

## Warm Spaces toolkit launched to help hard-pressed people this winter

A new toolkit to help our church buildings function efficiently as Warm Spaces and welcome those struggling with heating bills has been launched by the diocese, led by its faith in action team Wellsprings Together.

Across the diocese, our churches are, as always, doing their best to support people in need.

At the same time the cost of maintaining and heating our buildings, often large and draughty spaces is rising.

To help with that support Wellsprings Together, in partnership with the Diocesan

Church Building Team, have released a free toolkit for churches across the Diocese including a guide to opening as a Warm Space which may be found on our website.

It contains lots of information around signposting and support for individuals struggling with food insecurity, money management, debt and more. There is also a series of practical tips for reducing your church's energy use this winter.

Theo Sheridan-Watts, Chief Officer at Wellsprings Together said, "We are continually inspired by the response of churches wanting to help

support their communities at a time when the pressures on them in terms of their own costs are continuing to rise.



## Bishop Helen-Ann to be new Bishop of Newcastle

Downing Street has announced the appointment of the Right Reverend Dr Helen-Ann Hartley, currently Bishop of Ripon, as the next Bishop of Newcastle. The appointment was approved by Her Late Majesty The Queen.



Bishop Helen-Ann, who was brought up in the North East, will succeed the Right Reverend Christine Hardman who retired as Bishop of Newcastle in November last year.

The installation of Bishop Helen-Ann as Bishop of Newcastle will take place at Newcastle Cathedral, likely in early 2023.

# Hear the cry of the poor

## Bishop Tony Robinson

Over the past few months, news of dramatic and unplanned increases in the cost of essentials such as food, fuel and heating are reported daily in the media. More and more low- and middle-income families, older people, and vital businesses in our economy, are gripped with fear as they think about what lies ahead this winter and next year. The uncertainty about the effects of government budgets have done little to lift this fear. At a recent presentation in Wakefield, we were told that more than one in four children (29%) are living in poverty in our district.

In the not-too-distant past many of us thought that Politicians have a particular duty to ensure the basic needs of citizens are being met and to reassure those in need that serious, meaningful help is on its way. What has been offered to date brings little comfort to those hardest hit and most at risk in these trying times.

The amazing positive response at parish and community level during the Covid-19 pandemic shows what can be achieved when people work together. Many churches, charitable organisations and partnerships are already delivering help to people on the ground, as they have always done. A similar effort is now needed.



It requires a combined effort from all those in the church, politics and society to help address this crisis now; to act justly, to promote the common good and to show solidarity with the many thousands of families who are enduring hardship and worry.

Psalm 34 reminds us that “The Lord hears the cry of the poor”. At a personal level, let us all be open to hearing and responding to “the cry of the poor” in our midst - both at local and global level. And if we are fortunate enough to have sufficient resources to keep ourselves warm and nourished this winter, let us think of others who are struggling simply to survive. A time like this calls us to examine our own relationship with the material goods of this earth in light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, friend of the poor.

**+Tony**  
**Bishop of Wakefield**

# October Synod hears of facing the future with confidence

How the diocese faces the challenges of the next few months and beyond with faith and confidence was considered at the recent meeting of Diocesan Synod.

The Synod met virtually on Saturday, October 15, and looked at topics such as the recent General Synod meeting, Parish Share, and our new ‘Barnabas: Encouraging Confidence’ work, while considering motions on topics including Deanery Synod allocations, the use of individual cups in Communion, the Church Representation Rules scheme for our three cathedrals, and the Diocesan 2023 Budget.

The Bishop of Leeds, and President of the Synod, the Rt Revd Nick Baines, started the meeting with his presidential address, which concentrated on the “big vision” of the diocese, sound in the knowledge of God’s strong and encouraging presence.

Acknowledging this to be a time of exceptional political and economic turmoil, Bishop Nick said: “We are about the business of Almighty God, creator, sustainer and redeemer of the cosmos.”

# Bradford Cathedral hosts prayers for peace in Congo as part of Black History Month

Prayers for the Democratic Republic of Congo, as part of Black History Month, have taken place at an interfaith event held at Bradford Cathedral.

The Prayer Vigil, hosted by CRC (Conflict Resolution Centre) Bradford, included a short film screening from Bradford Cathedral's Ecumenical Canon Furaha Mussanzi - following her recent trip back to her hometown Bunia (Eastern DRC) for the first time in 20 years, plus a live Congolese choir, and prayer for peace and justice.

The 'Interfaith Prayer for Peace in Congo' welcomed all in the local community, from all walks of life and faith and non-faith backgrounds seeking to find out more about the current situation in

Congo through the lens of a Bradford based British-Congolese resident.

The event highlighted themes such as belonging, identity and trauma healing.

Canon Furaha Mussanzi said, "This is an important event to me as my family and I arrived in the UK as refugees fleeing the Congo war exactly 20 years ago this week.

"We wanted to organise an event as part of Congo Week and Black History Month that commemorated the many lives lost over the years, many who have been forgotten and sadly the media does not talk about but also create space to pray for peace and justice to reign."

# New Bishop of Beverley announced

The Reverend Canon Stephen Race, currently Rector of The Benefice of Central Barnsley in the Anglican Diocese of Leeds and also Area Dean of Barnsley, has been appointed as the new Bishop of Beverley.

Speaking of his upcoming role for the Northern Province of the Church of England, Fr Stephen said he would strive for positive dialogues within the church and looked forward to serving people across the whole region.



"I am slowly getting used to the idea that I have been called by God to be a bishop in His church and that I have been invited to take on the role and responsibility of the Bishop of Beverley," said Fr Stephen.

"I look forward to meeting new colleagues and partners in the Gospel as we seek to serve the parishes and people of the Northern Province."



## Colour, Creed and Call

**Revd June Cockburn**

Having been brought up in the Black-led Pentecostal church, I never in a million years imagined I would become, not only an Anglican, but an Anglican Priest!

I started attending an Anglican Church in 2006 after some life experiences led me to seek God in an entirely different setting to that which I was used to. Even though I felt loved and welcomed in my local parish church, when I started to feel the early call to ordination in the Church of England some of my resistance was because I thought I would just never fit in. I am a child of the Windrush generation so grew up on the 60s and 70s when black people – i.e., my parents' generation – were made to feel very unwelcome in the Anglican Church. Without realising it I had internalised the notion that the Anglican Church was for 'white people'. That brand of Christianity; that God – was very different to what I imagined God to be.

In 2012 I visited Uganda on a Teacher Exchange trip. I don't



know why, but somehow in an African, global majority country I was astounded, shocked and surprised to find the Anglican church was full of ... global majority people. (Who knew!) The next big shock was that the worship was very African, but also very Anglican.

My journey in the Anglican Church has helped me to understand in head and know in my heart that first and foremost, I am a Child of God. My upbringing is always going to be a part of who I am, but it doesn't define me. The God I serve embraces all cultures, creed, colour and traditions: and at the same time, transcends them all. We are all on a journey. It's a long road and we still have a lot to learn and a lot to do. But let us be encouraged by Matthew 19 verse 26:

"With God all things are possible!"

## Eco Church exhibition hosted at Ripon Cathedral

Ripon Cathedral have hosted an 'Eco Church' exhibition put together by the Eco Action Group based at the cathedral.



The aim of the exhibition was to explain to people what 'Eco Church' is and to raise awareness of the Church of England's strategy to achieve Net Zero Carbon in its buildings by 2030.

Individuals were encouraged to measure their carbon footprint and to start their own journey towards Net Zero Carbon.

The exhibition included a pledge tree and a prayer board for people to interact with. The Cathedral Primary school and Children's Church provided lots of artwork and poetry.