

People on the Move

Comings and Goings in the Diocese of York

The Revd Neil Bowler, Rector of Wykeham in the Diocese of Oxford, has been appointed as Priest-in-Charge of Bridlington Priory. He will be licensed by the Bishop of Hull at the Priory Church of Bridlington St Mary at 7.30pm on Thursday, 27 July 2023.

The Revd Suzanne Cooke, formerly Vicar of the Cheviot Benefice in the Diocese of Newcastle, has been appointed as half-time Priest-in-Charge of Brandesburton and Leven. She will be licensed by the Bishop of Hull at 7.30pm on Thursday, 20 July 2023 in Holy Trinity, Leven.

The Revd Alasdair Laird, Vicar of Easington with Skeffling, Keyingham, Ottringham, Patrington, Welwick and Winstead, has been appointed additionally as Interim Priest-in-Charge of Burstwick, Burton Pidsea, Humbleton with Elsternwick, Halsham and Thorngumbald; Interim Assistant Curate of Hedon, Paull, Sproatley and Preston in Holderness, and Interim Priest in Charge of the South Holderness Coast. The three additional appointments are for a period of three years.

The Revd Katharine McBride, Assistant Curate of Strensall, has been appointed as Rector of the Benefice of Rural East York. She will be collated by the Bishop of Selby in St Nicholas, Dunnington at 7.00pm on Tuesday, 4 July 2023.

The Revd Melanie Meesam, Assistant Curate (self-supporting) at Hull St Cuthbert, has been appointed as Associate Vicar (self-supporting) of Hull St Cuthbert. She will be licensed by the Bishop of Hull at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 28 June 2023 in St Cuthbert, Hull.

The Revd Nicholas Morgan, Vicar of Bramham and Area

Dean for New Ainsty, has been appointed additionally as Priest-in-Charge of Clifford. He will be licensed by the Bishop of Selby in St Luke's, Clifford at 7.30pm on Thursday, 6 July 2023.

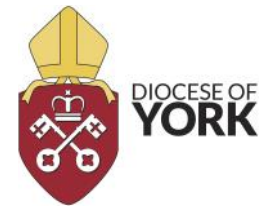
The Revd Timothy Parker, Vicar of the Hertford Benefice, will retire on Tuesday, 1 August 2023. His final service will be on Sunday, 30 July 2023.

The Revd Jane Robson, Assistant Curate of Great Ayton with Easby and Newton-under-Roseberry, has been appointed as Priest-in-Charge of Kirkleatham. She will be licensed by the Bishop of Whitby at St Hilda, Kirkleatham at 3.00pm on Sunday, 16 July 2023.

The Revd Stephen Treasure, Vicar (House for Duty) of The Thorntons and The Otteringtons, has been re-appointed for a period of two years. He will be instituted by the Bishop of Whitby in Thornton le Moor at 4.30pm on Monday, 24 July 2023.

The Revd Peter Vivash, Vicar of Acomb St Stephen, will retire on Thursday, 31 August 2023.

The Revd Laura Wild, Assistant Curate of Nunthorpe, has been appointed as Vicar of Brookfield and of Stainton with Hemlington and Hilton. She will be collated by the Bishop of Whitby in St Margaret of Antioch, Brookfield at 7.00pm on Tuesday, 27 June 2023.



A Right Royal weekend!



From cake-baking to scarecrow-making, churches and communities across the Diocese of York



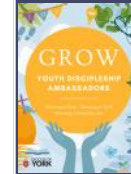
celebrated May's Coronation in style.

The scarecrows above are from the royalty-themed scarecrow trail at St Nicholas, Dunnington, while the Coronation Cake on the left was baked for the big day by Head Server Aimee at St Lawrence, York.

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To the Saints of the Diocese of York

The Archdeacon of York, Sam Rushton, writes:

*But it's comin' by dawn,
We can feel it come,
You can feel it in your heart,
You can see it in the ground
You can see it in the trees,
You can smell it in the breeze
Look around! Look around!
Look around!...*

Oscar Hammerstein's words evoke the pent up excitement, the expectation as we wait for June to 'bust out all over.'

With Pentecost this year right at the end of May, perhaps this is a good moment to pause and reflect on what we are expecting God to be doing afresh in this season. Did we approach Pentecost with that same level of building anticipation – something's coming, something amazing, something which will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle, something which will turn the world on its head, refreshing, renewing and revitalising our churches.

I recently heard one of our Multiply ministers, Oli, preaching on the Wild Goose as an image of the Holy Spirit, a symbol much beloved by the Iona Community. Doves, he said, are calm and peaceful but the wild goose symbolises the adventure and disruptive energy of the Holy Spirit in a way which is perhaps more in keeping

with the wild landscape of northern Britain. Perhaps we might want to see a few more wild geese let loose in our churches to disrupt and challenge us with the radical energy of the Gospel of Christ.

We are, as a Church, coming to understand that we can't keep doing what we have done before and expect something different to happen with regard to growth. Something has to change. But the mistake we might make is in thinking that the change is all down to us when the Bible is quite clear that the agent of change is the Holy Spirit at work in us and in the world. But that doesn't mean we should be entirely passive - we can join in with God's radical change agenda by flinging open the doors of our churches and welcoming in the wild goose. It won't be comfortable or controllable but there is no doubt it will be an adventure.

And maybe then it won't just be June bustin' out all over – maybe it will be revival. Come Holy Spirit, we pray.



Sam Rushton

Paul Burbridge 1953—2023

Riding Lights, the world-renowned York-based theatre company rooted in a Christian ethos, has announced the death of its Artistic Director and co-founder Paul Burbridge:

It is with tremendous sadness that we bring you the news that Paul Burbridge, our beloved Artistic Director, died on 19th April, following a short illness.

Paul, along with Nigel Forde and Murray Watts, founded Riding Lights in 1977, and led the company for over 40 years with unwavering vision and extraordinary creativity. His commitment to the company and to all who encountered it in any way was inspir-

ing and infectious, as were his kindness, warmth and humour. He was an encourager, guide, mentor and friend to many, whose faith and faithfulness to God flowed into the lives of others. Riding Lights was his life's work, his calling, and a source of deep joy to him.

We know that this will come as a great shock and sadness to many, and that you may wish to be in touch with the company. Any messages can be sent to info@rltc.org, and we will do our best to respond in due course. There will be a private funeral, and a public Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration for Paul's life, to which all are welcome.

Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration for the life of Paul Burbridge

Saturday 10th June 2023, 2.00pm

**St Michael le Belfrey Church, High Petergate,
York. YO1 7EN**

There will be an opportunity to make donations to Riding Lights in memory of Paul, in order to continue the work he loved.

In the meantime, we value your prayers of thanksgiving for Paul's life, for all of us at Riding Lights, and most of all for Bernadette, Patrick, Caitlin and Erin, that they may be comforted and surrounded by the love of God.



Digital Transformation Leader: Jonny Hedges

Jonny Hedges has been appointed as Digital Transformation Leader for the Diocese of York, to take forward the Digital Transformation work stream of 'Living Christ's Story', working alongside teams at Diocesan Office and deaneries, to lead a transformation in the way we engage with and use digital technology to deliver our vision and our strategic programmes.



Jonny will work with diocesan colleagues to ensure that we are making best use of the available technology, helping to build confidence and capability in using the most effective platforms and tools to enable smart working, and equipping them to ensure that digital communications are of the highest quality and accurately reflect the

professionalism of all that we do in support of the diocese.

He will also work with church leaders and others to ensure parishes can navigate the transition to a hybrid way of working where they can embrace the digital world as well the everyday in-person presence in our communities.

Sam Nicol, Director for Strategic Transformation, says, "The appointment of Jonny as the Digital Transformation Lead is another step in the journey of Living Christ's Story and an exciting opportunity to use digital technology to support mission and ministry across the Diocese. We are delighted to welcome him to the team."

Jonny has spent the last two years working as part of the Mustard Seed Team and prior to this, worked in North Yorkshire Police as a Response Officer and across the South East in staff roles in Anglican churches.

Jonny lives in Redcar with his family which is where he leads alongside his wife Abi, Blank Canvas, an ecumenical youth charity working to see create new stories of hope for young people working in partnership with the local church.

jonny.hedges@yorkdiocese.org

GROW: Youth Discipleship Ambassadors

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."

1 Timothy 4:12

'GROW: Youth Discipleship Ambassadors', the Diocese of York's new discipleship programme for young people, invests in young people as disciples through an academic year, exploring themes such as community, love, generosity, worship and sharing faith, shaped around our diocesan Rhythm of Life.

Young people taking part in the programme meet in small groups for input days spread over the year facilitated by GROW Leaders, and supported by a mentor and their church, will complete a set of tasks and challenges – all deeply rooted in how we Live Christ's Story.

At the end of each programme, young people will be commissioned in a special service as Youth Discipleship Ambassadors.

Diocesan Discipleship Adviser Sammi Tooze comments, "We are really excited to launch this programme, as a wonderful way of embedding inter-generational discipleship and helping our young people to grow in everyday faith.

"It has been a joy to shape this around our diocesan Rhythm of Life and the connectedness that brings with our diocesan vision of Living Christ's Story, and an even greater joy anticipating the inspiring young people who will join the cohort in September."



Diocesan Children and Young People's Adviser Carolyn Edwards adds, "We have so much to learn from the faith and spirituality of young people.

"I am delighted that this programme creates opportunities to share their insights with the each other, and the wider

church, as they grow on their discipleship journey."

Applications to take part in GROW: Youth Discipleship Ambassadors are now open, and you can find out more and download materials at www.dioceseofyork.org.uk/grow, or contact the team by emailing sammi.tooze@yorkdiocese.org or carolyn.edwards@yorkdiocese.org.

New priests to serve in the Diocese of York



Eight deacons are to be ordained priest by the bishops of the Diocese of York over the weekend 3rd - 4th June 2023, each woman or man in the parish where they serve as Curate.

As a priest each will be able to carry out the full range of sacraments amongst the community and congregation, including presiding at Holy Communion.

The Bishop of Selby, the Rt Revd Dr John Thomson, to ordain:

- **The Revd Alison Hutchinson** at St Mary, West Lutton, at 6.00pm on Saturday 3rd June.
- **The Revd James Congreve-Horn** at St Michael-le-Belfrey, York, at 6.00pm on Sunday 4th June.

The Bishop of Whitby, the Rt Revd Paul Ferguson, to ordain:

- **The Revd Richard Grant** and **the Revd Dawn Ward** at St Mary's, Thirsk, at 10.00am on Sunday 4th June.

The Bishop of Hull, the Rt Revd Dr Eleanor Sanderson, to ordain:

- **The Revd Steve Cox** at All Saints, Kilham, at 6.00pm on Saturday 3rd June
- **The Revd Jonny Guy,**
the Revd Shelly Jones and
the Revd Jenny Rankin at Hull Minster at 3.00pm on Sunday 4th June.

We hold them all in our prayers and give thanks to God for their present and future ministries.

Next month: meet those newly ordained Deacon by Archbishop Stephen on the 1st July.



Living Christ's Story; UPDATE



Deanery Plans

All the 21 deaneries that make up the Diocese of York were represented by their Lay and Area Deans when they met with the York Diocesan Leadership Team (YDLT) at Bishopthorpe Palace, home of the Archbishop of York, on the 11th May, to share evening prayer and an update on the Living Christ's Story process. This was an opportunity for people from across the Diocese to ask questions and contribute to the design of the ongoing activities associated with our Living Christ's Story vision and our Revitalised Growth Strategy for the whole diocese.

'Living Christ's Story – York Diocese's Strategic Plan 2021-2031', accepted by York Diocesan Synod in November 2022 as the strategic growth plan for the diocese, has already drawn on the deanery plans devised and submitted in the summer of 2022, setting out the case for change and some key milestones and objectives that need to be achieved by 2026, which will be an important staging post in the direction of travel to 2031.

Diocesan Director for Strategic Transformation, Sam Nicol, explained that in the last few months the deanery plans have been thoroughly interrogated to support the discussions and actions taken during the implementation planning phase. This has included the data and information that will be collected and scrutinised on a regular basis not only

to confirm a current context, but to set a benchmark against which forward progress will be monitored and shared.

Coordination of activities

YDLT has been developing a structure over the last few months, to enable implementation and oversight of Living Christ's Story through decision-making, alignment, accountability, collaboration and sequencing. A steering group and implementation coordination group have now been established.

The first implementation coordination group (ICG) will be held on 26th June 2023. The ICG is expected to ensure coordination among the various parts of the Diocese, between the Diocesan offices and parishes and deaneries. It will foster a shared commitment to agreed common aims which will develop as we work together to clarify issues, formulate strategies, and develop action plans. The Group will be responsible for ensuring an effective change management approach on which the implementation plan to deliver Living Christ's Story is set. It will allow direct and quick input from key stakeholders when designing, ICG Group will be the mechanism through which the deaneries and parishes will be advised, involved, engaged and encouraged to undertake tasks relating to the achievement of Living Christ's Story.

- **If you would like to know more please contact Sam at sam.nicol@yorkdiocese.org.uk.**