

‘We will remember them’ Marking the end of WWI



The 100th anniversary of the Armistice is being marked by special services and events throughout the diocese. Leading up to it, exhibitions have been mounted in many cathedrals and churches including Bradford, Wakefield and Ripon Cathedrals and Halifax, Dewsbury and Leeds Minsters.

A delegation from our link diocese of Hannover, led by Bishop Ralf Meister and including the Hannover Girls' Choir will be taking part in services at Ripon Cathedral and Halifax Minster. On Remembrance Day, Sunday 11 November, Bishop Ralf will



preach at Ripon. Bishop Nick, who will accompany him, writes (on page 2), "Only a few decades ago such an event would have been unthinkable. But, today we have strong relations with those who were once enemies."

Earth from Passchendaele forms part of an artwork which fills the north aisle of Ripon Cathedral. The installation, 'Fields of Mud, Seeds of Hope' went on display in October following a special Choral Evensong on October 3 and will remain open for viewing until November 14. Every soldier from Ripon who died in the Great War is being remembered during the event.

Other events across the diocese include "Nursing the front line", an event at St Andrew's church, Wakefield, on November 10 from 2pm to 4pm, marking medical care given to troops in the First World War.

Younger ordinands in training

A Church of England drive to recruit younger people to ordination has seen the average age of new ordinands in the Diocese of Leeds drop to 33 years.

Eleven men and women from our diocese have begun training this autumn.



They are following one of three exciting pathways, which makes it possible for people from a wide range of backgrounds to train for ordination and fits around family commitments and younger lifestyles.

Pictured are **Jo Glenwright**, **Michelle Lepine** and **Jenny Bradley**, who have just started part-time study at St Hild College.

Remember and re-commit

Bishop Nick Baines

I used to think a century was a long time. Now I know it isn't. I was born only twelve years after the end of the Second World War; my dad was born only twelve years or so after the end of the First World War. And, yet, for my children and grandchildren, both these wars belong in ancient history - things you read about, but that have no emotional resonance.

I remember some years ago going down the steps into a church in Lindau (on Lake Constance in Bavaria) and seeing the tomb of the unknown soldier ... with the recumbent statue clad in German military (Nazi) uniform. We can talk about the 50 million people who died during the second war, but each one was a mother, brother, sister, wife, son, friend, and so on. War is always personal.

This month we once again remember those who gave their life in conflict. Yet, this year is special as it is one hundred years on November 11 since the First World War ended in the Armistice. Yet, as we know, people still died in their thousands after the deal had been done simply because word didn't reach them that hostilities had ended. Life can be very hard.



For this centenary, I will be in Ripon Cathedral with Bishop Ralf Meister, the bishop of our link diocese (Landeskirche) of Hannover. Only a few decades ago such an event would have been unthinkable. But, today we have strong relations with those who were once enemies - a world turned upside down by the commitment to reconcile in the wake of horror and loss. Christians are called not only to remember (for the sake of nostalgia or comfort), but also to re-commit themselves to what the Apostle Paul calls "the ministry of reconciliation" - wrought on the cross from the depths of suffering and opened to the world in an empty tomb. This is our ministry and our vocation today.

Our remembering on Sunday 11 November will be sombre and solemn. I pray that it will also move us from historical recognition to a will to reconcile with those who, even now, might be far away.

**+Nick
Bishop of Leeds**

Cascade of poppies

RIPON Grandparents and school children are helping create a waterfall of 1,000 paper poppies to cascade over the altar of Aysgarth church during the parish's Festival of Remembrance from November 9 to 12.

Pictured are **Sally Stone** of West Burton and her grandchildren, **Alyssa** and **Jacob**, with the poppies they are making for the event.



Richmond MP, Rishi Sunak will officially open the exhibition and flower festival on the evening of Friday 9 November. That evening there will be an interactive display of WWI memorabilia thanks to the Green Howards Museum.

Juliet Barker, the lay chair of Aysgarth Parochial Church Council, commented: "The festival is very much an inclusive community event involving other local faith groups, parish councils, schools and individuals and we are grateful for the enthusiasm and commitment of all involved. We hope it will prove to be an appropriate memorial."

Coast to Coast walkers beat cash target to help Tanzania

HUDDERSFIELD Walkers raising cash in aid of Water for Life projects in Tanzania have beaten their target by £1,000.

Led by vicar, Maggie McLean of Christ the King, Battyford and her trusty spaniel Molly, rambles Cath Fox (the diocesan parish resources

administrator), Harvey Walsh, Meg Willard and Chris Smith successfully strode from St Bees near Whitehaven to Robin Hood's Bay.



They set off on Sunday, September 8 and walked 192 miles in 14 days through the Lake District and Dales with the goal of raising £8,000 to buy

a new bore hole in one of our three link dioceses in Tanzania. They have already raised more than £9,000, as shown in the picture of them triumphantly beside the North Sea.

Church bells restored

WAKEFIELD Late eighteenth century bells have been removed and lowered down the outside of St Peter's church in Horbury to undergo much needed restoration work. The operation to remove the bells from high in the tower to the ground outside took place over a five day period. Normally bells are lowered on the inside but this wasn't possible because of the lack of space in St Peter's narrow tower. The work to re-cast the bells has now begun thanks largely to the Horbury Bell Ringers who have raised enough money through grants and sponsorship to fund the start of the restoration. The cost will amount to over £90,000 and to date £79,182 has been raised.

A welcome for asylum seekers

BRADFORD Asylum seekers have been welcomed to Keighley by its churches who have united to create a Place of Sanctuary. They celebrated this month with a joint service at St Anne's Catholic church to 'share the journey'.

Parishioners from All Saints Keighley, and members of the Keighley Salvation Army joined the congregation at St Anne's for a multi-lingual service with a Latin Gloria, a Polish Agnus Dei, readings and prayers in



English, Slovakian, Kirundi, Kinyarwanda, French and Malayalam.

Lunch was prepared by regular volunteers with pizza and a giant lasagne provided by members of the Italian community.

"It was a hugely joyous occasion and a wonderful way to affirm our work together," said Graham Mitchell, secretary of Keighley Place of Sanctuary.

Archbishop visit

LEEDS The Archbishop of York, who has announced his retirement, was welcomed by the church communities of Burmantofts and Harehills last month when he visited to preside and preach at an all-age Eucharist. "Many of the church congregation had only ever heard about Dr John Sentamu or seen him in pictures," said Vicar, Revd Amos Kasibante. "To meet him in person and have him lead a service and preach was a real blessing." Dr Sentamu joined the congregation for lunch to top off a memorable day for the congregations.

A warm Wakefield welcome for the city's new Dean

A packed Wakefield Cathedral gave the warmest of welcomes to its new dean, the Very Revd Simon Cowling, installed at a special service last month.



Civic dignitaries and some 500 well-wishers from across the diocese joined with its bishops and deans from Bradford and Ripon cathedrals for a service led by Bishop Nick. Simon's installation was greeted with long-lasting loud applause.

"I can't say how delighted I am that you are here and will be working with me and all your colleagues in this part of West Yorkshire and across the diocese," Bishop Nick told Simon and the congregation.

Simon's wife Anne and their children Felicity, Faith and Chad



were present and Faith gave the New Testament reading, John I. 43-51.

In his first sermon as Dean, Simon said: "Together we may eagerly expect the unexpected, welcome it and be open to change ourselves, because it is in unexpected ways that God reveals himself.

"May my ministry in this cathedral and diocese be characterised by hearts that are opened to people."

After the service, Mayor of Wakefield Cllr Stuart Heptinstall said, "Simon is a smashing fellow - welcome to Wakefield!

It can't be overstated what a massive impact the cathedral has on the life of the city and across the district, particularly as we approach Remembrance Day and Christmas."

The Diocesan Intern Scheme is launched

This Autumn has seen the launch of the Diocesan Internship Scheme made possible thanks to Strategic Development Funding from the Church Commissioners. It builds on the success of an internship scheme which has run at St George's Church in Leeds for the past ten years.

This year there are twelve interns being trained under the



scheme, ranging in age from 18 to 29, representing five different nationalities and based at five different churches. Each receives accommodation and a living allowance. At the start of this year's scheme, the Bishop of Kirkstall, the **Rt Revd Paul Slater (pictured)**, was able to visit the interns and share his vision for the Leeds Episcopal Area.

The newly-appointed Director of Diocesan Interns, Revd Joanna Seabourne, said, "I am excited to see the ways in which God will use this scheme to bless all involved."