

The Queen's Green Canopy

Archbishop wields a spade at Bishopthorpe

Archbishop Stephen and his wife Rebecca invited children from the Archbishop of York Junior School (Bishopthorpe), team members from Brunswick Organic Nursery, HM Lord-Lieutenant of North Yorkshire Jo Ropner, and Carole Green, a community champion, to plant trees in the grounds of Bishopthorpe Palace.

The tree planting is part of the Queen's Green Canopy, a UK-wide tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. A digital record of Jubilee planting projects is available online

Garry O'Reagan, Head gardener at Bishopthorpe Palace said: "Managing the trees in the grounds plays a major part of what we do, not only visually for future generations to enjoy, but also on the enormous impact that this can have on the environment.

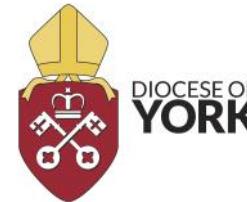
To celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, we have today planted together an avenue of twelve trees, which have been sourced from a local

nursery, keeping our carbon footprint down".

Lauren Webb, Director at Brunswick Organic Nursery, Bishopthorpe, a registered charity working with people with learning difficulties, said: "Whether you're an individual planting a sapling in your garden, a scout or guiding group planting in the community, or planting an avenue of trees like we have done here today, this initiative is a great way in which to learn more about planting and protecting trees in your local setting."



www.queensgreencanopy.org
www.archbishopofyork.org



The News

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2022

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A Day to Remember:

1st Communion for 11 from Brotton school



Archdeacon of Cleveland Amanda Bloor celebrated the Eucharist and admitted eleven pupils from St Peter's Church of England Primary School to Holy Communion during a service at St Margaret's Church, Brotton (near Saltburn) on the 19th November, with the pupils, staff and parents of the school proudly watching on.

Rector Fr Jonathan Rhodes had supported the children in school as they prepared for their special day.

St Peter's Head Teacher Richard Unthank said, "It was a day the children will remember for a long time to come."

www.stpeters-ce-brotton.com

To the Saints of the Diocese of York

The Bishop of Hull,
Alison White,
writes:

That gift of thanks

There are two small words I think could change all kinds of things in this coming year.

They are two words my grandmother was especially keen on at this time of year when after Christmas and my birthday she encouraged me to write letters (it was the old days) to say thank you.

What a gift those two words are.

There are so many good and generous people who are quietly getting on with what they rightly think is normal life – being there for people in need, praying, giving time, finding ways to make a difference. Mostly they go unnoticed because they are what make our communities just go on happening. What a most heart warming, spirit lifting surprise when someone does notice and says ‘Thank You’.

For each of us it is a boost when we are seen and valued by that gift of thanks.

I love the psalms, with their moods and modes which give voice to all the cries of our lives. One of those is the giving of thanks.

‘O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever’ (Psalm 136 verse 1). This refocuses us. We don’t have to live under the cosh of blame and complaint. Thanksgiving opens up our spirits, smiles at God and softens our relationships with each other.

I am so full of thanks as I walk into this new year. Thanks to God for the grace of his gift in calling me here to be a Bishop with you. Thanks to you for your prayers which have made that take shape and be possible. So let’s give thanks for one another, and as our new year gift, pray for one another – for wisdom, faithfulness, stamina, vision, kindness, courage, - we could all add to those cries as we listen out for what God is calling us to in this year to come.

Thank you!



+Alison

Godly Play room brings awe and wonder to Bridlington church

Children and families are flocking to a Bridlington church thanks to a new initiative in Sunday morning worship.

Emmanuel Church on Cardigan Road has created a ‘Godly Play’ room, giving children aged 3 to 12 the chance to explore the bible story for themselves through engaging story-telling and sensory activities.

On Sunday 5th December, the Bishop of Hull, the Rt Revd Alison White, opened and blessed the new space at a special service at the church. Rich Townend, Assistant Curate at Emmanuel, introduced the idea of Godly Play and says he’s thrilled by how it has taken off.

“Godly Play puts children and their spirituality at the heart of the life of the church. It has brought so much joy to our Sunday mornings to see Emmanuel emerge from the pandemic with new children and families regularly joining with us to worship. There are so many headlines about church attendance in

decline. It’s exciting to be part of something that paints a different picture.”



“We have so many people to be grateful for. It takes time and effort to get something like this off the ground, and we are thankful to all of the people who have donated money to purchase the resources, or been crafty and made things for the room.

“We are especially grateful to the Archbishop’s Mission Fund, the Diocese of York Children and Youth team, and all at Holy Trinity Church, North Ormesby for funding and support.

“And most of all, we are grateful to our superb team of volunteers, without whom no children’s work could take place.

“It is an exciting time at Emmanuel Church.”

In the same service, Bishop Alison baptised and confirmed nine people into the Christian family.

Diocese of York's new General Synod Team inaugurated

New Member Sammi Tooze writes:

The Diocese of York's newly-elected members of General Synod went to London recently for the Inauguration and the first group of sessions.

The General Synod is the national assembly of the Church of England. It considers and approves legislation affecting the whole of the Church of England, formulates new forms of worship, debates matters of national and international importance, and approves the annual budget for the work of the Church at national level.

The five-year term for this General Synod began with an Inauguration service at Westminster Abbey, including an address by Prince Edward on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen. As part of the Group of Sessions, the Synod also received the Presidential address delivered by the Archbishops, which can be read here. The York contingent enjoyed being part of this service very much, seen in the picture here.

With 60% of General Synod being new members this term, it was useful to observe a mock debate ahead of participating in formal agenda items. After having been inducted, agenda items for this meeting included debates on generosity and diocesan finances,



vision and strategy, and a motion on the wealth gap between rich and poor - calling on the Government and all political parties to work towards reducing the wealth gap and tackle poverty as a priority.

- The next group of sessions for General Synod takes place in February 2022 in London.**

Meet the Members at www.dioceseofyork.org.uk/general-synod

Living Christ's Story



In his Presidential Address to the online meeting of York Diocesan Synod on the 27th November, Archbishop Stephen set the scene for the major business of the morning, in which Archdeacon Sam Rushton would begin to map out a route towards the transformation emerging from the Deanery and Parish Consultations earlier this year:

"What we're sharing is not yet a highly crafted, totally thought-through plan. We are sharing where we've got to with the story so far. But we need your help. We are going to shape this together. As a Leadership Team, we think we have the broad outline of the plot so far – we know how the story starts and a pretty good idea of where it needs to end. We've begun to see who the key characters are and how they need to grow within the story.

"Now, with you, we need to work out the chapter headings and the pace of the narrative. Then we can begin to inhabit this evolving and changing story

together, which is our story, and Christ's story in this place. Some of that we will do today. Some we will do in the New Year."

He spoke of five themes becoming clear from the process so far:

- We cannot carry on as we are.**
- We need a compelling vision.**
- We need to be a more generous Church.**
- The Church is for the world.**
- We need to see in the Diocese of York a huge growth in vocations to ministry in the church, both lay and ordained.**

Read more about Living Christ's Story, the Synod and the Archbishop's full address at www.dioceseofyork.org.uk/diocesansynod and www.dioceseofyork.org.uk/living-christs-story

Shaping our Present and our Future

~ great response to Safeguarding Week

465 people from parishes and churches between the Tees and the Humber and from the A1 to the Yorkshire Coast have taken part in one or more of 23 online events and an in-person meeting at Bishopthorpe Palace during

'Everyone's Business', the first-ever Safeguarding Week held by the Diocese of York with York Minster from Monday 22nd to Friday 26th November.

Brainchild of York Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser Julie O'Hara and York Minster Safeguarding Officer Dee Cooley, and undeterred by the restrictions and challenges posed by the COVID pandemic, the week offered a wide range of free-standing training events and webinars by experts from within the Diocese and from external organisations including the Independent Domestic Abuse Service (IDAS) and North Yorkshire Police.



Supplementing the extensive regular training given to clergy, church office holders and volunteers, the events included advice on detecting and addressing harm being done to children and adults, responding well to disclosures of abuse, keeping appropriate records of incidents and reports to comply with data protection legislation as well as the needs of survivors and perpetrators, and presentations on the contributions offered by independent charities in particular circumstances.

Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell, who hosted the final session in person at Bishopthorpe Palace, said, "I'm delighted that 465 have attended events

in Safeguarding Week, that's such a positive sign of how seriously people in our churches are taking this important aspect of our ministry. Good Safeguarding is a fundamental part of what good mission and good ministry looks like. Jesus in his ministry shows us how to reach out to the vulnerable and marginalised in a holistic and compassionate way.

A painful journey

"As a church we continue to be on a difficult and sometimes painful journey around Safeguarding. Placing Victims and Survivors of abuse at the heart of our safeguarding work is of vital importance as is creating safe-spaces in which people can tell their story, be taken seriously and responded to well.

The lessons of the past continue to teach us that we always need to do better; and that's why I'm so delighted about the diocesan Safeguarding Week, this has been about how we shape our present and our future so our churches are equipped to be everything they should be in the proclamation of the love we find in Jesus Christ.

"I'm so grateful to Julie, Dee and their team for the enormous amount of work that's gone into this week, and the great response it's brought from across the Diocese and the York Minster community; we're on the way towards Safeguarding really being 'Everyone's Business'."

www.dioceseofyork.org.uk/safeguarding

People on the Move

Comings and Goings in the Diocese of York

The Revd David Rogers, Assistant Minister of Escrick and Stillingfleet with Naburn, and Bubwith with Skipwith, has been appointed as Priest in Charge (House for Duty) of Bubwith with Skipwith. He will be licensed by the Bishop of Selby at 7.30pm on 14 December 2021 in All Saints, Bubwith.

The Revd Adam Romanis, Priest in Charge of Heslington, and York St Lawrence with St Nicholas, has been appointed as Vicar of Heslington and York St Lawrence with St Nicholas.

