

Diocese of York Newsletter

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

July 2015

Consecration of the Bishop of Hull



The Revd Canon Alison White, Priest-in-Charge of Riding Mill in the Diocese of Newcastle and Diocesan Adviser for Spirituality and Spiritual Direction, is to be consecrated as the Bishop of Hull in York Minster on Friday 3rd July at 11am.

If you're not able to come to the Consecration, do come to Bishop

Alison's welcome service in the East Riding on Monday 6th July at 7pm at Holy Trinity, Hull. No tickets are required – please just turn up.

As Bishop of Hull, Alison will also have diocesan-wide responsibilities both as Ambassador for Prayer, Spiritual & Numerical Growth and Ambassador for Urban Life & Faith.

Sheep and Shepherds

Shepherds had bad reputations, at least in Jesus's time. They were thought to go where they didn't belong and take what wasn't theirs. It's hard for us to think of them that way, since, at least to urban people like me, they seem more like friends who always turn up for the annual Christmas party and never outstay their welcome, since we put them away at Epiphany. I say this, not because I want to write some sort of Christmas-in-July letter, but because I want us to hear the story of the lost sheep as a first-century Palestinian might have heard it and to think about what that might mean for us today.

Jesus asks the Pharisees, 'Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost." Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance' (Lk 15.4-7).

This story wouldn't have gone down well. Immediately, the Pharisees would've been offended because they, of all people, or so they assumed, weren't like shepherds,

who were thought to be trespassers and thieves. For us to hear the story as the Pharisees would've heard it, we've got to substitute some kind of person who's widely thought of in our time to go where they don't belong and take what's not theirs. The migrants on the boats trying to come to Europe, desperate to escape the violence and poverty of their home countries, come to mind. The political rhetoric leading up to the General Election certainly wasn't far off painting these migrants as potential trespassers and thieves. That's why at least some wanted to bring out gun boats to keep them at bay. The same could be said for immigrants already on our shores and those on benefits, particularly when we hear phrases like 'the deserving and undeserving poor'. Even the elderly, when they're called 'bed blockers' in hospitals are thought of like this. In general, anyone poor and vulnerable fits this description in our political rhetoric. So, imagine the story to be about someone like this. That's what a first-century Palestinian would have heard.

Now, to what it might mean. First, let's clear up a common confusion. The story might seem to be about sin and searching, in particular, that we are sinners, who have become lost through our sin, and God searches for us until he finds us, and when he does, we repent, and then he, and we, rejoice.

That's how the story's usually heard. But that's a mistake. Sheep can't sin, and so they can't repent; similarly, God can't lose us, and so he can't search for us. Now the first part is obvious, sheep aren't the kind of thing that can sin because they're not moral agents. So the story can't really be about sin and repentance. But what about God not being able to search for us? That mightn't be so obvious, because it sounds like a good thing God might do for us, when we get lost, as well, at least metaphorically do, from time to time. But think about it: if God can number the hairs on your head, as Jesus tells us earlier in Luke's Gospel (Lk 12.7), how can he lose you? And if he can't lose you, how can he search for you? As the Psalmist writes, God searches you and knows you, but he can't search *for* you because he's always with you (Ps 139).

So, now, putting together what we said about shepherds and what the story's *not* about: what this story *has* to be about is the infinite value of each and every person, for each and every person is worth absolutely everything God can give, even the life of his own Son, and God's call to us to never, ever treat any class of

person like a trespasser and a thief, for there are no outcasts in the love of God. Now if that's right, it's got something to say about how we treat those migrants drowning in the seas, immigrants trying to find a job, families on benefits, the elderly trying not to be a burden, . . . and so on and so on, at least for the foreseeable future. Jesus said, 'The poor will always be with you' (Mk 14.7). That's not a prediction. That's a lamentation. We've got to remember this, because in our efforts to be Generous Churches Making and Nurturing Disciples, we've got to keep this obvious fact in mind: you can't make a disciple of someone who's drowning, and you can't nurture a disciple who's starving.

In the Christmas story, the shepherds were bearers of good news, news that amazed all who heard it (Lk 2.18). May we do as the shepherds did: God has called us to be good news to the poor and the vulnerable and amaze everyone who sees it.

The Rt Revd Glyn Webster, Bishop of Beverley

On the move

The Ven Andy Broom (Archdeacon of the East Riding) and the Ven Samantha Rushton (Archdeacon of Cleveland) were Admitted and Installed as ex officio members of York Minster's College of Canons by the Dean in the Minster on Wednesday 10 June 2015.

The Revd Daniel Cameron Roe, (Assistant Curate of Clifton), has resigned.

Ordination of Priests and Deacons



Pictured above are the nine people who Archbishop Sentamu ordained Priests on Sunday 31st May at York Minster. They are Gareth Atha, Sr Karan Brewin, Tina Minett Stevens, Nicola Penn Allison, Pauline Percy, Sue Pulko, Catherine Reid, Julie Smith, and Sarah Strand.

The Archbishop of York will also ordain twenty-one people to the Diaconate in York Minster on Sunday 5th July at 10am. The people being ordained deacon, and the parishes in which they will serve are:

- Ellie Bangay, York Minster
- Simon Bray, Beverley, St Nicholas
- Jane Brown, Bramham
- Debbie Coyne, Rural East York
- Glyn Diggins, Malton and Old Malton
- Dianne Gamble, Sowerby and Sessay
- Mary Jobling, Eastfield BMO
- David Johnson, Monk Fryston and South Milford
- Anthony Oram, Southcoates, St Aiden
- Rob Suekarran, Strensall
- Adam Wogan, Scarborough, St Martin and Scarborough, St Saviour with All Saints
- Susan Binks, Kirkdale with Harome, Nunnington and Pockley
- Maureen Desborough, Skirlaugh with Catwick, Long Riston, Rise and Swine
- Ali Doolan, Beverley, St Mary's
- Mel King, Brompton with Deighton and Rounton (West and East) with Welbury
- Dotty Lambeth, Ricall, Barlby and Hemingbrough
- Christine Strand, Bridlington, St Mary (also known as Bridlington Priory)
- Catherine Toase, Easingwold with Raskelf
- Glenda Webb, Brayton
- Neil Woodhall, Selby, St Mary (also known as Selby Abbey)
- James Trowsdale, Burton Fleming with Fordon, Grindale and Wold Newton and Rudston with Boynton, Carnaby and Kilham.

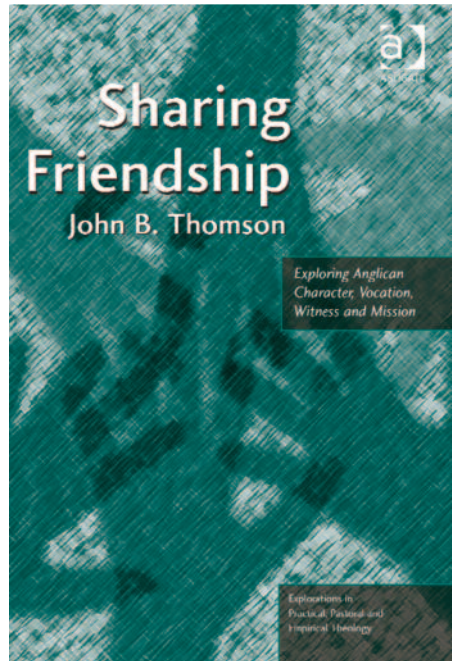
Sharing Friendship

The Rt Revd Dr John Thomson, Bishop of Selby, has written a new book: *Sharing Friendship: Exploring Anglican Character, Vocation, Witness and Mission*.

Published by Ashgate, as part of their Explorations in Practical, Pastoral and Empirical Theology series, *Sharing Friendship* represents a post-liberal approach to ecclesiology and theology generated out of the history, practices and traditions of the Anglican Church. Drawing on the theological ethics of Stanley Hauerwas, this book explores the way friendship for the stranger emerges from contextually grounded reflection and conversations with contemporary Anglican theologians within the English tradition, including John Milbank, Oliver O'Donovan, Rowan Williams, Daniel Hardy and Anthony Thiselton.

Bishop John said, "I wrote *Sharing Friendship* because I think Anglicanism has a lot going for it as a way of following Christ. My hope is that it will help clergy and laity alike to be confident in our Anglican mission today."

Avoiding abstract definitions of character, mission or friendship, Bishop John explores how the history of the English Church reflects a theology of friendship and how discipleship in the New Testament, the performance of worship, and the shape of Anglican ecclesiology are congruent with such a theology. The book concludes by rooting the theme



of sharing friendship within the self-emptying kenotic performance of Jesus' mission, and looks at challenges to the character of contemporary Anglican ecclesiology represented by secularization and globalization as well as by arguments over appropriate new initiatives such as Fresh Expressions.

Sharing Friendship costs £60.00 from www.ashgate.com. Alternatively, you can contact the Bishop of Selby's office on bishopofselby@yorkdiocese.org or 01757 429982.

Transport in rural communities



Until I moved to Wetwang, just over 3 years ago, I had no idea just how difficult it is to get about in these rural villages unless you have your own transport. Living in a village, on a main route between Driffield and York, I expected a regular bus service and was stunned to realise that we only had one bus a week to Driffield (5 miles away) which returns on the same day, giving you just enough time to grab some shopping and return home.

There was, however, a daily National Express bus which drives through Wetwang and stops at the next village (3 miles away) before journeying on to York and Leeds, finally arriving in London. This link allows people to access the main national transport systems throughout the country. There is also a return journey back to Wetwang at tea time the same day. The problem for many residents, with no personal

transport and no other bus service, is accessing this essential service and getting to the various pick up points in the first place. As it travels through Wetwang, why could it not stop to pick up passengers?

After listening to elderly residents at the coffee morning in the village hall, members of St Nicholas' Church, Wetwang decided to address the issue - and so a campaign began. There were many individuals who said it wouldn't happen and that this had been an ongoing issue for years - it is, after all, an Express service and can't be expected to stop in every village. We thought, perhaps, that for one village, which has no other daily service, it might.

As all correspondence had to go through our Parish Council we started by asking them to support our call for the National Express bus to stop in our village.

We then set up a petition, which many residents were keen to sign, and we produced a questionnaire to provide evidence as to how the service (should it be provided) would be used. All of those involved were surprised by the positive response from the community. We had a 33% return from our leaflets and many people signed our petition.

On Monday 11th May the first National Express bus stopped in Wetwang, not only taking some very grateful passengers to Leeds but now providing a daily public transport system to a village that, up to now, has had none. An elderly resident was able to meet her daughter in Leeds who she hasn't seen for some time, while some of us simply

enjoyed a day out and a bit of retail therapy. Before setting off on our return journey, we were pleased to see that the information board at the bus interchange, giving details of the Leeds to Scarborough route, now included the stop at Wetwang.

We are grateful to everyone who supported this campaign and to the National Express for realising what a difference this can and has made. Our thanks also go to the Parish Council for their positive response and for listening to the needs of the community, but most of all to members of St Nicholas Church, Wetwang for putting in the effort needed to make it happen.

Pat Fletcher

More Than Gold

You're invited to More Than Gold, a family fun day on Saturday 4th July at Stewart Park, Middlesbrough, from 12noon to 4pm. Organised by churches from across the Middlesbrough area and from different denominations, the event will be opened by the Rt Revd Paul Ferguson, Bishop of Whitby.

The day will include a marching band, live music, crafts and games, the Christian message, puppets and much more... all free to anyone who comes along! In previous years this has been a wonderful opportunity to share God's love to the people of Middlesbrough.



If you would like more information or want to be involved, please contact Andy and Jo Bowden, Cleveland Archdeaconry Children and Youth Consultants, on thewell@lovelyland.plus.com or 07544 705064.

The Singing Vicars

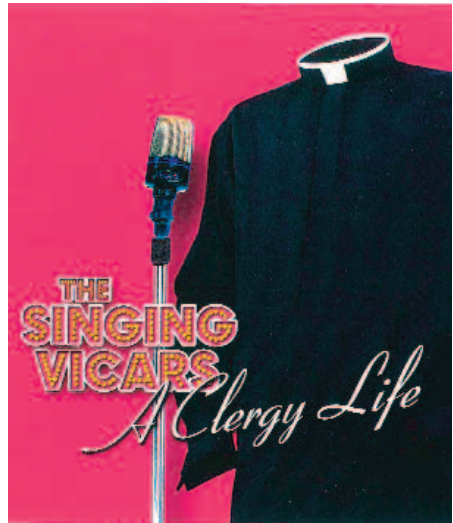
Seven ministers from Scarborough and Filey have produced their first CD: 'A Clergy Life'. The Singing Vicars are the Reverends Andrew Allington, Mark Haynes, Pam Jennings, Liz Kitching, Mike Leigh, Jason McCullach, and Clare Stainsby.

The Revd Mike Leigh, vicar of Newby, Cloughton and Burniston, was a member of Opera North before he felt God's call to become a vicar. He said, "Being part of The Singing Vicars is great fun, we are fundamentally opposed to taking ourselves seriously, and we're secretly pleased the Good Lord did not give us the gifts to go on 'Britain's Got Talent'".

"For me, being part of The Singing Vicars means I can share friendship and fellowship with fellow clergy; we praise God together, laugh at the many eccentricities of church life, and raise money for some great causes."

The Singing Vicars have performed regularly in the Scarborough area for over 5 years to raise money for charities including Christian Aid, the Samaritans, Scarborough Hospital, Feed the Minds and other local charities, but 'A Clergy Life' is their first CD.

Songs on 'A Clergy Life' include a Christian version of the *Grease Medley*, Elvis' *Love Letters, Only You*, and *You Raise Me Up. 5000 Men*



takes The Proclaimer's *5000 Miles* to tell the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand with five loaves and two fishes, and *Believer's Medley* is a 1960s-style blending of *I'm A Believer*, *Daydream Believer* and *Mony, Mony* - singing "I'm a believer, Jesus is walking by my side".

Their next concert will be at Westborough Methodist Church in Scarborough on Sunday 5th July at 7pm, where they will be raising money for St Catherine's Hospice and Christian Aid.

'A Clergy Life' is available to buy on the night of the concert or from Mike Leigh on 01723 363205 or Clare Stainsby on 01723 361841, costing £10 - all proceeds go to Christian Aid.

Rural Mission Sunday

Sunday 19th July marks the launch of Rural Mission Sunday, an annual event celebrating the work of small rural churches. The idea of Rural Mission Sunday came from the Arthur Rank Centre, and the theme of the first year's Sunday is bread.

The Rt Revd Dr John Thomson, Bishop of Selby and Diocesan Ambassador for Rural Mission and Affairs said, "Our rural churches are the heart of their communities. They have a unique ability to serve their villages and reach out to them with the message of Christ's love. I hope our hundreds of rural churches embrace Rural Mission Sunday and its theme of the Bread of Life."

The day suggested for this celebration is Sunday 19th July, but the materials

could be used anytime in July, or indeed another time of year altogether.

The Arthur Rank Centre exists to encourage, inspire and equip rural churches as they engage in mission; and they are entirely funded by donations from individuals and churches. By raising money for The ARC you will enable them to continue to stand alongside and equip rural churches for the tasks they are called to do.

You can download your free Rural Mission Sunday materials from www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk. If you have any questions or would prefer a printed pack and a pre-loaded memory stick, please call ARC on 024 7685 3060.

100 years of the Order of the Holy Paraclete

The Order of the Holy Paraclete is celebrating its 100th anniversary with a Centenary Flower Festival from Friday 17 to Sunday 19 July at Sneaton Castle, Whitby.

There's a preview evening on Friday 17 July at 7:30 pm. Tickets £5 to include canapes and first glass of wine. There will be a welcoming address by the Prioress, and music performed by sisters in the chapel.

The festival is open on Saturday 18 July from 10am to 5pm, and on Sunday 19 July from 12pm to 4.30pm, ending with a Festival Songs of Praise at 4.30pm.

Entry to the Centenary Flower Festival is £3, £2 concessions, to include souvenir programme. Morning coffee, light lunches, and afternoon cream teas available throughout the day. Cards, jams, candles and other crafts made by sisters will be on sale.

What's On

Weds 1 Jul - Ebor Lectures on Theology and Public Life: Rabbi Baroness Neuberger DBE, York Minster, 7.30pm. See page 12.

Thurs 2 Jul - Time & life management, Clifton Parish Church. A day session led by John Truscott focussing on big picture planning of your life, understanding who you are, defining your ministry and working to priorities. Booking: contact training@yorkdiocese.org, 01904 699504.

Friday 3 Jul - Consecration of the Bishop of Hull, York Minster, 11am. See page 1.

Sat 4 Jul - More Than Gold, Middlesbrough. See page 7.

Sat 4 Jul - Organ Recital by Hannah Parry (London), Howden Minster, 7.30pm. Admission is £7.50 (£5 concessions, U-16 free-of-charge). Please pay at the door (doors open 7pm) and refreshments will be available.

Sun 5 Jul - Ordination of Deacons, York Minster, 10am. See page 4.

Sun 5 Jul - RSCM North and East Yorkshire: Oh I Do Like to Sing Beside the Seaside! St Hilda, 's Whitby. Rehearsal and choral evensong accompanied by the internationally renowned Harrison & Harrison organ. The music will be directed by Stephen Maltby. The

music list will be made available to those participating, but will include traditional music suitable for BCP 1662 evensong. For further information please contact Dr Craig Cartwright on 07554 422779 or craig.cartwright@outlook.com.

Sun 5 Jul - Hidden Gardens & Street Fair, Helperby & Brafferton, 12pm - 5pm. With street and garden entertainment, choir, dog show, art exhibition, brass band, and other music. St Peter's church will offer various types of music all afternoon and a floral decoration display.

Tues 7 Jul - Selby Abbey Free Concert, with Organist Dr Roger Tebbet, 12.30pm. Selby Abbey's Viscount organ is to be played for the first time by world-renowned organists whilst the original Edwardian organ is restored. www.selbyabbey.org.uk

Tues 7 Jul - A service of Celebration & Praise, including a Dedication of the Bells, All Saints Thirkleby, 7pm.

Weds 8 Jul - One Day Experiential Retreat: Drawing Closer to God Through the Practice of Spiritual Mindfulness, Wydale Hall. This is a one day experiential retreat led by Dr Susi Strang and will assist you to break patterns of stress and anxiety, discover self-compassion, develop mind-body awareness, and enhance spiritual connectedness. Contact Wydale Hall on 01723 859270 or admin@wydale.org.

Thurs 9 Jul - Contemplative Prayer and Meditation, St Nicholas Church, Wigginton, York, 7.30pm. Rooted in the scriptures and the early Church, in today's frenetic world, contemplative prayer encourages us to set aside time to be still and listen to God. In this session the Revd Canon Chris Collingwood (Canon Chancellor, York Minster) will share with us his extensive experience of the principles and practice of Christian meditation.

Fri 10 – Sun 12 Jul - Celebration of Weddings, All Saints, Market Weighton. Featuring a selection of dresses from different decades. Preview Evening and Concert sung by the Weighton Waytes: Friday 10th July at 7pm. Tickets £10. Enjoy the displays and enjoy a glass of wine and canapes. Saturday 11th July 10am until 4pm. Tea, Coffee and cakes available also children's activities. Sunday 12th July noon until 4pm. Tea, Coffee and cakes available also children's activities.

Sat 11 Jul - 'Conversations': Awe and Wonder - Creative Spirituality, by Rosi Robinson, Old Malton Priory, 10am – 12.30pm. 'Conversations' is the title given to monthly gatherings at Old Malton Priory for exploration of different aspects of Christian Spirituality.

Tues 14 Jul - Selby Abbey Free Concert, Organist Joshua Stephens, 12.30pm. See Tues 7 Jul.

Thurs 16 Jul - The Kammerphilharmonie Koln at Holy Trinity Church, Hull, 7.30pm. This distinguished chamber ensemble makes its first visit to Hull this summer with well known works from international composers. Enjoy the unique ambience of strings and woodwind in the majestic chancel of Hull's Holy Trinity Church. Tickets £14.00. For tickets and information please visit holytrinityhull.com

Fri 17 – Sun 19 Jul - OHP Centenary Flower Festival, Sneaton Castle, Whitby. See page 9.

Tues 21 Jul - Selby Abbey Free Concert, Organist Dr Franz Hauk, 12.30pm. See Tues 7 Jul.

Mon 27 – Fri 31 Jul - Summer Break at Wydale Hall. Spend a few relaxing days in the peace and tranquility of Wydale Hall in the North Yorkshire countryside. The cost is £270 - fully inclusive. Contact Wydale Hall on 01723 859270 or admin@wydale.org.

Tues 28 Jul - Selby Abbey Free Concert, Organist Paul Parsons, 12.30pm. See Tues 7 Jul.

Fri 31 Jul – Mon 3 Aug - Flower Festival, St. Oswald's Church, Flamborough. Theme: "All Clued Up?", with beautiful flower displays, posy making sessions for children and a children's quiz. In the hall, home made refreshments will be served as well as delicious cakes and buns.

Ebor Lecture: "Learning to live a life, ready for death"

Baroness Neuberger DBE will deliver a lecture on "Learning to live a life, ready for death" in York Minster on Wednesday 1st July as part of the lectures on theology and public life.

Baroness Neuberger is a Member of the House of Lords and Senior Rabbi to the West London Synagogue. Educated at Cambridge and Leo Baeck College, Rabbi Julia is a social commentator and writes and broadcasts regularly on a variety of social and religious issues.

The 2014-2015 series of Ebor Lectures, *Lighting the Fire*, explores the foundation, character and practice of education with a special reference to contemporary Britain.

Education is an increasingly contentious subject in contemporary public life. Austerity brings with it the need to control costs in state education, whilst at the same time improving learning and skills to compete in a global market and train a productive workforce to generate business, industry and the future wealth of society. However, education is not just about economic



outcomes; it forms individuals and shapes their lives in society and it makes contributions to every spectrum of life, by informing philosophical, socio-political and ethical conduct.

Admission to the lecture is free but by ticket only and can be obtained through the website www.yorks.ac/eborlectures or write to Ebor Lectures, Faculty of Education and Theology, York St John University, Lord Mayors Walk, York, YO31 7EX

If you would like further information please contact the Ebor Lectures co-ordinator on 01904 876474 or eborlectures@yorks.ac.uk

Diocese of York News July 2015

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Deadline to include items in the August issue is Monday 29 June.

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