

Christmas Greetings!

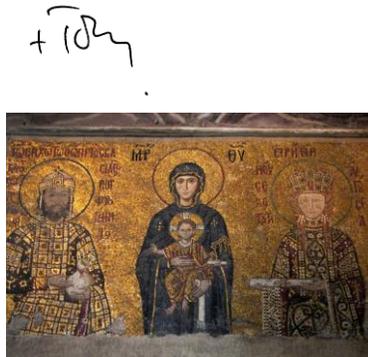
Welcome to the Christmas BEAN
(Bradford Episcopal Area News)!



Two millennia ago, when God 'pitched his tent' among us, it was into a complex and often oppressive political and economic landscape. God came to us then in the reality of our world and our lives, and still does today.

Much has happened this year in our

world and nation, in our Diocese and year-old deaneries, in our parishes and chaplaincies and in our lives as individuals and families. As we reflect on the past year, and look forward to the next, Archdeacon Andy and I rejoice in the many people who are praying and working to ensure that the churches of this Episcopal Area continue to show what it means that the God of love is with us in the person of Jesus Christ.



BEAF

The last BEAF (Bradford Episcopal Area Forum) saw us lugging extra chairs into the hall of Forster Academy where we discussed developing Diocesan and Area strategy. Resourcing and Resource Churches, bids to the Church Commissioners and clergy and lay teams all featured in presentations, case studies and table-discussions. As Sharon Bavington, our lay training officer summed up the evening, "lots of energy for some big challenges!"

Our next meeting will take place on 22nd May (venue to be confirmed).

This meeting is open to all interested parties and not confined to Deanery Reps so feel free to come along.

IN THIS EDITION...

- ...The Tale of Two Parishes (and two Alistairs)
- ...The church that refused to die
- ...Events and Training for all

Loving.
Living.
Learning.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS FOR ALL

Click on the links for further details

[Stretch Wide Your Curtain:](#) how to welcome well, support volunteers, have good practice and share faith.

Led by Bishop Toby and Wellsprings Together.

Sat 20th Jan 9.30-12.15. St Martin's Church, Haworth Rd, Bradford

[Studying Theology ..For the First time](#)

An introductory course Jan-Mar 2018 at Kadugli House, Steeton Cost £80

[Walking on Water](#)

New Wine Taster Event based on the book by Paul & Becky Harcourt

Bradford Cathedral 6 Jan 10-4 £15 including book

CPAS PCC Tonight March 20th 7.30pm
St. John's Great Horton. Contact; Janet Nicholson;

office@stjohnsgreathorton.org.uk or 07840904036 to book

Bible in a Day April 14th 9.30am-3.45pm
BYO lunch. St. John's Great Horton.

Contact; Janet Nicholson;
office@stjohnsgreathorton.org.uk or 07840904036 to book

[Welfare Reform Impact Bradford](#)

Universal Credit in Bradford Thornbury Centre 22nd Jan 2-4pm

[Latest Wellsprings Newsletter](#)



Singers and Musicians, Come on down!

I am sometimes asked which churches have Music Groups or which have choirs. I am also sometimes in need of finding musicians and/or singers for particular Episcopal Area events, often at the Cathedral.

To enable me to respond well to these and other questions, I'm inviting all parishes in the Episcopal Area to complete this form:

<https://goo.gl/forms/3SUW0Ask1BxD4qvH3>

If every musician and singer in every church in the Episcopal Area completed the form we would have a complete list of musicians and singers and would be able to share information about training opportunities for singers and musicians; we'd be able to contact

individuals directly if there is a need for particular singers or musicians for particular events; we would be able to share skills across our parishes and better support each other in our primary calling, as the people of God, to offer worship which is pleasing to God, honours his name and builds his church.

Please share this document with the musicians in your church and actively encourage them to complete the online form. If you have any questions, or comments, please be in contact with me.

Canon Paul Maybury,
paul.maybury@bradfordcathedral.org 07496968234



The tale of two parishes (and two Alistairs!)

Over the last year the parishes of St Mary's, Burley and St Paul's Manningham have been building a relationship, primarily through the ministry of our reader Mary Brooks, who is licensed at Burley, but is heavily involved at St Pauls, especially working with the Iranian Bible-study group.

For a number of years we have collected our Harvest food and given it to St Pauls for their Drop-in café, Sharakat. This year Alastair Kirk, the vicar of Burley decided to invite Alistair Helm, the vicar of Manningham to bring members of the cluster of congregations in Manningham and Heaton to actually share Harvest together in Burley. So on 1st October, after our respective Sunday morning services, about 50 people came from the three congregations driving the 9 miles from central Bradford to leafy Burley in Wharfedale. Among the group were a number of Iranians, a Nigerian girl and a Congolese family. We shared traditional pie and peas as we mingled and got to know each other. Old friendships were rekindled and new friendships cultivated. After walks by the river and playing in the park. we returned for tea and cake and then

worshipped together which included singing a song in Farsi. One Alastair officially welcomed everyone and then the other Alistair spoke of the profound differences 9 miles makes in livelihood and life expectancy and movingly thanked parishes such as Burley which paid a higher share so that Churches in Manningham and Heaton could continue to offer viable Christian ministry in their communities.



It was a really uplifting and fun day for all involved. Since then 5 of our congregation at St Mary's have been over to help in Manningham at the Innchurches project. Such a link gives us unexpected richness, stretches our faith and extends our view of the Kingdom. We look forward to working and learning together in the future.

Revd Alastair Kirk, Vicar of St Mary's, Burley-in-Wharfedale



CHURCHWARDEN STEPS DOWN AFTER 17 YEARS

After nearly 17 years' faithful service, Robin Wraith stepped down as Churchwarden at St Michael's Church in Cottingley earlier this year. During his time as Churchwarden and Trustee of Cornerstone Community Centre, Robin has overseen the installation of two vicars and the knocking down of the old church. Following in the footsteps of his late father, who was Churchwarden when the old church was built, Robin supervised the huge project of rebuilding the new church and the Cornerstone Centre. He was also Chair of the PCC for 18 months during the interregnum. Robin said: "I feel the most amazing thing we have done is the way we have embraced the community we live in. St Michael's has made a difference and will continue to do so.

Robin won't be putting his feet up just yet – he will be continuing in his role as Head Chef at Martin House Children's Hospice, and joining a new church local to his home, where we are sure he will be welcomed with open arms!

THE CHURCH THAT REFUSED TO DIE

There is something wonderful about Sudanese church names. In English parishes we are used to a diet of saint's names, with the odd 'Holy Redeemer' added in for variety. The saint's name is supposed to evoke faith and sanctity, signifying our call to join in the communion of saints, but church names in Sudan tend to be more vivid, more from the heart than the head.

In October, during a united service in Omdurman, the Church of the Cornerstone led a procession, followed by the Vine Church. Then came Fardous (Paradise) Church, and Church of Sakhara (the Rock) and Ruhia (Revelation) Church. Sometimes we hear of these churches by their Arabic name, not always in English - but only then grasp what the hand of faith has written, and what beats in the heart of the congregation as it gathers. The names speak of a more direct Bible faith than we are used to.

The service itself was held at Gamair, close to the Nile. In the 1980's visitors from Bradford used to visit Gamair church. At that time it had a large compound and was a strong centre for teaching, evangelism and distribution of help. In the 90's the centre was bulldozed by the municipal authorities, who declared "You are not my people, and are not wanted" (Hosea 1v9). Now twenty-five years later a parish church is again embedded in the community, an Episcopal Church building shared by a Methodist congregation and a Sudan Church of Christ congregation.

It felt good to be there at worship with 600 people, to remember the history, and reflect on the irrepressible potential of God's people who rejoice in their Redeemer. The authorities tried to scrape the Christians away, to cleanse the earth of their presence, but the seed has sprung up again. It instinctively feels good that the building is shared with other denominations, until you realize that the main reason for their sharing is that other buildings have been bulldozed too. In this township, only this shelter remains for Christians to assemble, to hear the Word, pray and encourage one another.



John Poole

CONTACT DETAILS FOR AREA BISHOP, ARCHDEACON AND PA

Bishop of Bradford: Bishop Toby, bishop.toby@leeds.anglican.org 07811 467999

Archdeacon of Bradford: Andy Jolley, andy.jolley@leeds.anglican.org 07973 458403

PA: Carmel Dylak, carmel.dylak@leeds.anglican.org 0113 353 0290 / 0291

Office hours: Mon to Fri 8.30am to 5pm

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

Dates for your Diary

BEAF 22nd May 2018 and
28th Nov 2018 7 for 7.30pm
Venue tbc

Lay Conference: Sat 9th June
2018 Harrogate

Ordinations:

Priests: 23rd June 3pm
Bradford Cathedral

Deacons: 30th June Ripon
Cathedral

Bradford Clergy (& Readers)
Study Day:

20th Feb 2018 10-3 Bradford
Cathedral

14th June 2018 10-3

Keighley Shared Church

National Estates Churches
Network

Conference: 16th April 2018
Blackburn Cathedral 10-3

[Click here to book](#)

Admission of Church
Wardens

5th June 7pm St Margaret's,
Ilkley

6th June 7pm St John's,
Clayton

Church Warden Training

27th June 7-9pm (Primarily
for new Wardens

6th Oct 10-12 noon

Venue: Trinity Centre
Bingley

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