

JANUARY-FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



The Dean: The Very Revd John Dobson DL
Canon in Residence: Canon Matthew Pollard
Canon Claire Repshaw

Cathedral Office: 01765 603462 Website: www.riponcathedral.org.uk

A NOTE FROM THE DEAN

Happy New Year!

I'm delighted to wish you a happy New Year on behalf of all members of the cathedral's chapter.

The important thing about New Year is that it falls within the season of Christmas. The danger is always that people have started celebrating Christmas in October and see 25th December as the end of the long and exhausting season, taking down trimmings and moving into New Year mode. What we celebrate at Christmas is precisely what enables us to step into the unknown with hope. The Christmas message should not be put away with the decorations.

New Year is inevitably a time for reflecting on the past year, with the benefit of hindsight. It's also a time for looking forward to the next twelve months without the advantage of perfect foresight. Hopefully, reflection on the past brings lessons and opportunities for gratitude. Pondering the possibilities of the unknown future can bring an expected sense of uncertainty combined with hope and a determination to take advantage of all that is good.

The 'ups and downs' of life

Last year had its 'ups and downs', like all years. The King's coronation was certainly an 'up'. The same can be said for many of the ways in which we saw the cathedral's life and mission grow and flourish. The significant 'ups' certainly included the growing and flourishing choir, our expanding work with schools, and extensive outreach to the city and region through C3 (Cathedral Community Connections) and RCRF (Ripon Cathedral Rural Forum). Our worshipping community has seen ongoing spiritual and numerical growth, beyond levels seen before COVID.

Sadly, the continuing war in Ukraine, the outbreak of conflict between Israel and Gaza, and the growing humanitarian crisis resulting from mass migration were obvious 'downs' in 2023. COP28 had both 'ups and downs'. The growing threat of global catastrophe resulting from climate change was at least acknowledged and an agreement reached that all nations should move away from using fossil fuels. Many of us in our personal lives may have experienced significant and life-changing 'downs'.

Life on Planet Earth inevitably brings its 'ups and downs'. So, hope is needed!

Christmas provides the foundation for hope

Jesus's birth at Bethlehem changed everything, revealing to us in a way we can comprehend the true nature of God, and assuring us that the God who is self-giving love is with us in every situation of life - Emmanuel. Jesus is not just for Christmas! With him, we come to learn that in the end, all shall be well. And we come to trust that, as we journey along life's way, whatever 'ups and downs' we have to face, he will offer us the strength and spiritual resource to cope.

Wise men from the East show Jesus is saviour for everyone

The feast of the Epiphany, 6th January, marks the end of the 12 days of Christmas and the beginning of the next season of celebration. The arrival of the star-led magi, bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh - symbolizing the royal, divine, and self-sacrificing nature of the Christ-child - has come to indicate that God's gift of himself in Jesus Christ is for everyone.

It becomes important then, for the Church, Christ's body on earth, to live in a way which reveals the truth of this. Humanity is very diverse in so many ways, yet God is the God of all, and Jesus comes as the saviour of the whole world. At the cathedral, then, we seek to be open to all who wish to be part of a community of faith which put's Christ at its centre. And in our service of the world, we do not discriminate – being keen to show God's love, revealed in Christ, is for all, whatever their creed, race, gender, sexual orientation, or age. Of course, our hope is that eventually all will, like the magi, bow down and worship the one God who is revealed in Christ, at one with him and each other.

God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself

St. Paul tells us in his second letter to the Corinthians, 'God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself.' From our celebrations of **Candlemas** on 2nd February, through **Lent, Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter** we will ponder how this reconciling work was seen in Jesus – do see the Lent Leaflet, providing information about all the opportunities for keeping a fruitful Lent as part of the cathedral community.

Jesus acknowledged that often people's reaction to his message of peace and love resulted in division – even dividing families. And the story of his anger in turning over the tables of those who would exploit the poor and needy, making the temple a 'robbers' den', shows clearly that his saving, reconciling work was not achieved without standing up against falsehood and injustice. So, at the beginning of 2024, we take hope from Christ, praying to build up the community of those who would be at one with him in his reconciling mission for the whole world.

Happy New Year! Dean John

NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

It is a well-known fact that music creates memories, and in the last half term of 2023, many memories were created by outstanding music both in worship and in the Christmas concert.

The Advent Carol service with procession has attracted over 16000 views on YouTube with comments including;

- There can't be a cathedral in the country that has done a more splendid Advent Carol Service than that.'
- 'Everything was beautifully done; the singing was intentional and robust interpreting the texts so well, the organ music was superb.... Thank you from Brampton Ontario Canada.'
- 'And from Australia. Glory to God in the highest! Thank you Ripon Cathedral'
- 'What a beautiful service! Congratulations and thank you for streaming it!'
- 'Hello from USA. Gorgeous service to usher in the Advent season.'
- 'Astonishing liturgy and how does a cathedral in somewhere no bigger than a large village maintain a musical standard like that?'
- 'Anyone watching & listening to this advent service will have been lifted higher than they ever thought it possible.'

This was followed two weeks later by the Christmas concert, a new venture for the Cathedral choir in partnership with the St Cecilia Orchestra. A varied programme covering excerpts from Bach's Christmas Oratorio, traditional carols and Jingle Bells, led to a well deserved standing ovation from the packed cathedral.

The new year will see the recording of a CD of Christmas music which will be available in time for Christmas 2024, and of course the choir sing 6 services a week enhancing the worship.

Please continue to pray for the music staff and all in the choir.

Canon Michael



Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Leeds Ripon Cathedral Branch Special Birthday Celebrations in Ripon

At the October meeting of Ripon Cathedral Branch on 24 October at St John's Bondgate, our speaker was the Venerable Richard Seed, formerly Archdeacon of York. Listening to Richard's stories drawn from his 50 years in the priesthood, we soon realised that there are many more inspiring stories to be told, and we look forward to more in the future. The highlight of the meeting was our celebration of Sheila Pantin's 100th birthday. Sheila lives in Harrogate and comes to our meetings in Ripon with her daughter Helen. This remarkable lady spoke of her early life, her move from Leeds to Hull and her wartime experiences in the ATS. - At the end of the war on VE Day she was in Brussels, and on VJ Day was part of the team of ambulance drivers who went in to liberate the concentration camp at Belsen. We are in awe of her energy and enthusiasm - and were privileged indeed to be part of her birthday celebrations, which, of course, involved tea and cake!



Prayer Pyramid

Mary Waiting, who has kindly been leading the Prayer Pyramid is retiring from her role and Lorretta Williams will be taking over.

Our grateful thanks go to Mary, who set it up and has faithfully administered it for many years. We appreciate all she has done to enable people to be prayed for. With thanks to Loretta too for taking it over.

If anyone would like to request prayer, or to join the Prayer Pyramid to pray for others, please contact Loretta on 01765603352.

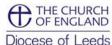


Plough Sunday Service

Sunday 14th January 2024
in Ripon Cathedral
Service led by the Very Rev'd John Dobson,
Dean of Ripon
Preacher: The Bishop of Ripon,
Rt Revd Anna Eltringham
Refreshments, including hot pork rolls, cake,
tea & coffee served from 2.30pm.

Service starts at 3.30pm







NEWS FROM THE CANON PASTOR

Dark before Dawn – a retreat in Lent with Bishop Anna Eltringham & Canon Claire Renshaw

Saturday 24th February 10am-2pm (refreshments from 9.30am) in Ripon Cathedral.

Join us as we reflect on the darkness before dawn and how it can enrich and nourish our spiritual journeys.

There will be Eucharist, three short talks, some quiet time for reflection and prayer stations to reflect upon.

Refreshments will be provided but please bring with you your own lunch.

Please contact <u>cathedraladmin@riponcathedral.org.uk</u> for further information or to book a place.



Rhythm of Life

Are you interested in joining with others to journey together as we consider our Rhythms of life and potentially commit to gathering (initially) three times a year to deepen our sense of community and shared journey?

The idea is to form a dispersed community for the Diocese of Leeds (centred at Ripon Cathedral) that comes together regularly to be refreshed, challenged, eat together and pray together and then sent back out to further God's work in the communities of which we are a part, centred around the Rhythm of Life which began a few years ago.

The dates we are meeting are: Saturday 13th January 2024 Saturday 18th May 2024 Saturday 19th October 2024

From 10am – 2pm at Ripon Cathedral.

The day will involve praying together, some input relating to one of the areas of the Rhythm of Life, some reflection time in the beautiful grounds and building of Ripon Cathedral, a shared lunch (please bring your own but we will eat together) and then closing prayer/worship.

If you would like to join us, please RSVP <u>CanonClaire@riponcathedral.org.uk</u>. If you would like to know more about the Rhythm of life see: https://www.leeds.anglican.org/rhythm-of-life

Churches Together in Ripon

We had a lovely time singing carols at Winer Wonderland for the public on Friday 15th December in Spa Gardens, a big thank you to everyone who came along to join us.



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Our next events coming up are the joint prayer gatherings and worship for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, as follows:

Friday 19th January at Ripon Cathedral 12noon Eucharist Monday 22nd January at 12noon prayers at Allhallowgate Methodist Church Tuesday 23rd January at 11am prayers at Holy Trinity Church Wednesday 24th January at 12noon prayers at Harrogate Road Methodist church Thursday 25th January at 7pm joint eucharist at Allhallowgate Methodist Church – Preacher Bishop John Pritchard

We hope you can join us at one/all of the services and hope to see you there. All welcome.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES NEWS

During November and December we have been remembering and preparing: in Children's Church; in Messy Cathedral; and at the Cathedral Primary School, where we run a very lively weekly after-school club! Remembering lives laid down we also allowed time to remember the good God has done in our lives. During Advent, as we prepared our hearts to welcome Jesus at Christmas, we held our annual Child Bishop Service, reminding us that Jesus calls all of us to become like little children.

Lainey, our new Child Bishop!





Join us this Winter

Children's Church

Children's Church and Little Children's Church take place every Sunday during term time, during the 10:30am eucharist. Children under school age must be accompanied by an adult.

Messy Cathedral

On Sunday 21st January at 4:30pm we'll be celebrating the light Christ brings into the world at our **Messy Christingle**. Messy Cathedral is free of charge and always includes a light meal.

Keep in Touch

Join our Facebook group, Ripon Cathedral Children and Families, for up-to-date news, activities and events, or email BethWickenden@RiponCathedral.org.uk

RIPONCATHEDRAL.ORG.UK



RIPON Cathedral

Getting creative at the Changing Seasons half-term activity...









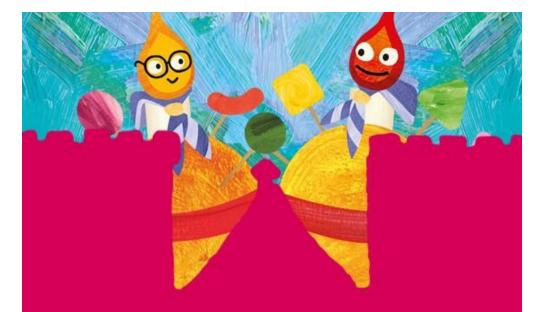
A Remembrance Sunday Messy Cathedral











Messy Christingle

Sunday 21st January 4.30pm - 5.30pm

Come and make your own Christingle and celebrate the light Jesus brings into the world. There will be storytelling, sweets, and a free sandwich tea at the end.

Messy Cathedral is suitable for children of all ages. Booking is not required. If you have any questions, please email bethwickenden@riponcathedral.org.uk

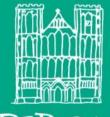


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Children's Church and Little Children's Church

On Sunday mornings (school term time only) during the 10.30 Eucharist, join us for **Bible stories**, **songs**, **games**, **crafts** and **prayer**. New children are really welcome, and we always have lots of fun together!



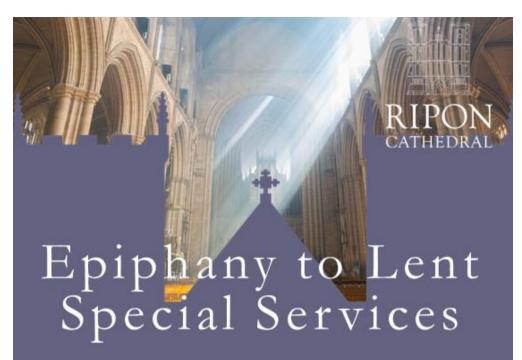
RIPON Cathedral Children's Church is for age 6+ Little Children's Church is for age 0-6

(Children under school age must be accompanied by an adult)

To find out more please contact BethWickenden@riponcathedral.org.uk

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Sunday 7th January 10.30am Festal Eucharist for Epiphany

Sunday 14th January Plough Sunday Service 2.30pm refreshments 3.30pm Service

Friday 2nd February 7.30pm

Festal Eucharist for Candlemas with candlelit procession

Ash Wednesday 14th February

10.00am Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes7.30pm Solemn Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

Sunday 3rd March 5.30pm Eucharist with laying on of hands and prayer for healing

All Welcome
Find all services at www.riponcathedral.org.uk



Lent 2024

Opportunities at Ripon Cathedral

Looking forward to Lent

Lent is a wonderful opportunity to pause and reflect on life, putting ourselves right with God, with each other and with ourselves. Jesus made it clear that he wishes all his children to enjoy life in its fulness. Lent provides an annual steppingstone towards this.

It all started in the early centuries of the Church, as a time of preparation for those who would be baptised and confirmed at Easter. Finding its spiritual inspiration in the 40 days and nights spent in the wilderness by Jesus following his baptism by John the Baptist, it reminds us of Jesus' perfect example of faithfulness. Though tempted, he did manage to resist the temptations of the devil. Lent invites us to refocus on him, to resist the temptation of those influences and habits which separate us from God.

The residentiary canons and I are delighted to share with you the content of this leaflet, providing information about just some of the ways in which the cathedral is helping and encouraging us to use the weeks of Lent in a constructive, even enjoyable, way. There is something for all ages and a broad spectrum of spiritualities – something for everyone.

Dean John

A Prayer for Lent

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.

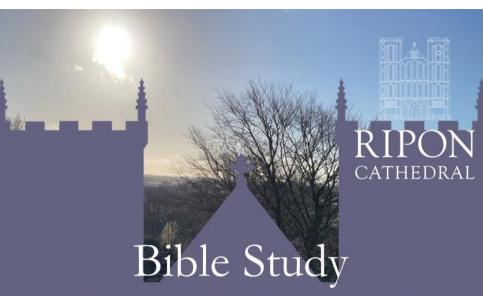
All that is healthy, grows and develops to maturity, including our faith

Faith is something that needs nurturing and requires time, effort and commitment to make any serious progress in. Lent is one of the times of the year when we dedicate some time to specifically do this. If we don't allocate time to developing our faith consciously, the likelihood is we will never engage with it at any depth.

Please have a look at what we are offering this Lent to encourage you on your faith journey, hopefully something will catch your interest.

I hope we will see you at one of the meetings and that this Lent will be a period of growth and deepening of your understanding of, and relationship with God.

Canon Claire



Following Tom Wright's book
Paul for Everyone
The Prison Letters
Philippians & Colossians
led by Dean John
at Thorpe Prebend House
High St Agnesgate, Ripon HG4 1QR
at 7.30pm

Tuesday 20th February Tuesday 12th March Tuesday 27th February Tuesday 19th March

To book, please contact the Cathedral Office Tel: 01765 603462 or email: judithbustard@riponcathedral.org.uk

RIPONCATHEDRAL ORGUK

Family Lent activity sheet

A fun way to observe each day of Lent with 40 activities - one for each day that will help families get the most out of the Lenten season and ready for Easter.



you love Easter.



twenty three

Read John 13:1-17 and wash someone's feet.

Read

about

Good

Friday.

Go on a walk or

(John 19:16-37)

Have a palm parade around your home.

twenty four

Go on a nature scavenger hunt & find things that remind you of Jesus.



Collect items in a basket that remind



you of Easter.



Something for the day.

someone for something they did to you.



Draw an

Easter picture family.



twenty six

Talk to someone or

think about why we

celebrate Easter.

Make something someone. L



Play stack the Peeps.

(See who can Peeps in a minute.)

thirty three O Play a game in the dark with flashlights.

thirty eight

Tell someone why

you love Jesus.

Hold the door open for someone.

Read about Jesus' resurrection.

(Matthew 28; Mark 16: Luke 24: John 20)

Make an Easter card.



Attend an Easter service.



THE LENT ECO FILM FESTIVAL

In this season of Lent, The Cathedral hopes lots of people will come and watch the films and evaluate their relationship with God and with nature.

All films will be shown in Thorpe Prebend House, 4 High St Agnesgate, Ripon HG4 1QR

Refreshments will be available from 6.30pm with the film starting at 7pm For information contact the Cathedral Office 01765 603462

We will explore some of the complicated issues of the climate and environmental crisis which affect us all. The issues covered - poverty, materialism and the environment - are as relevant today as they were in the time of St Francis. We will explore some of the complicated issues of the climate and environmental crisis which affect us all.



Wednesday 21st February 2024

Brother Sun Sister Moon is a 1972 film directed by Franco Zefferelli. It explores the main events of the life of St Francis of Assisi (1181 – 1226), especially his conversion from a wealthy Italian playboy to a follower of Christ.

St Francis dedicated his life to help the poor and preached the interconnectedness of mankind with all of God's creation. He created the Franciscan Order. He is the patron saint of ecologists.

'The teachings of St. Francis of Assisi hold significant relevance for contemporary Christian practice and belief, especially in a world grappling with issues of poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation.

His call to poverty is not merely a call to personal asceticism but a challenge to the global Church to reassess its relationship with wealth and to act on behalf of the poor and marginalized. This aspect of his theology speaks directly to current debates on economic justice and the ethical responsibilities of Christians in a consumerist society.

Francis's ecological insight, which was revolutionary for its time, has found new urgency in the face of the current environmental crisis. His view of creation as a fraternity, where every creature has intrinsic value, informs a Christian approach to environmental stewardship that goes beyond utilitarian conservation to one of deep respect and care for God's creation.' http://findasaint.com



Wednesday 28th February 2024 Pope Francis – A Man of his Word is a 2018 documentary film directed by Wim Wenders.

It was made five years after Jorge Mario Bergoglio was elected Pope and chose the name Francis. The film focuses on the life and goals of Pope Francis to help the poorest people in our world and to raise awareness of the environmental and climate crises.



Wednesday 6th March 2024

The Letter – Pope Francis'
Message for Our Earth is a
2022 documentary film
developed with the help and
participation of Pope Francis.

It is addressed to all peoples everywhere. It explores the principles of his 2015 encyclical 'Laudato Si' and

the escalating impact of climate change on communities around the world.

The film follows the stories of a number of inspiring individuals from around the world, including a climate refugee and a courageous leader of an indigenous community, who travel to the Vatican for discussions about the destructive impact of climate change and the need for a global call to action.



Wednesday 13th March 2024

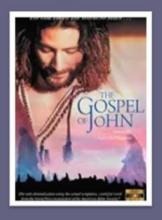
Demain (Tomorrrow) is a 2015 French documentary film, made in the same year as the Paris agreement on Climate Change.

It has an optimistic message. It identifies initiatives that have proven themselves in ten countries as examples of solutions to environmental and social challenges of the twenty-first century in agriculture, energy, economy, education and governance.



'The Bible through Film'

Monday evenings in Lent starting on
19th February 7-9pm at St Peter's House.
Join Canon Claire to look at
'The Bible through Film,'
where we will be watching the Gospel of John,
a moving account of the teaching and life of Jesus,
followed by a period of discussion.
Please contact <u>canonclaire@riponcathedral.org.uk</u>
to join us.



The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2024:

Tarry Awhile: Wisdom from Black Spirituality for People of Faith

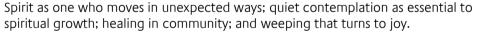
By Selina Stone RRP £11.99 Foreword by Justin Welby

SUMMARY OF TARRY AWHILE: WISDOM FROM BLACK SPIRITUALITY FOR PEOPLE OF FAITH 'Wonderful' JUSTIN WELBY

Tarry here and watch with me . . . (Matt 26.38, KJV)

Tarrying is a Black Christian spiritual practice in which believers actively wait to experience the manifestation of God's presence. It answers yes to the question Jesus once asked his disciples: will you tarry here and watch with me? Whether in the vibrancy of music and singing, or in the hushed silence of the congregation, people of all ages anticipate an encounter with God that will transform what they know, feel and experience day to day.

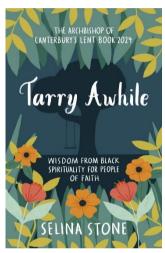
This book makes the wisdom of Black spiritualities and faith available for all people. It focuses on seven themes: darkness as a place of encounter with the divine; the unity of all things; movement, belonging and migration; the



Tarry Awhile centres the stories of often overlooked people and communities, offering wisdom for all people who hope to encounter God in the midst of wearying times. It provides fresh reflections on familiar biblical passages, and draws on personal stories, theology and the spiritual wisdom of ancestors who have gone before us.



'Postcards of Hope' – pick up a blank postcard from the Cathedral before Lent begins and contribute to a Lent exhibition of Postcards of Hope – either write or draw something on the postcard which expresses what you hope for. The exhibition will be running in the Cathedral throughout Lent.



Cathedral Prayer Diary

Prayer is giving our attention to God in a two-way spiritual relationship where we talk to God and also listen to God. Prayer is like a child's conversation with a loving parent. It is natural for a child to ask a loving parent for the things they need, or to ask for advice or guidance.

We don't pray on our own, but alongside Christians throughout the ages and around the world. Prayer brings us in touch with God and others, and Christians pray in the name of Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit. As we pray, we offer every situation to God, and God uses our prayers to bring love and justice into the world.

At Morning Prayer each day we use the Cathedral prayer diary to bring the region, diocese, city community and all people to God. At the start of Lent we are publishing a new edition of the Cathedral Prayer Diary. Please look out for printed copies or ask for it be emailed to you so you can join the whole Cathedral community in prayer.

Holy Week with The Very Revd Jane Hedges

We are delighted that Jane Hedges has accepted the dean's invitation to lead us through Holy Week 2024 with addresses and sermons. Here is some biographical information which she has kindly shared with us.

I retired as Dean of Norwich in May 2022 having served there for 8 years. My previous ministry had taken me from the Portsmouth Diocese where I was the Stewardship Adviser and then Canon Pastor at the Cathedral, to the Exeter Diocese where I was Team Rector of Honiton, and to Westminster Abbey where I was Canon Steward and Archdeacon. Following my "retirement" I served for 6 months as Interim Dean of Canterbury followed by a further 8 months as Interim Dean of Newcastle, the diocese in which I now live with my husband Chris, our dog, Benson and 2 cats, Minstrel and Wispa.

I am very much looking forward to spending Holy Week with you at Ripon. In the addresses throughout the week, with the help of music by Deitrich Buxtehude, "Membra Jesu Nostri", we will reflect upon the Body of Christ. We shall together think about the feet, knees and hands of Jesus on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. On Maundy Thursday as we celebrate the Institution of the Eucharist, we shall explore what it means to receive Christ's Body and Blood. On Good Friday our focus will be on the broken heart of Jesus and at the Easter Vigil as we proclaim that Christ is Risen, we will ask ourselves what it means to come face to face with Jesus in our daily lives.

EXPLORING FAITH

AN INVITATION

Many of us, who would not say we have a strong Christian faith, have the sense of God's presence in our life from time to time or even more regularly.

If this Christmas season leaves you wondering what you really believe about God and Jesus, maybe 2024 is a time to explore?

If you would like to explore the Christian faith in a small group or one to one, then please let us know by emailing cathedraladmin@riponcathedral.org.uk in the first instance, and we will arrange something for you.





LENT & HOLY WEEK SPECIAL SERVICES

Friday 2nd February 7.30pm

Festal Eucharist for Candlemas with candlelit procession

Ash Wednesday 14th February

10.00am Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

7.30pm Solemn Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

Sunday 3rd March 5.30pm

Eucharist with laying on of hands and prayer for healing

Palm Sunday 24th March

10.10am Procession to the Cathedral from the market place

10.30am Sung Eucharist

5.30pm Olivet to Calvary

Holy Week

Very Revd Jane Hedges will be leading us through Holy Week by her addresses each day.

Monday - Wednesday 7.30pm

Said/Sung Compline

Maundy Thursday 7.30pm

Sung Eucharist and Watch until Midnight

Good Friday

10.30am Journey to Jerusalem

12 noon Preaching of the Cross

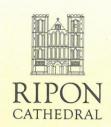
1.30pm Good Friday Liturgies

All Welcome

Find all services at www.riponcathedral.org.uk

Thank you support

We're on a match funding mission



Music is the heartbeat of our lives at Ripon Cathedral, and the talented choristers are on a mission to raise money for their music tuition, scores, and chaperones.

They're building up to a CD release and tour, and they need your help!

Through generous pledges we have raised £13,200

We now need your support to match this with £13,200

To reach our target of £26,400

Bravo! Last year, you supported music at the cathedral with a tremendous £14,500. Now, we hope to exceed that with a series of fundraisers. Help us match the donor pledges and ensure the music of Ripon flourishes and prospers for years to come.



"...the pitch-perfect voices of the rehearsing choristers soar, swell and swirl around you." The Telegraph



'C3: CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



C3 and its partners were very busy in November & December with Christmas activities – fund raising, partying, and generally sharing some very happy times together!



Dining and Dancing at Dementia Forward's Winter Ball in November which raised over £7000





In November
The Walled Garden
ran a Park-and-Ride
service from
Ripon Golf Club
To the
Cathedral's Christmas
Gift Fair





Jennyruth Workshops ran an amazing stall in November at The Cathedral Christmas Fair selling a large range of their products produced at the Workshop.





In December the Workshops held their annual Christmas Fair and Open Day which included a surprise visitor from the North Pole!



In early December members of the **Cathedral Flower Guild** made Christmas wreaths which were sold at **The Wall Garden's Christmas Shop**.





Later in December C3 hosted a party at **The Walled Garden's new café** for **Ripon HELP (voluntary drivers and be-frienders)** ...an example of one charity helping another.

Made possible through C3's connections with both charities!





C3 members David Riley and Sarah Cooper made sure that all the generous donations of Christmas food and gifts that were left at the



Cathedral were delivered to the Ripon YMCA and Ripon Salvation Army. (Many thanks to all of you who donated so generously!)

SADLY, WE NEED TO ASK YOU TO SPREAD THE WORD FOR YET MORE DONATIONS NEEDED. This time it is for 5 families from Afghanistan who have been moved to Ripon at the end of December by the Refugee Council. They were moved very quickly and have come with nothing.

There is an urgent need for: Kitchen equipment such as large saucepans & frying pans, chopping boards, colanders, spatulas, cooking spoons and ladles, electric hand mixer, tablecloths. Also sewing thread and sewing scissors. Bedding, such as sheets and blankets, pillows and drying racks for clothes. Clothing and toys for 2-3 year old girl, 3-6 year old boy, warm coats and cardigans/jumpers for all ages.

If you are able to help please can you speak to Yvonne Jefferies after the Sunday service or by email at YvonneJefferies@riponcathedral.org.uk (items can also be left at St Marks Harrogate as they are collecting for the Ripon families too.

GROWING GREENER – RIPON CATHEDRAL ENVIRONMENT NEWS

COP 28 - DUBAI - 30 NOVEMBER - 13 DECEMBER

Dean John said in his sermon on Sunday December 17th- "Rejoice always!' these are the first words of the New Testament reading.

Rejoice always? It sounds like good advice, but can we take it? There seems to be so much wrong in the world. We have wars and conflicts raging and bringing with them the threat of wider conflict. COP28 has made clear that the threat from climate change is real and requires an urgent universal response."

But there is a reason to rejoice as COP 28 approved a road map for 'transitioning away from fossil fuels.'

This was the first time a UN Climate Conference agreed to signal the end of our reliance on fossil fuels.

However, it will be a long journey, as 82% of world energy is supplied by oil, gas and coal according to a BP Survey in 2021.

UN Climate Chief, Mr. Simon Stile, said the 'Global Stocktake', which aims to help nations align their national climate plans with the Paris Agreement of keeping global warming to 1.5°, clearly showed that progress is not fast enough, but it is "undeniably" gathering pace. Still, the current trajectory is just under three degrees of global warming which equates to "mass human suffering".

Speaking to reporters, Mr. Stiell said COP28 needed to signal a hard stop to humanity's core climate problem – "fossil fuels and their planet burning pollution".

COP 28 made commitments to triple renewables capacity and double energy efficiency by 2030 and made progress in relation to adaptation and finance.

However, the **Loss and Damage Fund** to support climate-vulnerable developing countries was pledged millions (not billions) of dollars.

RIPON CATHEDRAL CHRISTIAN AID DISPLAY AND PRAYER TREE – A REMINDER OF COP 28.

COP 28 OUTCOMES - Hot Air or Historic? By Dorothy Gray
The call for all nations to 'transition away from fossil fuels' is a landmark.

The wording of the text on the final resolution was much debated. It is weaker text

than the "phasing out" that was supported by 139 countries. Other countries, including China and Saudi, blocked the latter phrase.

Some question the efficacy of flying 80,000 delegates out to Dubai to a 'talking shop'. There were 2500 representatives from the fossil fuel industries, many more than from the threatened small island countries, such as the Maldives. However, at the time of the Paris Agreement in 2015, which committed countries to keep the



earth 1.5°C above preindustrial temperatures, we were on a trajectory towards 4°C degrees above. In 2023 the trajectory is 2.9°C.

Countries coming together has allowed us to share science and common goals. Carbon emissions are still rising, so the other COP 28 decisions, which include tripling global renewable energy sources and doubling the rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030, are vital. Missing was debate on food emissions.

There was agreement to put a tranche of money towards the adaptation and loss fund for those countries who are especially vulnerable to climate change. The floods last year are estimated to have cost Pakistan alone \$15 billion, so much more money is to be sought than the millions put forward.

The United Nations states that we are now under current policies projected to reach 2.9°C above preindustrial levels by 2030. Half of Columbia's exports are fossil fuels, yet its President Gustavo Pedro has promised to stop expansion of coal, gas, and oil exploitation. COPs take decisions by consensus which often leads to the least ambitious proposal being acceptable. Such leadership, by example, is helpful in showing the way forward. More commitment is needed – as S. D. King, Chair of the Climate Change Advisory Committee puts it "The alternative is an unimaginable future for humanity."

At the Cathedral people were prompted by a display to put up their prayers. Understandably at this time the most frequent prayer was peace in the world especially in the Middle East. Other prayers were for a Merry Christmas for all, including the homeless as well as families. Your prayers for the planet and climate justice were welcome too.







BRADFORD CATHEDRAL SILVER ECO CHURCH AWARD

Congratulations to Bradford Cathedral for qualifying for a Silver Eco Church Award on 29th November 2023. In 2012 Bradford was the first cathedral to install solar panels on the roofs of the Cathedral. This has been an economic and ecological benefit and other Cathedrals have followed their example - York is the latest.

To offset the Cathedral paper use, Bradford Cathedral has worked in partnership with many organisations, including Bradford Council and 'Forest for Bradford', on the Woodland Project and planted 1,800 trees. Bradford Cathedral Eco Church Team: Elaine de Villiers, Revd Colin Penfold, Mike de Villiers, Revd Canon Ned Lunn, Revd Canon Cathy Milford

RIPON CATHEDRAL IS GETTING CLOSE TO QUALIFYING FOR A SILVER ECO CHURCH AWARD.

The Cathedral C3 partnership scheme with organisations in Ripon means that more and more Cathedral congregation members are involved in helping with community and environmental projects. Some of these projects are:

- Rotary bulb and flower planting and litter picks
- volunteering and support at the Ripon Walled Garden
- support for the YMCA Eco Action Group
- participation in Ripon Together Environment Group
- Salvation Army Food Bank
- Monthly Parish Lunches
- North Yorkshire Rural Forum chaired by Dean John and led by Canon Matthew.

All of these partnerships count toward an Eco Church Award

REDUCING PAPER USE IN THE CATHEDRAL - ALL IDEAS CONSIDERED

Chester Cathedral stopped using single use paper in 2019. Their services sheets can be downloaded on phones and tablets and the services are displayed on screens within the cathedral. This commitment to NZC 2030 has saved Chester Cathedral £30,000 per year!

IMPORTANT UPDATE! Did you know that you can download the service sheet for the 10.30am Sunday service on to your phone or tablet from the Ripon Cathedral weekly online newsletter.

Scroll down to 'Worship at Ripon Cathedral' > Orders of Service > view PDF of the appropriate service.

Several people have tried this and IT WORKS. You have to remember to put your phone on SILENT.

ECO ACTION GROUP LIFESTYLE SURVEY

It is two years since the last congregation **Eco Church Lifestyle Survey** was completed. After the hottest year on record, it would be interesting to complete another one. It would help the Eco Action Group to know if the congregation is more aware of the challenges of climate change to the natural world and human lifestyle than in 2021 and what is being done about it.

Winter Magic Flies In – Waxwings! By Frances Cole

Seven years after planting five thousand trees and shrubs, a dream became a reality on a re-wilding project north of Ripon. On the last Wednesday of November 2023, at 14.30, a flock of 37 waxwings swooped into the fields to explore the forage possibilities. These rare winter migrants only visit the UK every few years. Many Rowan trees and other berried varieties had been planted to draw in wildlife. Winter migrants from Scandinavia, like field fares and redwings, had already visited. But this was the first time a waxing had been spotted.

The waxwings settled on the "Joseph Rock yellow berry" rowan tree and helped themselves to their "dream berries". Timid and easily unsettled they tucked in for 90 minutes, at times only 30 feet away

Then the local mistle thrushes realized "their berries" were being taken by winter refugees! The thrushes' shrill calls, to attack and protect, were heard throughout the day. Sadly, the mistle thrushes won and after two days of trying to access the berry food, the waxwings headed south, leaving some great photos and special memories.



Now the "Joseph Rock" rowans are the only trees with lots of berries left. The mistle thrushes daily scare off all birds and just eat a few berries themselves. It is not unknown that for mistle thrushes to starve themselves to death in their attempts to protect their berries.

NEW YEAR RESOLUTION 2024 – Spend time in the natural world and rejoice in its beauty and renewal. Let's all try to be even better stewards of our sustaining world and find new ways to transition to a reduced fossil fuel way of living



SAVE THE DATE! THE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF RIPON

SATURDAY, 9TH MARCH, 11am-2pm Ripon Cathedral

'Plainsong' A collection of poetry by Trevor Vaughan

Trevor Vaughan is a Church of England priest. Ordained in Coventry Cathedral in 1969, he has worked as a full-time priest in the Dioceses of Coventry, Blackburn and Bradford. With his wife Ann they retired in 2006 to Ripon, where he has continued to exercise a locum ministry to many rural parishes around the city.

After being widowed, he served for three years as priest in charge of St Michael & All Angels, Littlethorpe, a chapel-of-ease to Ripon Cathedral. He lives in the village and still officiates regularly at the church, where he is sacristan.

He has written an autobiography, "Nowt" [2010], "Parson's Pie" [2012], an exploration of 'church words' and in 2016 "'Omilettes" a collection of sermons preached during his time at St Michael's. Though he has dabbled in poetry since a boy, this anthology is his first serious endeavour.

He has a degree in Linguistics and was Regimental Chaplain to the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry for twenty years, for which he was awarded the Territorial Decoration. He has four children, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Born in Colne in 1941, he is a staunch Lancastrian but equally delighted to live in this lovely part of Yorkshire.



- "...a breadth of vocabulary enabling some very accomplished rhymes...you have a real descriptive flair. I love the contrast you make in 'The Reaper'...your poems always spring from your observations of the contemporary scene... Dr Roger Kendall, Lecturer in English, poet and Society of Authors.
- "I admire the skill and technique with which you have crafted these poems. *Anastasis, Plainsong, The Fourth Magus, Wild Geese of the Holy Spirit, Winter Evensong...*clever, moving, witty, accessible. George Herbert would have admired these poems!" Andy Croft, poet, publisher.
- "The experience of reading them is not only a pleasure but also a surprise...the poems delighted me with your flair in the use of language. What about a volume of poetry? It would be a winner..." Ken Ridley, Dean of School of Education, University College of Ripon & York St John.
- 'Plainsong' contains 80 poems. 160 pages. It costs £10 and may be ordered to be dispatched by post. Please add an extra £2.50 for postage. Orders at trevor.vaughan3@outlook,com or from Revd T. Vaughan 2,Park Hill Cottages, Pottery Lane, Littlethorpe, Ripon, N.Yorks HG4 3LS Cheques payable to Revd T Vaughan

SERVICE TIMES

Sundays

8.00am Eucharist 9.30am Morning Prayer (said) 10.30am Sung Eucharist 12.30pm Eucharist (BCP)

3.30pm Evensong

Weekdays

8.30am Morning Prayer

9.00am Eucharist Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
10.00am Wednesday followed by coffee and mingle
12 noon Eucharist Tuesday, Friday and Saturday
5.30pm Evensong (or said Evening Prayer)

The Magdalen Fellowship is an ecumenical group that holds a weekly service of short reflection, silence and prayer at St. John's Sharow every Monday morning at 10:30 am. On the first Monday of the month, there is a Healing Eucharist with a Laying on of Hands. For more information contact John Whelan 01765 647744 or Anne-Marie Tarter 01765-602129

Cathedral Meditation Group 7.30pm meet on the first Tuesday of the month in the Cathedral.

Thursdays (most Thursdays – see the monthly events schedule) 1.00pm Lunchtime Concert in the Quire (free).

Further Information

For further information on any of the events and services listed or for general information, please contact us on:

Email: postmaster@riponcathedral.org.uk

Tel: 01765 603462 (Office) 01765 602072 (Chapter House)

Or visit our website: www.riponcathedral.org.uk.

Cathedral E newsletter

If you wish to subscribe to the weekly electronic newsletter, please email Michele Gee (michellegee@riponcathedral.org.uk).