

Bishop Jonathan to be new Bishop of Rochester

The Bishop of Huddersfield, the Rt Revd Jonathan Gibbs, has been named as the new Bishop of Rochester, Downing Street have announced.



Bishop Jonathan will head the Church of England's second oldest diocese after Canterbury, and said how much he valued being part of the team that forged our young diocese.

"It has been a huge privilege to serve as the first Bishop of Huddersfield over the last seven and a half years and to be part of the adventure of shaping the new Diocese of Leeds.

"We have been blessed with

a great Area Staff Team and many fantastic clergy and lay leaders who work so hard to help our churches thrive and make a difference in our communities."

Bishop of Leeds, Nick Baines said: "Although sorry to lose such a good colleague and friend from Leeds, I am delighted to see Jonathan bringing his great gifts and experience to Rochester.

"He has a sharp mind, a pastoral heart and a huge capacity for service. He leaves with my gratitude and prayers."

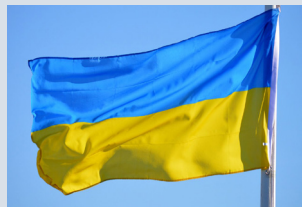
Reflecting on the personal experience of his family, Bishop Jonathan said: "Toni and I have greatly enjoyed getting to know the people and parishes of the Huddersfield Episcopal Area, as well as right across our wonderfully rich and diverse diocese."

"We are so grateful for the warm welcome we have received from both our churches and the wider community."

Diocese guides parishes in response to Ukraine crisis

The Diocese of Leeds has shared resources to help our parishes respond to the crisis in Ukraine, hosting a well-attended webinar to support people all across our region.

Attendees heard from Bishop Nick, Diocesan Secretary Jonathan Wood, and Bishop Toby.



Ewen Chymera, from the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain, spoke about what local Ukrainian networks are doing to support refugees, and how our parishes to connect with them, whilst Katy Armistead, Team Leader of Beacon Bradford, talked about the broader context of the refugee situation in the United Kingdom.

On the road

Bishop Nick Baines

Why is it easier to talk while walking than sat face to face in a room?

When I was younger I would take groups into the Lake District fells and we would talk as we walked. If the conversation got a bit to 'close' for someone, they could look at the hills or walk off to someone else. Somehow, the possibility of distraction made it easier for some people to talk.

The Easter story that haunts my own imagination involves two people on the road to Emmaus - or 'home' as they knew it. Their hopes had bled into the dirt of Calvary as they saw Jesus die - the one they had dared to hope would change their world. And now, amid the devastation and raw disillusionment, their friends were talking about meeting the risen Jesus again. It didn't make sense - the story didn't compute.

As they walked home one evening they were engrossed in trying to make sense of it all: the tragedy and the loss, the dream and the hope, the fear and the dread.

And then a man walks from behind them and asks them what they are discussing. Only once they have expressed in words what they have experienced does the man



offer to re-tell the story - recent events and how it fits into the story of God and his people - in a way that is radically new and makes sense of it all.

In other words, Jesus joins them where they are, starts with their experience and understanding, and only then re-frames it all. And that is what Easter is about. We have waited with Jesus's friends as they journey messily to Jerusalem; we endure the horror of Good Friday as this Jesus suffers as one of us and among us; we live with the loss of an empty Saturday; and we wake on Sunday with surprise as the world looks different again.

This Easter confronts us with the horrors of violence in our world. But, even the violence doesn't have the final word. Out of destruction comes resurrection hope.

Which is why Easter can be the beginning of a new journey, a new walk.

+Nick
Bishop of Leeds

ABY celebrates 200 years of worship in Sowerby Bridge

The Archbishop of York joined with worshippers at Christ Church Sowerby Bridge during a year in which they are celebrating 200 years of a spiritual and physical presence in the town.

Archbishop Stephen Cottrell was joined on Sunday, March 20 by the newly appointed Archdeacon of Halifax, Ven Bill



Braviner, and representatives from churches in the "Halifax and Calder Valley" deanery. Representatives from community groups and the local schools were also in attendance.

The first mention of Christ Church's current building is in the diary of Anne Lister, and the actual opening date was under a special licence on May 24, 1821. Anniversary celebrations were postponed until 2022 because of the COVID pandemic.

New Rector of Leeds: ‘I am very much looking forward to coming to Leeds Minster’

The Diocese of Leeds is pleased to announce that the next Rector of Leeds will be the Revd Canon Paul Maybury.



Revd Paul joins the Minster from Bradford Cathedral, where he has been Acting Dean since last summer, having previously been the Cathedral’s Canon Precentor.

Revd Paul said: “I am very much looking forward to



coming to Leeds Minster to lead the Christian Community in its mission and ministry to the city.

“My family and I have strong connections with Leeds, with my three children having been born within the parish (at St James’) and Sarah, my wife, having taught at a Primary School in the neighbouring parish.

“I am eager to meet everyone and to discern together God’s priorities.”

Revd Paul has a long history with our region, joining Bradford Cathedral in 2016 after working as Bishop’s Mission Priest in the Diocese of Cyprus.

Before this Revd Paul worked in the former Diocese of Wakefield, as a parish priest and as Rural Dean of Dewsbury.

Bishop Nick said: “Paul has done a wonderful job at Bradford Cathedral and is the right person to now take Leeds Minster into its future.

“I warmly look forward to working with Paul in Leeds.”

Doctor Sally wins Lambeth 2022 award

Dr Sally Smith, of the Upper Wharfedale parish in the Ripon area, has been honoured as part of the Archbishop of Canterbury’s 2022 Lambeth Awards.

Dr Sally has been awarded the Cross of St Augustine for services to the international Anglican Communion, for her role on the COVID-19 Global Taskforce convened by the Anglican Alliance.

During the pandemic Dr Sally led on shaping a strategic framework on how to support



the Communion through this difficult period, using her experience of working with faith partners through UNAIDS on HIV and the World Health Organisation on Ebola to make sure the Communion’s practical response to COVID-19 was underpinned by solid faith foundations.

See page IV for Sally’s personal Easter reflection.

Together we can make a difference

**Dr Sally Smith,
Upper Wharfedale
Parish**

Recently, I had the privilege of travelling to Lambeth Palace to receive the Cross of St Augustine from the Archbishop of Canterbury together with three other colleagues from Sri Lanka, Malaysia, and South Africa in recognition of the work we have been involved in with the Anglican Alliance (AA) and Anglican Health and Community Network (AHCN) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It reminds us of those who have served heroically and silently through this pandemic in care homes, hospitals, GP surgeries, grocery shops, delivery drivers, teachers - across the world. Many people work to care for the sick, feed the hungry, and find shelter for the homeless, welcome the stranger and the refugee here in the Leeds Diocese as well as in Malaysia, Sri Lanka and South Africa. Each receive and serve those in great need from near and far. Those who through charities and churches across Europe are now stretching themselves even further to support and serve those fleeing from the war in Ukraine.



“As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me all day long, “Where is your God?.”

Many are exhausted, but my work with the AA, the AHCN and WHO to engage people of all faiths (and none) in the response to Covid-19 over the last two years has shown me that in the most desperate of times God is present. Daily, He cares for the most vulnerable through acts of compassion and kindness, both small and heroic, from both neighbour and stranger, through you and through me. Together we can make a difference. As we approach Easter, we remember Jesus who gave his life so that we might live and called us to continue his work on earth: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Clergy couple tackle National Three Peaks challenge

Martin House Children’s Hospice will benefit from the energetic efforts of Revd Paul Harford and his wife



Sarah, who are taking on the National Three Peaks Challenge to raise money to support its valuable work.

Revd Paul is vicar of Bishop Thornton, Burnt Yates, Markington, Ripley, and South Stainley and they will be part of a small group that will climb Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike, and Snowdon – the tallest mountains in Scotland, England, and Wales, with a combined height of over 11,000 feet - within 24 hours.

Martin House cares for babies, children and young people with life-limiting conditions from across West, North and East Yorkshire.