

People on the Move

Comings and Goings in the Diocese of York

The Revd Andy Bowden, Vicar of Weaverthorpe with Helperthorpe, Luttons Ambo & Kirby Grynlathe with Wharram, retires on the 30 November 2023.

The Revd Neil Bowler, Priest in Charge of Bridlington Priory, has been appointed as Rector of Bridlington Priory. He will be instituted by the Bishop of Hull in Bridlington Priory at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 10 January 2024.

The Revd Valerie Haynes, Rector of Boosbeck and Lingdale, and Skelton with Upleatham, retires on the 3rd December 2023.

The Revd Terry Leathley, Vicar of South Bank held in plurality with Middlesbrough St Thomas, has resigned with effect from Sunday, 7 January 2024.

With regret, we record the death of **the Revd Canon Francis Hewitt**, Prebendary of Warhill, on the 14th October at the age of 81.



TheNews

DECEMBER 2023

People Moving... into Ordained Ministry

Pray for those beginning training for ordination in the Diocese of York

Gill Boag-Munroe

Mulgrave Group of Churches
Training at St Hild College, Mirfield

Anne-Marie Breewood

Benefice of Holme on Spalding Moor
Training at St Hild College, Mirfield

Patrick Corley

St Michael le Belfrey, York
Training at Wycliffe College, Oxford

Dave Kelsall

Holy Trinity Heworth, York
Training at St Hild College, Mirfield

Oliver Murray

Thirsk
Training at St Hild College, Mirfield

Phoebe Power

St Luke's,
York
Training at
Cranmer
Hall, Durham



www.dioceseofyork.org.uk/vocations
ddo@yorkdiocese.org



National Churches Trust award for St Hilda

St Hilda, Kirkleatham, Redcar, is the Winner in England and the Overall Winner of the Church & Community Volunteer Awards, run with Marsh Charitable Trust.

The modern church has become a venue for many events and groups as well as a safe and welcoming space for those of some faith and none. There is a charity shop and community café with local organisations dropping in. Prices are kept deliberately low and free if needed.

The judges were very impressed at the structure here: "They take care of people and ensure they are in a role that suits them. There is a huge variety going on, and their newly-built church is stunning!"

Inside this month:



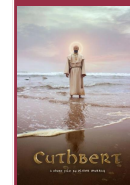
Archbishop of York
Join the [Christmas] Song!
P2



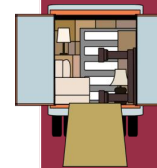
The 'Globe Café'
100s of students at church-run event
P3



Digital Rollout
Update from St Nicholas, Dunnington
P6



"Cuthbert"
Ordinand Oliver's prizewinning film
P7



People on the Move
Comings & goings
P8

...and there's more!

To the Saints of the Diocese of York

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, writes:

The first Nowell, the angels did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay.

The words of this hymn have echoed in our churches since the 1700s. This year, there has been a renewed call by the Church of England for choirs across the country to 'Join the Song', adding their voices to a new carol by Bob Chilcott, reinterpreting the words of this much loved hymn.

But 'Join the Song' is much more than just singing.

It is an invitation to sing together, to be with others. And being with others is so important. It is something we've learned the hard way over the last few years.

It is also central to our celebration of Christmas. Inviting others to share in our community, offering

hospitality is what we do at Christmas – carol services, Christingle services, Midnight Mass and the joy of the service of Christmas morning are all ways in which we tell Christ's story, often to many people who don't normally worship with us. But we aren't simply retelling a well-known story. We have opportunities to share the joy, hope and meaning of that story.

This year, with so much war and violence unfolding around the world, our message needs to echo the angel's message to the shepherds on that first Christmas morning: do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news.

The peace and the hope and the joy of the Christmas story aren't just festive frivolities. Not something to be sung about one day and forgotten the next. We hold onto this message throughout the year, and especially in dark times. Because at Christmas we



remember that God is with us. The Christ child in the manger is the hope of the world.

So, join the song:

- Tell others about the Good News of the birth of Jesus.
- Say your prayers.
- Join a choir!
- Organise some carol singing in the streets where you live.
- Come to Church.
- Invite your neighbours and friends.
- Let the song the song of the angels shape your life.
- And pray that the peace of God which passes all understanding may be a gift to the world this Christmas.

Merry Christmas!

+Stephen

Cuthbert: an award-winning film

North Yorkshire film-maker and ordinand Oliver Murray won a 'Panel Award' award at the Sheffield Christian Film and Media Festival in October for his independently-produced short film 'Cuthbert', about the early English saint.

Oliver spoke at the Festival about the power of cinema to tell the Christian story in fresh ways, and ultimately to re-enchant audiences with the power of Christ's story.

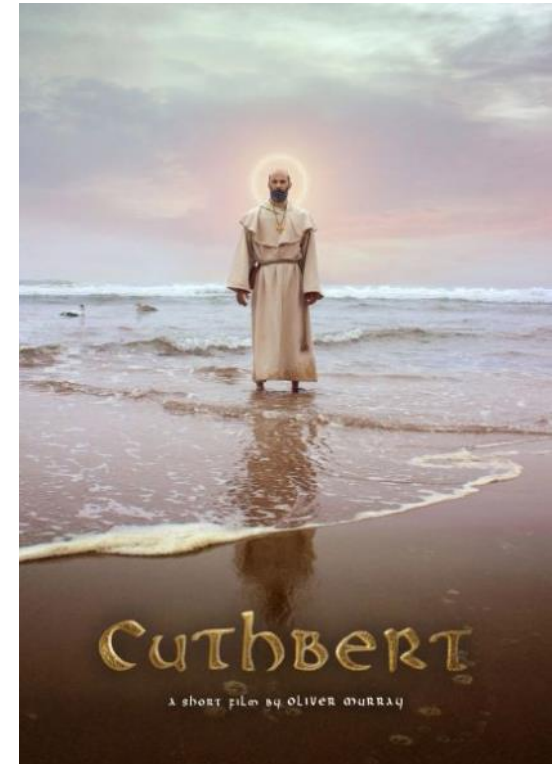
"The film was a joy to make," said Oliver. "It took a great deal of work as it was made entirely by myself, but I'm happy with the finished piece and have been very moved by the attention which the film has received online without any major promotion."

"The film is missional, evangelistic (in rather a different way)," he adds.

The author of the saintsofthenorth.co.uk blog says, "I'm fascinated by the saints local to my region, a time when the Celtic Christians and those from Rome were invited amongst the pagan Anglo-Saxons to show a violent warrior people The Way."

Oliver's epic short film, shot over two days and edited over four months has been inspired by Saint Cuthbert's mystical story.

It aims to depict the orthodox Christian vision afresh, touching upon the battles we all still face today.



"I'm fascinated by the early medieval era in the history of my island home," adds Oliver.

"A world of miracles and of enchantment, of living alongside nature rather than athwart to it, of Gandalf-like figures and of deeply symbolic stories.

"I'm unapologetic about that. I don't think life is all about comfort."

Watch the film at www.dioceseofyork.org.uk/cuthbertfilm

Digital Rollout ~

update from St Nicholas Dunnington

St Nicholas, Dunnington (near York), received an electronic contactless giving device last month as part of the Church of England's 'Digital Rollout', programme, overseen in the Diocese of York by our own Generous Giving Team.

St Nicholas' 'Collectin More' has already proven to be eye-catching to worshippers and visitors alike.

Parish Treasurer Helen Pomfret explains, "Our talented Communications Officer Helen Cross has designed animated backgrounds for our campaigns containing images of our church and they really attract people's attention to device's screen.

"By setting the device up in 'list of campaigns' mode, we have enabled donors to choose whether they'd like to donate to our General Fund, our 'Big Build' campaign (to replace the roof and heating system) or our Harvest collection for York Food Bank.

"This is far more straightforward than in the past when we relied on slips of paper to designate the fund for donations.



"We are also able to collect Gift Aid information from donors which can increase the donation amount by 25%.

"For life events such as weddings, funerals and baptisms, we are giving families the opportunity to have a customised background on the screen with names and photos to add a personal touch to the collection.

"At Christmas we are planning to take the device to our 'Carols on the Green' service and we're really hopeful that the back-lit screen will be just as attention-grabbing in the dark outdoors as it has been inside our church.

"So far, we have received £233 in donations this month which is 30% higher than the highest monthly total from our previous contactless device. The average gift amount is £6.58. We are well on our way to exceeding £1000 in contactless donations in this first year."

www.dioceseofyork.org.uk/generosity

Hundreds of Teesside University Students at Church-run 'Globe Café'

Four Middlesbrough churches, led by a team from St Barnabas' Church, ran a Globe Café for students and staff during Welcome Week at Teesside University this year.

Around 1,000 people visited the Café across the week.

The Café was run by St Barnabas' Church in Linthorpe, Middlesbrough Community Church, the Salvation Army in Middlesbrough and Jubilee Church.

David Goodhew, Vicar at St Barnabas' said:

"There was a terrific atmosphere and catering for such numbers gave the event a 'Feeding of the 5000' feel!

"Many of the students were from overseas, including India, Ghana, Nigeria and Myanmar – and many others.

"Some come to the UK as church members, but others come with no awareness of Christian faith.

"All students received a warm welcome, the opportunity to meet new people and to find out about church life and courses such as Alpha.

"It was a great example of what churches can do by working together."



Celebration of Ministry Day:

South Holderness Deanery

A celebration day for the ministry of South Holderness Deanery's churches brought people together for the first time from across the deanery in October.

Implementation of the Deanery Plan drawn up as part of Living Christ's Story has brought a major shift in the way the three full-time clergy in South Holderness are deployed; now one full-time minister serves the coastal town of Withernsea, another the town of Hedon, and all the 20 village parishes in between are served by the third full-time minister – it is hoped soon to be assisted by two part-time priests.

While resources might seem stretched, it was felt that the deanery should embrace this challenge, and at the same time take the opportunity to look at, and give thanks for, what it has.

For in addition to the full-time ministry, South Holderness is blessed to have a House for Duty Deanery Priest (available to assist with services but primarily working on special projects), two deacons (both of whom are expected to be ordained priest next year), and one active priest with the Archbishop's Permission to Officiate.

One particular challenge in this extended church family is that many within the two towns and the village parishes

congregations don't know one another, so this day was planned to address that issue.

At the same time, it was hoped to address the matter of generosity and how South Holderness can make a greater contribution to the Diocese's Common Fund, which supports ministry from the Humber to the Tees and from around the A1 eastwards to the Yorkshire coast.

The morning session including a discussion on what should be celebrated, and the local ministers shared their thoughts and aspirations.

A local church music group accompanied a bring-and-share lunch followed by time to dream and let imaginations travel to a deanery flourishing in growth with lots of young people, unconstrained by worries about keeping church buildings open and paying for ministry!

Finally, discussion turned to financial matters and a look at what help and guidance is available in order that churches and the deanery may better manage their finances and improve contributions to the deanery ministry costs.

The message was clear that help is out there and people were encouraged to ask for it; the day concluded with a

lively discussion with Diocesan Generous Giving adviser Jan Grey about how each one of us can adopt a different approach to giving and the blessings we receive when we do. The day closed with joyful worship and much to take away and think about.

Considerable positive feedback has been received about the day and the deanery is keen to work out how to build on this sure foundation as it moves forward.



FAMILY FUN DAY

at Wydale Hall
Saturday 16th December
10.00am to 4.00pm

Bring your family (young or not so young) to meet some of the characters in the Nativity story in our grounds, enjoy some Christmas Crafts, visit Santa and explore the Christmas decorations which will be up in the Hall.

No charge - we just want folk to enjoy the amazing resource of Wydale Hall, the Diocese of York's Retreat and Conference Centre near Scarborough.

No need to book - just turn up. You might have to queue for Santa - but we will keep you well stocked with tea and mince pies!

