

New Bradford Dean will come back to a city he loves

The new Dean of Bradford will be the Revd Andy Bowerman, who is to return from Dubai to the cathedral where he was



ordained and to the city he loves.

Bradford is also where he served as Bradford City FC's chaplain from 2004 to 2009 and once ran the popular Vicar's Café Bistro in Saltaire.

Revd Andy began ministry as a curate at St Augustine's, Undercliffe and now leads the Dubai-based Mission to Seafarers team.

He will take up the post in Spring 2022, and spoke of his joy at coming back to the Diocese of Leeds:

"We feel deeply humbled and excited to be returning

to Bradford after a decade or more away," Revd Andy said.

"I'm married to Ali, we have four children and a grandchild and we're very much looking forward to leading the cathedral community as it offers hospitality and welcome to pilgrims from near and far.

"We're also looking forward



to reacquainting ourselves with the wonderfully diverse communities that make up the city, plus reintroducing ourselves, and our springer spaniel Harvey, to the beauty of the Yorkshire Dales, having been in the desert of the United Arab Emirates for the last four years," Revd Andy said.

Leeds vicar recognised in New Year's Honours

Revd Jon Swales, Team Vicar at St George's Church Leeds, has been recognised in the 2022 New Year's Honours.

Founder of Lighthouse West Yorkshire, a church community with a special focus on those struggling with addiction and mental health issues in Leeds, Jon has been awarded an MBE for services to the city, particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic.



The Revd Jon Swales said, "I am honoured to receive an MBE as it highlights the love and care the team have consistently shown as we have travelled together as a Lighthouse family through the storms of Covid-19."

The end of a great innings for Leeds

Bishop Paul Slater

I write this with just a few weeks to go before I retire as Bishop of Kirkstall at the end of January. Since announcement at the beginning of October, time has slipped by pretty quickly and, of course, things are less settled than we might have anticipated. My final service as Bishop of Kirkstall will be at Leeds Minster on Sunday, January 23 at 10am. I also, hopefully, have a last meeting with Leeds Episcopal Area clergy at the Pan Leeds Chapter meeting on Tuesday, January 11 at 12 noon at St. Paul's Ireland Wood.

My wife, Beverley, has already reduced her work to two days a week. We have lived 100 yards outside the Leeds Episcopal Area while I have been bishop and we plan to stay put for the time being.

I am very grateful to have been given the opportunity in these last six and a half years to be the first bishop for the Leeds Episcopal Area and to help forge a coherent strategy for mission for Anglican churches, historically drawn from three dioceses, for the city of Leeds. Being from Bradford, Leeds was always a bit of a mystery to me - not so now - I think I know the local geography pretty well, even if occasionally I can take a



wrong turn.

Of course, I am also grateful for the many colleagues I have worked with in Bradford, Craven, Richmond and Leeds, both clergy and lay and I have particularly enjoyed my relationships with congregations and churchwardens in parishes. I have lots of stories - some that can be told and some that can't.

Epiphany is a good time to go - to retire - because it's the time when Jesus is revealed to the whole world. You cannot escape the enormity and sweep of God's good purposes and that serves to put in perspective almost forty years of ministry in Yorkshire.

Yorkshire cricket has been in the spotlight for good reason these last few months. But there is a story, most possibly apocryphal, about Geoff Boycott when he was called up to play for Yorkshire for the first time. The announcement was made while Boycott was playing in a Yorkshire league game and news filtered out to him while he was batting in the middle. At the end of the next

over, he tucked his bat under his arm and walked off the field, declaring: "I have finished with this kind of cricket".

As I come to the end of this phase of ministry and life, I feel that I am finishing with this kind of cricket, but I haven't finished with cricket.

+Paul
Bishop of Kirkstall

We want your views!

Printing and distribution of our monthly parish magazine insert, Leeds Diocesan News, was halted in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But, at the start of 2022, the Communications Team hopes to restart sharing our good news in printed form by Easter.

Please tell us what you think about this by completing the survey which can be accessed via the link below or via the QR code.

<https://tinyurl.com/4fa7cr8c>



“Whatever the darkness, God’s light can’t be put out” - Bishop Nick’s Christmas message

The light of the presence of God, who comes among us in Jesus, is not going to be put out or extinguished by the circumstances of the world



explained Bishop Nick Baines, the Bishop of Leeds, in his Christmas message.

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.’ That’s what Isaiah wrote nearly 3,000 years ago to a people who were in exile.

These are people who have lost or are going to lose everything that speaks to them of meaning, of what the world is about, of where God is, and they find themselves eventually on the banks of their conquerors river in Babylon while they’re being mocked and laughed at.

How can you worship this God who you say is the creator and the lover and sustainer of the cosmos when our tribal deity has defeated him? Why are you here? So every day you wake up and the evidence of your eyes and your ears tells you, you have been defeated and that God has abandoned you.

Yet writes Isaiah, ‘the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.’ In other words, they’re drawn by this promise that will not be extinguished by the circumstances of their lives. They can’t be beaten down in the end because they’re drawn by a light that comes to them from the future and it won’t let them go.

Now you have to use your imagination as to what that would have been like being one of those people in exile but I think we’ve experienced a bit of exile over the last couple of years with the pandemic. Probably everyone among us has known someone who is sick, who has had Covid or even died of Covid, amongst other things.”

The text and video of his address can be found on the diocesan website: <https://www.leeds.anglican.org/news/whatever-darkness-gods-light-cant-be-put-out-says-bishop-nick-christmas-message>

Passion of Jesus in a new book for Lent

A series of evocative and thought-provoking meditations based on the events of Jesus’ last week of earthly life, make up a newly published book by a member of our clergy.

‘The People of the Passion’ is written by the Revd Alison Askew and is available to buy from Amazon and the Ripon Cathedral bookshop.

Particularly appropriate to use individually or as part of a group during Lent, each reflection found in the book is followed by a set of questions



for personal prayer and discussion.

Revd Alison said: “I hope this book will prove inspiring and challenging for both individuals and church groups.”

A whole new adventure

**The Revd Bill Braviner
Archdeacon of Halifax
elect**



New Year tends to be a hinge-moment in life when we take stock, reassess our priorities and make promises to ourselves about what we'll do differently in the year ahead.

Often, of course, our resolutions turn out to be what Mary Poppins called 'pie-crust promises' – easily made, easily broken. I confess that if I'd followed through on the many years' worth of resolutions to eat more healthily and get fitter, then I'd no doubt be even more lithe and svelte than I already am... <cough>.

There are some decisions we make that we really need to follow through day by day, however. If we want to get somewhere, we need to keep going. If we want thriving relationships and friendships, we have to put in the time and attention that they need. If we want flourishing communities, we need to invest in them – not just with words, but actions and attitudes too.

This month we celebrate the Epiphany, and recall what the oft-used Christmas blessing calls 'the perseverance of the Magi'. I wonder whether we think about the long journey of months (years?) from their home to Bethlehem? I wonder if we notice that they, people from foreign lands and followers of a different faith, were spoken to directly with God's message not to return to Herod – and that they listened?

Lifelong dedication, openness to God's leading, perseverance on an arduous journey, willingness to have their minds changed and their plans altered - that is an example we can all follow.

What would it mean if this year, we promised to keep our eyes, ears, hearts and minds open to God's leading, to allow him to surprise us, and to be prepared to follow even if the direction is unexpected?

What could God do in and through his Church then?

Prince's Trust Team mucks in for a good cause

St Cuthbert's Church in Colburn has received a helping hand from the Prince's Trust Team programme, who



sent a group of young people from Catterick to revamp the churchyard.

Keen to create a community garden, Revd Andrew Cromarty explained: "We had been talking about trying to find a team of young volunteers to lend a hand.

"So, when youngsters taking part in The Prince's Trust programme got in touch looking for a community project in the area, it seemed the ideal opportunity."

The Team course is a 12-week personal development programme for young people aged 16 to 25 who are not currently in education, work or training.