

Platinum Jubilee resources available

Is your church preparing for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations over the extended Bank Holiday weekend of 2-5 June 2022?



The UK and Commonwealth will celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a four-day Bank Holiday, packed with community events.

Churches are in an ideal place to bring people together for these national celebrations, which end on Pentecost Sunday.

A range of resources for parishes have been provided by the Church of England and HOPE Together, including '70 Acts of Service', a new contemporary hymn to be used

in celebrations and Platinum Jubilee branded banners and posters.

The Queen ascended to the

throne in 1952, a year before her coronation. As head of the Church of England, her faithful service is beyond compare over seven decades and has been supported by her consistent personal commitment to Christianity, something which has been a characteristic of her long reign.

Resources on our diocesan website include prayers, readings and ready-to-use sessions for youth groups, schools and uniformed organisations, produced by youth specialists from the Church of England.

Halifax Minster hosts interfaith mental health conference

Halifax Minster are hosting an interfaith conference on mental health and wellbeing during this year's Mental Health Awareness Week.

The conference, taking place on Wednesday, May 11, will feature workshops and a drama presentation and a free vegetarian lunch.

A Celebration of Wellbeing and Mental Health

Wednesday 11th May

(during Mental Health Awareness Week)

10am-2.30pm at Halifax Minster

**FREE Vegetarian Lunch
Workshops and Drama Presentation**

The keynote speakers will include Jim McManus, Director of Public Health Hertfordshire, and Jonny Richardson Glenn, CEO of Healthy Minds Calderdale.

The conference is free to attend, and delegates need to book via Eventbrite on the Minster website.

Get on with it!

Bishop Tony Robinson

What is in a name? We are called Christians and the name is intended to signify something. It expresses a relationship to Christ, it says that we belong to him, we are his members. The name therefore carries a message and a certain responsibility.

There are basically two kinds of people in the world: the doers and the talkers. At the Ascension of Jesus we can presume that the apostles were wondering what was happening, what it would mean not having Jesus around any more, speculating on their options. It seems they were encouraged to “get on with it,” and begin their task of spreading the good news. Jesus commissioned them to go and bear witness to all he said and did. But even more than that, their own lives were to reveal that they shared his life. This was an enormous trust; to make present the love of God in Christ Jesus. At first sight this must have seemed impossible. But it was possible because of the promise that was fulfilled. “You will receive power, when the Holy Spirit will come upon you and then you will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth.”



Christianity has never been a debating society. It is fundamentally a religion of action; living out the message of justice and love. It prospers when it nurtures others through the witness of loving actions. We flower as Christians not by being learned in the teachings of the Lord but by actively living them in what we say and do.

Do you call yourself “Christian” because of what you believe or because of what you do? Are you a doer or a talker when it comes to the practice of your faith? Jesus calls you to join him in his mission. Ascension marks the beginning of patient waiting for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. May we use this opportunity to consider what it means to carry the name of Christ in our name. Are you ready to “get on with it”?

**+Tony
Bishop of Wakefield**

Resurrected church garden opened on Easter Sunday

Wilderness found at the back of Eldwick vicarage garden has been converted into space for the whole community to share.

The Eldwick Church’s ‘Church in the Garden’ project started early in 2021 and thanks to a number of grants, donations, and much hard work by a team



of volunteers, the garden is now open for all to enjoy.

Following the Easter Day service at Eldwick Church, the garden was blessed and formally opened by Rev Brian Greenfield and Rev Terry Keen, representing the Anglican and Methodist sides of the local ecumenical partnership.

As well as the obligatory tea and cake, the opening featured the multi-generational planting of an apple tree donated by the Villages Pre-School. Church family and friends representing all ages, took turns in digging spadefuls of earth to refill the hole and firm the soil.

Cathedral 1,350th Anniversary Celebrations well under way

St Wilfrid's founding role in creating Ripon Cathedral 1,350 years ago is being marked with celebrations that saw more than 2,000 visitors to the historic building in the opening weekend.



Dean John led the welcome to friends and newcomers to the specially-decorated church, which has been a place of worship since 672.

Even more remarkably, the crypt is still in use today as a place of prayer and reflection.

Wilfrid's passion was to lay strong foundations of the Christian church in the Pagan Anglo-Saxon kingdoms, and he became one of the most influential and pioneering leaders.

And people's ongoing love of the cathedral was evident in the numbers who attended the start of anniversary celebrations, and - in a rather less sacred way - high attendance at its Bank Holiday Monday beer festival!



The Anglo-Saxon Crypt is all that remains of Wilfrid's original basilica church, but this remarkable space is the oldest building of any English Cathedral.

Details of upcoming events as part of the special anniversary, are available on the Ripon Cathedral website.

Royal Maundy gifts for eight in our diocese

Eight people from across our diocese have been recipients of royal Maundy gifts this year.

Individuals have been nominated from within the diocese who have served their churches and areas faithfully for many years.

The recipients from our diocese include: Jean Thurman, former president of the Mothers' Union in the diocese; Derrick Potter, Churchwarden at St Michael's Kirklington; Liz Bramall, founder of the Liz



and Terry Bramall Foundation; Ronald Carbutt OBE, former Chair of the Bishop of Wakefield Development Fund; The Revd Malcolm Hanson, former chaplain; The Revd Elizabeth Lee, a self-supporting minister from the Huddersfield area who has served faithfully for decades; Mike De Villiers, who has worked on youth engagement in the Bradford area for many years; Christine Haigh (pictured), longstanding volunteer at Wakefield Cathedral.

The love of preaching

**Helen Jackson,
Licensed Lay Minister,
Kirkheaton**

I am a preacher! I love everything about it. The thinking, praying, being inclined to those nudges from the Holy Spirit, and the delivery and teaching. However, I have heard it said that in our current context of media and technology, the only people who give monologues anymore are professors, comedians, and preachers!

Preachers today live in a competitive environment, contending with snappy social media for their congregations' attention. So I wonder, can one voice compete against the new wineskins of social media and profess the deeply rich old wine of theology? Can we make the message clear, the teaching stretching, full of the deep things of faith, and inspire our congregations? Or has preaching run its course, a dead medium in a modern age?

Well, I think it is still relevant and that it matters. Don't get me wrong, we have all experienced boring sermons and dull preachers, but is preaching really dead? God did his very best work through words, and for centuries the Prophets communicated God's word to his people, and the early church focussed their ministry on



proclaiming the good news.

A phrase that captures something of the permanence of the gospel, and also of the transience and changing character of each new age, is to "Proclaim the gospel afresh in each generation". Clergy and Lay Ministers all make this declaration, the context in which the gospel is proclaimed and inhabited has to be lived out in each successive generation.

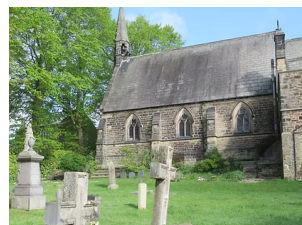
Whilst we study and diligently work on our homiletical craft, preachers recognise that our words are only dead bones, the power of our words is totally dependent on God showing up. God's word has mysterious energy, it is an unimaginable and attractive force. It is both living and powerful. Preachers, both clergy and lay, are tasked with communicating this word week on week, it is a daunting task, and if it's not, it should be.

So, maybe, I shouldn't worry about preaching, because God comes to us through common words strung together by some common beings we call preachers, and perhaps that is why we preach!

Eco Award for Leeds Area Church

St Mary Magdalene in East Keswick has been awarded a Silver Eco Church Award, signalling another step forward in their journey to look after the environment.

The Eco Church Award is run by A Rocha UK, a Christian



charity working for the protection and restoration of the natural world, and which rewards churches for implementing positive eco steps.

Amongst other things, St Mary's has developed a 'wilded' area in the churchyard, and planted locally sourced apple trees as part of a community churchyard project.

The church are also looking forward to welcoming Colin Beale, author at A Rocha UK, on Sunday, May 22 to a joint parish service when they will celebrate Climate Sunday.