

# Acting Archdeacon of York

The Archbishop of York has appointed the Revd Canon John Weetman as the Acting Archdeacon of York with effect from the 1st July.

John will continue to serve as Vicar at Selby Abbey.

His contact details will be email: [adyk@yorkdiocese.org](mailto:adyk@yorkdiocese.org) and mobile 07432 289895.

The appointment follows the nomination of The Venerable Sarah Bullock as Bishop Suffragan of Shrewsbury. Sarah will be consecrated on 3 July 2019.

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu said:

"I am delighted that John has accepted this invitation to serve as the acting Archdeacon of York. He brings a wealth of experience in the Diocese and has a thoughtful and prayerful approach which will be warmly welcomed."

Canon John Weetman said: "I am grateful to my colleagues at Selby Abbey for their willingness to help me in the work here in what is a very important year for the Abbey as we celebrate the 950th anniversary of its foundation, so that I will also be able to serve in this wider role in the Archdeaconry of York until the appointment of Sarah's successor."

The Bishop of Selby, Dr John Thomson, added: "I look forward to working with Canon Weetman. Having seen his ministry in Selby Abbey I know that he will exercise this role with wisdom and pastoral care."

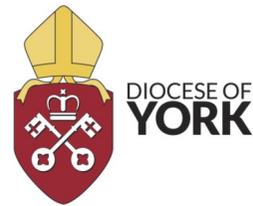


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# TheNews

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## 25 years of women as priests in the Diocese of York

It may not seem very long but this year is the 25th anniversary of the first women priests being ordained in the Church of England; in York, 39 women were ordained priest in York Minster in May 1994.

Today, women make up almost a third of the 20,000 active clergy in the Church of England and over half of those beginning ordination training are women.

Some of those being ordained or licensed today, especially those who are younger, have no memory of a time when women could not minister in this way.

The two group photographs were taken on 14th (upper) and 21st (lower) May 1994; I was in the congregation at the second service and re-



member the great wave of joy when the newly ordained priests turned to face the people and there was a wonderful round of applause.

In this anniversary year, please give thanks for all those who worked so hard to make this possible and pray for all women in ministry today and all the women and men who support us.

**Elaine Bielby**  
Diocesan Dean of Women's Ministry

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*...and there's more!*

# To the Saints of the Diocese of York

The Archdeacon of Cleveland, Sam Rushton, writes:

## *First fruits*

**Pentecost or the Festival of Weeks was one of the three main festivals in the Jewish calendar at which people were called to gather and to give thanks to God.**

In Deuteronomy 16 it says: 'Three times a year you shall appear before the Lord your God at the place that he will choose: at the festival of unleavened bread (Passover), at the festival of weeks (Pentecost), and at the festival of booths (harvest).

'They shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed; all shall give as they are able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God that he has given you.'

This is and was a time of thanksgiving, a time of offering. Everyone brought the first and the best of what they had and offered it to God, to await his blessing.

That first Pentecost after the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus must have been a peculiar one for his disciples.

Devout Jews, they are required to bring what they have and offer it in



thanksgiving but they must have done so with heavy, confused hearts.

And the response from God blows their minds.

They offer what they have, which is not much, as they left everything they had to follow Jesus.

And yet still they give and God responds with the wind of the Spirit and tongues of flame.

As we approach the time when parishes begin to consider their Free Will Offer for 2020, and when many parishes are considering their annual giving appeal to the congregation, perhaps we need to remind ourselves that when we offer what we have in thanksgiving and with joy, God responds in ways which will astound us.

**Are we ready for what God will do with our offering this Pentecost?**

**Sam Rushton**

# Toilets and Technology; what future for rural



**Local churches should learn to see themselves as assets in their communities, as community enablers, networkers and story tellers who have been in business for 2000 years, said the Revd Caroline Pinchbeck, speaking to 28 people who met at Wydale Hall in May to discuss 'Futures for the Rural Church'.**

Before her recent arrival as Vicar of the Market Weighton group and Area Dean of South Wold, Caroline was Rural Life Adviser in the Diocese of Canterbury; she spoke of her own experiences and the present and future challenges of hidden poverty and isolation, demographic changes, increasing house-building, pressures on the farming communities and the decline in services in rural areas.

Pilgrimage, history, churchyards, agricultural markets, schools and civil-political groupings represent just some of the opportunities for sharing the Christian story offered by rural life, she said, prompting a lively discussion which identified keys to this sharing such as good relationships, social capital, partnerships, humour and open conversations about faith.

Bishop of Selby Dr John Thomson, the Archbishop's Ambassador for Rural Life in the Diocese, said, "This was a small but encouraging gathering following the larger event in April 2018 at Norton College.

"We were able to pinpoint small practical steps, such as having a toilet, a small kitchenette and keeping the church open as vital for rural churches' futures, and as encouraging the 'silent congregation' who visit during the week rather than simply on Sunday.

"The demographic of rural areas is changing, and we explored the use of new technologies and forms of communication and the importance of asking 'what does the community need?' rather than replicating existing initiatives."

The meeting also highlighted the opportunities for rural and community action and outreach offered by the Archbishop's Mission Fund and Leadership Training in Schools.

You can contact the Rural Life and Faith Group to help rural churches think further about their rural futures:

- Howard Petch, Revd Richard Battersby (York Archdeaconry)
- Revd Richard Parkinson (East Riding Archdeaconry)
- Revd Mark Brosnan (Cleveland Archdeaconry)
- Revd Caroline Pinchbeck (South Wold Deanery)

**Look out for future events for rural churches.**

# Meet the Priests

Seven women and two men are due to be ordained priest by the Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, at a service in York Minster at 10.00am on Sunday 16th June 2019.

All have served for at least a year as a Deacon in the role of Assistant Curate (continuing their training in service) in parishes within the Diocese of York, from the Tees to the Humber and from the A1 to the Yorkshire Coast.

As Deacons they have shared in leading worship, preaching and pastoral duties. As priests they can now preside at Holy Communion and conduct weddings.

The Archbishop of York said, "God calls people from all sorts of places, backgrounds, experiences to be part of his church – his great movement of change – and some of them he calls to be priests. I'm looking forward to a day of great joy in York Minster as we give thanks that Becky, David, Lucy, Jill, Linda, Sally, Arleen, Shena and Mike have heard that call and are trusting God as they continue their journey in the adventure of ordained ministry."

- **The Revd Rebecca Allright;** Assistant Curate in **Drax, Carlton and Camblesforth** (near Selby).
- **The Revd David Biggs;** Assistant Curate in the parish of **Thirsk**.



- **The Revd Lucy Brencher;** Assistant Curate in the **Parish of Rural Ainsty** comprising Bickerton, Bilton, Catterton, Healaugh, Hessay, Moor Monkton and Wighill.
- **The Revd Jill Gillanders;** Assistant Curate in the parish of **Thirsk**.
- **The Revd Linda Gillard;** Assistant Curate of **Kingston Upon Hull, St Alban**.
- **The Revd Sally Gough;** Assistant Curate at **Thornton-le-Dale** near Pickering.
- **The Revd Arleen Ingham;** Assistant Curate at **St Mary's, Scarborough**.
- **The Revd Shena Moray;** Assistant Curate at **St Mark's, Newby** (Scarborough).
- **The Revd Michael Perkins;** Assistant Curate at **St Michael-le-Belfrey** in York.

# Appointing the next Archbishop of

Faithful God,  
you guide your people  
and raise up leaders in every generation.

We seek the person you are calling to be Archbishop of York.

By your Spirit, give to all those involved in the appointment  
good counsel, holy insight and sound judgement.

Keep the person you are calling under the shadow of your wing,  
and teach us all to trust in the guidance which is yours alone,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



[www.dioceseofyork.org.uk/nextarchbishop](http://www.dioceseofyork.org.uk/nextarchbishop)

The process of appointing the next Archbishop of York has reached its next milestone with the election of six members of the Crown Nominations Commission to represent the Diocese of York.

The 28 lay and ordained members of the Diocese of York's Vacancy in See Committee have elected six of their number to serve on the Commission that will recommend a name to the Prime Minister, to pass to HM The Queen who will appoint the 98th Archbishop of York, to succeed Dr John Sentamu when he retires on the 7th June 2020.

The six representatives may be contacted via the York Diocesan Office with comments or suggested candidates to be the next Archbishop:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| • <b>Heather Black</b><br><i>General Synod, Middlesbrough</i> | • <b>Nick Land</b><br><i>General Synod, Stokesley</i>                         |
| • <b>Ros Brewer</b><br><i>General Synod, Scarborough</i>      | • <b>The Revd Matthew Porter</b><br><i>Vicar, St Michael-le-Belfrey, York</i> |
| • <b>Lucy Gorman</b><br><i>General Synod, North Cave</i>      | • <b>The Rt Revd Alison White</b><br><i>Bishop of Hull</i>                    |

c/o Diocese of York, Amy Johnson Way, Clifton Moor, York YO30 4XT  
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# David starts out on new 20s to 40s role

**A map, a Bettys goody-bag and a blank sheet of paper were the three unusual items presented to newly appointed 20s to 40s minister, the Revd David Johnson, during his recent licensing service at All Saints, Northallerton.**

David is the latest minister to be appointed by the Diocese of York to develop new worshipping communities focusing on those in the 20s to 40s age group. Over the next 12 months it is planned that 13 or 14 clergy specialist clergy will be commissioned across the diocese. The new initiative is being funded by a national strategic development grant from the Church Commissioners.

David and his family were welcomed to Northallerton at a licensing service during which it is traditional for a new priest to be presented with gifts symbolising their future ministry.

"Traditionally the items would be a prayer book and a Bible but for my service we had a map of the area, a goody-bag from Bettys, and then a blank piece of paper. That represents where we are with the role because we are starting with a blank piece of paper



and going wherever God takes us."

In the first few weeks of his new job, Dave says he is listening to God to discover what will be on the blank piece of paper. "I am going around, meeting the community, meeting people who

live and work in the area and speaking to that age range to see how we can best relate to them."

So far, says David, the reaction has been mixed. "There's a lack of understanding about what the role is because this is so new for the church. But to have

somebody reaching out to that age group has been welcomed because there has been such a gap in the church in that age range.

"Many of that age range have no experience of God or church and what they do know of it is historic or from the media which isn't always the best portrayal of what faith is about. My hope is that we will draw people to God and that they might find Jesus as a living reality for themselves."

- **To find out more, visit the Multiply website at [www.multiplyreach.org](http://www.multiplyreach.org).**

Church of England. She was therefore surprised with joy when the national Church's discernment process affirmed her calling to ordained ministry.

Joining in the joyful celebrations will be family and friends here and the wider family in Uganda. In view of her extensive experience and knowledge of the Church, her training will take place at Cranmer Hall after ordination and as she continues to learn on the job as Assistant Curate at **St Chad's, York**.

"My passion and desire is to see lives transformed and to be part of building God's kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven," she says.

- **Maxine Waller** currently works as an activities coordinator with the elderly alongside her work as a dance teacher, which has taken her from family roots in Bridlington, where her Great Grandfather was a Methodist Lay Preacher, to as far afield as the Persian Gulf and Crete. "Having experienced a broad variety of traditions in the Church of England, my calling to ministry has grown with a gradual 'warming of the heart'. I have worked to develop new opportunities for mission through the arts and dance, have a passion to support and care for those on the margins and hope to encourage those beyond the Church to find ways into faith and a fellowship with Jesus". Maxine has trained for ordination at St Hild College and will serve as Assistant Curate at the Priory **Church of St Mary, Bridlington**.

- **Mark Walley** was blessed with Christian parents who prayed for him and taught him the bible; with ups and

downs, he grew up knowing God's love for him. He worked in inner London doing mission among teenagers for a Christian community centre. Ten years and an unexpected career change later, Mark was working for a charity seeking to get the church engaged in fostering and adoption.

"I really loved the job but at the prompting of church and friends I felt the call to explore ordination. The further I explored it the more I realised that this was what God was calling me to do."

Mark stayed in London to train at Oak Hill College and will move with his wife and two children to serve at **St Barnabas, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough**.

"While training has been a great blessing, I'm excited to put into practice what God has been teaching me."

- **Laura Wild** began to discern a call to ordained ministry whilst a Lay Chaplain in a Church of England School: "God was nudging me to consider the needs of the world beyond the school gates!" She trained for ministry through a contextual (parish based) pathway within St Hild College and will serve as Curate at **St Mary's, Nunthorpe**. Laura is married to English Teacher John, with two energetic and engaging boys, Matthew (7) and Benjamin (5), and hence they are surrounded at home by bookcases, although at weekends they might have a cycle about together or a scramble up a hillside. "I'm absolutely delighted to serve a curacy not far from my childhood home in – very much my home town – Middlesbrough. I pray I may see what God is already bringing about there."

- **Mel Meesam** realised as a teenager that God was leading her towards ordination, prompted by the decision that women could be ordained in the Church of England, and she began her exploration in her twenties. She will serve as Assistant Curate at **St Cuthbert's, Hull**.

She studied theology at St Andrew's University and has enjoyed training for ordination at St Hild College, including placements in a parish and at Archbishop Sentamu Academy in Hull.

"I am on the brink of being ordained as a self-supporting minister and am excited to see how ordained ministry develops alongside working as a social worker.

"It has been a challenge combining training with a full-time job.

"As somebody who lives with disability, I have been stretched and challenged by the research I have done into theology and disability as part of my training."



- **Jo Parker** was brought up in a Christian home in the fishing town of Filey; a working-class fisherman's daughter and proud of it. She first felt called to ministry at the age of seven but rebelled as a teen. She will serve as Assistant Curate at **Holy Nativity, Eastfield** (Scarborough).

"This sense of call has never gone away and amazingly God has opened every door to enable me to train for ordination."

Jo has been married to Rob, an itinerant worship leader for 22 years, and with four kids (Dan, Aran, Ruth and Anna).

"My family have been such an incredible support and we do ministry together; we come as a package."

Jo trained at St Hild College in Mirfield and at Emmanuel Church, Bridlington on a full time 'Contextual Pathway' – "A fantastic way of learning on the job."

"I'm really excited to begin ministry; privileged that God would choose me just the way I am; just a working-class lass from Yorkshire; what you see is what you get!"

- **Margaret Sentamu's** roots are in Uganda although she and her husband have lived and ministered in this country for the best part of their adult lives.

Margaret's faith and vocational journey have been formed through a career that includes regulating solicitors and accountants, mental health, Traidcraft and previously helping to select future clergy for the



## Introducing the new website

**Multiply is the new name for the task we adopted as a Diocese to reach those in their 20s, 30s and 40s, and it launched in June with a new website at [www.multiplyreach.org](http://www.multiplyreach.org).**

Filled with a selection of helpful tools, videos, articles, and guides, this is an invaluable resource for helping churches to reach more people through planting and nurturing new worshipping communities.

Learn too about the growing band of Multiply Leaders and where they are dotted around the Diocese with the innovative map feature, as well as short interviews with the leaders and what they aim to achieve.

Multiply developed from consultations within the Diocese of York in 2016 before gaining funding from the national Church of England in late 2018. Since then, seven Multiply Leaders have joined the initiative in York, Beverley, Thirsk, Coulby Newham, Ingleby Barwick, Thorpe Willoughby, and Northallerton, and they have already got stuck in to their communities.

### **Ben Walker, Multiply Associate Team Leader, says;**

"Multiply is a brilliant project to be involved in; we are resourcing churches in the Diocese of York to reach younger adults and begin new worshipping communities. This is what this new website is all about: empowering ordinary people to lead extraordinary things.

"We are also putting on workshops; our last one saw teams and individuals from across the region dreaming about what might be possible in their context. Our next one is in Hull on 7th September and we'd love to see you there. So check out the website and get in contact."

[www.multiplyreach.org](http://www.multiplyreach.org)

# Meet the Deacons

**The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, is due to ordain deacons to serve in the Diocese of York during a service in York Minster beginning at 10.00am on Sunday 30th June 2019.**

As Deacons they will assist in leading worship and undertake work in the local community while serving as Assistant Curate (an assistant minister, continuing their training in service) in a parish in the Diocese of York, which is the Church of England from the Humber to the Tees and from the A1 to the Yorkshire Coast.

They include teachers, a Professor of Computer Science at York University, a former lay selector of Church of England clergy, a nurse, a painter of botanical illustrations and an inner-city missionary; some will serve full-time while others will continue to support themselves through other means.

Dr John Sentamu said, "Thanks be to God that he calls friends from all walks of life to serve him and his people. Today we will surround them in love and prayer as they say YES to that call, and we pray too for all the parishes and the people they will serve."

- **Anne Almond** has trained at St Hild College in Mirfield and will serve as Curate at **St Nicholas, Beverley**. Her early career was as a nursing sister, then studying Health and Social Care before becoming a medical Practice Manager. "My faith in God was tested

to its limit after the death of our little girl Kathryn, who died when she was five and half. I spent some time questioning just what kind of God could allow such pain in anyone's life. Eventually I found a peace through the persistent and enveloping love of God. It is that struggle that is leading my faith journey towards ordination on 30th June.

"Training has been a challenging time but the family atmosphere nourishes faith and life. Stress busting, for me, is time with family in Portugal watching the sunset with a glass of Sangria in hand.

"My hope is for joy in serving my church and local community with commitment and deep faith."

- **Nigel Benson** has been a Reader (a licensed lay minister) at **St Mary's Haxby and St Nicholas Wigginton** (York) since 2013, brings experiences as a soldier, a police officer, a civil servant, a father and grandfather, and serves as a chaplain with 110 (City of York) Squadron RAF Air Cadets and at York Hospital.



His journey towards ordination began in about 2002 soon after he became a member of the congregation at St Mary's, with encouragement from former Vicar Martyn Green; Nigel studied Theology and Ministry at York St John and served as Churchwarden at St Mary's for five years.

"Throughout all that time God was still tugging at me. So here I am, having completed training at St Hild College in Mirfield, which has been wonderful."

- **Bridget Gillespie** has been training part-time for two years with St Hild College and will serve as Curate in **Kirkbymoorside**. As a self-supporting minister she will continue her work of teaching and painting Botanical Illustrations in addition to part-time contribution to local dementia care.

Becoming a Churchwarden in 2008, she went on to train as a Recognised Parish Assistant which in turn inspired her to study the Old and New Testaments with York School of Ministry. Gradually, internal convictions coincided with friends and strangers prompting Bridget to explore ordination.

"My calling probably began around the age of 11 but all I knew about women in ministry back then was the nuns from 'The Sound of Music'", says Bridget.

"I am looking forward to my curacy in my home parish," she adds.

- **Tim Kelly**, originally from Derby, moved to York in 1994 to start his research career, working with industry on safety-critical computer systems (computers controlling trains and driving cars!). Married to Charlotte with three boys, Tim has enjoyed his career as an aca-

ademic and Professor at the University of York, but after training with St Hild College he will now be a full-time curate at **Beverley Minster** (and associated churches).

Tim became a committed Christian aged nine, first heard a whisper of God's call to ordination as a teenager, and it was during his time in voluntary youth work that he felt God call him to serve as an ordained minister.

"I'm excited to be part of the next steps in growing and shaping the Church of England: 'For the sake of the world, burn like a fire in me.'"

- **Katharine McBride** was recommended for ordination training during two years working as a lay minister at St Paul's Church in Holgate, York, coordinating events, leading worship and preaching. She has loved being a full time Contextual student at St Hild College, studying theology while ministering in the parish of **Rural Ainsty** to the West of York.

Katharine became a Christian at the age of 11 after a holiday club, and was fortunate to be in a church which encouraged her in discipleship and in leading music and children's work.

After University, she was a secondary school English teacher, working at Fulford School, and after 11 years I realised that she was being called to Christian ministry.

"I want to see the church grow in faith, in numbers and across generations, so I'm really looking forward to being curate at St Mary's, Strensall, learning more and being creative in sharing my faith."

*continued...*