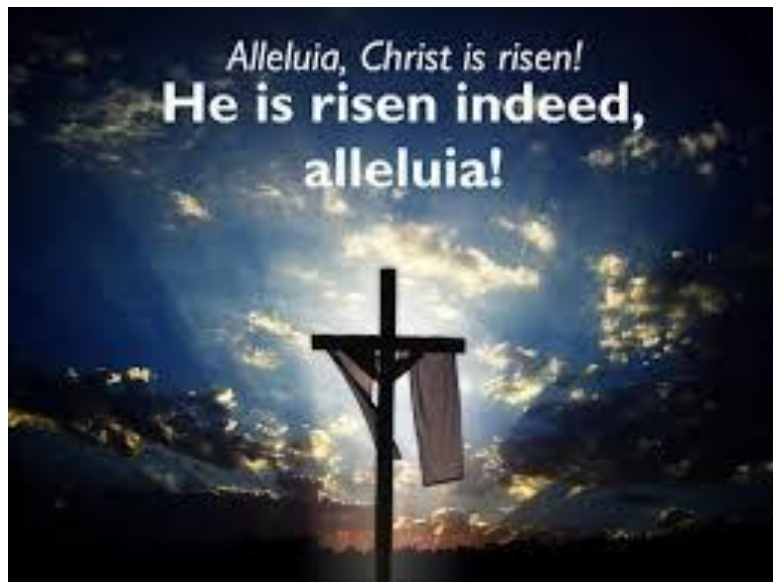


**United Benefice of Skipton, Christ Church
with Carleton, St Mary**



Newsletter

APRIL 2026

Weekly Services

Christ Church

Sunday at 9.30am – Eucharist

Wednesday at 9.30am – Eucharist

St Mary's

Each Sunday at 11.15am

3rd and 5th Sunday – Bread Wine and Worship

2nd and 4th Sunday – Parish Eucharist

1st Sunday of each month -

8am BCP Communion

11.15am Family Praise

Contact Details

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APRIL LECTIONARY READINGS

Wednesday 1 April Wednesday of Holy Week	Isaiah 50.4-9a; Psalm 70; Hebrews 12.1-3; John 13.21-32
Thursday 2 April Maundy Thursday	Exodus 12.1-4[5-10], 11-14; Psalm 116.1,10-17; 1 Corinthians 11.23-26; John 13.1-17,31b-35
Friday 3 April Good Friday	Isaiah 52.13 - 53.12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10.16-25 or Hebrews 4.14-16; 5.7-9; John 18.1 - 19.42
Saturday 4 April Easter Eve	Job 14.1-14 or Lamentations 3.1-9,19-24; Psalm 31.1-4,15,16; 1 Peter 4.1-8; Matthew 27.57-66 or John 19.38-42
Sunday 5 April Easter Day	Acts 10.34-43 or Jeremiah 31.1-6; Psalm 118.1-2,14-24; Colossians 3.1-4 or Acts 10.34-43; John 20.1-18 or Matthew 28.1-10
Monday 6 April Monday of Easter week	Acts 2.14, 22-32; Psalm 16.1-2, 6-end; Matthew 28.8-15
Tuesday 7 April Tuesday of Easter week	Acts 2.36-41; Psalm 33.4-5, 18-end; John 20.11-18
Wednesday 8 April Wednesday of Easter week	Acts 3.1-10; Psalm 105.1-9; Luke 24.13-35
Thursday 9 April Thursday of Easter week	Acts 3.11-end; Psalm 8; Luke 24.35-48
Friday 10 April Friday of Easter week	Acts 4.1-12; Psalm 118; 1-4, 22-26; John 21.1-14
Saturday 11 April Saturday of Easter week	Acts 4.13-21; Psalm 118.1-4, 14-21; Mark 16.9-15
Sunday 12 April 2nd Sunday of Easter	Acts 2.14a,22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1.3-9; John 20.19-31
Monday 13 April	Acts 4.23-31; Psalm 2.1-9; John 3.1-8
Tuesday 14 April	Acts 4.32-end; Psalm 93; John 3.7-15
Wednesday 15 April	Acts 5.17-26; Psalm 34.1-8; John 3.16-21
Thursday 16 April <i>Isabella Gilmore, deaconess, 1923</i>	Acts 5.27-33; Psalm 34.1,15-end; John 3.31-end
Friday 17 April	Acts 5.34-42; Psalm 27.1-5, 16-17; John 6.1-15
Saturday 18 April	Acts 6.1-7; Psalm 33.1-5, 18-19; John 6.16-21
Sunday 19 April 3rd Sunday of Easter	Acts 2.14a,36-41; Psalm 116.1-3,10-17; Peter 1.17-23; Luke 24.13-35
Monday 20 April	Acts 6.8-15; Psalm 119.17-24; John 6.22-29
Tuesday 21 April <i>Anselm, abbot, archbishop, teacher of the faith, 1109</i>	Acts 7.51-8.1a; Psalm 31.1-5, 16; John 6.30-35
Wednesday 22 April	Acts 8.1b-8; Psalm 66.1-6; John 6.35-40
Thursday 23 April <i>George, martyr, patron of England, c.304</i>	1 Maccabees 2.59-64 or Revelation 12.7-12; Psalm 126; 2 Timothy 2.3-13; John 15.18-21
Friday 24 April <i>Mellitus, bishop, 624; Seven Martyrs of the Melanesian Brotherhood, 2003</i>	Acts 9.1-20; Ps 117; John 6.52-59
Saturday 25 April <i>Mark the Evangelist</i>	Proverbs 15.28-33 or Acts 15.35-41; Psalm 119.9-16; Ephesians 4.7-16; Mark 13.5-13

Sunday 26 April 4th Sunday of Easter	Acts 2.42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2.19-25; John 10.1-10
Monday 27 April <i>Christina Rosset, poet, 1894</i>	Acts 11.1–18; Psalm 42.1–2, Psalm 43.1–4; John 10.1–10 (or 11–18)
Tuesday 28 April <i>Peter Chanel, missionary, martyr, 1841</i>	Acts 11.19–26; Psalm 87; John 10.22–30
Wednesday 29 April <i>Catherine of Siena, teacher of the faith, 1380</i>	Acts 12.24–13.5; Psalm 67; John 12.44–end
Thursday 30 April <i>Pandita Mary Ramabai, translator, 1922</i>	Acts 13.13–25; Psalm 89.1–2, 20–26; John 13.16–20



CHRISTIAN AID FUNDRAISING

At its APCM in 2025, Christ Church PCC was asked to consider holding a fundraising event in support of Christian Aid in 2026. This request has now been discussed at the PCC meeting held in March and the following decision was made unanimously:

It was felt that we did not have the capacity to organise and hold an actual event for the Christian Aid Appeal in May this year. Instead, PCC decided that we would donate all the donations we usually receive for refreshments after the services on Sundays, as well as the mid-week Wednesday services, for the entire month of May, to Christian Aid. If anyone in the congregation would like to support this by donating some baked items for the refreshments at these services, this would be most welcome.

Thank you.

Kathia

TARIRO - HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE IN ZIMBABWE TO LEARN, DEVELOP AND GROW

Hello everyone,

I have recently received an email from Fr Nicholas Stebbing, one of the Brethren of the Community of the Resurrection. The Community, led by Fr Nicholas, are engaged in ministry with young people in Zimbabwe and have, as a result, founded the Charity, Tariro (meaning Hope).

Christ Church PCC has, since November 2024, supported Tariro with a monthly donation of £25.

I would like to share with you Fr Nicholas' email, which read:

Dear Kathia

I hope you will not mind my disturbing your Lent with a begging letter, but then maybe that is what Lent is about. In the past the people of Skipton have supported our little charity, Tariro. I am wondering whether you might do so again.

Tariro is actually in trouble financially. We do have money in the bank but there is not enough to keep all our kids in school and in care for more than about three months. We have an income from standing orders but if the main part of our bank balance goes we will have to stop supporting a large number of our youngsters. That would be tragic and we are determined to avoid that. We did have a very good fund raising dinner last month which has helped us through January and February and brought in some longer term income. Despite that we need more. The problem seems to be that people are giving less at the moment because of real or perceived financial constraints; and costs go up in Zimbabwe. That is partly our own fault for taking on more kids – but they were good cases we felt we couldn't ignore. Then we have successes – we have 10 youngsters in tertiary education now which is amazing but costly. And our most recent star, a boy called Willard, whom we rescued from a drunken father, has just got 12 O levels with 9 A's and 3 B's. He is now in Sixth Form doing sciences.

You might also like to see the video we made last year. We were very pleased with it as it really does seem to show what we are doing. You can find it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LNK-E4YZ8O4>

There is also our website www.tarirouk.com Perhaps your people may like to see it?

I realise you may already have committed your Lenten giving to a good cause, but perhaps you could keep us in mind for later.

With best wishes in Christ Jesus,

Nicolas CR

At our meeting on Tuesday 10th March, Christ Church PCC unanimously decided to increase our monthly contribution to Tariro to £35 with immediate effect.

We also wondered whether any of you, on an individual basis, may also wish to support Tariro in some way. And this is the reason for this message to you.

We would like to invite you to watch the video and prayerfully consider whether you might like to support their ministry. There is of course no obligation, or indeed expectation, for you to do so. However, should you wish to do so, please do this privately and directly, either through the Tariro website, or by contacting Fr Nicholas at the Community of the Resurrection.

Fr Nicholas' email address is: nstebbing@mirfield.org.uk

With many thanks and best wishes,

Kathia

You can follow the progress of Tariro by subscribing to their Newsletter - please sign up to the mailing list on the website www.tarirouk.com .

The latest Tariro Newsletter (March 2026) is appended below:



In February, Tariro UK hosted a fundraising dinner at the Travellers Club in London — and I am very glad to say it was a wonderful evening.

I must admit, a formal dinner in a London club is not usually my sort of thing. I wondered whether it would work, whether people would come, and whether I would feel out of place. In fact, it was marvellous. The Travellers Club was a magnificent setting, and around 100 people joined us for the evening. Standing in the reception room with so many smartly dressed guests enjoying themselves, I could hardly believe that all these people had come together in support of Tariro.



Dinner was served upstairs in a beautiful room of great elegance. The food was excellent, the service swift, and the atmosphere warm and generous throughout. I also had the pleasure of speaking with Lucian Msamati, the actor, who as some of you may know grew up with my nieces in Zimbabwe. He was delightful company.

The speeches were mercifully short, and most of the evening was spent talking, reconnecting and enjoying one another's company. My only frustration was not having enough time to speak properly with everyone. Many guests were old friends, and there were also many new faces, all there because they care about the work of Tariro.

Thank you to everyone who came. Thank you especially to Neil Logan Green for leading the organisation of the dinner and for his own generosity in supporting it. Thank you too to those who contributed separately to help cover the event costs, and to all who donated in addition to the ticket price. The

dinner raised an important sum for Tariro, and those funds have been essential in helping us meet school fees for this term.

We also hope the evening helped introduce Tariro to new friends. Many guests were learning about our work in depth for the first time, and we hope some may choose to support us in future through a standing order or a donation.

The evening was a lovely reminder of how much goodwill there is towards Tariro and of how strongly people respond when they see the value of this work with young people in Zimbabwe. As always, the need remains significant, and every contribution helps us continue to do this work well.

Benefact Group

You can also support Tariro by nominating us for a Benefact Group prize. It is quick and easy to do, and if enough people nominate us, we may be fortunate enough to receive an award.

To nominate Tariro, visit: <https://movementforgood.com/>



Student achievements

We are delighted to share some wonderful news about two of our students.

Willard Hungwe is our star student this year. He is a tall, quiet and rather shy boy whom we rescued from an abusive home four years ago. He has just passed 12 O levels with 9 As and 3 Bs — an outstanding achievement. He is now in sixth form studying science subjects.



I have also just heard that Tsitsi Runyowa, who appears in the Tariro's recent video, has passed three A levels in business subjects. We are immensely proud of them both.

Once again, thank you to everyone who supported our February dinner and to all who continue to support Tariro in so many ways. Your generosity makes it possible for these young people to grow, learn and build secure futures. Together, we are helping to change lives in Zimbabwe, and we are deeply grateful for your friendship and encouragement.

With gratitude,

Nicolas CR



Easter Monday Organ Recital

by

Robert Marsh

6th April 2026

11.00am

- ❖ **Robert Marsh's 70th Birthday Recital**
- ❖ **also marking his 25 years as Organist of Christ Church and**
- ❖ **celebrating 120 years of the Harrison and Harrison Organ at Christ Church.**

St Mary's 'Coffee Pot' is open each Friday

from 2pm – 4pm

United Benefice of Skipton Christ Church with Carleton St Mary

May 2026 Newsletter

Please send any Notices/articles for the May edition to
christchurchstmarysoffice@gmail.com before 25th March.

Thank you.

BENEFICE OF SKIPTON CHRIST CHURCH WITH CARLETON ST MARY

SERVICES FOR PALM SUNDAY, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2026

Palm Sunday – 29th March: This year there will not be a joint procession and service at Holy Trinity as in the past few years.

Instead, we will be holding our own service for the benefice as a whole at Christ Church at 9.30. There will not be a separate service at St Mary.

Monday 30th March: 7.30pm - Said Holy Communion at St Mary

Tuesday 31st March: 7.30pm - Said Holy Communion at Christ Church

Wednesday 1st April: 7.30pm - Said Holy Communion at St Mary

Thursday 2nd April: Maundy Thursday
7.30pm - Holy Communion followed by Vigil until
9pm ending with a short Compline at St Mary

Friday 3rd April: Good Friday
3pm - Stations of the Cross at Christ Church

7.30pm - Veneration of the Cross at Christ Church

Saturday 4th April: 7.30pm - Easter Vigil Service at Christ Church
(this includes the Fire, lighting of the Easter Candle,
the Vigil and the Renewal of Baptism Vows)

Sunday 5th April: 9.30am - Easter Day Communion Service at
Christ Church

11.15am - Easter Day Communion Service at
St Mary

Parishes in Diocese of Leeds to see £7m investment to reopen churches and recruit new leaders

16/03/2026

Parishes across the Diocese of Leeds will be supported in church growth, leadership development and work with children and young people through new funding.

The diocese has agreed an initial £7m investment from the [Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board \(SMMIB\)](#) to support the next stage of its long term strategy, [Barnabas](#), which seeks to build confident Christians who are part of growing churches which transform communities.

Named after the believer sent from Jerusalem to Antioch in the Book of Acts to encourage other Christians, the *Barnabas* programme has already seen 60 per cent of parishes get involved with the call to become more missional, as well as financially sustainable, since its launch in 2023.

The Diocese of Leeds covers a region comparable in size to Wales, serving 2.6 million people across 2,425 square miles of major cities, industrial, post-industrial and market towns, and the Yorkshire Dales.

This new investment will enable work across all five of the diocese's episcopal areas – Bradford, Huddersfield, Leeds, Ripon and Wakefield – building on earlier investment that has already led to new congregations, revitalised parishes and increased engagement with local communities.

New lay leaders will be trained to start new worshipping communities in their parishes, with a particular focus on engaging UKME leaders and leaders from communities experiencing deprivation.

Learning from the Diocese of York's Mustard Seed programme, this strand of Barnabas will begin in Halifax, Huddersfield and Bradford, before being expanded elsewhere.

The newly equipped lay leaders will be supported with funded job roles and start-up grants to launch new worshipping communities, with an aim to meet the needs of their local contexts.

Funding also aims to support churches across the diocese by deploying children's and youth workers in new sustainable projects across the diocese, encouraging more people in this vocation, and helping churches to become places where younger generations can explore faith.



Young people in Wakefield working on allotment, as part of the Barnabas programme to engage young people with church through social action

Another key element of the investment is extending the successful church planting and revitalisation work across the City of Leeds, as well as preparing places elsewhere in the diocese for church planting.

A recent evaluation of the Leeds Renewal programme, funded by Strategic Development Funding from 2017 to 2024, reported growth of 970 (169 per cent) across four churches it designated as 'resource churches', well above the target of 575, with those churches also sending teams to revitalise or start five other churches.

One of the involved churches was [St Luke's, Holbeck, which serves its estate community with a host of activities](#), including a community kitchen, English classes for refugees, 'SENTastic' activities for neurodivergent children, food recycling evenings and an award-winning young gymnastics team, and has started a new worshipping gathering in nearby Hunslet.



A Christmas party for young people with additional needs at St Luke's, Holbeck

This new investment will focus on revitalising parishes in East Leeds, an area which comprises 40 per cent social housing, and will involve restarting worship in churches which have not held regular services for over 10 years.

It will also develop a community house for interns from the charismatic Catholic tradition, building on the success of the diocese intern programme, supporting work to develop more diverse planting leaders. There will also be pilot work with Leeds Faith in Schools, as they work with young people in schools across the city to develop discipleship pathways.

The Diocese of Leeds will continue to develop plans for planting and revitalisation across the diocese and has been encouraged by the SMMIB to bring back further proposals to advance the missional intent of its programme in due course.

The Rt Revd Toby Howarth, Acting Bishop of Leeds, said: “This is very good news for the whole Diocese of Leeds. It is a strong vote of confidence in our plans and in the direction we are travelling together. This funding will help us build on what is already bearing fruit, enabling confident Christians to be part of growing churches that truly transform their communities. We are deeply encouraged that the national church shares our confidence in this vision and in the people and parishes who are bringing it to life.”

Julie Jones, member of the Archbishops’ Council and the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board, said: “I’m delighted that we’ve been able to support this ambitious programme, which will establish and re-establish places where people across the Diocese of Leeds, especially younger generations, can encounter the Good News of Jesus Christ. “This investment will further the revitalisation of parishes and strengthen frontline ministry in communities with the greatest need, including those in East Leeds, ensuring that everyone has access to a church that can accompany them in their faith.”



A baptism service at a new worshipping community in Seacroft, East Leeds, as part of the Barnabas programme

Thy Kingdom Come 2026 - 14th May - 24th May



'God with us' - new theme for TKC 2026

Thy Kingdom Come (TKC) is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus.

Since it began in May 2016, God has grown TKC from a dream of possibility into a movement which unites more than a million Christians in prayer, in nearly 90% of countries worldwide, across 85 different denominations and traditions- so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ.

Every person, household and church are encouraged to pray during the 11 days in their own way. It is our hope & prayer, that those who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and His love for the world, will hear it for themselves and respond and follow Him.

Specifically, we again invite each and every Christian across the globe to pray that God's Spirit might work in the lives of 5 people who have not responded with their 'Yes' to God's call.

Whether you have joined in 'Thy Kingdom Come' before or not, we invite you to take part & join in. This year's Thy Kingdom Come is all about the presence of God through His spirit.

The God who is with us in the everyday - in the joys and sorrows of life (and everything in between) and the One who longs to reveal Himself to those who do not yet know Him.

For further information please visit:

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/thy-kingdom-come-2026>

Meet the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend Sarah Mullally.



Sarah Mullally was installed the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury at a colourful service at Canterbury Cathedral on 25 March 2026, the Feast of the Annunciation.

Born in Woking in 1962, the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE is one of four children, with two sisters and one brother. She attended Winston Churchill Comprehensive School and Woking Sixth Form College. She became a Christian at the age of 16.

Nursing and leading

Bishop Sarah was educated at South Bank Polytechnic and Heythrop College, University of London. Before being ordained, she worked as a nurse in the National Health Service, which she has described as “an opportunity to reflect the love of God”. She specialised as a cancer nurse and became a ward sister at Westminster Hospital before being made Director of Nursing at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital.

In 1999, at the age of 37, she was appointed the Government’s Chief Nursing Officer for England in the Department of Health. She was the youngest person ever to be appointed to the post.

Bishop Sarah was made a Dame Commander of the British Empire in 2005 in recognition of her outstanding contribution to nursing.

Becoming a Bishop

While working as the Chief Nursing Officer for England, she discerned a call to ordination and entered training ministry at the South East Institute for Theological Education. She was ordained in 2001 and served her curacy in St Saviour’s Battersea Fields, initially as a self-supporting minister, before leaving her Government post in 2004, which she has described at the time as “the biggest decision I have ever made”.

In 2012, she was installed as Canon Treasurer at Salisbury Cathedral and three years later took the role as Suffragan Bishop of Crediton in the Diocese of Exeter, the fourth woman to become a Bishop in the Church of England.

She was consecrated at Canterbury Cathedral, alongside the Bishop of Gloucester, Rachel Treweek. On 12 May 2018, Bishop Sarah was installed as the 133rd Bishop of London at St Paul's Cathedral, the first woman to hold the role.

Bishop Sarah sits in the [House of Lords](#) as one of the Lords Spirituals, having been introduced on 24 May 2018. Her maiden speech paid tribute to the NHS on its 70th anniversary, telling the Lords: "I am the Bishop I am today because of that first vocation to nursing, and compassion and healing are constants at the heart of who I am." She was sworn in as a member of the Privy Council in March 2018 and became Dean of Her Majesty's Chapels Royal in July 2019.

As Bishop of London, Bishop Sarah has spoken regularly of enabling "every Londoner to encounter the love of God in Christ" Bishop Sarah led the Church of England's Living in Love and Faith process from 2020 to 2023. This included the formative stages of discernment and decision making, which saw the introduction of the Prayers of Love and Faith for same-sex couples. She has served on the Church's National Safeguarding Steering Group and is also Lead Bishop for Health and Social Care issues.

As a Lord Spiritual, she has drawn from both her pastoral experience and her background in nursing and healthcare and has played a key role in the ongoing debates on assisted dying.

This year, she chaired the Triennium Funding Working Group that developed the Church of England's three-year spending plan that led to significant investments in local churches and parish clergy.

Family and private life

Bishop Sarah is married to Eamonn, an Irish-born IT and Enterprise Architect who enjoys beekeeping and volunteering as a London tourist guide. The couple have two grown-up children, Liam and Grace. She has continued her interest in the health service, having been a non-executive director at the Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust then at Salisbury NHS Foundation Hospital. She is Chair of Christian Aid. She has spoken openly about her dyslexia, describing her difficulties with writing and reading. In her spare time, she loves cooking, walking and pottery.

Archbishop Sarah's Installation Sermon

25 March 2026

'For nothing will be impossible with God'. (Luke 1.37)

May I speak in the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

I am delighted to be with you today. Over the last week I have walked the ancient pilgrim path from St Paul's Cathedral in London to Canterbury Cathedral. Each day my heart and spirits were lifted immeasurably by the people young and old we encountered, even though my aching feet and limbs tell a different story!



Photo credit: Lambeth Palace

As I have walked, I have been aware that I make this journey both on a personal level, as my ministry moves from being Bishop of London to the Archbishop of Canterbury, but more significantly, I make this journey with others and in the footsteps of the past.

Thomas Becket, one of my predecessors as Archbishop of Canterbury, made this same pilgrim journey over 850 years ago. Today, I think of the many thousand unknown Christians who have trodden these same paths since. And not just on this ancient land, but all across the world, people walk the pilgrim paths of faith each and every day.

Of course, even if you're following a path, the way can be unknown. Where it leads isn't always clear, but we can trust in God's hand guiding us - and in God's promises.

In the prayer that was written for my pilgrimage by Student Chaplains at The Archbishop's School, here in Canterbury, they prayed that God might:

“Strengthen us in faith,
Grant us a heart like Christ’s,
gentle, humble, and devoted to the truth,
So that we may share the Gospel with joy.”

Pretty good, isn’t it? And it reminds us that we can all learn from the faith of our young people.

For Mary, perhaps much the same age as those Student Chaplains, following God’s invitation to trust in his promises meant trusting in a future she couldn’t yet see – a future she could never have imagined. Mary was invited to put her faith in God, and to trust in the angel’s words of assurance: *‘For nothing will be impossible with God’*.

I resonate with this, as I look back over my life – at the teenage Sarah, who put her faith in God and made a commitment to follow Jesus. I could never have imagined the future that lay ahead, and certainly not the ministry to which I am now called.

Mary followed in the footsteps of the faithful, her story resonates with the beautiful stories of women like Hannah in the Scriptures. Mary put her hope in God’s future. She trusted that He was with her, and through Mary, God did a new thing!

As we approach Holy Week and Easter, we also know that Mary’s journey wasn’t easy and that she faced unimaginable challenges. The sword of grief and pain pierced Mary’s soul - just as Simeon had foretold – most of all at the cross. Yet even that was transformed into the joy and hope of the resurrection.

But here in this moment of encounter with the angel, before any of this story unfolds, Mary is invited to open her heart, to offer herself and say: *“Here I am”*. And to put her hope in the angel’s words: *‘For nothing will be impossible with God’*.

Some of our Anglican brothers and sisters are unable to be here today due to the war in the Middle East and the Gulf. We pray for them without ceasing, and for all those in war-torn areas of the world, in Ukraine, in Sudan, and Myanmar – that they would know God’s presence with them, just as we pray for peace to prevail.

And in a world already torn by conflict, suffering, and division, we must also acknowledge the hurt that exists much closer to home. We must not overlook or minimise the pain experienced by those who have been harmed through the actions, inactions, or failures of those in our own Christian communities. Today, and every day, we hold victims and survivors in our hearts and in our prayers, and we must remain committed to truth, compassion, justice and action.

As a church, we are a pilgrim people. And like Mary, we are called to trust that nothing will be impossible with God, Even when we see so much in the world that makes hope seem impossible.

There is hope because we make this journey *‘with God’* – ‘we do not bear the weight of this calling in our own strength, but only by the grace and power of God’.

We walk with God – trusting that God walks with us. Trusting that in all that we face, in the sorrow and the challenges, as much as in the joy and the delight – we do not walk alone.

There is hope because we are invited to trust that God will do a new thing! The moment of encounter between Mary and the Angel Gabriel announces the mystery of the incarnation – the definitive moment that reveals ‘God-with-us’, Immanuel.

In the incarnation, we see God becoming one of us - and this gives me such hope for the Church. In the ordinary and extraordinary life of the church, we see God’s hand at work - the Church rolling up its sleeves and getting stuck in, where God is already at work: in the local and the global.

The Church, through the ordinary lives of its people, contains so many extraordinary acts of love: God’s people, offering a listening ear, a word of encouragement, or prayer for healing; offering food and shelter, sanctuary and welcome; in a world that so often seeks to divide us, tables to sit at and conversations to be shared; and being a simple, loving presence, like the salt of the earth, a light on a hill, the treasure of the kingdom.

A church for the whole nation and for the world, which looks for ways of joining with people of all faiths and none, in acts of service that will transform. A church which extends around the world, with our sister churches in the Anglican Communion, as part of the one holy, catholic and apostolic Church, to embody Christ’s love.

God is at work in the good news of the gospel and in the hearts and lives of ordinary people, who – like Mary – have the audacity to believe that with God we can do extraordinary things.

For me, this trust and hope in God began as I committed my life to Jesus. And God has been with me, each and every step of my pilgrim path, and I trust that He walks with me now.

Maybe as you are listening to me, you are thinking about your own journey. Perhaps it’s smooth, perhaps it’s hard. Knowing God is with you on the journey makes all the difference. I encourage you to visit a church — for a quiet prayer or for a conversation. If you want to talk, you will be heard.

And you can respond to God’s invitation with words as simple as the words of Mary: ‘Here I am.’

As I begin my ministry today as Archbishop of Canterbury, I say again to God: ‘Here I am.’

May we have the audacity to believe in the promises of God: for with Him, nothing will be impossible.

Amen.

New Networking Coordinator appointed in Skipton as part of rural change project



Skipton Deanery members recently welcomed the Revd Tom Lusty as their new Networking Coordinator as part of a pilot rural change project supported by the diocese.

The Revd Sheena McMain, Area Dean, commissioned Revd Tom in the new part-time role which he will hold during the next two years, looking to support and develop rural parishes in the area, celebrating the many good things which are present and promoting sharing and collaboration between communities who can feel quite isolated from one another.

Revd Tom said: “I’m really excited about building relationships and meeting people from churches all over the deanery in the weeks and months ahead.

“I’m particularly pleased that I’m not on my own, I’m part of a great team and feel supported and encouraged as I begin this new role.

“It will also, hopefully, impact positively on my ongoing ministry for the past four years as a parish priest serving my own parish in Upper Wharfedale and Littondale.

“It will remind me to focus on what is important in ministry – and that people are at the heart of it.”

The initiative has the support of the Rt Revd Anna Eltringham, Bishop of Ripon, and is funded as part of a pilot rural change project enabled by Barnabas, which is the Diocese of Leeds’ initiative to support churches in mission funded by the national church.

Skipton Deanery members are enthusiastic about this development in the project, which has been designed to respond to the wishes of the local churches.

Revd Sheena said: “We are so excited to welcome Tom to this post and very grateful to everyone who has made this work possible.

“We are confident that Tom will be a great person to enable churches across our deanery to listen to each other, learn from each other, and to support each other.

“We seek to build lasting relationships and work together to share the good news in this beautiful part of the Ripon area.”

To find out more about Barnabas, please click:

<https://www.leeds.anglican.org/how-we-can-help/barnabas-encouraging-confidence/>.

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Bishop Nick Baines releases report into future of Europe



During his last couple of years as the Bishop of Leeds, the Rt Revd Nick Baines conducted an inquiry into the future of Europe.

Interviewing a wide range of interlocutors, he has now produced a report: ‘Reimagining Europe: A Christian Reflection’.

This feeds from his role as a Lord Spiritual (2014-2025) and Lead Bishop for International Affairs.

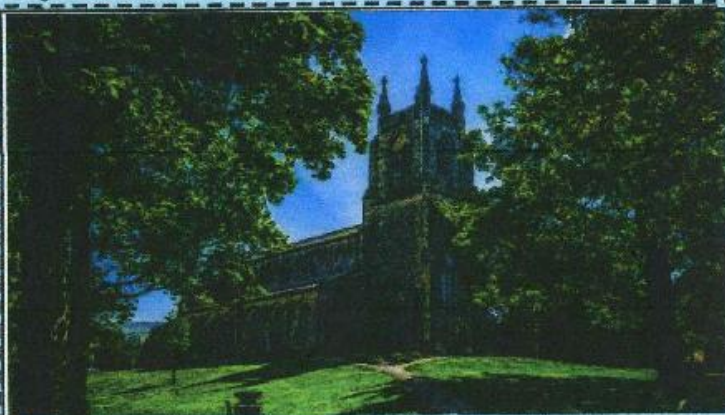
Bishop Nick said: “The Church of England has a responsibility, given its established nature, to engage imaginatively with our contribution to the future.

“This involves suggesting how to shape and not simply react to others’ imagination or engagement with a different vision.

“This report is my personal contribution to that debate.”

To read the report, please visit:

<https://d3hgrrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/63dac5b59618e/content/pages/documents/reimagining-europe-12032026.pdf>



Christ Church Skipton

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY ORGAN RECITAL SERIES 2026

Monday 6th April at 11:00 am

ROBERT MARSH

Christ Church Skipton

*This is the first recital of the Christ Church Bank Holiday Monday Organ Recital Series 2026.
The recital begins at 11:00 am with refreshments prior to the concert.
There will be a retiring collection.*

NEXT RECITALS

Monday 4th May, 2026 (May Bank Holiday)
WILLIAM CAMPBELL (Bradford Cathedral)

Monday 25th May, 2026 (Spring Bank Holiday)
CHARLES DOBSON (Holy Trinity, Skipton)

Monday 31st August, 2026 (August Bank Holiday)
PHILIP RUSHFORTH (Chester Cathedral)

Please support



Christian Aid is on a journey. We are building a world free from poverty, and based on dignity, equality, justice and love.

Our understanding of how to address and eradicate poverty is based on three pillars.

- Poverty – We reach those most in need, in some of the hardest to reach places around the world.
- Power – We challenge the systemic and structural causes of poverty by holding those in power to account.
- Prophetic voice – We speak truth to power and build local and collective agency

To be part of our global movement for change, please visit:

<https://give.christianaid.org.uk/donate/>

Skipton Food Bank

This is a list of standard items that we use to make up our food parcels. All items should be in good condition, unopened and not past their *use by* or *best before* date. This is a list of what currently is included in our food parcels

Food

- Tinned meat
- Custard
- Tinned fruit
- Instant Coffee
- Tinned Rice Pudding
- Jam/Marmalade
- Jars of Pasta Sauce
- Tinned veg, e.g. Sweetcorn, Peas, Carrots
- Rice
- Tinned spaghetti
- Tinned tomatoes
- Tinned Fish
- Quick cook meals – noodles, rice & pasta
- UHT milk
- Pasta
- Soup
- Beans
- Cereal

Toiletries

- Toilet roll
- Soap
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Shower Gel
- Sanitary Products

We also collect

- Dog food
- Cat food
- Nappies (large size 5 or 6 most helpful)
- Baby wipes
- Household cleaning items and washing powder

Our heartfelt thanks. Together, we are able to provide much needed support to many households in Craven.



Mary's Meals currently works in 16 of the world's poorest countries, feeding over 3 million young children one good meal every day in their place of education. They are asking you to donate any left-over foreign currency or obsolete UK currency that you may have lying around. Just bring any foreign or old coins/notes to church by 31 December and we will pass them on. The money raised from this initiative will help Mary's Meals bring hope to more desperately hungry children across the globe. Every 10p is enough to provide a hungry child with a nutritious meal in school.

Mary's Meals would like to thank you for your continuous support & prayers.

Mary's Meals UK

Units 10-13, Claremont Centre, 39 Durham Street, Glasgow, G41 1BS, Scotland



Foundation Craven

(part of the [Inspire North](#) charity group)

Foundation Craven delivers the following services in Craven District Council - Skipton and surrounding areas:

- **Resettlement and Community Safety Scheme (RACS):** A high performing short term support service working with offenders who have the highest need and pose the greatest risk to themselves and the community.
- **North Yorkshire Young People's Pathway:** This service offers young people the necessary support, advice and mediation to enable them to stay in their present accommodation. Where it is not possible for someone to remain at home, we have a variety of accommodation options to suit their needs.
- **Mental Health Scheme:** This service takes referrals from many places, including the Community Mental Health Team, GP, hospitals, substance misuse agencies as well as self-referrals, for those with a severe and enduring mental health diagnoses. We offer a mixture of floating support and accommodation based supported housing.

Contact Email Craven@foundationuk.org Website: <https://www.foundationuk.org/>

Telephone: 01756 701195

Foundation Craven welcomes donations of:

- Food items
- Household goods
- Soft furnishings (beddings, towels, cutlery)
- monetary contributions can be made online at

<https://www.foundationuk.org/donate/>

or in the office across the road from Christ Church, at:

The Carriage Works, 3-5 Cross Street, Skipton BD23 2AH

(hours: 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday).