



Budget for 2019 adopted as new Synod tackles challenges



Geoff Park (pictured left), Chief Financial Officer, told Synod, “It is fair to say that we have had a challenging six months. We have been making difficult decisions and those decisions have been starting to have a positive impact on the financial situation.”

Budget 2019

The Synod (or ‘parliament’) of the Anglican Diocese of Leeds, meeting in Harrogate, has unanimously given its support to a budget and ‘sustainability’ plan designed to reduce the financial deficit currently facing the diocese.

Lay and clergy leaders from across the diocese met at Ashville College last month for the first meeting of the new three year term. They heard that an improvement in finances will be achieved by a combination of measures – an overall 3% increase in the amount of Parish Share received, a freeze on the cost of ministry in parishes at 2018 levels, a reduction in support staff and central costs, and a reduction in property costs.

Diocesan 5 year strategy

A major presentation of the Diocesan Strategy, ‘Maturing in Christ’, was followed by a lively debate, resulting in Synod asking for further ‘fine tuning’ to be done before it is brought back to the March 2019 meeting. The five goals set out in the Strategy are outlined by Bishop Paul Slater in his article on page 2. Concerns raised by Synod members included a request for more emphasis on environmental concerns and for more supportive material for



parishes. Others welcomed the document and said they were excited by its contents. More in Bishop Paul’s column on page 2.

Farewells after 21 years

There was warm applause from Synod as Bishop Nick thanked Revd Canon John Carter (pictured right), Diocesan Communications Officer and Paul Winstanley, Diocesan Stewardship Adviser, for their long service. After



21 years and some 63 synod reports, John will be leaving the diocese at the end of the year. “If there was a long service medal, John would be receiving it!” said Bishop Nick.

Paul Winstanley, too, began in September 1997. He has been welcoming delegates and helping ensure the smooth running of synods since then.

Setting course for the future

Bishop Paul Slater

The young Diocese of Leeds is now in its fifth year. Since 2014, we have transitioned from three dioceses with very different cultures into a new diocese with its own identity, distinctiveness and culture.

We have been living for some time with the *vision* of a church of confident Christians in growing churches which are transforming communities. Our *values* have been characterised by Loving, Living and Learning. The task in the next phase of our corporate life together under God is to set our *strategic priorities*. To this end, Bishop Nick asked me to chair a small group of people to advise him about strategy and to see how our vision and values can be fleshed out in our life together.

The Strategy Group were very conscious of the very different contexts in which we work and minister. But we came to the view that there were three overarching themes for us to tackle which affect us all. Firstly, we need a revitalised approach to how lay and clergy minister together. Secondly, we need a clear rationale for how we spend our material resources as a diocese. Thirdly, we need to be looking for creative, dynamic partnerships in order to help us be witnesses to God's love in His World.



From these three areas five goals have emerged:

- (1) Thriving as a distinctive diocese whose culture is shaped by shared values and a shared vision;
- (2) Reimagining Ministry;
- (3) Nurturing lay discipleship;
- (4) Building leadership pipelines;
- (5) Growing young people as Christians.

These areas will to some degree, determine how diocesan resources are expended. In all this we have had in mind the Pauline vision in the letter to the Ephesians where maturity is seen as a goal of a church, confident in Christ, seeking to relate within itself and making an impact in God's world.

The Strategy was debated at October's Diocesan Synod and requests were made for some fine-tuning. We shall be bringing it back to the March 2019 Synod. You can read the full strategy document on the diocesan website at <https://bit.ly/2CKXYPY>

**+Paul
Bishop of Kirkstall**

Garrison Growth

RIPON With the main presence of the British Army in the north of England expanding in the Ripon Episcopal Area, Bishop Helen-Ann Hartley, the Area Bishop of Ripon, has been visiting Catterick Garrison to hear about growth plans and their work with schoolchildren.



Catterick Garrison is set to expand with the number of military personnel in the town expected to increase to around 8,400 by 2030, making Catterick the third largest town in North Yorkshire.

"Because the Ripon Episcopal Area includes what is the main Army presence in the North, and is set to grow," said Bishop Helen-Ann, "it is important for us to build relationships and links, and to do so in an informed way."

A highlight of her visit was seeing the army's 'Super Camp' schools programme. "It's part of the Army outreach into communities to strengthen links and break down some of the misconceptions about what the Army does. [It was] fantastic to see pupils from a Bradford school tackling the army assault course as part of their 'Super Camp'!"

Calderdale Chaplains scheme launched

HUDDERSFIELD A new scheme that aims to equip and support local Christians to be available in communities across Calderdale has been launched at Halifax's Piece Hall.

Calderdale Chaplains will see volunteers from many of the borough's churches out and about in businesses, town centres and visitor attractions.

The teams, who will be wearing distinctive Calderdale Chaplains branded clothing, will be available to chat and connect with people as well as praying for the peace and prosperity of the Borough. HRH Prince Charles is pictured meeting the group when

he paid a recent visit to the restored Hall.

Paul Blakey MBE, one of the founders of Calderdale Chaplains, said: "As Christians



we believe in the peace and prosperity of our borough and it is great to hear reports of where this is happening. But we recognise that there is more to do and we hope that Calderdale Chaplains can contribute to this."

All creatures great and small

LEEDS Two churches in the Leeds area (at least) have been holding special pet services to say thank you to their favourite animals, with a wide range of creatures from cats and dogs to horses and even terrapins.



at a service to mark the bond between people and animals.

The service was the idea of Parish Priest of St Hilda's, Revd Darren Percival, as one of the latest in a series of community focused events for the area.

Meanwhile at St Peter's Rawdon, the congregation

At St. Hilda's, Cross Green, pets listened intently to the Hunslet Corps of the Salvation Army

led by the Revd Mark Smith welcomed 22 animals, including Sago, the Shetland pony, mice, dogs and even a ferret!

Church on the move

BRADFORD The large and lively town centre congregation of All Saint's Ilkley is on the move. From November until next summer, 2019, services are taking place at a nearby community centre to allow work to start on a £1.3 million redevelopment project. Earlier this year the church was awarded £543,700 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for its plans to tell the stories of the historic parish Church, from its Saxon Crosses and Roman fort through to medieval, Victorian and 20th Century developments. With generous giving, the project will give a more flexible space not only for worship but for community activities, concerts, exhibitions, performances and conferences.

New Readers

WAKEFIELD Reader ministry in the Wakefield Episcopal Area has been boosted with five new Readers, licensed at a service at Wakefield Cathedral led by Bishop Tony Robinson. Warden of Readers and Archdeacon of Halifax, Ven Anne Dawtry, said, "These five men and women form the largest group of Readers to be licensed together in the Wakefield area since the new Diocese began. After three years study they begin a ministry of preaching and teaching in their parishes joining a cohort of Readers who serve an important ministry as lay theologians across the Diocese."

Next Archdeacon of Richmond and Craven announced



An Assistant Chaplain General in the British Army has been named as the next Archdeacon of Richmond and Craven.

Canon Jonathan Gough, who served in Afghanistan, is currently an Assistant Chaplain General at Headquarters Regional Command, based in Aldershot. He was a curate in North Devon and Gloucester, before joining the Royal Army Chaplains Department in 1989. He has been deployed with soldiers on operations in Northern Ireland, Bosnia and Kosovo.

Jonathan is no stranger to the Ripon Episcopal Area. His service included tours of duty as Senior Chaplain to Catterick Garrison, and to the Army Foundation College, Harrogate. He is married to Canon Flora Winfield, who is the present Archbishop of Canterbury's Representative to the Commonwealth and an Army Reserve chaplain.

Bishop Nick said, "I am delighted that Jonathan Gough is coming to serve with us as the next Archdeacon of Richmond and Craven. He brings wide and deep experience of the Church of England and the wider Anglican Communion. His experience of Army Chaplaincy is second to none. I look forward to welcoming Jonathan and Flora to Yorkshire in the spring next year."

Bev becomes Bishop

Meanwhile, many from the diocese were at York Minster to see Bev Mason, the former Archdeacon of Richmond and Craven, consecrated as the new Bishop of Warrington. The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, presided over the ceremony, with Bishop Nick and many other bishops from the Northern Province and beyond taking part. Bishop Bev said that the service was very moving and thanks all those who came to support her.



'Light up a Life' this Christmas



Bishop Nick is giving his support to this year's 'Light Up a Life' appeal run by St Gemma's Hospice in North Leeds.

Throughout Advent and Christmas the Light up a Life appeal will be inviting people to make a donation in memory of a loved one with a light being lit until January 5th. The Hospice's Light Up a Life ceremony will take place in the grounds of St Gemma's Hospice, Moortown, Leeds at 4pm on Sunday 2 December.



As patron of St Gemma's, Bishop Nick commented, "The loss of anyone close to us tears a hole in our life. But, grieving together can be helpful – and Light Up A Life is an opportunity to remember in the context of Advent/Christmas when we celebrate the light coming into the world and the darkness being powerless to extinguish it."

Call 0113 218 5555 or visit www.st-gemma.co.uk/lightupalife to take part.