

Arun Arora appointed as new Bishop of Kirkstall

Revd Canon Arun Arora will take up the role of Bishop for the Leeds Episcopal Area after five years as Vicar of St Nicholas Church in the heart of Durham City. The appointment is a return to Yorkshire, where he served his curacy at St Mark's Church in Harrogate.

"It is a joy and a privilege to be called to be Bishop of Kirkstall and to join the work that God is doing in Leeds. It is a particular delight to be returning to the Diocese where I was ordained and served my curacy, where my wife and I first lived and where our daughter was born," said Canon Arora.

Born and raised in Birmingham, Arun added: "I am a city boy at heart and am excited



at the thought of serving an increasingly confident and growing church in this vibrant city. I'm looking forward to working with the churches of Leeds and civic, commercial, educational and cultural partners in a common cause to bless the city and its people."

Welcoming Arun at Holy Trinity, Boar Lane, Leeds, the Rt Revd Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds said:

"This is an exciting appointment for the Leeds Area and for the Diocese of Leeds as a whole.

"Arun has a proven range of gifts and will bring great energy and commitment to the tasks ahead."

Churches toast the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee was marked with great celebrations in churches across our diocese over the extended bank holiday weekend.

From Cream Tea on the Green at Keighley, to a Flower Festival at All Saints Church Castleford, a variety of



special events brought local communities together.

Other notable events included a display of Wedding Dresses from 1952 at All Saints' Church, Burton in Lonsdale and a Celebration on the Park organised by the Knaresborough Anglican Team.

Time rolls on

Bishop Nick Baines

Seventy years is a long time to do one job. Yet, Queen Elizabeth II has reigned for almost her entire adult life and done so with faithful commitment, devotion to duty and great wisdom.

This sort of commitment – to the common good – has not been a matter of satisfying an ego or maximizing personal power. Watch the television programmes about her or read some of the millions of words being written about her and it is obvious that she has changed as the world has changed.

When she came to the throne Britain had an empire and was a manufacturing nation. As generation followed generation that world changed radically and yet she remained constant. Political fashions might change, wars might be fought, governments come and go ... but Her Majesty held her line. What line? That of character and virtue – that changing circumstances should not uproot the fundamental importance of love, mercy, faithfulness, wisdom and generosity.

The Platinum Jubilee recognizes the passage of time and reminds us of our mortality. And it asks us, in humility, to ponder what we have made of our own life – individually and together. What fires us up? What holds us together? What ultimately



matters to us in our family and society? The accumulation of stuff; the exercise of power; or the sacrifice that builds up our common life?

These are not only questions for royalty; they dig deeper into our political culture and social future – including in the Church of England.

In July we will consecrate a new Bishop of Kirkstall, Arun Arora. Time moves on from when we created the Diocese of Leeds in 2014 and appointed the first Bishop of Kirkstall (originally designated Richmond) in 2015. The Bishop of Huddersfield has now moved on to the See of Rochester. Everything changes as time rolls on. But, our Christian vocation does not change: being faithful to the call of God to bring the love of God in Christ to each generation in ways that each generation can hear and see.

Bishops won't sit on their cathedrae for decades; but, it is costly faithfulness that will mark how effective they are.

**+Nick
Bishop of Leeds**

Extended Communion pilot launched in diocese

People all across the diocese have taken part in the launch of a diocesan pilot scheme for Extended Communion.

Launched at an introductory session on Tuesday, May 10, the scheme is designed to help benefices face the challenges of ministering to multiple churches.

Provisions for Extended Communion allow bread and wine from a Holy Communion service celebrated in one church to be taken the same day to another church.

A lay minister or deacon then leads a service of Public Worship with Communion by Extension, with the bread and wine offered to communicants as part of the service.

At the launch, representatives from benefices in the Wakefield and Ripon areas joined the learning community facilitated by the Director of Ministry and Mission, Andrew Norman, and one of the Clergy Development Officers, Cat Thatcher.

Participants in the online session joined from their homes and St James the Great, Ryhill.

Farewell service for Bishop Jonathan as he heads to new role in Rochester

Huddersfield said farewell with a loud round of applause as Bishop Dr Jonathan Gibbs said goodbye at a special evensong service yesterday.



Civic representatives at the town's parish church included the Mayor of Kirklees, Cllr Nigel Patrick and Jason McCartney MP for Colne Valley and worshippers were welcomed by the Rt Revd Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds.

A choir formed of singers from St Peter's, Dewsbury and Halifax minsters led the praise at the special celebration, which was also an act of worship.

In his final sermon, Bishop Jonathan thanked everyone in the Huddersfield Area for their support and partnership during his nearly eight years in post.

He reflected on the difficult



times we live in and how after coping with the Covid pandemic, everyone had emerged with hope from a "long winter", only to be met by the horror of conflict in Ukraine and looming economic hardship.

"But be sure that after Winter, Spring always breaks through," Bishop Jonathan said.

"We must tell people the source of our hope, which is that Jesus has risen from the dead, God is sovereign, evil will be overturned and that Jesus is with us always."

In a brief question and answer session with Bishop Nick, Bishop Jonathan said the highlight of his time in the Huddersfield Episcopal Area was working closely with parishes and communities.

Calls for prayers for Lambeth Conference

The Archbishop of Canterbury has announced a call to prayer for the 2022 Lambeth Conference.

The fifteenth Lambeth Conference will meet on July 26 - August 8 in Canterbury.

As the conference draws closer, Archbishop Justin has shared a call to prayer with the conference delegates and their wider church communities.

The call to prayer invites people to devote a day to prayer



on Trinity Sunday – June 12 and to pray for the event in the weeks ahead.

The Archbishop of Canterbury says: "The Lambeth Conference theme of 'God's Church for God's World', reminds us that we are called upon as Christians to pray for the needs of the world. There are many calls upon our prayers at this time: World peace, the global climate crisis, the effects of the pandemic – to name but a few."

Duty is at the heart of Christian life

Revd Canon Ailsa Newby, Canon Pastor, Ripon Cathedral

'I know just how much I rely on my faith to guide me through the good times and the bad. Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings and to put my trust in God.'

So said the Queen in her Christmas 2002 broadcast. As a straightforward declaration of the Christian life it could hardly be bettered. She doesn't tell people what they should believe nor does she assert the absolute truth of what she believes. She merely says what her experience of faith is and how it supports her in her daily life.

Much is made of the unusual fact that the Queen has reigned for 70 years. The length is indeed exceptional, though of course it is something outside her control. What is within her control is how she has lived her life. That is the remarkable aspect. It is for that: for the stability she has given the country, her steadfastness and



her commitment to duty that we give thanks to God and to her this summer.

Duty. Not a fashionable concept, but one actually at the heart of Christian life. What the BCP describes as 'our bounden duty' to give thanks and praise. Common Worship eucharistic prayers talk of 'our duty and our joy' to give thanks and praise to God. It is of course a joy to praise God but we can, I think, as Christians easily overlook the duty aspect. What we owe to God for the grace of God in our lives. The example of the Queen reminds us of the importance of doing our duty, faithfully, in good times and in bad. She knows exactly what 'bounden duty' means and has lived it out. Perhaps over this Jubilee summer we too can ponder on the duties we owe to God not least, like the Queen, quietly to make clear the foundation of our lives in our faith in God.

Bradford deserves to be City of Culture

Bradford deserves to celebrate after being named the UK's City of Culture for 2025, says Bishop of Bradford, Toby Howarth.

"This is fantastic news for a city that is so rich in culture, communities and above all,



in its people," Bishop Toby said after the decision was announced.

Those behind the city's bid believe it will generate £700m and create 3,000 jobs for the city and district.

Bradford artist Shanaz Gulzar, who led the successful bid, described the win as a "huge opportunity".

"To celebrate our extraordinary cultural heritage and for our young, ethnically diverse population - who have been so involved in shaping our bid - to become leaders and changemakers and begin a new chapter in our story."