Bradford Church of England secondary school has been awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) in this year's New Year's Honours list.

Janet Inglis is the author of several school text books as well as serving for more than thirty five years as a teacher. Awarded the BEM for her services to education, she is Deputy Head at Immanuel Church of England Secondary Science College, Leeds Road, Bradford.

Head teacher, Jane Tiller, and Chair of the Board of Governors, Denise Sterling, both paid tribute to Jane: "This honour recognises the dedication of Janet Inglis as teacher and deputy head. Janet has served Bradford students for well over 35 years both as teacher and author of several text books. In her own time Janet is an athletics official generously supporting young people in their pursuit of excellence. We are absolutely delighted that this conscientious colleague and teacher has been recognised for her ongoing commitment to education in Yorkshire."

Rock Mass, Wakefield Cathedral - Feb 7th 2015

WAKEFIELD Plans are under way to stage the first Diocesan Rock Mass this month. Wakefield Cathedral is hosting the event on Feb 7th at 7pm, and is asking people from across the diocese to save the date.

Precentor, Canon Andi Hofbauer said: "This is the first Rock mass for the whole of the new diocese and we want people from the length and breadth of this region to come."

Bishop Tony Robinson



will preside and the music will be led by the diocesan's very own heavy rock star, the Revd Robb Sutherland who is priest in charge at Illingworth and Mixenden. Last time he played in a rock mass in the historic Wakefield diocese, there were over 500 communicants at Dewsbury Minster.

Leeds church for vulnerable celebrates 1st birthday

LEEDS On its first birthday, a new Christian community for addicts, ex-offenders and the homeless is celebrating a year of growth and dramatically changed lives - including that of Tony White (pictured below left with curate Revd Jon Swales) who used to lead National Front demonstrations



in Bradford and Leeds. St George's Crypt has looked after the needs of the homeless for over 80 years, but a year ago the Lighthouse Network was formed. Jon Swales said, "Many of the people we see don't feel comfortable in a regular church service so we've set up a separate Sunday gathering as well as a mid-week drop-in and bible study. We have a hot meal and many want to share their story of finding a faith that's helped them move away from addiction and crime."

Church award to help it serve the community

HUDDERSFIELD Christ Church Sowerby Bridge has won a Big Lottery "Awards for All" grant of almost £10,000 which will help it develop its work with the community. The church is to hold a consultation to explore the needs of local people, to identify how the existing church buildings could be used more effectively, made more accessible and developed in the future.

The consultation will continue until March and vicar Revd Canon Angela Dick said: "Our Grade 2 listed building is at the centre of the town and the church tower was covered in scaffolding over the summer for a £200,000 restoration largely funded by



English Heritage. Now that's done, we'd like our church to be a place that serves its community now and in the future. We really want to learn what people think about the town, its issues and what activities are needed here."

For more details visit www.christchurchsb.org.uk

Hundreds from across diocese join Boxing Day Pilgrimage

RIPON An estimated 1500 pilgrims from across the diocese and region took part in this



year's traditional Boxing Day Pilgrimage from Ripon Cathedral to Fountains Abbey.

For the first time, the ever-popular four mile walk was led by the Bishop of Knaresborough, the Very Revd James Bell who was joined by the new Dean of Ripon, the Very Revd John Dobson also on his first Boxing Day pilgrimage.

Bishop James, Area Bishop for the Ripon Episcopal Area, was handed the baton last year by the retiring Bishop of Ripon and Leeds, John Packer who had led



fourteen previous pilgrimages.

Speaking at the concluding service of carols and prayers in the Cellarium of Fountains Abbey, Bishop James said he was conscious of following in his predecessors footsteps. "As we walked in the footsteps of those 12th century Cistercian monks who set off from Ripon Cathedral on December 26th 1132, I was also conscious that I was following Bishop John (Packer), the Bishop of Ripon and Leeds who led this pilgrimage for 14 years and loved every minute of it."

The Pilgrimage began with a service of Holy Communion in the Cathedral before crowds gathered on the Cathedral West Front, along with press photographers and a variety of dogs with their owners.

Bishop James and Dean John led the walk down Kirkgate setting a brisk pace which meant that the hundreds following them were soon strung out as the route followed the River Skell out of the city, through the Studley Royal Deer Park and on

to the National Trust site at Fountains Abbey. Hundreds more swelled the numbers as the walkers entered the National Trust grounds and packed into the cellarium of the ancient monastery where the service of carols took place.

Bishop James added, "From remembering Stephen, the first witness to give his life for faith in Christ, through to remembering the faith of those who founded Fountains, this is



a great journey to make, and I'm excited to be joining the pilgrimage in the company of all who want to enjoy this wonderful walk!"

West Yorkshire & the Dales News

The interim editions are being distributed to churches across the diocese. A new publication for the whole diocese is being planned for the near future. © Diocese of Leeds, 2014