

Andy Bowerman installed as new Dean of Bradford

The Very Revd Andy Bowerman has become the new Dean of Bradford, following his installation held at Bradford Cathedral on Sunday, June 19.

The service saw the Rt Revd Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds, lead the service alongside the Deans of Ripon and Wakefield Cathedrals and the residentiary clergy of Bradford Cathedral, including the Revd Canon Paul Maybury, who has been Acting Dean since the retirement of the Very Revd Jerry Lepine in 2021.

The service consisted of two parts.

During the first part Andy was 'licensed' by the Bishop of



Leeds as incumbent, meaning that he is given the authority to exercise spiritual responsibilities in the cathedral and parish, and was then 'inducted' by the archdeacon, meaning that he has the authority to exercise the necessary legal responsibilities.

Secondly, he was 'installed' - placed in the Dean's stall in the chancel - which marks the completion of the legal process of the appointment.

Following the service, Bishop Nick said: "It was a pleasure and a privilege to install Andy as the new Dean of Bradford.

"We have both interesting and exciting times ahead."

Bradford priest on Yorkshire Midwives on Call

One of our priests and her daughter have recently featured on BBC2's Yorkshire Midwives on Call.

The Revd Lucy Wormsley, Vicar of Wyke, and her husband Jonathan welcomed their daughter with a home water birth, all filmed for the BBC2 programme that aims to



show the work of dedicated midwives who are on call and ready for action for expectant mums in Bradford.

Revd Lucy said: "It was a great way for us, not only to share our faith and celebrate the birth of Florence, but also to help to showcase Bradford."

Seek the Peace!

Bishop Toby Howarth

After rejoicing that Bradford won the bid to become UK City of Culture in 2025, we have been reflecting here in this city and district on what that designation will mean for us. More specifically, we've been chewing over the challenge for us as religious communities and as churches. Bradford's vision for City of Culture is all about the wellbeing of our city and district, and wellbeing is a concept with deep roots in the Bible and in Christian theology.

Wellbeing finds echoes in the Hebrew word, *shalom*, which is often translated, "peace" and which carries ideas of welfare, prosperity, health and harmonious relationships across society. When the prophet Jeremiah wrote to the Israelite exiles in Babylon telling them to seek the peace of the city, "for in its peace you will find your peace," (Jeremiah 29:7) it was this ambitious, multifaceted peace that he had in mind.

For us as churches, joining with others in working towards 2025 is about seeking the peace of Bradford District. We want to engage deeply with our communities to imagine creative ways of telling stories, posing questions and tackling difficult issues, acting as "salt and light" as Jesus commanded us in the Sermon on the Mount.



We are inspired, as are our church schools, by Jesus' words in John 10:10 that he came to bring "life in all its fullness."

One of the great things about our diocese is the prayer and solidarity that we experience from one another across such a variety of different contexts. Please pray for us and with us, and engage with us in conversation as we prepare in the Bradford Episcopal Area for 2025.

+Toby
Bishop of Bradford

Churches can go contactless thanks to new digital giving project

Digital giving is being expanded across the diocese this summer, thanks to new free contactless giving devices being made available to parishes.

70 contactless devices will be given to churches all across the diocese, as part of a nationwide roll out supported by the Church of England's National Giving Team.

In our diocese the project will begin on Monday, July 4, when the application process for churches opens.

Four different types of devices will be available to suit a range of different contexts, including some that will not require an internet connection to work.

Parishes with successful applications will be supported with training on how to set up their device, as well as its ongoing management.

The devices will be free, but some may incur a financial cost due to fees, depending on what device a church receives.

The application window opens on Monday, July 4, and closes on Wednesday, August 10.

Synod learns latest news on plans to boost church growth

Communicating with our parishes on how best to support church growth was high on the agenda when Diocesan Synod met in person at St George's, Leeds.



Bishop Nick welcomed clergy and lay members and in his Presidential Address he listed the pressing issues that face the world, and the church, in this time of political, social and humanitarian challenges.

After Bishop Nick's Address, the 2021 Leeds Diocesan Board of Finance Annual Report and Financial Statements were noted, following presentations by Irving Warnett, chair of the Financial Assets and Investments Committee and Geoff Park, diocesan Chief Finance Officer.

Jonathan Gough, Archdeacon of Richmond and Craven, moved that Synod should receive the Annual Reports of



Diocesan Teams, and this was duly passed following a presentation by Diocesan Secretary Jonathan Wood on the exceptional work of the Safeguarding Team.

Synod then heard an introductory presentation from Outer Bradford Deanery on a motion to be debated at October's meeting, regarding the use of the Common Cup.

After lunch, Diocesan Secretary Jonathan and Revd Jude Smith, Director of Church Revitalisation presented an update on the diocesan Church Support and Deployment initiative, which seeks to engage with parishes and identify tailored ways and means of providing support and resources to enable growth.

Special thanks was given to our diocesan interns, who helped manage the practicalities of the day at St George's.

New priests ordained across diocese

New priests have been ordained at services across the diocese, starting them off on their next phase of ministry.



Services took place on Saturday, June 25, at churches including Halifax Minster, Leeds Minster, Bradford Cathedral, Ripon Cathedral and Wakefield Cathedral.



Saying yes to God's opportunities

**Revd Lucy Wormsley,
Vicar of Wyke**

As if having a first child and transitioning from ministry mode to maternity mode wasn't enough, God gave the opportunity for my husband and I to feature and share our faith through a BBC documentary about home birthing. At about 37 weeks pregnant my midwife asked if I would be interested in being part of some filming that was being done with families in their care and the film company shared their vision for using the documentary to celebrate not only the excellent home birthing provision in Bradford but also Bradford itself, being a local company themselves.

They filmed my last service in church before my maternity leave, they did several interviews and attended various social events that I had filled my calendar with during the first few weeks of leave. We had specifically chosen home birthing so we could have maximum flexibility to include our faith and prayers into the labour and birth, making God the focus of the whole process, while feeling 100% at ease within our own home to do this. We were clear on our boundaries from the start though, I did not wish to be filmed during the labour and birth.



This time was to be kept intimate for myself and Jonathon (my husband) and a few midwives who needed to be there. The film company were really respectful and even waited outside in the car for about 7 hours, just so they could swoop in for a post birth interview about an hour after Florence (our daughter) arrived.

It was an amazing experience, albeit a little scary. Neither of us had ever done anything like it before, but something Bishop Nick had said to me a year or so earlier about taking up all opportunities to share faith with confidence, was resonating with me. So, we gave it a go and it really was awesome, we were not just sharing our faith with those watching on TV, but also those involved in the filming and production too. It was a great way to open up conversations around the village and to become a more visible presence within the community. If God presents you with a challenge or an opportunity, I definitely recommend saying yes and simply giving it a go with confidence, you ever know where it might lead you.

St Mark's secures Silver as they keep going green

Reducing food waste and poverty, the Harrogate Clothes Bank, solar panels, Car Free Sundays, renewable power sources and a redevelopment of the church garden are just part of St Mark's Harrogate's journey towards achieving their Silver Eco Church award this month.



At a special Eco Service, Andrew Jones MP visited the church to officially present the award given to St Mark's by A Rocha UK, a charity 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.

Mr Jones said: "It is important that we all reduce our carbon emissions and our reliance on fossil fuels.

"That is why I was so impressed by the progress St Mark's Church has made to realise the net-zero ambitions the Church of England has for its estate which is among the biggest property and land portfolio in the country."