

Notes from the office of the Bishop of Ripon 7 January – 20 January

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.

Happy New Year!

Bishop Helen-Ann's Diary (7 January – 20 January)

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| Monday | 7 | Interview for Rector of Bedale, Bedale (morning) MDR at Sharow |
| Tuesday | 8 | Bishop's Staff, Leeds (all day) |
| Wednesday | 9 | MDR at Sharow (morning) Yr 3 Curate meetings (afternoon) |
| Thursday | 10 | Area Staff Meeting, Sharow (morning) Yr 3 Curate meeting, Sharow (afternoon) Clergy Meeting, Sharow (afternoon) |
| Friday | 11 | Six Bishops, Hollin House (morning and lunch) |
| Saturday | 12 | Day Off |
| Sunday | 13 | Eucharist, West Witton – Penhill Benefice (morning) Plough Sunday Service, Ripon Cathedral (afternoon) |
| Monday | 14 | Yr 3 Curate meeting, Sharow (afternoon) Clergy Meeting, Sharow (afternoon) |
| Tuesday | 15 | Office Day |
| Wednesday | 16 | Meeting of Joint Anglican/RC Bishops, Leicester (all day) |
| Thursday | 17 | Meeting of Joint Anglican/RC Bishops, Leicester (all day) S12 Settle (evening) |
| Friday | 18 | Day Off |
| Saturday | 19 | Mother's Union Commissioning Service, Ripon Cathedral (afternoon) |
| Sunday | 20 | Plough Service, Winksley (morning) Evensong & Window Re-dedication, Mickley (evening) |

Sunday Gospel thoughts

Sunday January 13th (Baptism of Christ, Luke 3.15-17, 21-22)

One of the most important points here (and it seems quite obvious but bears mentioning) is that we aren't just talking about Jesus' own baptism here, but what baptism means because it brings us into the fulness of a life lived in Jesus (whatever age we are when we are baptised!).

One commentator describes Luke as ‘a very gentle evangelist,’ and so hearing this would have delivered a bit of a so-called ‘short, sharp, shock,’ particularly if they happened to have heard it from a position of relative comfort. This narrative also places the focus now on Jesus, but what isn’t entirely clear is whether Jesus in fact offers two baptisms: one of fire (for judgement) and one of the Holy Spirit (for blessing). Interestingly, although Luke tells us that Jesus was baptised, he doesn’t tell us that it was John who baptised Jesus, perhaps because wasn’t so easy to explain? It is significant that prayer features at the end of the passage (prayer is an important theme in Luke’s Gospel), and that the descent of the Holy Spirit is in response to Jesus’ prayer.

Reflect on your own baptism, or a baptism you have attended recently. What are your thoughts?

Why do you think Luke describes a baptism by fire?

Sunday January 20th (3rd Sunday of Epiphany, John 2.1-11)

This is a very well-known narrative that hardly needs explanation: it is certainly full of symbolism and meaning! It begins with a reference to time: ‘on the third day’ (which must refer to the resurrection); Jesus’ mother plays a key role (though she is not named, as also with John 19.25 where again she features) and she and Jesus have quite a stand-off! Jesus turns the water into wine, and not just any wine (the best) and in a huge quantity (around 180 gallons). The point of the story (as Nicholas King reflects) is not on the miracle itself but rather it functions as a ‘sign’ (as do all the miracles in John’s Gospel) to reveal Jesus’ glory. That revelation will continue, of course...

Jesus revealed his glory; what does that mean, do you think?

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