



Ripon Cathedral
here for us all in worship



December Newsletter



The Dean: The Very Revd John Dobson
Canon in Residence: The Dean

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A Note from the Dean

Understanding Christianity

A recent encouraging Report from the Church of England Education Office explained how a new resource for children aged five to thirteen was receiving great reviews after the first six months of use in thousands of schools across the country. The resource, *Understanding Christianity*, aims to teach the core concepts of the Christian faith: God, creation, the fall, God's chosen people, Incarnation, salvation, the kingdom of God. This is hugely encouraging.

The Church of England's Chief Education Officer, Nigel Genders, commented, "In recent years we have recognised that within the rich Christian heritage of Britain, a particular responsibility of the Church of England is to ensure Christianity is well taught in our schools, but in order to deliver this more effectively we needed a large-scale resource which could promote theological literacy and a deep understanding of the whole Christian narrative for children and young people aged five to thirteen. We wanted this resource to be available not just for Church of England schools but for all schools across the country as part of the Church of England's offer of education for the common good."

It is good to know that the Church of England is responsible for such an important development and that it is for the benefit of all. The Archbishop of Canterbury has commented on several occasions that we need to see greater religious and theological literacy in society, including amongst our political leaders. Encouraging and facilitating this amongst our children can only be a good thing. Helping others to grasp more fully what the Christian faith is and the positive difference it can make to individuals and the wider community is never child's play, however; it is what the Church has been called to do throughout its two-thousand year history and is relevant to people of all ages.

We should pray for all those working in education in the Church of England and everyone striving to share the Christian narrative and the Good News of Christ with others, not least within this Diocese of Leeds. This, of course, is precisely what we do through the Church's annual liturgical cycle, starting every Advent.

Advent and Christmas

With the start of a new church year, we journey through Advent praying for the coming of Emmanuel – we sing, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." In fact, we could say that we live in an Advent age in which Christ has already become incarnate to save the fallen world that was originally pleasing to its Creator. And yet we know that things are still not entirely as they should be. So, in faith, we long for the return of Christ, for his light to penetrate and overcome all the darkness of our failings, and for his kingdom to be a present global reality. The Advent season, then, speaks powerfully of the age in which we live and the Christian hope we share.

And Christmas explains equally powerfully why, though imperfect, the world is not as bad as some might suggest. The Creator God of Love has already revealed his true nature in Jesus – and this gives us hope! It gives us the assurance that God is truly with us (Emmanuel) – always, in every situation. Little wonder, then, we should still want

to celebrate with great joy the birth in Bethlehem two-thousand years ago of the one who was the eternal Word of God made flesh.

Please, do take full advantage of the worship being offered here at the Cathedral through Advent and Christmas. Like our national education office, do all that you can to share this good news with others, by inviting them along to join us. It is good to share the truth and good news of Christianity in a classroom, it is even better to experience it in solemn and joyful worship, and to be sent out in the power of the Holy spirit to make it a living reality in the world.

Happy Christmas

As this Newsletter is for the whole of December, may I take this opportunity, on behalf of the Chapter and myself, to wish you a very happy Christmas. If you are celebrating the feast elsewhere in the United Kingdom or abroad, do seek to worship with other Christians and extend to them the best wishes of all at Ripon Cathedral.

Nicola and I are delighted to invite all who worship with us at any service on the morning of Sunday, 18 December to join us at Minster House for sherry/wine/juice and mince pies following the 10.30am Sung Eucharist.

Canon Ruth Newton to move to Sharow

On 20 November, I announced that Canon Ruth Newton, our Canon Evangelist, has been appointed as Half-time Associate Minister of Sharow with Copt Hewick & Marton-le-Moor and Half-time Lay Training Officer for the Ripon Episcopal Area. Canon Ruth's licensing as Associate Minister will take place at St John's, Sharow on 28th March 2017 at 7.30pm.

Canon Ruth has recently been married and it is wholly reasonable that she should wish to live in the same house as her husband and daughters. Sadly, this cannot be achieved at the Cathedral, but it can at Sharow. We will be sorry to lose Ruth and her family from the Cathedral but an advantage of this move is that Ruth remains within the Cathedral family – she will be in the benefice and I will be offering her a minor-canonry.

Please, do pray for Ruth, her husband Andrew and her daughters Victoria and Ellen as they prepare for the move into their family home, and especially for Ruth as she prepares for the next phase of her ministry.

A New Canon Treasurer

Philip Arundel's second term as Canon Treasurer comes to an end this month. Philip indicated some time ago that he would not be seeking a third term, though he will continue to serve the Cathedral in a number of important roles, not least as a Trustee of the RCMT.

I am delighted to announce that the Bishop of Leeds has agreed to the Chapter's request that Andrew Kitchingman become the next Canon Treasurer. Andrew will be installed on Sunday, 29 January at 3.30pm.

Please, pray for Philip as he steps down from this role, and for Andrew as he takes it on.

Caitlin Carmichael-Davis to be Assistant-Curate for Ripon Cathedral

I am delighted to announce that from Peter-tide next year we will have a curate: Caitlin Carmichael-Davis who is currently training at Ripon College, Cuddesdon, Oxford. Caitlin is a gifted young person and we look forward to working with her. Please, pray for her as she completes her preparation for ministry and anticipates ordination and the move to Ripon.

Changes within the Select Vestry

The Select Vestry, a centuries-old institution here at Ripon Cathedral, continues to make an important contribution to our ministry of welcome. At least two of its eight members provides warden duty at our Sunday services and on other large occasions. Its members also oversee the sidespeople who are equally important in offering welcome to those joining us for worship.

Richard and Linda Bennett have elected to stand down from the Select Vestry. On behalf of all of us, I extend to them well-earned gratitude for their hard work and loyal service over many years. I am pleased that they continue to serve as Sidespeople.

It is a pleasure, then, also to announce that Liz Thomas and Janet Slater have been elected to join the Select Vestry in place of Richard and Linda. Please thank and congratulate them as they take up their duties in the next few weeks. At the time of writing, I am looking forward to commissioning them during the Sung Eucharist on the Second Sunday of Advent.

Ripon Cathedral Renewed: an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund

Now is very much the time to pray for the expansion of mission here at Ripon Cathedral, and especially for the proposed building development project, *Ripon Cathedral Renewed*. Thanks to the tremendous work done by our Director of Operations, Julia Barker, and the Chair of the Project Steering Committee, Colin Harrison, an application to Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) was made on Wednesday.

We have asked HLF for £8million towards the cost of the £12.6million project that will see the Cathedral's Chapter House, Undercroft, North West Tower, North Quire Aisle and wall paintings opened to the public, the Library made accessible, and a new building constructed on the South of the Cathedral to accommodate a song school, toilets, storage, café and community space. It goes without saying that if we succeed in this, the Cathedral will be transformed for the benefit of all for many years to come. We will know the HLF's decision in April. For them to support us, we need to secure the first £400,000 of our contribution by the beginning of March.

So, please do pray and, if you can, introduce us to anyone who is able to support us financially in this venture. We believe, of course, that God is calling us to do this as part of our Cathedral Vision, *Growing God's Kingdom*.

With my very best wishes
Dean John

Events & Special Services this month within the Cathedral

Community *in the Cathedral unless stated otherwise*

Friday 2nd December 7.00pm Book Launch of 'Omelettes' by Revd Trevor Vaughan at Littlethorpe Village Hall with wine, soft drink and nibbles. Members of our Cathedral congregation are warmly invited!

Saturday 3rd December 7.30pm The Spirit of Christmas Carol Concert in aid of The Ripon Cathedral Music Trust. An evening of traditional carols and seasonal music performed by the Cathedral Choir, Cathedral Brass Quintet with special guest Gervase Phinn and musicians from Ripon Grammar School. £40/£20/£15 adults & £5 for children.

Sunday 4th December 3.30pm St Michael's Hospice 'Light up a Life' Service.

Monday 5th December 5.00pm Christingle Service

Saturday 10th December 7.30pm Ripon Choral Society Concert Handel's Messiah.

Sunday 11th December 3.30pm Evensong and Ceremony of Carols Britten's timeless masterpiece within the candlelit Cathedral.

Monday 12th December 7.30pm Macmillan Cancer Candlelit Carol Concert.

Saturday 17th December 7.30pm Ripon Festivals Christmas Spectacular A seasonal programme of Festive Music for all the family

Sunday 18th December Open House at Minster House Dean John and Nicola invite you for mince pies and sherry after the 10.30am Eucharist.

Tuesday 20th December 2.00pm Mothers' Union Meeting at Thorpe Prebend House. Christmas Readings and Music.

Tuesday 20th December 7.30pm Christmas Organ Recital Tickets include mince pies and mulled wine £8 (£10 on the door); under 16s free.

Friday 23rd December 5.30pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols (first service). The Cathedral Choir leads the annual celebration of the Christmas story in words and music. The service includes choir carols and perennial favourites such as *Once in Royal David's City* and *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*.

Christmas Eve 11.00am Journey to Bethlehem A simple and interactive celebration of the story of God's love for the world. A lovely way to start the family's Christmas.

Christmas Eve 5.30pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols (second service).

Christmas Eve 11.30pm Midnight Mass The first Eucharist of Christmas, celebrating Jesus' birth.

Christmas Day 10.30am Festal Eucharist.

Boxing Day 9.30am Eucharist with Pilgrimage to Fountains Abbey

New Year's Eve 11.15pm Watchnight Service and Torchlight Procession to Market Square

Forthcoming Events & Special Services within the Cathedral Community *in the Cathedral unless stated otherwise*

Thursday 5th January 1.00pm Lunchtime Concert Tim Harper (organ).

Friday 6th January 7.30pm Epiphany – Procession and Festal Eucharist

Sunday 8th January 10.30am Festal Eucharist with Procession to the Font

Monday 9th January 10-12 starting at Ripon Workhouse Museum Six relaxed morning sessions open to anyone living with dementia, their families and carers. To register and list for dates and venues, contact Wendy Hunwick-Brown 01765 690799 E: wendy.hunwick-brown@riponmuseums.co.uk.

Thursday 12th January 1.00pm Lunchtime Concert Simon Hogan (organ).

Sunday 15th January 2.00pm Friends Lecture at Thorpe Prebend House. *The Salvation Army and its Work – Stephanie Ruddy.*

Sunday 15th January 3.30pm Plough Sunday Service Refreshments from 2.30pm.

Sunday 15th January 5.30pm Exploring Christianity using Music, Art & Contemporary Media

Monday 16th January 7.30pm Cathedral Concert Society Nick Pritchard and Ian Tindale

Thursday 19th January 1.00pm Lunchtime Concert Rachel Johnson & Jemima Palfreyman (flute & piano).

Sunday 22nd January 5.30pm Meditation for Epiphany: *La Nativité du Seigneur Messiaen.*

Saturday 28th January 10-3.30pm The Wedding Affair Traditional and Vintage Wedding Show

Sunday 29th January 3.30pm Installation of Honorary Canon and Licensing of Ripon Episcopal Area Deans.

Tuesday 2nd February 7.30pm Candlemas: Festal Eucharist and Candlelit Procession.

Saturday 4th February 3.30pm Christingle for Candlemas service.

Cathedral Matters

Working with Children, Young People and Families

“Breakfast Natters” 9.00am on the first Thursday of every month. A cross between a mother & toddlers group and a coffee morning. Breakfast is provided for both parents and children. Baptism families and parents on their way back from the school run are both equally welcome. The next **Breakfast Natters will be held on Thursday 1st December and will be in the Cathedral Hall.**

Cathedral Club is held regularly after school on Wednesdays at Ripon Cathedral Primary School. Any member of the school community is welcome to attend and currently 37 are registered, many of whom enjoyed the special Harvest Festival in the Cathedral. Please pray for this important work.



Youth Burst is a meeting for friendship and to explore the Christian faith, each 'burst' uses a different theme Youth Burst is for secondary school children (years 7, 8, 9).

Youth Burst Christmas Party 12th December 5.30pm at Thorpe Prebend.

Youth Burst has had a really successful term having sessions where we explored Christianity through Harry Potter, Lego and The Simpsons. We particularly enjoyed creating the story of Jesus clearing the temple from Lego of meditating (in silence) after thinking about the Simpson's experience of Church. We always eat a lot of pizza!

'Youth Burst with Dr Who' will begin on **January 9th at 5.30pm** at St Peter's House.

Children's Church regularly takes place each Sunday during the 10.30am service with **Children's Church Extra** in the **Cathedral Hall** on 1st Sunday of the month (4th December & 8th January). **Children's Church Extra** provides variety of craft, games and story-telling for the younger primary school age members of our community. Children can be dropped off at the Cathedral Hall from 10.15am and collected at 11.30am, they do not need to be accompanied, however, pre-school children can attend if accompanied.

Christingle

The Cathedral Primary School is holding a Christingle Service in the Cathedral on **Monday, December 5th at 5pm**. We are hoping that this is going to be a joint venture with the Cathedral Parish and the school warmly invites members of the congregation into school any time that day to help make the Christingles and to talk, in classrooms, with the children. They will have tea in school then walk across to join us in the Cathedral for this beautiful service. We are hoping that many of you will come. The idea is to bring us all together to share fellowship and the beginning of the joy of Christmas as a Cathedral community. If you feel you can help in school, contact me or speak to me. jeandenney@btinternet.co.uk 01765 650303

Parish Matters

Christian Aid

Thank you for the recent retiring collections in the Cathedral which amounted to £739.78. Hurricane Matthew swept through Haiti, leaving a trail of devastation in its wake. Thousands have lost their homes, crops have been flattened, and livestock have been swept away. Thanks to your donations, Christian Aid is providing urgently needed shelter, clean drinking water and supplies. Through its local partner KORAL, it is distributing 500 hygiene kits, 500 shelter kits, 500 food kits and roofing materials to 62 families.

Christian Aid's Christmas Appeal is entitled Light the Way and is focussing on those fleeing violence. See www.christianaid.org.uk/christmas appeal.

Please make a note in your new diary of our next local event, which is our very popular Quiz and Supper evening on **Friday 17th February 2017**.

We still need a couple of new members from the congregation to join Simon, Christina, Liz and I on the small committee to support the work of Christian Aid in Ripon. We only meet with the other churches three times a year and hopefully you might consider extending your valued support beyond your contribution to the May house to house collections. Please contact **David Wells (01765 690841)**.

'C3: Cathedral Community Connections

Jennyruth Workshops

Christmas Fair and Open Day at Jennyruth Workshops. Friday 9th December from 1.30 pm to 4pm. Unit 5, Red House Farm, Bridge Hewick HG4 5AY.

We will be serving Christmas cake Mince pies, Tea and Coffee and our colleagues who have learning disabilities will be demonstrating their skills. **The Walled Garden** will be present with their Christmas items.

AND DON'T FORGET...Items from the Jennyruth Workshops can be ordered from the catalogue or website, by telephone or in person at the workshops or from the website, www.jennyruth.co.uk. A supply of catalogues is available in the Cathedral on the PCC table in the South Transept.

Christmas at The Walled Garden

Buy a real Christmas Tree this year and support Ripon Walled Garden. Trees can already be ordered and sales begin on Saturday 26th November. Ripon Walled Garden is a local charity, supporting people with learning difficulties who run the garden nursery with its café, and it is great to support their work.

They also sell wreaths and other seasonal gifts, including juice and preserves made from their own produce.

- **The cafe** continues to be open each week Wednesday to Saturday, for light refreshments and lunches.
- **The garden** is open Monday to Saturday, with Sunday opening 27th November to 18th December.
- Ripon Walled Garden closes for Christmas on Thursday 22nd December following a carol service at 2pm to which you are welcome and reopens on Wednesday 4th January 2017.

Saturday 3rd December a 7.00pm in Holy Trinity Church 'Celebration of Youth through Music' concert in aid of Ripon Walled Garden on, organised by the Rotary Club. The evening features a variety of groups and artists such as Ripon City Band and Stagecoach. Tickets £10 (children £5), Available from Tony Boddy 01765 690468, Rotary club members or on the door.

Salvation Army Food Bank

Please whenever possible buy things in packets rather than tins. Many of the recipients come on foot or public transport and bags of heavy tins are hard to carry. What is needed in particular are jars of coffee, tinned custard, tinned rice pudding,

pasta and pasta sauce, mashed potato, any tinned meat and vegetables, festive food. Christmas treats with a sell by date of late December, or small gifts for children or teens. Thank you so much for your support. It makes such a difference to people's lives!

Cathedral Gift Shop

Opening Hours: Mon-Sat 10-4; Sun 12-4. Tel: 01765 601347 Website: www.riponcathedral.org.uk.

Christmas is approaching fast and here in the Cathedral Shop we have a fantastic range of gifts for all, including some beautiful hand-made decorations by **St. Nicolas Heritage and Christmas Decoration Designers**. St. Nicolas specializes in bespoke Christmas decorations. All the decorations are handmade, and the time taken to make each one is reflected in their unique quality. Working with a small Christian charity in Thailand that helps disadvantaged rural women find work in their community, rather than being forced to leave home to work in a factory. Today, some 200 skilled women work at home sewing the decorations, and many of them have been doing so for more than 10 years.

Raisthorpe Manor Gin is now available. The Raisthorpe collection is **Yorkshire Gin**. The collection includes a Distilled Gin and an Oak-Aged Gin produced using water from of the 'gypsy Race' which is a chalk stream that runs under the garden at Raisthorpe Manor.

Service Times

Sundays

8.00am	Eucharist	9.30am	Mattins
10.30am	Sung Eucharist	12.30pm	Eucharist (BCP)
3.30pm	Evensong		

Weekdays

8.30am	Morning Prayer
9.00am	Eucharist (also Wed & Fri 12 noon)
6.00pm	Evensong (or said Evening Prayer) (Saturday 5.30pm)

Wednesdays 7.30-9.00pm Bell Ringing Practice Everybody welcome, access via North Transept.

Mondays 10.00am The Magdalen Fellowship at St Mary Magdalen Chapel. Contemplative prayer and intercessions. Eucharist with Laying on of Hands on first Monday of the month. For further information, contact Anne-Marie Tarter 602129 or John Whelan 600668. No meeting Monday 26th December.

Further Information

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

Email: postmaster@riponcathedral.org.uk

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

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

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For further information, please contact:

Carolyn Sands

carolynsands@riponcathedral.org.uk

01765 603583

The Spirit of Christmas Carol Concert

In aid of Ripon Cathedral Music Trust

Saturday 3 December 7.30pm

Ripon Cathedral

An evening of traditional carols and seasonal music performed by Ripon Cathedral Choir, Cathedral Brass Quintet, with special guests author Gervase Phinn and musicians from Ripon Grammar School.

Premium £40.00
Adults £20.00 (Unreserved £15.00)
Children £5.00 (Unreserved free)

Tickets available from Cathedral Shop and to purchase online

For more information, please contact
mollybarrs@riponcathedral.org.uk or 01765 603583

Website:
www.riponcathedral.org.uk/event/the-spirit-of-christmas-carol-concert



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