



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Leeds

## Easter Blessings

Bradford  
Episcopal Area  
Easter 2021

Jesus is risen – he is risen indeed!

But the risen Jesus appears to Mary when she is deep in grief and confusion. He appears to the disciples who have locked themselves in a room out of fear.

This speaks to us who celebrate Easter while still coping with grief, confusion and locked doors.

We don't need to wait for our tears to dry or our confusion to dispel to rejoice in Jesus' presence with us, whether we celebrate online or in church or over the telephone, watching television or listening to the radio.

The important thing is that he is present with us, and longs for all of us to be present with him.

At our next meeting of the Bradford Episcopal Area Forum (BEAF) we will be listening out for stories from each other of how God's Spirit has been active among us over the last year.

What treasures have you discovered in the darkness? Where have you been able to trace rainbows through the rain? Come along and share your stories and insights with others from across the Area.

Some of you will have heard that Bishop Nick has offered me a sabbatical during May, June and July of this year. This is part of the ongoing programme of sabbaticals for clergy across the Diocese. Please hold me in your prayers as I rest, read and write and reconnect.

May you know the risen Christ with you and your families as we continue on our journeys with him throughout this Easter season

+ Tony



IN THIS EDITION...

...farewell to The Dean

...revitalizing Lidget Green

...meet the Mission Apprentices and the new Area Deans

**Loving.**  
**Living.**  
**Learning.**

## WELCOME TO OUR AREA DEANS

*At our BEAF meeting in January Bp Toby licensed two new Area Deans so we thought you might like to know a little bit about them*

### Revd Tracy Milne

**What is your job role?** I am the Lead Evangelist and Minister of Sorted Church, which is afresh expression of church situated in North Bradford and is part of Outer Bradford Deanery.

**When did you join the Diocese?** I have been part of the Diocese for 43 years: historically with Bradford Diocese (and now with Leeds Diocese) as a young person; volunteer and licensed reader. My vocational journey started in 2003 and I began my training in 2005. I was ordained in 2008, became a curate serving at St Augustine's and St Clements Churches and towards the end of my curacy serving at St John's Greengates. Alongside my curacy, I served with Sorted Youth Church as associate minister. In 2019 I became Lead Evangelist and minister of Sorted and recently I have been invited to act as Area Dean for Outer Bradford

**Describe yourself in one word.** Facilitator

**Cats or dogs?** Both, I've been a steward at cat shows and I share my life with Dude who is a cross between a Border Collie and a Jack Russel

**What's your favourite food?** Italian

**If you could invite anyone, living or dead, to dinner, who would it be?** Gran from Forfar

**You're stranded on a desert island and can only take 3 items (not people) with you. What are they?** Bible, Firebox, Tarp

**If a day were 25 hours long, what would you do with your extra hour?** Read

**Where is your favourite place in the world?** Lons - le - Saunier, France

**If you could give one piece of advice to your 16-year-old self, what would it be?** Find a person who listens and supports

### Revd Mike Coe

**What is your job role, and what does a typical working day look like?** I'm the Vicar of All Saints, Ilkley & the Area Dean of South Craven & Wharfedale. On a typical work day I get up by 6.30am (to take the dogs out) and go to bed about 11.00pm reading the latest WW2 history book I've got on the go. Between that the word 'typical' doesn't really apply because every day is so different!

**When did you join the Diocese?** September 2018

**Describe yourself in one word.** Romford

**Cats or dogs?** Definitely dogs! (We have a Labrador and a Wheaten Terrier)

**What's your favourite food?** Chorizo & Pea Risotto or a Rogan Josh curry (two of the dishes I can actually cook!)

**If you could invite anyone, living or dead, to dinner, who would it be?** Any member of the 1980 West Ham United FA Cup winning team (I was there!)

**You're stranded on a desert island and can only take 3 items (not people) with you. What are they?** Assuming the Bible is automatically included & 'people' also includes animals, a powerful radio, powerful coffee & a powerful telescope.

**If a day were 25 hours long, what would you do with your extra hour?** Sleep or watch a Scandi-noir TV thriller

**Where is your favourite place in the world?** Porthowan Beach in Cornwall

**If you could give one piece of advice to your 16-year-old self, what would it be?** Don't worry, Jesus has got this!

## LAY TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

If you have time on your hands there are lots of opportunities to dip a toe into learning something new. Details of all courses are on the Digital Learning Platform, <https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/>, but here are a couple of things which may be of interest:

'Stay Alert to the Spirit' – a JSP taster event for their new 7 week program. **April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2021 10am – Online by Zoom**

*What is our Christian response to Covid19, and how are we to live through this period in a way that keeps us alert to the Holy Spirit?*

<https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/course/jesus-shaped-people-stay-alert-to-the-spirit-taster-event/>

Our Lay Ministry Pathways will be starting again in the Autumn; **Lay Worship Leader Ministry and Lay Pastoral Ministry**. More information on these courses can be found here

<https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/ministry-pathways/> or contact Sharon Bavington [sharon.bavington@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:sharon.bavington@leeds.anglican.org)

Feel free to be in touch with Sharon Bavington, our Area Lay Training officer, who can offer help and advice.

## FAREWELL!

We seem to be saying farewell to quite a few people in the next few months.

As you can read, Dean Jerry will be leaving the Cathedral at the end of July.

The Revd George Williams is retiring from St Peter's Allerton at the end of June, having been there for over 20 years.

Another stalwart of Bradford, the Revd Stephen Treasure will also be leaving his post in Little Horton at the end of June having served as incumbent there since 1998, and having been in the Bradford diocese and latterly the Leeds Diocese since 1985.

The Revd Dorothy Stewart will also be retiring from St Saviour's Fairweather Green at the end of May.

We also say adieu to the Revd Henriette Howarth who is stepping down from her role as vicar of Shipley St Paul's after four years

We wish them all the best for whatever comes their way next; retirement or a new adventure.



## REVITALIZATION AT EASTER

When St John's Great Horton and St Wilfrid's Lidget Green were amalgamated into the new parish of Great Horton and Lidget Green in January 2020, the congregation of St Wilfrid's, which had been in decline for a number of years, had fallen to about 15 on a typical Sunday. These faithful few were heroically continuing to maintain the life of the church and graciously worked with me as the 'new vicar' to look for new ways to grow the church. However, it was an uphill battle with few resources and none of us getting any younger.

However, over the last four years or so, as St John's Great Horton has been growing slowly but steadily, the Lord had been challenging us about giving away some of the resources he had sent us. This led to a growing vision for church planting, and when Fountains

Church in central Bradford was being established, about a dozen members of our church helped with the plant.

On Easter Sunday we will be sending 25 members of St John's as a revitalisation church planting team to St Wilfrid's to serve the ministry and mission of God's Kingdom in that church family. The renewed church will have many more possibilities in terms of our presence in the community and opportunities for serving with the love of Jesus and proclaiming the good news. The church plant will be led by the Associate Vicar of Great Horton and Lidget Green, Rev Adam Dickson, and I'm sure he and the whole team will be grateful for your prayers in the months and years ahead.

*John Bavington*

*Vicar of Great Horton and Lidget Green*

## FAREWELL TO THE DEAN

Bradford Cathedral and the Diocese of Leeds will bid a fond farewell to Dean Jerry Lepine who retires from his role this summer.

Dean Jerry arrived at Bradford Cathedral in July 2013 and since then has built its reputation as a worship space and meeting place for all the city's communities.

Reflecting on his departure, Dean Jerry said:

"It has been such a privilege to lead the Cathedral and work with Bishop Nick and the other Deans of this Diocese.

"I will take with me some very special memories, such as being part of the creation of a new Diocese with its unique offer of three Cathedrals and our Cathedral Centenary Year in 2019.

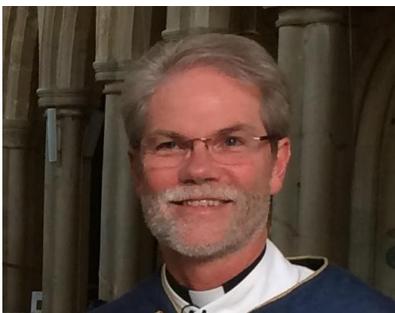
"Welcome is a key word for this Cathedral. We work hard at it but this City is built on a history of welcome.

"From day one I have experienced such open-heartedness here. I will always remember that kindness. Both the Cathedral and the City will build its future on this strength and the partnerships that flow from it.

"The cathedral is in really good heart with a very able team doing some impressive work.

"It's now time for someone else to have the pleasure of leading it into its next chapter."

Further details of a farewell service at Bradford Cathedral will be announced at the beginning of July.



## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER MARKED AT BRADFORD CATHEDRAL WITH SERVICES, VIDEOS AND RESOURCES

Bradford Cathedral has created a range of online events, services and activities so anyone can get involved over the Holy Week and Easter period, whether they are able to visit the cathedral or not.

They are holding a series of services across Holy Week and Easter, including sung night prayer with an address, the Diocesan Chrism Eucharist, and the lighting of the Easter Fire, all streamed via the cathedral's website

<https://www.bradfordcathedral.org/worship/holy-week-2021/>. Some of these services also have limited seats available, which can be booked online.

There is also a special Easter Service video for schools entitled 'A Journey Through Holy Week', which is available online, for schools to use before the end of term.

Following on from the strong viewing figures and positive responses to the Year 6 Leavers' and the Christmas Service videos, the education team at Bradford Cathedral felt that it was also important to produce an Easter Service video, and they hope that it will be a useful resource for schools at this very busy and difficult time for them.: <https://youtu.be/ZjZCytvTXwc>

A slightly different version of this will also debut at 5pm on Easter Day for families. Resources are available for both services so those watching can create everything they need to watch along with them.

Finally, the cathedral is continuing with its series of 'Cathedral 101' videos, short pieces aimed at those with little or no knowledge of the Christian faith to introduce them to the key dates in the calendar and the activities of Bradford Cathedral. Four new videos, for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day, are launching over the week, and can be found on YouTube.

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpNLKc2i3eDh6KodbiRItCQDkr5VOFJuB>

## CHURCHES IN SHIPLEY COME TOGETHER TO OPEN NEW DEBT CENTRE

Shipley Christians Together, a collaboration between 12 churches in the Shipley area, wanted to better serve vulnerable local people. Local research made it clear that personal debt affects many people in the area so they got in touch with Bradford-based debt counselling charity Christians Against Poverty (CAP) to open a new Debt Centre.

The centre offers free support to those affected by personal debt. It has hit the ground running and connected with eight clients since January, as well as building sign-posting partnerships with the Foodbank and other local organisations.

Thomas Knight, SCT's Debt Centre Manager, said: "Debt stress affects family relationships, health and can be very isolating. As a compassionate community, we wanted to provide people with a route out of debt and CAP is distinct because it does that in partnership with the church. As well as offering specialist debt advice, we also recognise the need for friendship and ongoing support, and offer prayer to our clients.

Currently, due to the pandemic, CAP is offering a phone-based service. The debt centre works with each client until they become debt free, while CAP's head office specialists negotiate with creditors, create budgets and provide ongoing technical support.

If you are struggling with debt and need help, get in contact with CAP today on 0800 328 0006 or visit [capuk.org](http://capuk.org).

If you are interested in volunteering as a befriender or supporting the centre in regular prayer, please contact Thomas on [thomasknight@capuk.org](mailto:thomasknight@capuk.org) or 07517 742603

## MISSION APPRENTICE – COULD THIS BE YOU?

*We asked Claire, the MA at St John's Great Horton, to give us a flavor of what being a Mission Apprentice entails.*

"As the Mission Apprentice, my role is to engage with those in the Great Horton community, or "fringe" people – to minister to them, walk with them, help them and just show the love of Jesus to them.

Our church outreach has given us fantastic opportunities to meet the people of the Parish who require our ministries – from our Tuesday lunch group we ran until March 2020 to the food bank we still operate, meeting these incredible, resilient people who deal with so much pain, struggle and disillusionment is an honour and I've discovered that building and nurturing these relationships is hard but it's so worth it. It's through these ministries that we have had people attend our Alpha sessions, engage in our church services, and I read the Bible with a couple of them.

Being on the Mission Apprentice programme is ace – and it's great to receive the training and see how it can be applied in my role. Since I started this adventure in September 2019, I have been stretched and challenged in both my faith and self-confidence. Stepping out of an office job to this was a big deal and required sacrifice but those close to me have seen a positive change in me and both of my children can see that showing others the love of Jesus can be quite basic and messy and can keep you awake at night but ultimately, it's lovely - they are keen to help others too.

That just because I tell someone my testimony it doesn't mean they will encounter Jesus immediately or in a clean-cut way. I've learned that seeds are sown and sometimes you just never know what God is up to in someone's life.

I really pray that subsequent MA's benefit from this scheme as we have done"

*If you would like to be part of the Mission apprentice scheme check out this [vacancy info](#) on the diocesan website or get in touch with Archdeacon Andy.*

Gordon Dey has recommended a book you might like to read for Holy Week which has been written during the pandemic.

'**Holy Week Voices from the Holy Land**' with a foreword by Archbishop Justin Welby, is made up of a series of 15 poems and reflections for Lent and Easter that focus on the events of the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus, and also remind us of the challenges that face our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land and especially in Palestine.

Publication of the book also supports struggling Christian families in the Holy Land through the work of **Friends of the Holy Land FHL**. All proceeds from the sale of it will support this organisation.

Copies can be obtained for only £7.95 from Friends of the Holy Land at

[www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk](http://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk) or you can phone FHL at: 01926 512980

## THE NEXT BEAF

Our next BEAF meeting will take place via zoom on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April at 7:30pm. All are welcome to attend.

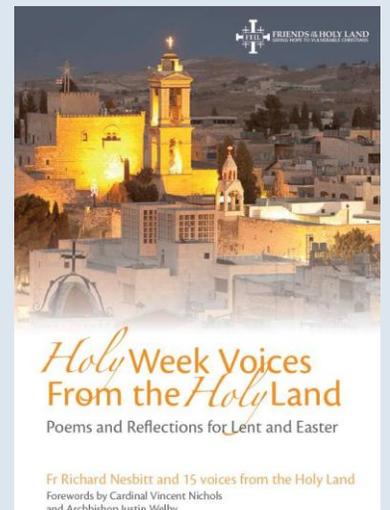
Our topic for this meeting is: Stories of Hope and Resurrection: what has been growing in the darkness?

Join us to find out!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82968017968?pwd=a3lLMXF5QWtHcEJaOFNmVVBERmd3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 829 6801 7968

Passcode: 314547



CONTACT DETAILS FOR AREA BISHOP, ARCHDEACON AND PA

Bishop of Bradford: Bishop Toby, [bishop.toby@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:bishop.toby@leeds.anglican.org) 07811 467999

Archdeacon of Bradford: Andy Jolley, [andy.jolley@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:andy.jolley@leeds.anglican.org) 07973 458403

PA: Carmel Dylak, [carmel.dylak@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:carmel.dylak@leeds.anglican.org) 0113 353 0290 / 0291 or 07908387767

Office hours: Mon to Fri 8.30am to 5pm

The Trinity Centre, John Escritt Road, Bingley, BD16 2ST

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**Living.**  
**Learning.**