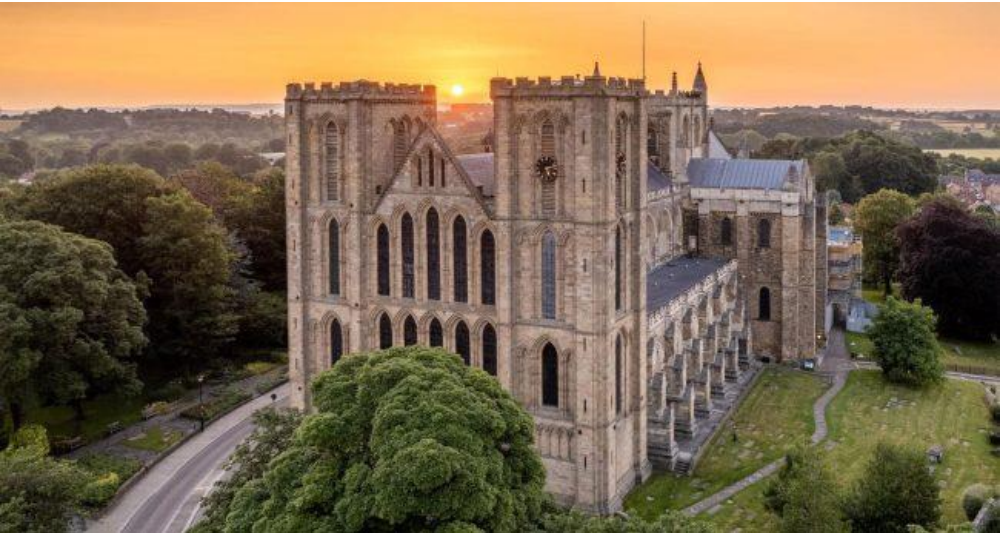


# RIPON CATHEDRAL

## NOVEMBER – DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



**The Dean:**

The Very Revd John Dobson DL

**Canon in Residence:** Canon Wendy Dalrymple (Nov)  
Canon Michael Gisbourne (Dec)

Cathedral Office: 01765 603462

Website: [www.riponcathedral.org.uk](http://www.riponcathedral.org.uk)

## A NOTE FROM THE DEAN



### **What would the world be like if Christ were running the show?**

#### **A rollercoaster of celebration, lament and hope**

November and December see the calendar of Ripon Cathedral filled with significant acts of worship, concerts and a Christmas Fair. It is a rollercoaster of celebration lament and hope, one on which we are invited to contemplate what our lives and the world might be like if Christ were allowed to reign on earth as he does in heaven. What would the world be like if Christ were running the show? What would our lives be like if we really allowed him in to be our Lord and King?

On this rollercoaster of November and December, we rapidly move through what we call The Kingdom Season, Advent and the first seven days of Christmas. This all begins with our celebration of All Saints – being inspired by those who in ordinary lives have enabled heaven to break through into the world. All Souls on 2<sup>nd</sup> November reminds us of those we love and from whom we are parted, painfully, by death. Comfort comes from the belief that both sides of the grave we are held in God's love.

An inevitable sombre tone of lament is sustained when it comes to Remembrance. The tragic conflicts of the past, with their colossal loss of life and human wellbeing, give us an opportunity to learn from the cost of standing up to great powers of evil, and the cost of not doing so. The same could be said on 16<sup>th</sup> November when we will keep Safeguarding Sunday, remembering how Christ's hope for all his children is that they may experience 'life in its fullness', and as we participate in 16 days of activism against gender-based violence.

The Feast of Christ the King, the Sunday before Advent Sunday (23<sup>rd</sup> November), sets all our celebration and lament in a hopeful perspective. As Christians, with the confidence that comes from the resurrection of Jesus

Christ from the dead, we believe that Christ will one day reign on earth as he does in heaven. The rays of heavenly light, reflected in the lives of saints, loved ones and those who have stood up to life-destroying evil seen in warfare and abuse, are acknowledged to be signs of what will be seen in full when Christ returns to put all things right. It is this hope for the total dispelling of the world's darkness that gives shape to our keeping of Advent, patiently waiting for the coming Christ. Little wonder that our carol services on Advent Sunday (30<sup>th</sup> November) and at Christmas are so popular, giving delight and encouragement. They emphasise this same hope of Christ reigning on earth as he does in heaven, strengthened with the evidence Christmas provides of God's enduring faithfulness towards us.

## **Glorious Kingdom**

Perhaps the simple answer to the question of what the world and our lives would be like if Christ were running the show is - a glorious kingdom. *Glorious Kingdom* is the title of the new Ripon Cathedral Choir CD. The launch of this perfect Christmas gift is another thing happening at the cathedral over the coming weeks. Directed by Ronny Krippner and accompanied on the organ by Tim Harper, the choir provides life-enhancing inspiration and joy. The sixteen tracks helpfully include Basil Harwood's *O how glorious is the kingdom*.

Yet again, we are prompted to ask our question - what would the world be like if Christ were running the show? How glorious could it be? The answer, of course, relates to how Jesus revealed God's nature. The hope comes from the firm belief that one day his reign will become a full reality in a Christ-like world.

## **The walls of human division**

Presumably, Christ's kingdom on earth will be free of those walls of division that we humans seem only too adept at building.

In 2022, an anthology of poems by the online poet Brian Bilston was published. Entitled, *Days Like These*, it contains a poem for every day of the year, each one relating to something of significance or interest on its day. The poem for 9<sup>th</sup> November is called *The Wall*. It reflects on the fall of the Berlin Wall on that day in 1989, a wall which had been built of concrete in 1961 to prevent East Germans accessing West Germany and which was fifteen feet high and topped with barbed wire. Watch towers and gun emplacements were also a memorable feature. In his introduction to the poem, Bilston

explains that the wall was an ideological barrier which had come to symbolise the Cold War. Its fall signalled the collapse of communism in Eastern and Central Europe.

The poem ends by raising the question of what the wall had stood for, why it had ever been built in the first place.

### ***The Wall* by Brian Bilston**

In the rubble and the mess,  
East and West met,

winter-coated in brick dust,  
wary, at first, of cuts

from shreds of barbed wire.  
Reaching across, they smiled,

at such freedom of movement,  
united in one moment.

And afterwards, they talked,  
both thinking of the wall,

wondering what it had stood for,  
why it had been built at all.

### **The reconciling work of Christ – a long way from the walls of human division and the way to a better world**

The optimism that existed in the world following the fall of the wall perhaps seems distant in the light of the destruction seen in Gaza and Ukraine. Perhaps we might also be tempted to lose heart when contemplating how human hatred and loss of integrity spills over through the channels of social media to encourage hatred and division in those communities of which we are a part – not that there is anything wrong with the medium, simply with how it is employed.

All that goes on in the cathedral over coming months is intended to celebrate and remind us of the sure grounds we have for hope in an imperfect world. In hope and with hope, we are encouraged to ponder what our lives and the

world might look like when Christ is allowed to reign on earth as he does in heaven. We hope for a time when, as with those who stood on the rubble of the Berlin Wall, the lack of merit of past hatred and conflict is brought into sharp focus.

Perhaps over coming months, we can begin to see afresh how, when Christ is running the show, the world will be reconciled to him and to itself. As St. Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:19, '...in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.' And perhaps we might commit ourselves anew to living in a way which makes the fruits of Christ's reconciling work more of a present reality as well as a future hope.

### **Farewell to Bishop Nick and his wife, Linda**

We will be saying farewell to Bishop Nick and his wife, Linda, in a diocesan service in Ripon Cathedral on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November at 3.30pm - Bishop Nick retires on 30<sup>th</sup> November. All are welcome, though with large numbers expected, we do ask people to book a ticket (free, of course!) online or by contacting the Cathedral Office.

Bishop Nick became Bishop of Leeds in June 2014 and was installed in his three cathedrals over the following weeks. The role was an enormous responsibility for anyone to accept, and it is probably the case that few people in the Church of England at that time would have been capable of rising to the challenge. A new diocese was being created – it had become a legal reality on Easter Day that year - but remarkably little preparation had taken place. I remember being surprised, as a newly arrived dean, to be asked by the bishop to join a small group to draft a governance structure for the diocese. He then invited me to chair the group which was overseeing the delivery of the new diocesan office. I have forgiven him! Needless to say, he was asking others to take on other pieces of work, all necessary building blocks for a diocese to get 'up and running'.

What has been achieved in the development of the Diocese of Leeds over the last 11 years is remarkable. The Archbishops' Appointment Secretary and Prime Minister's Appointment Secretary have recently been conducting an extensive consultation as part of the process by which Bishop Nick's successor will be discerned. They have commented on how cohesive and unified the diocese seems to be. This is all the more impressive when one considers how this still young diocese, transcending several county boundaries and including

almost the whole of West Yorkshire and half of North Yorkshire, serves widely differing communities over such a vast area.

This visible achievement is a testament to Bishop Nick's gift for leadership, good judgement, attention to detail and relentless hard work. It leaves hidden the inevitable countless quiet pastoral encounters, words of encouragement, and challenging conversations. Neither does it reveal the need for courage and determination which has been required of the Bishop of Leeds in this remarkable Church of England project of historic significance.

In every ordination service, the truth is shared that no one can bear the burden of ministry in their own strength alone. Serving Christ in his Church and world is only possible by the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit. We thank God, then, as we thank Bishop Nick for all he has done and achieved. Of course, the bishop has benefited not just from the support of a good God, but also that of a most wonderful wife. In addition to the invaluable service she has given to the region as a health visitor, and her support of community groups using her talents as a glass artist, Linda has shown a gift for generous hospitality at home and providing an encouraging smile and supportive comments at diocesan events.

We will miss both Bishop Nick and Linda. In the farewell service, we will express our gratitude to them and to God, reflecting on how fortunate the Diocese of Leeds has been. We will pray that they enjoy a long and very happy retirement back in their native Liverpool.

With my very best wishes

Dean John



**RIPON**  
CATHEDRAL



**Are you grieving the death of a loved one or struggling with the long-term effect of loss?**

**Join us for a seven-session weekly course**

**Location : Thorpe Prebend House , High St.Agnesgate,  
Ripon, HG41QR**

**When: 3rd February – 17th March 2026**

**9.30-11.30am**

**Topics include :**

- Attachment, separation and anxiety
- Impact of the pain of bereavement
  - Adjusting to change
  - Anger and guilt
- Coping with others reactions

**For more information or to register, please contact:  
[fionapearman@riponcathedral.org.uk](mailto:fionapearman@riponcathedral.org.uk) or ring 01765 603462**



Ripon Community Poppy Project  
& Ripon Cathedral present

*Working in Partnership with*



# A Concert of Remembrance in Ripon Cathedral

6th November 2025 at 7.30pm

(Doors open at 7pm)

*Artists include*

*Brackenfield School Choir, Dishforth Military Wives Choir  
Charlotte Potter - Soprano, Izzy Howard - Violinist, North Skelton Band  
Accompanied by Richard Martin - Organist  
Compered by Mark Sidwell*

Buy  
tickets  
online:



Tickets £15

Also available from Stuff 4 Offices  
at 15 Fishergate, Ripon  
& The Wakeman Café  
at 33 Market Place, Ripon

[www.riponcommunitypp.co.uk](http://www.riponcommunitypp.co.uk)

Posters sponsored by Colour It In • [www.colouritin.co.uk](http://www.colouritin.co.uk)





# Christmas

## Food & Gift Fair

**Fri 21 & Sat 22 November 2025**  
**9.30-16.30**

Come along to explore over 100 superb stalls with a lovely selection of Christmas gifts, food and drink in the stunning setting of Ripon Cathedral.

Indulge in festive fare, including turkey sandwiches, mulled wine and delicious cakes, while being serenaded by seasonal song.

With family activities, a Christmas prize draw and more, there is something for everyone.

More details, including information on the Park & Ride are available on our website.

### **Tickets: £5**

Available in the cathedral shop or online

[www.riponcathedral.org.uk](http://www.riponcathedral.org.uk)

Or just scan the QR code



## NEWS FROM THE WORSHIP & MUSIC DEPARTMENT

As I write in the days after the Patronal weekend, which saw the full Choral Foundation sing both an Evensong and a Eucharist with numbers swelled by the Alumni of Ripon Cathedral choir, I found myself reflect on the success of the choir over recent years. Under Dr Krippner and his team, numbers have grown, repertoire has developed, and reputation has been enhanced. But we must remember that whilst all these things are good, it is faithfulness that is called for by God and not success.

Faithfulness is what I saw on show as Ripon Cathedral was proud to host the *Association of Assistant Cathedral Organists* Annual Conference in October. Representatives of many of the Cathedrals of England descended on Ripon for a day of mutual support and learning as they engaged in Presentations from Philip Wilby, Tim Haper and Ronny Krippner. The faithfulness of these assistant cathedral organists in supporting the worship of their own cathedrals was wonderful to hear about.

After half term, the choir will begin to prepare for the season of remembrance followed by Advent and then Christmas. Again, it promises to be an exciting season of music with the Advent Carol Service and Procession on Advent Sunday; the Christmas Organ Meditation; the Christmas Concert and followed close on the heels by the festival of Nine Lessons and Carols and Christmas itself.

One thing that the music department of Ripon Cathedral is continually trying to get to grips with is, making contact with alumni of the choir. If you know of anyone who over the years was a member of the choirs, we would be delighted to hear about them so that we are able to share some of the current news of the choir.

Please continue to support the music foundation here at the cathedral, not least with prayer as we enter one of the busiest seasons but one of the most wonderful times of the year.

*Canon Michael Gisbourne.*

### **Bishop Nick's Farewell Service**

**On November 23 at 3.30pm** we will be holding a special Diocesan Farewell to the Rt Rev Nick Baines – the first Bishop of Leeds – on his retirement.

The service will be attended by a host of VIPs, civic dignitaries and leaders from various faiths from across this vast diocese, as we come together to say goodbye to Bishop Nick and his wife Linda, and to give thanks to God for them.

Free tickets are available on-line. Please call the Cathedral Office 01765 603462 if you require assistance.

# CHOIR CD AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE SOON!

## GLORIOUS KINGDOM

Anthems from Ripon Cathedral  
Directed by Ronny Krippner Organ: Tim Harper

Includes 16  
tracks



Available mid November

### Including tracks:

*O how glorious is the kingdom*

*Ave Maria*

*Thou knowest, Lord*

*Zadok the Priest*



**RIPON**  
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# SAFEGUARDING NEWS AND UPDATES

## *from our Cathedral Safeguarding Officer and Cathedral Safeguarding Lead*

As we approach **Safeguarding Sunday on 16<sup>th</sup> November** we thought we would update you on how safeguarding is working here Ripon Cathedral. One of the key cultural shifts in safeguarding over the last few years in both church life and across wider society is to say that ***Safeguarding is Everybody's Responsibility***. This approach we see being embedded here at the Cathedral in a number of ways: our dedicated staff and volunteers taking part in safeguarding training, the ways in which collectively we respond to pastoral and welfare needs as we encounter them, and the commitment made by Chapter to keep investing in the resources to build a Cathedral community where all can flourish.



We have recently updated the ways in which anyone, staff, volunteers, worshippers and visitors can report a non-emergency concern to us via the use of an electronic form. Please visit the link via the QR code or by visiting the Safeguarding section on our website. You can also continue to contact the Cathedral Safeguarding Team via calling us on: 01765 643889 or emailing [safeguarding@riponcathedral.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@riponcathedral.org.uk) but we hope the form will prove easy to use.

Our Cathedral Safeguarding Team is made up of:

### **Cathedral Safeguarding Lead – Canon Pastor (CSL)**

Canon Wendy holds strategic leadership for Safeguarding and along with our CSO (see below) is the first point of contact for welfare and safeguarding concerns and for victims and survivors of church abuse.

### **Cathedral Safeguarding Officer – Safeguarding Professional (CSO)**

Sarah Lynch provides professional safeguarding advice on concerns that are raised, with the authority to act independently of the Dean and other Cathedral staff if required. Alongside the CSL (see above) acts as the first point of contact for welfare and safeguarding concerns and for victims and survivors of church abuse.

## **Safeguarding Coordinator – Chief Operating Officer (CSC)**

Carol Pyrah supports the CSL in implementing operational leadership for safeguarding and integrating safeguarding into the functional running of the Cathedral as an employer, visitor attraction and historic place of worship.

In all of this we continue to be supported by the Diocesan Safeguarding Team with whom we enjoy a good working relationship bringing their wisdom, training and support to our inhouse team and by our internal Recruitment Administrator, Charlie Stewart who administers the safer recruitment process, including DBS checks, of all staff and volunteers.

We hope you will be able to join us on **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November** when we commit ourselves once again to the ongoing task of creating a church where all 'may dwell in safety.'

*From Cathedral Safeguarding Officer Sarah Lynch and  
Canon Pastor, Wendy Dalrymple*





### **16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence, 25 November to 10 December 2025**

The United Nations 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence are held annually between 25 November and 10 December. This year Ripon Cathedral will mark the 16 Days with a special exhibition of artwork originally commissioned for White Ribbon UK, working with male prisoners at HMP Hull. White Ribbon UK is the leading charity in England and Wales that works to end men's violence against women and girls. It aims to prevent violence from happening in the first place by

engaging men and boys to be part of the solution. White Ribbon challenges harmful ideas about gender that lead to inequality and abuse.

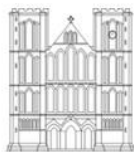
The Mothers' Union Rise Up campaign against domestic abuse also aims to raise awareness of domestic abuse, which can happen to anyone, anywhere. The shocking fact is that one in three women world wide will encounter domestic abuse at some point in their lives. The letters of RISE UP stand for Respond, Inform, Support, Empower, Unite and Pray. Mothers' Union members here in the Ripon Episcopal Area of the Diocese of Leeds campaign year round to raise awareness of domestic abuse. We collaborate with local aid agencies such as Women's Aid, New Beginnings and local refuges to support to victims and their families.

The exhibition of paintings will be launched at the Evensong Service on Tuesday 25 November, led by Bishop Anna Eltringham, Bishop of Ripon (5.30 pm, followed by a reception). Everyone is welcome to join us, to meet representatives of the local aid agencies and to find out more about such an important part of our mission.

Information about and links to help agencies will be available in the Cathedral throughout the 16 Days. At the end of the period there will be a silent vigil at 10.00 am on Saturday 6 December, outside the West Door of the Cathedral, followed by a service at 10.30 am, open to all.

***Join us, and Join in!***

*Heather Powling  
Branch Leader,  
Ripon Cathedral Branch, Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Leeds  
General Trustee for the Ripon Episcopal Area*



RIPON  
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# Plough Sunday Service

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026

in Ripon Cathedral

Service led by the Very Rev'd John Dobson,  
Dean of Ripon

Preacher : The Most Revd & Rt Hon  
Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York

Refreshments, including hot pork rolls, cake,  
tea & coffee served from 2.30pm.

Service starts at 3.30pm

  
YORKSHIRE  
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Leeds

The **Methodist** Church 

## Canon Matthew to be the next Honorary Chaplain of the Yorkshire Agricultural Society

Canon Matthew has been appointed by the Yorkshire Agricultural Society to be its Honorary Chaplain. This complements his role of Canon Chancellor at the Cathedral which includes overseeing the Cathedral's engagement with rural affairs. The role of the Chaplain is to act on behalf of the Yorkshire Agricultural Society to inform and educate church leaders about issues facing the agricultural sector and to start each day at the Great Yorkshire Show with prayer. Canon Matthew will take up the role in the New Year in succession to Canon Leslie Morley who has been the Society's Chaplain for 16 years.

Canon Matthew said, "It is a great honour to be asked by the YAS to be its Chaplain. I am aware that I am stepping into very large shoes. Canon Leslie Morley has vast experience and vast specialist knowledge. I look forward to promoting the society's work to help the churches of Yorkshire support people engaged in agriculture at the challenging time."

Revd Canon Leslie Morley looks out wistfully over the Great Yorkshire Show Ground on the last day of his last Great Yorkshire Show after 16 years as Honorary Chaplain to the Yorkshire Agricultural Society





## NEWS FROM EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Sharing this feedback from our Young Explorers Nursery from Harrogate that visited the Cathedral for our Wilfrid Bear Workshop at the end of Sept. Here is the feedback:

*The Young Explorers had a wonderful time visiting the Cathedral, and it was such a joy to see their curiosity come alive in such a beautiful and inspiring space.*

*They've been talking about the visit ever since, especially Canon Matthew's animal impressions — those were a definite highlight! It was lovely to see how engaged they were, and your warm welcome made the experience even more special ‘  
from Helana Corbett their teacher.*

At the other end of the spectrum we welcomed 104 Secondary students from Berlin having a tour two weeks later



**Children's Activity Morning 28<sup>th</sup> October** Children made carrot characters with herby hair out of rosemary as we thought about Jesus sharing with us that God our Father tends us all like a Gardener looking after a vine. We also looked at a pumpkin seed and thought about how it grows into a Ginormous pumpkin rather remarkably and how incredibly the Kingdom of God can grow in secret but then we can see and know the difference it makes in our world. Children gave their carrot characters names and a whole variety of hair styles. They also created their own mini gardens with pop up plants that shot up when watered. We had about 40 children and about 30 parents/carers all having great fun and talking about booking in for our next session which is on 29<sup>th</sup> Nov with our Step into Narnia.





# Step into Narnia this November!

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November**  
**10.30am-12pm**

Join us for a special Narnian-themed activity morning where children will be able to make some pan pipes and an Aslan mask. £3 per child, to include all crafts and refreshments.



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To book your place please email  
[YvonneJefferies@riponcathedral.org.uk](mailto:YvonneJefferies@riponcathedral.org.uk)

[RIPONCATHEDRAL.ORG.UK/FAMILY/](http://RIPONCATHEDRAL.ORG.UK/FAMILY/)

The start of the school year in September also brought a new start to Children's Church, as we relaunched with two distinctive groups: Mustard Seeds, for 0-6 year olds and their parents/carers; and Mighty Trees, for 7-11 year olds. Whilst Mighty Trees aims to provide a lively time of worship for older primary-school-aged children, with games and activities bookended with short prayers and rituals (such as the lighting of candles and sharing of the Peace), Mustard Seeds follows a different structure altogether, aimed specifically at younger children. Using songs and storytelling based on the Revd Dr Sharon Moughtin's "Diddy Disciples" material we have so much fun every week as we come together in worship to pray, give thanks, say sorry, get creative, and connect with each other and God. Some of our Mustard Seeds children (along with Canon Wendy) gave us a wonderful taster of this sung storytelling during our all-age Harvest Festival service on 5<sup>th</sup> October.



### **Ripon Cathedral Primary School**

We continue to deliver Collective Worship at school once a week and have also welcomed the school to the Cathedral as they gathered with parents and carers for their Harvest thanksgiving service, beautifully led by the Year 3 and Year 4 children. Cathedral Club (our after-school club for KS2 children) will begin again after half-term.

Thanks, as ever, go to our wonderful Children & Families volunteers, who give so much of their time and creativity to this ministry.





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# Children's Church

Sunday mornings during term time

## Mustard Seeds (0-6)

For younger children with their parents/carers\* who enjoy worshipping through singing, storytelling and craft. Families gather in the Cathedral Library after the first hymn and rejoin the main service in time for Holy Communion.

## Mighty Trees (7-11)

Join us for 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 and collect during the Peace.

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

[BethWickenden@riponcathedral.org.uk](mailto:BethWickenden@riponcathedral.org.uk)

\* drop-off possible for school-age children

[RIPONCATHEDRAL.ORG.UK/FAMILY/](http://RIPONCATHEDRAL.ORG.UK/FAMILY/)



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# Christmas Organ Meditation

Thursday 18th Dec 2025

*La Nativité du  
Seigneur*

Nine Meditations on the birth of our Lord  
by Olivier Messiaen  
performed by Tim Harper

All Welcome

Find all services & events at: [www.riponcathedral.org.uk](http://www.riponcathedral.org.uk)

Tickets are not required



# Christmas & New Year Special Services

## **Thursday 18 December**

**7.30pm** Organ meditation

La Nativité du

Seigneur by *Messiaen*

## **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Christmas Eve**

**5.30pm** Festival of Nine  
Lessons & Carols\*

## **Christmas Eve**

**11.00am** Journey to  
Bethlehem (for all the  
family)

**11pm** Midnight Mass

## **Christmas Day**

**8.00am** Holy Communion

**10.30am** Festal Eucharist

## **Boxing Day**

**9.30am** St Stephen's Day  
Eucharist

**10.15am** Pilgrimage to  
Fountains Abbey with carols  
sung at the abbey

## **New Year's Eve**

**11.15pm** Watchnight with  
procession to market square  
for midnight

**All Welcome**

\*The Festivals of Nine Lessons & Carols are ticketed and must be booked (tickets are free).  
Tickets are not required for other services.

# GROWING GREENER – RIPON CATHEDRAL ENVIRONMENT NEWS

## REFLECTION ON CREATIONTIDE

Creationtide, when the church celebrates our wonderful sustaining world and reminds us of the fifth mark of mission 'to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the Earth' was wonderfully celebrated at Ripon Cathedral this year.

The hymns, readings, prayers, laments and inspiring sermons from Revd Marion Russell, Canon Michael and Canon Wendy, made this a special season of thoughtful and honest engagement with the climate and environmental crisis. It probably comforted those who already recognise the environmental crisis and made others grateful to hear this as the word of God.

## RIPON TOGETHER GREEN FAIR – 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER IN ALLHALLOWGATE METHODIST CHURCH

33 different local organisations came together to showcase their work to make Ripon a greener and more sustainable place to live. Good conversations were had between over 200 members of the public and stall holders.

The Mayor of Ripon, Cllr Barbara Brodigan opened the fair and was introduced by Chair of the Ripon Youth Council, Zoe Ingham. Both made impassioned speeches about the climate crisis.

### Six excellent talks were heard in the chapel

- **Andy Brown**, NY Councillor, Green Party member, talked about summer wildfires on the moors.
- Energy Oasis' **Mike Kay's** theme was 'Cut Costs, Cut Consumption, Cut Carbon.
- **Steve Hall**, from WT Hall Builders, explained energy saving improvements in homes.
- **Simon Warwick** talked about a new partnership to restore the Ripon's Quarry Moor SSI nature park.
- **Rebecca Cranlan** from the Green House, Ripon, explained ways we can reduce our carbon footprints
- **John Whitfield** explained practical ways to make Ripon city centre and routes to schools safer for pedestrians and cyclists using Ripon's LCWAIP – Local Cycling, Walking, Accessibility Infrastructure Plan.

**The Ripon Together Green Fair is the only event in ripon that recognises that we are living in a climate and environmental crisis and that makes it important.**

## ECO CHURCH, CHRISTIAN AID AND HEDGEHOGS AT THE GREEN FAIR

Ripon Cathedral was represented by Ros Swaney on an Eco Church stall. Dorothy Gray was on the Christian Aid stall selling pre-loved handbags, jewellery and scarves which made £90 for Christian Aid's Harvest Appeal. As well, a children's activity to



make a hedgehog was part of the Cathedral participation. Canon Matthew and Canon Wendy helped and had some good eco conversations with the stall holders and members of the public.

**As winter approaches you may find a hedgehog which needs protection. I had an interesting conversation with Barbara Brodigan at the Green Fair and she agreed to share her story about helping a hedgehog in October 2024 — Ros Swaney PEO**

***HELPING HETTIE: A HEDGEHOG'S SECOND CHANCE*** by Cllr Barbara Brodigan, Mayor of Ripon “How one Yorkie made Ripon greener, one hedgehog at a time”



Last October, my Yorkshire terrier proved that heroes come in small, furry packages. While doing his usual garden patrol, he discovered a tiny baby hedgehog perched precariously on our cellar window ledge. The little hog—soon named *Hettie*—was only about four weeks old, far too young to brave the wild alone.

A quick call to the hedgehog rescue centre in York set her on the road to recovery. Declared healthy

but in need of warmth and care, she spent the winter there under expert supervision, with me as her proud sponsor and cheerleader. When Hettie woke from hibernation in spring, she came home to Ripon. Since then, she's enjoyed nightly meals of dried kitten food and has even moved into her own purpose-built hedgehog house—crafted to keep her cosy and safe this winter.

It's been a joy to see how a simple act of care can make a big difference. With a little help, even the smallest creatures can thrive—and our gardens can become true wildlife havens.

## ECO ACTION GROUP NEWS

- Loretta Williams is undertaking the Diocese of Leeds one year Gold Saving Creation course to become an Eco Mission Enabler.  
<https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/course/saving-creation-gold/>
- Dorothy Gray is using her role as an Eco Mission Enabler to carry the message about climate change and the need to care for all creation to the Deanery synod.
- Ros Swaney has completed a Carbon Literacy Course for Congregations.  
<https://carbonliteracy.com>
- Canon Matthew is leading an Eco Church Survey Task and Finish group to help the Cathedral achieve a Silver Eco Church Award by Creationtide 2026.

## COP 30 – 10 to 21st November



The next UN climate change COP is in Belem, Brazil attended by scientists, politicians and world leaders. This COP has already been mired in controversy over the location and the destruction of the Amazon Forest to prepare for such a big event. Greenpeace is campaigning to

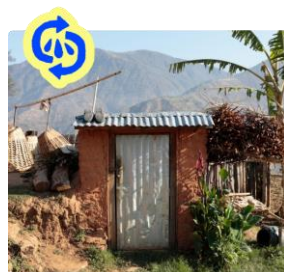


stop a destructive bill enabling more logging and mining in the Amazon going through the Brazilian Congress. There will be a Christian Aid exhibition in the Cathedral during COP 30 to encourage our congregation and visitors to pray for those attending the conference and to pray for a successful outcome for humanity and nature this time.

### **CARING FOR OUR WORLD - TIPS for a SUSTAINABLE CHRISTMAS from TEARFUND**

- Go waste-free by gifting someone an experience they'll love. Cooking classes? Golf lessons? Tickets to a show?
- Get crafty and upcycle some old, unused or tired items into a one-of-a-kind gift.
- Forage in your local charity shops for second-hand gift inspiration and decorations.
- How about a waste-reducing gift that keeps on giving? You could give a reusable cup or bottle, or buy someone a shampoo bar to introduce them to the joys of plastic-free toiletries.

**OR give a toilet through Tearfund partner, Toilet Twinning, to a poor family in a drought-stricken or war-broken country. <https://toilettwinning.org> It costs £60 to give a toilet. Providing people with the basic necessity for a dignified life would be a wonderful Christmas gift.**



**Toilet Twinning has been running since 2010.**

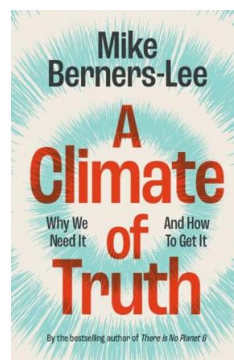
First, as a joint venture between NGOs Tearfund and Cord, and since 2015 as a fundraising source for Tearfund. Administration costs are kept low to make sure your donation has the biggest impact possible for people living in poverty in some of the world's poorest

countries. For every £1 donated 84p goes to life changing projects and 16p to fundraising costs. Toilet Twinning funds hygiene education via community-led workshop and sourcing local materials for families and communities to build their own toilets.

### **A BOOK for CHRISTMAS?**

Canon Michael heard Mike Berners-Lee speak about his latest book, 'A Climate of Truth' at Greenbelt Festival in August and referred to it in his sermon on the 28<sup>th</sup> September. If there was ever a time when we need to know the truth, it is now. A main theme of the book is that we need to be honest about the climate crisis if we are to have any chance of averting its worst effects. It also argues that if we are to thrive in the coming decades, we have to raise the standards of honesty of our leaders in politics, the media and business and hold them to account when they don't speak the truth.

**BEST WISHES FOR A PEACEFUL, THANKFUL AND JOYFUL CHRISTMAS from the ECO ACTION GROUP.**



## ‘C3: CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



**RIPON**  
**C3** CATHEDRAL  
COMMUNITY  
CONNECTIONS

**Ripon Cathedral is committed to supporting our community through partnerships with local charities.**  
**Contact** [C3@riponcathedral.org.uk](mailto:C3@riponcathedral.org.uk) or 01765 603462

All our partners are busy this Christmas Holiday Season – please could you consider how you could support them either by buying Christmas gifts from one of our partners, or by attending one of their Christmas events, or by donating to our giving of Christmas gifts to the Salvation Army Bank or the Ripon YMCA



### **Calling People Who Love to Sew ! Friday 7th Nov 10:30-2:30pm.**

One of our Afghan ladies is leading the day inspiring us to sew an Afghan tunic. **If you are interested to join in the sewing session, please contact** [yvonnejefferies@riponcathedral.co.uk](mailto:yvonnejefferies@riponcathedral.co.uk)

The Afghan Ladies are so appreciative of the wonderful sewing machines donated by many of the Cathedral community, and now the Afghan ladies are very keen so share their joy of sewing with us all. There will be light refreshments available as part of this day

which is funded by the Marsh Award. This is a charitable trust based on the Christian principles of reaching out and caring for the natural world and helping those in need.



### **After the 10:30 Cathedral Eucharist on the first THREE SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER there will be a stall selling Christmas Goods made by the members of Jennyruth Workshop**

Jennyruth's wonderful team of 'elves' has been busy all Autumn making the most beautiful Christmas decorations and gifts, and the cream of the crop will be available for you to buy

**after the 10:30 Eucharist on Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.** All proceeds go to support this wonderful charity that provides meaningful work and skills development opportunities for adults with learning disabilities.



**Dementia Forward has a number of exciting events that help to raise funds as well as giving their members and families some fun! 7th November - A Winter Ball at the Doublegates Majestic Hotel in Harrogate starting at 7.00 pm. 3 course meal and dancing. Tickets £55 from 01765 601224.**

**29th November A Dickens Christmas Carol at Sharow Church,** starting at 7 pm. Words and music from actor John Middleton, the Yorkshire Decibelles and young musicians from the Royal Northern College of Music. **Tickets from 01765 601224.**

**10th December *Mince Pies and Memories*: A Christmas coffee morning at George Armitage House, Burton Leonard starting at 10.00 am.** Why not hold your own "Mince Pies and Memories". Simply invite round some friends and have your own fundraiser with mince pies & Christmas friendship while at the same time supporting Dementia Forward by collecting donations.



**DISABILITY FORUM** has a new name! It is now known as **Ripon (Upper Nidderdale and Uredale) Disability Forum**. The Trustees continue to maintain partnership working with the NYC, National Trust, C3, Ripon City Council, Ripon Together, Ripon Theatre Festival and Disability Action, Yorkshire. After the successful launch of **Accessible Ripon**, work will continue to encourage more businesses to display window stickers such as the **'Safe place'** logo. There is ongoing revising of the

**Take a Seat Programme** and work continues on problems with accessing the **Changing Places lavatories** in the area, as well as access to the National Trust path to Fountains Abbey. The Forum are delighted with the donation from C3 of a **Gopro Camera** which can be affixed to a wheel chair and will enable the continuation of mapping accessibility in Boroughbridge and Ripon.



HELP Friendship & Exercise Club **Thursdays 12.30pm - 2pm, St Wilfrids Community Centre**, Do you know anyone who would enjoy a chat, a cuppa and 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>



**On 10- 18 November 2025 there will be an Exhibition for the Conference of the Parties (COP) Number 30 in the Cathedral.**

COP30, is the decision-making body of the signatories to the United Nations Framework on Combating Climate Change (UNFCCC). It will be held in Belem, Brazil from 10 -21 November. The key proposal for discussion is on the Belem Action Mechanism for a Just Transition. Key

to any action plan is to move monies between and within countries to enable adaptation to changing climate conditions. Please pray for wisdom, compassion and love to guide national leaders and scientists and other delegates in the deliberations.

**21/22 November – There will be a Christian Aid stall of 'preloved goods' at the Ripon Cathedral Xmas Fayre.** If you have seen the stall before, you will know what bargains there are...if you haven't seen it, you are in for a treat! All money raised goes to Christian Aid. Come along and nab a bargain and help the work of this amazing global Christian charity.

Another way to support Christian Aid is to attend ***Moonlight Melodies with Chris Crow*** Easy listening hits from the 50s to the 90s (and accompanying Quiz).

Great music, great company and a light soup supper making a fantastic evening.

**Holy Trinity Arches. Tickets at £10 available from David Wells 07785 228462.**



**For More Information About Supporting our C3 Partners this Christmas Season see the following pages for Xmas Events at THE WALLED GARDEN Ideas on ways to help to provide a Happy Christmas at THE RIPON YMCA and THE RIPON SALVATION ARMY**

**OUR C3 CHARITIES APPRECIATE ALL THE SUPPORT THEY RECEIVE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR FROM THE CATHEDRAL FAMILY**

# Christmas

at Ripon Walled Garden



**OPEN 7 DAYS**

[Pre-Order Now](#)

**VISIT SANTA**

**WREATHS**

**PREMIUM CHRISTMAS TREES**

**POTTED TREES**

**HAMPERS**

**CHRISTMAS GIFTS**

**CHRISTMAS CAKES**

**DECORATIONS**

**FESTIVE SNACKS**

**WARM SPICED DRINKS**

**MINCE PIES**

When choosing to shop with us at Christmas, you are supporting local people with learning and physical disabilities. Registered Charity No:1049030

**JOIN US FOR A FESTIVE FAMILY EXPERIENCE!**



# *Be a Star and donate a gift*



Could you help us make Christmas special for those who may have little or nothing under the tree on Christmas morning? At Ripon Salvation Army we work with support workers to help local families in need.

## What we need?

We need new and unwrapped festive sweets and chocolates, toys, vouchers, toiletry gift sets (smellies) and would be grateful for specific gifts. Please see our website for exactly what we need.

[www.salvationarmy.org.uk/ripon](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/ripon)

## When we need it?

We need all donations **before Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December**. We know this seems early, but gifts need to be unpacked, sorted, packed up for families, delivered to families all before the big day.

Where can presents can be dropped off? Presents can be dropped off at the Cathedral in the special basket provided by the West Door

For further information

Check our website [www.salvationarmy.org.uk/Ripon](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/Ripon)

Our Facebook page - The Salvation Army Church Ripon UK

Email [ripon@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:ripon@salvationarmy.org.uk)

Telephone 01765 692657



The Salvation Army Trustee Company acting as Trustee of The Salvation Army Trust (Central Funds). A Christian Church and Registered Charity No. 214779 and in Scotland SC009359. The Salvation Army Territorial Headquarters, 1 Champion Park, London SE5 8FJ.



This Christmas, help us to  
remember  
the young people  
living at the Ripon YMCA.  
Christmas can be a lonely time for them.

The wonderful staff at the Ripon YMCA  
Need YOUR HELP in providing a bit of Christmas Cheer!  
Their tenants are 80% young men,  
but don't forget the women need  
Christmas cheer too!



**Great gift ideas include:**

- Gift sets of Toiletries (Mainly for the men)
- Shower Gel (NOT bubble bath)
- NEW warm socks and blankets
- New dressing gowns
- Mugs
- Gift Vouchers
- Adult colouring books (not childrens ones)  
and Coloured pencils



**Friends of Ripon Cathedral**  
**Lecture 16<sup>th</sup> November 2.00pm**  
**Neil Hanson**

**A well-known author and raconteur**

***Tales of Life at the Highest Pub in Britain by the former owner***

held at Thorpe Prebend House, High St Agnesgate

Ripon HG4 1QR

Lectures start at 2.00pm followed by light refreshments

Free entry

## CATHEDRAL GIFT SHOP

**Opening Hours:** Mon-Sat 10-4; Sun 12-4. Tel: 01765 601347

We are very pleased to announce that in the Cathedral Giftshop we now have stocks of the long awaited book 'Divine Light' by Janet Gough, a book showcasing the best of English Cathedral's stained glass windows, and featuring our own Saint Wilfrid window on page 99. The books are £14.95 and displayed in the Giftshop with a selection of other Wilfrid merchandise. Just in time for Christmas !



We are 'stocking' a few new titles on the Giftshop book shelves, ideal Christmas presents, or a gift for oneself. The Archbishop of York's Advent Book of 2025 is a beautiful book by Guli Francis-Dehqani called Listening to the Music of the Soul. An absolute bargain for £9.99 because not only does it contain some very touching words to inspire, but poetry, and music too (via the QR codes throughout the book).

We also have copies of a new book from Rowan Williams, and Jane Christmas (an absolute 'cracker'!).

**Advent Candles** All at £4.50 each and with Ripon Cathedral written at the bottom. Perfect gifts for friends and relatives. In addition to the lovely advent candles featured these four designs are also available on ceramic tree decorations. They cost just £6. We also have the circular Ripon Cathedral decoration (unbreakable) for £3.50.



For Christmas gifts please consider a look in the Cathedral shop, we have some gorgeous Cashmere blend scarves, Kew Gardens Botanicals hand creams and soaps from Yorkshire Company Fickerts, and a lovely selection of aromatic diffusers from local company Dales Diffusers, and more besides. All very affordable and supporting our Cathedral.

The shop are stocking a lovely selection of bespoke Christmas decorations, these baubles come in red, silver or gold, and in a matt finish, shiny or glittery. £5 includes gift box.



## 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)

### Magdalen Fellowship of Healing + Prayer:

A welcoming ecumenical community, rooted in Ripon's long tradition of prayer and contemplation. We gather in meditation and reflection, holding one another and the wider world in Christ's healing presence. Meets Mondays 10:30am & 3rd Sundays 5:30pm at St John's, Sharow — all welcome. Find us online // 07449835503 // [MagdalenFellowship@outlook.com](mailto:MagdalenFellowship@outlook.com)

**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](mailto:cathedraladmin@riponcathedral.org.uk)

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

Or visit our website: [www.riponcathedral.org.uk](http://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](mailto:michelegee@riponcathedral.org.uk)