

RIPON CATHEDRAL

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



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

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

A NOTE FROM THE DEAN

Hope in every season and situation

Climate Change and COP 26

We are told that the 26th United Nations Conference of the Parties on Climate Change, COP 26, represents the largest gathering of national leaders ever held in the United Kingdom. The now-widely-acknowledged urgency with which the global community needs to respond to the pressing needs of climate change reveals the justification for it.

As Christians, we are caught up with the rest of humanity in having a vested interest in reducing the rise in the average global temperature; the ambition of COP 21 in Paris in 2015 was to limit this to well below 2 degrees centigrade above pre-industrial levels. Without real progress, the long-term future for human life on Planet Earth looks bleak. Hopefully, however, we can also see other sound reasons for the positive commitment of both governments and individuals.

The first chapters of the Book of Genesis communicate a belief in a creator God who is providential and gracious in his ordering of things. This provides the grounds for hope. He also looks to humanity to help him out, as sound stewards. We could debate how good a job we have done with this, but the need for COP 26 presumably demonstrates some potentially catastrophic failure. This alone might be thought to provide Christians with sufficient impetus to do all we can to help.

Perhaps an even more compelling motivation is to be found with our hope for a kingdom of justice for all. Throughout the Old Testament, justice is revealed as a characteristic of God and his actions; with the New Testament we come to see what this looks like in a life lived in complete faithfulness to God. Jesus cared for and about all, but simply showed a bias to the poor and marginalised. The injustice of climate change is that the resultant storms, forest fires and rises in sea levels affect the poor and marginalised in a disproportionate way.

So, at the cathedral we will be praying hard for the success of COP 26, while at the same time acknowledging that hope comes from the nature of our providential and gracious God who, ultimately, is the one who restores and sustains all life. Let us pray that we will be able to trace his influence in the decisions of the leaders, and the response of the peoples, of the world.

Christmas is coming

There is much in this Newsletter to remind us, should we need it, that Christmas is coming. Do look at the details of services; we do not plan to have a booking system for them this year and everyone is very welcome.

Many of us love the build up to Christmas. I suppose I am including the cathedral's Christmas Fair in that! Do try not to miss it, it is happening over two days for the first time. But I am really thinking about Advent and some of the wonderful services and opportunities for reflection that we offer in that season. The Advent Procession, at 5.30pm on Advent Sunday, is chief amongst them and a tremendous way to begin not only the preparation for Christmas but the church's year.

With Advent, Christian hope once again takes centre stage. It reminds us that when Christmas does eventually arrive, it is about the God of creation being active in, and bothered about, his creation. So, Advent offers huge encouragement to the world. The world simply needs to show a humble willingness to listen, along with being prepared to take the time to ponder. Of course, Christ's hope in calling the church into being was that it would set the world a good example in all things, revealing something of his kingdom on earth. Let us resolve to do our best.

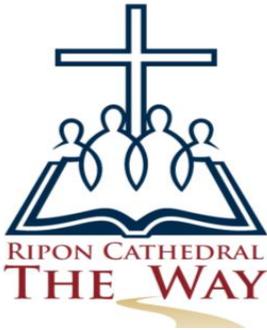
The good example of the Church in community

At a time when many seem anxious about the health of the church within parishes, and of the commitment of the national church to the parish system itself, I cannot help but reflect on the many accounts of local parish churches showing great leadership and service during the pandemic. The Archbishop of York and others have helpfully made it clear there is no plan to undermine the parish. This is hardly surprising, of course, when we consider the advantage for mission of having local bases witnessing to Christian hope through both inspiring sacred buildings and communities of faith and service. And this only adds weight to our diocesan strategic vision to be a community of confident Christians, in growing churches, transforming communities. Let us pray in hope for that.

With my very best wishes
Dean John

NEWS FROM THE CANON PASTOR

Here we are at the start of November. The world hurtling on towards Christmas, now Hallowe'en is out the way, pre-occupied by the risk of Christmas being 'spoilt' through lack of delivery drivers to feed our consumerism or lack of butchers to prepare turkeys and pigs-in-blankets. I confess that I have already ordered a turkey but I've drawn a sort of moral line at worrying about pigs-in-blankets. I am taking a risk on those, reminding myself that Christmas used to be possible without them!



But it is so easy, isn't it, to get caught up in all the preparations and preoccupations of the season that the consumer society wants us to have. How to step back from that, to keep things in proportion? Advent of course is traditionally a time of preparation, but of preparation by waiting, biding our time, reflecting (with even a degree of austerity) as we await the coming of the Saviour. Amongst all the bustle of the season that is imposed upon us it is good to try to find some rhythm to balance the conflicting demands. We've 3 suggestions this year as we seek to follow the Way of Jesus together, maintaining the rhythm of the Christian year:

1. Read an Advent book. We suggest Bishop Nick's book: *Freedom is Coming*, an exploration of the themes in the great texts of Isaiah. It has short readings for each day to reflect upon, so not too time-consuming. You can buy it at the Cathedral shop.
2. Join in a discussion of the book each Wednesday from 24th November to 15th December after the 10 am eucharist and over a cup of coffee in the Library.
3. Join in the Advent Faith Forum, exploring through Bible study and discussion, allowing further exploration of the themes of the rhythm of our lives that we started last Lent. You can join in either by Zoom or in person at Thorpe Prebend – see the poster for details.

The rhythm of the life of faith of course continues beyond Christmas Day, through the 12 days of Christmas, into the Epiphany season beyond. We're planning to celebrate the 12th Day of Christmas in the old English manner on 5th January with an afternoon party on the eve of the Epiphany: see the separate poster for the details. Then the great celebration of the Feast of the Epiphany will follow on 6th January.

Following Jesus of course never ends, as season follows season and year succeeds to year. The rhythm of life continues, and God is always watching and waiting as we follow Jesus, seeking to grow. We've already some people (both teenagers and adults) who want to explore confirmation in 2022 as a way of continuing the journey of life with Jesus and if you'd like to consider taking that step yourself, do just get in touch with me and we can talk about it.

Canon Ailsa



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The Way in Advent

Reading and study groups

A chance to explore the Rhythm of Life in Advent
Bible study, discussion and seasonal refreshments
Mondays 29th November and 6th & 13th December at 7 pm
at Thorpe Prebend House or join by Zoom.

Book a place with Victoria: Victoria.Richardson@riponcathedral.org.uk

Read Bishop Nick's Advent book *Freedom is Coming* on your own or join
the discussion group on Wednesdays over coffee after the 10 am eucharist on
24th November and 1st, 8th & 15th December 10.30 -11.30



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Breakfast Natters

Monday 1st November
9am

Breakfast Natters is Ripon Cathedral's parent and toddler group. It is a wonderful chance for children to play, sing, hear stories, and make friends, and for parents (and grandparents!) to have a good natter and maybe a piece of cake...



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After a long break due to Covid, we can't wait to get back to meeting. We meet once a month in the morning, after the school drop off. Our first session back will be held at Ripon Cathedral School (Covid restrictions permitting).

If you have any questions, or want to find out more, you can email darcyallen@riponcathedral.org.uk

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NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

The Cathedral choir have got back into harness again quickly for the Autumn term, with a full programme of rehearsals and services. However it was disappointing to have to cancel the Yorkshire Three Cathedrals festival that was planned for early October at the last minute. Increasing cases of COVID and other illnesses led the three Deans to conclude that it would be wise to cancel the event for this year to avoid increasing infections across the three regions. There was deep disappointment but a recognition that this was the right decision in the circumstances.

On a happier note, plans are now in place for a full programme of services over the Remembrance, Advent and Christmas period – please look out for publicity in due course.

The Thursday Concerts have returned to an appreciative reception; as part of Covid-19 recovery this season is in the Nave, its performers are mostly the home organists, and refreshments kept to hot drinks rather than sandwiches.

Last time I wrote we were saying a fond farewell to our Assistant Organist, Tom Coxhead, as he moved on to take up place at the Royal Academy of Music to study choral conducting. We wished Tom well and the Dean publicly thanked him for all he has given to Ripon Cathedral both in the last two years and even before that as organ scholar. In September we were able to welcome Tom's successor with great joy. Shaun Turnbull takes on the role of Assistant Organist having served for the last nine years as Assistant Director of Music at Blackburn Cathedral. Shaun also comes with experience of having worked in the Diocese of Newcastle in addition to positions at the Cathedrals of Lichfield, Chelmsford and St Chad's, Birmingham. It is good to welcome Shaun as a part of the Music department at the Cathedral.

This month, we have also received the news that two members of the music department are moving on. Tracey Kendrick, the Cathedral Music Outreach Coordinator is moving back into a full-time teaching role. Imogen Moore is also leaving her role as Chorister Supervisor. Tracey has given the Cathedral so much over recent years as a Chorister Supervisor as well as Music Outreach Coordinator. She will of course not be lost to the Cathedral. As a proficient bellringer she is an important part of the Guild of bellringers. Imogen has also been an integral part of the department working alongside Tracey and Charles in overseeing the care and support and safeguarding of all the children in the Cathedral choirs. Their work is being covered now by Anna Gisbourne until Christmas, and we shall soon be advertising for a new supervisor.

Please continue to pray for the Music Department and especially the staff. After months of turmoil brought on by COVID recovery, and what was allowed or wise to do, we look forward to further change in the new year, as we prepare to say farewell and 'Thank you' to Peter Wright as Interim Director of Music after Christmas and welcome Dr Ronny Krippner as our new Director of Music in the New Year.

Canon Michael



CHRISTMAS IN RIPON

We hope you will join us this Christmas. With a plethora of beautiful services, special events and times for reflection, we hope to be at the Heart of Christmas as we have been for 1,350 years.

Advent Sunday Service

28 Nov | 10.30 am

Advent Procession

28 Nov | 5.30pm

Festival of Lessons and Carols

19, 23, 24 Dec | 5.30pm

La Nativité du Seigneur

21 Dec | 7.30pm

Christmas Eve

24 Dec

11am Journey to Bethlehem

11pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

25 Dec | 10.30am

Boxing Day

26 Dec

9.30am St Stephen's Day Eucharist

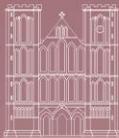
10am Pilgrimage to Fountains

Abbey with carol service on arrival
(approximately midday)

New Year's Eve Watchnight

31 Dec | 11.15pm

Find all services & events at:
www.riponcathedral.org.uk



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CATHEDRAL GIFT SHOP

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

The Archbishop of York's Advent Book 2021 - 'Almost before I had begun this wonderful book, I was hooked.' STEPHEN COTTRELL

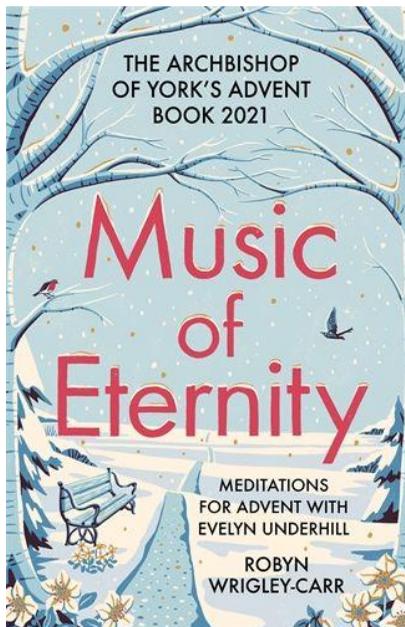
Beloved spiritual writer Evelyn Underhill believed that God does not just come to us at special times, but is always coming to us. But how do we recognise his coming and make ourselves open to it?

In *Music of Eternity*, the Archbishop of York's Advent Book 2021, Robyn Wrigley-Carr shares a series of meditations exploring the nature God's comings. Skilfully weaving together Underhill's writings with the psalms and short prayers, she shows how, as Christians, we can embrace God's coming and be transformed by them in order to better love others.

Full of rich warmth and encouragement, these Christian meditations will help you make the most of the Advent season and more able to connect with God at all times.

Set out in four parts to take you through Advent and with questions for reflection, the Archbishop of York's Advent book can be used as a study for individuals or small groups to prepare for Christmas.

Music of Eternity will help you find space to deepen your relationship with God, and to understand what Evelyn Underhill called the 'many-sided truth of God's perpetual coming to His creatures'.





Cathedral Shop Opening hours Christmas & New Year

Christmas Eve (Friday) 10am – 1pm

Christmas Day – CLOSED

Boxing Day (Sunday) 12 noon – 4pm

Mon 27th Dec to Sat 1st January 10am - 4pm

2nd to 9th January

CLOSED for Stocktaking

Reopen Monday 10th January at 10am



RIPON CATHEDRAL

In the bleak midwinter

Christmas is often portrayed as a time of joy and happiness. For some, though, it can also be bleak: with feelings of grief or regret. For others it is bittersweet: a mixture of the two. This service enables us to bring those feelings and emotions before God, praying for ourselves and all for whom Christmas might be difficult this year. We remember that at Christmas Jesus came to this world because we need God's healing love.

Wednesday 1st December 10 – 10.45 am

In the Cathedral Quire

See all of our services online at
RIPONCATHEDRAL.ORG.UK/WHATS-ON



Twelfth Day of Christmas Afternoon tea party

Tea, conversation and fun on the 12th Day of Christmas

Thorpe Prebend House Wednesday 5th January

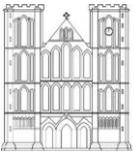
from 2pm to 4pm.

RSVP to Victoria Richardson 01765 6034602

VictoriaRichardson@riponcathedral.org.uk

There is no charge, but please let us know if you are planning to come

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RIPON
C3 CATHEDRAL
COMMUNITY
CONNECTIONS

Ripon Cathedral is committed to supporting our community through partnerships with local charities. That support includes both prayer and practical action. If you want to know more about C3 and how you could be involved contact us at

C3@riponcathedral.org.uk or telephone the Cathedral Office 01765 603462.



This Summer saw the exciting return of the workers after working from home for over 16 months due to the pandemic. After being apart for so long it's truly wonderful to have our workers back and it's like no time has passed. The workers are at the heart of everything the Workshops do so seeing their faces light up as they entered the building was pure joy.

The Workshops have initiated an exciting new set of courses including stencilling and gardening, as well as producing a brand-new magazine to provide readers with monthly updates on new products, upcoming events, and news from the workshops. If you would like to see a copy of the magazine, go to: <https://www.jennyruth.co.uk/e-magazine> or contact the Workshops and ask to be put onto their mailing list. (anna@jennyruth.co.uk)



The Christmas Elves at the Jennyruth Workshops are busy making toys and Christmas decorations ready to brighten your Christmas festivities and solve all your gift needs! For those you of who want to support the wildlife in your garden, Jennyruth Workshops offers a



selection of birdboxes, hedgehog homes and bug houses!

Now is the time to set up these winter homes for wildlife, and remember birds need time to get used to potential new homes before nesting season begins in the Spring. The Workshops also produce a wide range of gardening accessories. So plenty for the home and the garden! **To see their complete range of goods go**

to <https://www.jennyruth.co.uk/shop>



Dementia Forward volunteers have been awarded the highest award for voluntary groups - the **Queen's Award for Voluntary Service**. It is



testament to the hard work and dedication of the charity's wonderful volunteers, and the team are so pleased that they have been recognised in this way. Every volunteer has received a pin badge, and the charity has also received a crystal award, and a certificate signed by Her Majesty The Queen, presented by Lord-Lieutenant of North Yorkshire, Mrs Johanna Ropner at a

special ceremony at George Armitage House in Burton Leonard. Further badges were also presented as a special recognition of the charity's work during the pandemic. The ceremony was attended by over 40 of the charity's volunteers and was a wonderful way to celebrate this fantastic achievement. Congratulations, in particular, must go to Debby Lennox, Community Liaison Lead at Dementia Forward who manages and directs the charity's 189 volunteers.

And to celebrate the festive season Dementia Forward are having a Mince Pies & Memories coffee morning at the hub in Burton Leonard on December 10th at 10am. If anyone would like to join us for hot drinks and Christmas treats while sharing Christmas memories, please contact

Debby.Lennox@dementiaforward.org.uk



HUGE amount of news from Ripon City of Sanctuary!

People have been so generous with donating to our Community Sponsorship project that the project has been expanded to support TWO new refugee families, due to

arrive in 2022! This week we've been thrilled to receive sizeable Harvest donations for this project from churches in Grewelthorpe and Swaledale with Arkengarthdale, Ripon Cathedral School, Baldersby St James CofE Primary School and St Nicholas CofE Primary School West Tanfield. Our recent fundraising campaign enabled us to buy £850-worth of new underwear to send to the clothes bank in Wakefield for newly arrived refugees. We also made a bid for new underwear to a charity which enabled us to distribute packs of new underwear this week to Afghans in North Yorkshire who came on the Kabul airlifts.

We've been campaigning nationally against the new Nationality and Borders Bill. We saw Julian Smith MP recently and will see him again in early November, and in September we hosted an inter-faith webinar about the bill. We're now working with JPIT to create a joint letter to the prime minister. Several of us are going down to Westminster on 20 October to protest the bill outside parliament.

We are now engaged with every school in Ripon – primary and secondary - and several in the surrounding villages, too. They are all journeying towards achieving the national *Schools of Sanctuary* award, which is no small task!

On Weds 6th Oct we celebrated our *Schools of Sanctuary Thanksgiving Service* with over 100 children from local schools sharing in this act of worship.

The Doorways of Sanctuary Exhibition of artwork from local schools invited onlookers to open doors to reveal what sanctuary means to them. Canon Barry also shared how his own family descended from refugees who fled from Germany to London and what that welcome meant to them.



Our partners at Ripon Walled Garden are already preparing for the Christmas season. They are opening their popular Christmas shop again this year with an even wider range of gifts on sale alongside cut and potted Christmas Trees and beautiful handmade wreaths, Christmas Cakes and Christmas Fayre.

The Christmas Shop opens on Saturday 20th November and Christmas Tree Sales start on Saturday 25th November, but if you want to guarantee your tree you can order one now by ringing the Walled Garden. If you want to avoid pine needles in your car, The Walled Garden have a **Christmas Tree delivery service** and they **will collect your tree at the end of the festive season** and ensure it is disposed of in an environmentally friendly fashion.



This year the **Cathedral Flower Guild** are holding a wreath making workshop to create wonderful wreaths for the Walled Garden to sell. If you want a very special wreath for your door this year, contact the Walled Garden!

When you choose to buy from The Walled Garden you are directly supporting the valuable work of the charity which supports adults and young people with learning disabilities.



As Winter approaches, there are many in our local community who need our help. With rising energy and food prices, poor families are going to turn to the Food Bank for a helping hand. Items which are needed right now include: **Tins of vegetables including potatoes, tins of meat and stews, instant soup sachets, cartons or tins of ready-made custard, biscuits and snacks, jams, small bags of sugar and UHT milk. In non-food, hand soap, washing powder, tampons, and nappies.**



The Salvation Army are again appealing for children's Christmas presents. These can be **toys, games, books, jigsaws, cosmetics – suitable for all ages from baby to teenager**. They should be new and unwrapped and can be left in the Food Bank box in the Cathedral – if possible **before the end of November**.

SERVICE TIMES

Sundays

8.00am	Eucharist	9.30am	Morning Prayer (said)
10.30am	Sung Eucharist	12.30pm	Eucharist (BCP)
3.30pm	Evensong		

Diary for the week

Morning Prayer:	Monday to Saturday at 8.30am
Evening Prayer:	Monday 6.00pm; Saturday 5.30pm
Choral Evensong:	Tuesday to Friday 6.00pm

Weekday Eucharists

9.00am	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
10.00am	Wednesday (followed by coffee)
12 noon	Tuesday, Friday and Saturday

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.

Cathedral E newsletter

If you wish to subscribe to the weekly electronic newsletter, please email Michele Gee (michellegee@riponcathedral.org.uk).