



Ripon Cathedral
here for us all in worship

February Newsletter



What is Love?

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

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

A Note from the Dean

Love is in the air

One date in February that gets plenty of publicity is Valentine's Day. Considering its association with love, it would be a sad world if it didn't. From the middle of January, supermarkets and shops have had displays of the cards and gifts available to us: just what we need, it would seem, to show that special person that they really are loved. Though, it is odd that the commemoration of a third century priest should prompt this. Valentine was a priest or a bishop of Terni who was martyred at Rome under the Emperor Claudius in about 269. I suppose his willingness to die for his Lord could be regarded as an act of love. In fact, it is thought that the link between the commemoration of Valentine and lovers is possibly due to 14th February being regarded as the day when birds mate. Alternatively, there is the idea that the association stems from the pagan Lupercalia festival in Rome – a festival of purification and fertility on the Ides of February.

Well, whatever the reason for Valentine's Day becoming an opportunity for lovers to celebrate their love, and for would-be lovers to express their feelings, it certainly captures the imagination of many in our own day. And, while being a good thing in itself, it also resonates with some of our reflections on Candlemas - the turning point in the Church's year that also falls in February.

Candlemas is celebrated with energy and enthusiasm here at Ripon Cathedral. The evening of 2nd February sees hundreds of people flocking through our doors to witness the Cathedral lit by thousands of candles, and to engage again with the account of Jesus being taken by his parents to the Jerusalem Temple when forty days old. I am delighted that Canon Ruth and the PCC are also arranging a Christingle service for Saturday, 4th February. This gives an opportunity to people of all ages to celebrate this feast in a relaxed, informal way.

The account of the presentation of Christ in the Temple that prompts Candlemas informs us that the appropriate sacrifice was made by Joseph and Mary following the birth of their first-born son. Significantly, the old man Simeon was able to witness to the identity of this child and warn that as well as being God's light for the whole world, he would meet with opposition. There would be suffering, including for Jesus' Mother, "And a sword will pierce your own soul, too," said Simeon.

With Candlemas, we begin to turn from celebrating Jesus' nativity and revelation as the saviour of the whole world to contemplating the divine love that Christ revealed and the self-sacrificing suffering that it entailed. As I have often reminded people attending weddings, if we wish to consider what perfect love looks like, we should focus on the cross. People have usually look bemused at first, but after a joke about what marriage can be like on a bad day, I venture to explain. Self-giving, even a willingness for self-sacrifice, for the sake of the one loved is simply natural if the love is true, just as God's love is for his children. But when that love is not reciprocated, it can be murder. It is hardly surprising that we should find this perfect expression of

love with God when we consider that “God is love, and those who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.” (1 John 4:16)

As with the person sending a Valentine’s card or a rose in the hope of a response, the crucified God longs for the world to recognize true love in his act of self-sacrifice, and for a free and heart-felt loving response from his children.

Loving, Living, Learning: Thursday, 16 March, Bishop of Leeds at Ripon Cathedral

Love is still in the air with the three words that have been chosen by the Bishop of Leeds to communicate the heart of Christian living and believing: Loving, Living, Learning. The hope is that people beyond the Church might recognize in these words something of relevance to them and the life-transforming potential of the Gospel? The Bishop of Leeds is keen that we recognize how these words link with mission in the Diocese. To help us consider what the force of these words might be as we seek to commend the good news of Christ to the people of this region today, I have invited Bishop Nick to come to the Cathedral and share his vision with us.

Please, do join us on Thursday, 16th March at 7.30pm for an event in which people from across the Diocese can hear the Bishop talk about Loving, Living Learning. There will be an opportunity for questions and discussion, as well as worship and celebration. Please, put the date in your diary.

Loving Lent

It might seem odd to suggest that we can love Lent, but surely we can if we use it to refocus on the one whose love is the source of our life and hope. Lent doesn’t begin until March 1st, but we can spend time in February planning how to keep it in a disciplined and fruitful way. Leaflets are available from Candlemas, with details of opportunities offered at the Cathedral to help us make the most of Lent.

One book that we are recommending for Lent is *Being Disciples* by Rowan Williams, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, a deeply prayerful man capable of profound thought. Eleanor Mumford, founder of the Vineyard Churches in the UK and Ireland, writes, “This gem of a book is clearly born of the author’s own deep love for Jesus.” It is interesting, then, that we read in it,

“St. John of the Cross would tell us that if we face the problems, if we confront the apparent ‘dark night’ around will and freedom and choice, and look hard at how we trivialize these realities in ourselves and in our culture, maybe we shall become ready to grow into love. Love: an expression of the freedom to receive. Love: that which drives us to take time and to let go of anxiety. Love: that which permits us to be enriched and to be ‘given to’, made alive, to be breathed into... a state of openness to joy. Love: not simply as doing good, but as a deep contemplative regard for the world, for humanity in general and for human beings in particular, and for God.”

Surely, we can love Lent when it offers this sort of enrichment. We shall use this book as the basis for the lunchtime talks on the Wednesdays of Lent.

Ripon Cathedral Renewed

Our far-reaching plans for new facilities and improvements equipping the Cathedral for 21st century mission are progressing. The submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund was made in December, requesting £8million. If successful, this will leave us with the challenge of raising £4.5million over the coming years. Remember, we are developing this incredible project because we believe God is calling us to enhance his Cathedral in these ways, to enable us to serve him and this region more effectively. Please, do pray for all who are working behind the scenes on this important venture.

Stonework Repairs

If you have walked or driven along the north side of the Cathedral in recent days, you will have noticed the erection of scaffolding and a base for stonework repairs. This is essential work that is only possible thanks to the £390,000 granted from the second tranche of £20million provided by HM Government for Cathedral repairs. Julia Barker, our Director of Operations, who is overseeing the projects, writes:

“The stonework continues on the north side of the Cathedral. This time we are going even higher, working above the first parapet and new gargoyles repairing around the windows and the buttresses. Also, we will be replacing two more gargoyles which have worn away. The designs for the gargoyles will be created by local school children with a competition to see who will have their design made up into the gargoyles which will be on the side of the Cathedral for hundreds of years. The work removing the worn stone and replacing it with new ones will be starting in March and going on until October, new lead work will be put in place to protect edges from rain, and new larger guttering and drains are being put in so that we can make sure the Cathedral can shed the rain fall quickly. Once this work has been completed that corner will be repaired and ready to face the next 50 years in the life of the Cathedral.”

Confirmation Preparation

Bishop Nick is confirming at the Cathedral on Sunday, 11 June at 10.30am. Preparation for both adults and young people (separate programmes) begins at the beginning of March. Information letters and enrolling forms are available from the table near the South Transept. If you would like to have a chat about the possibility of confirmation, please, do make contact with one of the Canons or me.

A personal note

I am grateful to the large number of people who kindly sent cards and letters of condolence to the Dobsons following the death of my Mother on New Year's Eve. It was a great comfort to know that we were supported by the sympathy and prayers of this wonderful community. Thank you!

With my very best wishes
Dean John

Events & Special Services this month *_in the Cathedral unless stated otherwise*

Wednesday 1st February 7.30pm Pathways for Nurture: Ephesians 5 for Everyone with the Dean at Thorpe Prebend House.

**Thursday 2nd February – 7.30pm
Festal Eucharist and Candlelit Procession**



Join us for the most spectacular service of the year when the Cathedral is lit by five-thousand candles.

Everyone is very welcome as we celebrate the Presentation of Christ in the Temple
President: The Dean

Preacher: The Very Reverend Jonathan Greener, Dean of Wakefield



**Saturday 4th February 3.30pm
Christingle for Candlemas**

A service for families and children with Christingle oranges celebrating the light of Christ

Thursday 9th February 1.00pm Lunchtime Concert Students from Leeds University

Thursday 9th February 7.30-9.00pm Pathways for Nurture: Life Balance *Time to Celebrate* with Nina Harrison at Thorpe Prebend House

Thursday 9th February 7.30pm *Antic Disposition* Production of Henry V

Monday 13th February 7.30pm Cathedral Concert Society – The Magnard Ensemble

Wednesday 15th February 7.30pm Pathways for Nurture: Ephesians 6 for Everyone with the Dean at Thorpe Prebend House.

Thursday 16th February 1.00pm Lunchtime Concert Tom Coxhead, organ

Friday 17th February 7pm Quiz Night and Supper in Holy Trinity Arches. A stimulating and fun quiz with all proceeds to Ripon Christian Aid Projects in El Salvador and Honduras. For every £1 raised, the EU will contribute £3. Tickets £8 per person, including a pie and pea supper (veggie and gluten-free options if pre-booked) - available from Simon and Christina (692187) and the Cathedral Gift Shop.

Saturday 18th February 10.30-12noon Pathways for Nurture: Saturday Workshops *Talking about God* with Canon Ruth at St Peter's House.

Sunday 19th February 2.00pm Friends Lecture at Thorpe Prebend. Simon Deller – ‘A Life in Cathedral Music’.

Sunday 19th February 5.30pm Distinctive Service Exploring God using Music, Art & Contemporary Media: *God is Love – a Valentine’s special*

Monday 20th February 7.30-8.30pm Third Monday Evening meets in St Peter’s Chapel.

Thursday 23rd February Family Day 10-3pm: listen to a story, try a craft activity and follow a trail around the Cathedral. All welcome.

Thursday 23rd February 7.30-9.00pm Pathways for Nurture: Life Balance *Time to Rest* with Nina Harrison at Thorpe Prebend House

Saturday 25th February 10.30-12noon Pathways for Nurture: Saturday Workshops *How do I know what God wants?* with Canon Ruth at St Peter’s House.

Saturday 25th February 10-3.30pm (9.30am for coffee) A DAY OF SPACE. This day of stillness, reflection, music and meditation will focus on the **theme of Hope**, a rare commodity in this time of such change and confusion in the world. If you wish to join us you will need to reserve a place by emailing <spaceripon@gmail.com> or phoning the Cathedral Office (01765 603462).

Sunday 26th February, after 10.30am service, Mothers’ Union ‘Home-made’ stall in the South Transept, in aid of MU work at home and abroad.

Tuesday 28th February Shrove Tuesday 11.00am Pancake Race.

Tuesday 28th February 2.00pm Mothers’ Union Meeting at Thorpe Prebend. Speaker: Mrs Lindsay Tanner ‘Trusting – really? My story’.

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

Wednesday 1st March 12 noon BCP Eucharist with Hymns

Ash Wednesday 7.30pm Sung Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

Thursday 2nd March 1.00pm Lunchtime Concert Mary Reid (harp).

Thursday 2nd March 7.30pm Pathways for Nurture: Life Balance *Time to Play* with Nina Harrison at Thorpe Prebend House

Wednesday 8th March 12.30pm Lent Lunch followed by talk ‘Being Disciples’

Wednesday 8th March 7.30pm Learning more about the Christian Faith with the Dean at Minster House

Thursday 9th March 1.00pm Lunchtime Concert Stephen Raine (piano).

Thursday 9th March 7.30pm Pathways for Nurture: Life Balance *Time to Liberate* with Nina Harrison at Thorpe Prebend House

Saturday 11th March 1-4.30pm Sponsored Bible Reading Marathon by the Select Vestry.

Sunday 12th March 12-12.30pm Confirmation Preparation for Young People in the Library.

Monday 13th March 7.30pm Cathedral Concert Society – Anna Tsybuleva (piano).

Wednesday 15th March 12.30pm Lent Lunch followed by talk 'Faith, Hope and Love'.

Wednesday 15th March 7.30pm Learning more about the Christian Faith with the Dean at Minster House

Thursday 16th March 1.00pm Lunchtime Concert Students from Leeds University.

Thursday 16th March 7.30pm Loving, Living, Learning with Bishop Nick Baines.

Saturday 18th March 11-4pm Sights & Sounds of Ripon Workshops.

Sunday 19th March 12-12.30pm Confirmation Preparation for Young People in the Library.

Sunday 19th March 2.00pm Friends Lecture at Thorpe Prebend. Michael & Catherine Staleybrass 'Norwegian Stave Churches'.

Sunday 19th March 5.30pm Distinctive Service *Whose World is it Anyway?*

Monday 20th March 7.30-8.30pm Third Monday Evening meets in St Peter's Chapel.

Wednesday 22nd March 12.30pm Lent Lunch followed by talk 'Forgiveness'.

Wednesday 22nd March 7.30pm Learning more about the Christian Faith with the Dean at Minster House

Thursday 23rd March 1.00pm Lunchtime Concert. František Brikcius (cello).

Saturday 25th March 7.30pm Faure's Requiem with the Choirs of Queen Mary's School & The St Cecilia Youth Orchestra.

Sunday 26th March 10.30am Mothering Sunday Service Preacher: The Right Revd Toby Haworth, Bishop of Bradford.

Sunday 26th March 12-12.30pm Confirmation Preparation for Young People in the Library.

Monday 28th March 7.30pm Licensing of Canon Ruth Newton as Associate Minister of St John's Sharow.

Wednesday 29th March 12.30pm Lent Lunch followed by talk 'Holiness'

Wednesday 29th March 7.30pm Learning more about the Christian Faith with the Dean at Minster House

Thursday 30th March 1.00pm Lunchtime Concert Josephine Peach (piano).

Third Monday Evening

A time for Reflective Prayer and a time to uphold the life and ministry of the Cathedral. Every Third Monday of the month (except August) In the Cathedral (St. Peter's Chapel) 7.30pm to 8.30pm (TME is a re-imagining of the Cathedral Prayer Group, which - with the full support of the PCC - will seek to complement other aspects of the Cathedral's offering of prayer}.

Learning more about the Christian Faith with the Dean & Confirmation Preparation 2017

This year's Confirmation Service for the Cathedral congregation will take place on Sunday 11th June 10.30am and be conducted by The Right Reverend Nick Baines. There will be two different preparation courses as follows:

Adults: Learning more about the Christian Faith with the Dean. The course commences on 8th March at 7.30pm at Minster House.

Young People aged School Year 6 and upwards: Preparation will take place on Sundays 12-12.30pm during term time in the Cathedral Library commencing on 12th March.

Select Vestry Bible Reading Marathon – 11th March

The Select Vestry are once again organising a Sponsored Bible Reading Marathon during Lent. This year it will take place in the Cathedral from 1pm- 430pm. Everyone is welcome to read a passage during the event and offers of Sponsorship would of course also be much appreciated. Refreshments will be available on the day for readers and supporters. If you would like to read or to sponsor please contact Colin Harrison on 01765 604653 or by email colin.r.harrison@btinternet.com.

Sponsorship of the Cathedral flower arrangements

If you would like to sponsor an arrangement in the Cathedral for a special occasion, please contact Mrs Sue Woods Tel: 01765 698006

Spring Garden and Food Show – 8th April

We are asking all keen gardeners to consider us when sowing spring seeds very soon. One of the ways in which you can be involved and support this event is by donating any plants for our fundraising plant stall, helping to raise money for Ripon Cathedral Renewed: Supporting the Dean's development plans for a 21st Century Yorkshire Cathedral. Please contact mollybarrs@riponcathedral.org.uk if you can contribute.

News from the Bell Tower

In previous newsletters we have reported on the accident which befell Robert Wood, one of the Cathedral bellringers, in June when he was carrying out maintenance work to the bells at Middleham. This accident resulted in Robert being airlifted to James Cook Hospital by the Yorkshire Air Ambulance (YAA) where he stayed for five days and had major surgery to repair a badly broken jaw. Robert's accident was recorded for

TV and was re-scheduled for broadcast on 30th January on the Really channel at 10.00pm.

The YAA is a charity and has to raise £12,000 per day to keep its life saving service operating. Robert therefore set out to raise £4,000, the average cost of a rescue, for the YAA by ringing a sponsored full peal. The first attempt, at Stockton on Tees in November, failed due to a broken bellrope. Robert organised a second attempt here at the Cathedral on 14th January. This peal was successfully completed in 3 hours 20 minutes of non-stop ringing. YAA volunteers were present in the Cathedral during the peal to answer questions about the service and to accept donations. Charlie Brown provided a video link from the tower to ground level so that people coming into the church could see both the bells and the ringers in action.

The collection on the day raised just over £280 and, thanks to substantial publicity on local radio and TV and in the Gazette and other newspapers, on-line sponsorship reached the target. Any further sums raised will, of course, help to keep this vital service operating. Sincere thanks to everyone who has supported Robert and the YAA in this endeavour. If you would like to support the Air Ambulance, you can donate through Robert's webpage at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Robert-Wood-Bells

Working with Children, Young People and Families

Thursday 23rd February Family Day 10-3pm: listen to a story, try a craft activity and follow a trail around the Cathedral. All welcome.

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 with Dr Who' takes place on **20th February and 27th February 5.30pm** at St Peter's House.

"Breakfast Natters" 9.00am on the first Thursday of every month in the Cathedral Hall. A regular part of Ripon Cathedral's ongoing commitment to making connections with our baptism families and Cathedral School parents. Held on the first Thursday of every month.

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. **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.

'C3: Cathedral Community Connections

News of Our Partners

Ripon City of Sanctuary

Volunteers are needed to help with providing hospitality at *Community Tea and Talk Sessions* for local Refugee families from 2:30-4:30 on following dates: **4th Feb, 18th Feb, 4th March, 18th March, 1st April and 22nd April.**

Three Syrian families have now been resettled in Ripon, and City of Sanctuary is looking for people who are interested in helping them in settling in. This will require

DBS checks and training in safeguarding policies. For more information about how you could help with hospitality sessions or supporting Ripon families please contact Yvonne Jefferies yvonne.jefferies@gmail.com

Jennyruth Workshops

In September Jennyruth Workshops will have a team in the Great North Run. This event helps the Workshops to raise several thousands of pounds every year. Runners for Jennyruth Workshops are supported with training, teeshirts, transport, and food to sustain them on the day. Perhaps you, or someone you know, would like to experience the fun of the Great North Run and at the same time help the work of the Jennyruth workshops? Or perhaps you would like to sponsor a runner? For more information contact Karen Taylor, on 01765 606620, or info@jennyruth.co.uk

The Walled Garden

The Café at Ripon Walled Garden will be extending their opening hours from April to be open 6 days a week Monday to Saturday 10am – 3pm. A new and exciting menu is currently being designed to support the Plot to Plate ethos and as far as possible use produce grown by the members in the garden. Due to this expansion they are now looking for willing volunteers who would like to help in the Café or in the Walled Garden. If you are interested please contact the Walled Garden team by email admin@riponwalledgarden.org or 01765 609229 to request a volunteer pack.

The Salvation Army Food Bank

New changes in the system of benefit is leading to delays in applications being processed, leaving many families in short term need for food bank support. The Ripon Salvation Army's Food Bank is feeling this increase in demand, so your help is more needed than ever before. At this time of the year the theme is **Winter Warmers**...food that is easily heated on a stove (not microwave) such as meat pies, corned beef, cooked mince in gravy, tuna, Smash or tinned potatoes, tinned carrots/peas, pasta and sauce, packets of steamed or rice/semolina pudds, custard, tinned fruit. Coffee and toiletries are also very helpful. MANY THANKS!

MORE Congratulations!

Congratulations now are in order for Sue Eveson of the Cathedral congregation who follows her husband Barrie in receiving an MBE for her work as one of the founders of the Jennyruth Workshops... This is quite an exceptional case in which both partners were honoured with MBE's. But it highlights just how exceptional both Sue and Barrie are in their work in setting up the workshops in 1989 to give people with learning disabilities an opportunity to gain work and life skills. How very blest we are to have them as members of our worshipping community!

Forthcoming Community Events

Monday, March 6th - Ripon City of Sanctuary is hosting a talk from Philip Trewhitt the Executive Director of the Institute for International Criminal Investigations concerning refugees and human rights at Allhallowgate Methodist Church at 7.30pm.

Saturday, 18 March – The 6th Annual Sights and Sounds of Ripon Event

A free family-friendly day full of activities to celebrate all that is offer in our City. The event will begin at 11:00 am at the Cathedral with a Quarter Peel of the bells (starting at 9:45), followed by tours of the bell tower, organ demonstrations, a family craft workshop and a pop-up café run jointly with The Walled Garden. Events continue

throughout the day at venues across the City. Come and enjoy your city, and invite others to do join you!

Thank you for your prayers last week at our *Partners in Prayer* stations when we offered prayers in the Cathedral for our partners. If possible please could you continue to remember the work of **Dementia Forward, Ripon Community Link, The Walled Garden, The Jennyruth Workshops, Ripon City of Sanctuary, and the Salvation Army's Food Bank** in your own daily prayers? We have promised our partners that we would hold them up before God in our prayers, a commitment we take very seriously.

Cathedral Gift Shop

Opening Hours: Mon-Sat 10-4; Sun 12-4. Tel: 01765 601347 Website: www.riponcathedral.org.uk. As Lent fast approaches we encourage all to pick up a copy of one of the books we will be reading over that period. 'Dethroning Mammon' is Justin Welby's 2017 Lent book designed for study where he looks at the subject of money (Mammon) and materialism. This book asks the reader what it means to dethrone Mammon in the values and priorities of our civilisation and in our own existence and to learn to trust in the abundance and grace of God. Is it Jesus Christ who brings truth, hope and freedom? Or is it Mammon, so attractive, so clear, but leading us into paths that tangle, trip and deceive?

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 (BCP) & 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.

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.

Spring Garden and Food Show 2017

Saturday 8 April 2017

Ripon Cathedral
10.00am – 4.30pm

Entry
Only
£2

Unique shopping experience

Demonstrations

Gardener Martin Fish

Family Activities

Celebrated Chef



Ripon Cathedral
here for us all

To book your stall please contact
Carolyn Sands on carolynsands@riponcathedral.org.uk