



Welcome

Welcome to our third edition of HEAR. Please do share the newsletter with your congregations and feel free to copy and paste content for your Parish Magazine – HEAR is now produced in A5 format specifically to facilitate this.

If you would like to contribute, please email: pa.bphuddersfield@leeds.anglican.org



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Prayer for the Season

We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory, for in your ascension you are crowned King of kings and Lord of lords. As we worship you on your heavenly throne, prepare our hearts for the coming of your Spirit.

To you, Lord Jesus, who will come back in the same way you went up into heaven, be honour and glory, now and for ever.





Bishop's Update

From Desert to Garden

The TV is full of desert images – of hostile environments with blinding sandstorms, stifling heat, lack of water and danger. It's where thousands are living without the taken-for-granted necessities of clean water, electricity and public health services. We too may be going through the desert as the cost of living impacts our lives; and it's in this desert we confront our innermost fears and anxieties.

Lent helps us consider Jesus' desert experience which became for him a place of discovery: finding out what he couldn't do by himself but what he could do by trusting God. Jesus' temptations (and ours) are for popularity; compromising integrity and greed. In other words, for a quick fix, a short cut and instant results!

However, Jesus' choice was to stand alongside those who are weak and vulnerable. A choice which led to a harsh trial and unbelievable suffering. God is ceaselessly at work making something better out of the mess we make of things and drawing good even when things are badly wrong. God invites us to share in this

work, so I pray that God's Spirit gives to those who are suffering – relief; to those who lead – wisdom; to those who serve – courage and compassion; to those who die – eternal rest; to those who are mourning – comfort; to those who are going through the desert – the seeds of peace.

This desert leads us to a garden where Mary Magdalene bumps into a man she thinks is the gardener. Jesus is the gardener of the new creation. The old garden had become overgrown with thickets of obscure religious practices, weeds of injustice and great brambles of despair. What happened on that first Easter morning was that the world was given a whole new start. That's why the resurrection is still such an explosive force in today's world. Every part of human existence is affected by this new creation. The world of politics, arts, science, technology, economics, the legal system – just about everything is up for resurrection.

May you, like Mary recognise Jesus amid life's debris. May you see transformation in all that's messy, and experience the joys of Easter, and for when it comes: Alleluia! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Bishop Smitha

Rt Revd Smitha Prasadam
Bishop of Huddersfield



Archdeacon's Update

Recently, I have been reading more than usual; I decided that for Lent, at those times when I would normally have watched some TV, I would read instead. I have tried to focus my reading on books that speak into the theme of the Lenten journey; a couple of actual Lent Books (including the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book for 2024, Tarry Awhile by Selina Stone, which is very good). I've also read a couple of books that come from the Taizé Community in France – both by Brother John of Taizé: The Wrath of a Loving God, and Life on the Edge, which are also excellent.

The blessing of taking this time to do something different to normal routine is that it provides an opportunity to think and reflect on both the patterns of life that I've fallen into, but also to think and reflect on what I'm actually reading. Spending time with an author's thoughts and perspectives on the journey of discipleship, on what it means for us to be God's family together, on how the great themes of our faith inform and guide our daily lives in the down to earth practicalities of living, is a blessing – because it opens up a prayerful contemplation of how God might be calling us. Sometimes it becomes clear that it's a call back onto the path from which we've begun to stray; sometimes it's a call onwards as we develop in our pilgrimage; sometimes it's a call to do or to pray through specific things, whether challenges or opportunities, situations or relationships, people or places.

Engaging with the thoughts and ideas of a variety of authors is also reminding me of the value, the necessity, or our ongoing and shared conversation as God's family in this place. As I go around the Archdeaconry and Diocese, I'm encouraged, enthused, challenged and uplifted by the encounters I have with people and groups, communities and congregations, and by the things we discuss and do together. This embodies for me something important of what it means for us to be the church, the family of God, in our parishes, deaneries, episcopal areas, diocese, and wider.

What Lent is reminding me of, more than anything else, is the precious gift in God that we are to each other, in all our diversity and difference, and what a blessing we are to one another in the pilgrimage that we share.

May God bless you in this journey, and prepare you for the great feast of Easter.

Archdeacon Bill

The Venerable Bill Braviner
Archdeacon of Halifax



PCC Treasurers: important information

We are aware that some parishes find it difficult to recruit a PCC Treasurer, and the finance and stewardship teams in Leeds are ready to offer suggestions and support where they can. Where there is no treasurer, it falls to the Churchwardens to ensure that the PCC's funds are being managed and administered appropriately, and they can either do this themselves, or more usually, find someone who can do it under their oversight.

What is never appropriate is for the clergy holding office in the parish to act as treasurer; this introduces conflicts of interest and function. We are aware that in some places clergy have been fulfilling the role of treasurer, but we must ask that this does not continue; instead, we would ask that the Churchwardens and PCC consider alternative arrangements, reaching out to the diocesan team for advice if necessary.



Diocese of Leeds

Loving.
Living.
Learning.

@10

Leeds@10 Celebrations: invitation

Dear Friend,

As part of the celebration events to mark the 10th Anniversary of the Diocese of Leeds, you are warmly invited to attend “**An afternoon with the Archbishop of York, ++Stephen Cottrell**” at the Jo Cox More in Common Centre, Huddersfield University on Sunday 21st April from 2.30pm – 3.30pm. Tea and coffee will be available from 2.00pm.

We hope it will be an inspiring afternoon of free ranging conversation and commitment to the Episcopal Area and Diocese with the opportunity for Q&A. We will also explore the 7 ‘Rhythm of Life’ areas.

Please sign up by clicking this [link](#). Please see the campus map below: the Jo Cox centre is Building 19.

With good wishes at Easter,

+Smitha

Rt Revd Smitha Prasadam
Bishop of Huddersfield



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Leeds

Loving.
Living.
Learning.

@10

Leeds@10 Celebrations: Campus Map



TAIZÉ COMMUNITY

PILGRIMAGE 2024

Pilgrimage to Taizé 2024

*"Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name,
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life."*

I am leading a pilgrimage to Taizé from 17 - 26 August for young people and adults from the Northern Province. Archbishop Stephen Cottrell will join us for some of the time as we together prepare for him to lead a much larger pilgrimage to encourage *Faith in the North* in 2025.

Taizé is an inspirational pilgrimage of trust, gathering people from all over the world. Simplicity and joy of heart define Taizé, and it has been the place where many have found or deepened their faith and prayer life, explored vocation, and committed their lives to Christ. Its songs and prayers continue to inspire worship worldwide.

I would like to invite all Clergy, Lay Readers, Youth Leaders and individuals interested in learning more about the pilgrimage to gather for a time of prayer and introduction with Br Jean-Patrick of the Taizé Community in *Wakefield Cathedral on Saturday, 27th April from 3.30 – 5.00 pm.*

The aim is to pray together, share more details, and to invite you to participate this year. You may like to come on your own to experience Taizé for yourself in preparation for bringing a group next year, or come with some young adults from your church or worshipping community right away.

If you cannot join the pilgrimage yourself, you may want to simply pass on the details to others who you think would be interested – and even sponsor them.

Full details of travel costs, accommodation and programme will be given on the day. Please contact my taize@holynativity.co.uk to let us know that you are coming on 27 April, and/or if you would like to register interest.

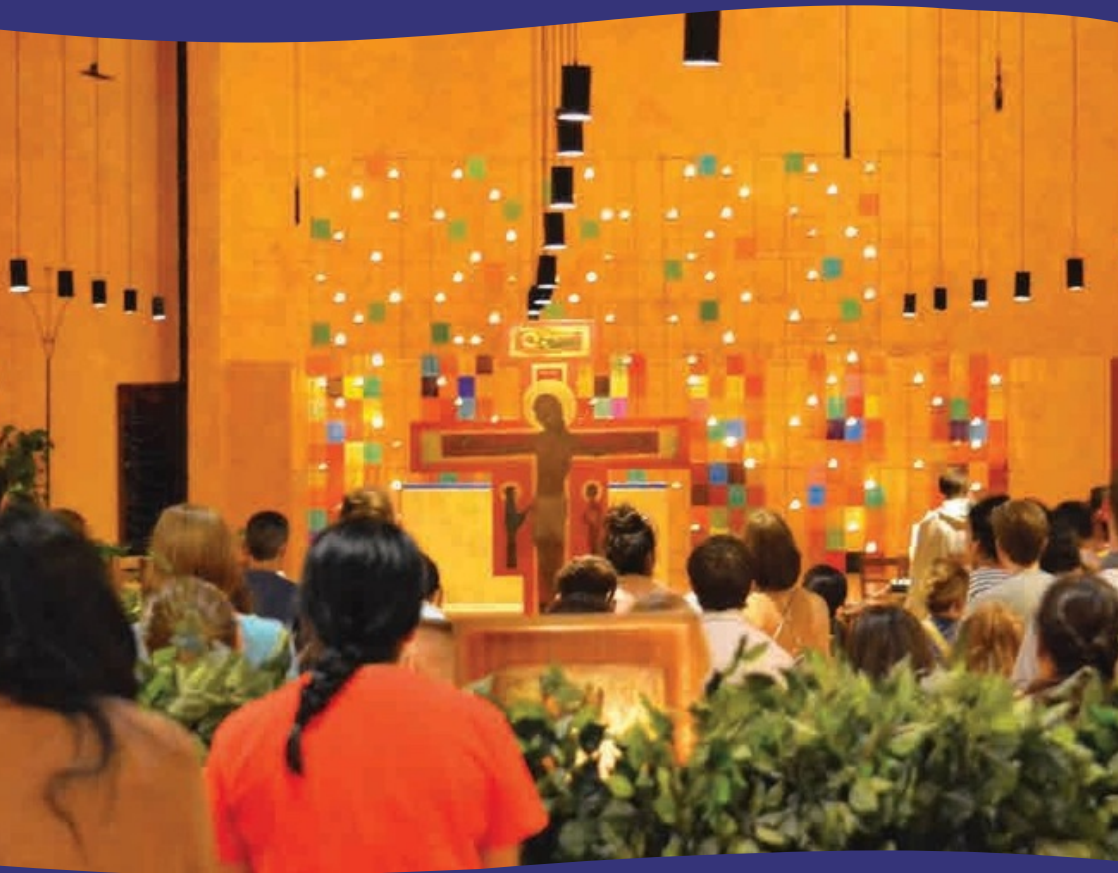
I do hope you can join this pilgrimage and look forward to welcoming you.

+ Smitha Huddersfield

taize@holynativity.co.uk

Preparing for a pilgrimage

All are welcome for prayer
with songs from Taizé.



Wakefield Cathedral,
on Saturday, 27th April, from 3:30 – 5pm

Discover more about the pilgrimage in August, to be led by
Rt Revd Bishop Smitha Prasadam, Bishop of Huddersfield.



Dates for your diary 2024

Please note the following dates for your diary:

Saturday 21st September 2024 Study Day (led by Bishop Smitha)

Saturday 23rd November 2024 Study Day for Advent: this will be an opportunity to look at the Gospel of Luke and will include children's training and workshops

Clergy Study Days are a rich local resource and much thought is given to preparation and planning. It is a requirement for all licensed clergy to attend. If you are unable to attend, please send your apologies in writing to Bishop Smitha by emailing her PA: pa.bphuddersfield@leeds.anglican.org

Further details and a link to confirm if you are able to attend these Study Days will be sent in due course



Dates for your diary 2024 cont...

Archdeacon's Visitation Dates

Tuesday 4th June: 7.00pm at Dewsbury Minster

Wednesday 12th June: 7.00pm at Huddersfield Parish Church

Thursday 20th June: 7.00pm at Halifax Minster





Easter Events 2024

HALIFAX MINSTER

FESTIVAL of FAITH 24

Halifax Minster is launching a new annual Festival of Faith which will run from Ash Wednesday through to Easter Day.

The Festival is outward facing, looking to draw people from outside the Minster, to come and experience this common ground yet sacred meeting place with God.

The Festival draws upon excellence in many fields and genres, from film and live music, to public theology and visiting preachers, poetry and scripture.

The Festival ends with the drama of Holy Week, recalling the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, as we strive beyond the darkness of this present time, and look for hope in the future of God's Kingdom.

Halifax Minster has launched a new annual Festival of Faith as it looks to refresh Lent and Holy Week. Music, Film, Public Theology, and a Sermon Series by the bishops of the Diocese provide a rich breadth of opportunities and events in which to bring people to the Minster who might never otherwise come near, and a chance to renew some old friendships. Bishop Smitha is leading a series of In Conversation on Thursdays@7pm and will speak to some interesting people about their faith and their lives and work. The Festival comes to a crescendo with Holy Week, and on Holy Saturday Bishop Smitha will celebrate the First Eucharist of Easter with Baptism and Confirmation. Parishes across the Deanery and the Episcopal Area are encouraged to bring candidates and to worship together at this Festival time. Full programme [here](#).

Easter Events 2024



HALIFAX MINSTER **FESTIVAL of FAITH 24**

In Conversation

Our Festival of Faith 'In Conversation' events, are a series of public conversations around the subject of faith, between Smitha Prasadam, the Bishop of Huddersfield and some very special guests.

THURSDAY 15TH FEBRUARY @ 19:00
Bishop Smitha Prasadam in conversation with
Zara Mohammed
General Secretary of the Muslim Council of Great Britain.

THURSDAY 22ND FEBRUARY @ 19:00
Bishop Smitha Prasadam in conversation with
The Hon Sir Stephen Timms MP
Chair of the All Parliamentary Group on Faith and Society.

THURSDAY 29TH FEBRUARY @ 19:00
Bishop Smitha Prasadam in conversation with
Michael Gartland
Head of Chaplaincy Services, South Yorkshire NHS Trust.
Mindfulness spirituality and mental health. Michael Gartland is Anglican Priest, and Head of Chaplaincy Services, South Yorkshire NHS Trust. He brings with him with a wealth of knowledge about spirituality mysticism, mindfulness and mental health. In his role at SWYPT Michael has embedded spiritual care into mental health services and strongly advocates for a holistic approach to mental illness. Michael will bring to us a particular focus on mindfulness and its nature and its links to spirituality and mental health. He will lead a short mindfulness session giving us a chance to experience it for ourselves. This will be followed by an opportunity for questions and discussion.

THURSDAY 7TH MARCH @ 19:00
Bishop Smitha Prasadam in conversation with
John Robins
The Chief Constable of West Yorkshire.

THURSDAY 21ST MARCH @ 19:30
Bishop Smitha Prasadam in conversation with
Major General Zac Stenning
Commandant of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and Colonel of the Yorkshire Regiment.

“In Conversation” events at Halifax Minster

A series of public conversations around faith between Smitha Prasadam the Bishop of Huddersfield, and Zara Mohammed – Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Great Britain, Major General Zac Stenning – Commandant of the Royal Academy Sandhurst and Colonel of the Yorkshire Regiment, and The Hon Sir Stephen Timms MP, Chair of the All Parliamentary Group on Faith and Society, and Michael Gartland, Head of Chaplaincy Services at South Yorkshire NHS Trust, and John Robins QPM DL, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire.



Upcoming Events

 Leeds Church Institute

Churches Against Racism 2024

Bishops, Pastors and Priests on building anti-racist communities

How can we build truly anti-racist churches and an anti-racist City? Hear leaders from diverse churches in Leeds share experience, best practice and wisdom from dealing with racial discrimination.

You will hear stories of division and hope in unity, then join together to talk practically and theologically about moving into action.

All are welcome to this ecumenical evening of panel discussions, conversations and prayer. Please join us for light refreshments after hearing from the Bishops, Pastors and Priests.

**7 - 9pm, Thursday
18th April 2024**

**New Testament Church of God
LS8 2TN**

Please book here



To visit this event's Eventbrite page, and register to attend, please click [here](#).



Upcoming Events

Calderdale Annual Interfaith Celebration – The contribution faith communities make to Calderdale’s Vision

Thursday 18 April, 6pm to 9pm at Halifax Minster
Refreshments 6pm to 6.30

2024 is an important year for Calderdale. It will be 50 years since our distinctive borough was formed. To mark this occasion, the Council, communities and local organisations got together in 2018 to develop our Vision 2024, setting out our joint aspirations for Calderdale on its 50th birthday.

Faith communities have made an enormous contribution to our Vision 2024. Now that 2024 is nearly here we are refreshing our Vision and thinking about our hopes and aspirations for Calderdale in 2034, when the borough will celebrate its 60th birthday.

This free event will share and celebrate the contribution that faith communities have made to our Vision 2024 and give us the opportunity to influence our borough’s future Vision. It will involve a presentation from Canon Hilary Barber Co-chair of the Interfaith Network UK about the Bloom Review

The purpose of the event will be for Calderdale Interfaith, Calderdale Council of Mosques, and local faith communities:

1. To celebrate our contribution to our borough by sharing stories
2. To contribute to the refresh of Calderdale’s Vision
3. To explore the contribution we can make to our vision for 2034
4. To consider the Bloom review
5. To explore the action that we can take to realise this potential

Multi-faith prayer facilities will be available throughout the event.

To reserve a place, please kindly email: calderdaleinterfaith@gmail.com



Picture credit: Dr Geoffrey Lockwood

Event Reviews

Meet, Eat and Sing – St. James the Great, Flockton – 20th October – Angela Griffith

On the evening of Friday 20th October, Flockton Parish Church hosted a “Meet, Eat & Sing” for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. The event was led by Hugh Morris, Director of the Royal School of Church Music, who had travelled up from Derbyshire in the atrocious weather conditions brought on by Storm Babet. Out of the 64 who had booked, 46 participants from across the Diocese arrived through torrential rain, flooded roads, road closed signs (some of which were incorrectly placed) and various detours.

Hugh had chosen a wide variety of choral music ranging from a unison version of “The Holly and the Ivy” by Thomas Hewitt Jones and a two-part arrangement of “Love Came Down at Christmas” by Barry Rose, to a more complicated jazzy version of “We Three Kings”. Accompaniment was provided by Dr Geoffrey Lockwood whose skill at playing pieces in tricky time signatures greatly enhanced the singing.

An excellent supper of jacket potatoes and cakes followed, provided by the ladies of the church.

Everyone agreed that they were really pleased that they have made the effort to attend on such an awful night. It was a worthwhile opportunity for choristers from small church choirs to sing and socialise with those from larger groups. Our thanks to Hugh Morris, Geoffrey Lockwood and everyone who made the evening such a success.



Event Reviews cont...

Picture: The stable

Follow the Star to the Stable - Revd Canon J. Sean Robertshaw, MTh. VR.

Christ Church, New Mill introduced a local Christmas project to share the story of The Nativity locally. This was a new event in the life of the Village and was as much about bringing Good News as it was about encouraging our community to join in with the Christmas story and be part of it.

The church reached out into the community and three lantern making workshops were arranged prior to the main event. All materials were supplied at the workshops from a local grant provided by the Holme Valley Parish Council. Local folks, their children and various community groups joined together and made lanterns which were carried in the procession following the Star to the Church Community Garden where there was a Stable. The journey began at New Mill Club with Carols led by the church choir. The Angel Gabriel then announced to Mary that she was to have a child and he was to be called Jesus. On the wettest, rainiest and windiest evening the group set off the half mile up the road following the Star in a procession of light, with Mary, Joseph and the Donkey leading us. Once the villagers arrived there the story of the nativity was dramatised for the 80 or so people who joined in!

There was a warming fire in the pit, and the garden which was beautifully decorated. Refreshments mulled wine, cake and mince pies were served by the local co-op and community gardeners to the pilgrims.

This was true village get together, and a celebration that will certainly be repeated later this year. Rev Canon Sean Robertshaw commented, "After a year of bad news we wanted to provide a community focus which was accessible, affordable, and fun. Even in spite of the weather we achieved the goal!"



Event Reviews cont...

Picture: Angel in Hepworth Church

At Hepworth Every Christmas – Revd Keith Griffin

Every Christmas something rather magical takes place in Hepworth Church, in the Upper Holme Valley Team of churches near to Holmfirth. It started around twenty years ago with a couple of Christmas Tree Festivals. Someone then suggested holding a different sort of Christmas event. "What if the theme was The Twelve Days of Christmas and we see what kind of displays and exhibits everyone comes up with?"

It worked. Every September letters of invitation are sent out around the parish to among others, the Junior School, the Football Club, the Art Group, the Mothers' Union, the Pre-school, the Badminton Club, the Bell Ringers, the Methodist Church, and a few local artists. Each year there's a new theme. There has been Sounds Like Christmas, Light of The World, Christmas Around the World, Peace at Christmas, Follow the Star and, last year, Happy Family Christmas. The formula has hardly changed at all.

Come the second weekend of December every window sill, corner, altar, and flat surface in the church is full. You might spot a model which someone has clearly spent many hours working on. There's probably something knitted. An exhibit from the school may well have photos of the children included. Someone might offer a piece of abstract art, or a poem. Happy Family Christmas saw the Mothers' Union engaging with the subject of domestic violence.

The vast majority who participate would consider themselves absolute amateurs, and this is where the magic is to be found. Most would simply laugh at the idea of showing anything they have made anywhere else. And for the vast majority this will be the only time they visit church all year. What we witness is a glorious coming together of participants who first manage to find that little spark of courage to get involved. They then rise to the challenge of each successive theme, take the risk of trying something out, and share with everyone something... well, new. Wherever you see the joy and delight of people making stuff, taking risks, working together or alone, then surprising themselves by being able to sit back and declare, "I did that!" – well, you're standing on holy ground.

Like some of the best things in life, no one designed this event to be like this. Like other good things we know, words can only do a second-rate job in their attempt to describe something so precious and quirky, and yet which also draws and touches upon something quite profound within the human spirit. It's Christmas, the Incarnation, a true sign of God with us, and alive in this little, country parish. As Franciscan writer Iliá Delio says, "Where there is God, there is the invitation to create."



Event Reviews
cont...

Picture: Plough in Halifax Minster

Plough Sunday – Revd Canon Hilary Barber

Halifax Minster like Ripon Cathedral kept Plough Sunday on the 14th of January. Representatives of Calderdale Young Farmers and the National Farmers Union brought a traditional plough and seed to be blessed during the morning Eucharist. Prayers taken from Times and Seasons in the Agricultural section allowed the plough and seed to be blessed and was part of the Minster's Strategic Plan which is based upon the Five Marks of Mission and Benedictine Spirituality, tending for the earth's resources and part of the Minster's goal towards an Eco Church kite mark.



Event Reviews cont...

Picture: The stable

Rishworth School Celebrates 300 Years of Education- Revd Canon Hilary Barber

Halifax Minster played host to Rishworth School in early February to mark the 300th anniversary of its founding in 1724. The School is an International independent day and boarding school with a Church of England Foundation. The School has its own Chapel and the Visitor to the School is the Archbishop of York, who preached at the Service and then unveiled a plaque at the School to mark the historic occasion. The congregation was joined by bishop Smitha and Archdeacon Bill, and the Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire and the Mayor and Mayoress of Calderdale. The Service was led by the Chair of Governors Canon Hilary Barber.





Good News stories

Holy Nativity Mixenden appoints project lead to launch 3 year project: Building Community Together

Thanks to funding from the UK government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Holy Nativity Mixenden and Illingworth are thrilled to announce the launch of an ambitious project that will transform Holy Nativity Church into a vibrant eco-friendly community hub over the next three years.

As a church which already offers a wide range of outreach activities and community support, Holy Nativity has been working closely with community partners in their area for years and has long aspired to be able to do more. Through their partners at Calderdale Council and North Halifax Partnership; they were invited to apply for funding for two posts, initially for one year, to begin to make their vision a reality. On 1 March, Jo Beacroft-Mitchell, a long standing member of the Holy Nativity community with a background in developing church based community projects took up her post as Fundraising, development and Community Engagement manager.

Jo says: "This project stems from a shared vision between church and community of creating a space where sustainability, community engagement, and Christian values intersect to uplift and empower everyone in the parish."

"Over the next three years, we have set some lofty aspirations that we believe will not only enhance our church but also enrich the lives of all who call the parish of Holy Nativity home."

continued...



Good News stories cont...



“Our first goal is to see the development of the building into a flagship eco-church and community hub. This space will serve as a beacon of sustainability, providing a nurturing environment for all who enter its doors. Our building was created for and by the community and is celebrating 70 years as a church at the heart of the estate. The building is first and foremost a place to worship and glorify God, but more than that; we see it as a thriving community asset, bustling with life and activity, where people from all walks of life come together to connect, grow, and support one another.”

“Alongside development of the building, our aim is to create a happy, well-run, and efficient volunteer hub, where individuals can experience the transformative power of Christian community in action through the activities we offer throughout the week.”

Revd Robb Sutherland said: “Often the narrative for communities like ours is about scarcity and what we lack. We believe that God has a better story to tell of estates like ours and our ultimate desire is to foster a happy and fulfilled Christian community, that takes pride in what we can achieve together.”

“Estates ministry is a joy and a privilege but brings with it challenges as well; with Jo’s support we are looking to the next 70 years and the sustainability of our community, we’re developing a comprehensive plan, working with the community to make sure the building is open 7 days a week and ensuring that the development of the building reflects our care and concern for the environment and is also efficient and easy to run for the next generation of worshippers.”

continued...



Good News stories cont...



“As someone with long links to the National Estates Church Network and the Estates Ministry task force, my aspiration for this project is for Holy Nativity to capture the attention of the wider church, showing what communities like ours are capable of and inspiring others to think big.”

The first stage of the project is to secure funding for feasibility studies and plans for the building and to appoint the second funded post: a caretaker, so that the building can be opened 7 days a week and the range of activities on offer every day can expand.

Revd Sutherland concluded: “I am so proud of what our church has achieved so far, it’s wonderful to receive investment from the local and national government that recognises the place of the church at the heart of this community. This is just the beginning, and we are going to need even more support in the coming years, as we embark on this journey I’d love to invite our colleagues across the episcopal area to pray for us as we start the next stage of life with God at Holy Nativity.”

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is a central pillar of the UK government’s Levelling Up agenda and provides £2.6 billion of funding for local investment by March 2025. The Fund aims to improve pride in place and increase life chances across the UK investing in communities and place, supporting local business, and people and skills. For more information, visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus>



Good News stories cont...

Churches Together in Cleckheaton service. – Revd Helen Chamberlain

Over 90 worshippers from 5 different churches came together for a special service to mark the week of prayer for Christian unity.

The service was held at St Luke's Anglican church. The theme was “who is my neighbour”? The sermon reminded us of Jesus' call to “go and do likewise” putting love in action as a way of life together in our community.



Pictured: local Methodist ministers including Rev Marian Olsen (centre), the chairperson of Churches Together in Cleckheaton. and the vicar of Cleckheaton Rev Helen Chamberlain who officiated and preached. One church member said, “it was such a joyful occasion to come together as one congregation and hear the volume of us singing as one.”



Training and Grants

The Bishop's Development Fund *Supporting Mission in the Diocese of Leeds*



The Bishop's Development Fund is a charity to help Anglican churches within the Huddersfield and Wakefield Episcopalian areas of the Diocese of Leeds to develop new mission initiatives.

The Bishop's Development Fund seeks to fund projects which will enhance the mission of the church in the following areas:-

- **Congregation Growth** - projects which provide new facilities, or initiatives, to encourage more people to attend and support Church.
- **Attracting Young People** - new initiatives to attract and retain young people.
- **Community Outreach** - new projects which bring benefits to the wider local community.

The aim of the fund is to support locally based projects where mission not maintenance is the keynote of Church life. The Trustees are looking for interesting and innovative applications which clearly demonstrate how they will enhance mission in the parish.

Depending on your project, please liaise with your Archdeacon for informal guidance on what "permissions" might be required. If the work is applicable to the BDF Mission requirements and you wish to apply, proof of this will be needed with your application form.

If your project involves Children, Young People and/or Families we recommend you have a conversation with Liz Morton, Children, Young People and Families Team Leader, before submitting your application:
Telephone: 0113 3530237 / Mobile: 07512 712290
liz.morton@leeds.anglican.org

Potential grants are available for sums up to a maximum of £5000.00. If you would like to apply an application form is attached to this email.*

The Trustees are **unable** to support applications for:

- Salaries of paid staff (although sessional staffing costs may be considered).
- Donations to other Charities.
- The purchase of IT equipment for normal patterns of worship.
- Substantive building work (including work needed to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act).



The Bishop's Development Fund
Registered Charity No. 700588

The Bishop's Area Office, Thomas Park, Campus, Thomas Park, Wakefield, WF2 8QZ
caroline.asquith@leeds.anglican.org

* Please see original email from Caroline Asquith, dated 14.02.24 for further details and application form



Retired Clergy Officer Update

The first two months as Retired Clergy Officer

As I begin this role, I am very grateful for a series of conversations with Revd Christine Shedd and with meetings and conversations with each of the Area Deans. I have also had the opportunity to chat with Bishop Smitha in the light of these.

We have some 96 retired clergy and in addition some 34 clergy widow/widowers across the area. We are indebted and grateful for the continuing ministry of our retired clergy. I am also beginning to understand something of the challenges of stepping into retirement and of continuing to offer ministry in retirement. Another concern is how we as a diocese and in particular this episcopal area offer ongoing support as retired clergy age and face a range of challenges such as financial, health and bereavement.

The year began with the deaths and funerals of Revd John Radcliffe who I had got to know quite well and Revd Barbara Lydon who sadly I had not met. It was a privilege to attend these services and hear something of the work of God in their lives.

1. How do we offer pastoral care to retired clergy and their families. We have begun a new approach to try to ensure that access to ongoing support is available should people wish to receive this. Within each of our deaneries there will be a retired clergy officer from that deanery who will work with me. The role is not administrative but rather a link person to ensure that as far as is able no one is overlooked, and all retired clergy can receive pastoral support should they wish. Further information on who will be taking on these roles will be given in the near future.



Retired Clergy Officer Update cont...

2. Another strand of support offered is through study days and other opportunities to meet together.

a. We are holding a study day for retired clergy from both the Huddersfield and Wakefield areas on 17th April at Christ the King Battyeford. Bishop Chris Edmundson has kindly agreed to come and speak.

b. Looking ahead with details to follow:

i. Bishop Smitha is hosting a cream tea for retired clergy widows/widowers in the summer

ii. There will be a second study day for retired clergy in September.

3. Keeping informed about the work of the National Retired Clergy Council particularly regarding pensions, housing and other matters that directly affect retired clergy. I am attending the next retirement officers meeting which takes place at Southwark Cathedral in Holy Week. I think this will be helpful particularly as Pensions Board will be at this event and am aware there are concerns from retired clergy but also from some still in full-time ministry.

Hope this gives a small insight into this area of ministry.

The Ven Elizabeth Snowden



Environment Team Update

We are the Area Eco Champions, Bev Playle and Debby Plummer, and we are looking forward to spending another year with you and your churches, worshipping God the Creator, caring for His wonderful creation, following the EcoChurch route to sustainable living, and treading the 6 Steps to Net Zero Carbon. Congratulations to our 9 churches which have achieved Eco Church Bronze award and our 8 churches which have achieved Eco Church Silver! Could 2024 be the year when all our other churches register and all our registered churches reach Bronze?

A big thank you to all of you who are Parish Environment Officers (PEO's), your church's eco reps. You don't need to be an expert! And collect a group around you - don't do it alone. We and the Diocesan team offer you free online training and stay in touch with you in Zoom meetings every few months - a chance to get to know other like-minded people. There is plenty of help available on the Environment pages of the Diocesan website and a resource list which covers practically everything you might ask!

We would love to see a PEO in every church - at the moment we are up to about 30%. If your church hasn't already nominated someone to be a PEO, why not think about who could take on that role? Someone who has a desire to see the Church become more Eco-friendly or has a passion for justice are really the most important assets. All the skills and knowledge needed can be taught and we can happily help with that.

Another big thank you to all clergy and LLM's, who lead environment-themed worship at key times in the church calendar - Plough Sunday, Rogation Days, Lammas and Harvest - and the newer times such as Earth Day and Creationtide. Do look at the website "Preaching for God's World" for ideas and resources. And both of us enjoy visiting your churches as guest preachers or joining you for a PCC meeting or a special Green event. We want to hear your stories.

Your Area Eco Champions

Debby and Bev



Training and Grants

Grants available

Please contact Bishop Smitha (bishop.smitha@leeds.anglican.org) if a modest grant will help you through the Winter, for example with fuel bills



Details of support available through the Lady Elizabeth Hastings' Charities can be found [here](#)



Other news & info

Maternity Leave

As an Episcopal Area, we are indebted to Jo Hodgkinson for all her hard work as PA to Bishop Smitha. It is her management of the diary, organisational skill and attentive care which has kept the Episcopal Area afloat during the last two and a half years. Jo's maternity leave begins on 11th April. For all emails, please use: pa.bphuddersfield@leeds.anglican.org.

We are currently recruiting for maternity cover – please see the advert below, closing date 1st April 2024.

The interim person will have big boots to fill, but we send Jo with all our good wishes as she prepares for the arrival of the baby and beyond.

There will be a short gap between Jo leaving and her maternity cover starting, so please do bear with us during this time.

Other news & info

PA to Bishop Smitha Maternity Cover: job advert

Personal Assistant to the Area Bishop for Huddersfield (Maternity Cover)

📍 Huddersfield Episcopal Area Office, University of Huddersfield, Queensgate, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire 📞 £27,171 per year (pro rata) 🏢 Employee # cofe/TP/51/6786

🕒 Posted: 4 Mar 2024 - Closes: 1 Apr 2024

Overview

One of the key aspects of the Diocese of Leeds is the "Episcopal Area" system. This means each of the five areas has a designated bishop who has responsibility for them, allowing for close episcopal involvement across the diocese.

Bishop Smitha Prasadam (Huddersfield Area)

Introduction

As **Personal Assistant to the Area Bishop for Huddersfield**, you will provide comprehensive secretarial and administrative support to Bishop Smitha, enabling her to fulfil her Ministry and wider responsibilities.

Working from the Huddersfield Episcopal Area Office at the University of Huddersfield, you will welcome visitors, keep files up to date and produce a variety of documents for the Bishop. You will work collaboratively as part of a team including the Archdeacon and their Personal Assistant and work flexibly when needed, to support events at the Bishop's House or meetings elsewhere which will include some evenings.

Pro-active, adaptable, with strong interpersonal skills and a high level of administrative competence, you will manage a variety of responsibilities confidently including minute taking, assisting with the recruitment process of Clergy and financial tasks and expenses.

Your **working hours** are expected to be 20 hours per week, 09.00 to 14.00, Monday to Thursday.

The **full time salary** of £27,171 per year will be pro rated which equates to £15,526 per year, based on working 20 hours per week.

This is a **fixed term contract** (Maternity Cover) expected to last for up to 1 year.

Deadline for applications: 1 April 2024

Interviews: will be held on 8 April 2024

The full advert can be found on CofE Pathways here:

<https://pathways.churchofengland.org/en/jobs/personal-assistant-to-the-area-bishop-for-huddersfield-maternity-cover/774>



Other news & info

Parish Share

Loving.
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Parish Share

Did you know that...



thanks to national funding,
for every **£3** that is received
in Parish Share...



...the Diocese
spends **£4** on
parish ministry.

But...

In each of the past few years,
the amount that has been received
in Parish Share
from Huddersfield Episcopal Area...



...has been around
£1 million
less than the
amount requested

...which impacts directly on what we have available to spend .

We all know that times are tough – but could we close that gap?

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYER AND ACTION – EVERY POUND YOU GIVE MAKES A DIFFERENCE!



Other news & info

Share and Share Alike

If I asked most people what topic they least like to talk about, I bet the top answer would be... money! (Unless we're having a moan about how much things cost, etc!). For some reason, money is one of those subjects that's considered not polite to discuss.

But money, and how we use it, is one of the subjects Jesus talked about more than any other – so our Christian living would be somewhat lacking if we didn't pay attention to our 'financial discipleship', and how we put the resources that we have to good use for the kingdom of God. What choices do we make about what to buy, and from whom we buy it? What do we do about the needs around us? How do we support the work of the Christian family, the Church? All these are proper and pertinent questions to be asking ourselves as we think through what our response to God should look like.

We all know that we've been collectively going through some tough times over the past years; financial crises, credit crunches, pandemics, inflation, energy price rises, and so on have affected everyone, mostly negatively. We understand that, we all get it, because we're all living through it.

Part of the impact of this has been felt in what the church family in this diocese has coming in, and therefore what we can pay out. Looking at the figures for our Episcopal Area over the past few years, there has been a pretty consistent shortfall between what was requested in Parish Share each year, and what came in. The shortfall has been around £1million each year for several years.

Now, as I say, we all understand that times have been tough for all of us, not least financially – so there's no point in bashing ourselves over the head with these figures. They are what they are, and we can't change the past, only the future. But, as Bishop Nick often reminds us, we can only pay out what comes in! We don't have enormous reserves to draw upon.

continued...



Other news & info

Share and Share Alike cont...

Years ago, I remember as a boy hearing people on our PCC complaining that the parish share (we called it 'the quota' then) was all going to pay for the diocesan office. It wasn't really true, it was mostly paying for ministry in parishes, but the old grumble never went away. I thought I'd look at what the figures are for our diocese, and I was surprised. I found that for every £3 the diocese receives in Parish Share, we spend £4 on ministry in parishes. We can do that because of some national church funding that helps. But it means that NONE of the parish share is spent on central functions – all of it (plus quite a bit extra) goes back into parish ministry.

This does mean that when the contributions from parishes fall behind what is needed, there is only one area in which the diocese can seek to make savings, and that is in parish ministry. Big reductions have been made in the central team (which has an impact in parishes too), but the impact of reduced share receipts over multiple years can only be on the parish ministry budget, which means clergy posts. We are beginning to see that impact as we have to make tough decisions in vacancies.

I pray that, as time goes on, we will see a recovery in the economy, an easing of the cost of living crisis, an upturn in the amount we can collectively give to resource the work of God in and through our diocesan family, and that we will be in a position before too many years go by, where we are looking to increase the budget for parish ministry again. That will be possible when we are individually and collectively able to help reduce that gap between what's asked for in share, and what's coming in. Please join me in praying that we will be in that position soon.

Meanwhile, let's at least rejoice in the fact that for every £1 we contribute in parish share, the parishes collectively are receiving £1.33 back. That's not a bad rate of return to build from!

Archdeacon Bill



Other news & info

[A Call for Foundation Governors in local schools](#)

There is a desperate shortage of Foundation Governors in our local schools, and this comes as a plea to clergy and lay people to offer their time, energy and wisdom to help our children flourish.

There are some further details in the text to the right, but please email: pa.bphuddersfield@leeds.anglican.org to find out more.

What is my role as a 'Foundation' Governor?

Foundation governors are an important part of the wider team of governors. As such their main role is to work with other members of the governing body to fulfil all of the functions required of all school governors (see above), undertaking training as required. However, a foundation governor has a specific role. It is **not** the role of foundation governors to solely take on responsibility for the 'church school' aspects of governance, all governors are governors of a church school.

The role of the Foundation Governor is to ensure that the full governing body nurtures, encourages and challenges the school in living out its Christian foundation by:

- Developing the distinctive Christian vision and character of the school;
- Ensuring high-quality Collective Worship and Religious Education;
- Securing positive links between the school, the parish and the Diocesan Board of Education;
- Promoting Christian values in the way in which the governing body conducts its business;
- Ensuring that development as a church school is embedded in the school improvement plan and a regular part of the governing body self-evaluation;
- Ensuring that points for development following Section 48 inspection are addressed;
- Being involved in the recruitment process for a new Head Teacher;
- Reporting to the Parochial Church Council or the Diocesan Board of Education as appropriate.

'A strong, well-led governing body, supportive of the school, its teachers and its mission makes an important contribution to the school's wellbeing and effectiveness. The foundation governors will have an especial care for the school's Christian character.'

(National Society 2013)

Welcomes & Farewells

Please do send any updates regarding any changes in your Parish team (e.g. additions or departures within the team) to the EA office on iterative basis to ensure that we can respond appropriately and inform the CMS manager to keep the database up-to-date.

Clergy who have been licensed:

- Revd Julie Anderson – Interim Priest in Charge, Lepton, Emley, Flockton, Kirkburton
- Revd Dr Catherine Shelley – Incumbent, Todmorden and Walsden
- Revd Nigel Stimpson – has become Incumbent, King Cross and Southowram
- Revd Dorothea Bertschmann – Associate Priest, Dewsbury Minster

Welcome to the HEA, or your new role – we hope you are enjoying settling in.

And a few farewells:

- Revd Simon Cash – Team Rector, Dewsbury Minster (retired 31st October 2023)
- Revd Lesley Mattacks – Incumbent, Brownhill (retired 31st January 2024)

Thank you for all you have done and we wish you the very best for your new adventures.

Rest in Peace:

We remember those who share God's nearer presence,

- Ian Gold, PCC Secretary and Parish Electoral Roll Officer. Holmbridge Parish
- Tim Slater, Churchwarden, Huddersfield All Saints and St Thomas Parish
- Revd Barbara Lydon, retired clergy, Rastrick
- Revd John Radcliffe, retired clergy, Meltham

WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND MANY THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS EDITION OF 'HEAR' – IT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED

**Loving.
Living.
Learning.**

Contact Details

Bishop of Huddersfield – The Rt Revd Smitha Prasadam: bishop.smitha@leeds.anglican.org

Archdeacon of Halifax – The Ven Bill Braviner: archdeacon.halifax@leeds.anglican.org

PA Bishop of Huddersfield – pa.bphuddersfield@leeds.anglican.org

PA Archdeacon of Halifax – Christine Bleasdale: pahalifaxarchdeacon@leeds.anglican.org