

## £4.2 million boost for our diocese from the Church Commissioners

Key Christian faith projects in our diocese will get a £4.2m boost, thanks to funding from the Church of England.

This successful bid for targeted support from the Church Commissioners will bolster and revitalise at least ten churches in the Bradford Episcopal Area and encourage a raft of new worshippers and lay leaders in its tough urban areas.

There will also be further investment in city centre worship, as the grant includes a second stage of funding for Fountains Church, a former nightclub, to finish building



works and improvements ahead of Bradford's high profile role as City of Culture 2025.

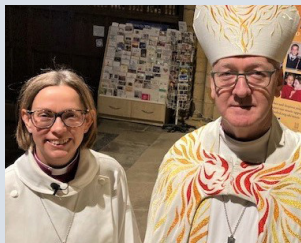
The programme has received unequivocal support from senior leaders and trustees within the diocese and the Rt Revd Dr Toby Howarth, Bishop of Bradford, said:

"We are grateful that the Church Commissioners recognise the potential for growing Christ's church across the Bradford District. This money enables parishes with strong worshipping communities to give even more support to neighbouring churches in their outreach and service."

"This grant will benefit some of Bradford's most challenged neighbourhoods, and will also enable completion of building works at Fountains Church."

## Diocese says farewell to Bishop Helen-Ann

The Diocese bade a fond farewell to the Rt Revd Dr Helen-Ann Hartley at a special evensong service at Ripon Cathedral.



She has now left her suffragan role of five years as the Bishop of Ripon to take up a new challenge as the diocesan Bishop of Newcastle and after thanking Bishop Nick Baines and clergy colleagues for their support, she paid tribute to the people of the Ripon Episcopal Area.

"Let us pray for Bishop Helen-Ann and her husband Myles that they will thrive and build new friendships in Newcastle," Bishop Nick said.

# Racial Justice Sunday

## Bishop Arun Arora

It was something of a reality check to discover that most, if not all, of those currently enrolled as diocesan interns and ministry experience volunteers were unaware of the name of Stephen Lawrence. This year marks 30 years since Stephen's murder and almost all of those at the training session on anti-racism I delivered recently hadn't been born in April 1992 when the aspiring architect was waiting at a bus stop in Eltham, South London when he was stabbed to death for being black.

The subsequent investigation by the Metropolitan Police assumed that Stephen must have been in part, at least, to blame for the circumstances that led to his death. He was, after all, a young black man. Surely that meant he was involved with a gang and that his death was part of a continuing beef or reprisal? He must have done something to provoke or incite his own murder. What other reason could there be?

The theme for this year's Racial Justice Sunday on February 12 is the commemoration of Stephen's death - an emblematic reminder of the continuing call and work for justice that forms a core part of our discipleship. Jesus Christ's Nazareth manifesto set out at the start of his ministry Luke 4, combined with the call to just living by the prophets - Isaiah, Micah, Amos and others - all point to a call for us to work for



justice in our journey of discipleship as co-workers, led by the Spirit, in building the Kingdom of God.

In her introduction to the resources for Racial Justice Sunday, prepared by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, Baroness Doreen Lawrence writes: "Stephen's story is both challenging and inspirational. He was a normal young person who made the most of everyday opportunities. Young people today may not yet have heard the name Stephen Lawrence, but his story is as relevant today as it has ever been. Racial Justice Sunday is a vital strand of the legacy of hope and change that has been carved in Stephen's name."

As we lament the lives of those like Stephen whose lives have been diminished, scarred or lost to the brutality and sinfulness of racism, so we continue to fix our eyes on Christ; he who calls us to live lives which proclaim in word and deed the Good News of God. To work together for the coming of that Kingdom where people from every tribe and nation will stand together, united in Christ, before the throne of God.

**+Arun  
Bishop of Kirkstall**

# Partnerships explored at Bradford Study Day

Faith leaders, public sector representative and more gathered recently at Fountains Church Bradford for conversations and learning about building partnerships across the Bradford area.

The study morning was organised by the Bishop Toby Howarth and brought together area clergy and licensed lay ministers with other faith leaders, and representatives from the local council, police, and the NHS.

Attendees heard from Theo Sheridan-Watts, Chief Officer at Wellsprings Together, about how the Christian faith motivates, forms and shapes our work for good in our communities.

Bana Gora, CEO of the Muslim Women's Council, then spoke about the work of Muslim groups in the area, and how Islam puts generosity and charity at the centre of their work.

Finally, Ian MacBeath, Strategic Director, Adults for Bradford Council, talked about how the council is working locally and engaging partners across the region.

People then discussed how faith and community can work effectively with statutory agencies.

# Hong Kong arrivals welcomed and baptised by Leeds Church

New arrivals from Hong Kong continue to be supported and welcomed by St Barnabas' Church in Alwoodley.



Sunday worship service.

Since the announcement in 2021 of the British National Overseas passport scheme, allowing Hong Kong citizens to come and reside in the UK, North Leeds has seen a large number move from Hong Kong.

In response to this, St Barnabas have been working alongside Faith Action to reach out to those moving from Hong Kong, by providing weekly English classes.

Some of the arrivals have also joined the church, attending worship regularly on a Sunday. A number of people were baptised during a recent

Revd David Young, vicar at St Barnabas and the only clergy person in our diocese with both British and Chinese heritage, said: "It's been such a great joy in the last eighteen months to see growing numbers of people from Hong Kong coming to worship here at St Barnabas.

"Reaching out to welcome new arrivals from Hong Kong has become an important part of our ministry.

"Welcoming the stranger and hospitality is at the heart of our faith in Jesus and that is what we at

Barnabas have been seeking to live out," said Revd David Young.



# Honorary Canons are installed at Ripon Cathedral

A range of Honorary Canons have been installed at Ripon Cathedral in recognition of their service and dedication to the diocese.

The following people were installed into their particular roles by the Bishop of Leeds, the Rt Revd Nick Baines, during a choral evensong on Sunday, January 29.



Honorary Canon: The Ven Bill Braviner, Archdeacon of Halifax

Honorary Canon: The Revd Canon Paul Maybury, Rector of Leeds City Parish

Honorary Canon: The Rt Revd Arun Arora, Bishop of Kirkstall  
Honorary Canon: The Revd Martin Fletcher, Incumbent of Richmond with Hudswell and Downholme and Marske

Honorary Lay Canon: Mr Peter Foskett, former Registrar to the Diocese of Leeds

Honorary Lay Canon: Mrs Elaine Swinhoe, Mothers Union President for the Diocese of Leeds

## Aspire to new habits this Lent

### Revd Robb Sutherland

Walking through the wilderness of recent years has taught me that it is very easy to “fall out of the habit”. For many of us, there are aspects of the life of our churches that have simply not returned. Some people have taken the opportunity given by our collective pause to reassess their church roles and step back. Some of our habits have been quite difficult to get going once more. For our community at Holy Nativity, it has taken until last month to be able to restart Rock Mass each month. Like a steam locomotive whose fire has long since gone cold, it has taken much work and a lot of effort to get many of our church communities moving once more.

It is with this backdrop that we approach Lent after a brief window of ordinary time in so many aspects of our daily lives. This may be a longed-for season in which you aspire to form new spiritual habits. Perhaps however, the thought of now losing something else familiar fills you with dread. Maybe you are just clinging on to the ever growing to do list with your fingernails and thoughts of Lent aren't even on your horizon yet.

Before I came to faith, the people around me often



approached Lent like New Year's resolutions. Pancakes and syrup were followed by a day or two without Mars Bars. Later as an adult convert, my now wife Ruth, taught me to enter lent as a spiritual discipline, bringing us back into the presence of the Divine. As we have grown together, Ruth has taught me that Lenten discipline can shape and mould our discipleship, forming habits that extend long beyond Easter Morning. From where I sit at my desk, I can spot the office bins from the corner of my eye. These simple baskets are a remnant from the year we took up recycling everything-that-is-possible. An Ikea steel-mesh reminder of that which was taken up that persists throughout the ages.

Whether enthusiastically seizing each day or wearily dreading the wilderness, may we each discover habits old or new, big or small that bring us closer to the presence of God as we journey together towards the cross.

**Revd Robb Sutherland**  
Vicar of Holy Nativity Mixenden

## Diocesan Interns start 2023 looking at racial justice

Our Leeds Diocesan Interns started 2023 with much food for thought as they rejoined for training designed to equip them for life, work and leadership.



Coinciding with Martin Luther King Day, Bishop Arun Arora led a session on Racial Justice using the Channel 4 documentary 'The School That Tried to End Racism' as stimulation for discussion.

Together they explored unconscious bias, issues of white privilege and institutional and systemic racism, whilst pointing to our identity in Christ - Galatians 3:28 "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."