

A Prayer for 'Living Christ's Story'

God our loving Father,
you have called your Church into being in your love and strengthened us for
your service.

Guide and inspire us as we seek to re-shape our approach to mission and
ministry in our diocese;

that we may be a joyful Church of missionary disciples,
one in heart and mind; for the sake of your kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

www.dioceseofyork.org.uk/living-christs-story

Prayer and Challenge: remembering Sarah Everard

The Bishop of Selby, the Rt Revd Dr John Thomson, has spoken about the death of York-born Sarah Everard and public response to it.

"Like many others I have been shocked by the terrible news of Sarah Everard's death.

"Sarah grew up and went to school in York and so her family and many of her friends are local people.

"I would ask everyone to pray for Sarah's family, and to challenge gender-based violence in our society and the damaging climate of fear

which limits women's freedom of choice and personal safety."

**Merciful God,
hear the cries of our grief,
for you know the anguish of our hearts.
It is beyond our understanding
and more than we can bear.
Accept our prayer
that as Sarah has been released
from this world's cruelty,
so may she be received into your
safe hands and secure love.
We pray that justice may be done
and that we may treasure the
memory of her life more than the
manner of her death.
For Christ's sake,
Amen.**

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TheNews

APRIL 2021

Thanksgiving for Jobs!

As the government's vaccination programme rolls out across the country and protects a growing number of people from the COVID coronavirus that has made life so difficult for the last year, why not take the opportunity to offer thanks to God for your 'job' in a practical way as well as in prayer?



Christian Aid works with some of the poorest and most vulnerable communities across the world, where there may be little hope of a vaccine rollout.

These people already face a lack of water, food, and healthcare.

Christian Aid is already on the ground, helping keep people safe from coronavirus with practical support – but with your gift of thanks can do more.

- If you or your loved ones have had your 'job', go to bit.ly/ca-jabthanks to make a donation, and in leaving your message feel free to mention that you're from the Diocese of York.

It's something positive you can do when life is quite austere anyway!

Inside this month:



...Which means 'God saves':
Archbishop Stephen P2



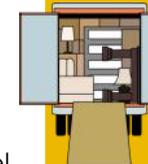
Jonny Hedges—new face at Stepping Up P3



Farewell Bishop Humphrey—former Bishop of Selby dies P4



Ten years of RPAs—much to celebrate P5



People on the Move:
Comings & Goings P7

...and there's more!

To the Saints of the Diocese of York

The Archbishop of York,
Stephen Cottrell,
writes:

“He became what we are so that we can be what he is”

St Athanasius (296-373 AD)

“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

2 Corinthians 5. 21

Two images dominate western art. You can see them in every art gallery and in the stained glass windows of nearly every church. One depicts a child in his mother’s arms. The other shows a young man dying on a cross.

The Christian faith says this child and this man are the same person. They say that he is God come down to earth.

This seems preposterous! It’s not how we think of God. Surely God is not a tiny child? Surely God doesn’t hang on a cross? Surely God – if he is God at all – is ‘all powerful’, ‘unchanging’, and ‘all knowing’.

In this man, and especially in the awful climax of his awful death, we are invited to consider God as one who is emptied of power, as one who shares the life of earth. This is always the first message of the Christian

faith. It is what we must declare before we declare anything else: God is with us.

But there is something else as well. The only reason these images endure and why new ones are made each year, is because the God who shared our life in Jesus and who died on the cross was also risen on the third day. God’s sharing in our humanity is for a purpose: so that our lives can be united with the life of God and even carried into glory.

Jesus, by his death and resurrection gives our lives and gives the whole world a new direction. The inner compass of our humanity is re-set. All this is the achievement of the man upon the cross. His purpose is to die and rise and take us with him. In his death, death is destroyed. In his life, life is restored: sins are forgiven and humanity is reconciled to God.

His name is Emmanuel, which means God is with us.

His name is Jesus, which means God saves.



+Stephen Ebor:

People on the Move

Comings and Goings in the Diocese of York



The Revd Dominic Black, Priest in Charge of Kingston Upon Hull, Most Holy and Undivided Trinity (Hull Minster) has been appointed as Vicar of the same Benefice, known also as Holy Trinity and designated Hull Minster. As Canon Black (from the 25th April) he will be instituted by the Bishop of Hull in Hull Minster at 4.00pm on Sunday, 6th June 2021.

Mr Matthew Burnell, Multiply Minister in Drypool, Hull, has resigned with effect from 28th May 2021.

The Revd Dot Hicks, who holds the Archbishop’s Permission to Officiate has been appointed as Distinctive Deacon (SSM) of Strensall for a period of two years. She will be licensed by the Bishop of Selby via Zoom at 2.00pm on Sunday, 21st March 2021.

The Revd Terence McDonough, Vicar of Fulford, York, will retire with effect from Wednesday, 31st March 2021.

The Revd Angela Morrison, who holds the Archbishop’s Permission to Officiate, has been appointed as Assistant Curate, SSM, of Dringhouses, York. She will be licensed by the Archbishop of York at 10.00am on Sunday, 28th March 2021 in St Edward the Confessor, Dringhouses. The service will be live-streamed via YouTube.

The Revd Wendy Plant, who holds the Archbishop’s Permission to Officiate,

has been appointed as Assistant Curate, SSM, of Sherburn in Elmet with Saxton. She will be licensed by the Bishop of Selby at 3.00pm on Sunday, 21st March 2021 via Zoom.

The Revd Fiona Robinson, Assistant Curate, SSM, of Sutton Park St Andrew and Wawne St Peter, Hull, has been reappointed and will be known locally as Associate Minister. She will be licensed by the Bishop of Hull at 7.30pm on Thursday, 13th May 2021 at St Peter’s, Wawne.

The Ven Armitage Shanks has been re-appointed Attendant of the Privy Chamber from Maundy Thursday.

The Revd Canon Roger Simpson (Prebend of Givendale), retired with effect from 16th December 2020. The Archbishop has conferred the title of Canon Emeritus upon him with effect from 17th February 2021.

The Revd Catherine Staziker, former Minor Canon of Sheffield Cathedral and now part of the Clergy team, and holding Permission to Officiate in the Diocese of Sheffield, has been appointed as Priest-in-Charge (House for Duty) of Cloughton and Burniston and of Ravenscar and Staintondale. She will be licensed by the Bishop of Hull in St Mary, Cloughton at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 2nd June 2021.

Email Scam—beware!



In a widespread scam, local church officers such as churchwardens, treasurers etc have received fraudulent messages by email or text impersonating members of the clergy, typically in their own parish, asking the recipient to spend money on vouchers or gift cards.

One church office holder actually spent quite a lot of their own money, but fortunately discovered before it was too late.

This is a national and international trend with similar reports from other Church of England Dioceses; we have reported one specimen case to North Yorkshire Police who have passed it over to Action Fraud, a national police scheme.

The first message reads something like “Do you have a moment I have a

request I need you to handle discreetly. I am currently busy in a prayer session, no calls so just reply my email.”

A reply then draws the recipient into a dialogue in which they are asked to buy vouchers, and ultimately send images of their serial and security numbers to the fraudster.

If you think you have received one of these messages please report it to the police via their non-emergency line 101.

Martin Sheppard at Diocese of York Communications (comms@yorkdiocese.org), is monitoring the scams and can provide informal advice if you're unsure whether a message is valid or not.

- Incumbents may like to consider advising their church officers and PCC members that **“I will never ask you by email to spend your own money for the church.”**
- This has the advantage of needing no technical knowledge or understanding to help people identify an incoming email as fraudulent.

Jonny's the new Team Member for Mustard Seed

Jonny Hedges joins the Mustard Seed Team in March as a third Associate Programme Leader, alongside Liz Holdsworth and Angela Bailey, with Programme Leader Heather Black.

Jonny will support the programme's development, and lead Stepping Up learning communities across Middlesbrough and Guisborough Deaneries.

The Mustard Seed programme's work of 'Growing disciples in places where life is tough' is part of the Diocesan Goal to 'Reach those we currently don't'.

'Stepping Up' sees lay people across a Deanery meet weekly to grow as disciples, exploring mission in their parish and supporting each other. Each Mustard Seed parish will become a place of welcome, hospitality and support where people can be listened to, receive support and explore faith.

“We look forward to Jonny getting to know local people and parishes. He will be a great source of support and inspiration, as we live out Christ's story in places where life is tough”, said Heather Black.

Jonny grew up in Redcar and returned there with his wife and daughter in 2018 after nine years in full-time Christian ministry, mostly in two Anglican churches 'down South'.

He's worked with all ages, setting up early intervention programmes in

schools, running youth ministries and mentoring programmes for lay people.

Recently, Jonny has worked for North Yorkshire Police as a Response Officer and Investigator.

In Redcar Jonny and his wife Abi have launched Blank Canvas, a local ecumenical youth charity, providing needs-based specific projects for young people.

Jonny says “I believe and have huge confidence in the local church of this area to bring transformation to our local communities! This is what excites me about joining the Mustard Seed team, supporting and journeying alongside all the churches across Middlesbrough and Guisborough Deaneries.”

Bishop of Hull the Rt Revd Alison White, who leads development of the Mustard Seed programme, said:

“It has been a joy to see the way God is calling the Mustard Seed team into being. Jonny Hedges comes with great gifts and energy and he is just the person we need to be alongside those who are courageously 'Stepping Up'.”

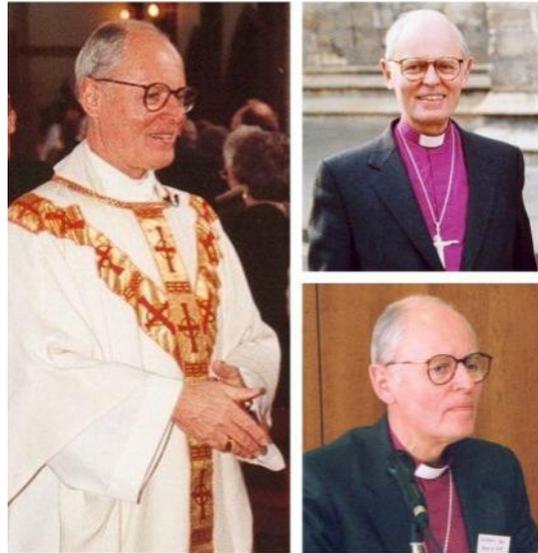


Remembering Bishop Humphrey

The Rt Revd Humphrey Taylor, who was Suffragan Bishop of Selby in the Diocese of York from 1991 to 2003, died in Bristol on the 25th February at the age of 82.

Widely loved and respected in the Diocese, Humphrey Taylor was appointed Bishop of Selby by Archbishop John Habgood in succession to the Rt Revd Clifford Barker, and following 11 years as General Secretary of mission agency USPG.

Bishop Humphrey was born in Newcastle in 1938, attended Harrow School and (following national service in the RAF) Pembroke College Cambridge, where he intended to study engineering and join the family business. At Cambridge he switched to theology and then studied for ordination at Mirfield; he was ordained in 1961 and served as curate in Hammersmith and then Notting Hill before going to Malawi with USPG. He worked as a Chaplain in Higher Education in the 1970s and spent five years with the Church of England's national Board of Education before returning to USPG. On Bishop Humphrey's retirement in 2003, Lord Habgood wrote of his appointment to Selby, "A suffragan



bishop clearly needs to be a good pastor, and a good organiser too, given the large measure of autonomy enjoyed by suffragans in this diocese. But I was also looking for something special.

"Our most obvious need as a diocese at that time stemmed from the lack of any clear link with churches overseas, and the rather weak emphasis on mission in the diocese as a whole. It seemed to me that Bishop Humphrey's previous experience in USPG, and his long involvement in both education and mission, were just what we needed. ...I knew that he had a perceptively critical mind, and could express

himself trenchantly when he disagreed with what was being proposed."

This and other retirement tributes, read in full, are notable for phrases such as "great vision and strong leadership", "Humphrey's style was to work alongside his colleagues... to offer encouragement to them to use their skills," "thanks largely to Humphrey Taylor's tireless advocacy," "his readiness to speak up and be constructively critical," "his quiet thoughtful care and wise counsel," "by being well known, accessible, he has become trusted and valued."

On retirement Bishop Humphrey moved with Anne to the Vale of Evesham where he became an Honorary Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Worcester for ten years; more recently they moved to Bristol to be close to family.

Thanks be to God for Bishop Humphrey's life, witness and ministry; we hold his family in our prayers, and share their hope that a memorial service in the Diocese of York may be possible later in the year as restrictions in response to the COVID pandemic begin to ease.

- Read retirement tributes to Bishop Humphrey in the February 2003 issue of York Diocesan News: bit.ly/ydn0302

Ten years of RPAs

It's ten years since Recognised Parish Assistants began serving the Diocese in 2011. How are our RPAs



discovering and using their gifts in their own churches large and small, rural and urban?

Anna King, RPA at St Mark's Newby (Scarborough) since June 2014, is the pastoral group organiser, and believes RPAs contribute positively to the full range of ministry parishes offer and likes to 'get things done', though she recognises that 'being an RPA is about Christian living – not just getting jobs done, but thinking and praying about what God is calling us to.'

"One thing that changed for me during RPA training was I learned the real therapeutic value of simply listening to someone, without the need to 'do' anything. In my job, I had to act on something that I was told, and so it was a relief to come to understand that listening is very valuable in its own right.

"Being an RPA has encouraged me to try to 'love my neighbour as myself' even when someone is expressing views, or doing things, that do not coincide with my own feelings."

"There is some preparation work to do (but no essays!) and some theology to think about – but it's a stepping stone into ministry, and the 'doing' after the course is really fulfilling."

www.ysom.org.uk/rpas