

Coronation Resources for Churches now available

The Church of England is providing a range of resources to help churches and parishes to mark the Coronation of King Charles III, an historic moment in the life of our nation.

Ceremonial, celebratory and community events will take place over the Coronation Weekend between Saturday, May 6 and Monday, May 8.

A Book of Daily Prayers has been produced. As the King and Queen Consort prepare to solemnise the promises and commitments they make to the nations and people they represent, the Church will



begin 28 days of prayer and spiritual preparation alongside the King – praying with and for the King from Easter Sunday to the Coronation.

Service materials and various liturgical resources will be available to download including prayers and forms of intercession for use at Morning and Evening Prayer, a vigil service, and special forms of service for a civic or community gathering.

Daily prayers and reflections will be published on the Church of England website and across their social media channels. Christians are also encouraged to share their prayers and thoughts on the Coronation using the hashtag #CoronationPrayers from Monday, April 10.

A publicity toolkit, made up of Coronation logos, posters and social media graphics is now downloadable as well.

For details of all Coronation resources, visit the Church of England website.

Bishop Arun speaks against race-related rhetoric

Bishop Arun Arora has spoken plainly and powerfully on the real life dangers of inflammatory language at a special service to mark Racial Justice Sunday.



Preaching at Blackburn Cathedral, the Bishop of Kirkstall examined how misplaced notions of patriotism, combined with reckless political rhetoric, can result in racist outpourings on our streets.

He also stressed the need for those in power to choose their words with greatest care when referring to asylum seekers and refugees.

Lent reminds us of God's great love

Bishop Tony Robinson

I'm sure you will all agree that there is no particular skill involved in playing Snakes and Ladders, nor is special knowledge required; you are simply subject to the fickle forces of fate and fortune. I'm also sure that many of us regard our lives as a version of Snakes and Ladders: All of us are moving forward as best we can along some fixed route marked out for us. If fortune smiles on us and we do good deeds, then we get to climb the ladder of success and prosperity, quickly ascending the mountain of life.

But, as easily as fortune may elevate us to the higher tiers in life, a sudden turn of luck, ill health, the loss of a job, the cost of living, the challenges of marriage and family life can send us spiralling downward. We must start over again, determined to make it to the top, but always subject to the whims of destiny.

Lent is a time to remind ourselves that our lives are not mere matters of chance, that what happens to us is not the consequence of a cosmic roll of the die or spin of the wheel of fortune. "Look up!" Jesus says. Look up, for the



Son of Man has been lifted up on a cross." It is in Jesus, lifted up on the cross that we see what God's own love looks like!

When Jesus died on the cross, that was the full and dramatic display of God's own love. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that whoever believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." We are loved by the God who loved us so much that he gave his Son for us, a Son lifted up on the cross that formed a ladder to heaven.

Lent is the time to learn to love our souls more than our bodies. My prayer is that more of us will make a special effort to strive for holiness during the days of Lent so that we can truly celebrate the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord and Saviour.

**+Tony
Bishop of Wakefield**

Children and Youth volunteers invited to thank-you events

This year, those involved with children and youth ministry across the diocese are invited to TEND, three one-day conferences designed to thank, encourage and equip.

Attendees will have the option to book onto one of the dates, found below, each hosted at one of our three cathedrals in Bradford, Ripon and Wakefield.

Jonathan Wood, Secretary for the Diocese of Leeds, said, "It's fantastic to be able to do something special for those who make such a difference in the lives of children and young people.

"It is the most important role in our churches. The thank-you events promise to be brilliant days where we can encourage those who serve others. Come, enjoy and be energised."

Wakefield Cathedral: Saturday, April 22 from 10am to 2.30pm
Ripon Cathedral: Saturday, May 13 from 12pm to 4.30pm
Bradford Cathedral: Saturday, October 7 from 10am to 2.15pm.

Visit learning.leeds.anglican.org to book your place.

Prayer vigils for Ukraine take place across diocese

Services took place across the diocese to mark the first anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, as people continue to pray for peace and justice in the region.

At Holy Trinity Boar Lane, Leeds people from across the city gathered to pray, reflect and light candles.

Congregation members from the church sang hymns, led prayers and shared stories from Ukrainians about that first day of the conflict one year ago.

The service was led the Revd Josh Cockayne, leader at the church, and attended by, among others, Tom Riordan, Chief Executive of Leeds City Council; James Lewis, Leader of the Council; and Rachel Reeves MP, MP for Leeds



West. The Rt Revd Arun Arora, Bishop of Kirkstall, closed the service with a blessing of peace.

In the evening people from across Bradford District met at Bradford Cathedral for a prayer vigil, with songs, prayers, and stories from those who have been displaced by the war and those who have opened their homes.

Attendees heard from Ukrainians who have fled their homes and found sanctuary in Bradford, as well as from the Fialka Ladies Choir and the Dibrova Male Voice Choir.

Other vigils and acts of solidarity also took place, including at Halifax Minster.



Iona Community's John Bell leads day of joyful song in the Dales

John Bell of the Iona Community headed south to lead a day of joyful singing for more than a hundred keen voices at St Alkelda's, Giggleswick.



Folk from Revd Julie Clarkson's three parishes of Giggleswick, Rathmell with Wigglesworth and Settle, were joined by friends from other local churches and farther afield for "The Big Sing" with the well-known Scottish hymn writer, broadcaster and Church of Scotland minister.

This was a return visit to the Dales for John and he was given an enthusiastic welcome before he encouraged and taught this scratch choir of singers to make a grand noise, singing songs of "Justice and Joy," said Edith Diggles of St Alkelda's.

Flying and Falling

Revd Sam Crook

“Everyone forgets that Icarus also flew. It’s the same when love comes to an end, or the marriage fails and people say they knew it was a mistake, that everybody said it would never work. That she was old enough to know better. But anything worth doing is worth doing badly.”

These are the opening lines in a poem called ‘Failing and Flying’ by Jack Gilbert. In this season of Lent when we focus on our sin and frailty, they are words of hope reminding me, a curate emerging fresh from the dust of Ash Wednesday, that they can still fly. That the Glory of the Christian life is not in sustained perfection, but in a cyclical process of flying and falling as we learn to trust God, in our lives, in our church and in our world. Gilbert’s poem reminds us that failure, and fear of it, mustn’t be allowed to clip our wings, or to blind us to the beauty and glory around us.

As God’s children we are drawn to the light and to the sun, our wings frail and mortal, like Icarus, are made of the ephemeral feathers



of will, and the wax of our good intentions. So often our resolve melts as we get near the heat of the sun and we find ourselves falling headlong back to the earth. Unlike for Icarus, God is there to catch us, to strengthen our wings and increase our resolve. By his love we are transformed little by little into creatures that can fly further and faster, buoyed up by the winds of the Spirit and the healing touch of God. In our flying we in turn inspire those around us to flap their wings, to test the air and to fly along with us. Hope becomes more than a feathered thing “That perches in the soul” but a murmuration, swooping and soaring, urging each other to the light. A sign for each other, and for the world, of the love of God and the beauty of redemption.

Revd Sam Crook
Curate at Halifax Minster

Digital clinic helps parishes make giving easier

Digital giving has got another boost in our diocese, thanks to a recent clinic offered to help churches make the most of the opportunities offered.

The digital clinic was the first of its kind, and gave the chance for churches to seek help and advice on how to get started, or how to improve their digital giving offer.



Krys Lyon, treasurer at Shelf St Michael with Buttershaw St Aidan, said: “I found the clinic extremely helpful.

“We hope by going digital with our giving, we’ll be able to get more money. Fewer people are carrying cash these days, so giving the opportunity to pay using card would be a beautiful extra.”

Contact our Stewardship Team for advice - resourcingparishes@leeds.anglican.org