

Notes from the office of the Area Bishop of Ripon **11 June – 24 June**

Growing God's Kingdom in the Ripon Episcopal Area

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's Diary (11 June – 24 June)

Monday 11	Day Off
Tuesday 12	Visit to Hackforth & Hornby Primary School – morning Pre-priesting meetings with Deacons at Redwood – afternoon Sharow Conservation Week Bat Walk - evening
Wednesday 13	Visit to Bradford Episcopal Area – all day
Thursday 14	Ripon Episcopal Area Study Day at Pateley Bridge – all day
Friday 15	Pre-priesting meeting with Deacon at Redwood – morning Meeting with Ordination Enquirer – morning Meeting with Principal of St Hild Theological College – lunchtime Cathedral Council at Thorpe Prebend, Ripon – afternoon
Saturday 16	Diocesan Synod at Ashville College, Harrogate – all day
Sunday 17	Installation of Ecumenical Canon at Ripon Cathedral - afternoon
Monday 18	Visit to Bowland & Ewecross Deanery – all day
Tuesday 19	Visit to Bowland & Ewecross Deanery – all day Ordination Supper at Hollin House – evening
Wednesday 20	Six Bishops at Hollin House – all day
Thursday 21	Cell Group gathering – all day
Friday 22	Ministerial Education Discussion at Alfreton – all day Bishop's charge and meal at Mirfield - evening
Saturday 23	Priesting of Area Deacons at Ripon Cathedral – afternoon (see note below)
Sunday 24	Confirmation at Wetherby – morning Licensing of Penny Yeadon as Wensley Area Dean at Ripon Cathedral - afternoon

Special Notice:

All are welcome to come to Ripon Cathedral for the priesting of Caitlin Carmichael-Davis, Abbie Palmer, James Handley and Alex Wheatley. The service will be at 3pm on June 23rd. It would be wonderful to have as many present as are able. This is a wonderful celebratory occasion. Clergy are welcome to robe. Please pray for Caitlin, Abbie, James and Alex and the communities they serve (Ripon Cathedral, Pannal with Beckwithshaw, St Mark's Harrogate, and Skipton Christ Church with Carleton St Mary).

Sunday Gospel thoughts

Sunday June 17th, 2018 3rd Sunday after Trinity (Mark 4.26-34)

I've shared with a few groups over the last while a story of how when I was a student I spent several weeks nurturing a house-plant in the home I shared with 2 friends. I was quite pleased with how the plant was doing, when I discovered that it was in fact a plastic plant! Oh dear. Parables of planting and growing are so common in Jesus' teaching that we can easily miss their richness (not seeing the proverbial wood for the trees!). These two parables are specifically about the Kingdom of God: the seed grows mysteriously (human intervention doesn't seem to matter much), and a tiny mustard seed is contrasted with the enormous tree it grows into. One commentator suggests that the point is that although the consummation of the Kingdom lies in the future, in a sense it is already happening and present now. Mark's own community would have taken encouragement that although they may have felt helpless, God was still at work.

What does it mean for God's Kingdom to be already present? How and where do you experience signs of that in your own community and in your daily life?

Sunday June 24th, 2018 4th Sunday after Trinity (Mark 4.35-end)

My friend and former colleague Nick King (translator of the Bible) calls this passage 'a remarkable story.' As is often the case, a storm arises on the Sea of Galilee, and the disciples panic (note that Mark doesn't portray the disciples in a particularly favourable light). Jesus tells the waves to behave (and it does) and then tells off the disciples indicating for the first time that faith matters. Their response is to 'fear a great fear', and acknowledgment that God is present. The question is then asked: 'Who is this then?' Mark doesn't answer, he leaves it up to us!

Who is this then?

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