

RIPON CATHEDRAL

MARCH-APRIL NEWSLETTER



The Dean: The Very Revd John Dobson DL
Canon in Residence: Canon Matthew Pollard (March)
Canon Wendy Dalrymple (April)

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

A NOTE FROM THE DEAN



The Cross of Christ – revealing hope for the creation, nation, and us

The cross is the great Christian symbol which has the power to unite and point us to the foundation of all hope. It reminds us of the transforming power of the Christian faith for creation, our nation and us. There is the possibility of hope for everyone and everything within creation itself, except those forces that would diminish the fulness of life that God wishes for all. The following few weeks provide more than one opportunity for us to reflect on this.

Good Friday – the revelation of divine love

The cross, and perhaps especially the crucifix (the cross containing the crucified Christ), reveals the extent of divine love and faithfulness to us which Christ revealed in his crucifixion. This was not easy for him. In the garden he prayed that ‘this cup’ might be removed from him, but not at the cost of failing his Father and compromising his own integrity. On the cross, he was heard to say, ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me.’ Could it be that even his sense of God’s presence and his trust in God’s love for him had fled. I wonder, have we ever felt like that? Perhaps it is some comfort to know that Christ can sympathise. Even so, he could also speak a final word of triumph, ‘It is finished.’ And he could say, faithful in the end, ‘Father, into your hands, I commend my spirit.’ Ultimately, faith is about finding the courage to place all our concerns into the hands of God and trusting in his faithfulness.

The cross, or crucifix, encourages us to trust God, because it reveals the extent of his love for us. Some Christians have thought that it is utterly impossible to contemplate that God was suffering when Jesus was on the cross. Some of us cannot make sense of the crucifixion if he wasn’t. Indeed, in revealing the true nature of God, Jesus at that appalling moment in history revealed what it is like for God all the time.

This thought is expressed wonderfully in a poem, often sung as a hymn, by Canon W. H. Vanston.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Morning glory, starlit sky,
Soaring music, scholar's truth,
Flight of swallows, autumn leaves,
Memory's treasure, grace of youth: | 2 Open are the gifts of God,
Gifts of love to mind and sense;
Hidden is love's agony,
Love's endeavour, love's expense |
| 3 Love that gives, gives evermore,
Gives with zeal, with eager hands,
Spares not, keeps not, all outpours,
Ventures all, its all expends. | 4 Drained is love in making full,
Bound in setting others free,
Poor in making many rich,
Weak in giving power to be. |
| 5 Therefore he who shows us God
Helpless hangs upon the tree;
And the nails and crown of thorns
Tell of what God's love must be. | 6 Here is God, no monarch he,
Throned in easy state to reign;
Here is God, whose arms of love,
Aching, spent, the world sustain. |

This is the nature of the true, loving, sustaining God, revealed perfectly in our crucified Lord.

Easter – the assurance of Christ's victory over sin and death

The cross speaks of triumph. Sin and death were destroyed – the crucified Christ could not remain dead. At Easter, we celebrate the foundation of our Christian faith, believing this is the source of all hope for the world. St. Paul helps us to realise that this resurrection hope is for the whole of creation, not just the world, not just human society, not just each one of us. He could write to the Romans, 'I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing... creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.' (Romans 8:18-21)

This Easter, we have added excitement at Ripon Cathedral resulting from the Festal Eucharist being broadcast live on BBC One – I am very grateful for all the preparations that are taking place for this, and for the hard work being done by all departments within the cathedral, not least music and vergers. But the significance of our Easter celebrations are not changed by the broadcast. The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead transformed everything, giving the assurance that in the end all creation will be reconciled with God.

T.S.Eliot is often quoted at Easter, as in Little Gidding he quoted Mother Julian of Norwich, 'And all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.' The hope which Jesus' resurrection brings does not dismiss the trials and difficulties of life in a world, in a creation, which is still far from perfect. But it does assert that in his resurrection, Christ has shown once and for all that God's love will not fail us and all powers of sin and death will be destroyed. This is the message of the cross.

St. George's Day

Our national flag will fly above the Cathedral on St George's Day. It has become the cause of much debate over the last year. Thankfully, we have begun to hear reminders, including from bishops, that this flag, like the union flag, presents the cross of Christ. This is something I preached about last September. The flag, with its cross, invites those who look upon it to consider the self-sacrificing love for all people and all creation, seen in Jesus. It invites us as a nation to remember the difference made by Christ's death and resurrection, and that this is for the benefit of all.

The legends of St. George which still commend him to be a nation's patron saint are ones which speak of evil being overcome by those with the courage to do the righteous, God-like thing – just as Jesus did most supremely and most perfectly. St. George protected and saved the vulnerable from evil threat. And as Jesus showed in his living, as well as his dying, revealing God's ways involved demonstrating God's love in practical ways to the needy and the outcast. So it is that following the way of Christ can be demanding, as well as being ultimately liberating and life-giving. At its best this has a positive impact on those around us, whatever their background, or creed, or colour. The person in need, the person on the fringes, the foreigner are all recognised as children of the living God from whom Christ was prepared to go to the cross. Our national flag reminds us that this is as true for us as a nation as it is for us as individuals.

Ten years of Growing God's Kingdom – in the way of the cross

Christ's Church, at its best, has been trying to follow the way of his cross and help further his kingdom of justice and peace for two millennia. This year at Ripon Cathedral, however, we will be marking ten years of 'Growing God's Kingdom' being our vision for serving Christ in our city, region and diocese. We aim to serve the world in ways consistent with Christ's own example, ways that will reveal God's loving nature and enable people to respond in love and worship.

The work of C3 (Cathedral Community Connections) has made a positive difference to many in Ripon by building up partnerships of practical care between the cathedral community and local charities. The development of Ripon Cathedral Rural Forum has succeeded in bringing 40 regional organisations together on a regular basis to explore and respond to issues facing rural communities and businesses, not least farmers. From this have sprung the Ripon Cathedral Rural Housing Forum and the Ripon Cathedral Rural Ministry Forum.

We could also reflect on the development of our brilliant education team, our ministry of welcome and sharing the cathedral's built and spiritual heritage, and on our efforts to care more responsibly for creation and the environment. This is all in addition to the sustaining of worship for growing numbers and the strengthening of our music and choir.

It could be said that in all that we do through Growing God's Kingdom, we are seeking to be faithful to Christ and to lift his cross high. This year we will spend some time prayerfully reviewing our vision and strategy, so that we might discern God's calling of us as a cathedral for the next decade.

The Archbishop of Canterbury

Speaking of discerning God's calling, we give thanks that Sarah Mullally has been called by God to be the Archbishop of Canterbury. We give thanks for the gifts and experience that she brings to this, and we pray for her and the whole Church as she begins this significant ministry. I'm delighted to say that I will be at the service in Canterbury Cathedral, in part representing the cathedral, as she takes the Chair of St. Augustine on 25th March. Canon Michael will also be present representing the Church of England's Liturgical Commission.

New Stewardship Officer

I am delighted that Canon Andrew Kitchingman has accepted the invitation to become our new Stewardship Officer, an invitation that had the support of both the Growth Committee and the Chapter. He has done such a wonderful job for us as Canon Treasurer over the last nine years, we were keen to retain his engagement with cathedral finances.

We are very grateful to Andrew for being willing to take on this important ministry, encouraging and enabling all regular worshippers to see stewardship as an essential part of Christian discipleship as well as a significant source of finance and skills to further Christ's mission in and through the cathedral.

Fundamentals of Christianity: confirmation preparation and a refresher

I am delighted that so many people are engaging with Lent courses and lectures, as well as Lenten reading and spiritual exercises. I am equally delighted that people of all generations are coming forward to explore confirmation. Details about the different courses being offered by the cathedral clergy are available on the website. The course that I am offering is not only a route to confirmation, but also as an opportunity for explorers (people who are new to Christianity or who wish to learn more about it) and those who would like a refresher, possibly decades after being baptised and confirmed. All are welcome!

With prayers and good wishes for a fruitful Lent and glorious Easter
Dean John



Introducing our new Cathedral Stewardship Officer

Many of you will be familiar with Andrew Kitchingman in his long service as a member of the Cathedral Chapter. Having laid down that responsibility, Andrew is continuing to offer his time in this new role of Stewardship Officer. This involves helping members of our worshipping community find the most appropriate ways for them to be able to give financially to the mission, ministry, and sustainability of our Cathedral.

Andrew writes: “I was pleased to be asked by Dean John to become Ripon Cathedral’s new Stewardship Officer. After 9 years as Canon Treasurer, I know how hard it is not just to balance the books but to find the resources to enable the Cathedral to deliver its mission to the very best. In the coming months and years, I will be working to encourage our regular congregations to give in a way that contributes towards the growth and sustainability of our shared mission. We all have different financial circumstances, but I believe we can all choose to give a percentage of our income and I believe strongly in leading by example. I follow the principle of tithes, giving 10% of my income to charities including the cathedral, a practice I know others do too. I look forward to discussing with as many of you as possible how together we can give generously and continue to grow God’s Kingdom through Ripon Cathedral”

We will be thinking further about stewardship in the coming months so look out for our Season of Stewardship which launches at the end of May, but for now, please speak to Andrew if you would like to know more about Cathedral finance, what our budget looks like, how we spend the money we receive and how you can give.

NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

As I write, the BBC Radio 3 Broadcast is still fresh in the memory with much positive affirmation from many, including the BBC themselves as well as many on social media. The choir excelled themselves, the readers read passages very well and the prayers were appreciated by many. Plans are now continuing afoot for the live television broadcast for ester day and many more details about the practicalities will be revealed as things become clearer.

Amidst all this excitement it was a sad occasion when we said farewell to Ruth Sladden as a lay clerk following 12 years as an alto in the choir. Prior to her appointment she was a chorister parent and will continue deputising from time to time on the back row. Ruth has been an exemplary member of staff and contributed with alacrity under three directors of music, two choir CD’s and choir tours both international and domestic. The choir are on their well-earned half-term break as I write and will soon be back preparing for Lent, Holy Week and Easter. We are continuing to look for people who could help with chorister supervision from time to time and if this is something that might be of interest to you, please do get in touch.

Confirmation at Ripon Cathedral Sunday 7th June 2026

Confirmation is a special church service in which a person confirms the promises that were made when they were baptized, affirming as a young person or adult promises previously made by parents and godparents. Or if you haven't been baptised making the promises for the first time. Confirmation services are always led by a Bishop and this year Bishop Anna will be joining us.

She will lay her hands on your head and ask God's Holy Spirit to give you the strength and commitment to live God's way. You don't have to pass a test to be confirmed, or to feel like you understand everything there is to know about the bible, the church of living as a Christian – this is a lifetime of discovery. But it is a moment to say, this is the path I wish to tread and as a Christian community we will be there to promise to support and pray for you.

If you would like to think about taking this step in your faith please register with one of the following people to sign up for a series of preparation sessions. Each one is slightly different in style and content but over 5 or 6 sessions will help you prepare for this special day and give you tools to help you continue in your Christian journey.

Adult Preparation Sessions

please choose from one of the following options

Sunday afternoons 4.30pm starting 22nd March
contact: canonmatthew@riponcathedral.org.uk

Tuesday evenings 7.30pm starting 14th April
contact: canonwendy@ripncathedral.org.uk

Wednesday afternoons 3.30pm starting 1st April
contact: judithbustard@riponcathedral.org.uk

Children and Teenagers - aged 11 – 18

Sunday afternoons 4.30pm starting 22nd March
contact: canonmichael@riponcathedral.org.uk

NEWS FROM THE EDUCATION TEAM

Thank you for teaching us about Ripon cathedral and how to pray – hearing the Lord's Prayer in Anglo Saxon fascinating. You all made are trip so interesting. It felt so peaceful at Ripon cathedral, and it was a lovely experience for our whole class. We think we're speaking for everyone when we say we learnt a lot and we had an amazing day it was very fun doing the stem activities, learning about Saint Wilfrid and even exploring this wonderful cathedral. We all enjoyed the tour of the cathedral, thank you to Canon Matthew for showing us different parts of the cathedral including the font and the Chapel of the Holy Spirit with the incense burning, it was interesting. Everyone loved dressing up and felt in character. We were sad to leave but we all got something special from the gift shop to remember this wonderful and amazing trip by.

Florence: I really enjoyed rolling the books and also the other STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) activities. Part of our Anglo-Saxon workshop involves using these skills thinking of how weights were moved and arches constructed.

Rory: I really enjoyed it and I learnt a lot about the crypt and what pilgrims wore.

Albert: I loved the incense and the bread that looked like wafer paper and tasted delicious also I my favourite thing was making arches and dressing up.

Rafferty: I loved the tour and just being inside the vast building of the cathedral gave me a feeling of holiness. Thank you so much the whole day was amazing.

Thank you so much, we hope to visit again soon. From Emilia, Rafferty and everyone else in year 6 at Terrington Hall School.





RIPON
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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.



To join our Children & Families Facebook page use QR code.



To sign up to regular emails please contact:

BethWickenden@riponcathedral.org.uk

* drop-off possible for school-age children

RIPONCATHEDRAL.ORG.UK/FAMILY/



NEWS FROM CHILDREN & FAMILIES OFFICER

During the first half of the spring term **Mustard Seeds** (our younger Children's Church group) navigated the leap from Baby Jesus to Grown-Up Jesus as we 'woke in the Light of God' during Epiphany and Candlemas, called out 'Get ready for God!' with John the Baptist, and then went down into the river and out into the wilderness with Jesus! The children have responded to this heady mix brilliantly and we are now all ready for our Lenten Journey to the Cross. Meanwhile in **Mighty Trees** the older children have been grappling with issues of hope, justice and worshipful hearts. We'll all come together on Easter morning to celebrate the Risen Jesus and the joy of new life.



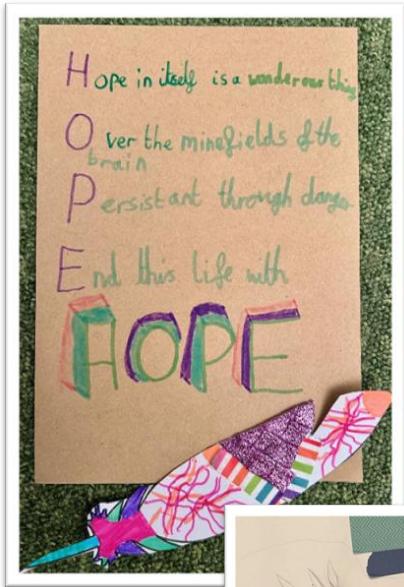
In **Cathedral Club** (our after-school club at the Cathedral Primary School) we have explored hope, using some Bible verses as our starting point:

"Those who **hope** in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles." (Isaiah 40:31)

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a **hope**." (Jeremiah 29:11)

"Be strong and take heart, all you who **hope** in the LORD." (Psalm 31:24)

Amongst other things, the children have begun a beautiful collage picture of an eagle, expertly drawn by Levi, and have made courage-catcher hearts. 'Simon Says', 'keepy-
uppy' and Jenga have all been exuberantly played, and many biscuits have been eaten! The children love to be helpers, passing around snacks or Bible verses to go onto keyrings, as well as taking it in turns to lead prayers at the end of each session.



Children's Easter Holiday Activity Morning

Mark Holy Week with us through creative, hands-on children's activities as we explore the story of Easter together.

Tuesday 31 March
10.30am-12pm

- **Make your own Easter baskets**
- **Create decorative crosses**
- **And much more!**

£4 per child

refreshments
included

*(Babies and young
toddlers free)*

**Scan the QR
code to book**



Informal Easter Communion

Sunday 5 April, 9.30am - 11am
Thorpe Prebend House

*Led by the Revd Canon Wendy Dalrymple
and the Children's Church Team*

Join us on Easter Sunday for this informal communion service which will include games, craft, storytelling, song and an Easter Egg hunt with the option to join in the end of the cathedral service for a final blessing from the Dean.

Aimed at children aged 0 – 12 with their parents/carers. Please note, on this occasion, one adult must remain with each family group.



**SCAN THE
QR CODE
TO REGISTER**



Holy Week & Easter at Ripon Cathedral



Sunday March 29 - Sunday April 5

The Very Revd Jerry Lepine conducts us through Holy Week

Palm Sunday March 29

10.10am: Procession from Market Square

10.30am: Sung Eucharist at the cathedral

5.30pm Olivet to Calvary: Come and Sing!

Monday - Wednesday March 30 - April 1

7.30pm Said Compline

Maundy Thursday April 2

7.30pm Sung Eucharist followed by the Watch to midnight

Good Friday April 3

10.30am Journey to Jerusalem

12noon Preaching on the Cross

1.30pm Good Friday Liturgy

Easter Eve April 4

7.30pm Easter Eve Vigil

Easter Day April 5

8am Holy Communion

10am Festal Eucharist, please get your free tickets from our website

12.30pm Holy Communion

3.30pm Festal Evensong

www.riponcathedral.org.uk

Fundamentals of Christianity

A 5-Session Series
with **The Dean**

Ideal for:

- Preparation for Confirmation
- A refresher course
- Anyone wishing to explore the faith -
with no obligation or commitment required

Interested?

Please contact Judith Bustard

Judithbustard@riponcathedral.org.uk

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**Do you want a more equal, diverse
and inclusive C of E?**



**For the Church of England
in Leeds Diocese**

**Together in Leeds Diocese is a network of local people
working for inclusion and equality in the Church of
England.**

**Join us online on
Wednesday 11th March @ 7.30pm**

**There will be Deanery and General Synod elections this year so come
and find out more about how you can get involved. Hear from National
Together Co-ordinator Nic Tall and meet your current General Synod
representatives.**

For more information and Zoom details email: togetherinleeds@gmail.com



Ripon Cathedral Spring Home & Garden Fair

Saturday 18 April 2026, 10am - 4pm

Join us in the stunning Ripon Cathedral on Saturday 18 April 2026 from 10am - 4pm for a day filled with incredible food, inspiring home furnishings plus stunning garden plants and accessories.

The Spring Fair raises vital funds for the cathedral's mission to serve the people and communities of North Yorkshire and the Diocese of Leeds.

Come and embrace the spirit of the season with us in the cathedral.



Tickets £5

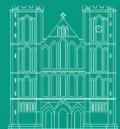
Under 16s free, must be accompanied by an adult



billy

Scan here to book

riponcathedral.org.uk



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RIPON CATHEDRAL SHOP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Join our friendly volunteer team

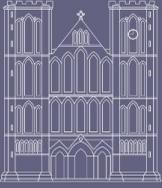


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Interested? Get in touch



shopmanager@riponcathedral.org.uk



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Parish Visit to the Auckland Project

Saturday 25th April 2026



- Pick-up at 9.30am, **Ripon Cathedral**
(Procters Coaches)
- Arrival at 10.30am, **Auckland Castle**,
Visit to Auckland Castle and Faith Museum
- Return pick-up at 4pm, arrival back at
Ripon Cathedral by 5pm

What's Included

- Visit to Auckland Castle, home of the Prince Bishops and recently refurbished
- Visit to The Faith Museum, charting the history of faith through ages
- Refreshment facilities available at the site

Cost

£31 for coach and admission to the Auckland Project

Discount available for Historic House members

SCAN THE QR CODE TO FILL OUT THE FORM

If you have any queries, please contact Ripon Cathedral Office on:

email cathedraladmin@riponcathedral.org.uk

or call **01765 603462**



GOLDEN WEDDING SERVICE

Were you married in 1976 or earlier?

If you are celebrating your Golden Wedding or even a longer time together, Ripon Cathedral warmly invites you to share in this special service of thanksgiving and blessing, to renew your vows and to reflect on and celebrate your many years of married life.

If you would like to apply for tickets to attend this unique service (regardless of where you were married or where you are now living)

Scan the QR code for
more details and to
apply



Use you phone's
camera to scan the
code

cathedraladmin@riponcathedral.org.uk

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Sunday
7th June 2026
3.30pm



Mothers' Union at 150

This year we celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the foundation of the Mothers' Union by Mary Sumner. Mary Sumner saw the need for an organisation which would bring women together for mutual support in confronting social issues and encouraging loving Christian family life. That need still exists today and Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Leeds works in parishes and communities to provide care and support for families, to campaign against poverty and injustice and to give women around the world a voice.



In what was originally the Diocese of Ripon, Mothers' Union has existed for most of those 150 years. Branches opened in the diocese as early as 1885. The earliest records show 28 branches with 1446 members. Some members, drawn mainly from middle class families, were 'subscribing members' who paid a fee to support the work. Others were 'ordinary' members for whom life could be hard and who did not contribute financially. By the outbreak of World War I membership in the Diocese had grown to 3,000. The then President appealed for more ladies to come forward to train as speakers so that they could 'speak simple, homely words to our mothers'. The role of women in society saw huge changes during the War: women took on work which had previously been done by their menfolk who were now fighting in the trenches. On the domestic front, members of Mothers' Union were to be found making socks and shirts for the soldiers at the front as well as all the items needed to clothe patients in the military hospitals. At the end of the war, MU was important in helping to identify the social needs of the post war era. The call for votes for women and for recognition of the contribution the women had made to life at home during the war was to be heard loud and clear in the years immediately after the war.

In 1920 it was agreed that all members would pay a contribution towards the costs of the organisation so that all would feel that they had a share in those costs. The contributions amounted to 6d per year: 1d to the central organisation, 3d to the Diocese and 2d to the local branch. In many ways the structure is much the same today. Members of MU pay a subscription of which approximately 2/3 goes to the central charity at Mary Sumner House in London for MU worldwide projects. 1/3

goes to the Diocese to support Diocesan work and local branches raise their own funds in support of their local needs.

The creation of MU as a 'union' for women was an important social statement in 1876. Whilst the name may seem old fashioned now, our origins are to be found in a time when unions for men, specifically for working men, were on the rise. For women to claim the same right as their menfolk was a radical move. 150 years on, women across the world are still fighting for equal recognition, for education, respect and an end to poverty, injustice and violence against women and girls.

There has been unbroken service to the community in Ripon for more than 140 years. The Ripon branch was founded in 1917 at the height of the First World War. Today we join 4 million members in 84 countries who continue to support family life in practical ways. Here in the Ripon episcopal area we provide Away From It All holidays for needy families in two caravans at Filey and activity boards for the Visitors' Centre at Deerbolt prison. Our crafters knit items for neo-natal and maternity units in local hospitals, trauma teddies for use by the emergency services. We collect toiletries, clothes, household items or gifts as needed for women's refuges and care homes. We campaign against gender violence and domestic abuse - in 2025 hosting an exhibition of paintings in the Cathedral in support of the White Ribbon Campaign. 150 years on from Mary Sumner's vision, wherever there is a need for an end to violence, poverty or injustice, Mothers' Union will always be there to help.



Friends of Ripon Cathedral Programme of Events March-May 2026

Lectures start at 2.00pm followed by light refreshments and are held on Sunday afternoons at Holy Trinity Church

Sunday 15th March	Alison Wrobel	Masters & Servants in Tudor Britain
Saturday 25th April 9.30-12.30 <i>Booking forms available nearer the time</i>	Pilgrimage: medieval to modern a) John Beal – medieval pilgrimage in Yorkshire b) Sophie Weston – The medieval pilgrim route to Santiago de Compostela – the Camino	
Thursday 21st May <i>Booking forms available nearer the time</i>	Visit to Bridlington Priory	A guided tour of the Priory building

Five-day Pilgrimage on the English Camino

24.08.2026 to 28.08.2026

Ripon Cathedral is planning a pilgrimage from Bishop Auckland back to Ripon beginning on Monday 24th August 2026. It will follow the official route of the English Camino, which eventually leads all the way to Santiago de Compostella in North-west Spain. This will be a five-day walk, from Monday to Friday. Each day will cover a distance of between 10 to 15 miles.

The stages of the walk are as follows:

Monday: Bishop Auckland to Gainford

Tuesday: Gainford to Richmond

Wednesday: Richmond to Leyburn

Thursday: Leyburn to Masham

Friday: Masham to Ripon Cathedral.

It's possible to join in in different ways according to your lifestyle. Some may wish to book accommodation for each night of the route, starting on the Sunday night in Bishop Auckland. Some may wish to shuttle backwards and forwards to walk each day. Some may wish not to walk every day, perhaps just for one or two. Some may wish to book an evening meal with the group before returning home. Some may wish to get straight back.

What we're asking for at this stage is for people to register an interest. Although no final commitment is yet sought, it would be useful to know if you are mindful to want to join a group booking for the evening meals.

If you are interested in taking part in the pilgrimage, please get in touch with the Cathedral's Governance Officer, Charlie Stewart, either by emailing governanceofficer@riponcathedral.org.uk or telephone her at the Cathedral Office on 01765 603462. Although no final commitment is yet sought, it would be useful to know if you are mindful to want to join a group booking for the evening meals.

GROWING GREENER – RIPON CATHEDRAL ENVIRONMENT NEWS

THE WONDER OF NATURE – seen right here in our Cathedral Grounds

A Lenten Reflection by Loretta Williams of the Eco Action Group



In about 1992, Ann Scott (mother of Ed, our senior Acolyte and a great friend of mine) planted a handful of early flowering cyclamen (*cyclamen coum*) around her husband's memorial tablet.

That was 34 years ago. I hope you will have time to go out of the South Door and admire the cyclamen around the copper beech tree, growing well and spreading each year.

Cyclamen have a fail-safe way of spreading their seeds and they have used it for our benefit and thanksgiving for early colour after our grey winter and to provide early pollen and nectar for our valued pollinators.

You might like to look too, at the lower-level Churchyard which was once mown to ground level. When the mowing stopped and it became a Conservation Area – Candlemas Bells (snowdrops) by the hundreds and please look out for primroses – just waiting for our care and respect. Plants will survive and sustain us! Especially with our help! *Thanks be to God.*

5 YEARS to the NZC 2030 GOAL POSTS

This is an ambitious aim by the Church of England and most churches are engaged with the need to work towards NZC 2030 in either small or large steps.

At Ripon Cathedral there is a Buildings and NZC2030 Committee which works to reduce the Cathedral carbon footprint.

There is also an Eco Action Group which aims to engage with members of the congregation who have a wish or a calling to care for creation and sustain and heal the earth. We need more people for inspiration.

Please contact Ros Swaney roslynswaney@gmail.com or Loretta Williams.

SIGNS of SPRING in the SOUTH CHURCHYARD and the CONSERVATION AREA

All bear witness to the power of nature to sustain and heal and prompt us to offer a prayer of thanksgiving.



A Tip from Gardener's World to help Butterflies, which suffer from excessive winter rain - 'As well as nectar, butterflies need foodplants for their caterpillars. In sunshine, grow nettles for small tortoise shell, coma and red admiral, holly and ivy for the holly blue, hops for the comma, thistles and mallows for the painted lady, long grass for the meadow brown, speckled wood, gatekeeper and skippers and alder or purging buckthorn for the brimstone butterfly.'



ENVIRONMENT DATES of SIGNIFICANCE in MARCH and APRIL

During Lent, there are several international dates which you can remember as part of your pledge to be a good steward to the earth and sustain creation. These are ways to join in.

Wednesday 11th March 2.30pm in the Quire of Ripon Cathedral LENT LECTURE – ‘Why Christians Care for Creation’ by Jo Chamberlain

Jo is the Church of England’s National Environment Officer since 2019. She is responsible for taking forward the strategy developed by the CofE’s Environment Working Group, with a focus on the environment as a theological and mission priority. Do come to hear her inspiring talk and the Q & A session.

Monday 9th- Friday 15th March BIG PLASTIC COUNT

The Government has committed to introduce a Deposit Return Scheme on single use plastic in October 2027. But pressure needs to be exerted to fulfill this commitment.

The BIG PLASTIC COUNT asks individual households, communities, schools and businesses to count the plastic consume for one week. This important data is analysed and presented to Government. It is simple to register and to fill in your count at the end of the week. <https://thebigplasticcount.com> **This action in Lent is a link in your life of caring for creation.**

Saturday 23rd March 8.30 – 9.30pm EARTH HOUR



Earth Hour was started in 2007 by WWF to show symbolic support for our planet and to raise awareness of environmental issues.

It became a global movement supported by governments, business and people. In 2023, the Earth Hour campaign asked people everywhere to give 60 minutes of their time to help nature.

Can you pledge 60 minutes to help biodiversity in your home, garden or community?

Wednesday 22nd April – EARTH DAY – celebrated since 1970 and on the interactive map you can see events taking place around the world.



<https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2026/>



ENCOURAGING NEWS about the actions and changes done by churches to become more sustainable can be read every month if you subscribe to The Environment Bulletin. Keep up to date!

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/sign-our-environment-newsletter>

SPRING WILDLIFE GARDENING TIPS *from Lucy Stenbeck, choir parent & mother of 3*

As the winter gives way to the first signs of spring, many of us will be thinking about tackling those outdoor jobs. The choices we make here can make all the difference for local wildlife, so this is somewhere you can easily be more eco-friendly – whether you have a window box or an estate, and whether your style is sleek or rustic.

Easy wins:

- Leave last year's stems until it's really warmed up as small insects may still be hibernating inside – if you have to clear them, leave them in a loose heap for now.
- Choose peat-free compost. Peat bogs are an important carbon sink, helping to reduce the speed of climate change, and cannot recover quickly from commercial removal. Some plant growers grow all of their plants peat-free, so ask at your garden centre which of their suppliers do so.
- Let 'weeds' grow in your lawn – the flowers are great for pollinators plus they look attractive. No Mow May is an easy way to remember when to hold off the cutting and give flowers the opportunity to seed, so you'll get a better show of flowers next year.
- Include native plants alongside your favourites. Natives will support a greater variety of wildlife by forming the base of the food web. Birds foot trefoil, nasturtium, red clover, honesty, marjoram, garlic mustard, foxglove, and lady's smock are important caterpillar food sources. Ivy is an essential source of pollen and nectar for bees, lasting later into autumn than most other plants.²
- Avoid pesticides and weedkillers. These products travel up the food chain and can be catastrophic for our best-loved wildlife such as frogs, owls, and hedgehogs.
- Join a swapping site to move on your spare plants and gain new ones for free – look on social media for local groups, or try Freecycle.

Got less than an hour?

- Put up a nest box. Although many garden birds have already settled in, there's still a chance you might get a late pair moving in if you get a bird box up now. Choose a box with a 25mm round hole for blue tits, 28mm for great tits, or 32mm for house sparrows. Open-fronted boxes are a favourite for blackbirds and robins. Fix it securely to a north- or west-facing wall about 2m off the ground. Avoid any nearby features that might be an easy access route for predators, like a trellis or climbing plants, to give them the best chance of raising chicks.
- Sow wildflower seeds. A window box or a small planter on your doorstep can offer an important stop-off point for butterflies and other pollinators as they pass by, bringing their beauty right to your window. You can buy wildflower seed mixes locally at garden centres and discount shops.
- Set up a log pile. These are a vital habitat for a whole load of wildlife, from fungi to frogs. Use a variety of logs, sticks, and last year's fallen leaves to create a pile with lots of nooks and crannies. You can build your pile anywhere – sunshine or shade, damp or dry. Once it's there, leave it be. It will gradually rot, providing habitats for even more wildlife as it does so.

Over the gate *A farmer's view by Tom Ramsden*

Following such a wet spell of weather (and we may not yet be out of the water) you might expect farmers to be tearing their hair out. In fact the opposite may be true. Wet weather in the spring or autumn, which stops work on the land, can be difficult and demoralising. Wet at this time of year, when it fills the reservoirs and raises the water table is to be expected and welcomed. Last autumn was kind, crops sown then are generally looking well, and providing we have a reasonable spring the prospects for an average harvest in 2026 are good.

More concerning is the abundance of wheat in the world and the depressing effect this is having on the grain trade. We should be thankful that modern farming practices are feeding the world but possibly concerned about what many in the northern hemisphere are eating. A healthy balanced diet with daily exercise and an eye on the calorie intake must be better than little exercise and a diet of processed foods and ready meals. Organic farming reduces yields but improves the quality of what is produced. Regenerative farming is a half-way house between Organic and Conventional. Somewhere in this mix we should be reducing food waste, eating a better diet and caring more about the future of the planet.

Plough Sundays celebrate our connection with the soil. This is fundamental to human happiness. From that springs the connection with our Maker and all that follows from that. This is a time of year for hope; let's hope 2026 is a kind year for all.

Date for your diary

**Coffee Morning
A fundraising event for Christian Aid**

**Friday 15th May 2026
10am-11.30am**

**Thorpe Prebend House, High St Agnesgate
(Behind Ripon Cathedral)**



‘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 or 01765 603462



Our C3 Partners are very busy this Spring!

JENNYRUTH WORKSHOPS SUPPORTS RIPON IN BLOOM

Jennyruth Workshops are working on a huge community project alongside Stuart Martin and Ripon BID, creating a brand new display for Ripon in Bloom. This project will be completed in May, and you'll start to see our creations appearing around Ripon just in time for Ripon in Bloom, we're so proud to be part of something so special for the community!

SPRINGTIME AT THE WALLED GARDEN

Visit the beautiful four-acre historic Walled Garden, Woodland and Orchard.

Its gardens, café/shop and classrooms are more than just lovely places to visit – they are vibrant spaces where people with disabilities learn new skills and grow in independence.

There is so much to enjoy this season, including an **Easter Egg Hunt and our Spring Plant Sales And The Spring Plant Fair on Saturday 16th May,**

Whether you come for coffee in the Walled Garden café, a peaceful walk through the gardens, or to choose plants for spring, your visit truly makes a difference. We look forward to welcoming you and sharing the beauty of the season together.

THE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF RIPON – 14TH MARCH

The Cathedral is joining with North Yorkshire Council, Ripon Library, Ripon Museums and Ripon Community House In celebrating all the voluntary groups and council services that make living in Ripon so wonderful.

Come along and find out about over 50 different organisations Listen to choirs and enjoy the Walled Garden's café.

Entry is free!

NEW THIS YEAR... a special area devoted to services for children and young people. Come and bring the family.

PLEASE KEEP ALL OUR PARTNERS IN YOUR PRAYERS



Support for today, planning for tomorrow



Continuing to Celebrate the TENTH Birthday of C3!

C3 was founded in Autumn 2016:

The aim was to demonstrate Ripon Cathedral's commitment to building God's Kingdom in the local community through practical action and prayer.

Last month we shared some highlights from the first two years of C3. This month we will focus on our next two years and how our work was beginning to attract some attention!

2018 Highlights

- Our work in partnering with local charities attracted national attention when C3 was praised in a survey of English Cathedrals' support for the vulnerable undertaken by Gloucester Cathedral.
- C3 worked with the Harrogate Homeless Project and our own Cathedral Chaplains in developing a leaflet for people seeking emergency housing and food.
- Working with Dementia Forward, C3 delivered several dementia-friendly evensong services.
- C3 supported events for local refugees and asylum seekers and worked with local schools in becoming Schools of Sanctuary.

2019 Highlights

- Together with our partner Ripon YMCA, we hosted an exhibition on homelessness and invited people from across the local area – officials and people working in support services – to come one evening to meet in the transept to view the exhibit and to share ideas.
- We held a very successful Diocesan training day on *Building Dementia Friendly Churches*
- We took part for the first time in *The Sights and Sounds of Ripon* - a daylong celebration of the local services and volunteer agencies that work in the community.
- As our refugee community grew, we hosted meetings, raised money and donated clothing and toys. Our partner Jennyruth Workshop provided their van to transport donations from the congregation to the refugee centre in Hull. We also held a Schools of Sanctuary Service and encouraged all the Ripon schools in becoming Schools of Sanctuary.
- **In the next issue of the Cathedral Newsletter we will highlight what was accomplished in 2020-2021..through COVID and beyond.**

But for the work of C3 to continue and to flourish, WE NEED YOUR HELP. We need more volunteers who would be willing to be on our organising committee, more volunteers who would be willing to help on an occasional basis with one of our activities or on a more regular basis with one of our partners. Please consider how you might like to become involved. For more information please contact us by email at c3@riponcathedral.org.uk



Wine Tasting

A Fundraising event for Christian Aid

Host and wine enthusiast Mike Wherritt, will encourage us to try something different. There will be six wines to taste and all will be available to buy locally. Tasting notes, appetisers and water are included.

Saturday, 9 May 2026

Thorpe Prebend House
18.30 PM - 21.00 PM

£12 Per Person



Tickets Available From
Dorothy & Elaine

dorothygray1152@gmail.com

Elaine.gisbourne@icloud.com



christian
aid



RIPON
CATHEDRAL

YMCA Ripon Jan/Feb 26 Free Weekly Groups

**chat &
challenge!**

Monday

TERM TIME FROM 12TH JAN
3:00PM - 4:30 PM
SPA PARK PAVILLION

TUESDAY

6pm to 7:30pm
Term Time Only
from 13th Jan
at YMCA Hall
5 Water Skellgate

SPARK
Youth Club
Games Crafts Workshops Social

**YOU
MATTER**

WEDNESDAYS

A PLACE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED
16 TO 25 TO HANG OUT, CONNECT,
AND GET HELP WITH LIFE STUFF

4PM TO 6PM - YMCA HALL

THURSDAYS

Drinks - Snacks - Social - Games

3pm to 5pm
Term Time Only From 8th Jan
For Ages 11 to 17

**YMCA
POP-UP
CAFE**

SPA PARK PAVILLION- RIPON

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

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

Cathedral Gift Shop Opening Hours: Mon-Sat 10-5; Sun 12-4.

Tel: 01765 601347