

Bishop Nick looks forward after welcome return to Yorkshire

Freshly back from his sabbatical, Bishop of Leeds Rt Revd Nick Baines writes:

I am grateful beyond words to my colleagues for making it possible for me to take ten weeks' sabbatical leave early this year. Having had a health blip in October, the break came at the right time. This was my first (and last) sabbatical, and I planned it carefully.

I spent the first week in Khartoum, Sudan. I had been invited by the UK Ambassador to do a keynote speech at a one-day conference convened by the Sudanese government to address questions of religious freedom. I also met leaders of civil society and the protests that eventually led to the military coup that

ended thirty years of near-dictatorship. I also met bishops and clergy; this was our diocesan link in action.

I then spent two weeks at the Friedrich-Schiller-Universität in Jena, Germany - mainly reading a lot of books and talking with students and academics there. I then went to the USA where, apart from preaching and meeting people in our link diocese of Southwestern Virginia, I spent a month at the University of the South in Seawane, Tennessee. The trip ended with a holiday with my wife in Florida before returning for Holy Week.



Bishop Nick with Archbishop Ezekiel [far right]

strategy that was strongly commended by the Diocesan Synod in my absence, and we can look ahead with vision, hope and enthusiasm. I have returned to work and service here with renewed vision and commitment to the diocese. We have much to do. But, I have also reflected deeply on where my energies ought to be directed. I will be trying to make more space in my diary for those things that now need to be prioritised, rather than trying to keep up the pace demanded by the first five years in Leeds.

Our country faces many challenges in the next few years. Our church has much to offer in helping us through it all. I pray we will serve with joy.



Bishop Nick welcomed back in Holy Week

Time away allows the space to reflect and think and get some proportion. I returned in time for the fifth anniversary of our diocese on 20 April. We have come a long way and worked through some tough challenges. But, we now have a diocesan

On earth as in heaven

Bishop Tony Robinson

James Irwin is one of but a few men to walk on the moon. As he stood upon the lunar landscape and looked up at the earth, he prayed for the first time in his life. He thought about the strife among nations, poverty, hunger, and rampant evil; and he thought to himself: "What is more important than man walking on the moon is that God should walk on earth."

Since 2016 'Thy Kingdom Come' has been an invitation from our Archbishops to spend the days between Ascension and Pentecost to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. It has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer.

When our Lord taught us the way in which we should address our heavenly Father, he taught us to pray: "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Many of us have prayed these words for years, but how many of us know what Jesus meant by these words?

When we pray, "Thy kingdom come," we are praying for the continued extension of God's reign on earth. We are praying for God to convert the hearts



of others, bringing them to confess Jesus as Lord. We are praying for the coming of the day when all evil, all sin, and all rebellion against God is finally eradicated.

We must also understand, however, that when we pray for God's kingdom to come and for his will to be done on earth as it is in heaven, that this begins with each one of us. We must ask ourselves if we are hallowing God's name. We must ask ourselves if we are doing God's will. As Christians, we are those who claim to have already submitted to the lordship of Christ. We are already citizens of His kingdom, and He is already our King. But are we faithful subjects? Or are we rebellious? If we are to pray in the way our Lord instructed, we must be those who live in the way our Lord instructed.

**+Tony
Bishop of Wakefield**

Former student returns as principal to Mirfield College

HUDDERSFIELD Bishop Mark Sowerby is to be the next Principal of the College of the Resurrection. With his wife, Ruth, he will move to Mirfield from the Diocese of Chichester, where he has been Bishop of Horsham since 2009.

Bishop Mark, who has three adult daughters, is no stranger



to the Northern Province nor, indeed, to Mirfield.

Born in Ripon, he trained for ordination at the College of the Resurrection, served his first curacy in Knaresborough and after several years in the Blackburn Diocese, spent eight years at St Wilfrid's, Harrogate.

Bishop Nick said: "This is very good news, and we warmly welcome Bishop Mark and Ruth back to West Yorkshire and look forward to his ministry here."

Bishop Mark said: "I am greatly looking forward to playing a part in the formation of outstanding men and women to serve God's church."

Songs of Praise visits Scargill House

RIPON Songs of Praise has featured the Community at Scargill House who were filmed for an episode screened in May and which can be watched on the BBC's iPlayer.

The crew spent a whole day with the Community, which celebrates its 60th anniversary this year.

In addition to general daily business, they interviewed Community leaders, members and guests.

Events this summer will celebrate 60 years of faithful ministry at Scargill House.

The Rt Revd Chris Edmondson, Chair of Trustees at Scargill

House, said: "It is great that Songs of Praise came along to



help mark this special year of celebrations and we now pray that things will go from strength to strength at Scargill in the future."

Vicar's 500th blood donation

LEEDS After over twenty years of being a blood donor, a local vicar serving in the Armley area has now achieved the

landmark number of 500 donations. The Revd Andrew Pearson (pictured), Priest in Charge of



Wyther Venerable Bede, said: "Something I value about being a regular blood donor is that it is an act of grace. I give because I can and I have no say about who will benefit from my

donation: it could just as easily be a baby or a child, a middle-aged man or an elderly woman. To whomsoever it is given, it

gives life and it enhances their lives. Donating is not painful, apart from a little jab in the arm to start with, and it can help save

lives, a lot of lives. I am told that a single donation can help save up to four people so, in theory, I might have helped save – or improve – the lives of two thousand people."

Horbury bells restored

WAKEFIELD The lovingly-restored bells of St Peter's, Horbury, are now safely back where they belong. The bells were duly blessed and "baptised" at morning mass on Easter Day at St Peter's, which Fr Christopher Johnson said was: "a great celebration for both church and community, only made possible by the hard work and dedication of our bell ringers, the generosity of private donors and grant-making bodies, and the support of professionals and others involved in the faculty process." The church hosted a 'Church Explorers Day' that afternoon, so that children and families had a particular opportunity to see the bells, visit the crypt, and engage with the building.

Church named

BRADFORD Fountains Church is the name of a new Anglican worship centre which will overlook Bradford's City Park. The CoFE initiative, based in a former nightclub, was announced earlier this year. Its permanent location will be confirmed this summer, but the newly-christened church started life at Glyde House, Bradford in May. The Revd Linda Maslen, who heads the project, explained the choice of name: "Fountains Church refers to the wonderful fountains in front of City Hall, but also to 'Fountains of Living Water' - one of the ways that God describes himself."

Thy Kingdom Come: Archbishops invite global Church to pray



The Archbishops of Canterbury and York, Justin Welby and John Sentamu, have invited Christians around the world to pray for more people to know Christ.

The invitation comes in the run-up to the now-annual Thy Kingdom Come global wave of prayer, which runs from Ascension to Pentecost. The invitation was initially given to clergy of the Church of England in 2016, but was quickly adopted by Christian leaders of different denominations in the UK and around the world. Archbishop Justin encouraged Christians to pray in whatever manner works for them whilst also promoting the new Common Worship Daily Prayer app, which was produced in partnership with the Church of England.

“It doesn’t matter if you pray formally or informally, just pray,” Archbishop Justin said.

Archbishop Sentamu encouraged Christians to pray for five people. “Will you find five people, pray for them, on the hour every hour when their names come through?”, he said. “You are going to be surprised on how your own prayer life actually becomes a joy and a delight.”

This year’s event runs from Thursday, May 30 to Sunday, June 9.

Each year during the movement, daily-themed content, such as video reflections, podcasts and Bible readings usually from high profile Christian leaders, is sent out to participants. However, this year, they have focused on incorporating a wider range of voices, drawing on the faith of what organisers call “everyday people”, such as Christian emergency service workers and Army personnel.

Faith Trail up and running in Bradford

Bradford’s annual Faith Trail, which takes walkers to five different places of worship, has kicked off for the summer.

It is always held on the first Saturday of each month from now until October and visits: Our Lady and St Peter’s Roman Catholic Church on Leeds Road; the Abu Bakar Masjid



(mosque); the Shree Lakshmi Narayan Hindu Temple; the Guru Gobind Singh Gurdwara; and then Bradford Cathedral.

The walk is only a mile long from start to finish and places are limited, so people are encouraged to book as the Trail is very popular.

The trail begins at St Peter’s Roman Catholic Church on Leeds Road, meeting for 10am.

For full details please contact Bradford Cathedral.