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We have a children's book called The Fourth King. It is one of those imaginary adventures of an extra king who gets waylaid on the journey to worship because of responding to various situations and events that unfold. It is similar to the childhood tale of The Errant Knight, who never quite gets to meet the king he seeks to serve because of the relationships and service he gives to the many people of the kingdom that he encounters on his way to the King's household. In both stories, the lesson, in the end, is that in the authentic love and service we give to those who have interrupted our lives, we have, in fact worshipped, served, and met our king.

This year we determine to live Christ's story together. May we never forget that it is Christ's story, Christ's initiative, Christ himself who will interrupt, re-direct and transform us. Our lives are a constant pilgrimage towards the one who we long to see face to face. Until that precious day, we are asked to see Christ's face in each other and love him through our love for the "least of these."

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me"
(Matthew 25:40)

+ Eleanor

People on the Move

Comings and Goings in the Diocese of York

The Revd Jane Emson,

Assistant Curate of Middlesbrough St Thomas and South Bank, has been appointed as Assistant Curate of the Brambles Farm, Thorntree and Netherfields Bishop's Mission Order. She will be licensed by the Bishop of Whitby at 2.00pm on Sunday, 8th January 2023 in Holy Trinity, North Ormesby.

The Revd Ken Gabbadon, Priest in Charge of the Clifford Benefice, will retire with effect from 8 January 2023.

The Revd Graham Horner, Vicar of Riccall, Barlby and Hemingbrough, will retire with effect from 12 May 2023. His final service will be on the 30th April 2023.

The Revd Paul Kronbergs, SSM Assistant Curate of Middlesbrough St Columba with St Paul and of Middlesbrough St John the Evangelist, has been appointed as half-time Assistant Curate of Middlesbrough St Columba with St Paul and of Middlesbrough St John the Evangelist. He will be licensed by the Bishop of Whitby at 11.00am on Sunday, 1st January 2023 in St John the Evangelist, Middlesbrough.

The Revd John Wells, Distinctive Deacon of Scarborough, St Mary with Christ Church and Holy Apostles, has been reappointed for a period of two years. He will be Licensed by the Bishop of Hull at 2.00pm on Thursday, 5th January 2023 in Hullen House.

The Revd Bridget Woodall, Vicar of North Ormesby, has been appointed in addition as Leader of the Brambles Farm, Thorntree and Netherfields Bishop's Mission Order in Middlesbrough.



TheNews

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2023

Sticking It to Mission!



Beloved children's character 'Stick Man' made an appearance at a family fun afternoon at St Mary the Virgin, Nunthorpe, following the success of 'Lego Church' there.

160 people gathered for the 'Autumn Crafts and Stick Man Story' in October. The event was an opportunity for the parish to reach out and serve the local community with activities for the whole family. Storytelling, crafts, and snacks were on offer as many enjoyed immersing themselves in Julia Donaldson's story.

The Revd Lisa Opala, who joined the team in Nunthorpe in 2021, is Assistant Curate at St Mary's. Reflecting on the day, she said:

"This is our second Mission Outreach event this year in an attempt to make the Church and the Ministry Team known and actively engaged with local families. It was a huge success."

Inside this month:



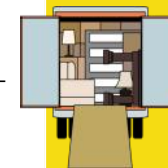
Bishop of Hull
Giving God Permission to Shape our Year and Lives P2



Lay Ministries Renewal

First glimpse of how new life is being breathed into lay ministries in the Diocese of York, with new resources coming on stream for Licensed, Authorised and Informal Lay Ministries as part of the Living Christ's Story programme.

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People on the Move:
Comings & Goings

To the Saints of the Diocese of York

The Bishop of Hull,
Dr Eleanor Sanderson,
writes:

Giving God Permission to Shape our Year and our Lives

As the family of God, we live our lives in multiple time-zones. Yes, our global family of faith experience summer or winter, day or night, but we also live in the times set by the cultures around us as well as nurturing our desire to live within God's time.

The shape of our Anglican liturgical seasons forms an ongoing pathway of encountering Christ's story. Year after year we give the seasons space to shape us, impact us, bring us deeper into maturity in Christ.

The beginning of a new year in western culture is one of those times when the cultural and the liturgical times pull against each other. The culture around us encourages us into resolution. A new year and a new start. New commitments. New resolve to stop habits or indulgence. This culture might at first feel very familiar to our Christ shaped lives of repentance and belief. There is much to which we might say Amen.

January, however, is not the start of our church new year. We began our church year in Advent. We began in a season of longing. A season of

acknowledging the darkness of this world and seeking the hope of God's movement, God's initiative, God's commitment towards us. January is now the season of Epiphany. Here we marvel, not only in fresh thankfulness for the gift of the incarnation, but now we also marvel at God's continued self-revelation and self-giving. We witness God's grace and God's movement in all creation. We remember the people who set out in pilgrimage or vigil in response to the movement of God. We remember that they went to give, not to receive. They gave gifts. They gave the testimony of witness.

This is where the pull of our cultures comes; we are not our source of hope and salvation, but our resolution is set on God. Our invitation is to respond to what God is doing and to mirror God's initiative of self-giving.



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Lay Ministries renewal

The Diocese of York is breathing new life into Lay Ministry, as part of Living Christ's Story and following the successful completion of the Lay Ministries review.

Julia Robertson, Start of Lay Ministry Adviser said, "Our deepest wish is to see the whole people of God in our Diocese engaged in the whole mission of God across the whole of life. We have put a strong theology of lay vocation at the heart of these changes reflecting the fact that everyone has a part to play."

A great deal of research has been done, drawing on the wisdom of those in our Diocese both lay and clergy. To this end, the Lifelong Learning team is engaging in a three-fold renewal process. This will offer formation and resourcing focused on growing three key types of Lay Ministries in the Diocese of York; Licensed Lay Ministry, Authorised Lay Ministry and Informal Lay Ministry. These three will sit alongside the Mustard Seed and Multiply projects in a rich diet of formation for those lay people who are called to minister in our Diocese.

Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell said, "It is fantastic to see the deep listening and re-envisioning of the Lay Ministry review bearing fruit in these significant changes to the way we



develop lay ministry in the Diocese of York. I pray that this will help empower all of us to live Christ's story and for there to be a huge flourishing of lay ministry in our diocese."

To download and read the documents go to the Diocese of York Lay Ministries Renewal web page:

www.dioceseofyork.org.uk/developing-ministry/lay-ministries-renewal

If you have any questions, please email the Start of Lay Ministry Adviser, Julia Robertson:

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