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



Newsletter

NOVEMBER 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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NOVEMBER LECTIONARY READINGS

Sunday 1 November All Saints Day	Revelation 7.9-17; Psalm 34.1-10; 1 John 3.1-3; Matthew 5.1-12
Monday 2 November	Philippians 2.1–4; Psalm 131; Luke 14.12–14
Tuesday 3 November *Richard Hooker, priest, teacher of the faith, 1600* *Martin of Porres, friar, 1639*	Philippians 2.5–11; Psalm 22.22–27; Luke 14, 15–24
Wednesday 4 November	Philippians 2.12–18; Psalm 27.1–5; Luke 14; 25–33
Thursday 5 November	Philippians 3.3–8a; Psalm 105.1–7; Luke 15.1–10
Friday 6 November *Leonard, hermit, 6th cent.* *William Temple, archbishop, teacher of the faith, 1944*	Philippians 3.17–4.1; Psalm 122; Luke 16.1–8
Saturday 7 November *Willibrord, bishop, 739*	Philippians 4.10–19; Psalm 112; Luke 16.9–15
Sunday 8 November 3rd Sunday before Advent *Remembrance Sunday*	Wisdom of Solomon 6.12-16 *Canticle:* Wisdom of Solomon 6.17-20; Psalm 70; 1 Thessalonians 4.13-18; Matthew 25.1-13
Monday 9 November *Margery Kempe, mystic c.1440*	Titus 1.1–9; Psalm 24.1–6; Luke 17.1–6
Tuesday 10 November *Leo the Great, bishop, teacher of the faith, 461*	Titus 2.1–8,11–14; Psalm 37.3–5, 30–32; Luke 17.7–10
Wednesday 11 November *Martin, bishop, c.397*	Titus 3.1–7; Psalm 23; Luke 17.11–19
Thursday 12 November	Philemon 7–20; Psalm 146.4–end; Luke 17.20–25
Friday 13 November *Charles Simeon, priest, evangelical divine, 1836*	2 John 4–9; Psalm 119.1–8; Luke 17.26–end
Saturday 14 November *Samuel Seabury, bishop,1796*	3 John 5–8; Psalm 112; Luke 18.1–8
Sunday 15 November 2nd Sunday before Advent	Zephaniah 1.7,12-18; Psalm 90.1-8[9-11]12; 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11; Matthew 25.14-30
Monday 16 November *Margaret, queen, philanthropist, 1093; Edmund Rich, archbishop, 1240*	Revelation 1.1–4; 2.1–5; Psalm 1; Luke 18.35–end
Tuesday 17 November Hugh, bishop, 1200	Revelation 3.1–6; 14–end; Psalm 15; Luke 19.1–10
Wednesday 18 November *Elizabeth, princess, philanthropist, 1231*	Revelation 4; Psalm 150; Luke 19.11–28
Thursday 19 November *Hilda, abbes, 860* *Mechtild, beguine, mystic,1280*	Revelation 5.1–10; Psalm 149.1–5; Luke 19.41–44
Friday 20 November *Edmund, king. Martyr,870* *Priscila Lydia Sellon, a restorer of the religious life in the Church of England, 1876*	Revelation 10.8–end; Psalm 119.65–72; Luke 19.45–end
Saturday 21 November	Revelation 11.4–12; Psalm 144.1–9; Luke 20.27–40

Sunday 22 November Christ the King Sunday before Advent	Ezekiel 34.11-16,20-24; Psalm 95.1-7 Ephesians 1.15-23; Matthew 25.31-46
Monday 23 November *Clement, bishop, martyr, c.100*	Revelation 14.1–5; Psalm 24.1–6; Luke 21.1–4
Tuesday 24 November	Revelation 14.14–19; Psalm 96; Luke 21.5–11
Wednesday 25 November *Catherine, martyr, 4th cent.* *Isaac Watts, hymn wrier,1748*	Revelation 15.1–4; Psalm 98; Luke 21.12–19
Thursday 26 November	Revelation 18.1–2, 21–23,19.1–3, 9; Psalm 100; Luke 21.20–28
Friday 27 November	Revelation 20.1–4,11–21.2; Psalm 84.1–6; Luke 21.29–33
Monday 28 November	Revelation 22.1–7; Psalm 95.1–7; Luke 21.34–36
Sunday 29 November 1st Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 2.1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13.11-14; Matthew 24.36-44
Monday 30 November Andrew the Apostle	Isaiah 52.7-10; Psalm 19.1-6; Romans 10.12-18; Matthew 4.18-22



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICES: 8TH NOVEMBER

AT CHRIST CHURCH - 9.15AM

AT ST. MARY - 10.45AM

RETIREMENT OF REVD. KATHIA

Our Vicar Revd Canon Kathia Shoesmith, will be retiring on November 30, 2026. Her last service in the Benefice will be a Eucharist at Christ Church, in celebration of 'Christ the King' on Sunday 22nd November at 10.00am
A luncheon reception will follow the service, at the Church Hall.

All are welcome to join in bidding her farewell.

Children's Society House Collection Boxes

'Thank you for helping to improve children's lives'

Thank you to our faithful group of House Collection Box Holders and all the other members of the congregation who gave generously to the Children's Society in September. Below is the message I received from the Society.

Hi CHRISTINE,

A massive thank you for your donation of £153.00 – you hero! 👏

Together, thanks to your generosity, we're creating a society built for all children. Your gift of £153.00 means we can empower young people to make positive changes and rediscover their hope.

Once again thank you for choosing to fight for young people and their futures.

Andrew Morran
Head of Supporter Experience

UNITED BENEFICE OF SKIPTON, CHRIST CHURCH WITH CARLETON, ST MARY
AUTUMN AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2026

AT CHRIST CHURCH

SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER, 9.30AM
HARVEST

THURSDAY 29TH OCTOBER, 7.30PM
ALL SOULS' MEMORIAL SERVICE (BENEFICE SERVICE)

SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER, 9.15AM
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

SUNDAY 22ND NOVEMBER - CHRIST THE KING AND
REVD KATHIA'S FINAL SERVICE - 10AM (BENEFICE SERVICE)

SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER, 6.30PM
ADVENT CAROL SERVICE (BENEFICE SERVICE)

SATURDAY 19TH DECEMBER, 4PM
CHRISTINGLE (BENEFICE SERVICE)

SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER, 6.30PM
CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

THURSDAY 24TH DECEMBER, 11.30PM
MIDNIGHT SOLEMN MASS

FRIDAY 25TH DECEMBER, 9.30AM
CHRISTMAS DAY EUCHARIST

AT ST MARY'S

SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER, 11.15AM
HARVEST

SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER, 10.45AM
REMEMBRANCE SERVICE,

SATURDAY 28H NOVEMBER 10AM -12PM
ADVENT COFFEE MORNING

SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER, 7.00PM
CHRISTMAS CONCERT

THURSDAY 24TH DECEMBER, 6.00PM
CAROL SERVICE

FRIDAY 25TH DECEMBER, 9.30AM
CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

WEDNESDAY 6TH JANUARY 2027, 7.30PM
FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

SOLEMN MASS AT CHRIST CHURCH, 9.30AM

HOLY COMMUNION AT ST MARY'S, 11.15AM

Born for This

Calling all singers, readers, actors…

An exciting project is taking place within Skipton Deanery!

Born for this is a musical, dramatic, and artistic live work based on the Stations of the Cross. It consists of 14 songs – some choruses, some solos - 14 dramatic readings/dialogues, and14 contemporary paintings depicting the different stations. It can be produced as a one-off live theatre performance with a cast of hundreds, or as a reflective liturgy in a Church or Village Hall by three or four people with recorded music, recorded readers, and a power point deck of slides…. or indeed anything in between.

We are planning to offer it digitally as a completed work to all churches in the Deanery during Lent, to be used as you wish, either as a series of Lent reflections, a series of meditations for Holy Week, or as a one-off event open to all…and probably all three.

Now the interesting bit……the participants in the production will all be members of Skipton Deanery… i.e**. YOU!**
Readers will be drawn from all our Parishes and music will be recorded by anyone or everyone who wishes to take part, via a very simple process used by us to produce online services during Covid.
Richard Reeday with whom many of us have worked successfully in the past will be facilitating this. We are holding **a workshop on Saturday 14th November 2.00 – 4.30 pm in Cracoe Village Hall** to help us learn music and make contributions in a live situation. It would be helpful **but not essential** to attend the workshop if you wish to take part.

Please do consider this...a first for the Parish and the Deanery.

Please contact tomlusty.uwl@gmail.com for further information and to get materials and/or to book a workshop place.

ADVENT COURSE

'Reflections at the Well'



Four studies of John 4: 4–42

12 - 1.15pm
The Craven Arts House
55 Otley Street, Skipton, BD23 1ET.

Wednesday 25th November - Hope
The Very Revd Andrew Nunn, retired Dean of Southwark Cathedral

Wednesday 2nd December - Spirituality
The Revd Dr Janet Williams, Vice Principal of St Hild Theological College

Wednesday 9th December - Wholeness and Healing
The Revd Sue Hammersley, Director of Holy Rood House

Wednesday 16th December - Discipleship
The Revd Andy Sellers, Baptist minister and Ecumenical Leader.

Light refreshments available. Attendees are invited to bring their own lunch if they wish.

Diocese of Leeds Week of Prayer November 2026

Introduction

Prayer has been central to the growth and development of our diocese, throughout the Vacancy in See process of appointing a new bishop. It needs to remain so as we commit ourselves to being open to God's sustained calling and our continued transformation under Bishop Toby's leadership as he becomes Bishop of Leeds. Dean of Ripon the Very Rev John Dobson has led prayer throughout the vacancy and he explains here why we are calling a special week of prayer for the Diocese now between Sunday, November 1 and Saturday November 7 2026

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Since we first knew that the Diocese of Leeds would have a Vacancy in See, we have been united in praying for the flourishing of God's mission among us, for grace for all involved in the process by which God's choice of the new bishop would be discerned and for the Holy Spirit's strength and courage for that person.

Since the end of July, we have been rejoicing that Bishop Toby, the Bishop of Bradford, will be the second Bishop of Leeds. The enthusiasm for God's choice was evident when the College of Canons met in Ripon Cathedral to elect him – the person discerned by the Crown Nomination Commission and affirmed by The King. Again, we were united in prayer – for Bishop Toby, for Henriette, his wife, and their family, and for the churches, parishes, institutions and area bishops of the diocese.

Now, as we approach the Confirmation of Bishop Toby's Election in York Minster on Friday, 6th November, I, with the deans of Wakefield and Bradford, are keen to encourage us all to be united in prayer once more. The area bishops and we deans have provided a prayer focus on each episcopal area and each cathedral for this week of prayer. Above all, however, we are keen that we all pray for Bishop Toby as he prepares both for his installation in each cathedral in January 2027 and to take a short Sabbatical between now and the installations, to prepare for his new role, as well as for the Howarth family as they prepare to move to Hollin House in Leeds during that period. We also pray for grace for Bishop Arun, the Bishop of Kirkstall, who will be Acting Bishop of Leeds from early November to mid-January, supported well by Bishops Anna, Smitha and Malcolm.

We are providing some prayer resources to prompt, encourage and help all of us – all expressions of Church within the diocese - to pray through this week. The following material is offered as a resource for our prayers at Morning Prayer each day from All Saints' Day on Sunday, 1st November to Saturday 7th November, as we know many churches or parishes hold Morning Prayer in some form.

Alternatively, the individual Diocesan Prayers can be used as intercessions during services, or at any time in our individual prayer lives. There is a full liturgy for Morning Prayer, based on the prayers and readings offered in the lectionary, for this week at the link below, as well as a link to the special prayers and points for prayer for the diocese. We commend these to you and hope you find them useful, however you choose to use them.

With my very best wishes

Dean John

Dean of Ripon

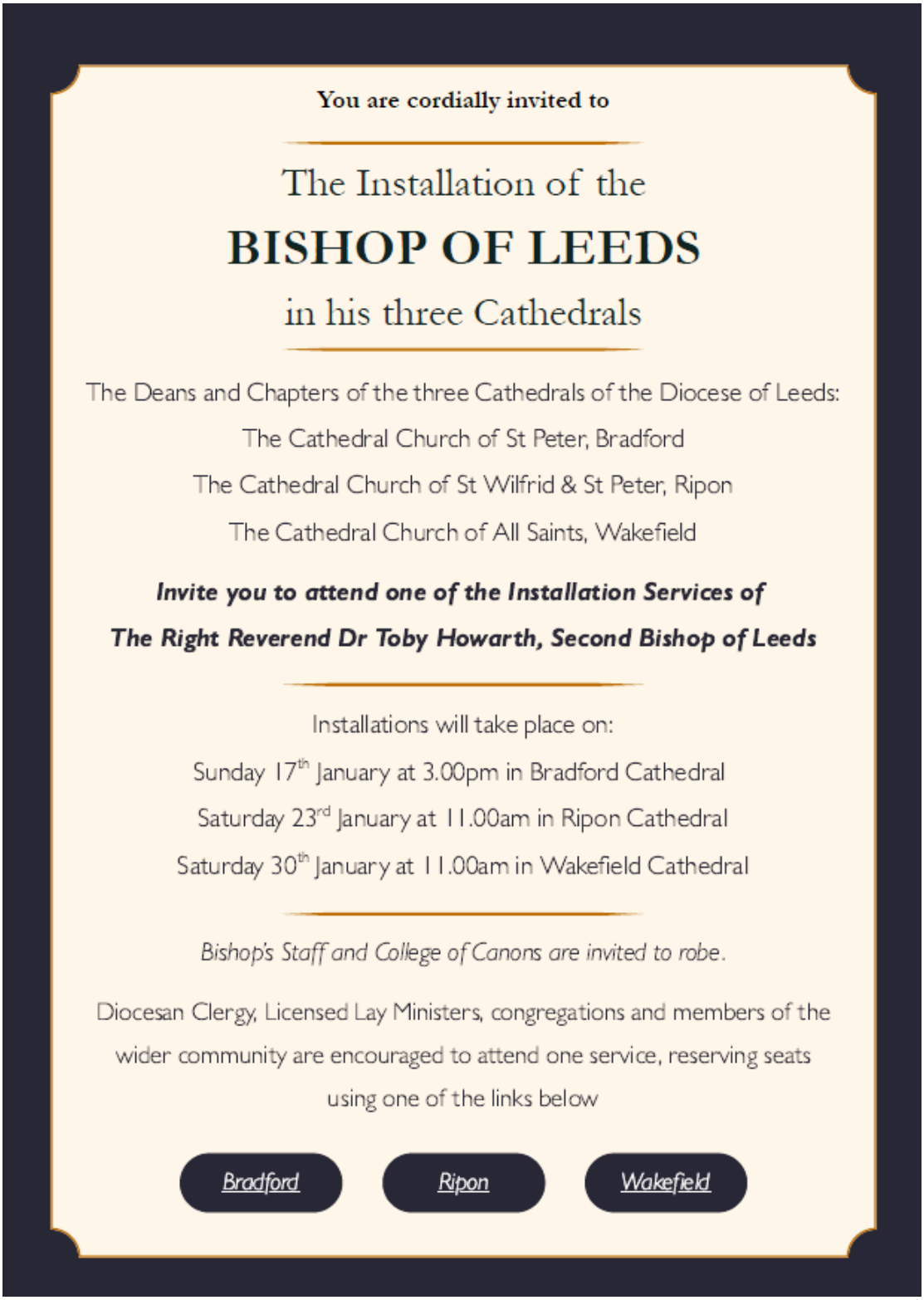
To download the Morning Prayer liturgy as a pdf document:

https://d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/63dac5b59618e/content/pages/documents/diocese-of-leeds-week-of-prayer-november-1-7-2026.pdf

To download the prayers for each area and cathedral as a pdf document:

https://d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/63dac5b59618e/content/pages/documents/intercessions-for-the-diocese-of-leeds-week-of-prayer-2026.pdf

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Bradford: https://bradfordcathedral.churchsuite.com/events/blgju71v

Ripon: https://riponcathedral.org.uk/events/installation-of-the-rt-revd-dr-toby-howarth-as-bishop-of-leeds/?occurrence=2027-01-23

Wakefield: https://wakefieldcathedral.churchsuite.com/events/cyw7do97

News from THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

View budget by how it helps reduce poverty, says Bishop Helen-Ann

Published: 28/10/2026

Following the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Budget Statement, the Bishop of Newcastle, Helen-Ann Hartley, lead bishop in the House of Lords for economics and business, said: "The success of this budget should be measured by the extent to which it reduces poverty, expands opportunity, and upholds the dignity of every single person. "I welcome the Government's desire to work in partnership, recognising the contribution that local government, businesses, civil society and faith groups can make to addressing the challenges of our time.

"As we move into the winter, any reduction in gas prices is welcome and much needed. However, without further targeted support, many households will continue to face significant challenges in heating their homes.

"The Chancellor said that getting rough sleepers off the streets is a moral mission. We applaud this aim and will encourage the Government to do what is necessary to deliver on its aspirations. Churches provide vital support in this area and many seek to address the root causes of homelessness, working towards a future where everyone has a place to call home.

"I also commend the Government's efforts to support first-time buyers and to provide more social and affordable housing.

"There is work ahead to build an economy which truly serves the common good. Opportunities remain profoundly shaped by geography. Hunger and hardship remain unacceptable realities in our country today. Meanwhile, the cost of servicing our national debt is being felt now and will be felt by future generations. Addressing these challenges will require careful attention, long-term planning, and a willingness to make difficult decisions in the pursuit of just outcomes."

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Invitation to 'Come and See' doubles church attendance

A challenge by their vicar to invite people to 'come and see' resulted in a church congregation welcoming 75 non-church members to a service.

For Christ Church, Flackwell Heath Buckinghamshire, the start of the new academic year was also a natural chance to invite family and friends to church using the simple phrase 'come and see'. Simple invitation cards were produced that were easy to share with friends and families.

The Rev James Dwyer, vicar of Christ Church, said: "The church has been on a journey of learning how to be more courageous in extending an invitation.

“The experience has led to a growth in confidence for Church members in inviting people to join us.”

The Church saw 75 non-regular church attendees at the service. Rev James said “It was really encouraging to see the response.

“It shows how open people are to exploring faith when given an invitation.”

The service itself was structured around the theme of welcome. During the service participants were invited to write their name or someone else's name on a heart as a symbol of God knowing us and loving us, these were then placed on a prayer board in the Church

A Baptism formed a key part of the service, providing a familiar backdrop for those less familiar with church.

The Rev James said: “It was a really joyful occasion in which we were able to offer a glimpse of what it means to be part of God’s family.”

Throughout the rest of the Autumn the church will be hosting Alpha courses and other outreach events and have already seen signups from those who attended the service in September



Attitudes to Christianity and Britishness reflect deep anxiety, Theos report says

By Madeleine Davies

Church Times 11 October 2026

Researchers warn that those most committed to a Christian vision of Britain are often driven by cultural anxieties and racist conspiracy theories

BRITISH people who espouse Christian nationalist views are a “deeply anxious” group, and conversations with them should explore “what is it that bothers them so much about the state of Britain today”, a new report from Theos suggests.

In the report, *Beyond “Christian Nationalism”: Measuring attitudes to Christianity and Britishness today*, Dr Nick Spencer and Dr Yinxuan Huang write of seeking to provide “greater nuance” on a topic that has been both “understudied” and the subject of a commentariat in “overdrive”. The report is an attempt to steer the conversation “away from the narrow and sterile rhetoric of ‘them’ v. ‘us’”.

The analysis is informed by polling carried out by a market research firm, RED C, exploring public attitudes towards not only Christianity and nationhood, but also other topics, including immigration, ethnicity, and Islam. The research was carried out in six countries. In the UK, the sample size was 1,765.

In total, eight per cent strongly agreed that “you need to be Christian to be truly British,” while nine per cent slightly agreed. But the report argues that “in order to measure Christian nationalism, you need to do more than ask that single question.”

It goes on to set out five groups into which Theos has categorised respondents.

Committed Separatists, at 34 per cent, made up the largest group, united by "rejection not simply of anything that might look like Christian nationalism but also of pretty much any form of Christian involvement in Britain's political, legal, or social infrastructure".

Cultural Separatists (16 per cent) held similar views, but with less intensity. They were also "hostile to the idea that any other cultural or religious identity — most obviously Islam or immigrant identities — should occupy that space". Almost all (99 per cent) said that they would be upset about a local church closing and being turned into a mosque.

Across the entire sample, 55 per cent said that they would be upset by such a development. The report suggests that concern about Islam is not confined to a minority. Fewer than one quarter (23 per cent) agreed that Islam was "totally compatible with British values", while more than one third agreed that "the white population in Europe is deliberately being replaced by migrants from Muslim countries."

On this last point, agreement was highest (82 per cent) among Identity Integrationists, who made up 11 per cent of the total. This group "see Christianity as fundamental to Britishness and want to defend the nation's Christian heritage from what they see as invasive and threatening influences", the report says. More than half agreed that "to be truly British you should be a Christian." Forty-two per cent agreed that a person needed to be white to be truly British (compared with 16 per cent of the overall sample), and 84 per cent said that Britain was too ethnically mixed. This group had the highest level of Christian affiliation of all groups. Nearly half — 45 per cent — were "very concerned" about the decline of Christianity in Britain. The percentage attending church weekly, however, was only slightly higher than the overall sample (13 compared with 11 per cent).

The group with the highest proportion of practising Christians — Belief Integrationists — make up 13 per cent of the total. Almost one third (31 per cent) reported attending church weekly. These respondents "want to see Christianity integrated with Britishness but, for the most part, because they want to promote the Christian faith rather than preserve Christian values", the report says.

While the percentage who thought that "defending our Christian heritage and culture" was important for being a Christian was lower than the sample average (18 compared with 23 per cent), and 48 per cent agreed that "Christian values require that we welcome and support asylum seekers," two-thirds ascribed to the Great Replacement Theory (a theory that white populations in the West are being systematically replaced through declining birth rates and immigration).

The final group, Values Integrationists (26 per cent), "do not think you need to be Christian to be British, but they do see Christianity as an important element of British values and want to see that recognised and protected."

"The way in which those groups that favour a closer relationship between Christianity and the British nation also are inclined to believe what is, in effect, a

racist conspiracy theory is particularly alarming," the report says. "Among the many conversations that the fascinating conjunction of Christianity, Britishness, and nationalism provokes, this is surely one of the most important to pursue."
A paper on Christian nationalism was recently produced for the House of Bishops by the Revd Professor Luke Bretherton, who holds the regius chair in Moral and Pastoral Theology at Oxford (News, 3 July). The term "functions less as a robust analytical category than as a misdiagnosis", he told the Bishops, urging them never to use term when "talking on behalf of the Church in the context of public witness".

The Theos authors echo his concerns. "While Christian belief does play a role in this, it does so in a complex way," they write. "Often what we are talking about is people's identity or nominal attachment to Christianity, rather than their practice of the faith. For all that belief (or practice) does play a role in this debate, it seems subservient to culture. Concerns about identity, tradition, heritage, and culture appear to be in the driving seat here, more than belief systems."

The debate is, they write, "parasitic on the wider debate about not simply what constitutes an acceptable form of nationalism", and they conclude with advice on how to have conversations — that may be "difficult" and "uncomfortable" — with the various groups.

The Identity Integrationists — the group that, they say, most merit the label "Christian nationalist" — are described as "deeply anxious" with high levels of social concern. While an attempt should be made to "understand and probe why they are so concerned", they might also be asked why their concern about Britain's Christian identity doesn't translate into high levels of practice, the authors suggest. Pride in Britain as being "predominantly white" is, they write, "somewhat at odds with the Christianity they purport to want to defend".

The position of Committed Separatists can also be scrutinised, the report says. "However much they might want that to be separated in the future, the undeniable fact is that [Christianity] has been an integral part of British life for centuries. What do Committed Separatists think we should do about that?"

Read the report at: https://www.theosthinktank.co.uk/cmsfiles/Beyond-Christian-Nationalism.pdf

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Autumn Concerts

SETTLE ORCHESTRA

Saturday 21 November

3.00pm

at Christ Church



The Cononley Singers

Saturday 5th December

at Christ Church

See posters for details

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.

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).

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

from 2pm – 4pm

United Benefice of Skipton Christ Church with Carleton St Mary

December 2026 Newsletter

Please send any Notices/articles for the December edition to

christchurchstmarysoffice@gmail.com before 25th November.

Thank you.