

Notes from the office of the Area Bishop of Ripon 16th – 29th April

Please feel free to print and display these Notes on your notice-board. Remember to check out the Diocese of Leeds' website for news, events and resources www.leeds.anglican.org.

Bishop Helen-Ann is also on twitter @h_ahartley and Instagram @bishophelenann; Bishop Helen-Ann blogs occasionally at bishophelenann.wordpress.com. The Diocesan Twitter feed may be found at @LeedsCofE; The Diocesan Bishop of Leeds, Bishop Nick is @nickbaines (Twitter), and his blog is nickbaines.wordpress.com.

Please remember the Diocesan Prayer Cycle which may be found at <http://www.leeds.anglican.org/content/prayer-diary> it includes the Anglican Communion Cycle of Prayer, as well as praying for the people, parishes and places of the Diocese of Leeds.

Bishop Helen-Ann led the community of Ripon Cathedral through Holy Week this year. Her reflections and sermons are all now posted on her blog: bishophelenann.wordpress.com

Bishop Helen-Ann's Diary (16th April – 29th April)

Monday 16	Travel to Sri Lanka
Tuesday 17	Sri-Lanka: Arrive in Colombo (Office move date)
Wednesday 18	Sri-Lanka: travel to Kandy
Thursday 19	Sri-Lanka: spending the day with Bishop Keerthi, Bishop of Kurunegala
Friday 20	Sri-Lanka: in Kandy
Saturday 21	Sri-Lanka: wedding
Sunday 22	Sri-Lanka: travel to Colombo
Monday 23	Sri-Lanka: travel back to the UK (arrive back in the UK late evening)
Tuesday 24	Travelling from Oxford to Ripon
Wednesday 25	Meet with Lord Lieutenant of W Yorks (Bowcliffe Hall); Six Bishops' Residential (Aldwark Manor Hotel)
Thursday 26	Six Bishops' Residential
Friday 27	Day Off
Saturday 28	Preparation day
Sunday 29	Eucharist, St Gregory, Bedale; Installation of Ven Clive Mansell as Capitular Canon (Ripon Cathedral); Re-opening Service for St John's, Sharow (evening)

Sunday Gospel thoughts

Sunday April 22nd, 2018. 4th Sunday of Easter (John 10.11-18)

In a predominantly rural context like the Ripon Episcopal Area, this is a Gospel passage that resonates strongly. This has been a tough start to the lambing season, with so much rain. But Spring is slowly emerging, and the fields are filling up with new life. It's hard to miss the noise of all the bleating! Jesus presents himself as the 'model' or 'ideal' shepherd in this passage. In that, Jesus stands out from other shepherds in two important ways: he knows his flock, and they know and recognise him; secondly, Jesus 'lays down his life' for them.

*What can this image tell us about our relationship with Jesus?
How do we model good leadership and good relationships in our contexts? How well do we know our flock? Would we be willing to go the extra mile for them? Would we expect that of them to us?*

Sunday April 29th, 2018. 5th Sunday of Easter (John 15.1-8)

There are really three important things to say about this image of the vine: we are being invited to belong to Jesus; we need to be prepared for some pruning (!), and in it all we are called to 'abide.' This means that there are rarely quick-fix solutions to challenges we might face, and that real growth often comes when we have the edges knocked off a bit (but this is more comfortable than the imagery presented to us in the passage of being 'burnt in the fire'). Belonging, pruning, abiding...a simple, and yet as ever, a challenging message from Jesus.

Where have we seen pruning in our lives recently? Is there something that we know needs a bit of pruning?

Reflect on the theme of 'abiding' (it may be a word you don't use very often?): how can that speak to us in our busy lives?

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