



## Welcome

Welcome to our second edition of HEAR - the Huddersfield Episcopical Area Review. The place for news and events happening in our Episcopical Area. The newsletter is intended to keep everyone informed and connected and will be published in line with key events in our calendar (see schedule at end). If you would like to contribute, please email:

jo.hodgkinson@leeds.anglican.org



## This Edition

- Bishop's Update
- Israel/Gaza conflict
- Dates for your diary
- Event reviews
- Recent services
- Church Plant
- Training & Grants
- Other news & info
- Welcome and Farewells
- Contact details



## Prayer for the Season

Holy Jesus,  
by being born one of  
us,  
and lying humbly in  
a manger,  
you show how much  
God loves the world.  
Let the light of your  
love always shine in  
our hearts,  
until we reach our  
home in heaven,  
and see you on your  
throne of glory.  
Amen.



## Bishop's Update

At Christmas we stand on the threshold of great promise. Promise of what is yet to be; a new ordering for us and our world. As the prophet Isaiah foretold: "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace." A new era of peace, good news and salvation where God comforts his people and the ends of the earth see the salvation of God in life-giving ways. How we need to hear this message just at a time when peace seems a far distant reality at home and in so many places like Israel, Gaza, Russia, Ukraine, Sudan and more.



The story around which people gather at Christmastime, is a story of transforming hope for new life. The scriptures set for the season invite and permit us to make a new beginning. When that happens, heaven and earth "sing", and there is "joy to the world."

In an age when communication is key, we express joy as we send cards and messages, exchange gifts and make merry!

But how does God communicate? God spoke to people in many and various ways in the past: sometimes quite dramatically in fire, flood, thunderbolt and lightning, and to named Biblical giants.

At Christmas, God speaks to everyone through his Son, Jesus Christ. God does so through prophecy, prayer and the circumstances of our lives: prosperity, redundancy, pregnancy, asylum – even death! God speaks to us through Scripture heard over and over at carol services and concerts as we often use music and poetry to unravel mystery.

Isaiah's poetic vision of peace is the invitation to strive for God's coming kingdom and discover the most daring, powerful kind of peace – the sort of peace that builds bridges, mends hearts, spreads love .... and changes the world.

Whatever our circumstances, may the Prince of Peace touch our hearts and renew our hope as we receive him in our hearts, our homes and our lives.

I wish you and everyone in Kirklees and Calderdale a Happy Christmas and Blessed 2024.

*Bishop Smitha*

Rt Revd Smitha Prasadam  
Bishop of Huddersfield



## Guidance for church leaders on how to respond to the situation in Israel/Gaza

From: Siriol Davies, National P and E coordinator

### Responding to violence in Israel/Gaza

I have been asked for some guidance to church leaders on how to respond to the current situation. I am very aware of how every context is very different and also appreciative of how church leaders are already responding with great integrity and dedication to the challenges. However, I offer the following as things that have emerged as helpful over the last few weeks and may be helpful to use in your diocese where appropriate:

1. Muslim and Jewish communities have both been impacted in huge ways by the Israel/Hamas conflict. The ways they have been impacted are different and it is good to understand some of the differences. It is not the time to force on either community an expectation of acknowledging the suffering of other communities, although it may come voluntarily from them of course. Listening is important right now. Rebuilding of relationships is hopefully the future.

2. The British Jewish community is really tiny and is experiencing communal trauma/shock/grief/bereavement. Almost everyone is impacted personally as the vast majority of the British Jewish community have family or friends who live in Israel. Plus, there is a growing anxiety about blatant antisemitism, especially on social media, and which is increasing the anxiety that nowhere is safe for Jews. I myself have had letters from Jewish people who are feeling too scared to go outside. Relationships with people outside the Jewish community are feeling more fragile and are not being taken for granted.

This is a time to encourage church leaders to connect with Jewish neighbours. Many church leaders have been visiting local synagogues for the Shabbat service on a Saturday morning and this is one simple way of showing solidarity and building trust in relationship. Others have been reaching out to Rabbis and local Rep Council members – just to go for a walk or talk over a coffee. We need to listen to how the antisemitism is being experienced here in the UK.

3. Muslim communities will generally be larger and more mixed; in some areas there may be Palestinian communities and so there may be people personally impacted by deaths/displaced/missing/injured people in Gaza. If not, what there will almost certainly be is a huge sense of injustice and anger at the way that the Muslim communities are ignored and that most people in positions of power are oblivious to their suffering; the plight of the Palestinians is an example of this. Many Muslims will be expressing this from a place of feeling disenfranchised and disempowered in the UK: impacted by systemic power imbalances connecting socioeconomic disadvantage with faith and ethnicity. Longstanding injustices around occupation, settlement growth and daily micro-aggressions provide a context to this conflict that has inflamed frustrations and the sense that western powers are not listening. Into a situation where Palestinians are often seen as “Muslim”, Palestinian Christians are frequently the forgotten “minority within a minority”, adding an extra overlay to the religious complexity.

4. Follow social media posts from the Archbishop of Canterbury

Cont...



## Guidance for church leaders on how to respond to the situation in Israel/Gaza cont...

### 5. A message from Archbishop Hosam 24 October:

As you have probably seen, a massive rocket blast exploded in the midst of our own Ahli Hospital in the heart of Gaza City, tragically killing or seriously wounding hundreds of refugees who had gathered there because they had no other place of shelter in which to go.

Although Ahli's buildings were heavily damaged, two nights later our devoted staff partially reopened the hospital. In doing this, they demonstrated the determination we have in the Diocese of Jerusalem to persevere in our Christian mission to serve others as though we were serving Christ himself (Matt 25 :31-46). And this is the case not just for Gaza, but throughout all the Holy Land. Yet in order to accomplish this mission in the midst of a devastating war, we need to draw upon the strength of the larger Body of Christ. For we understand that when one member of the Body suffers, all parts suffer (1 Cor 12:26).

And so, my sisters and brothers in Christ, I appeal to you to first of all to pray for our mission here, as well for the peace of Jerusalem (Psa 122:6). Secondly, advocate with your representatives for a just and lasting peace in the Holy Land, so that all who dwell within these lands can live in security.

Finally, if you are able, support our ministries in Gaza, Palestine & Israel, and throughout the Diocese of Jerusalem by contributing financially through one of our international partners.

Thank you for helping us continue the work of our Lord Jesus Christ in the very lands in which he himself ministered in his earthly life before offering up his life on our behalf and then rising again victorious from the grave, overcoming death and

giving us hope for a new life. May God bless you.

Archbishop Hosam In Jerusalem asks the church to support ministries in Gaza, Palestine & Israel, and throughout the Diocese of Jerusalem by contributing financially through one of these partners:

Jerusalem and Middle East Church Association (JMECA)

[cafdonate.cafonline.org/24666](http://cafdonate.cafonline.org/24666)

Friends of the Holy Land (Joint Anglican-Roman Catholic charity)

[friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/donate/christmas](http://friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/donate/christmas)

We can also encourage ongoing financial donations to support the ongoing work of the dedicated team from the bombed Anglican Hospital in Gaza. Donate now – Diocese of Norwich Make sure you choose the Al-Ahli Hospital from the drop down list.

### 6. Continue to use the prayer approved by Archbishop Hosam:

O God of all justice and peace,

we cry out to you in the midst of the pain and trauma of violence and fear which prevails in the Holy Land.

Be with those who need you in these days of suffering;

we pray for people of all faiths – Jews, Muslims and Christians and for all people of the land.

While we pray to you, O Lord, for an end to violence and the establishment of peace, we also call for you to bring justice and equity to the peoples.

Guide us into your kingdom where all people are treated with dignity and honour as your children – for to all of us you are our Heavenly Father.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen"



## Resources and prayers for Israel–Palestine (with hyperlinks):

### Organisations who bring people together:

- [Parents' Circle Families Forum](#)
- [Hand in Hand Schools](#)

Follow Archbishop Hosam Naoum on [Facebook](#)

### Suggestions of organisations to donate to:

- [Jerusalem and Middle East Church Association](#)
- [Friends of the Holy Land \(Joint Anglican–Roman Catholic charity\)](#)



## Resources and prayers for Israel-Palestine cont...

### Prayers

*“Think of Others” 7 by Mahmoud Darwish (1941 - 2008)  
Palestinian poet and author.*

As you fix your breakfast, think of others.  
(Don't forget to feed the pigeons).  
As you fight in your wars, think of others.  
(Don't forget those who desperately demand peace).  
As you pay your water bill, think of others  
(those who drink the clouds' rain).  
As you return home, your home, think of others.  
(Don't forget those who live in tents).  
As you sleep and count the stars, think of others.  
(There are people without any shelter to sleep).  
As you express yourself using all metaphorical  
expressions, think of others.  
(those who have lost their rights to speak).  
As you think of others who are far away, think of yourself  
(and say 'if only I were a candle in the dark')

*(This poem inspired the musical performance at the  
national “Humanity Not Hatred” vigil by Palestinian-  
Israeli singer, songwriter, actor and artist, Mira Awad.)*

*Prayer approved by Archbishop Hosam:*

O God of all justice and peace,  
we cry out to you in the midst of the pain and trauma of  
violence and fear which prevails in the Holy Land.  
Be with those who need you in these days of suffering;  
we pray for people of all faiths – Jews, Muslims and  
Christians and for all people of the land.  
While we pray to you, O Lord, for an end to violence and  
the establishment of peace, we also call for you to bring  
justice and equity to the peoples.  
Guide us into your kingdom where all people are treated  
with dignity and honour as your children – for to all of us  
you are our Heavenly Father.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen



## Resources and prayers for Israel-Palestine cont...

### Prayers

*Prayer of Mothers for Life and Peace' by Sheikha Ibtisam  
and Rabbi Tamar Elad-Appelbaum*

God of Life Who heals the broken hearted and binds up  
their wounds  
May it be your will to hear the prayer of mothers  
For you did not create us to kill each other  
Nor to live in fear, anger or hatred in your world  
But rather you have created us so we can grant  
permission to one another to sanctify Your name of Life,  
your name of Peace in this world.  
For these things I weep, my eye, my eye runs down with  
water  
For our children crying at nights,  
For parents holding their children with despair and  
darkness in their hearts  
For a gate that is closing, and who will open it before the  
day has ended?  
And with my tears and prayers which I pray  
And with the tears of all women who deeply feel the pain  
of these difficult days  
I raise my hands to you  
please God have mercy on us

Hear our voice that we shall not despair  
That we shall see life in each other,  
That we shall have mercy for each other,  
That we shall have pity on each other,  
That we shall hope for each other  
And we shall write our lives in the book of Life  
For your sake God of Life Let us choose Life.  
For you are Peace, your world is Peace and all that is  
yours is Peace,  
And so shall be your will and let us say Amen.



## Dates for your diary 2024

Please note the following dates for your diary:

Saturday 2nd March 2024 - Rhythm of Life Lent Retreat

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

Saturday 23rd November 2024 - Study Day for Advent

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, Jo Hodgkinson: [jo.hodgkinson@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:jo.hodgkinson@leeds.anglican.org)

Further details and a link to confirm if you are able to attend the Sept/Nov 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



Saturday 9th March 2024

Lent Quiet Day (led by Bishop John Pritchard)  
at Community of The Resurrection, Mirfield

For further information and booking details, please  
click [here](#)



## Event Reviews

Picture: some attendees of the Living Well Conference

### Living Well Conference - 4th November - Revd Angela Dick

On November 4th I attended the AMEN (Anglican Minority Ethnic Network) day conference in partnership with USPG (United Society Partners in the Gospel) at St. Matt's Church, Burley Road, Leeds. The Conference theme was 'Living Well' and it was well attended by folk from all over the country with good representation of colleagues from our own Diocese. We were privileged to have a programme of excellent speakers. Here are a few insights from the day.

Opening worship was led by Bishop Smitha Prasadam (Bishop of Huddersfield and the Chair of AMEN).

Bishop Arun Arora, (Bishop of Kirkstall), spoke on the Church of England's role relating to justice and Racial justice and that this should be a core part of what we do in the CofE, there was still much to be done concerning racial justice in the church. He highlighted three key areas of development that AMEN could focus on:

1. Church growth – how the GMH (Global Majority Heritage) community can help support growth within the Anglican Church
2. Sustained funding for the vital work of racial justice
3. An outward focus

Statistically, the Chinese church is the fastest growing church, the number of white British Christians is declining whilst minority ethnic Christians are growing. For instance, in London 60% of those attending church on Sunday are minority ethnic. By investing in one another, as the church, we will be investing in Church Growth. We were encouraged to move the focus from ourselves and go into the world seeking justice for all – "when it comes to racial justice we must go beyond the walls of the church, out of the pews. We can become the body synonymous with racial justice".

Revd Dr Godfrey Kesari spoke to us on how to live well with a focus on Scripture (Isaiah 49:15-16a). We were reminded that God does not forget his people – we are inscribed in the palms of hands. Living well means receiving God's glory and living out God's glory in the world. We are to:

- See God's glory where it is visible, for example, in the face of the person next to you.
- To make God's glory visible (with the help of God) where it is not visible. We must make it visible by dealing with racial justice.

Then he reminded us of John's vision in Revelation 7:9 where people from all nations worship God together, all tribes, peoples and languages.

Professor Kelly Brown Douglas talked of resurrection hope amidst the struggles of injustice and racism in our world. We are called to be church holding on to and living our our faith tradition with 'crucifixion' at the centre. She talked about the "urgency of hope – the hope that is found in the action of protest for the hope for the future". She also said 'when someone's 'sacred humanity' is not respected we have to speak out.' We were challenged to think about 'What does God's justice require of us?' Could it be a movement towards the justice that is God's?

It was a day of worship, prayer, fellowship, challenge, inspiration and encouragement. We had opportunity to discuss the themes presented and a Q&A session at the end. I encountered friends old and new and the sense of unity amongst us was powerful.



## Event Reviews

Picture: Revd Sean Robertshaw in his role as an army chaplain

### Retired Clergy Gathering – 13th November – Revd Chris Shedd

Huddersfield EA Retired Clergy met on November 13th at Christ the King, Battyeford. The speaker, appropriately so near to Remembrance Day, was Revd Sean Robertshaw in his role as an army chaplain.

We were pleased to welcome Bishop Smitha who had asked to come to meet retirees informally. At the meeting Bishop Smitha thanked the Retiring EA Retired Clergy and Widows Officers, Revd Christine Shedd and Revd Anne Young, and introduced the new RCWO, Ven Elizabeth Snowden who will take up the role from January 1st 2024.

### Retired Retireds

Revd Chris Shedd and Revd Anne Young have now retired as the Retired Clergy Officers for this Episcopical Area. Both of them have done tremendous work at Area and Diocesan levels and represented clergy voices on a number of issues nationally. From being the first woman on national committees, Chris has managed to give voice to deep concerns – her smile entering the room before she packed a punch. Anne and Chris have been the dynamic duo who now step down after a gallant 9 years. We thank them enormously for their care, compassion and concern and connecting with all the retired clergy of the EA. The new Retired Clergy Officer is The Ven Elizabeth Snowden, based in Meltham. She is looking for someone to assist in this valuable work. Please contact Bishop Smitha's PA, Jo Hodgkinson ([jo.hodgkinson@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:jo.hodgkinson@leeds.anglican.org)) if you would like further details about the role.



## Event Reviews cont...

Picture: Liz Morton and Bishop Smitha speaking at the CYPF Study Day

### CYPF Study Day – 18th November – Revd Ian Jamieson

Bishop Smitha's inaugural Huddersfield clergy study day on Tuesday 28th November was an inspiring one. Held at Christ the King Battyeford, the Bishop invited Diocesan Interfaith Advisor, Revd. Jenny Ramsden and the Bishop of Kirkstall, the Rt. Revd. Arun Arora to join her in leading the day. Following our opening act of worship, led by the Archdeacon of Halifax, the Ven. Bill Braviner, Bishop Smitha spoke to us about the Book of Mark, this year's lectionary gospel. She particularly drew our attention to the urgency of the Gospel and also to Mark's use of the Greek word "Odos" – translated variously as "way", "path", "road", or "journey" – which occurs sixteen times and carries a significance beyond its literal meaning.

Jenny spoke poignantly about the war in Gaza and explained how great an impact it is having upon Jews and Muslims living within our diocese. Jenny, who has good friends amongst both communities, shared their fears about rapid growth of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in the UK. She also shared uplifting stories from within both the Holy Land and our own diocese, about people on 'opposite' sides of the conflict walking and working together to combat the climate of suspicion and hate. She urged us to be there for our Muslim and Jewish neighbours and to offer them the hand of friendship and a listening ear.

In the afternoon, Bishop Arun, offered us some stories of hope in this season of Advent. Beginning with his own moving testimony, the bishop then spoke about the relatively unknown English priest and friend of Mahatma Gandhi, Charles Freer Andrews, who fought for the poor in India and helped to end the exploitative policy of indentured labour. Gandhi reputedly described him as "Christ's Faithful Apostle" on account of his initials and his determination to follow the example of Jesus. Bishop Arun also recounted the lives of Asia Bibi, a Pakistani Christian who faced a death sentence on a trumped-up blasphemy charge, and the politicians, both Muslim and Christian who sacrificed everything in speaking up for her release. We finished by hearing about the Christian rapper Stormzy and were treated to a reprise of his Glastonbury finale when the Pyramid-stage audience were singing lyrics that gave glory to God.

I am sure that I was not alone in leaving the day feeling challenged, encouraged, and inspired; and with a copy of Bishop Arun's advent book, "Stick with Love" from which his stories were drawn.



## Event Reviews cont...

Picture: Attendees at the CYPF Study Day

### CYPF Study Day – 18th November – Revd Ruthi Gibbons

On the 18th November we had a Children, Young People & Families study day for the Episcopical Area. I am new to the diocese and the churches I serve had an average Sunday attendance of 1 for under 18-year-olds, and the one is my son. So, it was a day of important learning for myself and the lay member of the church who came with me.

Bishop Smitha led the day and shared some powerful and shocking statistics that children and young people make up only 0.7% of our congregations within the episcopal area. With that rally cry into action, we went to different workshops on topics such as early years ministry, working with young people, and intergenerational worship.

The workshops I went to were fantastic. First on Early Years ministry led by Jo Young, she helped set the scene by providing a room with an activity for us all to do that was appropriate for early years children too. We made a mirror using tinfoil and stickers that we then used later when Jo gave us an example of how you might lead a time of worship in a toddler group. There was space for discussion and information about other resources that might be helpful for us to use.

The second workshop I went to was on intergenerational ministry and how to lead worship appropriate for all ages. This was led by Liz Morton and helpful advice of worship for all and how to create space for that in church. It was a good job that I had this refresher because the next week at one of my churches 6 children turned up out of the blue where we normally have none. I had done an assembly earlier in the week and children from the school suddenly came to church, what a blessing and what a wonderful challenge!

We knew that we didn't currently have capacity to start a Sunday School, so our worship needed to be intergenerational and appropriate for the children and parents who have started coming. The church and the community sprang into action and there is now an appropriate space for the children who range from 18 months to 10 years old to be and to own as their space at the front of church where they can see what's going on and engage in worship in their own way. So, thank you Liz for the pointers in the workshop, it was amazing to put them into practice so early.

As someone who is new to the Diocese it was a really helpful day not only to meet others in the diocese but also to pause and think about what the church had been doing and where it might be heading, with the sudden new additions. I would highly recommend going (there is another one on the 3rd Feb: click [here](#) for more details) if you didn't get a chance to this time.



## Event Reviews cont...

### Clergy Study Day - 28th November - Fr Simon Fern

Our area study day began with some time reflecting on the Gospel of St Mark – the gospel for the coming lectionary year. Some of the energy and urgency of the gospel writer was felt as it was discussed in small groups and thought given to how this gospel might be preached over the coming year. The day continued with a session focussing on Israel, Palestine and interfaith relations, led by the Rev'd Jenny Ramsden, which proved to be stimulating and provided much food for thought. Bishop Arun Arora led the final session of the day during which we were invited to reflect upon the lives of some lesser-known champions of the Christian faith. Thus, the day closed with those of us present taking away far more questions and points for reflection and prayer than we had arrived with.



## Event Reviews cont...

### Clergy Study Day - 28th November - The Ven Elizabeth Snowden

It was a privilege to join the Area Study and spend time with others enjoying the wonderful hospitality of Christ the King Battyeford. The day was rich in the content presented to us as well as the time to ponder some deep questions in discussions with those around us. Bishop Smitha opened the day with an overview of Marks Gospel. Her talk drew on poetry and art as well as helping us to reflect on the structure of the gospel we will be reading in the lectionary. For me two particular things struck me; firstly the image of a God who is always on the move; this is the way of Jesus (odos) which we are called to follow and secondly the sense that in the incarnation Jesus refuses to keep a safe distance from us. These were two concepts which I have carried away with me to reflect on further and although not overtly mentioned in the other two talks resonated with what was said.

Jenny then shared some reflections on the current conflict in Israel and Palestine. Jenny gave us some advice on our response to the conflict, she quoted the former chief Rabbi Jonathan Sachs who had said that "All people are made in the image of God". She shared something of her experience of interfaith relations and spoke of not transporting the current conflict home and for us as Christians needing not to be neutral but to be torn in two. One of the beautiful images Jenny left us with was in a short video from the 'hand in hand schools' where children from Jewish, Muslim and Christian families are taught in both Arabic and Jewish and in their shared calendar also mark the Jewish, Muslim and Christian year.

Finally Bishop Arun shared stories of hope and discipleship. The one that I have been thinking about is the story of Charlie Freer Andrews who battled to end bonded service for Indians. An amazing man who had met Gandhi and pursued what he believed was important but who has received little acknowledgement of his life's work in this country.

This was a rich feast that was timely as we enter advent conscious of the turmoil of conflict in so many parts of the world.



## Recent services



190th Anniversary of the Parish Church of Hebden Bridge



Harvest Service, St John's CE (VA) J & I School, Golcar



## Trinity Church

*Mondays, after school  
in the Sacred Space  
at Trinity Academy*

Planting a church at Trinity Academy



The Lord be with you.

**All** And also with you.

Did you get the good biscuits?

**All** They come after the prayers.

Big questions. Life changing questions. Awkward questions. Serious questions. Fun questions. Laughter. Biscuits. Lots of biscuits. This is the brave new world we are discovering in Halifax and Calder Valley Deanery as we work together at Trinity Academy to plant a church for students.

Everyone who has encountered Bishop Smitha since she has been ministering among us has heard her vision for young people taking their place within our churches. As a deanery, this has been a large part of our growing vision for the communities we serve over the last 12 months. In spring, our synod focused on the different Children and Youth work that was going on around the deanery. We particularly looked at the links that we have with local schools. We heard about the growing work of CICS (Christians in Calderdale Schools) across the area as well as their renewed vision for the future. We also invited Ruth Walker, the lay chaplain at Trinity Academy to come and share with us the work that she does with the students. Over the few months that she had been working in the school, she had many hopes of how her role would develop a link with local churches in the coming years.

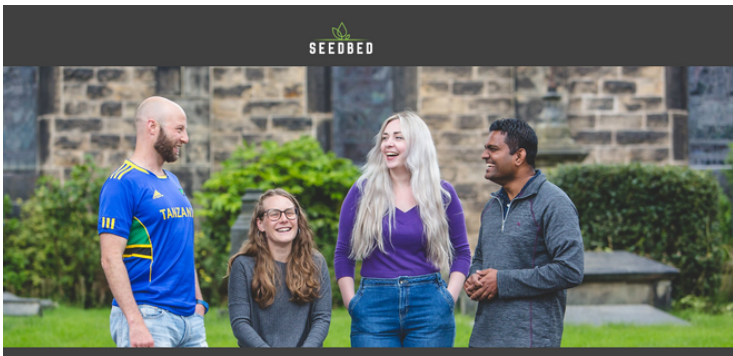
Following this lively meeting, Ruth and I began to explore the possibility of working in partnership to plant a church once a week after school for students. Unsurprisingly, the catchment area for Trinity Academy doesn't conform to parish boundaries so we decided to work across the whole deanery. The vision of a place for secondary age children to explore faith and have positive experiences of church was one that synod grabbed with both hands. Having sought financial support from the Bishop's Development Fund and the Family and Social Welfare Council, and involvement from different parishes, we began in September.

When I was asked to write a short piece for HEAR, I wondered what should be the key point I should be telling you. I think it is this: Trinity Church is a fledgling. It is just starting to find its feet. For many weeks we had a congregation of 1.5 students. After eight weeks, out of the blue, six turned up. And then the week after there were four. Who knows who will be there next week. The invitation to step into God's presence is made. There is a safe space for students to bring the bigger questions of life the universe and everything. There is a place for prayer, exploring the ancient scriptures and biscuits. We are looking at how we develop the Sacred Space at the heart of the school. We will explore trips to local churches, and further afield. And it all begins where two or three are gathered together.

Be encouraged. Don't be afraid of small beginnings. And please pray for us.



## Training and Grants



### Discovery Year

Discovery Year is a new approach to training from St Hild College. Discovery Year is for anyone who would like to explore their role in the church through Christian training and personal support and coaching, delivered in two parts, a weekly online (Zoom) on Thursday evenings and monthly in-person meeting in your local area.

The programme runs between January and December 2024. The training style used in Discovery Year is non-academic, ensuring that you'll feel able to learn regardless of your educational background.

To find out more, click [here](#).



### **Conflict Transformation in the Church**

Monday 22 January & Tuesday 23 January 2024  
9am-5pm (both days)

Facilitated by Paul Hutchinson  
(former director of Corrymeela Peace Centre;  
[www.corrymeela.org](http://www.corrymeela.org))

**Venue**  
College of the Resurrection, Mirfield



### **Content**

This course will explore understandings/theories of conflict, reflect on Biblical texts, look at practical applications of conflict transformation in church settings, and will seek to develop self-awareness as a foundational tool for responding healthily to conflict.

For further information, please contact:  
[dbertschmann@mirfield.org.uk](mailto:dbertschmann@mirfield.org.uk)



## Training and Grants

### Grants available

Please contact Bishop Smitha ([bishop.smitha@leeds.anglican.org](mailto: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



An opportunity to gather with other female clergy to worship, pray and discuss the warp and weft of our lives and ministry in Christ.

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January  
2.30-4.30pm**

St Marks Church, Greenhead Road,  
Utley, Keighley, BD20 6ED

Please email  
[sarah.harrison@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:sarah.harrison@leeds.anglican.org)  
to book your place



### Huddersfield Firm Roots Cancer Prayer Support Group

**Meets on the first Thursday of every  
month, 6.30pm – 8.00pm at  
Kirkheaton Parish Centre, Church Lane,  
Kirkheaton, Huddersfield HD5 0BH**

*Join us for friendship, encouragement,  
reflections, music, tea and cake and to  
pray for people affected by cancer.*

***Everyone welcome!***

Email [firmrootskirkheaton@yahoo.com](mailto:firmrootskirkheaton@yahoo.com) or call 01484 531449

Please also get in touch if you would like to go on our prayer list and our group will pray for you.

[www.firmroots.org.uk](http://www.firmroots.org.uk)

From Laurence Saffer: "A group of families who have at least 1 member who is Jewish and live in Kirklees or Calderdale have recently come together. They have held a Shabbat service, lit Chanukah candles together, and are having a social over New Year. They are happy to hear from anyone else who is Jewish and lives in either Kirklees or Calderdale and would like to meet or simply be in touch. If so could they email [info@ljrc.org](mailto:info@ljrc.org)."



## Other news & info



ASWA works to promote animal welfare, on the basis that care for all God's creatures is a non-negotiable part of Christian discipleship. The "dominion" spoken about in the first creation narrative is not a right to exploit other living creatures, but a duty to care from them as befits people made in the image of a loving God.

For more information and details of the society's [Animal Friendly Church of the Year award](#), please click [here](#). The award winner The winner gets a full hamper of ethical and useful goodies for their church as well as a large beautiful brass plaque.

### DO YOU HAVE THE SKILLS TO FIX THINGS?

We would like to set up a Repair Café in Skircoat Green, where people can be helped to repair their broken items in return for a donation. A win for the pocket and the planet! To do this, we need volunteers.

Examples of skills could be sewing, repairs to small electrical items, computers, furniture, bikes and toys. We also need people to bake and staff the café

If you have a skill to share and are willing to donate a few hours every other month please e-mail [skircoatrepaircafe@gmail.com](mailto:skircoatrepaircafe@gmail.com)

## Welcomes & Farewells

### Clergy who have been licensed:

- Revd Jason (Jay) Hewitt - Interim Priest in Charge, Staincliffe and Carlinghow
- Revd Melusi Sibanda - Incumbent, Heckmondwike (with Norristhorpe) and Liversedge
- Three new Deacons: Revd Helen Jones, Revd Graeme Blackwell and Revd Simon Fern
- Revd Tommy Daghish - Priest in Charge, Sowerby Bridge
- Revd Alan Maxwell - Priest in Charge, Bradshaw and Holmfield
- Revd Ruthi Gibbons - Interim Priest in Charge, Hebden Bridge and Heptonstall
- Revd Helen Chamberlain - Incumbent, Cleckheaton

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

### And a few farewells:

- Revd Rodney Chapman - Incumbent, Stainland and Outlane
- Revd Kate Currie - Priest-in-Charge, Skelmanthorpe
- Revd Stephanie Hunter - Priest-in-Charge, Cumberworth, Denby, Denby Dale, Shepley & Kirkburton
- Revd Canon Mark Umpleby - Associate Priest, Batley
- Revd Cathy Reardon - Incumbent, Mytholmroyd and Cragg Vale
- Revd Amanda Grant - Interim Priest-in-Charge, Shelley
- Revd Capt Paul Tyler - Priest in Charge, Woodhouse and Birkby
- Revd Jo Baxter-Fielding - Associate Priest, Marsden and Slaithwaite with East Scammonden
- Revd Simon Cash - Incumbent, Dewsbury Minster

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

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

If you would like to contribute, please send details of events/stories to celebrate to Bishop Smitha's PA (see email below). We will email with 2 weeks' advance notice of distribution, to let you know the deadline.

**Loving.  
Living.  
Learning.**

## Contact Details

Bishop of Huddersfield - The Rt Revd Smitha Prasad: [bishop.smitha@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:bishop.smitha@leeds.anglican.org)

Archdeacon of Halifax - The Ven Bill Braviner: [archdeacon.halifax@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:archdeacon.halifax@leeds.anglican.org)

PA Bishop of Huddersfield - Jo Hodgkinson: [jo.hodgkinson@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:jo.hodgkinson@leeds.anglican.org)

PA Archdeacon of Halifax - Christine Bleasdale: [pahalifaxarchdeacon@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:pahalifaxarchdeacon@leeds.anglican.org)