

Diocese of York Newsletter

News from
the Church of
England
between the
Humber and
the Tees

January and February 2012

A vision for the Diocese

A leaflet from Archbishop Sentamu- 'Generous churches making and nurturing disciples' - is being sent to every church in our Diocese. He hopes that this leaflet will encourage churches across the diocese to have a shared vision for growth, and will inform them about what next steps need to be taken.

This has come from a series of consultations, held in November 2010 and hosted by the bishops, which were held across the Diocese to discuss issues relating to Mutual Support and Deployment. Those who attended responded to a number of questions about how we might deploy our resources in the future and what that might mean in terms of the financial demands on parishes.

The feedback was analysed and reviewed and some key themes emerged of a call for a clear shared vision of our mission, a desire to turnaround the



attendance in our churches, a need for a creative strategy for our non-stipendiary ordained and lay ministry, and the need to reawaken a generosity of spirit amongst all Christ's disciples in the diocese.

A small group was invited by the Archbishop to develop these themes and they reported to Diocesan Synod in September. The "Generous Churches" leaflet from the Archbishop is based on their presentation to Synod. It is not a complete strategic plan or a blueprint for the diocese, but it does share a vision for growth and how the next steps will be taken.

Vocation Communication

It's not always possible to detect the tenor or tone of voice in an email, is it? I guess it's not being able to see the face or interpret the verbal cues that cause the problem. I'm sure (I hope!) I'm not the only one to have fallen foul of misinterpreting some communication, of composing a sharper reply than necessary, of hitting the 'send' button - and then really regretting it!

The tone in one I received recently from Ministry Division in London regarding the number of candidates coming forward for selection panels in 2012 was equally ambiguous. It contained more than a frisson of concern about the number of Bishops' Advisory Panels they had planned for 2012 and the numbers of candidates coming forward. They'd arranged all these Panels and didn't have the candidates to fill them?

The surprise? On the contrary, despite what you may have thought so far, in reading this, and in what we hear in the news, numbers nationally for spring 2012 are up! And the Diocese of York is playing its part in this trend.

Over this summer the nine Assistant DDOs in the Vocations Network have begun to prepare the 65 or so candidates across the diocese, a reasonable proportion of whom we hope will attend a

selection Panel in the next year or two. Of the twelve candidates hoping to begin their training in colleges and courses in 2012 half we would call 'young'. Don't flatter yourself if you're over 30! Indeed, the Assistant DDO with responsibility for young adults in their twenties has had to share out some of the 20 or so on his books.

The increasing number of candidates across the age range is encouraging as is the spread of those offering as Self Supporting, Stipendiary or for an Ordained Pioneering Ministry. We might be tempting fate but we have had a good run with candidates the Bishops have presented for selection from this diocese so far in 2011. We have 23 ordinands in training at present on top of this. These are roughly split between part-time study with the Yorkshire Ministry Course and full-time residential training in Colleges of varying traditions across the country - both equally demanding.

Emails, as I said when I began this article, are not always the best form of communication but long may they continue if they're stories about folk being called by God into ministry.

*The Revd David Mann, Diocesan
Director of Ordinands and
Adviser on Vocations*

The Olympics and the Diamond Jubilee

There are two major national events happening in 2012 - the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the London Olympics and Paralympics.

These events provide wonderful opportunities for churches to get involved in their communities, and show what welcoming and friendly places churches are. It's a chance to welcome more people to come to your church and grow your church's influence in your community.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee will be celebrated from Saturday 2nd to Tuesday 5th June over a special four day Bank Holiday weekend.

Could your church host The Big Lunch that weekend (www.thebiglunch.com), or even host a beacon (www.churchbeacons.org.uk)? If you want to use the Queen's Diamond Jubilee as a chance to engage with your community, please contact Roy Thompson of the Diocesan Church Tourism Group on 01347 878644 or roythompson2@btinternet.com.

The 2012 Olympics and Paralympic are taking place from 27th July to 12th August, and 29th August to 9th September. People of all ages across the country will be caught up in Olympics fever - 90% of the UK are expected to watch the Games on television.

The Olympic Flame will be passing



through the Diocese, stopping at Middlesbrough on 17th June, Hull on 18th June and York on 19th June. It will also be passing through many of our towns and villages - you can see the full list at www.london2012.com.

There are lots of ways to engage with your community during the Olympic and Paralympic Games. More than Gold are an ecumenical organisation providing ideas for events, resources and support, you can find out more at www.morethangold.com.

If you want to use the the Olympic and Paralympic Games as a chance to engage with your community, please contact the Revd Allen Bagshawe on 01482 702220 or bagshawe@bagshawe.karoo.co.uk.

Young faiths in the city

At the end of November a group of pupils, staff and governors from Archbishop Holgate's School and other invited guests had the opportunity of watching the premiere showing of a new documentary film at City Screen Cinema in the centre of York. The screening was one of the highlights of the York Interfaith Week programme. This documentary is one in which the school has been closely involved with for the last eight months, from the projects inception. Entitled "Young Faiths in the City" the documentary explores the variety of faith groups present in York and the experience of the young people as they practice their faith at work, at school, at home and in their places of worship.

The Project was funded by Community Development Faiths in Action Programme, and the City of York Council. As well as students from Archbishop Holgate's School, a total of 25 young people representing five of the world faith communities to be found in York, took part in the making of the film. The film includes locations at Archbishop Holgate's School, and features students from the school in discussion about their faith as Christians. Other locations include York St.John's University and the Bull Lane Mosque, York. Following the first screening, the film will be released as a DVD to be offered as a resource to schools, faith



communities, and neighbourhood groups.

The film is devised and presented by Paul Wordsworth, a member of York Interfaith Group, and produced by John Phillips, a well known York film maker.

Schools in the York area can get a DVD of the film free of charge, and the DVDs only cost £5 to other people or organisations. Orders can be placed with; paul.wordsworth@homecall.co.uk or ring 01904 426 891

We also plan further free public showings of the film in York in the early part of 2012 - visit www.churchestogetherinyork.org.uk and click the 'what's on' menu tab.

Richard Nihill and the Revd Paul Wordsworth

Young Vocations Conference

A significant proportion of those offering themselves for ordination report having had a sense of vocation from their schooldays. A national initiative is underway to help those currently still in their teens who might have such a sense of call to ordained ministry.

A conference is scheduled for 13th to 15th February in Ely, designed to assist young adults to understand more about vocation, the nature of ministry, and the pathways to ordination. The hope is that this will inform their thoughts, prayers, and decisions, and prompt conversations with their parish clergy about their

discipleship and their future.

If you know of any teenager aged 16-19 for whom you think this might be remotely appropriate, direct them to www.callwaiting.org.uk, and encourage them to come to Ely.

Experience suggests that very few teenagers will already have initiated a conversation about "being a vicar", so don't be afraid to take the first step. Help is available for travel costs. Feel free to call me on 07525 776406 if you'd like more information.

The Revd Tim Jones, Assistant DDO

Education Sunday

"Student protests and the debate around Higher Education funding highlight a fundamental question – what is education for? Our time in education is not simply about preparing us for the workplace; it is also about the development of the whole person and finding ways to use our newly acquired skills and knowledge in the service of others."

Learning and Serving is the theme for next year's Education Sunday on 5th February - the resources which draw on the lectionary readings are now available at www.cte.org.uk.

Education Sunday is a national day of prayer and celebration for everyone involved in the world of

education. For more than 100 years there has been an annual recognition of the day in England and Wales (traditionally on the ninth Sunday before Easter). The resources are designed to be used on or around Education Sunday, or on any other day during the year, such as the start or end of the academic year. You can use these resources in your church, in local schools, colleges and universities and in other places of learning.

For advice about how Education Sunday could be celebrated in your church or school, please contact the York Diocesan Education team on 01904 699511.

Farewell to Robin Clough

At Diocesan Synod on 12 November, the Archbishop made a presentation to Robin Clough to mark the end of his term as Chairman of the Diocesan Board of Finance. Paul Ferguson, Vice-Chairman of the DBF, writes:

For over a decade as Chairman, Robin has been a key figure in devising the financial strategy of the diocese and putting it into effect, and also in supervising the second part of the DBF's role, namely as the diocese's legal and employing body. He has given thousands of hours to this vital task, and has tackled it with constant attention to detail. It has always been demanding – financial pressures and the complexity of the organisation have been constant themes – and it has been particularly hard work at certain times. Robin was especially dutiful during the period when we were without a Diocesan Secretary. More recently he has chaired the DBF through a phase of major re-organisation: the Archbishop's Council and the trustee-directors of the DBF are now the same body, with the intent that pastoral, administrative and financial policy can be kept together more coherently.

Amid even the toughest meetings there were always flashes of good humour. Robin is fond of nautical metaphors, and perhaps it is safe now to admit that we didn't always understand the ones he used in meetings: why does a diocesan budget need sea-room? And Robin is of course the master of that most unscientific but uncannily accurate method for estimating the financial future, namely the straw poll. We shall miss it!

I have always appreciated Robin's readiness to discuss and listen, and the warmth of his and Ann's hospitality at Spital Hill when we have had 'extra homework' to do. His service to the church has not been limited to his chairmanship of the DBF. Whilst it is only his retirement from that position that we are marking here, this is a good opportunity to recognise his membership of the Wydale Hall Management Committee, his work as a trustee of welfare charities, and by no means least, his loyal devotion to his own parish of Bagby as churchwarden – service at local level that has helped to keep him in touch with the challenges and opportunities that we all share. Thank you, Robin, and all good wishes for the future.

Solar panels

Solar and photovoltaic panels on Churches are the subject of much national discussion at the moment. Phil Thomas, Church Buildings Officer and Graham Andrews, Archbishop's Adviser for the Environment, have written some useful guidelines for churches thinking about solar and photovoltaic panels at www.dioceseofyork.org.uk/your-church/environment.

Diocesan Youth Workers visit Cape Town



In November, a group of ten youth workers from the Diocese set off for our twin Diocese of Cape Town. Diocesan children and youth work officer the Revd Nigel Chapman, writes:

One of the first things we realised was 'Youth Worker' means something different in Cape Town; so some hosts were taken by surprise when they got the old man instead of a young leader! None the less the welcome and hospitality was great and it was an awesome experience, deeply moving and dynamic. It was a privilege to spend time sharing in so many conversations, worship and contrasting experiences; feeding the homeless, time with children at Fikelela, eating at Sweet Home Farm restaurant in one of the townships, seeing the work of 'The Warehouse', spending time with the girls at St George's Home, a Pilgrimage on Robben Island, walking on Table Mountain, Rondevlei Nature reserve, meeting the Archbishop...the list is endless. I've learnt so much. My head and heart is now full to bursting!

The Church is so vibrant and colourful with all ages really coming together and being involved. So many were also involved in their community too and even though certain situations may have seemed hopeless, the faith and hope we saw in everyone we met was inspirational.

We had gone with an idea that we had little to give except to do practical jobs. However, we really are co-workers. We share such diverse experiences and have much to offer one another. Instead of painting walls, we met together to talk, share experience and expertise. We encouraged each other, we discussed problems together and realised that we all face the same pressures, doubts and insecurities in our work as youth leaders.

So thank you - everyone; the dioceses of False Bay and Cape Town, Fikelela, Cape Town City, all the hosts and especially Basil Davids and Rachel Mash who made it such a life changing experience.

Bridging the Gap

You are invited to an important local conference which will be taking place on Thursday 23rd February at the Trinity Centre, North Ormesby in February.

Bridging the Gap, which will be chaired by the Bishop of Whitby, the Rt Revd Dr Martin Warner, will look at ways the churches and Christian organisations are engaged in tackling poverty in Middlesbrough and explore ways we may respond in the future.

Speakers will include researchers from the University of Teesside, Paul Hackwood, the Chair of the Church Urban Fund, Ian Parker, the Chief Executive of Middlesbrough Council and practitioners from a variety of local projects.

Recent cuts by Middlesbrough Council have highlighted once again the deep-seated poverty experienced by many people in our town. The scale and spread of deprivation in Middlesbrough is amongst the worst in the country and the town has been identified as the least resilient to cuts.

Research undertaken by the Church Urban Fund shows that people living in the poorest areas of England are likely to die 26 years earlier than those living in the richest areas. This is just one

of the disturbing statistics showing the inequalities in Britain today.

The Christian Gospel calls us to respond to the needs of our neighbours, to feed the hungry, to clothe the poor, to befriend the lonely, to visit the prisoner, to care for the sick. There are many examples of Christians reaching out in these ways in Middlesbrough, and yet there is still more that can be done. We hope that by bringing people together we can support, resource and encourage one another in making a difference in our communities.

The day will include learning more about the impact of poverty in our town, including stories from people who have struggled in poverty. There will also be an inspiring keynote address from Paul Hackwood, chair of the Church Urban Fund, opportunity to share and learn from each other, and to prayerfully consider our response. There will be information available about resources and support for churches and Christian projects seeking to make a difference.

For more information or to book a place, contact Barbara Edwards on 01642 812 622 or office@st-barnabas.net.

Winning Men

An evening on 'Winning Men' will be held at the Bell Hotel, Drifffield on Wednesday, 25th January, led by Christian Vision for Men (CVM).

This will be a feature packed presentation to help churches reach men with the gospel, including

lessons learned from around the UK, CVM's proven strategies and some of the latest research on this critical issue.

For more information, or to book a place, contact the Ven David Butterfield on 01482 881659

Chancel Repair Liability

The Ven Paul Ferguson, Lionel Lennox and Chris Chambers will lead a session on Chancel Repair Liability on the morning of Saturday 28th January (coffee at 9 for a 9.30 start) at Middleton Village Hall. Middleton is just west of Pickering on the A170 and the hall itself stands on the main road, with car parking space behind. If you'd like more details, or to book a place, contact archdeacon.of.cleveland@yorkdiocese.org or 01642 706095.

Meeting with pain

Sr Rachel Overton will lead a day on Tuesday 7th February at Bishopthorpe Palace exploring the experience of chronic pain.

'Meeting with pain' will explore how we might learn to live abundantly, even if pain or dis-ease is a central feature of life. It will look at the issues that living with chronic pain can raise from the point of view of those who suffer and those who care for them or are alongside them in any capacity. Areas covered will include an overview of:

- Healing and curing
- Aspects of pain

- The individual tools and skills we each have with which to meet pain
- The major areas covered in the journey of meeting with pain
- The importance of the 'Why me..?' sort of questions
- Awareness and the mindfulness tradition in meeting with pain.

The Day is open to Clergy, Readers, those involved in Pastoral Care or Healing Ministry, and those who experience chronic pain themselves

For further details contact the Revd Andrew De Smet on 01439 770760 or andrewdesmet@btinternet.com.

Buildings for mission?

"Buildings for Mission?" is a practical training day for clergy and laity, organised by the Diocese with Christianity & Culture and English Heritage, at Church Fenton church, on 20th March.

Topics to be covered include:

- "Ministry, mission AND buildings? – making the connections" - why buildings matter.
- Understanding your building's past and caring for its future – knowing what you've got.
- Seeing its potential: vision and sustainability, creative uses, practical re-ordering, creating and using spaces for worship.

- Tools for action: what are Statements of Significance and Need and why do we need them?
- Learning from experience: real-life case studies with warts-and-all examples of creative community use and reordering for worship
- Telling the story of faith: interpreting your building's purpose, as well as its history, for your community, schools and visitors.
- Who can help you? Who is out there to give you a helping hand? Find out here!

There's more information at www.christianityandculture.org.uk

Fundraising advice

Catherine Evans, Finance Manager and Eleanor Course, Communications Officer, have pulled together some advice on how to raise funds for projects at your church. The pages on the website focus on community fundraising, event fundraising, applying for grants and legacies, and can be found at www.dioceseofyork.org.uk/your-church/fundraising.

A Taste of Taize

Join in a weekend of Taize worship on 9th to 11th March at St Hilda's Priory, Sneaton Castle, Whitby. Including prayers around the cross, share questions with others and participate in a variety of activities.

To book, contact Tracy Mckeever at: mackem20@hotmail.com or 07919 845 664, or for more information contact Sr Samantha at samanthaohp@hotmail.co.uk or 01947 602 079.

What's On

Weds 25 Jan - Churches Together in York - Christian Unity Week Meeting, 7pm at the Salvation Army Citadel, Gillygate. With a presentation on the Biblical roots of Christian unity by Prof. Nick King, SJ, University of Oxford Theology Faculty, Chair of the Catholic Biblical Association. For further details email ctyenquiries@gmail.com or call 01904 411521.

Weds 25 Jan - 'Winning Men' at the Bell Hotel, Driffield. See page 9.

Weds 25 Jan - Martin Luther – Ghostbuster? University of Hull, 7.30pm. A lecture by Dr David Bagchi (Senior Lecturer in History, University of Hull) - Martin Luther, did not believe in ghosts. And yet his writings are filled with references to ghosts of every conceivable type, from poltergeists to phantoms, and from spectres to spooks. In this lecture, David Bagchi will argue that this intriguing paradox opens up new and revealing perspectives on the German reformer's thought, and on the origins of the new relationship between the living and the dead which the Reformation brought about in much of Europe.

Thurs 2 Feb - Consecration of the Bishop of Doncaster, York Minster, 11am.

Sat 4 Feb - Affirming Catholicism Meeting, St Olave's York, 10.30am. Michael Hampson, author of 'Last Rites' about the Church of England and 'God without God, Western Spirituality without the wrathful king', will be addressing some of the themes in his latter book which aims to present an orthodox catholic theology which is robust for the current age. Contact 01904 788306.

Tues 7 Feb – Meeting with Pain. See page 9.

Weds 8 Feb - Ebor Lecture, York St John University. Dr David Halpern, Director of Behavioural Insight Team, No 10 and the Cabinet Office/Senior Fellow of the Institute for Government, will lecture on "The hidden wealth of nations?". Contact 01904 624624 or eborlectures@yorks.ac.uk.

Mon 13 – Weds 15 Feb - Young Vocations Conference. See page 5.

Thurs 16 Feb - Pompeii and St Paul, University of Hull, 7.30pm. lecture by Dr Peter Oakes (Senior Lecturer in New Testament Studies, University of Manchester). In this lecture, Dr Oakes (author of Reading Romans in Pompeii (2009)) will demonstrate how the Vesuvian towns can help our understanding of the social world of the first Christians.

People on the move

The Archbishop has appointed the Revd James Edward Grainger-Smith, Rector of the Benefice of Beeford with Frodingham and Foston and Priest in Charge of the Benefice of Brandesburton and Leven with Catwick, to additionally be Rural Dean of North Holderness for a period of five years.

The Archbishop has appointed the Revd Timothy James Robinson, Vicar of the Benefice of Helmsley and of the Benefice of Upper Ryedale and acting Rural Dean of Northern Ryedale, to be Rural Dean of Northern Ryedale for a period of five years.

The Revd Nicola Jane Carnall, Priest in Charge of the Benefice of Sowerby and of the Benefice of Sessay, has additionally been appointed Priest in Charge of the Benefice of Thirkleby with Kilburn and Bagby.

The Revd Ian Brian Kitchen, Vicar of the Benefice of Crayke with Brandsby and Yearlsey and of the Benefice of Coxwold and Husthwaite, has been appointed Rector of the Benefice of Derwent Ings.

The Revd Anthony Lindsay, who has Permission to Officiate within the Diocese of York, has been appointed

Clergy Retirements & Clergy Widows Officer for the Archdeaconry of the East Riding. Mr Lindsay succeeds the Revd Canon Gerald Pearce.

The Revd Johannes Nobel, Assistant Curate of the Benefice of Stockton, St Chad and of the Benefice of Norton, St Mary the Virgin, in the Diocese of Durham, has been appointed Vicar of the Benefice of Heslington, St Paul.

The Revd Anthony Pritchett, Priest-in-Charge of the Benefice of Pickering with Lockton and Levisham, has been appointed Vicar of the Benefice of Pickering with Lockton and Levisham.

The Revd Dr Susan Collier, NSM Assistant Curate of the Benefice of Dringhouses, has resigned with effect from 27th February. Dr Collier will retain her role as Adviser for Spiritual Direction for York Archdeaconry.

The Archbishop has granted Permission to Officiate to:
The Revd Jeffrey Daly of York,
The Revd Anthony James Burdon of York,
The Revd Prebendary Peter Bowers of Bridlington,
The Revd Derek Hadfield of Osgodby.

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Deadline to include items in the March issue is Mon 30 January 2012.

The Diocese of York News may be copied for use in Parish Magazines etc, and may be downloaded as a pdf file from www.dioceseofyork.org.uk.

Contact Eleanor Course as above to receive an e-mailed download link for each new issue.