

New Canons Collated

The following Canons elect are to be collated by the Archbishop of York and admitted and installed as members of the College of Canons of York Minster on 25 April 2021.

The Collation will take place privately at 3.00pm, followed by Admission and then Installation during Evensong at York Minster at 4.00pm. As previously announced, this appointment is in addition to any posts the Canons Elect currently hold:

The Revd Nick Bird to be Canon and Prebend of Fenton

The Revd Dominic Black to be Canon and Prebend of Weighton

Mrs Ros Brewer to be Canon and Prebend of Ulleskelf

The Revd Richard Carew to be Canon and Prebend of Knaresborough

The Revd Glyn Holland to be Canon and Prebend of Ampleforth

The Revd Anne Richards to be Canon and Prebend of North Newbald

The Revd Tim Robinson to be Canon and Prebend of Langtoft

The Archdeacon of Cleveland, the Ven Amanda Bloor, will also be admitted and installed on the same occasion, following her collation last year.

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



TheNews

MARCH 2021

Living Christ's Story



Archbishop Stephen launches refreshed Diocesan Vision with new video to start consultation process

What will be the future shape of mission and ministry in our parishes and across the diocese?

In June and July this year all PCCs will be asked to engage in detail with the Diocesan Consultation process to shape the future of our vision 'Living Christ's Story'.

The first stage is under way with Deanery Leadership Teams, but all church members can learn about the purpose and shape of the consultation at www.dioceseofyork.org/living-christs-story.

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To the Saints of the Diocese of York

The Archdeacon of York,
Sam Rushton,
writes:

A mantle of praise

Just before Christmas I was feeling pretty low about things: tired of lockdown and never seeing anyone in the flesh (and conversely too many hours on 'Zoom!'); tired of having to change plans every other week at the whim of an uncontrollable and uncaring virus; tired of worrying about an uncertain future.

And then an email popped into my Inbox pointing me to a Blog entitled 'Shifting heaviness with Praise'. The title instantly grabbed my attention and I went for a closer look: Shifting Heaviness With Praise - Heaven in Business

The phrase comes from Isaiah 61: 'The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to provide for those who mourn in Zion - to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.' What does it look like, asked Lisa van den Berg, to have a garment of praise in this situation in which I find myself, battling with a heaviness of spirit.

Praising God is really hard on your own. We really miss standing alongside our church families and singing out those big, bold hymns of praise – it simply isn't the same on zoom or even in church with a small choir singing for you. There are many things we, as disciples, can do on our own or on Zoom - pray, read our bibles, study scripture with others – but praise needs some extra effort.

So yesterday it was my turn to cook the tea. I put a CD of hymns in the CD player – I favour the rather jaunty versions produced by Spring Harvest but that's a matter of taste – I cranked the volume up, and I sang at the top of my voice as I diced and chopped and stirred the pot - luckily I have a house with thick walls and an understanding family!

And do you know what – just for a while I have driven out that spirit of heaviness and been filled again with the Spirit of Praise.



Sam Rushton

People on the Move

Comings and Goings in the Diocese of York



The Revd Sally Gough, Assistant Curate of Thornton Dale with Allerston, Ebberston, Ellerburn and Wilton, is to be Assistant Minister, House for Duty, of Thornton Dale, Allerston, Ebberston, Ellerburn, and Wilton, and the Benefice of Upper Derwent. She will be licensed by the Bishop of Whitby, subject to the government guidance at the time, at 7.00pm on Thursday, 11th March 2021 in All Saints, Thornton Dale.

The Revd Canon Dr Daphne Green, Provincial Chaplain and Researcher to the Archbishop of York and Canon of York, Prebend of Bilton, has resigned with effect from 28th February 2021 and will relinquish her canonry. The Archbishop has conferred the title of Canon Emeritus upon her with immediate effect. She will be licensed as Chaplain of the Anglican Church of Holy Trinity, Geneva on a date to be confirmed.

The Archbishop has appointed **the Revd Alastair Laird**, Vicar of Easington with Skeffling, Keyingham, Ottringham, Patrington, Welwick and Winestead, to be Area Dean of South Holderness for five years with effect from Tuesday, 16th March 2021, in succession to **the Revd Susan Walker**.

The Revd Richard Kirkman, Rector of Escrick and Stillingfleet with Naburn, and Priest in Charge of Bubwith and

Skipwith, will retire with effect from 30th June 2021.

The Revd Simon Pritchard, Rector of the Stamford Bridge Group of Parishes, has been appointed additionally as Priest-in-Charge of Wilberfoss with Kexby. He will be licensed by the Bishop of Selby at 7.30pm on 11th March 2021 via Zoom.

The Revd Clay Roundtree, Vicar of Ingleby Barwick, has resigned to be Associate Rector of Grantham in the Diocese of Lincoln with effect from 4th May 2021. His final service will be on Easter Sunday, 4th April 2021 at 6.00pm in St Francis of Assisi, Ingleby Barwick.

The Revd Malcolm Wainwright, Priest in Charge of Skelton with Shipton and Newton on Ouse; also Assistant Curate of Alne, Brafferton with Pilmoor, Myton on Swale and Thormanby Coxwold and Husthwaite, Crayke with Brandsby and Yearsley, Easingwold with Raskelf, Strensall, and The Forest of Galtres, will retire with effect from 22nd May 2021.

The Revd Robert Williamson, Vicar of The Thorntons and the Otteringtons, will retire with effect from 30th June 2021. His final service, subject to government guidance at the time, will be on 20th June 2021 in St Andrew's, South Otterington.

Farewell to walker, writer, fundraiser, teacher and Reader John Eckersley

John Eckersley died peacefully on 4th January 2021 at home, in Flamborough.

John was well-known across the Diocese, serving here and elsewhere as a Reader for more than 40 years. He first taught in secondary school on VSO in the Sudan, then in Manchester, in York, in Jamaica, and for 25 years at St Aidan's CE High School in Harrogate. At St Aidan's he was also a lay chaplain, inspiring his students in practical Christianity through his somewhat wacky Assemblies and fund-raising activities, and earning himself the staff nickname of 'Johnny Carport'.

After his retirement he headed up Summer-club activities for primary school children in York and continued to take primary school assemblies as a Christian Aid volunteer .

He is best-known for his fund-raising activities for Christian Aid including his long walks, and his walking books published to benefit Christian Aid. John and Nancy have together raised around £200,000 for Christian Aid Projects in the developing world, through their sponsored walks and John's books. They have walked about 33,000 miles during the process. The first long walk was an

epic five month long Land's End to John o' Groat's (covering 1,400 miles). This was followed by Carlisle to Bridlington, Dover to Carlisle, Dundee to Inverness (the long way around the coast) and Filey to York Minster. On these walks they visited and spoke and prayed in, churches, Cathedrals and Abbeys along the route.



His funeral was at St Michael's Bempton in January.

Donations in John's memory can be made to the Christian Aid Appeal for help to developing nations during the pandemic at

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Nancy-Eckersley1

John's books and epic walk blogs can be found at

www.johneckersley.wordpress.com

He leaves his wife Nancy, four children and nine grandchildren.

And the darkness shall not overcome it!

Children of Light festival launched on the 20th March

The Diocese of York's 'Children of Light' Festival launches on March 20th with a pre-recorded commissioning service from the Archbishop of York and children and young people from around the Diocese, that can be used as part of online or gathered services on Sunday 21st March.

Accompanying this will be a whole host of flexible resources for churches and schools to use in whatever format is allowed for Lent, Easter, through the Summer, and beyond – culminating in a service of celebration at York Minster in Spring 2022.

Diocesan Children & Youth Adviser **Carolyn Edwards**

(pictured) says, "We announced the Children of Light Festival last year, with plans for all sorts of activities and events to celebrate, value and nurture children and young people from the Diocese of York as bearers of Jesus' light. It was quite a dark moment when we realised that the government restrictions are likely to overwhelm Easter and our planned commissioning service in March.



"But as Isaiah reminds us, the world's darkness cannot overwhelm God's light of hope, and we are delighted that we have been able to change our plans and offer even more resources and support to churches as they find new ways to engage with children and young people during and after lockdown.

"We're particularly excited about the art competition which encourages children and young people to explore 'being light in difficult times' running through the spring (**www.dioceseofyork.org.uk/light-art-comp**). We are encouraging churches, benefices and deaneries to organise local competitions and send winning entries to the Diocesan wide competition - prizes for which will be presented by the Archbishop of York at Bishopthorpe Palace.

www.dioceseofyork.org.uk/children-of-light-festival

Living Christ's Story

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

On the 1st February, York Diocesan Synod met online and overwhelmingly welcomed and endorsed the refreshed version of our diocesan vision proposed by Archbishop Stephen for the next steps in our journey, summarised as:

- **Becoming more like Christ** – which means receiving and knowing the story ourselves. Before we do anything else we remember who we are: God's beloved children, those whom he came to seek and save. We also remember that we know this story by prayer and service as well as by Bible study and learning. This is demandingly life-changing, and it happens by God's grace alone working with us and through us. Without this foundation, nothing else makes sense.
- **Reaching people we currently don't** – by living and telling this story, remembering that the story we share is those two stories of what God has done in Christ and what God is doing through the Church down through the centuries and in us.
- **Growing churches of missionary disciples** - which will be the best



way of reaching new people and is the way we'll grow those we reach, but also to strive to be younger and more diverse and to move towards becoming a mixed ecology church. In every community we want our churches to be places where the story of Christ is known and lived out, and where we let those stories lead us in the ways we have seen in the Mustard Seed and Multiplier initiatives.

- **Transforming our finances and structures** so that together we can support a presence in all the neighbourhoods and networks of the diocese – to find a new story that will not just be about sustaining our life, but recognising that our life needs to be transformed in order to be an agent of God's transformation in the world.

During the first part of 2021, our bishops and archdeacons are meeting with Deanery Leadership Teams to begin a consultation about how we can apply this refreshed vision at a local level and take it forward.

Parishes will be invited to take part during June and July 2021. The initial stage is already under way and during the spring deaneries are considering:

1. **Growth and discipleship:** how we might build on signs of hope that we are 'Becoming like Christ', 'Reaching those we currently don't' and 'Growing missionary disciples'; what changes might overcome any obstacles
2. **Organisation:** what changes to the structures of local churches / deaneries / parishes, and the ways we use our buildings would enable our mission to be more effective
3. **Financial challenges** facing the diocese that are becoming increasingly real and need to be addressed
4. **Ministerial re-shaping:** thoughts as to how ministry could be re-shaped in deaneries, covering all expressions of ministry, with a view to being more flexible and effective in how we Live Christ's Story and bring his love to our communities

In preparation for the PCC or parish stage of the consultations in June/ July, you can find resources and information under 'Consultation Resources' at the web address at the top of this page, including:

- **Living Christ's Story:** the vision set out by Archbishop Stephen
- **A video** (with subtitles and downloadable transcript) by Archbishop Stephen and others explaining the ideas and the process
- **A downloadable information pack** about the Diocese and its people
- **The diocesan budget for 2021** as agreed by Diocesan Synod
- **A downloadable 'Toolkit of Possibilities'** to help your thinking.

There's a prayer for 'Living Christ's Story' too—see back page.

