

Holy Trinity Boar Lane open to Leeds city workers

Holy Trinity Boar Lane is home to a new midweek ministry for those who work in the city centre of Leeds, and, as people begin to return to offices,



Josh Cockayne has offered a reflection on the church's plans for the coming year.

After almost two years of intermittent homeworking, Leeds city centre is beginning to show signs of coming back to life; cafes are filling with lunchtime meetings, it is increasingly difficult to find a space on the bus each morning, and offices are opening their doors to city centre workers after being encouraged to “work from home

where possible”.

Leeds is one of the fastest growing employment sectors in the country and around 60,000 people work within a 10-minute walk of Holy Trinity. The growing community at Holy Trinity Boar Lane are looking for ways to connect their faith with their working lives and to create a space to invite people to explore faith for the first time.

We currently hold a weekly Wednesday prayer breakfast (8am-8.30am), a short service of worship and reflection followed by breakfast. From March, we will also host a regular Thursday lunchtime service, exploring how the bible can be relevant to those work in the city. Eventually, there will also be a weekly midweek eucharist service.



New MU President takes on her role

The Diocese of Leeds is pleased to welcome a new president for our Mothers' Union.

On Saturday, January 22, Wakefield Cathedral hosted the Mothers' Union Commissioning Service for the new triennium. Elaine Swinhoe took over as Diocesan President from Jean Thurman, who has successfully guided the organization through the



first challenging six years of Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Leeds.

The Venerable Peter Townley, Archdeacon of Pontefract, is to continue as Diocesan Chaplain, with a new group of Trustees and team leaders commissioned by the Rt Revd Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds, at the service as well.

Out of winter, into spring, and on to Easter

Bishop Jonathan Gibbs

The last two years have felt like one long winter, interrupted by a few bright days before returning to the gloom of long, dark days. The pandemic has taken a huge amount out of us all, as we faced the loss of loved ones and the curtailment of so much of what we took for “normal life”.

Almost every time I have spoken with people over the last year about how things are going, they have spoken about feeling exhausted and drained, and being in need of refreshment and hope. We seem to have been through so many false dawns, and that has taken its toll on us. Now of course we are facing all sorts of new challenges and uncertainties, with the crisis in Ukraine and the impending rise in energy costs, to add to all the rest!

Yet now also seems to be a time when people are beginning to think about the future, and to dare to dream that spring may actually be coming once more. In part this is to do with the days getting longer and the COVID restrictions being gradually lifted, but I do believe there is also an important opportunity for us as Christians to take a lead in offering hope and new direction to the people of our



communities.

We will soon enter the season of Lent, which is traditionally a time for reflection and penitence. There is still much over which we are mourning, and we need to make space and time for lament over what we have lost. These are things we will need to do in the coming few weeks – acknowledging our shared sense of loss and standing alongside people as they grieve, watching and waiting at the foot of the Cross.

But Lent is also a time of preparing for Easter, and for the new hope that Jesus’ victory over darkness and death alone can bring. This is not just optimism – it is hope in the faithfulness of God and the new life we find in him. In Christ we move out of winter into spring, whatever life may bring.

**+Jonathan
Bishop of Huddersfield**

Changes for the better at Kildwick’s Lang Kirk

Three of the young ringers at St Andrew’s, Kildwick have been changing things for the better outside its bell tower.

In a morning of hard graft, Angus Firth, Alfie Swinton and George Rees made an early start to the church’s spring clean as part of their work towards Duke of Edinburgh awards.



Storm Malik put paid to plans to oil the external doors and so instead, they sanded floors, added hinges to the disabled access ramp, polished and oiled the gate bolts and put a shine to the eagle lectern.

“They’ve done a brilliant morning of work which has left the church a good deal smarter,” said Chris Wright of St Andrew’s.

St Andrew’s church, also known as the Lang Kirk, is now open to visitors on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from about 10 am to 2 pm.

Church comforts and supports community after school blaze tackled by fifty firefighters

In the wake of a fire that has badly damaged Ash Green Primary School in Halifax, Holy Nativity Church has opened its doors to support the community hit by the blaze.

The large fire engulfed the primary school on the evening of Tuesday, February 1 when police and up to fifty firefighters attended the scene.



In response Holy Nativity Church, located across the road from Ash Green Primary, opened its premises to offer support and pastoral care to local residence affected by the fire.

Revd Robb Sutherland (pictured), Vicar of Mixenden and Illingworth, said Holy Nativity Church “spent the day bringing people in the



community together.

“The church has been a space where toddlers have toddled whilst their parents have opened up. We’ve had staff and students who have had nowhere to go coming together and seeing each other, talking and checking in with each other.

“Ash Green has been at the heart of the community for decades,” added Robb.

“As I’ve been walking up there with Mr Sheppard (headteacher at Ash Green) and talking with people in the community, this is clearly very upsetting for everyone.

“We’ve had amazing support from the community. People have given more than you could imagine of their time, generosity, finances and their love for one another.”

New Honorary Canons installed at Cathedral

Two new Honorary Canons have been recently installed at Ripon Cathedral, as the cathedral celebrates more than 1300 years of ministry.

The Revd Canon Hayley Cabbett-Matthews, Director of Lay Training for the diocese, was made Honorary Canon, while Matthew Ambler, Chair of the House of Laity in the Diocese of Leeds’ Synod, was made Honorary Lay Canon.

The Rt Revd Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds, joined the celebrations at the cathedral.



Statutes provide for a variety of canons to be appointed to work with the Dean to enable the cathedral to fulfil its calling as a centre for mission for the Diocese of Leeds, together with its partner cathedrals, Wakefield and Bradford.

About his installation Matthew said: “It is an honour to be installed as an Honorary Lay Canon of Ripon Cathedral during this its 1,350th Anniversary Year.”

Keep confident on the slopes of life

**Angela Chorlton,
Trainee Licenced Lay
Minister**

January has passed with its flurry of resolutions and hopeful expectations of what the new year will bring. Spring has not yet sprung...which leaves us in this 'in between' month of February. What does this month have going for it?!

One thing coming up is the Winter Olympics in Beijing – in fact, it starts the day this newsletter goes to press – 4th February. I don't know about you, but I think there is something very admirable about the courage of a ski jumper and the sheer death-defying bravery of a bobsleigh team. And as someone who struggles with low temperatures (why was I called to Bradford?!) I admire the determination and perseverance of the athletes to train and perform in bitterly cold conditions.

Perhaps this year God will ask you to do something risky - something brave – something which you never imagined you would be able to do. Perhaps He is already asking you to do it but you're still waiting at the starting line?



In January last year I wrote a 'resolution' in my prayer journal to study. I didn't really know what that meant, I just had the impression that study would be important in the new year. A few months later, I began Licenced Lay Minister training. No-one was more surprised than me. Some days I feel like I'm going for gold - other days I feel like I'm flying off the piste having lost both skis! On those days I need to rely on God's word more than my feelings – words such as the verse which pinged up on my phone as I hesitatingly set off for my first day of training:

“Do not throw away your confidence, it will be richly rewarded” (Heb 10:35)
God's primary purpose for us in life is to be 'mature and complete' (James 1:4) - which means facing regular challenges that grow our faith. However, we can be thankful that these challenges will always be accompanied with his faithful presence – even down the fastest slopes of life!

Mindfulness and mission explored in new book

'Mindfulness as Mission Gift' is the name of a new publication, co-authored by a clergy member from the Diocese of Leeds.



Intended as a resource for the church, 'Mindfulness as Mission Gift' is written by the Rt Revd Chris Edmondson, an assistant bishop and retired member of clergy in the Bradford Area, and Karen Openshaw, founder of Karen Openshaw Consultancy (both pictured).

Karen and Bishop Chris write: "What we're aiming to do in this publication, as we continue to emerge from the dreadful impact of the pandemic, is make connections between the popular and growing practice of mindfulness, and the church's call to mission."