

RIPON CATHEDRAL

MAY-JUNE NEWSLETTER



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

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

A NOTE FROM THE DEAN



Living by World-transforming Easter Faith

Easter Day and the BBC One live broadcast – glorious!

The celebration of Easter Day 2026 will remain in the memory of Ripon Cathedral for years to come thanks to the BBC One broadcast. And it's still available on BBC iPlayer if you want to tune in again!

We were receiving letters, emails, cards, and notes of appreciation for weeks afterwards, all spilling over with enthusiasm and encouragement. The quality of liturgy, music and preaching were all mentioned. There were those who appreciated being able to tune in and worship with others, some were delighted to be re-acquainted with Ripon Cathedral.

It all took a huge amount of detailed planning and preparation, much hard work for staff and volunteers alike. The BBC team was professional, committed and inspirational – as was the cathedral team. And the happy partnership of the two resulted in a broadcast that the producer described as ‘a triumph of broadcasting’ with, in his words again, ‘world-class musicians’. No one in the cathedral disagreed.

Such a glorious outcome is not to be taken for granted. I remain extremely grateful to everyone who played a part, and a very large number of people did so. The whole congregation itself appeared determined to offer its best. Thank you!

For me, one of the important aspects of this ‘triumph of broadcasting’ was that it succeeded in being a sincere act of heart-felt and joyful worship. Easter worship at Ripon Cathedral is always glorious. The real triumph this year was that the professionalism of the BBC personnel ensured that this wasn't spoilt, it was even enhanced. And it enabled millions beyond the cathedral's walls to share in our praises of the God whose unflinching love and faithfulness towards us was seen in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.





Easter Faith encouraging reconciliation and peace – thank God for the Archbishop and King

Our Easter faith has all the potential to transform us and the world for the better. We believe profoundly that by faith in Christ we can already, in this life, begin to share in his risen life. We might call it the life of heaven, or the life of God's kingdom of justice and peace.

St. Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthians, states helpfully that 'God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself'. And we believe that Jesus commissioned his Church to carry on his work. As he said to his disciples the night before he died, 'Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.' (John 14:12) And on the evening of the day of resurrection, the risen Lord appeared to his disciples (except for Thomas who had to wait another week to see him), he said to them, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' Then he breathed on them the gift of his Holy Spirit to equip them for the task. (John 20:19-23).

The world can be transformed, then, by those whose lives are shaped and directed by an Easter faith. At a time when the world can too easily seem as determined as ever to reject the offer of Christ's risen, heavenly life in the here and now, we can be encouraged by those who stand out by putting their faith into practice. Admittedly,

we do not have to tune into the news media for long to be reminded that war and conflict rage at an alarming rate, antisemitism and religious hatred do their appalling worst - including in our own country, and heartbreaking numbers suffer from injustice and other human failings such as racism, gender-based violence and abuse. But! It would be a misguided perspective that saw this lamentable catalogue of human failings as revealing the inevitable nature of our destiny. Easter faith asserts that it will not. And countless acts of kindness, generosity, forgiveness and reconciliation bear witness to it being far from true even in May 2026.

Many people who change the world for the better by living out Easter, Jesus-shaped, faith will never be reported on the news or recorded in newspapers. They still make a difference – as the members of many small, village congregations need to be reminded regularly. But we can all be encouraged when the famous are reported for doing that which can readily be seen to further Christ's reconciling, peace-building work.

How wonderful it was to see the Archbishop of Canterbury (the first female Archbishop of Canterbury!) visit the Pope, wearing the papal ring given by one of his predecessors to one of hers. How wonderful that, despite their differences of doctrine and ecclesiology, they could seek to find common ground and common cause in Christ and his mission. This is surely a reason for celebration by all who would share in Christ's offer of risen life – here and now.

Of equal cause of celebration is the Christian witness seen in the leadership of the King while he and the Queen made their state visit to the USA. Some of us may have thought it unwise or inappropriate for him to go, when friction and differences of opinion were all too evident between our two nations. And yet, while holding to his integrity and values, he spoke of a profound, long-standing friendship which remains essential if, together, the UK and the USA are to help the cause of global peace. Surely, we can recognise this as our Easter faith in action.

Let us thank God for the Archbishop and King, praying that they may inspire many to accept and live out Christ's offer of risen life in the world today.

Celebrating Ten Years of *Growing God's Kingdom* - and planning a review

Growing God's Kingdom, Ripon Cathedral's vision strategy, was first launched in May 2016. This followed an eighteen-month process of consultation and prayerful discernment that engaged over a thousand people across the diocese and region. Its title was intended to reflect our belief that central to Jesus's own mission was turning this world into his kingdom, and that his Church was given the task of carrying on his work. It was clear that there was still much to do – in church and world. We can only conclude that there still is! And yet, here at the cathedral we rejoice in how much has been achieved, by God's grace and with the support of a growing number of people, over the last decade.

After the Covid pandemic, we reviewed the strategy and launched the revised version of *Growing God's Kingdom* to cover 2022-2027. This was launched in May 2022 at

the opening event of our 1350th celebrations. This has helped to sustain growth and development over five main mission strands:

- *Growing the Worshipping Community;*
- *Being a Mother Church of the Diocese and proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom to the region;*
- *Promoting, Developing and Conserving our Spiritual and Built Heritage;*
- *Responding to Human Need in Loving Partnership;*
- *Carbon Net Zero: Striving to Safeguard the Integrity of Creation.*

In addition, it has helped to maintain our strengthened financial health, while leaving no room for complacency. You may remember, a 41-year-old operational financial deficit was eliminated in 2017 – a significant achievement from which we do not wish to backslide.

We are now keen to discern the strategic priorities for the period from 2028. To give time for responsible budgeting and planning, we wish to launch this revised strategy in May 2027. From May 2026, therefore, we will begin a process of consultation and prayerful discernment, asking where God is calling us next. It may be that the main strands of *Growing God's Kingdom* remain the same, but we must always be open to God's prompt and guidance. The Chapter and I would like many people to be involved and contribute. Members of the cathedral's Consultative Council and other strategy specialists have already provided significant help.

More information will be forthcoming – please, do continue to pray for the cathedral and God's calling of us. And, please, do continue to pray the cathedral prayer regularly:

RIPON CATHEDRAL PRAYER

Creator God, you reveal your love for us in Jesus
and sustain us by your Holy Spirit,
by your grace, open our eyes to your presence and our ears to your call,
that united with our patrons St. Peter and St. Wilfrid
and in the whole community of Ripon Cathedral
we may serve your will and see your kingdom grow in this City and Diocese,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Pray for Ripon's bid to be the 'Town of Culture' – a place of pilgrimage

You may have read that Ripon, led by the Uredale Community Partnership (YCP), has submitted an expression of interest in becoming the UK Town of Culture 2028. The press release issued by YCP began as follows:

With a cathedral older than many nations and a cultural landscape including a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Ripon has launched its bid for UK Town of Culture 2028. Officially a city but home to just 17,000 people, Ripon is embracing its scale with the theme "Small City, Big Landscape." Set at the meeting point of three rivers, the city combines its unbroken civic life stretching back over a millennium with a distinctive rural setting.

At the heart of the bid is the idea of “pilgrimage” – a unifying theme of journey, discovery, connection, growth, and healing – shaping a year-long, place-based cultural programme. Pilgrimage also encompasses the idea of Ripon’s close connection to its hinterland, and this bid led by the Uredale Community Partnership reflects that connection.

Charlie Studdy from the Culture and Green Space Working Group for the Uredale Community Partnership and a volunteer for Ripon Theatre Festival helped bring partners together across the city. Charlie said: “Ripon has been a place of pilgrimage since 672 AD. In 2028, we want it to be one again – this time for culture. Our vision is to build on Ripon’s unique, ancient foundations to create a sustainable, culture-led future, using the all-encompassing idea of pilgrimage.”

Pilgrimage has deep roots in Ripon. The 7th-century crypt of St Wilfrid at Ripon Cathedral drew early visitors, a tradition that continues today with the annual Boxing Day pilgrimage to Fountains Abbey. St Wilfrid’s Procession, held each summer, celebrates the city’s founder...

The Dean of Ripon, The Very Reverend John Dobson, chair of the Uredale Community Partnership, said: “Ripon has always been at the heart of a wider rural area and has an impact far beyond the city boundaries. It is wonderful that the Uredale Community Partnership has been the catalyst for this bid and has been able to bring together so many committed partners across the area.” Partners involved in the bid include Ripon Together, Ripon BID, Ripon Civic Society, Ripon Theatre Festival, Ripon Arts Hub, Ripon Cathedral, Ripon YMCA and Ripon Disability Forum, alongside community groups spanning the Ure valley from Masham to the villages of Bishop Monkton and Langthorpe.

I am delighted that so many partners have been motivated to work together with such a sense of common purpose and enthusiasm. This is precisely the sort of development that those of us with an Easter faith should be delighted to see in the city and area. And the choice of pilgrimage as the theme gives us an opportunity to open the eyes of many people to what a vibrant centre of pilgrimage the cathedral is today.

Please, pray for the city, Uredale area and this venture. If we are successful at this stage, UCP will receive £60,000 to work up a bid for the main grant. Being able to work together on such a bid would itself be a blessing to the development of this community.

Discerning God’s choice of the next Bishop of Leeds

The discernment is well under way to find God’s choice of the next Bishop of Leeds. The Crown Nominations Commission (CNC) has already met to agree a shortlist of people to be interviewed. Its members next meet on 13th and 14th May. On the latter, Ascension Day, we will be holding a day-long prayer vigil in the cathedral. Please, do join us – in the building or remotely. And if possible, please do join us in the cathedral for the 5.30pm Festal Eucharist at which the choir will be singing.

A new cathedral guidebook: *Wilfrid and Ripon's Anglo-Saxon Crypt* by Joyce Hill

'Ripon has the oldest built fabric of all England's cathedrals!' It's an insight we love to share with people. And we are often surprised by those who know it, and by those who do not know this unique Ripon claim. It is true because St. Wilfrid's Ripon crypt, consecrated in 672, has remained intact, a sacred place of prayer connected to the church above it, ever since. It is quite remarkable and worthy of celebration.

For some time, we have been aware that we do not tell the story of St. Wilfrid's Ripon building project as adequately as we should. People could visit the cathedral and, if too shy to speak to a geode, could leave without knowing anything of the magnificent basilica Wilfrid built, inspired by the churches he saw in Rome as a young man. They could leave without knowing anything of the reason for the crypt, where its stone came from, how it was furnished, and how it has been a faithful, enduring place of prayer through the ups and downs of world history for over 1,350 years. Now, the risk of this sad prospect is much reduced with the publication of *Wilfrid and Ripon's Anglo-Saxon Crypt*.

Joyce Hill's profoundly informative, yet extremely accessible and enjoyable text is complemented by wonderful photos and illustrations, all presented attractively thanks to Helen Tabor's design. People who have known the cathedral for decades will be amongst those who learn something new and come to appreciate the history, heritage and significance of Ripon Cathedral much more.

I am extremely grateful to Joyce for writing this book, to those who have worked with her to produce it, and to the Friends of Ripon Cathedral for funding it. I have no doubt that it will be a popular purchase in the Cathedral Shop for decades to come.



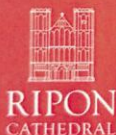
Canon Professor Joyce Hill and Philip Arundel, Chair of the Friends of Ripon Cathedral, with the Dean at the launch of *Wilfrid and Ripon's Anglo-Saxon Crypt* on Thursday 23rd April, the eve of the anniversary of Wilfrid's death at Oundle in 710 AD.

With every blessing
Dean John

**Wilfrid and Ripon's Anglo-Saxon Crypt
Book Now Available**

**INTRODUCTORY
OFFER**

**32 page full
colour**



**Wilfrid and Ripon's
Anglo-Saxon Crypt**

Joyce Hill
University of Leeds

£7.50



**RIPON
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NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

In the last Newsletter I wrote that “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”. That statement still stands if we replace BBC Radio 3 with BBC One. Yet again the clergy, readers, intercessors, servers and choir excelled themselves, and that was because the work behind the scenes was so thorough.

But of course, the Easter broadcast was the culmination of all the events of Palm Sunday Holy Week, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Eve. Following Jesus that whole week from Palm Sunday to the cross and tomb and beyond seemed so meaningful this year giving a lift to Easter Day.

This term the girl choristers will be singing Evensong in York Minster with their own choir and the boy choristers will be going to Durham to sing Evensong in the cathedral alongside their own choir.

Recruitment is beginning again in the local Primary Schools for the new choristers so that we are able to maintain the quality of the choir in the years to come. We are pleased that an Alto Lay clerk has been appointed and Sam Sytsma will be singing at his first service on Sunday 3rd May. Sam joins us with much experience of singing in Cathedral choirs and we are sure that he will settle in very quickly.

The Cathedral Assistant Organist, Alastair Stone, leaves Ripon this summer to join the team at Wells Cathedral and we look forward to his successor George Balfour taking up the reins of Assistant Organist here in Ripon in the Michaelmas term.

Canon Michael Gisbourne



RIPON
CATHEDRAL



Growing God's Kingdom Together

Season of Stewardship

An invitation to prayerfully review our individual giving of time, skill and finance

SEASON OF STEWARDSHIP A MESSAGE FROM OUR CANON PASTOR

I have now marked just over a year of being part of the team at Ripon Cathedral and what a joyous place it is to work and worship. A number of folk have asked me of late if I am enjoying my time here and with my hand on my heart I can say yes!

So many people make this Cathedral and parish buzz with life and with signs of God's Kingdom and so it against that backdrop that I want to introduce to you our 'Season of Stewardship'. Launching on May 24th as part of our Pentecost celebrations and leading up to a service of Thanksgiving on 28th June.

This is an invitation for each one of us to prayerfully review the ways in which we contribute to our shared mission. The gifts that we offer of our money, our time our gifts and skills are all the ways in which we make this place what it is.

Please do pick up a pack and consider what your response might be. For some it will be to recommit to give and do all that you are already doing and for others perhaps it will be an opportunity to start making a regular financial donation to the Cathedral or to increase that gift. For some it might be a chance to offer to volunteer in a new way or to consider contributing a particular skill in one area of our work. We all have something to offer however large or small.

Thank you for your welcome to me over the past year, this is a vibrant place to be part of thanks to all of you.

Canon Wendy Dalrymple

Ripon Cathedral goes on the English Camino

24.08.2026 to 28.08.2026



I am pleased to confirm that sufficient people have expressed an interest in walking the section of the English Camino from Bishop Auckland to Ripon over five days for this to be viable. The pilgrimage is going ahead. It is not too late, though, to join.

It 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.

You don't have to walk every day if you don't want to. You can come home at the end of each day if you wish, or you could stay in a B&B. We are not arranging B&Bs but will let you know what B&Bs are available. We are giving people the option of all eating together in a restaurant at the conclusion of each day. Some may wish to do that; others may wish to go straight home.

If you do wish to join in, and haven't already told us, please contact the Cathedral office on governanceofficer@riponcathedral.org.uk by Friday 22nd May.

Canon Matthew.



RIPON
Cathedral

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 THE CHILDREN & FAMILIES OFFICER

Lent & Easter in Children & Families

During the second half of the spring term **Mustard Seeds** journeyed to the cross through songs, movement and crafts, telling the big stories of Holy Week ahead of time so the stories were given a chance to be fully heard and to settle into our hearts. We waved palm branches, cleared the temple, washed each other's feet, and broke bread together. It was a very special few weeks.



In **Mighty Trees** the older children have been keeping on asking questions (with Nicodemus); they have been wondering 'who am I?' with the Samaritan woman at the well; they have been 'waking up' with Lazarus; and finally beginning the journey to the cross on Palm Sunday.

Our **Holy Week activity morning** welcomed 32 children and their parents/carers to hear the Easter story and get creative and crafty.



On Good Friday we held a very special **Journey to Jerusalem** service in the Quire, led by Canon Wendy. Children were invited to gather on cushions on the floor to hear how Love is Stronger than Everything, we sung hymns and were invited to place a pebble at the foot of the cross and to take a heart in return.



On **Easter Day**, Canon Wendy and the Children's Church team held a very special Informal Easter Communion in Thorpe Prebend House (the cathedral being somewhat busy that day with the BBC) for children and their families. We welcomed 23 children and their parents/carers and had a joyful, singing, crafting, glorious time together!



In **Cathedral Club** we thought about New Life, creating deserts bursting into bloom with watercolours; and something from nothing using junk modelling.



Our new **Midweek Mustard Seeds** (baby/toddler church) has begun its pilot phase, with a few families known to us already, as we test what/where/how might work over the next few weeks. The first session was joyous and we are all looking forward to the next!



As ever, none of the above would be possible without our wonderful team of Children's Church, Cathedral Club and Education volunteers, for which we are so grateful.

Beth Wickenden, Children & Families Officer

April 2026

NEWS FROM THE EDUCATION TEAM

A selection of prayers prepared by pupils from Holy Trinity, Ripon and Outwood Academy, Greystone for our School's service to celebrate the installation of the Most Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally as the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury on 25th March

Dear Lord,

Thankyou for letting Dame Sarah Mullally be the first woman ever to be the Archbishop of Canterbury. Please let her lead the Church of England with hope and peace. May she enjoy her new role as the Archbishop of Canterbury. Let her use her courage, drive, enthusiasm and compassion to lead the Church of England forward.

Dear Lord, we thank people who look out for us and protect us in every way. We thank the people who work in other countries and the people who try to keep us safe. Let world leaders work together to keep us safe. Lord hear our prayer.

Dear God, thank you for being with us in the darkest times. We are all here now in a time of lent, a reflective time, to say sorry for things we have done. As Dame Sarah starts her new job, we will support her with thanks and love.

Please look after her, look after each other and ourselves for where we live. Amen

Dear Lord, we thank people who look out for us and protect us in every way. We thank the people who work in other countries and the people who try to keep us safe. Let world leaders work together to keep us safe. Lord hear our prayer. Amen





ASCENSION DAY

Festal Eucharist

Join us for this special
celebration

Thursday 14th MAY

5.30 pm



RIPON
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40 days after Easter, Christ left
the earth and returned to his
Father in heaven.

Celebrate with us!

RIPONCATHEDRAL.ORG.UK

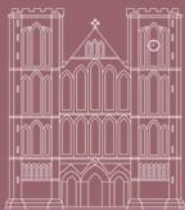


CORPUS CHRISTI

Festal Eucharist

Join us for this special
celebration

Thursday 4th June
5.30pm



RIPON
CATHEDRAL

A special service to celebrate the
Day of thanksgiving for the
Institution of Holy Communion.
Celebrate with us!

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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.

Sunday 7th June 2026, 3.30pm

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 your phone's
camera to
scan the code



**Deadline
to apply for
tickets:
15 May**



RIPON
CATHEDRAL

cathedraladmin@riponcathedral.org.uk

01765 603462

TUDOR MONTH

AT
RIPON CATHEDRAL

JUNE 2026

Join us as we delve into the intrigue, drama
and Yorkshire legacy of the turbulent Tudors.

EXHIBITION

ROYAL PORTRAITS EXHIBITION

Ripon Cathedral has no fewer than 18 portraits of Tudor Royalty. Discover copies from the remarkable collection in the north aisle

TUDOR COSTUMES ON DISPLAY

Explore costumes inspired by clothes Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn would have worn together with a variety of Tudor headdresses

THREE EXPERT LECTURES

Capturing a Queen: The Image of Anne Boleyn

Thursday 11 June, 7.30pm

Dr Owen Emmerson, Assistant Curator, Hever Castle

Conspiracy and Plot in Elizabethan England

Thursday 18 June, 7.30pm

Professor John Cooper, Professor of Early Modern History, University of York

Henry VIII & England's Accidental Protestant Reformation

Thursday 25 June, 7.30pm

Reverend Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch, Professor of History of the Church, University of Oxford

TUDOR GUIDED TOURS

Tuesday 2 June
2.30pm

Tuesday 9 June
2.30pm

Tuesday 30 June
2.30pm



Tickets and more details will available on our website
riponcathedral.org.uk, or scan the QR code



RIPON
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GENERATIONS OF LOVE

A Service of Thanksgiving for All Ages

All are welcome

Sunday 21 June 2026, 5.30PM

Ripon Cathedral (in the quire)

A close-up photograph showing several hands of different ages and skin tones stacked on top of each other, symbolizing unity and love across generations. The hands are positioned in the lower half of the poster, with the text 'riponcathedral.org.uk' overlaid on them.

riponcathedral.org.uk



RIPON
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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: 9th September – 21st October 2026
7.00-9.00pm**

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 or ring 01765 603462**

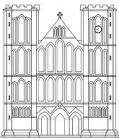
Saturday 31st October 2026

Ripon Cathedral presents...



THE ROLLZERS

Europe's most authentic tribute
to the music of **Sting and The Police**



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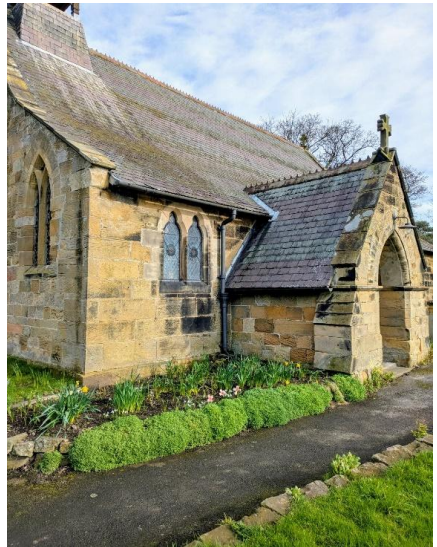
Scan the QR code
for more details
and tickets



St Eloy's - An Embracing Remembrance **Blessed by Ripon Cathedral Minor Canon, the Revd Lynn Thorius**

St Eloy's church in Great Smeaton is unique, bearing the only dedication to this 7th-century saint in England. The patron saint of blacksmiths, Eloy's secular life was associated with decorative memorials and economy in their creation. His church also sits on the Great North Road, where travellers once rested in village inns while horses were reshod. Travel evokes thoughts of pilgrimage and memory, and those were recently rekindled within the Church Committee, partly inspired by a 400-mile walk dedicated to military suicides that passed the parish last autumn. The churchyard's remembrance garden was revived. Perhaps also unique, it now embraces the memory of all suicides, a community too often excluded physically and spiritually from church precincts. Enfolded within roses remembering past parishioners, sits one to remember military suicides. An act of kindness and love has brought them in from their remembrance no-man's land. The garden was blessed by Canon Lynn Thorius after Great Smeaton's Remembrance Service last November.

A 14th-century depiction of Eloy shows him shoeing a horse whose leg he had first restored. Healing a wound is a powerful metaphor. Economical in its creation, a garden facilitates recovery and inclusion for all.



The Remembrance Garden. Small crosses mark the military suicides rose.

Marketing, Publicity and Social Media Role

The Friends of Ripon Cathedral have an opportunity for a person with the above experience to assist them on an occasional basis during the year as well as help in compiling our Annual Report

For further details please contact the Chairman on
chairman@friendsofriponcathedral.org.uk

GROWING GREENER – RIPON CATHEDRAL ENVIRONMENT NEWS

THE GROWING SEASON *by Loretta Williams*

February was cold, wet and grey. March - a little better, brighter and lighter and all of a sudden, it's April and the growing season.

What do you grow?

Those, fortunate enough to have large gardens or allotments, have the joy of growing food and (maybe regretfully) saying goodbye to parsnips, leeks and cabbage. Or flower growers will be looking forward to sweet peas, and all the beauty and fragrance of summer flowers.

But everyone, even with a windowsill or balcony or tiny space can grow something – to eat, to enjoy or to supply nectar and pollen for all our insect pollinators.

Have you ever grown anything for fun – just to see what happens?

I have two date palms - about half a metre high – from dates purchased in Jerusalem on one of my Holy Land pilgrimages. I could make about ten palm crosses!

Or my avocado tree – a metre high with huge leaves – flourishing on a north facing window.

Or my acacia tree, growing well from seeds collected from the Prado gardens in Madrid, with really vicious thorns.

All these remind me of special places and all reminding me of the boundless bounty of God's Creation and our responsibility to nurture it.



Could you place and grow something which would give you joy in this growing season?

What about a sunflower with its power to face the sun as it grows and flowers and with its seeds ready for the birds in winter? Do try and let us know (Ros Swaney or myself) of the results

'THE PEOPLE'S EMERGENCY BRIEFING' – the reality of the climate and nature crises

This film was shown in Ripon at Allhallogate Methodist church on April 10th, just after its release. 75 people watched the film, including the Bishop of Ripon, Rev. Ian Pruen, NYC Cllrs Andy Brown and Barbara Brodigan and RCC Stu Flatley. The Q&A after the film was informed and interesting. **Please try to see this film -**

<https://www.nebriefing.org/the-film>

In November 2025, a **National Emergency Briefing** was held in London. Ten of the UK's leading experts briefed an invited audience of over 1,200 politicians and leaders from business, culture, faith, sport and the media. This briefing set out the implications of climate and nature breakdown for health, food systems, national security and the economy.

Now, thanks to a crowd funding initiative, a 45-minute film 'The People's Emergency Briefing' is available for everyone to see. This engaging film highlights key realities for everyone to understand and features a range of celebrities and people from across the UK. The organisers of the film screenings invite local politicians and influential people to attend. The screenings are followed by discussion to share different points of view and raise ideas about what we can do in our communities and nationally.

Find a local screening to understand the reality of the challenges we need to act on. Here is the link to the map of screenings - <https://www.nebriefing.org/screening-map>

CHURCHES COUNT ON NATURE – CARING FOR GOD'S ACRE – Saturday 6th June, 8am



**CHURCHES
COUNT ON
Nature**

Following the nature count done in 2025, you are invited to help with this year's nature survey of the Cathedral grounds. This an important record for the Cathedral and it also helps us to get the Eco Church Silver Award.

We will meet at the west door at 8am, to maximise the chance of seeing and hearing birds. After the survey, coffee and croissants will be available – hopefully to be eaten in the sunshine on the south side of the Cathedral.

Please contact the Cathedral Office – 01765 603462 - if you wish to take part.

The Cathedral grounds are an important green space in Ripon. It is hoped to develop a management plan for the Conservation Area, which has been lightly managed for 30 years. This has allowed spring bulbs and flowers to proliferate, followed by cow parsley, which is great for summer pollinators. Tim and Emily are the Cathedral ground staff caring for part of the Cathedral estate. The burial area is mown by NYC on an agreed basis, leaving some areas of longer grass.

START SMALL by Steve & Mary Kersys

It all started with a cup of tea.

A cup of tea - the staple drink for so many, a way to start a conversation, a comfort, a ritual. But what do I do with the spent tea?

When we moved to Ripon 5 years ago, a cup of tea was a great way to meet the neighbours, to take a moment to think about our new community and our old friends and to take a break. In our new community spent tea was included, with other food waste, in the general household waste collection. We thought we could try something different so we started a hot composter - an insulated composter that would take garden waste and kitchen left-overs, including our beloved tea.

And so it began....

In the past 5 years we estimate we've composted about 3 tonnes of waste that would have otherwise gone to landfill, converting it to compost. Our interest in eco matters and biodiversity increased and we began thinking about wildlife in the garden and growing sustainably on a newly acquired allotment. The compost came in really

handy! We were new to everything. We had no experience or knowledge, just a nagging feeling that we could do more. So we did.

Here are a few small things we might do to make a change for good.

Water

According to the Royal Horticultural Society, the biggest single thing a household could do to increase biodiversity in their space would be to introduce some sort of water feature. It needn't be a pond or cascading waterfall, it could be as simple as a bucket or old sink. A water feature, no matter how small, has the potential to support newts, frogs, diving beetles, damselflies and dragonflies. Birds and insects will benefit and bees might come and feed too.

Long grass

How about leaving one small area of the garden uncut for a whole year? It might become a biodiversity hotspot. Beetles, spiders, caterpillars and woodlice will all find a home. Hedgehogs might visit for food, shelter or for hibernation. Birds will find a resting or a nesting space. Dandelions are loved by hoverflies. Tiger moth caterpillars feast on their leaves and Goldfinches love their seedheads. Nettles are the sole food source for Peacock butterfly caterpillars. Go wild even in the smallest of spaces, and keep an eye on what happens. Or just stack a few logs and sticks together to see what a brilliant habitat this will become.

Compost

A compost bin or compost heap quickly becomes an eco-system for worms, beetles, flies, woodlice and all manner of creepy crawlies. It's a great way to attract birds too.

So, what about starting something small?

You might start to radically change the biodiversity in your neighbourhood. And just imagine what might happen if 10 people did just one thing? Or a hundred people? Or everyone at the Cathedral? Or everyone in Ripon! What a difference we could all make in God's world.

Why not sit down with a cuppa and decide to do just one thing to grow biodiversity in your community? You never know where it might lead.

ANOTHER WILDLIFE GARDENING TIP! *By Lucy Stenbeck*



Got a few hours and some space?

Make a small pond. Even a tiny water source can be a lifeline for urban wildlife. You can buy a preformed pond to sink into the ground, use a flexible liner, or use an old container such as a barrel, trough, or an old sink.

Remember to add a safe entry/exit point for amphibians and any animals who may fall in, and some pond plants. A cheap solar fountain will help keep the water oxygenated in the warmer months and you can try Hornwort, an oxygenating plant.

YORKSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST 1926 – 2026 <https://www.ywt.org.uk/80-years>
From the smallest acorn to a proud oak tree...



When the chocolatiers and naturalists Sir Francis Terry and Arnold Rowntree founded Yorkshire Naturalists' Trust in 1946 to look after Askham Bog nature reserve in York, they laid a legacy for Yorkshire's wildlife.

Over the last 80 years, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust has flourished too: from a tiny office in the Yorkshire Museum to nearly 200 staff today. Supported by over a thousand volunteers and 44,000 members, the Trust's work ranges from nature reserves to peatland restoration and marine monitoring, and from helping urban communities looking to take action locally to providing incredible wildlife experiences for thousands of visitors.

The need for action to save, protect and restore wildlife has never been so urgent. Nearly 1 in 5 species in Yorkshire have declined by more than 25% in the last 30 years, including species like swifts, willow tits, red squirrels, and water voles. These struggles reflect the crisis happening for nature across the UK, and warn of a future where we could lose the wildlife that makes Yorkshire special.

As a Trust, we continue to campaign and hold power to account in decisions that affect our wild places, which are important for people as well as for wildlife. From lobbying and meeting with politicians at a regional and national level, to planning proposals that could damage our wild places irrevocably, we will make sure our wildlife's voice is heard.

from the YWT website

Rotary Adventurers present

MUSIC FOR UKRAINE

A fundraising concert

Featuring

Sarah Fox (Soprano Soloist)

5 Star Brass Quintet

Lucinda Taylor (Harp)

Ripon Grammar School Young Musicians

Lily Sadler (Ampleforth College)

📍 St John's Church, Sharow

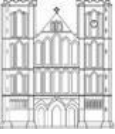
Saturday 27 June 2026 | 7:30pm

Tickets: £17.50 | £10 (under 16s)

Ticket enquiries: 07507 323344

All proceeds to humanitarian aid for Ukraine
(Huddersfield to Ukraine initiative)

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



C3 recently hosted a meeting of members of the **Connecting Ripon Network**

A group of volunteer and council run services whose aim is to improve the Well-being of the people of Ripon

For example, they are involved in the **Help Out Ripon** project creating a bank of local volunteers who enjoy volunteering at a variety of one-off events without the need to make any regular commitment

For more information go to: <https://hadca.org.uk/HelpOutRipon>

Another group working for Ripon is **RIPON TOGETHER**

The past few years they have run Summer Fun Fest in mid August, but it won't happen this year unless they can recruit more volunteers to help.

This is a wonderful week of free activities for local children.

If you could help out in any way, please go to
<https://www.ripontgether.com>



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. In the last 2 newsletters we shared some highlights from the first four years of C3. This month we will focus on our next 2 very challenging years in the midst of the Covid Pandemic.



2020 -2021 Highlights

During the national lockdowns of 2020–21, C3 adapted to meeting online and used the period for reflection on its achievements and future direction. Despite the Covid restrictions, generous congregational support for the **Salvation Army food bank** continued throughout lockdowns.

Our partners responded with creativity and resilience.

- When COVID-19 threatened the future of **Jennyruth Workshops**, staff rapidly introduced new systems to allow work to continue. Limited on-site working operated on a rota, while materials were collected for home use. A carefully planned weekly timetable mirrored workshop activities as closely as possible and introduced new online sessions, including reading groups, quizzes, wellbeing activities and Zoom meetings.
- When the **Walled Garden** closed initially, a successful plant and garden delivery service was launched. Although the tearoom remained shut, the garden, woodland and orchard were well used for socially distanced walks.
- The cancellation of fundraising events placed partners under significant financial strain. But always resourceful and creative, **Dementia Forward** created the online "Mince Pies and Memories" event, enabling people to connect virtually, share memories and raise vital funds while lifting spirits.
- During the various lockdowns, C3 continued to work with our partners whenever possible. Our collaboration with **Ripon City of Sanctuary** flourished, with all Ripon schools actively engaged in the process of becoming Schools of Sanctuary. Head Verger Charlie Brown created a video entitled "**Ripon: a City of Angels**", celebrating the work of our C3 partners. In addition, a new leaflet introducing the work of C3 was produced and circulated throughout the community. Despite the challenges presented by repeated lockdowns, we worked flexibly and creatively to maintain our partnerships and continue our shared work.

But for the work of C3 to continue and to flourish, WE NEED YOUR HELP. We need more volunteers! Please consider how you might like to become involved. For more information please contact us by email at c3@riponcathedral.org.uk



Spring Fair 2026

Bigger and Better than EVER!!



A super FUN family day out for all!
Ripon Walled Garden - Sat 16th May



9.30am -4pm

CIRCUS SKILLS,
BALLOON MODELLING,
REFRESHMENTS, ON
SITE CAFE AND FOOD
STALLS, CHILDREN'S
ORCHARD GAMES, LIVE
MUSIC, TOMBOLA,
PLANT SALES,
INDEPENDENT STALLS,
GLITTER ART , A
WOODLAND WALK AND
SO MUCH MORE!

**DONATION AT THE GATE - ALL PROCEEDS TO RIPON COMMUNITY LINK,
SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH LEARNING AND PHYSICAL DISABILITIES -
REGISTERED CHARITY: 1049030**

Visit our Website to see all our events!!

www.riponcommunitylink.org



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



Coffee Morning

fundraising for Christian Aid, focussing
on Kenya

All Saints Church Kirby Hill
10.00 to Noon

Thursday 21 May 2026
INCLUDING raffle, cake stall
AND

PRELOVED BUT POSH!

Scarves, handbags, shoes and costume
jewellery

christian
aid

CATHEDRAL GIFT SHOP

Opening Hours: Mon-Sat 10-5; Sun 12-4. Tel: 01765 601347

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