

This is what Jesus has given us to do

Emma Miles is a Multiply leader supported by the Growth Fund and based at West Hill in the Parish of Bessingby and Christ Church, Bridlington.

She has been building her team and leading a new worshipping community for just over a year, working from a foundation of outreach and mission on West Hill estate. We caught up with her in September, to hear how it is all developing:

"Starting with only a couple of us, we grew a team that became involved in supporting young families and young people that lived on the estate. They didn't need to learn how to be community but there was a desire in me to help them to know a life of Jesus."

"We knew we needed to know peoples' names and to bless that community and bring them together. Over time we became excited about church not being all about a Sunday but



also about midweek fresh expressions of church.

"Our mission is to first introduce people to this amazing saviour in Jesus and also equip them in their work. What excited me about Multiply was that we could be supported to do this and grow a community based on everyday living for Jesus."

"We partnered with agencies outside of the church and we were present even when other teams were doing boxing or music projects for the estate. We are the Christian presence for the community. We did 'After School' clubs with parents too, nutritional meals

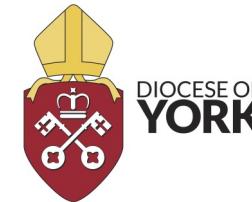
cooked for people, picnics for the estate, and barbecues too.

"People became interested in the life that Jesus offers. The team went from me and one person - to twelve. We picked people up who would serve and who were getting interested in Jesus.

"We then started 'Turning Up' where we would worship together, pray for each other and the estate on a Tuesday night. After a long year we also started a Bible Discovery group from January to August.

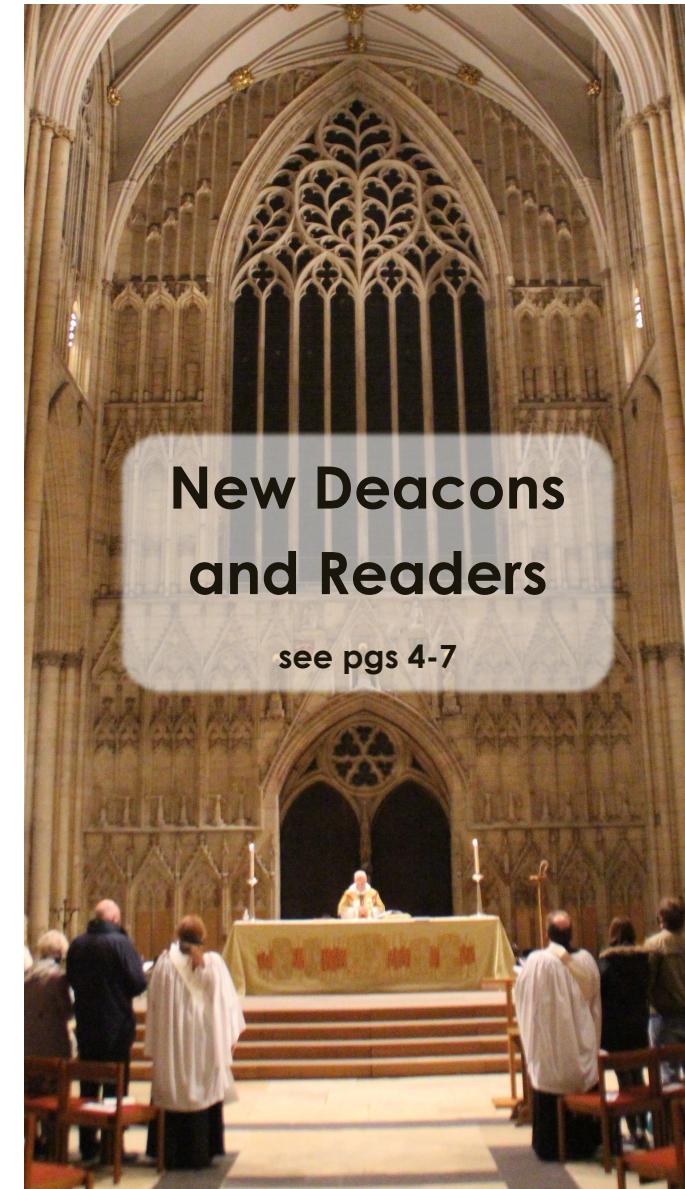
"Many of the mums involved are on benefits, all around the age of 32 to 36, and have issues of purposelessness and addiction. In being part of our team, they got some sort of training, such as in health and hygiene, and felt like they were being put to use. Even doing safeguarding training and being keyholders to the building gave them a sense of being trusted.

Read more at multiplyreach.org



The News

NOVEMBER 2020



New Deacons and Readers

see pgs 4-7

Inside this month:

A year like no other;
Bishop Paul Ferguson P2

By the Grace of God, I will
P3

Deacons and Readers
P4-7

A Gift of Humility
in Rural Ainsty
P8

What Jesus has given us to do
'Multiply' in Bridlington
P12

...and there's more!

To the Saints of the Diocese of York

The Bishop of Whitby,
Paul Ferguson,
writes:

It's been said thousands of times — this has been a year like no other.

Not since wartime has there been anything that has affected everyone, everywhere, in the way that the virus and the anti-infection precautions have done.

There are some words said at the beginning of the service to ordain a new bishop that I look forward to hearing every time: 'formed into a single communion of faith and love, the Church in each place and time is united with the Church in every place and time.'

Those words make me think of brother and sister Christians in different countries — those in our partner dioceses in South Africa, for instance, or the members of the Melanesian Brotherhood who came to visit York some years ago, not long after some of their community had been martyred.

They make me think of people who passed the Christian faith on to us: among 'Yorkshire's own', the missionary Paulinus and Abbess Hilda in the early Christian centuries, William Wilberforce whose faith led him to be a leader in the abolition of slavery, Mary Ward the spiritual

leader and educator. They make me think too of people I have known personally, who have been an inspiration and example to me.

'United with the Church in every place and time' — we are united

in Christ with those who faced their own uncertainties and who could not know what the future would hold. They faced them with trust and hope, because they were passionate about passing on a living faith to people who were to come after (and here we are). Today's difficulties are real, but so are the opportunities for today and tomorrow. My prayer is that by God's grace and the Spirit's power we'll take our part together in handing on a faith in Jesus to people who will live in the future we can't know — a faith to be their rock when they face their own challenges.



+ Paul Whitby

'Stepping Up' begins as Mustard Seed starts to grow

The Mustard Seed "Stepping Up" programme officially started in Middlesbrough and Hull on the 17th and 18th of September, with eleven people becoming community leaders.

Mustard Seed Programme Leader, Heather Black, writes: "This has felt like the end of a long journey, and at the same time, the beginning of a whole new adventure!

"The end of a long journey that began over two years ago with careful listening to parishes. Clergy and lay people asking for the opportunity for 'ordinary' local people to be able to come together to learn and grow in mission in places where 'life is tough.'

"The beginning of a whole new adventure as eleven people came together in Hull and Middlesbrough to form the first Stepping Up learning communities. It has been a joy to begin to get to know each other, share our faith stories and explore how we want to grow through



Stepping Up. Being together as a learning community from across churches seems very important, and although we may feel small and insignificant rather like the mustard seed there is faith and hope about what is going to grow in our lives and communities.

"We will be meeting each week to learn and grow together as disciples of Jesus, growing confidence in sharing our own faith and developing mission in our local communities.

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realised that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that they had been with Jesus.
Acts 4:13

"Many local people who come to faith may see themselves as just 'unschooled ordinary people.' The Stepping Up programme is a movement of courageous ordinary people beginning in Hull and Middlesbrough in September and growing next year in our coastal communities.

"We will be sharing Stepping Up stories over the coming weeks, so do follow us on social media and the Diocesan website."

www.dioceseofyork.org.uk/mustardseed

Facebook @DioYorkMustardSeed Twitter @MustardSeedDofY

We—together—we are the Diocese



David Smallwood, who was a Giving Adviser in the Diocese of York for the last two years, reflected on generosity ahead of his retirement in September.

Generous Giving has to come from within, and is linked to our relationship with God; that's one of the things I've learned.

When we bear witness to that relationship and God's generosity in all areas of our life, it spreads the spirit of generous giving.

It's the same when we talk to PCCs who want to challenge the generosity of their church and increase levels of giving: tell your story, why you are making the challenge, what will you do with the extra, and what is in it for the people.

It's more than just paying the bills or the vicar's stipend, and the same is true of the Diocese when it makes its Free Will Offer appeal; it has to tell its story and tell it well, in a way that PCCs can own the vision of what the Diocese is trying to achieve.

In my opinion, we do not do that very well; what's in it for the PCCs, the churches etc? Yes, they get a vicar

but they get a lot more than that too, but do they know that? As I travelled around the Diocese, churches are not necessarily aware of what the Diocesan Office team has to offer them.

Parishes and the Diocesan Office have to work better together and move away from "them and us". We, together as churches, parishes, deaneries, archdeaconries, Diocesan Office – we are the Diocese. We need each other in order to exist, and to build our relationship with God at the centre, being generous with what we have, so the Diocese (that is all of us) can flourish in the years ahead.

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9.6-8

For me this sums up the essence of Generous Giving and Stewardship.

www.dioceseofyork.org.uk/generosity

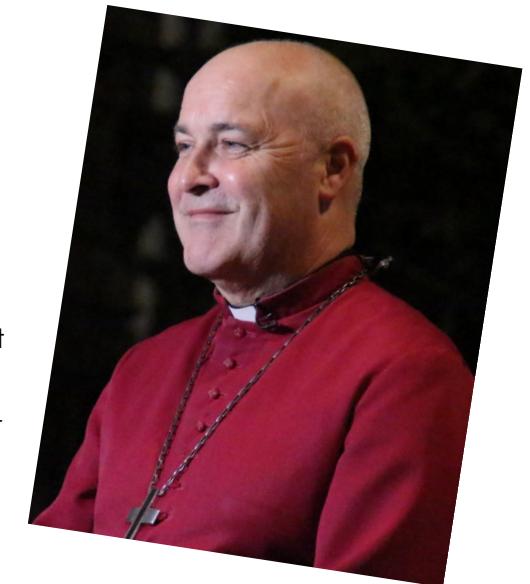
'By the Grace of God, I will'; Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York, is interviewed by John Young

Archbishop Stephen has recorded an 'in conversation with York Courses' with John Young entitled, "BY THE GRACE OF GOD, I WILL".

As well as publishing two courses each year, York Courses also produces occasional interviews as part of a series of Christian conversations, and this latest conversation marks the start of the Archbishop's ministry.

"BY THE GRACE OF GOD, I WILL" introduces Archbishop Stephen's life and faith in five sections: Introduction and Early Days; The Move towards Vocation; Faith, Doubt and Books; The State of the Church; and Big Issues and a Big Job. The conversation was recorded prior to the Covid-19 pandemic and the resultant lockdown.

Archbishop Stephen said: "It was a pleasure to speak with John about my journey of faith and some of the issues that are forefront in the Church of England at this time. A desire that remains within me is that I would love people to know that in Christ you can become yourself. That seems to me to be the heart of the good news, or how I would express the heart of the good news, for today's world. I hope that as you listen to our discussion you



can hear that together we are the body of Christ and we are all called to use the gifts we have been given to show God's love, care and compassion to all those we meet."

Extracts from each of the five sections are being streamed free of charge from the York Courses website www.yorkcourses.co.uk and the entire 60-minute recording is available to purchase as a download for £2. The transcript is also available to purchase as a digital download to e-readers, iPads, Kindles and other digital devices.

Twelve new Deacons

Twelve women and men were ordained Deacon by the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cot-trell, in the course of five services in York Minster on the last weekend in September.

The twelve, who would have been ordained in July this year but for the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, had been serving as Licensed Lay Ministers in the parishes within the Diocese of York in which they continue to serve as Curates now they have been ordained.

The five services replaced the customary single service in the Nave of York Minster, to enable the closest family and friends of the two or three candidates in each service to attend within the current guidelines for social distancing and maximum numbers.

Archbishop Stephen said, "It's an unexpected joy for me to be ordaining twelve Deacons this autumn. These are unusual times and all twelve have been making their mark in their new parishes for over three months as Lay Workers; I give thanks to God for the ministries that are already growing in them and through them, and for the blessing they will be as he sends them out as servants and heralds of the gospel."



Kirsty Dennett comes from a nursing back-ground, working until a few years ago as a Staff Nurse at York Hospital; she continues to serve there as a Chaplain. During a time in her life when she felt particularly unworthy and unloved, Kirsty had a profound experience of God through the Holy Spirit. "The experience showed me how God saw me, how God saw all of us, and how connected we all are to each other; this realisation of God's unconditional love forever changed me." Kirsty began studying with York School of Ministry (YSOM) in 2012, becoming a Reader (a licensed lay minister) in 2016 and attaining a BA theology degree, and

gradually internal prompting drew her towards ordination. She studied for two years with St Hild College, and has looked forward to serving as Assistant Curate in her home parish of **Clifton, York**. "With a heart for pastoral care and social justice, I ask that I am used in the way God wills."



Vicky Earll grew up in a Christian family where faith was ex-pressed as some-thing exciting. After university she planted and led a Pio-neer Network Church for 14 years: "Our heart was to build authentic community and be a church that was accessible for people to find God. "An unexpected call into the Church of England that I

couldn't escape brings me to ordination; I trained at Cran-mer Hall, Durham and am grateful for all that I learned, time to reflect and the friends I have made. My hope for my future ministry is that it will be authentic and full of love, as I seek to join in with what God is doing. I long for peo-ple to encounter our loving God and experience the transformation that his love brings". Vicky is Assistant Curate at **St Michael-le-Belfrey, York**.



Will Ellis came to faith at university, and moved to York to complete an MA in medi-eval history before working in York Minster as a verger. While working at York Minster

Partnerships, People and Pews

The People's Pantry in Market Weighton, by the Revd Caroline Pinchbeck, Vicar of Market Weighton, Sancton and Goodmanham

The People's Pantry in Market Weighton (and Pocklington) is part of the local Pantry network.

It is different from a food bank because 'members' pay a small fee for a set number of items. Those who are Pantry members say that they feel there is a greater integrity for them as they can contribute and choose what they would like.

The People's Pantry was instigated in 2018 using the church building as a hub, and before 'lockdown' they had a regular membership of 50 people in Market Weighton. With lockdown, their model changed radically due to people shielding, and to include the clinically vulnerable (including several volunteers). This led to a 500% increase in people needing food supplies in just a few days. Coupled with an increase in stock from the supermarkets, Local Authority and Government schemes as well, there was a huge, and dramatic need to adapt systems overnight.

In the parish of Market Weighton, we were so pleased to allow the church building to continue as the hub but enable extra spaces to be used for storage and preparation of boxes. Pews provide a very useful

storage system which is an unexpected charism. We used our networks for extra volunteers for leaflet and food box deliveries, as well as monitoring stocks. With the exceptional increase in demand, we publicised the need for extra financial donations which brought in several large contributions.

A major highlight eight weeks into lockdown was one of the Pantry volunteers being nominated for the BBC One Show "Big Thank you" award. Peter is one testimony to generosity and graciousness of people coming forward to help those in need.

Though the Pantry's work has plateaued for the moment, there is always the possibility of another increase in demand. It has been those with an entrepreneurial spirit that have adapted and evolved more effectively and sustainably to the demands imposed by Covid. We are so blessed to be a part of this venture to serve our community - the Pantry working in and with our church community has shown that miracles can really happen.



The gift of humility in Rural Ainsty

It's always humbling and inspiring when we witness seeds of faith blossoming – and while offering online worship may be hard work for many of our church leaders, it has certainly opened the door to church to many who might not otherwise have participated.

The Revd Richard Battersby of the Rural Ainsty churches (west of York) tells us about a local woman who engaged with the church on Facebook, but had never been to church:

"When the lockdown happened and we started our first tentative steps to Facebook worship, she was there – and she's been there every week since as our online services have developed.

"Every week a message goes out from her on our local community Facebook page, saying, "I'm off to church" – it's humbling to think of how many others might have been encouraged by that simple act of hospitality and invitation.

"It's such a privilege to know that people value what we are doing and want to share it with others, and we give thanks for the evangelism this woman does for us so naturally.

"A few weeks ago, I had an online conversation with her; she said she has always wanted to come to our



church, but as she's the sole carer for a family member, physical attendance in the church building isn't possible.

She said, "You've made it possible for me to come to church every week now, and I am so grateful.

"I want to give something back - I'm a carer and don't have very much to give, but I would like set up a small monthly gift by Standing Order."

Richard adds, "No gift is too small to God. The heart of giving is offering what we can, and the gratitude with which any gift is offered makes every gift equal and immeasurable to God.

he began to discern a calling to ordained ministry. He worked as a full-time pastoral assistant on an estate in North Shields to explore this calling, and for the last three years has been trained and formed for the ministry at Ridley Hall in Cambridge. Will enjoyed his time in Cambridge and feels that he grew in the love of Christ and the fellowship of the Spirit in the community of faith at college. "I am excited to have moved back to Yorkshire to be part of God's mission, serving the people of Whitby, and following in the footsteps of St Hilda and other great northern saints." He is Assistant Curate in the Parish of **Whitby**.



Jane Emson came to faith in her late 20s, and worked for 30 years inside and outside the church with vulnerable children, young people and adults, in Social care with drug and alcohol services, rehabilitation centres, young offenders, women's refuges, domestic abuse projects, and prisons, including serving as lay chaplain to a women's prison. She has never stopped telling people about Jesus: "I have always been very passionate about sharing my faith and that continues today. It saddens me that people do not know the hope that is found in Je-

sus." Jane trained and is commissioned as a Church Army evangelist, and with support overcame her dyslexia to gain a BA in Mission and Ministry at the age of 45. She continues to serve as a 'Multiply Minister' helping to build a new worshipping community at **Brambles Farm and Thorntree in Middlebrough**, and hopes to bring people to a living Faith in Jesus Christ, enabling them become wholehearted followers.



Nick Garside is a long-serving church organist and choir director, having come to Jesus at the age of 17 after a service at Scargill House in Kettlewell. A musician and music teacher, Nick was the Head of Music at Selby College until last year, and continues to teach instrumental music at schools in the York area and at York Music Centre. Married to Jill, with sons Sam, Chris, Eric and Frank and four grandchildren, Nick enjoys cooking, gardening and when he gets some free time likes to paint watercolours. He studied as an Ordinand at St Hild College for two years, and at York School of Ministry before that.

"I love to see people come to know Jesus and I'm looking forward to meeting and walking alongside people on their journey of faith," he

says. Nick is Assistant Curate in **Rural Ainsty (Bilton in Ainsty; Healaugh; Hessay; Moor Monkton and Wighill)**.



Phil Grayson came to a personal faith in Christ at age 11. Ordination was

not a career he considered until his first year of Sixth Form, when he experienced a renewal of his faith after a period of significant challenge. He studied for a BA in Theology and Religious Studies at York St John University, before going home to Sheffield to work as a Parish Assistant, and then three years as a Conductor on Sheffield's trams. Phil returned to York for a Church of England Ministry Experience Scheme year, at the Minster and St Luke's parish church, and was recommended for ordination; he trained at Cranmer Hall, Durham.

"Ordination training is certainly demanding, but I have found it to be a time of growth, deep relationships and a lot of fun. My hope for ministry is that I will be able to help people encounter the love of God and grow to become passionate followers of Jesus." Phil is Assistant Curate at **Sherburn-in-Elmet with Saxton**.



Fiona Hill's varied career has included serving others from wait-

ressing to checkouts to museums; she holds a teaching certificate in Lifelong Learning and worked in a university library tagging books. "But the golden thread has been working with people with disabilities – in the community, in the college I did my A Levels in, in universities and as a diocesan disability officer." Her calling started with people stating, "So you're gonna be a vicar then. Eventually I prayed if this was what God wanted, 'God, if you want me to be a priest, you're gonna have to make it obvious, but not scary, cos you know what I'm like.'" Following this prayer came a religious experience – it became obvious to Fiona that God wanted her to become a priest – "and the religious experience wasn't scary either!" She trained for ordination at Cranmer Hall, Durham, and hopes "To serve God well, to proclaim the Good News faithfully, and to seek the Holy Spirit." Fiona is Assistant Curate at **Scarborough, St Columba & St James with Holy Trinity**.



Vanessa Kirby came to faith at Mission England in 1985 aged 19 and was nurtured as a disciple at St Barnabas Church, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough. In 1998 she began training with Church Army in Sheffield, and ministered

there until 2015. Back in Middlesbrough she has taken different roles in deprived communities focusing on supporting people to live life in all its fullness. She trained for ordination at Cranmer Hall, Durham, and enjoyed community life spanning the breadth of the Anglican Church. Vanessa is married to Jeff with two children, Ben and Alice, and is a Teessider born and bred. "With a heart for Teesside, I am thrilled that my curacy is at St Oswald's and **St Chad's in Middlesbrough**. "I reflect and hold on to some words from theologian Philip Yancey: 'There is nothing we can do to make God love us more, and nothing we can do to make God love us less'."



Alan Leach is a Lecturer and Psychotherapist working in the East Riding of Yorkshire. He enjoyed training for ordination at St Hild College, gaining a Diploma HE in Theology, Ministry and Mission. "I found the course a huge learning curve with my formation being both challenging and rewarding in my spiritual growth. I continue to gain from my training a deepened sense of connection with God through ongoing prayer and biblical studies." He will continue his professional work alongside his role as Assistant Curate at **All**

Saints, Rudston. Alan lives with his wife Jenny and three younger sons, and says that his older children Amy and stepson William are thrilled about his upcoming ordination. "I am excited to harness my secular gifts in teaching and pastoral support applying them into a faith-centred context and placing Christ at the heart of my ministry."



Mark Poole committed his life to Jesus Christ at the age of fifteen and shortly afterwards he had a sense of calling to ordained ministry, but tried to ignore it for many years! He trained to teach in Oxford where he met his wife, Emma. He taught for 20 years, serving for 12 of those as a Headteacher and Adviser/Inspector for North Yorkshire County Council. They have two grown-up children and two dogs. The calling to ordained ministry remained over the years and following more serious discernment,

Mark began training at St Hild College in Mirfield. "It has been a huge privilege to study, and a rich and blessed formational journey over the last three years. "I feel sure that God's timing has been perfect." Mark is Assistant Curate in the **Benefice of Rural East York (Dunnington, Holtby, Stockton-on-the-Forest and Warthill)**.



Jane Robson committed to follow Jesus in 1981 aged 12. In her mid 20s she felt called to full-time Christian work: "I said 'yes' but God said 'not yet'." She continued her pharmacy career, ultimately becoming Clinical Pharmacy Manager at North Tees Hospital. After a clear call she became a Reader (a licensed lay minister) in 2014 and began to consider ordination.

"After several years of fighting, including two trying to teach God theology (didn't he know women shouldn't be ordained as priests?!) I submitted and acknowledged the call was

real." Jane trained at Cranmer Hall, Durham; an amazing experience which helped her discern God's voice and find her security in him. "I long to help others find their vocation, whether in secular employment, or in the church – and to walk beside them as they work it out." Jane is Assistant Curate in **Great Ayton with Easby and Newton under Roseberry**.



Richard Townend is from York and came to faith as a teenager in Criccieth, North Wales. Whilst employed as children's worker in Middlesbrough in 2005, he received a calling to ordained ministry.

Sadly, at this time, it wasn't meant to be. Richard's pastoral nature and heart for children's work led him to an enjoyable and successful career in primary teaching at Barlby. Following contact with Archbishop Sentamu in 2017, Richard unexpectedly found himself in a discernment process, and a few months later, began training at Cranmer Hall, Durham. Richard is married to Emma with two daughters and a sausage dog called Taffy. He is Assistant Curate at **Emmanuel Church, Bridlington**. "It has taken fifteen years, so I am eager to share God's love as a deacon. I'm sure it will be worth the wait!"

Archbishop Stephen admitted and licenced five people to serve as Readers in parishes in the Diocese of York, at York Minster on the 26th September.

A Reader is a trained lay minister, who holds the Archbishop's Licence to preach, teach and carry out pastoral and other work on a voluntary basis alongside the clergy, typically in their home parish. People in all walks of life are called to serve as Readers; there are now over 200 Readers active in the Diocese of York.

Warden of Readers for the Diocese of York, the Ven Sam Rushton, said, "God is at work doing new things even in the midst of a pandemic – it's a real joy to present our new Archbishop with five very different people, each with their own stories of life and faith, and each of them called to serve God and their own communities in this special way."

Anne-Marie Breewood: Holme & Seaton Ross Group
Annie Harrison: Pocklington Wold Group

Dr Nick Land: Great Ayton with Easby & Newton under Roseberry

Dr Ian Lyall: Benefice of Harton
Sister Louisa McCabe OHP: St Peter's Redcar

