

BISHOP SOPHIE • ORDINATIONS • BONDO TRIP

network

ISSUE 21 / SUMMER 2023

PETERTIDE ORDINATIONS

Celebrations in July

FRIENDS INTERNATIONAL

'God is a global God'

FROM THE EDITORS



BEN FEARN
Communications Officer



KELLIANNE MONTGOMERY
Digital Learning Designer

Welcome to the Summer edition of Network magazine as we celebrate more good news stories and testimonies from across the Diocese of Sheffield.

The release of this edition comes just after the Petertide Ordinations at Sheffield Cathedral, an event of celebration with men and women coming forward in ministry to make solemn, yet still joyful, commitments to God. As we look back on that weekend we call to mind clergy and lay people in the Diocese who have generously shared their time with the articles featured in this edition.

In the last few months you may have noticed our new look website and branding, a result of the hard work and dedication of the Communications and Learning team along with people who took part in user testing sessions. The feedback has been extremely positive and it's our wish for the new website to better serve the Diocese as a whole.

We're also delighted to announce the return of printed hard copies of Network after the magazine had reverted to a digital-only platform following the Covid-19 pandemic. Our digital versions continue to be an effective way of promoting the magazine across various channels, but we also recognise the importance of having physical copies as well. We've designed this version in a larger A4 print and hope you like the changes that have been made!

This magazine is for everyone, whatever your background or beliefs. We hope you enjoy it and have a great Summer!

Ben Fearn and Kellianne Montgomery
Communications and Learning team

WELCOME

There is so much to celebrate this Summer as we reflect on God's goodness to us in the Diocese over recent months.

Ordinations are always a wonderful occasion, as we witness dedicated disciples of Jesus offering themselves to serve his church in this way. There is a beautiful paragraph in the Ordinal that says: 'You cannot bear the weight of this calling in your own strength, but only by the grace and power of God. Pray therefore that your heart may daily be enlarged and your understanding of the Scriptures enlightened. Pray earnestly for the gift of the Holy Spirit.' Whether ordained or lay, all followers of Jesus are to rely daily on the grace of God. To be a Light for Christ in the world can be challenging especially when we are pressured, stressed or facing complex problems. As we read the biographies of those who offered themselves for ordination this year, it is clear that they have continued to grow in their knowledge and understanding of Jesus, recognising their need to go on receiving for him if they are to be effective ministers of the gospel.

Archbishop Stephen's recent visit has also been a high point. He spoke eloquently of the reality that the kingdom of God is available to each one of us and the call to follow Jesus is for every person throughout our Diocese. He encouraged us all to be missionary disciples and was quick to affirm the many ways you offer your time and gifts, not least in the mixed ecology of the church we are developing here. Those privileged to visit our link Diocese of Bondon witnessed the energy of the church there, we hope you enjoy reading about it in this edition.

The Summer is a good time to step back and reflect. Perhaps to take a little more time to pray and to study the scriptures, inhabiting a different rhythm for a period, at home or away. My prayer is that this Summer we will be renewed and refreshed in our love for God and awareness of His blessing, returning with a fresh vision for all that he has for us in the season ahead.



+Sophie



Hugo, Bishop Sophie's loyal friend!

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WHETHER WE GROW OR DECLINE, WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD BECAUSE IT'S HIS CHURCH

St Nicholas' is seeing growth in its congregation alongside new types of services for the parish.

The number attending St Nicholas Church has nearly trebled over the last year at Sunday morning services. The ministry team have also put on a number of services for people with neuro-diverse conditions, which have had a positive response, and the church has been blessed with a large number of recent confirmations.

The Priest in charge of St Nicholas' Church, Tim Mitchell (also Area Dean of the Snaith and Hatfield Deanery), has been in post for a year now, having previously worked as the Healthy Churches Development Mentor in the Diocese of Coventry.

In that time, he felt a desire to return to parish ministry having been concerned at the number of churches potentially facing difficulties engaging with the people they'd lose during the pandemic.

In particular he was inspired by the Book of Zechariah:

'Once I left Coventry, I spent some time on retreat reflecting on the future of the church and was drawn especially by Zechariah 4:6, which says "not by might nor by strength, but by my spirit, says the Lord." I realised that we must be led by the Spirit and focus on listening to the Spirit more than ever before.

'I knew we would be working with slim resources - those who returned post-pandemic had developed different patterns of life. We had to pick and choose our programs very prayerfully and carefully, which is what we sought to do.

'On my first Sunday here (Pentecost Sunday 2022) we had 18 people at our 10.30am service, which was a largely elderly congregation. Now we regularly attract 50 or so people to the same service, which spans the

ages and includes families preparing for baptisms and those returning post-pandemic. We very much focus on making the worship an enjoyable and spiritual experience for people. The Spirit has touched people in the congregation and had a ripple effect among their wider families and networks.'

Another aspect of worship in Thorne that's bearing fruit has been the formation of special services for people with neurodiversity. Tim's wife Jo has developed connections with a few of the residential homes in the town, which support people with such needs, and the church has created worship to cater for them. This was inspired by the initial encounters with the daughter of one of the church's congregations, who has neurodiversity, and the church wanted to find a way of making worship accessible for her and her friends.

During the service at Christmas, which deliberately had low lighting and more chilled seasonal carols, the event was received somewhat more enthusiastically than expected, as Tim explains:

'People came alive with some of the lively hymns and carols. We noticed that after every song we sang, people gave a round of applause and cheered. They were seemingly enjoying a vibrant style of worship, which we weren't expecting. Amazingly, over 100 people attended that act of mid-week afternoon worship a few days before Christmas, which blew us away as we were expecting numbers more like 20 or 30.

'For another special service, at Easter, we 'combined' Good Friday with Easter Sunday, for a celebration service with between 60 and 70 attending. We're seeing an emerging congregation, with some integrating into the main weekly service, but we're still at a very early stage.



'At the start of May we welcomed Bishop Pete to our deanery confirmation service, which was a joyful event. Having experienced some growth and made contacts with community organisations a mixture of older and younger people - 11 from St Nicholas' - alongside others from across the Deanery were confirmed.

Tim remarked:

'Congregations are looking for their leaders to be hopeful and imaginative; to try things out and change if they're not working. We've tried to lead with that attitude and encouraged our congregation to be hopeful about the future because it is God's church. He will add to our numbers, and we can trust Him with His church; use our gifts and speak well of one another in the community - and of what we're doing as a church.

'I've said to one of our Churchwardens "if we grow, we give thanks to God. If we decline, we still give thanks to God because it's His church." On one of my prayer walks recently the Spirit reminded me of the best-known statement in the Shorter Westminster Catechism: 'Man's (and woman's) chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever'. This is at the heart of what we are seeking to do. It has been a fruitful and enjoyable year, but we've still got a long way to go and whatever the future may hold we will

seek to remain hopeful, imaginative and adaptable.'

Find out more about the church of St Nicholas, Thorne, visit their new website:

www.stnicholasthorne.org.uk

SUPPORTING MISSION IN RURAL AREAS: A ZOOM SUCCESS STORY

TONY COLE FROM HOLY TRINITY ULLEY HAS HELPED TO KEEP PEOPLE WITH LOW ACCESS TO CHURCH ENGAGED WITH ONLINE SERVICES

Zoom is continuing to play an important role in keeping people across the Diocese of Sheffield involved with church services, with Holy Trinity Ulley one of the places of worship retaining its virtual setup.

Tony Cole is a member of the congregation there and has worked with Digital Mission Development Adviser Elliot Hyliger on getting high quality sound from the in-church sound system into their Sunday Service Zoom calls.

A handful of people joining Holy Trinity online have no other access to the worshipping community other than through Zoom due to mobility, age, illness, or geography.

Covid-19 and lockdowns made Zoom vital, but Tony says the reluctance for some people to return to church straight away when rules were eased meant that streaming services continued to be necessary:

'I think we forget sometimes how frightening it was for the most vulnerable people in our church congregations. The

reluctance to go from home to church was a real one. Looking back, Zoom was a godsend to us because it helped us to be able to continue fellowship and it kept us together. If anything, it made us stronger because in those dark times we had each other to talk to and be with when at other times we wouldn't or couldn't go out the house.

'We developed a cheap system using an old smartphone plus a directional microphone on top of a tripod, which was attached to a laptop. By using a mobile data plan for tethering we went from there and streamed services in church for people joining online (when in-person services resumed with restrictions). What was wonderful and still hits me is that we had people at home who were self-isolating and were able to do readings and intercessions, which we could hear in church. It was such a blessing to have these voices come through from our friends.

'It's carried on from there because although we don't get massive amounts, it does serve its purpose. We have people who are nowhere

near Ulley but join the service online and take part that way.' A recent report has suggested online services can still play a vital role in parishes, saying they can serve as an addition, rather than a replacement of, onsite services. The study by several other Church of England dioceses encourages hybrid arrangements similar to Holy Trinity's and says declining attendances post Covid-19 are not inevitable.

The team in Ulley have had positive conversations with a local care home about expanding streaming services to their location, thanks in large part to the higher quality of sound and production that has been in place recently through the Zoom services.

The cost of these hybrid arrangements doesn't have to be expensive, as Tony explains:

'We have people from other parishes in Sheffield joining our services online and tapping into those areas at no extra cost to us. We hope to get much bigger numbers of people joining us while being

mindful of not treading on other parishes's toes, so to speak. We're also looking at buying a TV and showing Christian bands playing to try to make it a little bit more interactive.

'Don't be scared to put all of the streaming stuff together on the cheap; you can do it with an old phone which has a decent enough camera. If you have a laptop that's even better. We're really pleased with the setup here in Ulley and we want to keep making access to services engaging for people young and old.'

Digital Mission Development Adviser Elliot Hyliger said:

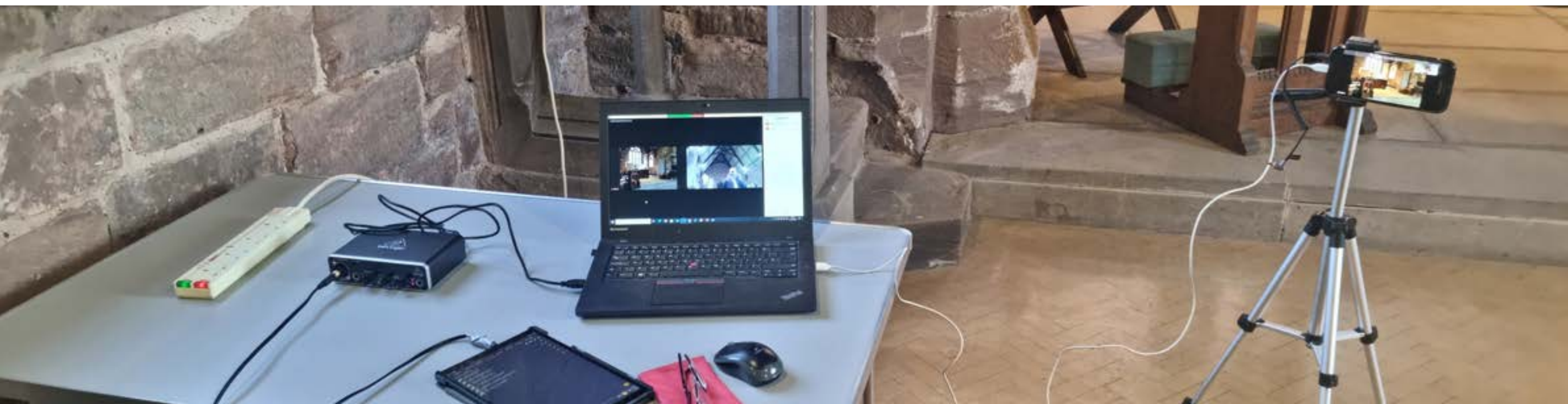
'The most encouraging thing about working with Tony and the others from Holy Trinity, Ulley, was that what they were doing was driven by a deep care for the members of their worshipping community. We even had a moment where we discussed the parable of the lost sheep and how Jesus, if he attended Holy Trinity, would encourage us to do everything we could to reach even one lost sheep.

'That desire to reach out meant that Tony was determined to make sure those who joined on Zoom could hear all that was going on and enjoy the worship service each week. In the end we dismantled the sound system, put it back together, laid some additional audio cable, found the appropriate hardware (after a couple of attempts!) and experimented with Zoom to find the right configurations.

'The end result: Sound from the microphones and music in the church is played through the church sound system speakers as usual and, simultaneously, played into the Zoom call at the highest possible quality.'

You can find a guide to online and onsite services here: [A step-by-step guide to online and onsite services | The Church of England](#)

You can explore more on deliberately digital approaches in the Diocese here: <https://www.sheffield.anglican.org/support/for-churches/deliberately-digital/>



FAITH STORY: FRANKIE WATSON FROM ST JOHN'S, GOOLE

I HAD A DIFFICULT START IN LIFE

I grew up in a broken home. There was love there, but mum had lots of mental health problems and dad left when I was about eight. I lived with my grandparents for a while and they did the best they could for me, but it was a rough start in life and I was missing a father figure to help me through.

I was originally born in Newcastle and came down to Yorkshire when I was about 18 to live with my uncle. I don't know if I wasn't really accepted, but I always felt like a second-class citizen. There were problems in the house and I had to find my way through life on my own. I didn't feel loved.

I HATED RELIGION

I had never been religious. I hated religion. For me, religion was to blame for everything. Why did I want to be faithful to somebody that I couldn't believe in. It wasn't integral to anything to me.

As I got older I did start looking at spiritual things and went to look at Buddhism and meditation. I got to a certain point with Buddhism but it didn't give me the answers that I yearned for.

I CONTEMPLATED SUICIDE

I was full of self-loathing and just wanted to die. I said to people they would be better off without me. My partner (now fiancé) of over 24 years picked me up and helped me, but still I had suicidal thoughts and told her "Why do you love me? You can't love me. I'm just not right." I struggled with chatrooms and was addicted to using them – I'd often be on them for hours and hours. I could lose days by logging on at 9am and then logging off at 11pm.

I TOLD GOD I NEEDED HELP

Around three years ago my mum

passed away. At the funeral at St John's in Goole I felt I was getting this voice telling me to go up and talk to the man conducting the service. I was craving for help and so I approached him. I told him I was struggling with this addiction and he put me in touch with someone from church who became a bit of a mentor to me.

'LEARN TO LOVE YOURSELF'

I told my mentor I hated myself, and he said the first thing I needed to do was learn to love myself. He said "God loves you and will never leave you." I couldn't forgive myself but slowly started to come around and realised if God loves me I have to love myself.

I was given lots of Bible passages and started to go to church. When I walked through the door it just felt right. This church just felt right. I explored the Alpha courses but I didn't go regularly to church initially because I still felt self-hatred. One night I just fell to my knees and told God I needed help and needed showing the way.

I GAVE MY TESTIMONY TO EVERYONE IN CHURCH

It's been a slow process of growth in my faith over the last three or four years with lots of ups and downs. I have to say that something I never thought I would ever do was to give a testimony in front of everyone in church, but I went for it.

In church I went through my testimony and it felt like I had found the family I've been craving for and that love; the love of a family who aren't going to judge me and who love me for who I am. The next step was getting confirmed and giving myself to Christ. It was an amazing night on my confirmation in front of the church and great to feel the support from Hannah, Jonny, the team and my church

family at St John's.

Singing and having my hands held high in church just felt so amazing and this was when I realised that I needed more of the father in my life.

I'M A REGULAR AT CHURCH NOW

I've really enjoyed going on the Alpha courses and attending church on a regular basis. I told someone at work about Alpha and after asking questions he started to attend the sessions. My partner has started church as well and is exploring her faith, and now we both regularly go together. We're getting married at St John's in August!

Another colleague at work asked me if I go to church on Sundays and told me she'd like to go the next week. It felt like that initial conversation just gave her a little push and it's been such a positive move for her. We encourage each other and support each other.

I WANT TO BE A BEACON FOR OTHERS

I had a night away at the Hayes Conference Centre in Derbyshire with my church family and felt I was chosen for prophecy. It was told I will make a great evangelist and have words and visions for those around me; I feel this has happened since with some of the people I work with.

From where I've been to where I am now, I've always said to Hannah and others at church that I feel I can be a beacon for somebody else to come forward and share their story. I've had a lot of trips and falls but as I continue on my Christian Journey I know there are other Christians who struggle with where I have been and this gives me hope for the future that I'm not on my own. When we do trip and fall we need to return to the father who is faithful and loving. AMEN.



A Christian charity offering fellowship and faith to international students across the UK is looking to boost local links and provide a welcoming environment.

Friends International partners together with churches and helps to serve students who are studying here. The group is promoting their 'Local Link' programme which involves organising teams of volunteers who are ready to host students wanting to get connected to families in the UK.

There are over 16,000 international students in Sheffield alone, meaning there's a large need for providing welcoming spaces but also a great opportunity for evangelism.

Stephanie Schmaltz is their Centre Team Leader in Sheffield and started in the role earlier this year. Originally from the United States, she has worked for IFES (International Fellowship of Evangelical Students) in university student ministry and spent time in Cambodia helping to plant the IFES movement there before coming to Sheffield on a sabbatical:

'My first role with university in the U.S was with international students that came from mostly Chinese and Malaysian backgrounds. We had an undergraduate fellowship and they came and said it was helpful, but they had some ideas of ways we could be more welcoming to international students. We started a separate group for international students and got to work with those students that came.'

'I really love being around other cultures and being able to not just share the love of Jesus but also to live life and care about people and all the things that come with moving to a new place and getting settled.'

'I came to Sheffield to kind of take a break and had some good friends that lived here. I wasn't really sure what was next, but loved the city and really wanted to stay. Thankfully I found Friends International and

it felt like a good fit for some of the experience that I've had and it helps me to be able to still work with internationals students as well.'

Friends International also run [The International Café](#), a free weekly event in the city centre for international students to make friends, play games, practice English and take part in various activities.

Part of the group's role is to help students find a church that suits them, with an emphasis placed on helping people to feel at home. Stephanie is part of a team of three in Sheffield along with Carol Forbes and Caleb Chen.

Stephanie says it's important for churches across the Diocese of Sheffield to play their part in providing a welcoming atmosphere:

'It's quite sad that often international students never make it into a British home; they're never invited over for lunch, which I think makes a really big difference. We want people to be connected to society at large and not just the universities.'

'Something as simple as inviting someone over for a meal can make a really big impact into people's lives. At our International Café we have different conversations each week about different topics, but we need volunteers to help us run that as well. It's really our main platform for bringing people together and it's amazing the kind of friendships that can build from there.'

'It's not just a case of teaching international students what life in the UK is like; it's also seeing what can we learn from international students that are coming into churches. It's an amazing opportunity to understand that God is a global God and not just local to where we are. God cares about the whole world and we have a great opportunity to get to know people from other countries and hear about how God is at in the world.'

[Find out more about Friends International.](#)

HOPE DONCASTER

Empowering young people to show God's love in practical ways

From 23-25 June, over 40 young people from church-based youth groups across Doncaster took part in a weekend of social action.

HOPE Doncaster was first held in 2019 and this year's event was the first since the Covid-19 pandemic. This year it was organised by the youth leaders from the Centenary Project's Doncaster Youth Hub. The Youth Hub brings together youth groups and youth leaders from all denominations to facilitate events that small groups wouldn't be able to run on their own.

See below for what we got up to over the HOPE Doncaster weekend:

FRIDAY - LAUNCH EVENT

The HOPE Doncaster weekend started with a launch event at Powerhouse Church in central Doncaster. On arrival, the young people were given their HOPE Doncaster t-shirts and lanyards to wear for the weekend. They played some games to get to know one another and then shared in a time of worship before being commissioned and sent out to take part in social action projects in their communities.

SATURDAY - SOCIAL ACTION

On Saturday morning, the young people got to work early on their activities. Groups were gardening, painting, litter picking, car washing and more. They were empowered to share God's love in their communities. It was a really warm day and they worked really hard. The young people also gave out invitations to people they met to invite them to church the next day to hear more about HOPE Doncaster.

SATURDAY - CELEBRATION

On Saturday evening, the young people were rewarded for all their hard work with a celebration evening at St Paul's Community Church in Wheatley Park. They were treated to pizza and inflatables and had a really good time getting to know other young people from churches across Doncaster. The Centenary Project's Youth Hubs were set up to help young people from small church youth groups to see that they are part of something much bigger.

SUNDAY - SHARING HOPE DONCASTER WITH CHURCHES

On Sunday, young people went back to their home churches to share what they had been doing with their own congregations. They were armed with [a video of highlights](#) from the weekend and testimonies of the things they had experienced and the people they met.

Rachel Ridler, Doncaster Hub Co-ordinator said, 'It has been amazing to see God at work across the whole HOPE Doncaster weekend. The young people have made friends, prayed for each other, worshipped together, worked alongside each other and celebrated together. The difference they have made in their local communities is something to be proud of on its own, but to hear many of them telling us that they did it for God and to show His love has blown us all away. My prayer is that this weekend has impacted them for life and they will always remember what they did to serve God and bring HOPE to the city of Doncaster.'

We were really pleased that local communities took an interest in HOPE Doncaster. Cllr Lee Pitcher, Mayor of Hatfield, visited the group at St Lawrence and said: 'I came away absolutely buzzing from meeting the Hatfield Heroes Youth Group having seen the awesome work they had been doing around Hatfield today. Thank you for letting me come along. I got so much energy from talking to these amazing young people. Next time, I'm definitely there for that big breakfast!'

You can catch up with the whole weekend by [watching the highlights video](#).

Hope Doncaster will be happening next year 21-23 June 2024 so put the dates in your diary to get involved or contact hubs@centenaryproject.org.uk to find out more about the work of the Youth Hubs.



Over 40 young people took part in social action projects



Mayor of Hatfield Cllr Lee Pitcher supporting those taking part



STRENGTHENING FAITH IN BONDO

Centenary Project Worker Sophie Boughton reflects on her trip to the Diocese of Bondo.

At the end of April, a team from the Diocese made up of Bishop Sophie, Huw Thomas (Director of Education) and myself had the privilege of visiting our link Diocese of Bondo in Western Kenya. Our link is a relatively new one and we were there building on the relationships that Bishop Pete forged on his previous visit in 2019.

We were welcomed warmly, and while there we were part of a Confirmation service where Bishop Sophie confirmed 65 people. We sang 'action packed' songs, met the Mothers' Union and were presented with some amazing gifts, including dresses and a shirt for Huw made to size by looking at photos of us!

We were invited to the house blessing of Archdeacon Ruth and her husband Dr Benson. A Kenyan house blessing is nothing like an English one! They had built a new house and we went around blessing each room, sadly missing the bathroom - but the liturgy was there. They'd invited about 250 people and had a service during which people brought gifts for the family to celebrate, including a goose. The family put on a meal to celebrate; it was much more like a wedding would be celebrated in the UK.

We also had the privilege of attending a wedding which was beautiful, for me the highlight was the gospel procession. The Bible - bound with duct tape - was literally danced down the aisle for about 10 minutes by a group of children and teenagers. The joy and excitement of the gospel and anticipation for the reading was built so well, and when I spoke to someone afterwards saying how much I had enjoyed it they said that it was a pared-down version!

A real highlight was the day where we visited a massive Sunday school gathering for the Diocese. Bishop Sophie gave the main talk before we met the Kenyan Anglican Youth Organisation and had a time of sharing our experiences and talking with them.

Despite all these positive experiences, we also experienced something of the political complexities as we were caught up in a roadblock in Kisumu (an hour or so from Bondo), resulting in a very frightening incident. Though we were all physically unhurt, our host sustained a minor injury, and the ordeal lasted some hours. This has sharpened our prayers for the people of Kenya as these days of protest are a regular feature of life at present and especially in Nairobi and Kisumu (more than in our link Diocese of Bondo), but clearly the situation affects all people and is very frightening for them at times.

We were made to feel so welcome by the whole Diocese, especially Bishop David Kodia and his family who hosted us. We're really looking forward to the return visit from 10-18 July, where we're planning time with synod, youth, toddlers groups, a countryside walk and Sunday services at the Cathedral and Doncaster Minster.



The creators of a wonderful wedding feast!



Sophie Boughton giving a talk

PETERTIDE ORDINATIONS



The procession enters Sheffield Cathedral

July has been a time of celebration with new candidates ordained and priested.

Ordinations were celebrated on 1-2 July at Sheffield Cathedral as more men and women came forward to dedicate themselves to ministry.

Across the weekend, 11 new candidates were ordained deacon and a further 15 were priested.

On Saturday 1 July the Bishop of Doncaster, the Rt Revd Sophie Jelley, ordained 13 priests at 4pm. On Sunday 2 July the Bishop of Sheffield, the Rt Revd Dr Pete Wilcox, ordained 10 Deacons at 10.30am. Then the Bishop of Ebbsfleet, the Rt Revd Rob Munro, ordained a presbyter and at 5.30pm the Bishop of Beverley, the Rt Revd Stephen Race, ordained a Deacon and a Priest.

For the services for the Deacons the bible readings were 1 Thessalonians 5: 12-24 and John 10: 1-6, with 2 Corinthians 4: 1-12 and Mark 10: 35-45 read out during the ordination of Priests.

Diocesan Director of Vocations Dan Christian said:

'It was a real joy to celebrate with those who were ordained Deacon and Priest in the Diocese of Sheffield this weekend. Each candidate has a unique story of how God's grace has transformed

their lives and each has of them are following God's call in a new season of ministry. I look forward to seeing the different ways they are all going to bless the communities that they serve in Jesus' name.'

Those ordained Deacon in Sheffield Cathedral by the Bishop of Sheffield on Sunday 2nd July 2023 at 10.30am

- Mr Thomas Brown, to serve as Assistant Curate of St Peter, Conisbrough (Stipendiary)
- Mr Peter Das, to serve as Assistant Curate of St John the Evangelist, Ranmoor (Stipendiary)
- Mr Peter Gaunt, to serve as Assistant Curate of St Gabriel, Greystones (Stipendiary)
- Mr William Gowers, to serve as Assistant Curate of Christ Church, Pitsmoor (Stipendiary)
- Mr Antony Heppel, to serve as Assistant Curate at The Resurrection Doncaster (SSM)
- Mr Christopher Hutchinson, to serve as Assistant Curate of the parish of Great

Snaith (Stipendiary)

- Dr Louise McInnes, to serve as Assistant Curate of St Leonard, Dinnington and St Simon & St Jude, Thurcroft (Stipendiary)
- Miss Brittany Webb, to serve as Assistant Curate at St Leonard's Community Church (BMO) in the parish of Heeley with Arbourthorne and Norfolk Park (Stipendiary)
- Mr Christopher Wroot, to serve as Assistant Curate of St Peter, Warmsworth (SSM)
- Mr Ben Grist, to serve as Assistant Curate of St John's, Goole (Stipendiary)

Those ordained Deacon in Sheffield Cathedral by the Bishop of Beverley on Sunday 2nd July 2023 at 5.30pm

- Mr Raymond Parkin, to serve as Assistant Curate of St Leonard & St Jude, Doncaster with St Luke Scawthorpe (SSM)

Those ordained Priest in Sheffield Cathedral by the Bishop of Doncaster on Saturday 1st July 2023 at 4pm

- The Revd Peter Delafield
- The Revd Samuel Ellmore
- The Revd Luke Graham
- The Revd Christine Herbert
- The Revd Kirsty Massey
- The Revd Philip McKenning
- The Revd Simon Oatridge

- The Revd Rachel Price
- The Revd David Reynolds
- The Revd Annabel Stott
- The Revd Michael Towle
- The Revd Zakarie Venable
- The Revd Alison Wragg

Those ordained Priest in Sheffield Cathedral by the Bishop of Ebbsfleet on Sunday 2nd July 2023 at 2.30pm

- The Revd Robert Mullock

Those ordained Priest in Sheffield Cathedral by the Bishop of Beverley on Sunday 2nd July 2023, at 5.30pm

- The Revd Michael Dixon



DID YOU KNOW?

Ordinations usually take place on the nearest weekend to Petertide (29 June - the feast of St Peter and St Paul).

The Church of England (along with the Roman Catholic Church) recognises three orders of ministry. The ordinal (the liturgy of the ordination) sets out the responsibilities and calling of each order.

The first of those orders is that of deacon. The word deacon comes from the Greek diakonos which means servant.

The second of those orders is that of priest. The word priest is an English contraction of the Greek word presbuteros which means elder.

Most deacons will be ordained priest, usually after a year's curacy, although some choose to remain permanent deacons.

The third order is that of bishop. The word bishop comes from the Greek episcopos which means overseer. Every diocese has one diocesan bishop and one or more suffragan (assistant) bishops. In our diocese Bishop Pete is the diocesan bishop and Bishop Sophie is the suffragan.

The orders are cumulative so a priest and a bishop remain a deacon throughout their ministry.

Diocesan Environment Officer Cathy Rhodes explains the Diocese of Sheffield's plans for tackling Net Zero.

A major milestone in our mission to care for God's creation was announced in April, when the Diocese of Sheffield committed to divestment from fossil fuels.

The Diocese confirmed that it has no direct investments in fossil fuel companies, as has been the case for some time. Following a meeting of the Bishop's Council, [it also committed to not reinvesting in them in the future](#). This commitment is part of our Eco Diocese work and is made alongside our link Diocese of Bondo in Kenya, and Bishop David has welcomed this pledge. As burning fossil fuels is a major cause of global heating, a swift and urgent transition is needed to renewable energy with measures to reduce energy use. The wider church is also engaging

It has been a busy few months for the environmental team within the Diocese, as we consider how to implement the Church of England Routemap to Net Zero Carbon Emissions by 2030. This includes [the recent appointment of our Net Zero Carbon Project Officer](#), David Castle, who we are delighted to welcome to the team.

David will work with Diocesan teams to support the long-term and challenging project of supporting our churches, schools and clergy housing to reduce their carbon footprint. We seek to bear witness to our call to Creation care, and for our churches to be sustainable, welcoming and warm spaces for the future. It has also been a time to reflect and pray on why this work is needed and on the damage that has sadly already been done.

We often think we are

communities but it not too late for the world if we know that this is today's problem.'

Bishop Sophie witnessed this during her recent visit to Bondo Diocese. Her photos show the effects as waterlogged fields affect harvests and damage nature, roads are washed away and families have to leave their homes. We've also seen extreme weather closer to home in Europe with heatwaves, droughts and wildfires, alongside loss of nature due to human activity. And in all countries, people with fewer resources are more likely to suffer effects of this emergency including flooding. So this is an issue of justice.

But as

The environment team:

David Castle, Net Zero Project Officer:
david.castle@sheffield.anglican.org

Sally Hunter, Project support:

environment.admin@sheffield.anglican.org

Cathy Rhodes, Diocesan Environment Officer:

environment@sheffield.anglican.org

'LET JUSTICE ROLL ON...'

in this. As this article goes to press, the Church Commissioners for England, which manages the Church of England's £10.3bn endowment fund, announced they are taking their money out of all remaining oil and gas major companies, and will exclude by end of 2023 all other companies associated with fossil fuels who aren't working to keep global heating to 1.5 degrees. The Pensions Board is also disinvesting. The Archbishop of Canterbury said: *'The Church will follow not just the science, but our faith – both of which call us to work for climate justice.'* We can't stop using fossil fuels tomorrow but change must come quickly as we follow our Christian calling to safeguard God's creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

...racing to prevent a climate and nature emergency, but that emergency is already here. The impacts are being felt most severely by people living in poverty who have done the least to cause this crisis. In February [we were privileged to welcome The Revd. Canon Flora Winfield](#), Third Church Estates Commissioner, to speak to representatives of churches from across the Diocese. In a poignant speech, Canon Flora emphasised the impact of the climate crisis in the wider Anglican Communion. She spoke of the effect of drought and floods on food security and resources, and the increased risk of conflict this brings. She memorably quoted Archbishop Winston Halapua, who experiences first-hand the impact of the crisis in the Pacific Islands:

'This is not tomorrow's problem: this is today's problem.... It is already too late for some of our

Christians we are people of hope, called by a loving God to prayer and action in our daily lives, our churches and communities, and to ask for change from our political leaders. We live in difficult times but despite this the wonderful people in the Diocese of Sheffield are rising to the challenge. We now have 57 registered A Rocha Eco Churches across our Diocese! [This autumn we once again mark Creationtide](#) and many churches in our Diocese will join Christians around the world in prayer and action for God's Earth. As we follow Jesus' call to love our neighbours, the theme this year is "Let Justice and Peace Flow." Our actions are urgent and important and are to be celebrated. There's an Eco Church celebration at the Cathedral on 9 September from 11am – 3pm: please save the date and look out for more details coming soon.

But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!

Amos 5:24



Waterlogged fields in Bondo

2023

MISSION ACTION PLANNING

Mission Action Planning (MAP) has been central to the vision and strategy of the Diocese and parishes for the past ten years. MAPs are helpful tools in assisting congregations to have honest conversations about what mission, ministry and calling look like in their specific context and helping them to frame their priorities for the years ahead.

In my twelve years as Vicar of St Chad Woodseats we put together three MAPs which helped us to focus on physical needs such as reordering our church building, spiritual needs such as growing the life of prayer and community needs such as engagement with schools and the elderly.

In March this year the Diocese launched our new MAP which has been sent to every parish. This MAP is quite different to previous ones as it asks each church to consider ten different areas of church life (prayer and worship, social transformation, finance and governance etc.) and to plot where they might be in relation to four stages of health. Most churches will find that they are doing well in some areas but will feel more uncertain in others.

Churches are then asked to decide what their priorities for growth and development arising out of the MAP are, and to submit them [using a Google form](#). All submitted forms will go direct to the Resourcing Mission and Ministry (RMM) team and will be responded to personally. Along with Mission Area Support (generosity and giving, buildings, treasurer assistance) we will do our best to help any church that wishes to move their priorities on to the next stage of their planning. We would love to have as many entries as possible submitted before the summer break in mid July.

It is our hope that this way of doing mission action planning will not only be straightforward, but will also be a stimulating experience for congregations and PCCs and will give an impetus for good investment of resources in the areas that we feel God is calling us to at this time and in this place. My prayer is that the next time we do mission action planning every church can find something to celebrate as well as new aspirations to aim for!



**‘THIS IS
A WAY OF
SHOWING
JESUS TO
PEOPLE
AND THE
LOVE HE
HAS FOR
US’**

St Paul's Church in Norton Lees is helping to meet a growing need for help and support in the local community.

A food pantry has started up at the Sheffield-based church, offering help with the cost of living. Serving as a focal point in the Norton Lees and Meersbrook parish, a group of volunteers open up the church every Wednesday and Friday from 9.30am-2pm for people to receive surplus food in return for a small donation.

Starting on the 12 April, the church also provides warm rooms alongside an existing lunch club.

Tina Sampson-Smith is a Focal Minister at St Paul's; she says they wanted to support the Safe Food Service in the area with a better location:

'I went to PCC thinking that they were going to die of shock and horror and they all supported me and said "yes, we need to do it." I asked for Wednesday and Friday thinking I'll probably get the Wednesday, but not the Friday. And we got both.

'The demand for help has been significant. In the first five weeks we had something like 1,200 people through the door. It's quite frightening really because this appears to be quite a wealthy area, yet when you look at the demographics a lot of people are on free school meals. That says an awful lot.'

The team are hoping to gain some extra funding to do a lunch club for children and to provide extra food during school holidays.

There's also a call for more volunteers to help, with the group making strong efforts to be as sustainable as possible by reducing their carbon

footprint.

Tina thinks it's important for the church to be a focal point for the local community:

'The meeting place is in front of the church, so people do come and look around. We've had some people asking to come and pray, and others have joined us to talk in church about who God is; they want to know who Jesus is, why we believe what we do and why we're doing this. We're sharing God's love with people and this is a practical way of doing it.

'In the first week of opening we had a women's refuge where women moved up to Sheffield but had no benefits yet and no food. A local councillor asked us for help and we made food packs for the women. We've also managed to get some toys and clothes for children by just appealing in the local neighbourhood to help meet the needs of the people in this area.

'One of the people we help is a single father who lost his job and told us he used to give to food banks every week. He was really sad and he wept, but we've been able to provide him with two packs a week. The sad thing is he's been reemployed by a different company doing the same job in the same place, but on less money. Our way of supporting him is to deliver a food pack every week to help him.'

'This is a way of showing Jesus to people and the love he has for us. We are God's hands and feet on earth, so sharing God's love in a practical way brings renewed hope, builds community and shares God's love for His people.'

[Get in touch with the team at St Paul's](#)

OUTREACH IN NORTON LEES

MISSION AREA SUPPORT LOOKING AHEAD

Libby Culmer and Luke Bunting from the Generosity and Giving team take a look at what parishes can do to boost their online presence in the coming months

The Generosity and Giving team members are keen to support parishes into producing the best possible materials for them to use when communicating their vision, events and news to the wider public. A key part of that goal is in strengthening planning so churches can start to think about promoting events in the coming months, especially with keeping things like [A Church Near You](#) up to date.

As we go through the Summer months it may seem strange to be looking ahead to Christmas! However, that's part of our key focus at the moment as we look to make sure people are utilising digital resources as best as possible when communicating with others.

We've been thinking of a 'top five' list of things that parishes can be doing in preparation for Christmas:

- 1) Can visitors find you and your Christmas service times online?
- 2) Contactless Giving for one off donors – Are you ready?
- 3) How are you being a light for Christ this Christmas?
- 4) Is your church welcoming and warm?
- 5) Do you have a follow up plan, or something for your visitors to take away that invites them back?

We'll be emphasising this top five list across the Mission Area Support team to make sure churches are thinking about all different areas that they'll need to prepare for Christmas. Looking at your church, do you have your parish website up to date with service times and access information? There'll be a push as well towards asking if you're ready to receive donations during that time, especially with Christmas being a key event in the church calendar when people travel in to see their families.

Plate donations have decreased since Covid, [so we've been doing a lot of promotion around contactless giving](#). We can either lend churches our contactless devices or support them in picking one that's the most appropriate for their contacts. By promoting this now it gives people the opportunity to either reserve one of

our machines or make inroads into getting their own.

We also want to tie into (Lights for Christ Enabler) Hannah Sandoval's Lights for Christ messaging, especially as Christmas can be quite a lonely time for people and we want to look at ways of reaching out and growing the community. It's important to look at what kind of activities are held in churches and to build long term connections with people interested in attending them. Is there something for all ages? For example, families may be drawn to Christingle services but more meditative events like carols by candlelight will be more appealing to adults.

Visibility is a big issue, especially when it comes to looking online. Being visible in that respect is very important, along with having everything online and accessible. It may even be time to start thinking already about putting things in your handouts and church services that people can give out to their friends to invite them to. It's easier in some ways to send invites around Christmas because people are expecting it. It can be a really good opportunity for outreach. It could be the one opportunity that you're going to get for people to come into the church. As a parish it could be your one opportunity to show off Jesus and to boast about him.

It's a good step to develop a follow-up plan so that visitors have a contact point to engage with. Our Mission Development Advisers [John Hibberd](#), [Mark Wigglesworth](#) and [John Marsh](#) can assist you with this. The journey doesn't end when a service or event finishes; the conversations afterwards are just as important.

For anyone who may feel overwhelmed by all of this, don't be afraid to reach out to us for help. We've got a team here that's ready and willing to support people in these areas and help with promotional materials, contactless devices, A Church Near You updates and more. Keeping your contact details up to date is also important, especially if your churches have a new influx of volunteers on the PCC. By taking these steps well in advance of the festive period, we're confident churches will be ready to be warm places of welcome to others.

For more information, get in touch: Generosity@sheffield.anglican.org

NEW FOCAL MINISTRY AUTHORISATIONS IN ULLEY

Peter Hutchinson, Margaret Oakley and Gloria Hope share their journeys to Focal Ministry

Holy Trinity Church Ulley shares with All Saints Aston in a Joint Benefice but sits in the centre of a small village of 180 residents. We have been without a Rector for almost five years and so have developed ways of managing the use of the resources we have available. At last the shape of ministry, in terms of the diocesan strategy, became clearer. As a PCC it seemed right that we should explore what Focal Ministry might mean for us. Both Sally Myers, the Director of Focal Ministry and Julie Bacon, the Associate Archdeacon, came and had meetings with us.

Those of us involved in the various ministries within the congregation needed, with God, to explore our personal positions. As to be expected, the responses were different and ranging from "that's for me" to "I cannot see me in that role" and all positions in between. But we now knew who our Oversight Minister would be and our minds turned to thinking out ways in which we can collaborate with and support her ministry, with the concept of Focal Ministry as the backdrop.

Three of us discussed our thoughts and positions with the PCC, who accepted that such a role seems to be the next step for us. Gloria has been the go-to person in the benefice for baptisms with about 50 a year. With clergy vacancies over four years she has had to find an officiant as well as ministering to the baptismal families. Her partnership with the Oversight Minister is a welcome sharing of a heavy burden and a golden opportunity to re-think the whole significance of baptism and how we can make that a realistic step in an active discipleship.

Margaret's background in art has led to her designing and producing our publicity but there seems to have been little opportunity to use her training as a counsellor. Questioning herself and God, she came to a clear certainty that the Focal Ministry role could potentially be a significant part of our mission. Peter, after a lifetime of preaching, had retired and moving between two homes; one here and one in France - that seemed right but in 2017 life changed as they sold the French home. Living with the reality of not having a Rector was, for him, uncomfortable. Thinking and exploring realities of the situation was an opportunity for God to nudge again and again: 'you need to resume preaching'. In 2019 that was shared with Bishop Pete and permission granted.

Prior to our authorisation on Sunday 2 July we met as a team and found ourselves asking questions about the future of our ministries, the pitfalls and

the potential opportunities. As a congregation, we have organised an annual well dressing involving children and residents of the village. These children are growing up with no Sunday school, no messy church and no youth club! How can we involve them in discovering real discipleship?

Prior to the Covid pandemic we, as a congregation, gathered in a house group each Advent and Lent. How can these be re-established as ways of introducing village residents to true faith and growing that faith in the whole congregation. We are exploring these - enough for one team meeting! As yet our concerns are only about where is God leading us? Where we can hardly glimpse a way forward what challenges and opportunities will He present to us?

We don't want to miss a single one.

DIRECTOR OF FOCAL MINISTRY SALLY MYERS SAID:



'Ulley is one of those churches that Focal Ministry is designed for! We met with Vicky their Oversight Minister, and other key people there, to prepare for Focal Ministry on a Saturday in the church hall across the road from Holy Trinity. I was amazed by the huge number of visitors taking advantage of its open doors. Locals, cyclists and ramblers, families, lone dog walkers... all took the chance to step out of their everyday lives and encounter the holy in that place. This will never appear on church statistics but is hugely important. Peter, Margaret and Gloria are already the obvious public faces of the church in their parish and making this and many other things possible. I am delighted that they are stepping into the role of Focal Minister, where they can be recognised affirmed and supported in their ministry.'

UKRAINE MISSION

Goldthorpe Parish Church Warden Andrew Hainey has been part of a team delivering UK-donated ambulances and support vehicles with medical kit to Ukraine.

A huge thankyou to everyone that supported getting four additional medical support vehicles bulging with supplies to Ukraine in June.

The trip had long days of driving for the team but given the mission and focus, there was a 'drive' to press on.

Crossing the border into Ukraine made what had been a pleasant journey very real. As we were waiting, our Air Raid app sounded on our phones. We never knew what had been detected, if it landed or how it was dealt with. No one else seemed overly concerned; it was just part of normal life.

We passed through roadblocks, tank traps and passed car-size craters and entered Lviv. The queue of traffic heading in the other direction lessened. What in some ways made it somehow more disconcerting was the beautiful centre of Lviv; on first glance it seemed fairly normal. People were going about their business, coffee shops were open and buses and taxis were driving around.

We delivered the ambulances and unloaded with the local team. As they sorted, a video call was opened, and the supplies split between the front line and hospital needs. The reality of the situation was building.

Once we said farewell to our charges for the last time to have their fluorescent trim removed, ready for a more suitable re-spray, we headed to a hotel with a member of the local team. The next morning, we turned our focus to our return home, via Krakow in Poland.

We spent time in Lviv until our transport to the border was ready. Many church windows and statues were boarded up but their golden domes still glistened in the sunlight. School doors and windows were covered with sandbags as a precaution, meaning they must feel like bunkers – even in the daytime.

In the centre is an historic graveyard with many extravagant grave markers, works of art in themselves. Next to this is a large open grass area, about the size of four football pitches. It's a place where people would come as a family for

picnics and games. What we witnessed broke all our hearts and brought us to tears. 16 months in and it is already a quarter full of the fallen of war; men young and old. The newest graves were for soldiers who had been killed the day before we left the UK.

Ukrainian flags were flying on every grave, each with a simple wooden cross with a name and dates. Fresh yellow and blue flowers covered each grave having been tended with such love by those left behind to mourn.

There were mothers, wives, sisters, daughters walking between the graves with buckets of water and more flowers. A large group of mourners were gathered with arms round each other crowding a freshly filled in grave.

Our host (21 years old) wanted us to follow him through, stopping at several graves as he told us about his friend before him. Stories of bravery but more heart-breaking tales of nights out, girlfriends, wives and children. Once where there was laughter, now there is the focus of grief. Shrines to the young of Lviv that could have been. This is not a national cemetery or the only one in Lviv.

When we left shaken, we made our way through the city centre. We stopped with a group, as a trumpeter was playing as part of an act of remembrance, which happens daily. Our emotions were a strange mixture of sorrow, agony and anger. We decided at that moment that we must do more.

This is not the end but the beginning. We are already planning more trips and continuing to fund raise or take donated vehicles. As we left Ukraine by train to Krakow, a Ukrainian girl was on the train; she overheard us talking. When we left the train, she stopped us. She apologised for not having the words in English but with tears in her eyes thanked us for what we had done. Those thanks belong to EVERYONE that has supported in anyway, but the need continues.

You can donate to Andrew's fundraiser for Ukraine here: [Crowdfunding to deliver UK donated ambulances and support vehicles with medical kit to Ukraine. on JustGiving](#)



Supplies ready to be delivered



A graveyard of fallen soldiers



Members of the team preparing for departure

THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK'S MISSION VISIT TO THE DIOCESE

Archbishop Stephen Cottrell recently met with clergy and lay leaders from across the Diocese



The Diocese of Sheffield welcomed the Archbishop of York, The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Stephen Cottrell, during a weekend mission visit in June.

Taking place from the 16-18 June, Archbishop Stephen spoke of bringing 'a little bit of light and warmth to the Diocese of Sheffield,' along with celebrating opportunities to share with others 'something of the goodness, the peace and the light which we see in Jesus Christ, and because of his death and resurrection – and by his spirit – can be ours too.'

He was joined on the trip by his chaplain Dr Jenny Wright, the Ven Canon Mark Chamberlain (who joined the trip from Christchurch in New Zealand) and Bishop Pete's chaplain Revd Harry Steele.

Bishop Pete joined the delegation for most of Saturday's events, with Bishop Sophie doing likewise for the Sunday.

FRIDAY 16 JUNE

The mission started with a visit to Sheffield Cathedral for evensong, where Archbishop Stephen met with Bishop Pete, Dean Abi Thompson, cathedral clergy and members of the public.

Readings at the service included Psalm 35, Joshua 24:1-28 and Luke 12: 41-48, with Archbishop Stephen giving a blessing and a short reflection. Addressing the congregation at the Cathedral, Archbishop Stephen said 'growth begins upon waiting on God and longing for God's kingdom to come. I see it here in this Diocese and in the way Bishop Pete leads this Diocese. I pray God's spirit will lead us to beautiful beginnings.' Once evensong concluded, Archbishop Stephen had dinner at Bishops Croft with Bishop Pete and others from the Diocese.



Evensong at Sheffield Cathedral

SATURDAY 17 JUNE

Saturday's mission started with a trip to Diocesan Church House to meet with new Churchwardens. Archbishop Stephen noted that 'the starting point for all our ministries must be that deep rooting of our lives in Christ. As Churchwardens you are spiritual leaders; looking at how encounters with God are sustained. Mixed ecology is key

to helping the church flourish; the Diocese of Sheffield is ahead of the game on this. Diversity is a good thing and allows real flourishing. Churchwardens are in the frontline of overseeing a changing church; I esteem you for your vision.' The team then met with church grafters sharing positive testimonies from churches across the Diocese.

The afternoon started with a procession amongst dignitaries, bands and volunteers towards the War Memorial at All Saints' Church at Laughton En Le Morthen. The re-dedication of the War Memorial event marked the centenary of the monument being put in place, with Bishop Pete and Archbishop Stephen helping to lead prayers.

There was time to visit two Summer Fayres at Laughton En Le Morthen and St Leonard Dinnington either side of a prayer walk from All Saints' Church to St James Church in Anston, which was led by Mission Development Adviser John Hibberd.

The day ended with an evening event at St John Kimberworth Park to meet with more than 25 Focal Ministers from the Diocese, along with Director of Focal Ministry Sally Myers. Suggesting the concept of 'bifocal ministers', Archbishop Stephen said 'I would love to see every congregation have a dedicated Focal Ministry team. Focal Ministry enables every congregation to have a personal group of people helping to be a face for that church.'



Summer Fayre in Laughton En Le Morthen

SUNDAY 18 JUNE

Archbishop Stephen preached at Doncaster Minster on Sunday morning from Matthew 9:35-10:8, saying 'We live in a time of great uncertainty and confusion. We look upon the world and see what our world needs more than anything is the good things that God shows us in Jesus Christ. The human heart longs for peace and justice. The harvest is rich but the labourers are not few. Do we realise we are labourers? Have we woken up to the fact that God is calling us to be agents of change, compassion and mercy?' The service, which was led with Vicar David Stevens and Bishop Sophie, was followed by communion before the team headed to St Mary's Sprotbrough to meet with curates and their families.

He later attended café church at St John's Balby, the same place he visited with Archbishop Justin Welby to announce triennium funding back in May 2022. The afternoon included meetings with volunteers and service users in Balby of the multibank in operation there, followed by a moving talk from Archbishop Stephen where he told those gathered 'you have a God who believes in you, loves you and is on your side. He's the God who steps inside our shoes and knows what it's like to be you. The God who knows you and loves you.'

Archbishop Stephen rounded off his mission weekend by saying 'I have been encouraged to see all that is going on to enable churches to be lights for Christ, as well as the love and support people so clearly have for their communities.'



Vicar David Stevens with ++ Stephen



Café Church in Balby

SYMBOLS OF FAITH:

‘IT REMINDS YOU OF GOD’S PRESENCE WITH YOU EVERYDAY’

We’ve spoken to Lights for Christ Enabler Hannah Sandoval about the Bishop’s Badge Competition and the positive impact symbols of faith can have in the Diocese.

There’s not long left until the winner will be announced for the Bishop’s Badge Competition! The winning design will be made into badges and stickers for Wear Your Faith Fortnight 2023 (23 Oct – 6 Nov) but there’s optimism the effects of the campaign will carry on through the rest of the year.

The initiative encourages children and young people across the Diocese to design a new badge based their designs on anything to do with the Christian faith. Bishop Sophie will choose one winner and two runners up: the winning design will be made into a badge and stickers, and the runner up designs will be made into stickers too. These symbols of our faith will be freely available to participating churches and schools during Wear Your Faith Fortnight later this year.

Lights for Christ Enabler Hannah Sandoval says that wearing a symbol of faith is a great way of sparking curiosity and questions:

‘We sometimes talk about people wearing their heart on their sleeve – it’s the same premise with WYFF – wearing a symbol of your faith on your jacket or jumper signifies that it is important to you and that you’re open to conversation. In planning this we’ve really thought about how we could use a variety of images that are important in the Christian faith to display our faith anew and in a different way.’

‘The Bible is full of images and metaphors. If you read the life of Jesus closely, there are so many normal items described, such as bread, fish, coins and seeds. Within the context of faith, these things take on a much bigger significance – these images are signifiers of something much deeper that we can carry with us into our everyday lives. Wearing a

symbol can remind you of God’s presence with you wherever you are – at home, when you’re travelling, and in the workplace, for example.

‘We’re hoping that children and young people in our Diocese will be able to make use of different images and symbols that are important in the Christian faith, and that we can carry those visual reminders into our daily lives.’

The winner of the competition is set to be announced the week beginning Monday 10 July, giving the Lights for Christ team three months to build up momentum ahead of Wear Your Faith Fortnight.

The team is partnering once again with [Arise Sheffield](#) following the successes of the 2022 campaign and the continuation of faith-based conversations with others beyond the initial two-week plan.

Hannah thinks it’s important to use symbols to show we’re part of the same faith community, and to build each other up:

‘Those conversations don’t need to stop at the end of the fortnight. The campaign is kind of a starter for ten, but then we can carry the ideas on past the end of the two weeks.. We live in a very visual culture where we’re used to having icons or symbols that signify something. Take a look at any smartphone and you’ll see that each app has an icon which we recognise, and that has a deeper meaning that helps us to understand its function.’ We can carry that idea through to what we wear – the symbols that we decide to display on ourselves, our cars, our houses or wherever we are communicate to others what we value.



Hannah Sandoval

“Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father”

-Matthew 5:16

Lights for Christ is an initiative to help us live out our baptismal calling to be lights in the world – to live for Jesus in our everyday lives. We do this by:

- Receiving Christ’s light as his friends (so that our relationship with Jesus becomes deeper)
- Walking in Christ’s light as his followers (living so that we become more like Jesus)
- Reflecting Christ’s light to those around us (so that others see more of Christ in us)

A personal rule of life is a framework that can help release each of us to become more Christ-like. It is a response to God’s love and grace, a response which comes out of gratitude.

You can explore these ideas further and look at how they can be put into practice. Take a look at a selection of resources to help you discover what being a Light for Christ could mean for you.

[Learn more about Lights for Christ here.](#)

*The Diocese of Sheffield
is called to grow a
sustainable network
of Christ-like, lively
and diverse Christian
communities in every
place which are
effective in making
disciples and in seeking
to transform our society
and God's world.*



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T: (01709) 309100 | **W:** sheffield.anglican.org | **E:** reception@sheffield.anglican.org

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