



ADVENT GREETINGS

Advent, the church’s season we’ve just begun, is about waiting. Waiting partly for something that has already taken place once – the coming of Jesus. But Advent reminds us that we live between the “already” and the “not yet”. We experience already something of the Kingdom rule of God’s mercy and love shown in Jesus, but that experience, like an appetiser, only makes us long for more. More of Jesus himself, and more justice, peace and healing for ourselves and our world.

The Apostle Paul writes that all creation groans as we wait for the glory that is still to be revealed. This is what he calls hope. Hope is active waiting. It is living now in the light of what we’ve already tasted and what we believe is still to come.

Hope is a powerful incentive. We may take for granted the widespread availability of vaccines or other healthcare, or education or work. But for people living instead with war, hunger and oppression, it is hope that makes them risk their lives and even the lives of their children in crossing the Channel in inflatable dinghies.

Our stuttering emergence from the worst of the pandemic has arguably been tougher for us and our churches than going into lockdown in the first place. Many of us and those around us are deeply tired.

So in these times, let’s dig deeply down into our reserves of hope, leaning into Jesus and what he will bring when he comes and so living as people who are beacons of hope for those around us.

+ Toby Bradford

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SAVING CREATION

Our recent BEAF meeting, which came hot on the heels of the COP26 gathering in Glasgow concentrated on our efforts as a Diocese to achieve our goal of becoming a net carbon zero organisation. Jemima Parker, our Diocesan Environmental officer, updated us on what had happened at COP26 and what we could all do, both as individuals and churches, to help stem global warming and save the environment. We were also joined by a group of young people from U:nite, a youth group which comprise of young people from a variety of parishes across the Episcopal Area. They shared their thoughts and dreams with the group.

The whole subject of climate change can be quite daunting for many, leaving us wondering how we can make a difference. The good news is you can. All the little steps we take do add up. So to help you on your way the Diocese has created resources which can help you on your climate change journey:

Six Steps to Carbon Net Zero – Church Toolkit

Saving Creation: Strategic action to combat climate change

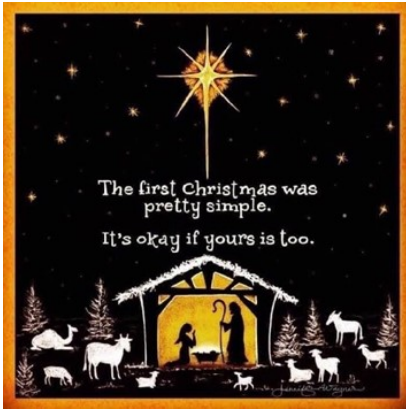
Join us on the journey to become a carbon net zero church. We invite you to start on this pathway by using the new Churches Toolkit. Find out more about churches who are already working to be carbon net zero.

[Saving Creation: Six Steps to Carbon Net Zero Churches Toolkit](#)

[Saving Creation: Churches Case Studies Vol. 1 Template Carbon Net Zero Parish Plan](#)

GRUB'S UP! A SPACE TO EAT, SHARE AND PRAY

Natasha Thomas, curate at Keighley Parish, shares news of Grub's Up as it reaches its first anniversary



CHRISTMAS RESOURCES

Last year we put together various resources that you can use "off the peg" for your church services during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Although they were produced for Christmas 2020 many of the resources can easily be used for online services this year. They are all available as individual files so you can pick and choose which to use. You'll find everything [HERE](#)

There are also free resources to be found on A Church Near You and <https://adventonline.faith/>

A shout-out on social media prompted a "minor miracle" at St Andrew's, Kildwick when helpers appeared from nowhere to help clear up its car park and pathways I had expected a rather miserable time with a couple of us old codgers, pitifully shifting a few leaves. Instead, a team of ten took the job apart!" said work gang organiser Chris Wright.

"Connections and conversation happened and somebody described it as a minor miracle."

The church car park provides an important resource in a village of narrow, twisting roads. Some neighbours are welcomed to use it regularly. Others use it as a base for walking or canal expeditions, while all space is required for the school run each day, explained Chris.

"After a short plea on Facebook, we arrived to find that half of the job had been finished already by friendly neighbours. More arrived and what had been billed as a superficial first sweep turned into a comprehensive clearance, not only of the carpark but also all the paths around the church and War Memorial.

Grub's Up is a church service designed specifically for people who we meet around the church yard in the centre of Keighley; people who live unstructured or addictive lifestyles; people who have been battered by the storms of life.

We began, very gently, in 2020 at the beginning of lent offering prayer and healing alongside the café and we saw some real changes in the behaviour and life of those who came in for prayer. And then COVID and lock down hit!

The church, like all C of E churches, was closed, but from time to time I would visit the town centre and see the community and the people I had grown to love deteriorating, so, in conversation with our Rector Mike Cansdale, we agreed that when lockdown lifted we would start to offer a meal and a service each week on a Thursday evening.

After a rigorous risk assessment we opened on Thursday 23rd September 2020. And so, it has been that **every** Thursday (without fail) a service has run or prayer been offered. Even when the second lockdown occurred we continued to provide a take-away, and to offer prayer. Volunteers have stepped forward to become befrienders and food providers and a hot meal is cooked and delivered by additional volunteers. Amazingly we have not struggled for support or food. We have been abundantly blessed!

Starting with an average of 8 - 12 people attending, we now have a regular congregation of 20 - 25.

People have told us that:

"I feel such a sense of peace by being in this place"

"I look forward to coming and being here each week - I know I am accepted for who I am"

Thank you to everyone who has supported this service over the last year

PLEASE KEEP PRAYING FOR THIS SERVICE AND ITS CONGREGATION

CARPARK CLEANUP

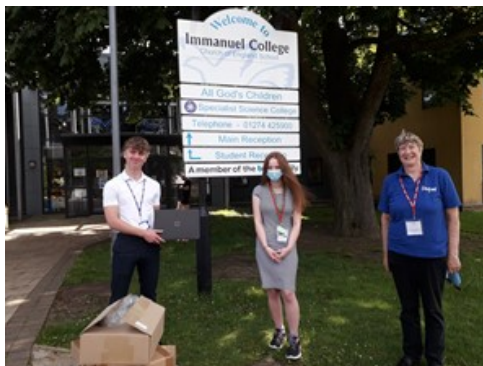


IMMANUEL SCHOOL PRIZE GIVING

Students from Immanuel College, Bradford, have been awarded prizes for perseverance, character and hope as part of the school's annual Prize-Giving Ceremony, held at the city's cathedral.

Over 200 students from Years 7-11 and Post 16 at the Church of England mixed secondary school and sixth

form were joined by family and friends to celebrate their achievements, with prizes and certificates being handed out from Rt Revd Dr Toby Howarth, Bishop of Bradford and Mrs D. Sterling, Chair of Governors at Immanuel College. The ceremony, hosted by Revd Stuart Hacking, Chaplain at Immanuel College, served as a celebration of the commitment and dedication of the students towards the Christian ethos that Immanuel College prides itself on.



Sorted BMO have also been able to help pupils at the school. Earlier this year they provided 5 laptops, on a long term lease, for use by pupils to enable them to continue with school work while the school was closed.

PERSONAL GROWTH & LEADERSHIP REFRESHER DAY: 12TH FEBRUARY 2022

A day for both those who have already enjoyed being part of one of the Personal Growth and Leadership Courses, and for churches who are considering bringing a group to the next course starting later in 2022.

We will refresh material covered in the course, hear some stories about the impact of the course on individuals, and then offer some additional material on leadership that we've not used before.

The day is being hosted at Fountains Church in the centre of Bradford from 10 am to 3.30 pm. Lunch can be provided by Grace Kitchen at Fountains.

To book places, please contact [Carmel](#)

SUDAN CALENDAR

The Sudan Calendar is now available and can be obtained from the Bradford Area Office either in person or by post. If you would like multiple copies please contact: sudanlinkcontact@gmail.com. A donation of £2 per calendar (or £2.50 if posted) would be appreciated (payable to Leeds DBF and marked Sudan).

There was a military coup in Sudan on 25th October. There are negative implications flowing from this for all Sudanese and of course the churches. In particular there is the risk of sanctions on a crashed economy and no possibility of visiting until our Foreign Office advises that it is safe to do so. The calendar is an ideal way of keeping our fellow Christians in Sudan in our prayers throughout the year.



**ECCLESIASTICAL 12 DAYS OF GIVING:
£120,000,
120 CHARITIES,
12 DAYS**

Ecclesiastical Insurance have launched their 12 Days of Giving. For 12 days – as part of our movement for good – we will be making £120,000 in donations to charities to help them deliver their vital work.

To nominate a charity please click on the link and follow the instructions.

<https://www.movementforgood.com/12days/>

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Since our last edition of The BEAN, back at Easter there have been quite a few changes of clergy personnel:

Comings:

Derek Jones, former curate, is now Priest-in-Charge of Little Horton

Alison Wooding, from the diocese of Sheffield, is now Team Vicar in Harden, Wilsden, Cullingworth & Denholme

Alex Crawford, from the diocese of Durham, was licensed in September as the new incumbent of St Margaret's, Ilkley

Brian Greenfield, former curate at Sutton, Cowling and Lothersdale has now been licensed as Minister of The Eldwick Church, Priest-in-charge of Christ Church Windhill and Priest-in-Charge of St Paul Shipley

Ben Care, from the diocese of Litchfield, is the new Associate Vicar of Giringlinton Heaton and Manningham

Goings:

Stephen Treasure (Little Horton) has moved to take up a post in the diocese of York after over 30 years in the dioceses of Bradford and Leeds.

Ian (Incumbent of Low Moor & Oakenshaw) and **Sue** (Assoc Vicar at Giringlinton Heaton and Manningham) **Jennings** have left to take up roles with CMS in SE Asia.

Jonathan Pritchard and **Graham Potter**, Team Vicars in Keighley have both secured positions as Rectors in the dioceses of Chelmsford and York respectively.

Julie Bacon (Kildwick, Cononley & Bradley) is now an Assistant Archdeacon in the diocese of Sheffield

Andy Greiff (Shelf & Buttershaw) is moving to a new post in the diocese of York

Steve Lees (Bolton St James) is now the full time Anglican Chaplain for Bradford Hospitals Trust

David Coleman (Steeton) is retiring at the end of December

Malcolm Hendry (Cottingley) is also retiring at the end of December.

We wish them all the best in these new chap-

MITZVAH DAY

Members of faith communities in Bradford and Leeds worked in collaboration for this year's Mitzvah Day, the annual Jewish community-led day of social action, which took place across the country on Sunday November 21, which was also the final day of 'Interfaith Week' 2021.

The initiative was co-ordinated by Simon Phillips, Director of Interfaith for the Leeds Jewish Representative Council, and Jenny Ramsden, Interfaith Advisor to the Diocese of Leeds, in partnership with Kaneez Khan from Wellsprings Together and Humayun Islam from the BEAP Community Partnership.

This year's theme was 'Together This Mitzvah Day', and in the run up to Mitzvah Day a range of faith institutions, community organisations and individuals from the Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu and Christian faith traditions donated a wide range of items to support two local domestic abuse charities.

On Mitzvah Day itself members from diverse faith communities from across Bradford and Leeds gathered together at the BEAP Community Partnership in Manningham, Bradford, to sort and pack the donated goods, which were then delivered to 'Staying Put' and 'Leeds Women's Aid'. Bishop Toby said: "Today has been a wonderful example of how our diverse faith communities in Bradford and Leeds work so well together to meet the needs of vulnerable people in our communities".

Kaneez Khan said: "I am so grateful for these relationships and for these really giving organisations for what they've done for us".

Jenny said: "I also want to say a heartfelt 'thank you' to the many individuals from all different faiths who donated one, two or a few items in what are difficult times for many – seeing them all added together just shows that people doing little things, with love, genuinely makes a big difference".



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Loving.
Living.
Learning.