

The Diocese unites in prayer and thanksgiving for Her Late Majesty

Churches and cathedrals across the diocese, both large and small, have joined together over recent days to pay their heartfelt respects to Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

During a period of national mourning, which began following Her Late Majesty's death on Thursday, September 8 and ended after the funeral on Monday, September 19, a mixture of services and events were held.

Some, including a vigil at Leeds Civic Hall and a multi-faith gathering in the centre of Bradford, brought leaders and people of different faith's together.



Civic representatives were welcomed for special events held at Halifax Minster, Leeds Minster, Dewsbury Minster, Huddersfield Parish Church and our three diocesan cathedrals based in Wakefield, Ripon and Bradford.

Parish churches also opened their doors to the public, offering themselves as an important focal point of condolence for their local communities. Spaces of prayer were created, books of condolence opened and churches tolled their bells in memory of the Queen.

Eucharist marks 100 years of church links with Temple Newsam House

The centenary of Temple Newsam House, Leeds being transferred to public ownership has been marked by a special Eucharist service led by Bishop Nick.

In 1922, the then Lord Halifax stipulated in the deed of transfer to the City of Leeds that the Grade I listed building should host an annual Eucharist "according to the rites and ceremonies of the Church of England".



"And so that's what we've now done for a hundred years and it's wonderful to have that connection," said Revd Matthew Peat of St Mary's Parish, Whitkirk.

Grace and Service

Bishop Nick Baines

The world has changed beyond recognition following the death of Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. She was someone who held firmly to her Christian faith and to a set of virtues and commitments that rooted her securely while everything else moved around her – in the wider world as well as in her personal and family life.

At the heart of her commitment was, I believe, one word: grace. She reigned with grace because she first knew her need of grace. She did not need to be persuaded of the need for confession in Anglican liturgy; she didn't need to be argued into some sort of religious role-playing; she didn't need to be preached into submission to a religious demand. At the root of her convictions and conduct lay a fundamental awareness of her need of God's grace. This is what enabled her to fulfil her obligations as a constitutional monarch with such wisdom: being unashamed of one's own need of grace opens the door to an unashamed inhabiting of accountability.

And it is this accountability, rooted in and born out of conviction, that enables us to understand why the seventy-year reign of Queen Elizabeth matters so much.



Whether we were conscious of it or not, her commitment to this humility of understanding and praxis has shaped and coloured our culture, our language and the assumptions underlying our gratitude for an honourable and peaceful polity.

In her Christmas address of 2016 Her Late Majesty was explicit about her personal faith: "Billions of people now follow Christ's teaching and find in him the guiding light for their lives. I am one of them because Christ's example helps me to see the value of doing small things with great love, whoever does them and whatever they themselves believe."

We rightly give thanks for her faith and witness, for her commitment to democracy and the rule of law, for her discipline and selfless service, for her resilience and humour, for her love of God and his world.

May our late Queen rest in peace and rise in glory.
God bless and save the King.

+Nick Baines

Bradford kids turn teacher to learn about the past

Year 6 pupils from Shipley CE Primary School have turned teachers as they give tours of an exhibition on the life and legacy of Anne Frank to parents, governors, staff from BDAT and the school community recently.

Working with The Anne Frank Trust UK, children have been trained with the skills and knowledge to lead presentations on an exhibition in school.

Mr Hamilton, Head Teacher at Shipley C of E Primary School, said, "This is such a vital project; educating both our children here in school and people in the community.

"The importance of two of our key school values of love and respect are underlined by the story of Anne Frank.

"Our children have learnt so much, but, more importantly, are now fantastically strong spokespeople so that her experiences and legacy are never forgotten.

"I am very proud of how they have committed to this important work."

DAC national conference recognises the missional value of our churches

The missional importance of church buildings was a key theme at the Annual DAC Conference 2022 held in Leeds and hosted by our diocese this week.



More than 100 representatives from 33 dioceses attended the three-day event, which heard from a range of speakers and included visits to a variety of churches across the city.

Delegates heard local clergy and laity describe their experiences of building management and development in urban settings, with talks also from national experts.

Visits included Grade 1 listed Gipton, the Epiphany and Grade 2* listed Halton, St Wilfrid - both of which are outstanding examples of 20th century estate churches.

Lisa McIntyre, Team Leader (Church Buildings and Pastoral Reorganisation) for the Diocese of Leeds, helped organise the conference, which was run with support from the Church Buildings Council.

“It was fantastic to welcome people from across the country and show them some of our Leeds city churches,” Lisa said.

“They got to see great buildings, but also the social challenges that surround them and how our churches are responding to those challenges by using their buildings to support people.”

The role of churches in nurturing the environment was illustrated during a trip to Far Headingley St Chad’s, which is recognised for its innovative work in encouraging biodiversity in its grounds.



Harrogate toddler group brings new life and comfort

A weekly toddler group in Harrogate, providing a friendly space for parents and their young children, is contributing to the growth of the church.

The team at St Peter’s Church have shared how members of their toddler group have gone on to attend Sunday worship and even be baptised.

Frances Roxby-Proud, leader of The Toddler Group at St Peter’s, said, “Toddler Group is the highlight of my week.

“I’ve personally been through a lot in my life, things that really could have broken me.



“But I’ve always thought if I get through to Thursday morning, no matter what happened during the week, I’ll be okay, and sure enough I am because the children and parents are wonderful.

“Because it is such a friendly group they come to realise that church is not actually such a scary place.”

Invitation to Generosity

**Revd Canon Phil Stone
Director, Scargill**

Scargill House, nestled in the Yorkshire Dales is the home of an ecumenical, international Community offering hospitality to guests from all around the country with retreats, programmed events, space for a church to come away together as well as a safe place for individuals.

At the heart of Scargill is 'lives shared – lives transformed' with Jesus at the centre. It's worth bursting the bubble of any romantic illusions people have of living in Community. Community life is very challenging as we learn to be forgiven and to forgive as we face our own difficulties.

Yet Community is also a place of joy and celebration, and at Scargill we do take laughter very seriously! We are called to live generously both towards one another and to the guests. Generosity is a kingdom value.

My favourite encounter of God's generosity is the wedding at Cana and Jesus turning water into wine saving the embarrassment of the hosts (John 2 1-11). It's worth noticing that they went to this celebration on the third day. St. John is saying to his readers that this encounter is what resurrection living looks like.



It is about transformation and generosity, which is wonderfully over the top. I don't think God can help himself but be generous.

The Old Testament tells us about God's generosity in the unexpected place of the desert. The Israelites who had come accustomed to scarcity under the yoke of Pharaoh now found themselves in the wilderness, a threatening and frightening place, and yet it is here that they encounter the generosity of God. Manna was given, a wonder bread! (Exodus 16).

The narrative of scarcity and anxiety is all around us - we are living in very difficult times, a wilderness. Yet Jesus gives us a different narrative, and that is of generosity which we are invited called to live and move in. Walter Brueggemann, the Old Testament scholar wrote the 'journey from anxious scarcity through miraculous abundance to a neighbourly common good has been peculiarly entrusted to the church...'

A generous heart builds community, a beautiful gift in these troubling times.

Art installation launched at Christ Church, Upper Armley

A retrospective launch for an art installation, called 'The Way up Is Down', took place on Monday, September 26 at Christ Church Upper Armley.

Hungarian artist Leon Varga has produced 'The Way Up Is Down', a product of a Leeds Church Insite bursary, and a moving sculptural installation which explores some of the ways in which our lived experience of the Covid pandemic has changed the structure of our social interactions.

The installation is made up of clocks on seesaws and, in making this work, Leon was particularly interested in the way that the pandemic has messed with our sense of time.

Revd Phil Arnold, vicar of Christ Church Upper Armley, said, "We had a wonderful evening with local councillors, representatives of the local mosque, the arts community and local residents and parishioners. Seeing adults on the seesaw and engaging with the art work was wonderful."