

## War memorial rededicated ahead of Remembrance Sunday



Revd Rachel blessed the memorial in the presence of The Mayor of Huddersfield, Cllr Cahal Burke and she said it was a privilege to refresh the original dedication made by her predecessor Canon Frank Woods in 1949.

The rededication of a Second World War Memorial to the former employees of a Huddersfield chemical manufacturer, has been carried out by Revd Canon Rachel Firth, Vicar of Huddersfield ahead of Remembrance Sunday.

The brass plaque lists those who gave their lives and the family of one of the fallen heroes, one of whom still works for the same company, were central to proceedings.

More than seventy years after his death, the great granddaughter of Huddersfield born, Harold Toulcher, were part of the multi-faith congregation at the Syngenta Site in the town, to honour the memory of the 24 employees of the company (known then as Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI).

Members of the local branch of the Royal British Legion attended with members of the Kirklees Interfaith Network, as well as known families of the fallen and Syngenta employees.

The Mayor of Kirklees, Councillor Cahal Burke, said: "It is an honour to attend the blessing of the memorial plaque as it is a poignant tribute to those who gave their lives. As Remembrance Day draws closer, it is important we remember the sacrifices made by those in wars and conflicts for the freedoms we have today.

"The memorial is a fitting reminder that the World Wars had a lasting impact in places across the globe, the Commonwealth, and here in our borough. We should honour those brave people and be proud that we have people in Kirklees willing to put their lives before others."

## Ripon church praises with jazz

One of our Ripon area churches has been celebrating and praising with jazz at their church.

The church of St Matthew's Leyburn was delighted to host Leyburn Jazz Festival at the end of October.

Consisting of concerts, workshops and community events, it was a good opportunity for the church to welcome and serve the community whilst learning new ways to worship together.

The Revd Gillian Lunn, Curate in the Benefice of Leyburn and Bellerby, said: "The weekend culminated in a joy-filled Jazz Eucharist service joined by York City Gospel Choir and Wensleydale Community Gospel singers which formed especially for the weekend and the service."



# Faith in the North

## Bishop Smitha

On a glorious October day, I was privileged to accompany Archbishop Stephen on a walk from South Ossett to Dewsbury Minster for the launch of Faith in the North; an initiative to celebrate the faith stories of the province.

The project is inspired by the upcoming 1400th anniversary of the baptism of Edwin by Paulinus in AD 627, and asks the Holy Spirit for the same courage and creativity of those who planted the Gospel in our communities long ago. People like Ethelreda, Oswin, Oswald, Hilda, Cuthbert, James and others who lived in turbulent time and whose constancy is evidenced by churches across the North today.

In uncertain times in which we live, the challenge is to resist the pull of the world and become polarised. How do we find ways to live in harmony with one another and with creation especially where matters of economy, politics, faith and identity run deep and are potentially divisive?

For times when there is a trembling of the heart, the call of disciples in every generation has always been to discern what God is doing, sacrifice self for others, and hasten the Kingdom. And for this to happen, the touchstone is prayer. It is a way of participating in



the work of God and is formative, a source of unity and a striving for Christ-likeness in common with saints across time and space.

Aged 19, I discovered a rhythm of prayer through Scripture and song which has called me to reconciliation and right relationships ever since. It has encouraged me to think of Christian witness as something which is reflected in community and in solidarity with others, in simplicity and joy of heart. My direction for prayer is the Taizé community which on Advent Sunday will welcome and commission Brother Matthew as its new Prior.

Who would have thought that Br Matthew's life was also about Faith in the North? He was born in Pudsey, Leeds and has spent his whole life "loving, living, learning" by encouraging young people in their prayer life. Pray for him and for each other in the words of a Taizé chant: "In our darkest night, you kindle the fire that never dies away, that never dies away." May the divine spark light your life this Advent and beyond.

## West Leeds United - three churches launch joint youth project

Three churches in West Leeds are excited to be pioneering a new collaborative youth group.

St Peter's Church in Bramley, Christ Church in Armley, and St John's Church in Wortley and Farnley have launched a new youth group for the young people in their churches, to gather together for fun and games, to spend time building community over pizza, and to explore faith.

The first gathering took place at Christ Church, Armley and Revd Phil Arnold, Vicar of Armley said, "The three of us have been meeting together for morning people, so it seemed like the obvious thing to work together on our youth work."

Bramley's Rector Revd Julia Wilkins said, "It's really exciting to be able to collaborate with Chris and Phil. We can do so much more together than we could separately. I'm really looking forward to seeing what God has in store for us as we work together to disciple our young people"

Revd Chris Balding, Vicar of Wortley and Farnley said, "We've only got half a dozen young people so it's really great to be able to do something together. We're praying that our young people will be able to build a welcoming community, and explore their faith together."



# Bishop Toby helps lead multi-faith prayer vigil in Bradford



People gathered in the centre of Bradford for a multi-faith prayer vigil amid the ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict.

Held by faith leaders from across the Bradford district, the Centenary Square vigil was an opportunity for reflection.

People from all faiths – or none – were welcomed to join together “in the midst of appalling violence and pain,” said the Rt Revd Toby Haworth, Bishop of Bradford.

There was a sense of unity at the vigil, where candles and ribbons for peace were handed out.

Dean of Bradford Andy Bowerman also sent out a strong message.

“This is a hugely important moment for Bradford,” he told the Telegraph & Argus.

“Things that happen in

other parts of the world really come out here - and especially when it's Palestine and Israel.

“It's not about taking sides, people from all parts of the region are dying and struggling.

“Violence begets more violence.”

West Yorkshire Mayor Tracy Brabin said: “I'm here to show solidarity at this multi-faith event and for people to come together in this way.

“There's so much pain and suffering in Israel and Gaza and we need a ceasefire and release of hostages.”

The vigil came as The Council for Mosques in Bradford released a statement that urged “for a swift end to the violence and a sustainable peace in the region”.



# Young public speakers are off to London for national public speaking contest

A remarkable gathering of 18 young people from different Anglican dioceses in Yorkshire, took centre stage at St. Margaret's Church, Ilkley, on Saturday in a national public speaking competition.

The Cranmer Awards is a national competition run by the Prayer Book Society to introduce 11 to 18-year-olds to the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, and looks to encourage young people to develop their public speaking skills by reading a passage of their choice from The Book of Common Prayer.

The Yorkshire Regional Heat Senior Section was won by Roseanna Williams of St Margaret's Church Ilkley, and the Junior Section was won by Nelson Adewale of the Bishop Young CE Academy in Leeds, who each received a prize of £50.

“It was a new and different experience because I have never spoken to a large audience before,” Nelson said afterwards.

“I was nervous in the beginning but I became braver throughout. I am very happy and proud that I won and I am very much looking forward to going to London, as I have never been.”



## Carrying God's light

Revd Darryl Hall  
Vicar of the United Parish of  
Upper Nidderdale

I think I'm pretty good at getting other people to do things, or maybe I'm just so useless that other people give up and end up doing the jobs themselves, usually much better than me. I suppose the positive spin to put on it, is to say that I'm a facilitator, even a facilitator of rural mission and evangelism. After celebrating Holy Communion, I look at the friendly faces, fed with the sacrament and aglow with the Holy Spirit, getting ready to carry the light of faith out into the community.

I don't know if they realise that they are being evangelists when they leave, that they are aware of the Christian message they communicate in their interactions. Here are just a few ways in which I think they are being quietly mission focused evangelists.

Our congregations are bound together in love and faith and that is the defining characteristic that they carry with them. Through acts of kindness, by demonstrating the teachings of Christ through action, by being the hands and feet that help the needy and comfort the distressed, they mirror



the very essence of Jesus' ministry. As our congregations flow out of the doors, they encounter the people of Nidderdale, understanding their struggles and joys, sharing in their daily lives, breaking down the walls of scepticism and sowing the seeds of faith. In the midst of life's joys and challenges, our congregations embrace the wider community with open hearts.

The hills and rivers, sunsets and starlit nights can all serve as powerful reminders of God's creation. In the quiet of the countryside, individuals can experience the presence of God in a special way. There's a parallel between life in the fields and the spiritual journey, a golden opportunity to highlight that just as the land needs tending, so do our souls. Now the rhythm of the seasons is changing, Advent is approaching, winter, the darkest day. We are called to wait patiently for the Lord, the Light of the World. Our congregations carry that light within them, illuminating people's lives with acts of kindness, compassion and love.

## Diocese gathers youth workers at our cathedrals to share thanks and support

The diocese has been pleased to bring together youth workers from across the diocese this year at a series of events at our cathedrals.

All those involved in ministry with children and young people in churches were invited to attend one of the three TEND events.

TEND stands for: Thanking people for their ministry to children, young people and their families; Encouraging and equipping them and those they serve to grow in faith; Networking with others and sharing experiences; and Doing – making time and space to set attendees up for what they will do next.

The events included discussions and training from members of our Children, Young People and Families Team, as well as resources from the team and other partner organisations.

Liz Morton, Team Leader of our Children, Young People and Families Team, said: "Well over 100 people attended over the three dates and it was wonderful to meet all the volunteers and leaders and to thank them for all they do for children, young people and families across the diocese and to spend time learning and worshipping together."

