

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER NEWSLETTER



The Dean: The Very Revd John Dobson DL
Canon in Residence: Canon Michael Gisbourne (Sept)
Canon Matthew Pollard (Oct)

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

A NOTE FROM THE DEAN



Starships and Faith in the Creator God

'SpaceX pulls off Starship rocket launch in stunning comeback,' it was reported in the last week of August. Elon Musk's 'space giant' was celebrating the successful test flight of the world's largest and most powerful rocket. The intention is to create a starship which can carry humans to the Moon and to Mars. The skill of the scientists and the commitment of the funder are to be admired.

Space travel has always fascinated me. I can just remember the excitement of 'man landing on the moon' in 1969. Yet, it has also left me with questions about motivation. Are enormous sums and great effort and skill invested in space travel to escape this planet for a better one? Or to explore the heavens for a different, perhaps even more perfect, expression of life? Can it all be justified in a world of much poverty and suffering? And has the whole enterprise for some suggested the promise of finding the God of heaven, hiding somewhere in the skies? So, it does prompt theological and ethical questions.

Thankfully, for those whose faith moves beyond the perspective of the younger Sunday School class, thoughts of God, creation and heaven advance beyond expecting to find an old, bearded figure hidden behind a distant planet. But accepting God as creator never ceases to be fundamental to a mature faith. I recall the eminent German theologian, Wolfhart Pannenberg, once arguing in a lecture in Durham that Western European society will never, on a large scale, return to the Christian faith until it is convinced that God is the creator of all things. While moving beyond a literal understanding of the early chapters of Genesis, our faith maintains that the God of heaven is indeed the creator of all things, the whole universe. As Psalm 19 celebrates, 'The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.'

Often at weddings and baptisms I ask the congregation if they have ever wondered why anything at all exists. I ask whether pondering their own existence has been prompted by gazing up into the night sky. One gets the impression that the Psalmist knew this experience. In Psalm 8, we read,

'When I look at your heaven, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established;

What are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

The Psalmist's reflection doesn't lead to depression, to a sense of one's utter insignificance when contemplating the scale of the universe. Rather, he can go on to say with great confidence,

'Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honour.'

In his 'Carol for the Universe', reflecting human imagination in the early era of space travel, Sydney Carter had us sing, 'Every star shall sing a carol; every creature, high or low. Come and praise the King of Heaven, by whatever name you know...'. And similar imagination and creativity can be seen clearly in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit within Ripon Cathedral – the design of the suspended pyx or aumbry speaks of rockets, orbits, and planets. So, the very container which holds the bread of heaven, the reserved consecrated hosts from the Eucharist, which speaks of sacramental presence of Christ himself, communicates something of the appreciation of the vastness of the created universe. Surely, space travel influencing the design of a cathedral chapel seems wholly appropriate when we consider that, according to St. John, it was through Christ and for Christ that all things were created.

Creationtide and Harvest

September and early October is celebrated by us as 'Creationtide'. It begins with the Day of Prayer for Creation on 1st September and continues until around St. Francis' Day on 4th October. This follows from this season of harvest and mellow fruitfulness being one in which people of faith naturally reflect on the creativity and providence of God. And a healthy sense of our dependence upon God and his goodness towards us leads us to a profound sense of gratitude. It may also lead us to desire peace with creation, this year's ecumenical theme for the season.

At Ripon Cathedral, Creationtide will come to a grand finale with our Harvest Thanksgiving on Sunday, 5th October. This is a great occasion for people of all ages, and all ages are encouraged to bring gifts from the harvest. These, of course, go to support the local food bank and others in need. Fundamentally, however, they are expressions of our gratitude to God - they therefore have a spiritual as well as a charitable significance. Moses knew how important this was. According to Deuteronomy he charged the Israelites to express their gratitude to God each year by bringing the first part of the harvest and presenting it to the priest as a thank offering. Over 3,000 years later, the same wisdom and insight applies.

Gratitude and concern for farmers

As a cathedral we take a great interest in the issues facing rural people, communities, and businesses. This naturally includes farmers and many who work hard to provide our daily needs by working the land and processing its produce. The enormous challenge that many farmers and small family businesses are experiencing is well reported in the media. Through the Ripon Cathedral Rural Forum, as well as our engagement through the Great Yorkshire Show, we have heard first-hand from farmers and organisations supporting them. Our Harvest Thanksgiving provides an important opportunity to thank God for these people who do so much for us, and to pray for a change of circumstances which will relieve them of their present anxieties and unsustainable burdens.

Care for the creation

The themes of Creationtide also prompt us to show gratitude to our generous God by committing ourselves anew to responding responsibly and imaginatively to the challenges of climate change. This is something we seek to do as individual disciples and together as a cathedral community. Great work is being done both by Chapter's Net Carbon Zero Committee and by the congregation's Eco Group, part of our Church Growth Committee. The former has managed to secure planning permission for photovoltaic cells (solar panels) for the cathedral. The latter is giving an opportunity for us to learn about this and its own work on the morning of Saturday, 20th September, as part of the Launch of the Annual Review in the cathedral. The group is kindly serving refreshments for us all.

Artist in Residence: human creativity in partnership with the Creator God.

It all started with some wonderful supporters of the cathedral suggesting that it was about time the dean had his portrait painted. The dean, I can assure you, was humbled yet grateful, and readily agreed to provide his support! This, naturally, involved being prepared to make the time for the requisite number of sittings.

The vision also included the artist, Lewis Hazelwood-Horner, doing a residency at the cathedral for a number of months, and providing an exhibition, to be hosted by us in September. Creationtide seemed a natural season for such a venture. It provides another illustration of what can happen when we humans allow our creativity to be in partnership with God's. The cathedral already demonstrates this in many ways, including architecture, liturgy, music, stained glass, needlework, and a 20th century chapel partly inspired by space travel. The exhibition runs throughout September.

The Launch of the 2024-2025 Annual Review – Saturday, 20th September at 10.00am in the Cathedral

I am very grateful to Carol Pyrah, our Chief Operating Officer, and all who have been working with her to create this year's annual review: it looks wonderful! It contains reports and photos which bear witness to how Ripon Cathedral is working in creative and committed ways to partner with God's sustained creative mission. Through our vision strategy, Growing God's Kingdom, we seek to follow in Christ's footsteps and continue his work. Please, do join us for a couple of hours and hear from me and fellow Chapter members about how we are progressing. There is much good news to share and celebrate, and there will be plenty of opportunity for us to respond to your questions.

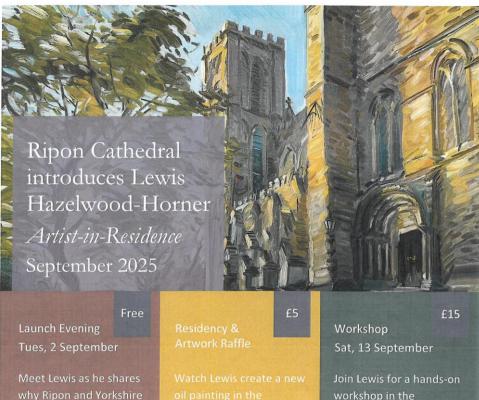
Twilight in the Nave - heavenly feasting - Friday 10th October

Yes, God is indeed the creator of the whole universe, yet the gospels take a more down-to-earth perspective in helping us to glimpse the things of heaven. Often Jesus likens heaven to a party or banquet, where people enjoy sharing open, inclusive fellowship with family, friends and new acquaintances. One has a sense of lively gatherings filled with joy. The clear message is that life becomes more heavenly not by escaping the world or becoming more exclusive, but by welcoming in the world and being inclusive.

This is precisely what we are expecting with Twilight in the Nave. For a number of years, we have held banquets as part of our Wilfrid Weekend Celebrations. We continue to do the same this year, but in a more informal way – still with excellent catering and the opportunity to fill a table with our family and friends, or to join a table of other delightful guests. This more relaxed event is designed to appeal to a broad cross -section of the cathedral and regional community. Please, do see the publicity and join us for a memorable evening of feasting and celebration in the glorious setting of the cathedral's nave. I look forward to welcoming you!

With my very best wishes, Dean John





Meet Lewis as he shares why Ripon and Yorkshire inspire his art and his passion for "bringing the outside inside."

Free with a glass of

Watch Lewis create a new oil painting in the cathedral throughout the month. The finished piece will be raffled on 28
September – buy tickets from the cathedral shop.

Join Lewis for a hands-on workshop in the cathedral grounds. After a short demo, he'll offer tips and encouragement as you create your own work. Open to all!

About Lewis

Lewis Hazelwood-Horner is an award-winning British oil painter, celebrated for his vivid depictions of traditional crafts and everyday life. Winner of the Columbia Threadneedle Prize in 2016, he has exhibited widely across the UK and is inspired by Yorkshire's landscapes, people and heritage—making Ripon Cathedral a fitting base for his residency.

Scan for more details info



riponcathedral.org.uk/events/ripon-cathedral-artist-in-residence/



Join us for

Twilight in the Nave

Friday 10 October | 6.30pm Ripon Cathedral

A celestial celebration of St Wilfrid with great food, live music and cathedral splendour

- Sparkling reception with The Yorkshire Decibelles to set the tone for a memorable evening
- → A chorus of courses with Frankly Jazz and music from the movies by Alistair Griffin
- → Sharing platters to start perfect for mingling
- → Rotisserie chicken carved theatrically at your table
- → Eton mess served for a sweet finale
- → Auction full of exciting prizes
- Dancing in the nave under the stars

Dress code: Casual elegance Tickets: £85 including dinner & entertainment Visit: riponcathedral.org.uk/events/ twilight-in-the-nave

Scan to book



All proceeds support the ongoing mission of Ripon Cathedral

NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

One of the variables that it is not possible to control when planning a choir tour is the weather. The recent choir tour to London to sing at Westminster Abbey was planned and prepared as much as humanly possible ... but would it rain? What might the temperature be?

Well, it turned out that the six-day tour took place in what was lovely warm English summer weather. The previous week had been bakingly hot according to the Abbey vergers but out=r week was lovely.

In fact, so much of what we couldn't control worked out well. Traffic jams were absent on the Motorways; wasps were friendly in picnic areas; the tube ran to time; ticket barriers were overridden.

As a result, the underpinnings of the tour worked as well as they could, meaning that the choir were on top form to sing God's praises in the Abbey that has been at the heart of the nation's life for over 1000 years.

It finished off what was a wonderful term for the whole music department with successful recruitment and a wonderful concert.

The new term will begin as schools return with the choir regularly singing at services again.

One new venture for this coming year is a Sunday afternoon service with Carlton Main Frickley Brass band – one of the world's top 10 brass bands. We will be singing Hills of the North Rejoice; All my hope on God is founded; Rock of Ages; and Thine be the Glory. The service will also include Simon Armitage's poem, Balancing Act written about the rocks at the Nation Trust's 'Brimham Rocks'.

We are looking for people to introduce the hymns with a personal story as to why they might mean something special to them – if this might be you, please get in touch with Canon Michael.

Please continue to support the music dept with your prayers as we all look forward to the new term with a sense of excitement and anticipation.

Canon Michael



SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2025

4th September Daniel Gordon Piano 11th September Ien Townsend Flute

acc. Chris Hughes

18th September Charlie Gower-Smith Baritone

acc. Alison Gill

25th September Clare Crinson Graves Flute

acc. Alison Gill

2nd OctoberRuth & Daniel SladdenVoices9th OctoberAlastair StoneOrgan

16th October Students from Leeds University

6th November Richard Fletcher Violin
13th November Gill Hart Oboe

acc. Michael Stevenson

27th November Students from Leeds University

1.00-1.50; Refreshments served from 12.30 Free admission; retiring collection

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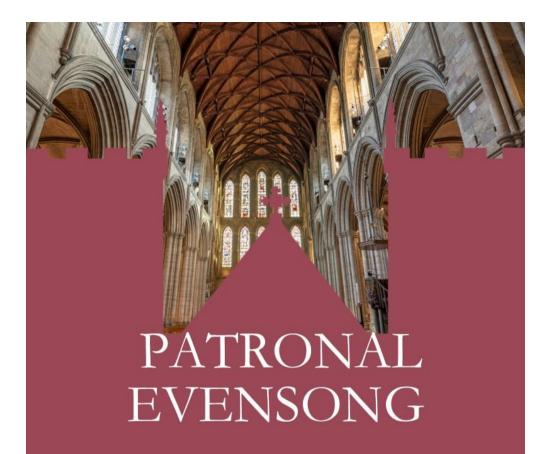
Service of Prayers for healing and wholeness

Sunday 14th Sept 2025 5.30pm



RIPON CATHEDRAL Join us for a service that offers prayer with anointing and laying on of hands for healing and wholeness.

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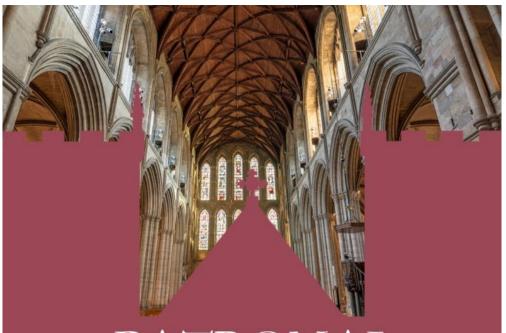
An Evensong sung by the choir and Alumni of Ripon Cathedral choir in celebration of St Wilfrid and the life and mission of the Cathedral

Saturday IIth OCTOBER 5:30pm



All are welcome

www.riponcathedral.org.uk



PATRONAL EUCHARIST

A celebration of St Wilfrid and the life and mission of the Cathedral

SUNDAY 12th OCTOBER 10:30am

All are welcome



www.riponcathedral.org.uk



Songs of Praise Sunday 19th Oct 3.30pm

Join us for this special celebration with Carlton Main Frickley Colliery
Brass Band



RIPON

A service of praise with well known hymns, bible readings and poetry celebrating God's creation.

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Harvest Festival Sunday 5th October 10.30am

Join us for this special thanksgiving service marking the end of the season of Creationtide. All ages will be worshipping together as our Children's Church help us to reflect on the themes of thanksgiving and peace with creation. Please bring gifts for our local foodbank supporting those in need in our community. Items such as: Meals in a tin, Stew, Pies, Meatballs, Hot Dogs & Corned Beef

Tins of vegetables, potatoes, peas, beans and carrots
Tins of Ham, Spam, Tuna and Salmon, and pasta sauce
UHT milk, Custard, Rice Pudding, Jam & Marmalade
Variety packs of breakfast cereals
Instant Coffee, Tea Bags and Sugar

Children's Church Relaunch this September

After a well-earned summer break our Children's Church team returns on **7th September** to lead children and families in age appropriate worship during our Sunday 10.30am Eucharist with some refreshed approaches and new names for our two groups. Introducing.....

Mustard Seeds

Aimed at 0–6-year-olds and their parents/carers, or any primary school age children, who enjoy worshipping through singing, storytelling and craft. Families gather in the Cathedral Library after the first hymn.

Mighty Trees

Aimed at 7 - 11 year olds, lively worship including games, stories and activities all based on the theme of the day. Drop off from 10.15am at the Chapel of the Resurrection.

Both groups rejoin the service in the Nave in time for communion. For more information or to register for this coming term contact bethwickenden@riponcathedral.org.uk

Pilgrim – A course for the Christian Journey

Begins Thursdays 7.30pm 18th September at Thorpe Prebend House led by Canon Wendy

Would you like to explore more about what it means to be a Christian? Have you recently started attending the Cathedral or been drawn back to church after some time away? Would you like to think about being baptised or confirmed or have recently taken that step and now want to continue learning about your faith? This course could be for you! Over 6 sessions we will explore the questions that are asked at baptism, looking at passages in the bible and exploring how that connects with our own lives. Places are limited so to find out more and enquire about booking contact canonwendy@riponcathedral.org.uk of speak to her after a Sunday morning service.



Children's Church Sunday mornings*

Mustard Seeds

Aimed at 0-6 year olds and their parents/carers, or any primary school age children who enjoy worshipping through singing, storytelling and craft. Families gather in the Cathedral Library after the first hymn.

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Both groups rejoin the main service in time for communion.

For more information or to register for this coming term contact:

bethwickenden@riponcathedral.org.uk



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Join us this Autumn

Sunday 5th October Harvest all-age worship

Join us at 10.30am for this special all-age thanksgiving service.

Please bring gifts for our local foodbank.

Tuesday 28th October Half-term activity morning

During October half-term join us for a fun and creative children's activity morning with a fruit and vegetable theme! £3 per child. Email BethWickenden@riponcathedral.org.uk



RIPONCATHEDRAL.ORG.UK/FAMILY/

NEWS FROM THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OFFICER

Children and Family Summer Activities

The photographs below show the activity on Tuesday 29th July our Crafting Crosses session inspired by the Threads through the Cross Exhibition.

Children tried their hand at needlework embroidery creating fabulous cross bookmarks and also using collage materials as well. Leaves were added to our display canvas as we were thinking of leaves for the healing of the nations an image from the book of Revelation. We had 20 children and 20 accompanying adults sharing together. Huge thanks to our Education volunteers for giving up their time too to ensure the session was so relaxed and enjoyable. Many families have booked in for multiple sessions too which is very exciting.









The photographs below show the activity on Tuesday 5th August – Sea of Galilee. We had a wonderful morning thinking about Jesus teaching the crowds who wanted to listen to him from a boat. We thought about the Nave of the Cathedral being like an upturned boat with us all travelling together. Children enjoyed creating sponge boats with decorative sails; some children made the figure look like themselves or a friend, some one of the disciples. They really did float! Safe havens were also created out of wooden bricks to keep the boats safe during a stormy night.

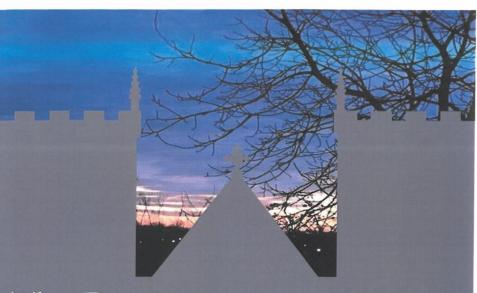
24 children joined in the activity with 18 accompanying adults; many are booked in for other session too which is wonderful. Local families come along but also families from Leeds, Otley, Newcastle and France. Thank you to all our amazing Education Volunteers for their help too.











The Bereavement

Journey

Are you grieving the death of a loved one or Struggling with the long-term effects of loss? A seven-session weekly course

Location: Thorpe Prebend House, High St. Agnesgate, Ripon

Date: 24th September 2025 Time: 7-9pm

Topics include:

- attachment, separation and loss;
- the impact of pain of bereavement;
- adjusting to change;
- anger and guilt;
- coping with others' reactions;
- · moving on healthily.

For more information or to register an interest in attending please contact:

figure arman@riponcathedral.org.uk.or.ring.the

fionapearman@riponcathedral.org.uk or ring the cathedral office: 01765 603462

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FALLEN LEAVES

A service to remember those who have died

Sunday 2nd November 3.30 pm in the cathedral

Every year in the autumn we remember in love and prayer those who have died and comfort one another in grief.

This service, with beautiful music from the choir, enables us to reflect on loss and hope for the future.

All welcome. No need to book

IN SEARCH OF ST WILLIBRORD IN LUXEMBOURG

Some years ago we were involved in a project to identify ways to increase the number of visitors to Ripon Cathedral. We learnt that often visitors come from the Netherlands and Luxembourg and particularly focus on a statue of Willibrord that adorns the rood screen in the Cathedral. Despite being little known in the UK, Willibrord is in fact the patron saint of both the Netherlands and Luxembourg. Intrigued, we began looking into his story.

We discovered that Willibrord had been entrusted by his parents at a very young age to the monks at Ripon for his education. He remained there until 678 AD, when, at the age of 20, he left for Ireland to undertake further religious formation. He was ordained in 688.

Some commentators believe that Willibrord's departure from Ripon may have been influenced by a disagreement with his patron's stance at the Synod of Whitby, where support was given for the Roman rather than the Celtic tradition of worship. This may have led Willibrord to seek a more austere form of monastic life.

It is believed that during this period he was inspired to pursue missionary work. By 690, he was active in northern France as part of a mission to the Low Countries. His work was so successful that he became known as the Apostle to the Frisians. According to the Venerable Bede in *An Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, Willibrord's mission in Frisia prospered, and many were converted to Christianity. Willibrord later travelled to Rome to seek the support of the Pope, who gave him the name Clement and ordained him a bishop. He was sent back to Frisia to establish the Church there, with his episcopal see located at Utrecht.

In 698 Willibrord was gifted land at Echternach where founded his second missionary base: a monastery in present-day Luxembourg, close to the German border. He continued his ministry there and ultimately died at Echternach in 739 at the age of 81. He was buried in the abbey church, and veneration began immediately. Willibrord is still honoured annually in Echternach by a unique *hopping procession* to his tomb. This extraordinary ritual, believed to date back to the 14th century, is now recognised by UNESCO as part of the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. According to legend, a nearby village in crisis vowed to hop to the saint's tomb to receive his blessing. Until the Second World War, each parish was required to send a group to participate on Whit Monday. Today, 45 groups process in rows of five, holding white kerchiefs between them, which are dipped into the spring by Willibrord's tomb. (There is excellent footage of this on YouTube.)

During his lifetime, numerous miracles were attributed to Willibrord, particularly involving water. Springs dedicated to him can be found throughout that part of Europe, including in the crypt at Echternach itself. Due to the increasing number of pilgrims, the original church was expanded, and the current structure was eventually granted the title of basilica by the Pope.

The English scholar Alcuin, writing in the 8th century, described Willibrord's ministry as marked by energetic preaching and service, grounded in prayer and the reading of sacred texts. He noted that Willibrord was always venerable, gracious, and full of joy.

For those with an interest in 20th-century history, it is worth noting that Echternach was one of the locations affected by the Battle of the Bulge during World War II, during which the church towers were destroyed.

It was a profound experience for us to visit Echternach in July and witness this historically rich and spiritually significant site. We were especially heartened to find Ripon well represented in the narrative history presented, including in the stained glass windows of the basilica. It is now our shared mission to see St Willibrord more widely known and celebrated in Ripon, the very place where his spiritual journey began more than 1300 years ago.

Judith Donovan Honorary Lay Canon Meg Munn Honorary Ecumenical Lay Canon









Wilfrid's Networks Lectures by Prof Joyce Hill

Wilfrid enjoyed the benefits of a remarkably wide network of national and international associates. Exploring these networks gives us insights into his world at a personal level.

The first lecture, *Wilfrid's Patrons and Sponsors*, focuses principally on the earlier part of his career, when he needed patrons and sponsors.

The second lecture, *The Saints Whom Wilfrid Knew*, ranges more widely across his life, setting Wilfrid in the dynamic context of the first century of Christianity in England, which produced so many saints.

25 Sept at 7.30: Wilfrid's Patrons and Sponsors

2 Oct at 7.30: The Saints Whom Wilfrid Knew

The lectures are free, starting at 7.30pm. Kindly sponsored by The Friends of Ripon Cathedral

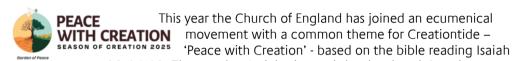
GROWING GREENER – RIPON CATHEDRAL ENVIRONMENT NEWS



Thanksgiving for creation and the web of life that that supports all the creatures on the earth runs from the 1st of September with the Day of Prayer for Creation until the 4th of

October with the Feast of St. Francis, the patron saint of ecology and an inspiration for millions of people to love nature and to take active care of creation. 2025 is the 800th anniversary of St Francis' Canticle of the Creatures

https://cafod.org.uk/pray/prayer-resources/canticle-of-the-sun



32:14-18. The prophet Isaiah pictured the desolated Creation without peace because of the lack of justice and the broken relationship between people and God. This description of devastated cities and wastelands reveals how human destructive behaviours have a negative impact on the Earth.

https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/season-creation#na

AT RIPON CATHEDRAL - Here at the Cathedral, we will be observing Creationtide throughout September with liturgy and music to reflect the theme on Sundays and in prayers at other services throughout the week. The season culminates with our Harvest Festival on Sunday 5th October to which you are invited to being gifts to be given to our local food bank.

THE 2021 JOINT ECUMENICAL STATEMENT REMINDS US OF OUR SHARED RESPONSIBILITY



"Future generations will never forgive us if we miss the opportunity to protect our common home. We have inherited a garden; we must not leave a desert for our children."

Joint statement from Pope Francis, the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury.

Creationtide is a special time to think about our role as good stewards of the earth and ask if we can do more

- o to reduce our energy use
- o to offset flights
- o to increase biodiversity in our gardens
- o to consume less
- o to pray and act for justice and peace.

OFFSET YOUR FLIGHTS WITH CLIMATE STEWARDS

If you can't avoid air travel and you would like to offset your flights, this charity is part of the A Rocha Christian Conservation Charity and has been recommended by the Diocese of Leeds. https://www.climatestewards.org/about-us/

JOIN THE BIG SWITCH FOR CREATION



This Season of Creation, the Church of England is making the Big Switch for Creation and you can be part of it. Switching to an ethical green tariff is a small and powerful action that we can all take to reduce carbon emissions from burning fossil fuels. An easy guide to choosing a green tariff to help you make the switch will be published on the Church of England Environment website in Autumn.

SIGN UP FOR CHURCH OF ENGLAND ENVIRONMENT NEWS ONLINE



The Church of England environment team writes an excellent monthly Environment Newsletter which you can sign up to

https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environmentnt-and-climate-change/sign-our-environment-



<u>newsletter</u>

A Rocha UK is a Christian conservation charity working to protect and restore the natural world and committed to equipping Christians and churches in the UK to care for the environment.

https://arocha.org.uk/about-us/who-we-are/_Uis

ECO CHURCH is part of A Rocha and aims to help Churches on their mission to protect and restore the environment for God, nature and all people. Churches are asked to participate in the ECO CHURCH SURVEY which covers 5 different areas of church life – Worship and Teaching; Buildings; Land and Biodiversity; Community and Overseas; Lifestyle and Congregations

ECO CHURCH AWARD BECOMES MORE CHALLENGING IN 2025

- The Eco Church Survey was revised in 2024 and now it is harder to gain an award.
- The questions are designed to make sure that the commitment to Care for Creation is understood as a vital part of the mission of the church, from the clergy leadership to the newest member of the congregation.
- The church's mission to Care for Creation should be visible on the church website. Prayers and intercessions to Care for Creation should be incorporated into services regularly. The congregation should be aware of the importance of this aspect of worship and mission.

Ripon Cathedral has a Bronze Eco Award. The Eco Action Group, Canon Wendy and the Growth Committee will be working on a strategy to attain the updated Silver Award.

NEIGHBOURING CATHEDRALS ACHIEVE GOLD ECO AWARDS

In April 2025, Bradford Cathedral received the Gold Eco Church Award. Congratulations to them for continued effort over many years. You can read about their activities - https://www.leeds.anglican.org/who-we-are/news/bradford-cathedral-achieve-eco-gold-award.php

On Environment Day, 5/6/25, York Minster announced that they had been awarded the Gold Eco Church Award. Congratulations to them for investment and vision over more than a decade. You can read about their activities – https://www.archbishopofyork.org/news/latest-news/york-minster-goes-eco-gold-and-succeeds

CONSERVATION AREA MANAGEMENT



Open Country is a Harrogate based charity – helping people with disabilities to access and enjoy the countryside. https://www.opencountry.org.uk

"Out There Together," is the charity motto and it advocates for countryside conservation and access. Over the years members have planted thousands of

trees, cleared and opened up hundreds of miles of footpaths, and played a crucial role in protecting Yorkshire's natural spaces.

Across its three hubs in Harrogate, Wakefield and Teesside, 28 activities are delivered each week. Last year the charity completed 247 conservation tasks and planted 2000 trees. On 29/8/25, Open Country will bring a team to cut, scarify and tidy the Conservation Area. The aim is to encourage existing species and attract new species into the wildflower meadow area with its mown paths in the SE corner of the Cathedral grounds. The Cathedral is delighted to be able to support this worthwhile local charity.

VIEW FROM THE GATE - HARVEST 2025 BY TOM RAMSDEN

This has been an extraordinary season. For the Ripon area it must be one of the driest on record if not the driest, for the west of the country it has been either pretty normal or for the northwest pretty wet. The effect of this depends almost exclusively on the soil type. Crops on heavy soils have yielded well, crops on more sandy, gravelly soils have run out of moisture and yielded poorly. All crops sown last autumn established well and got their roots well down. Spring crops were much more variable; any maize sown in May has suffered badly and will yield half the average crop. Everywhere harvest has been early; about a fortnight to three weeks ahead of the average.

What should one make of all this? Is it a one off or should we now expect similar summers? Is this the consequence of a rapidly changing climate or the sort of season that just happens now and again? As a farmer should it be the catalyst for change or should you continue as before? Are there ways to hedge your bets?

Farming is both a long-term game as well as being a short-term gamble. The long-term game lies in a system resilient enough to cope with summers like this and autumns like 2023, one very dry and one very wet. The short-term gamble is when you commit to paying for fertiliser in June of any year knowing it will help to grow the

following year's crops for an unknown value. A more regenerative farming system may help, as those of us who went to Groundswell (farming's answer to Glastonbury), may turn to.

Then let's add to this the consequences of Brexit and the current government. Brexit finished European subsidies, which were paid for acres farmed rather than any particular public benefit. These have been replaced by grants for works that encourage environmental gain. No argument about this until some grants are suddenly stopped because the Treasury is concerned about the mounting cost. It's a bit like the Irish fishmonger who when asked why he'd shut up shop said that morning noon and night everyone was bothering him for fish! Arable farming is under pressure livestock farming less so. The proposed Inheritance Tax changes are not improving morale either. All in all it's challenging to say the least.

So harvest has been one of mixed fortunes and because the world seems to have enough cereals and protein to feed everyone the value of wheat, barley and oats is about half what it was during the initial stages of the invasion of Ukraine. Harvest festivals are a time to give thanks for this global abundance and also to spare thoughts and prayers for the farming communities on the sharp end of it all. The Cathedral does this so well, long may it continue to represent the Rural Community.

Henri Nouwen Discussion Evening

There has been considerable interest in continuing discussions about Henri Nouwen following two sessions in May and June and the performance of the Beloved Son as part of the Ripon Theatre Festival. Therefore, the Revd Rod and Jan Allon-Smith will be leading a follow up event during the autumn.

The details are:

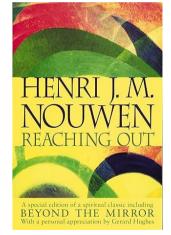
Date & Time: Tuesday October 14th 19.15-21.15 Venue: Thorpe Prebend House, 14 High St.

Agnesgate, HG41QR

Focus: Themes & discussion arising from

'Reaching Out'

The format of the evening will be similar to the two preparation evenings before the main performance in



July. After refreshments we will offer some context and a summary of main themes drawn from another Nouwen book 'Reaching Out', with opportunities for personal & group sharing, questions and discussion. (If you'd like to read the book in advance, a special edition published by Zondervan is readily available from Amazon @ £12.99, or see the web for cheaper used copies from Abebooks, ebay etc.)

As before, all will be welcome. To help with preparations, if you hope to attend please register your interest through cathedraladmin@riponcathedral.org.uk or with a phone message to 01765 603462



HARVEST SUPPER

a fundraising event for Christian Aid

in the Cathedral

Saturday 18 October 2025
7pm to 9 pm (admission from 630 pm)
Beetle drive – Raffle – Wine and drinks bar



Ticket price: £12 to include ploughman'ssupper (or, falafel & humus), dessert Tickets available (card only) from Ripon Cathedral Shop Tel 01765 601347



'C3: CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Ripon Cathedral is committed to supporting our community through partnerships with local charities. Contact C3@riponcathedral.org.uk or 01765 603462

RIPON DISABILITY FORUM



Our partnership with Ripon Disability Forum continues to grow. Wendy Richardson has taken the lead in this partnership and is now a Trustee. She has taken part in social events and helped in testing out the **newly completed wheelchair/ mobility scooter friendly access trail** developed in conjunction with the National Trust from Hellwath Cottage to Fountains Abbey café by the lake. If you haven't been to

Hellwath in a while, it's a beautiful trail and now more suitable for people with disabilities.

The Ripon Disability Forum Trustees visited our C3 partner **Ripon Community Link Walled Garden** to assess the garden's accessibility for a future visit by all the member of the Forum. Ten members enjoyed tea and cake, plus a tour of the garden with a talk by Wendy Richardson on the history of the Facility. They were pleased to find that most of the trails are suitable for wheelchairs.



The Walled Garden also invites everyone to come to APPLE DAY FESTIVITIES on Saturday, 4th October, from 9:30am – 4pm and then to The Pumpkin Patch from the 18th to 31st October.

The long-anticipated Launch of the Accessible Ripon Project took place with 40 representatives from the city represented, including The Mayor, several council members, Dean John and Canon Wendy. This major piece of work produced a map of accessible roads, crossings and dropped curbs across the city centre. Jeremy Dunford of the Disability Forum and two representatives of *Visit Yorkshire* spoke to the importance of such



guides in making Ripon, and Yorkshire in general, more accessible to a wider range of people with disabilities.



CHRISTIAN AID

Tickets for the Harvest Supper 18th **October** are available from Dorothy Gray - cash please. See poster in this newsletter. Thank you to all who donated or bought goods for the market stall on Saturday,2nd August. **We raised £112** – thanks to all who supported us and special thanks to Janet Slater for all her help on the stall.

There will be an informal thank you for all **Christian Aid Week envelope deliverers** on **Friday 5 September**. If you have delivered envelopes and have **not** already received your invite, please speak to Dorothy Gray or Elaine Gisbourne.

The next **United Nations Climate Change Conference COP 30** will take place in Belem Brazil from **10 - 21 November 2025**. Please pray for wisdom and compassion in world leaders and delegates at this time. It is hoped there will be a modest exhibition at the time of this major event to encourage our prayers.



Dementia Forward is calling on all those who provide support to, or have an interest in, people living with young onset dementia as well as their families and carers, to come together in shaping a more holistic and collaborative

approach to care and support. We would be delighted to welcome you to our upcoming

Young Onset Dementia U&ME Conference on 14th October at Elland Road, Leeds. This event will bring together support providers, professionals, and those with an interest in dementia to share ideas, build awareness, and strengthen support networks. Tickets are £50 including lunch and refreshments. To book your place, visit https://www.dementiaforward.org.uk/vou-me-campaign.

Also see the poster in this newsletter about **Dementia Forward's Winter Ball** which takes place on **Friday 7th November.** C3 organizes a minibus from Ripon so contact David Wells or Anne-Marie Tarter if you are interested in coming!



<u>HELP Friendship & Exercise Club</u> Thursdays 12.30pm - 2pm, St Wilfrids Community Centre,

Harrogate and District Do you know anyone who would enjoy a chat, a cuppa and Community Action biscuits, some gentle seated exercise, an opportunity to meet new friends and find out about other local activities or support available? Maybe have a chat about any concerns or worries and find out where to turn? You would be welcome to come and join in the HELP Friendship & Exercise Club. For more information contact https://hadca.org.uk/Contact



The Salvation Army and The Tenants at The Ripon YMCA



The donations left in the boxes at the West End of the Cathedral are divided between the Ripon Salvation Army and the Ripon YMCA.



Please GIVE GENEROUSLY to those in need of FOOD and essential items such as soap and other personal hygiene, washing up liquid, cleaning products, UHT milk, pasta. and sauces, tuna, tinned meats, rice, baby products, etc. Chocolates and Sweet Treats are also welcomed!

YMCA OPEN DAY 15[™] OCTOBER 3-6PM. Partners, community members, parents, guardians, young people, organisations and agencies – come and visit us at Water Skellgate to find out about the YMCA, our services, activities and plans for 2026 and beyond



JENNYRUTH WORKSHOP



Is a place where adults who have learning disabilities (also known as workers) gain confidence, independence, work and life skills. The JRW Workers had a fantastic 4 days at the Great Yorkshire Show last month, the highlight of which was being interviewed by Julia Bradbury on Channel 5 about the Show. As well, they were

lucky enough to be involved in the Ripon Theatre Festival again this year. This time the workers got extra creative by designing and making hats. A little reminder that Jennyruth Workshop will be at Newby Hall from Friday 18th – Sunday 21st September for the Autumn Flower Show. So, pop by and see our wonderful work in person! The Workshops are always interested in new volunteers...if you think you might be interested in joining the team contact Emily at: volunteers@jennyruth.co.uk

We're delighted to share some exciting news - our brand new website is now live at www.jennyruth.co.uk

Here's what you will find on our new website:

Enhanced Online Shop – Browse and order our unique handmade gifts from home.

- Meet Our Workers Discover the stories of the people who bring each product to life.
- Latest News & Events Keep up to date with projects, upcoming stalls and community activities.
- **Get Involved** Learn how you can support us through donations, volunteering or partnerships.

We warmly invite you to visit our new website, take a look around and share it with friends, family and anyone who might be inspired by our work.

And while you're there, why not save it to your favourites so you can drop by anytime.

Apple Day

Saturday 4th October

9.30 -4pm

Ripon Walled Garden, Palace Road, Ripon, HG4 3HN



Press your own apples Orchard Games Balloon Modelling Tombola & Giving Tree Stalls

Woodland Walk

Face Art

Live Music Hot Food & Refreshments Petting Farm Artisan Food Market BBQ

Cafe and Shop



DONATION TO ENTER

All funds raised go directly to supporting our Members who have learning and physical disabilitiies.

Registered Charity No:1049030





- 01765 601224
- www.dementiaforward.org.uk
- amy.senior@dementiaforward.org.uk

CATHEDRAL GIFT SHOP

Opening Hours: Mon-Sat 10-5; Sun 12-5. Tel: 01765 601347



Christmas might seem a long way away but the cards are starting to appear in the shops already and so we have brought out our lovely selection of Advent Candles.

All at £4.50 each and with Ripon Cathedral written at the bottom. Perfect gifts for friends and relatives. On display and for sale now in the shop.



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 Eucharist 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

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: cathedraladmin@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 michelegee@riponcathedral.org.uk