



December 2023
January 2024

FREE: Please take me home.

**The monthly magazine of the Emmanuel
Benefice, Berry Brow Methodist Church,
and Netherton Methodist Church.**

 **THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**
Diocese of Leeds



FOCUS

December Church Services

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 3 December | 9.15am Christingle Service at South Crosland
10.00am Morning Worship at Netherton Methodist Church
10.30am Holy Communion at Berry Brow Methodist Church |
| 10 December | 9.15am Holy Communion at Armitage Bridge
10.00am Morning Worship at Netherton Methodist Church
10.30am Morning Worship at Berry Brow Methodist Church |
| 17 December | 10.00am Julie's farewell service with Holy Communion
and shared lunch at South Crosland |
| 20 December | 7.30pm Carol service at Armitage Bridge |
| 24 December | 10.00am Joint service of Holy Communion at Netherton
Methodist Church
4.00pm Nativity Service at South Crosland
5.30pm Nativity service at Armitage Bridge
7.00pm Joint First Holy Communion service for Christmas at
Berry Brow
11.30pm Joint Midnight Holy Communion service at South
Crosland |
| 25 December | 10.00am Joint Holy Communion service for Christmas at
Armitage Bridge |
| 31 December | 10.00am Joint Holy Communion service at Netherton
Methodist Church |

January Church Services

7 January	9.15am Holy Communion at South Crosland 10.00am Morning Worship at Netherton Methodist Church 10.30am Morning Worship at Berry Brow Methodist Church
14 January	9.15am Morning worship service at Armitage Bridge 10.00am Holy Communion service at Netherton Methodist Church 10.30am Morning Worship at Berry Brow Methodist Church
21 January	10.00am Covenant service and Holy Communion at Netherton Methodist church
28 January	9.15am Holy Communion at Armitage Bridge 10.00am Morning Worship at Netherton Methodist Church 10.30am Morning Worship at Berry Brow Methodist Church

December Mid-Week Services

6 December	11 Sherwood Drive, Netherton.
13 December	42 Beaumont Park Road, Beaumont Park
20 December	11 Sherwood Drive, Netherton.
27 December	No meeting

Check with Stella or Barbara for dates and venues in January.

Every Wednesday at St Paul's

9.15 Morning Worship, 30 minutes of worship and prayer. All welcome.

Every Thursday at St Paul's

5.20 Christian Meditation. 30 minutes of Quiet Contemplation. All welcome.

**COME AND JOIN US TO CELEBRATE
THE BIRTH OF JESUS THIS CHRISTMAS**

WE HAVE LOTS OF SERVICES FOR ALL THE FAMILY



WED 20TH DECEMBER

7.30PM CAROL SERVICE @ ST PAUL'S ARMITAGE
BRIDGE

SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER

4PM CRIB SERVICE @ HOLY TRINITY SOUTH CROSLAND.

5.30PM CRIB SERVICE @ ST PAUL'S ARMITAGE BRIDGE.

TELLING THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS. CHILDREN MAY DRESS AS
CHARACTERS FROM THE STORY IF THEY WISH



7PM CAROLS WITH COMMUNION @ BERRY BROW METHODIST

11.30PM MIDNIGHT COMMUNION @ HOLY TRINITY SOUTH
CROSLAND



MONDAY 25 DECEMBER

10AM CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNION @ ST PAUL'S ARMITAGE
BRIDGE



Dear Friends,

As we move into the season of goodwill to all it seems to me there is much going on in the world where that goodwill is much needed. The land where Jesus was born is once again the centre of conflict, it will be the second Christmas Ukrainians will celebrate under the threat of Russian Missiles, conflict and tensions remain in places like Sudan, Yemen, and parts of Africa. It would be easy to feel despondent about the state of the world we live in and ask where is God at work?

It was into a similar world that God chose to come and dwell amongst us. A world where there was conflict and injustice. In Jesus God came to bring salvation to a broken world.

One of the things I like to do at this time of year is to read or watch A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens. At the start of the story Scrooge personifies much that is negative about human nature, by the end of the story he is the embodiment of what Christmas means. Through a range of encounters, he changes. For me one of the messages of the story is that no matter how bad someone is they can change.

This is also a time for pantomimes where the hero overcomes great odds to defeat evil and bring a happy ending.

The messages of such stories coupled with the reality of the salvation God brings in Jesus brings us all hope.

It brings hope because the stories show us that evil can be overcome, and humanity can be and does good. It brings hope because in Christ there is always the opportunity for people to change and turn to God.

Such hope is not wishful thinking but grounded in a faith in a God who has created all things including us and saw what was created and said it was good. It is based on a God who came and dwelt among us to show us how to

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give and bring us salvation, a God who so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son.

So, although humanity might continue to fail to live up to its calling as created in the image of God, God's love and grace and mercy will never cease to offer the opportunity for change and salvation.

So where is God at work? I would suggest we do wherever we find people showing love, especially in times of challenge and conflict. Look for this and you will see God.

As we come to celebrate the birth of our Lord, the Prince of Peace, may we all once more experience God's love and seek to love as He loved us. As we travel on into the New Year may that love be at work bringing change where it is needed and peace for all.
And so may God bless us, everyone!

Tim

Revd Tim Francis

Coffee Mornings

Holy Trinity Church holds a coffee morning on the second Saturday of each month at South Crosland Junior School, Moor Lane, Netherton. The proceeds raised at the November coffee morning were £111.30.

The next coffee morning will take place on 9 December 2023 at 10.00am. Come along to enjoy tea or coffee and sing carols.

Stella

Bishop Moses Yamo Masala

Bishop Masala has prepared a report of his visit to West Yorkshire in September. It will include the full report in the digital version of Focus, and it will also be included on our website. For technical reasons it will not appear on our website until December.

Shoebox appeal 2023



Caroline Jones

Knit along for advent.

I did a knit-a-long for lent earlier this year with this Methodist Church in Bristol. They also do an Advent one. There are meditations for each day of Advent with all the rows to be knitted that day. The information below describes it better than I can. Some of the knitters in our various churches may want to give it a go. They will have to sign up and can get information and queries on this email address:

learning@vic-methodist-bristol.org.uk

If people sign up directly I'm sure they'll get the welcome letter sent to them.

Angela Dick

Editor. I will put this on the Emmanuel Benefice website too.

ADVENT KNITALONG 2023

VICTORIA METHODIST CHURCH WILL BE HOSTING ANOTHER
ADVENT KNITALONG THIS YEAR!

Over the course of Advent, we will be knitting a large table mat which you can use on your Christmas dinner table.

This is a mystery knitalong, which means knitters won't know the design in advance; this will be revealed as we go!

The document will be released on Monday 27th November (ready for the knitting to begin on 1st December) and will contain the full pattern for the table mat, split into 24 daily sections, along with accompanying Advent reflections.



The table mat has been designed to be knitted in two different coloured yarns but will work just as well in a single colour yarn. Knitters will only be working with one colour at any one time (there is no stranded colourwork/fairisle...!) and instructions will be given how/when to change yarn colours.

You can knit the table mat in any colours you like, but I'd suggest a light colour (cream or white?) for yarn A, and a nicely contrasting festive colour for yarn B (a Christmassy red or green?)

When it is finished, the table mat will need to be blocked (instructions below) to bring out the textured patterns well, and knitters might like to bear this in mind when choosing their yarn: animal and plant fibres tend to block more effectively than acrylic based yarns (- wool or wool blend yarns, or cotton are all ideal) but the main thing is finding a yarn which knitters will enjoy working with, and which will look fabulous at Christmas lunch!

The pattern will show up more effectively if knitted in solid colours, rather than variegated yarns.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

Knitters have the option to work the table mat in either DK or 4ply (fingering) weight yarn, depending on the size they'd like their finished table mat to be. (The pattern is the same, regardless of yarn weight chosen).

DK YARN

If knitters choose to use DK yarn, their finished table mat will measure approximately 49 cm wide by 34 cm tall.

If using two colours you will need approximately:

Yarn A (lighter colour): 80 - 110 grams of DK
and

Yarn B (darker colour): 15 - 20 grams of DK.

If working with a single colour you will need approximately 90 - 130 grams of DK yarn.

If working with DK, the table mat is knitted using 3.75 mm or 4 mm needles, or whichever size you'd normally use when working with DK yarn. You'll be working with 95 stitches, so a needle length of 25 cm – 30 cm would be perfect, or you can use a circular needle if you prefer (but the table mat is knitted flat, so no knitting in the round!)

4PLY YARN

If knitters choose to use 4ply yarn (or fingering weight), their finished table mat will measure approximately 37 cm wide by 25 cm tall.

If using two colours you will need approximately:

Yarn A (lighter colour): 35 - 50 grams of 4ply/fingering
and

Yarn B (darker colour): 8 - 12 grams of 4ply/fingering.

If working with a single colour you will need approximately 40 - 60 grams of 4ply/fingering yarn.

If working with 4ply/fingering, the table mat is knitted using 2.75 mm or 3.00 mm needles, or whichever size you'd normally use when working with 4ply yarn. You'll be working with 95 stitches, so a needle length of 25 cm – 30 cm would be perfect, or you can use a circular needle if you prefer (but the table mat is knitted flat, so no knitting in the round!)

Additionally, four stitch markers will be useful to help keep track of where you are in the pattern. These needn't be anything fancy - loom bands, tiny hair bands or scraps of spare yarn tied into loops will work just as well as stitch markers.

GAUGE / SWATCHING

A swatch pattern is provided below so knitters can check that they like their colour combinations, and to give them a chance to check their gauge. Use the needle size suggested above (depending on whether you are working with DK or 4ply/fingering weight yarn).

When you have finished knitting your swatch, block it as described below and, when dry, see if you like the fabric produced at that gauge.

Please note that the yarn needed to knit the swatch is not factored into the yarn amounts needed for the table mat, so please ensure you've got some spare, or keep the swatch safe so you can unravel it and use the yarn if you're running short near Christmas!!

Please note that when working with different coloured yarns, occasionally knitters can find that the darker colour can run/bleed into the lighter knitted fabric when washed, so this is another good reason to test your yarn choices together in the swatch! If you think there is a chance that the yarn dye might run, you could use a colour catcher when soaking the finished swatch. If you do have problems with the dyes running then you could re-knit the swatch with a different combination of yarns.

HOW TO JOIN IN!

The Advent Knitalong document will be emailed to everyone on the mailing list and uploaded in the Facebook group on Monday 27th November.

If you are not already on the mailing list to receive Lent and Advent Knitalong emails, please contact Helen at learning@vic-methodist-bristol.org.uk and she will add you.

And if you use Facebook and aren't already in our dedicated Facebook Knitalong group, please do join us - it's a lovely and supportive community of knitters from many backgrounds all over the world and you would be very welcome.

Search for 'Victoria Methodist Bristol Knitalongs' and click to join.

With love and best wishes from Lyn, Helen and all of us at Vic xxx

SWATCH PATTERN:

Stitch Key

K = knit

P = purl

st = stitch (or stitches)

pm = place stitch marker on right needle before continuing

sm = slip stitch marker from left needle to right needle before continuing

NB Yarn A will be used for the majority of the swatch, with a few rows of yarn B thrown in as accents! If you would rather work the swatch in just one colour, ignore the instructions about changing yarns.

When instructed to change yarn, the easiest technique is to cut the yarn you've finished with, leaving a tail of about 15 centimetres, and tie in the new yarn firmly. The ends will be woven in at the end.

More experienced knitters might like to carry the unused yarn up the side of the swatch during rows 5 - 10 and rows 41 - 46.

Two stitch markers are placed on row 15 - these are optional but might make it easier to keep track of where you are in the pattern.

PATTERN

Cast on 33 stitches with yarn B.
(The stitch count stays the same throughout the swatch; odd numbered rows are the front/right side of the swatch and even numbered rows are the back/wrong side.)

Set up row: (Yarn B) Knit all stitches.

Row 1. Knit all stitches.

Row 2. Knit all stitches.

Row 3. Knit all stitches.

Row 4. Knit all stitches.

Before row 5, change to yarn A.

Row 5. (Yarn A) Knit all stitches.

Row 6. K4, P25, K4.

Row 7. Knit all stitches.

Row 8. K4, P25, K4.

Before row 9, change to yarn B.

Row 9. (Yarn B) Knit all stitches.

Row 10. Knit all stitches.

Before row 11, change to yarn A.

Row 11. (Yarn A) Knit all stitches.

Row 12. K4, P25, K4.

Row 13. Knit all stitches.

Row 14. K4, P25, K4.

NB two stitch markers are placed on row 15.

Row 15. K10, pm, K6, P1, K6, pm, K10.

Row 16. K4, P6, sm, P13, sm, P6, K4.

Row 17. K10, sm, K5, P1, K1, P1, K5, sm, K10.

Row 18. K4, P6, sm, P6, K1, P6, sm, P6, K4.

Row 19. K10, sm, K4, P1, K3, P1, K4, sm, K10.

Row 20. K4, P6, sm, P5, K1, P1, K1, P5, sm, P6, K4.

Row 21. K10, sm, K3, P1, (K2, P1) x 2, K3, sm, K10.

Row 22. K4, P6, sm, P4, K1, P3, K1, P4, sm, P6, K4.

Row 23. K10, sm, K5, P1, K1, P1, K5, sm, K10.

Row 24. K4, P6, sm, P3, (K1, P2) x 2, K1, P3, sm, P6, K4.

Row 25. K10, sm, K4, P1, K3, P1, K4, sm, K10.

Row 26. K4, P6, sm, (P2, K1) x 2, P1, (K1, P2) x 2, sm, P6, K4.

Row 27. K10, sm, K3, P1, (K2, P1) x 2, K3, sm, K10.

Row 28. K4, P6, sm, P4, K1, P3, K1, P4, sm, P6, K4.

Row 29. K10, sm, (K2, P1) x 2, K1, (P1, K2) x 2, sm, K10.

Row 30. K4, P6, sm, P3, (K1, P2) x 2, K1, P3, sm, P6, K4.

Row 31. K10, sm, K1, P1, K2, P1, K3, P1, K2, P1, K1, sm, K10.

Row 32. K4, P6, sm, (P2, K1) x 2, P1, (K1, P2) x 2, sm, P6, K4.

Row 33. K10, sm, K3, P1, (K2, P1) x 2, K3, sm, K10.

Row 34. K4, P6, sm, P4, K1, P3, K1, P4, sm, P6, K4.

Row 35. K10, sm, K5, P1, K1, P1, K5, sm, K10.

Row 36. K4, P6, sm, P6, K1, P6, sm, P6, K4.

Row 37. Knit all stitches (slipping markers as you come to them).

Row 38. K4, P6, sm, P6, K1, P6, sm, P6, K4.

NB stitch markers are removed on row 39.

Row 39. Knit all stitches, removing markers as you come to them.

Row 40. K4, P25, K4.

Before row 41, change to yarn B.

Row 41. (Yarn B) Knit all stitches.

Row 42. Knit all stitches.

Before row 43, change to yarn A.

Row 43. (Yarn A) Knit all stitches.

Row 44. K4, P25, K4.

Row 45. Knit all stitches.

Row 46. K4, P25, K4.

Before row 47, change to yarn B.

Row 47. (Yarn B) Knit all stitches.

Row 48. Knit all stitches.

Row 49. Knit all stitches.

Row 50. Knit all stitches.

Row 51. Knit all stitches.

Row 52. Knit all stitches.

FINISHING / BLOCKING

Cast off all stitches loosely and block the swatch as follows: soak it for a few minutes in warm water (you can add a little wool wash if you like) and then gently squeeze out the excess water and lay the swatch on a towel or blocking mat to dry, securing with blocking pins if you've got any. When fully dry, remove pins and sew in any loose ends.

When dried, the swatch should measure, very approximately, 14.5 - 16.5 cm² if worked in DK yarn and 11 - 12.5 cm² if worked in 4ply/fingering weight yarn, but more important is the feel/appearance of the knitted fabric and how well you can see the pattern!

If the swatch feels a bit stiff you could rework it with a needle one size bigger; if it is a little too drapery/open, and the motif is unclear you could try again on a smaller needle.

**Advent is time when we prepare ourselves for
Christmas**

We want to celebrate this journey together

So why not come and join us for our

Christingle Service



Sunday 3rd December 2023

At South Crosland Church

9.15am



**It is a chance to come together and thank God for
sending Jesus to be the light of the world!**

Diary Dates

- 6 December: First Wednesday Group including South Crosland Women's society. Methodist Church, Netherton at 2.00pm.
- 3 January: First Wednesday Group, 2.00pm at Netherton Methodist. AGM and a fun meeting.
- 13 January: Final date for copy February Focus, 12 Noon.
Items received after this time will probably miss the cut.



Farewell

*You are warmly invited to
Rev. Julie Anderson's
farewell service in our benefice.*

Date: Sunday 17th December.

Place: Holy Trinity Church, South Crosland

Time: 10.00am

*Followed by a bring and share lunch.
Please bring a plate of finger food to share
with everyone*

*If you can't make the service please do come to
the lunch at 11.30pm
And if you can bring a plate of food to share that
would be great!!*



Banners

When we were clearing St John's church, Newsome, we found 21 banners in various locations and in various states of repair. I was loathe to throw them away so I cleaned them up and ironed them as best I could so that everyone could enjoy looking at them. We have been displaying the banners at Holy Trinity church, South Crosland, at the appropriate season. The others are draped over the pews on the gallery. However, it struck me that I know nothing about these banners and would like to find out more!

Who made them and when? Which church have they graced over the years? Some may have come from St Stephen's or even Emmanuel church in Lockwood originally.



All the banners can be seen in full colour in the online version of Focus, though there isn't the space to show them all in print. Please share your knowledge with me! Thank you.

Caroline Jones
07810 323246





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It's Good To Get Together

The bell ringers and gardening team at St. Pauls decided it was time we had a Social Evening as this had not happened since before Covid 19, it was long overdue and the time was right.

We checked the availability of the church with Bruce and contacted Heidi who has a long experience of providing food for "church do's", as her team also see to clearing the pots and washing up it gave us all a break from kitchen duties.

Our requirements were simply 3 or 4 main courses – one of which to be vegetarian, along with deserts which had to include "mums" famous trifle.

Heidi did not disappoint, the food was satisfying, hot generous tasty portions, just what was needed, the trifle being as good as ever.

Our local musician Robin, came along with 2 friends to entertain us with some folk songs played on accordion, guitar, fiddle and piano providing a varied repertoire, with some sing-a-long songs.

A Table-Top Quiz created a lot of discussion and tested our memories – how quickly we forget. We have included a couple of examples below:-

When did the threepenny piece cease to be legal tender?

1967 1969 1971 or 1973

When was the breathalyser introduced?

1967 1970 1973 or 1976

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Can you say the following sentences?

Wegorragerusimbux?

Eesezintintisburraberitis?

There were no prizes but it was taken very seriously and became quite competitive.

No late night for us everything was cleared away and the church put back in order by 9:20pm.

Thank you to all for your help and co-operation it made for a very enjoyable evening.

Catherine and Lorraine.

Pizza and Burger Evening

As some of our Junior Church children had been unable to attend the Annual Family Picnic in September it was thought that an early evening get together would be good.

So, on a damp and chilly Friday evening at the end of October, twenty-two past and present Junior Church members and their families met at the Sons of the North Café in the North Light Gallery.

Luke and his staff gave us a warm welcome and provided us with delicious Pizzas and Burgers.

Even though our ages ranged from 4 months to 80 years it was an enjoyable evening with plenty of space for the younger ones to run about! It was lovely to see how the former “little ones” had grown and developed. Judging by the noise we made and the conversations taking place it could be said that a good time was had by all. We look forward to the next evening out.

Melody



FOCUS

Myra Schofield

Dear All

To those who remember and knew Myra Schofield, I am the bearer of the sad news that she passed away recently.

She moved to Uckfield some fourteen years ago to be near her daughter Sara. Though her eyesight had been failing for some time, she lived independently until very recently when she had to succumb to a care home due to a degree of heart failure.

Yes, it only seems like yesterday that Myra was toing and froing, up and down, Newsome Rd South to St John's church where she was a valued member of the congregation and the choir. She was also a regular attender at the Contemplative Prayer meetings and the Ladies Evening Fellowship group at Berry brow MC.

She was also a valued member staff of Berry Brow Infant School where she worked as a much-loved dining/classroom assistant and managed to work beyond her retirement age by being somewhat economic with her date of birth!!

May she rest in peace.

Astrid

Scargill House

Mon 15 to Fri 19 April 2024

Simeon Wood & Dave Hopwood

Musician and composer Simeon Wood, and writer and speaker Dave Hopwood, will share music, thoughts, visuals and stories about life, faith and keeping going. Dave and Simeon have been friends since they first met in the early 90s (1990s!). They share a passion for communicating the Christian story in creative and engaging ways. If you want to be excited by the Bible, enthralled once again by the Father's love, and be amazed by stories of faith, and not even think about falling asleep during the sessions, then this week is for you! Our lives can be full of notes – music and tales which express who we are and the wonders and struggles we face each day.



"Together" Community Charity shop, Newsome

Christmas came early to Newsome Scout Hut on Saturday 11th November as we had our first ever "Everything Christmas" pop-up to raise much needed funds for the community shop. It was our best ever pop-up event and a firm booking in many diaries, not only for the fantastic bargains on offer but also for the refreshments and fellowship. After costs, we managed to add £870 to the Community Shop funds and lots of folk went home with some fantastic Christmas bargains. Despite the Explorer Scouts running out of bacon butties - a great disappointment to many of us! - they did a fantastic job and raised about £200 for their funds.

Thank you to everyone who was involved in any way in contributing to the pop-up shop. It's always a great team effort and definitely worth the hard work for such a good result.

The 2024 pop-up shops are already booked and will be held at Newsome Scout Hut on the following Saturdays, 10am-1pm:

23rd March

15th June

28th September

23rd November ("Everything Christmas")

The Explorer Scouts will once again be providing bacon butties, cakes and tea & coffee. Get the dates in your 2024 diary, spread the word, bring your friends and family, enjoy fellowship over delicious refreshments and take home some amazing bargains!

Caroline Jones

Armitage Bridge Ringers

Why Do Church Bells Ring Muffled?

Bells are often rung half-muffled at funerals, in memorial and on Remembrance Sunday as it gives a mournful effect, especially on heavy mellow bells. New Year's Eve is another occasion for half-muffling to mark the passing of the old year, removing the muffles at midnight to welcome in the new year.

What Are Bell Muffles?

Muffles are leather pads fitted to a bell's clapper to reduce the volume. They attenuate the bell's strike note whilst retaining the "hum". By muffling the clapper only on one side an echo effect is created as the blows are alternatively loud (open) and soft (muffled). Bells rung this way are said to be "half-muffled". The muffles are traditionally fixed to the clapper using a leather strap and lace. It's difficult to get the lace and strap tight enough to stop the muffle sliding around the clapper which is annoying. These days Velcro or cable ties allow the steeple keeper to get a tighter grip on the clapper shaft.

Half or Fully Muffled?

To ring "half muffled" a leather pad would be fitted to one side of the clapper only. It's important to ensure that each clapper is silenced on the same side, most solemn occasions would have "half muffled" bells.

To ring "fully muffled" a pad would be fixed to each side of the clapper ball thereby silencing both sides of the bell on the strike. Bells are only rung in this way (with the backstroke of the tenor left open) for the death of the Sovereign, the incumbent Vicar (Parish Priest) or the Bishop of the dioceses.

Alan and Lorraine

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF TANZANIA
DIOCESE OF RORYA



BISHOP MOSES YAMO MASALA'S REPORT
FOLLOWING A VISIT TO THE DIOCESE OF
LEEDS (WAKEFIELD)

5TH - 19TH SEPTEMBER 2023.

THIS REPORT PREPARED BY:
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INTRODUCTION

Visiting the UK was my long-held dream that finally came true in September 2023. I was very happy to have the opportunity to visit the UK and especially the Diocese of Leeds (Wakefield) which has had a link with the Dioceses of Mara, Rorya and Tarime for a long time. The process of visiting began with applying for a visa. The process of applying up to submission went well. The challenge came after the submission, when the visa approval took longer than expected. Much prayer and support was given by Leeds and the Anglican Communion. Finally, the visa was granted only three days before the journey. This approval brought a joy on my face, the family and all the staff in the Diocese of Rorya.

After visiting Leeds (Wakefield) I thought it was important to write a short report about my visit. This report will briefly cover my background and the background of the Diocese of Rorya. It will include the activities I took part in during my visit, what I see as the outcomes of my visit and things to follow up from my visit. It will mention important lessons learnt, suggestions for the future of the link with the Diocese of Leeds, and thanksgiving.

MY BACKGROUND

My name is Right Reverend Moses Yamo Masala (known as Moses Yamo). I am 45 years old. I was born on 12th December 1978 in Luanda Kiseru Village in Rorya. This coming 12th of December 2023 I will be celebrating my 45th birthday by taking part in a fundraising event to climb Mount Rorya. This is to raise funds to finish building a Bishop's office. I am married to Modesta Achieng Benasius. We are blessed with 2 girls, Sesilia (22) and Sarah (15).

I have a Diploma in Applied Theology (Msalato Theological College 2005 - 2008), Bachelor of Arts in Theology with Education (St. John's University - 2008 - 2011), Masters of Arts in Biblical Studies - Old Testament (Africa International University - Nairobi 2011 - 2013).

I began my ministry as an Evangelist at Sokorabolo Parish 2001 - 2003; then as a full Lay Reader at Kogaja Parish 2004. I taught at St. Philip's Theological College - Kongwa from 2013 - 2016. I then became the Principal of Bunda Bible College from 2017 - 2021. I was elected the second Bishop of the Diocese of Rorya in May 2021.

DIOCESE OF RORYA

The Anglican Church of Tanzania (ACT) Diocese of Rorya started in June 2010 when it was carved from the Diocese of Mara. The founding Bishop was Bishop John Anyango Adiema. The Diocese started with 22 Parishes and it has grown to 34 Parishes. The Diocese started with 3,000 Anglican Christians and it has grown to 6,000.

The Diocese is found in the District of Rorya, in the northern part of the Mara Region of Tanzania. The population of the area is 350,000. It is a rural Diocese with minimal resources.

- ❖ **The Vision:** To reach out to communities in Rorya with a holistic gospel message
- ❖ **Mission:** a. To equip those who are called to serve with Bible knowledge, preaching and pastoral knowledge and skills by training them.
- ❖ b. To provide socioeconomic services e.g. clean and safe water, educational facilities, health care and to empower people economically by providing entrepreneurship training to Christians.

The Diocese runs Kowak Theological College, a Mother's Union Sewing School and Nyang'ombe Girls Secondary School. The Diocese also runs a small micro washroom project which provides clean toilets and Ryagoro demonstration farm.

The Diocese is currently engaged in an evangelistic mission. This is door to door and village to village outreach. This is led by myself. Every Thursday to Sunday we go out with a group of priests and choirs to evangelize villages door to door. In the afternoons we conduct open-air meetings and baptize people.

The Diocese has faced many challenges since its formation in 2010. One is disunity and quarrelling resulting from the bishop's election. The Diocese lacks well trained clergy. There are few good church buildings; many churches do not have roofs and some churches worship under trees, The Diocese is struggling financially. This is making it very difficult for us to reach our aims and the goals we have for mission.

MY DAILY ACTIVITIES ON MY VISIT TO THE DIOCESE OF LEEDS (WAKEFIELD)

DAY 1

I started the journey to come to England on 1.9.2023. Our driver David took me to Mwanza airport with Lay Canon Mauya, recently retired as Link Officer for the Diocese of Mara, and Melina Galibona who is now the Link Officer. On

FOCUS

Saturday 2.9.2023 we travelled on the morning flight to Dar es Salaam. We stayed at Dar on Saturday and Sunday. On Sunday 3.9.23, we worshiped at Christ the King, Kinondoni Parish, Anglican Church of Tanzania, Diocese of Dar es Salaam.

On Monday 4.9.23 we boarded the Dutch KLM flight to the UK via Amsterdam. We left Dar at 5.20pm and arrived in Amsterdam at 7.30am Dutch time which is 2.30 pm local time in Tanzania.

We spent 5 hours in Amsterdam waiting to board the plane to Leeds, England. We left Amsterdam at 6.30pm and arrived in Leeds at 6.30pm UK time.

We were welcomed by our host Bishop Tony accompanied by Rev. Bill Anderson - who is the link person for Rorya Diocese. I stayed with Rev Bill and his wife Vivienne at their home. He and his wife welcomed me warmly. Lay Canon Rose Kayus used to stay there with them when she visited England in previous years.

The weather was good as we were not visiting during the winter. The weather was particularly good for me for the first week.

Reverend Bill is an engineer, who loves gardening. We ate potatoes from his farm.

DAY 2

My Second Day was a half day rest. I got up at 8 am and had tea with Bill and Vivienne. After tea we went for a walk with Bill, Vivienne and their horse. Bill rode and Vivienne and I walked. Their horse is an old one; he is 22 years old. We walked and saw various places and animals including sheep, horses and cows. England is a beautiful country with lots of greenery. The roads are very well made.

In the afternoon we ate lunch, which was bread, and different salads. I gave the gifts I had to Bill and Vivienne.

At 8 o'clock we went to visit Holme Valley Village. Holme Valley is a parish with 7 churches and they are linked to Kagwa Parish in Rorya. We went there on the bus and went around the village. I returned there on both Saturday and Sunday. On Sunday I preached in the church and after the service we went for lunch and shared more about the link.

DAY 3

My third day in Leeds started at my host Rev Bill Anderson's house. After tea we talked about GAFCON and post Lambeth discussions.

Later Bill took me to the home of Bishop Tony, our host. We met there with Melina and Mauya. We talked to Bishop Tony about many things concerning the link.

We had the opportunity to visit the Sandal Castle which was built many centuries ago. We reached the top. There are many padlocks tied to a wire and I asked Bishop Tony why. This is because those who love each other, husband and wife, or lovers come to seal their love there by adding a padlock. Then they throw the key away into the water, a sign that their love will last forever and no one will open it. It's a very interesting thing.

After that Bishop Nick came to Bishop Tony's house. Bishop Nick is the Bishop of the Diocese. Because Leeds has 5 Dioceses united together there are local Bishops and a Diocesan Bishop. Bishop Tony is the local Bishop of Wakefield.

We had a conversation with Bishop Nick that mainly focused on just one area which was GAFCON and post Lambeth discussions. We made it clear to each other that we will cooperate and do missions together even if there is a fundamental difference on matters of faith and doctrine.

Later we visited Wakefield Cathedral. It's a very beautiful church. We met some people for tea and talked about Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in the Diocese of Rorya, something that is a big concern for us.

That night we had a meal at Bishop Tony's house. Many people came including Bill and Maureen who started Isenye Secondary School in Mara. We met many people.

DAY 4

My 4th day in Wakefield started at Pastor Bill Anderson's home. We cooked an English breakfast together.

Later at 11 o'clock Bill took me to my new residence at Armitage Bridge. Armitage Bridge is linked with Sokorabolo Parish in Rorya. I was welcomed by Rev Julie Anderson and other clergy. They warmly welcomed me together with a number of other Christians who were there to meet me.

I had tea there. Later I was shown how to ring the church bells. I also went up to see the bells that have different weights from 250 to 400 kg.

FOCUS

Later I had a chance to talk with the Christians who were there. I explained to them the situation of Sokorabolo Parish, the Mothers' Union which in Tanzania is UMAKI, and the projects that the Diocese is running. They promised to pray for us and help whenever possible. They promised to provide a sewing machine and help Sokorabolo with the priest's house.

Later we had lunch and were taken to visit their nearby Park Valley, Huddersfield. When we finished I was taken to see Castle Hill.

Pastor David and his wife Pam took me to their house where I spent the night. In the evening I went with Pastor David and Pam to a Beetle Drive. This is a special night put on to raise money for the Church. People buy tickets and play this game.

David and Pam are very generous and have been to Tanzania, in the Arusha area.

DAY 5 & 6

On my 5th and 6th day I was scheduled to visit Holme Valley which has a total of 7 parishes and has a link with Kagwa Parish. It is one of the strongest links.

PART: The first day at Holme Valley: I visited St David's Church where I was welcomed by Rev. Di. There was an event in the church here, an exhibition of various things in the Church. When they hold an Exhibition, they sell tea and food and people buy them to donate money to the church. We had tea there and then visited the church and received information about the work they do.

After a short time, Mwalimu Helen Entwistle, a friend and Bunda Bible College teacher, came to greet me and later we went with her and Rev Di to some charity shops where I did some shopping for the family.

After shopping we returned to St David's for lunch. After lunch Mwalimu Helen returned back to Leyland. Rev. David took me for a walk in the town where there were scarecrows dressed in different ways. Later he took me up a high hill to see a view of the town. On our way back we went along an unmade road and our car got stuck. We got out and pushed the car. We succeeded in pushing it and moved on.

I spent a night at Rev Ailisa and David's. They welcomed me very warmly. We were joined by other Christians for dinner and the dinner was very delicious. After dinner I went to my room to prepare my Sunday Sermon.

PART TWO

On Sunday, 10.9.2023 I had the opportunity to worship at Holy Trinity Church Holmfirth. I preached and my sermon was driven by our Diocesan Motto which is Matthew 6:33, Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness. During the service there were some Swahili and Luo songs. We sang them with a group of people who had already visited Tanzania. Rev Bill prepared the songs. There is a shortage of young people in the Church and during that service there was only one young man and two children.

I was impressed by the organ in the church. The organist is an old man, who is led by a special guide dog to come to the Church. He is a great organist. I took a photo of him and his dog. The photo is on my wall at home as a reminder and we often pray for him. After the service we went to lunch at a typical English pub.

At 4pm there was a service at Christ the King church, Bretford. This service was especially for the links of Mara, Rorya and Tarime. More than 100 people were present. Bishop Tony gave the talk. I was given the opportunity to speak about the work of the gospel in Rorya Diocese. I explained the challenges we have been through since the formation of the Diocese in 2010. I spoke about the lack of church buildings. I explained the evangelism programme that I lead every Thursday to Sunday when we go from village to village. This is helping us to increase the number of Christians in our churches. I gave a call to continue praying for us and supporting the Diocese of Rorya which is in great hardship and does not have enough funds for its running costs. Melina also got the chance to talk about Mara Diocese. Lay Canon Mauya was officially given a farewell and a chance to speak and say goodbye to the friends and people he has worked with for many years.

DAY 7

After the service ended at Christ the King; I was picked up by my new host Stuart from Stanley Church. I spent a night at Stuart's House. He prepared a dinner which was attended by 2 families. After dinner, we got the opportunity to talk together and discuss at length God's work in Rorya. I shared with them the achievements of the Diocese and challenges that we are facing at the moment.

On Monday I visited St Peter's Church. I was welcomed very well by the Rev. Glenn and the Christians who were there. We had tea. Later I visited Stanley Street Primary School where I was welcomed by the principal.

FOCUS

After that I visited the place where the Old Church had been and is now demolished because it was damaged. We returned for lunch at the church. After lunch I went into the church to see the choir singing and practicing mainly Christmas carols. Then I returned to Stuart's house and we were able to find time to walk along the canal. I saw various boats that people use during holidays and some live on them as their homes.

DAY 8

At the end of day 7, I was taken by Rev. Rod from Stuart's home to Carleton. I spent the night at Rev Rod's house. The next day in the morning I got an opportunity to visit the Church of St Mark that is linked with Nyamasieki. We had tea there. After that I visited an elderly home care. This care home was initially run by Father Rod and his wife. There are some there who are over 100 years old. We conducted a Holy Communion service for them. There was an elderly lady who told me that she was confirmed by Bishop Omindo and sent her greetings to Bishop Omindo. After that we went to Oliver Cromwell's restaurant and had lunch. After the meal we visited Galie Church which is more Catholic. We also visited the shops and Father Rod bought me a new tablet.

In the afternoon I went to the Church of St Stephen. I had the chance to visit a farm near the Church. Later we went back to St Stephen's church and I found many Christians were waiting to talk to me. We had tea and talked to them. They have agreed to help Rorya. Most of the Church knows Bishop Omindo because he lived here. The weather that day was rainy and cold.

DAY 9

My ninth day began with sadness following the news of the death of Reverend Canon Stephen Oketch who died in Dar Es Salaam while receiving treatment. Rev. Canon Stephen Oketch has been called home and we will remember him a lot for his contribution to the church in Rorya especially during the establishment of Rorya Diocese when he was the Archdeacon of Rorya.

The day began by moving to my temporary host Rev. Adrian (Professor) from Rev Rod's home. I lost or misplaced my phone while moving. We are still looking for it. It has not been found yet.

Rev. Adrian welcomed me and then we started the journey to visit Kirk Seamon Primary School which has a good link with Mshimakano - a Primary School in Musoma. We started the day with the opening service for the academic term in

the church. Then I visited the school and was welcomed by the principal. The school belongs to the church and has a total of 120 students.

After visiting the school, we returned to the Church for lunch and about 5 Christians were there for lunch. After lunch I visited the second Darington school and we were shown around and visited the classrooms. Later I went to Darington Church which has a link with the Kogaja parish. This link has almost faded and we agreed to start it again.

After that we went back to Rev Adrian's house to wait for my host Rev Mark Poole to pick me up. Rev Mark Poole and I have been friends for a long time. He visited Tanzania in 2018 and since then we have become very good friends. He used to raise money for me to visit the UK. Rev Mark Poole is from the Diocese of Yorkshire. He picked me up at 9.30 am. Mark took me to see the church and York Minster, a very large church built more than 500 years ago. It's a very impressive church and many tourists visit the area every day. We entered the church and it was very beautiful.

After that Mark introduced me to his 5 Churches that he oversees. We entered his house and spent a night there with him and his wife Emma. We had a great time talking about many things and praying for each other. Mark is a dog lover with 3 dogs. One of the dogs was not happy to see me.

DAY 10

Day Ten started with Reverend Mark taking me back to Wakefield Cathedral where I met Bishop Tony. Then we went to take Lay Canon Mauya, Melina and Bill to Oriel's house ready for the Liverpool tour. It took us two hours to get to Liverpool.

When we were in Liverpool:

1. We went through the tunnel, the road under the river Mersey. It was the first time I had been along a road built under the ground.
2. We did a boat tour around the city of Liverpool
3. We did a bus tour around the city.
4. We went to the Catholic Cathedral of Liverpool. This is a modern cathedral; it is very big. Every day about 4000 pounds are needed to take care of the Cathedral.
5. Then we went in the Anglican Cathedral which is bigger than the Roman Catholic one. It was built over 73 years ago.. It is also very big.

6. We went to Five Guys where we saw a machine which makes many different kinds of drinks.

7. I spent the night at Bishop Tony's house.

DAY 11

Day 11 started with Bishop Tony taking me to Almondsbury Parish which has a link with Oliyo Parish. I was received by Hillary and they showed me around their 3 Churches. I was received very well and talked to people at all three churches. I also visited a church school there.

1. They are ready to develop relations with Oliyo

2. They will develop the tree project at Ryagoro and the sewing machine project with the Mother's Union.

3. This school will establish a link with Oliyo primary school

DAY 12

My 12th day started with traveling from Almondsbury to Clayton West Parish linked with Masara/Mori Parish. I was received by the assistant Pastor as the Parish Pastor was returning from vacation. Clayton West Christians welcomed me very well. We talked to them and they are ready to help with the construction of a pastor's house at Masara.

We had time to go to lunch with church elder Kath and Rev Sarah who is the Parish Priest.

After lunch I rested a little at the Reverend's house and later in the evening, they escorted me to Halifax Minster.

DAY 13

Day 13 and part of day 14 was spent with the Vicar of Halifax Minster Rev. Canon Hillary Barber. I was warmly welcomed by Canon Barber and his family. Halifax Minster is linked with St. Peter's Cathedral Kowak.

I had the chance to preach at Halifax Minster on Sunday 17th September 2023. The sermon was from the book of Numbers 21: 4-9.

On Monday we went to the Church and there were 3 services there. The first at 10 am, the second was at 1pm and the third one was at 4pm. Halifax Minster is very different because it was built more than 900 years ago. It has many very old things, especially from Medieval times. The Vicar of this Church is appointed by the Queen or King. Canon Barber also supervises more than 29 pastors present in this area. The Minster is a very historic church. This church was built

by Benedictine monks and they are working hard to preserve that tradition. It's a kind of Anglo Catholic tradition.

After the service I had time to greet the people and talk to them. They have shown interest in helping the construction of a Subdean's house. We went to lunch and came back at 4pm for the evening service which is sung from beginning to end. I was given the honour of a permanent seat at Halifax Minster.

Day 14

This was our day for travelling back home through Bradford Airport to Amsterdam and then from Amsterdam to Dar Es Salaam. These flights were good and we landed safely in Dar.

OUTCOMES OF MY VISIT/THINGS TO FOLLOW UP

A. ARMITAGE BRIDGE

- ✓ To continue the link with Sokorabolo and to assist with the finishing of a pastor's house and the repair of the church
- ✓ Help Sokorabolo Kindergarten
- ✓ Provide some assistance to the Mother's Union Sewing School Project - by providing some sewing machines.

B. HOLMFIRTH

- ✓ Help Kagwa to run the FGM training project to educate people about the effect of FGM on young girls - Proposal needed is already presented.
- ✓ Help Kagwa parish to start a stable income-generating project - such as shop stalls to hire
- ✓ Assist with a water harvesting system for the Dispensary
- ✓ Assist Kagwa Parish with a music system and a Bishop's music systems for evangelistic activities.

C. STANLEY CHURCH

- ✓ Continue the link with Sakwa and Ryagoro Parish
- ✓ Assist Ryagoro to finish a priest's house and the tree plantation programme
- ✓ Provide computers to start computing courses at KowakTheological Collage.
- ✓ Help with sewing machines
- ✓ Stuart and another lay person will be coming to visit Rorya next year

✓ To start a link between Stanley School with Saye Primary school. We are going to write a proposal. This link will mainly focus on feeding classes 4 and 7. These are the examination classes. Some of the students come from long distances and are not able to return home for lunch. This affects their performance in examinations.

D. CLAYTON

- ✓ They will continue their link with Nyamasieki
- ✓ There were some funds for Nyamasieki
- ✓ They will be able to help the Diocese with some funds yearly

E. DARRINGTON

- ✓ We will revive the link with Kogaja parish.
- ✓ A Dorrington priest advised Rorya Clergy to join online studies for BAs and MAs.

F. REV MARK

- ✓ To establish links with Rev Mark's churches and Luanda, Kiseru
- ✓ Mark would like to come back to visit Tanzania, especially Rorya.
- ✓ To establish a link with the Diocese of York
- ✓ Rev Mark to be included on Tanzania Link Committee

G. ALMONDSBURY

- ✓ Continue the link with Oliyo Parish
- ✓ Help Oliyo to build and start a kindergarten.
- ✓ To link with Oliyo Primary school.
- ✓ Provide some support towards the Mother's Union Sewing School
- ✓ Help with roofing of 2 church buildings close to Oliyo at Marasibora and Lwala.
- ✓ To help with Bishop's funds for school uniforms and school equipment for children who are in difficult situations

H. CLAYTON WEST

- ✓ Help Masara with the construction of a priest's house
- ✓ Assist with Mother's Union Sewing project

I. HALIFAX MINSTER

- ✓ Continue the link with St. Peter's cathedral
- ✓ Assist with roofing and finishing of a Subdean's house - budget sent
- ✓ They will help with musical instruments for St Peter's next year.

J. WATER FOR LIFE

- ✓ According to my talk with Tineke, Project Leader for Water for Life, there are some funds for water for Rorya - We agreed that

we will help Luanda Parish to set up a water harvesting system. - the budget is ready and we will email Tineke about this and copy in Rev Bill.

MY SPECIFIC AREA OF PRAYERS AND SUPPORT

1. Strengthen the existing links and open new ones
2. Support Mother's Union Sewing School project
3. Water tanks to parishes
4. Bishop's school funds
5. New car
6. Kagwa FGM
7. Bishop office running funds for 3 years
8. Education funds for clergy
9. Computer Training Center
10. Start St Peter's Pre and Primary School.
11. Roofing for Church Buildings

IMPORTANT LESSONS LEARNT

1. Christians are very few in the church in the UK but they love their churches very much. Much evangelism is needed to bring more Christians to the church.
2. The country is very beautiful, green and well planned.
3. People here eat good food for healthy bodies
4. They love Africa
5. They are generous: People are very generous and willing to give for the church.
6. I love the weather very much

SUGGESTION FOR FUTURE OF THE LINK

The link with Mara, Rorya and Tarime has been here for more than 35 years. This is the age of an adult. Many good things have been achieved through this link from both sides. We appreciate all these so far. I would like to suggest the following for the future of the link:

1. There should be a written document showing the history of the link, recording all the achievements and challenges of the link. This has to be updated regularly.
2. I think for the benefit and sustainability of the church here in Mara, Rorya and Tarime .the link has to identify one sustainable project and build it up with the aim of sustaining the mission of the church here. This may be either a hospital, school or development project.

FOCUS

3. Rorya should be given consideration as it still needs much assistance to become self-reliant.
4. Resume visits from both sides. The number may be small between 5 - 10 after 2 years.
5. Bishops from both sides of the link have a forum to discuss the future of the link and the areas of focus.

THANKSGIVING

I would like to thank Bishop Tony and the team for their prayers and support which enabled this visit to happen. Many thanks to all parishes and people I spent the night with in their homes. Be blessed. Thanks to Lay Canon Mauya and Melina; they were good and helpful during the visit. Thanks too to my family and the Diocese of Rorya for their support and prayers.

December 2023 Readings and prayers

Sunday 3 December – Advent Sunday .1 Corinthians 1: 3-9 & Mark 13: 24-end

Prayer for the Day – Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Sunday 10 December – 2nd Sunday of Advent. Isaiah 40: 1-11 & Mark 1: 1-8

Prayers for the Day (Collect)

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God.

Sunday 17 December – 3rd Sunday of Advent. Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-end & John 1: 6-8, 19-28

Prayers for the Day (Collect)

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sunday 24 December 4th Sunday of Advent (Christmas Eve) Romans 16: 25-end & Luke 1: 26-38

Prayers for the Day (Collect)

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Monday 25 Christmas Day Psalm 110, Isaiah 62.1-5, Matthew 1.18-25

Father, inspire this us this Christmas, so that we appreciate afresh the meaning of your coming, transforming our individual lives and communities into signs of your active reign among us. Let forgiveness be your Christmas gift to us, and new commitment be our Christmas gift to you.

Sunday 31 December 1st Sunday of Christmas Galatians 4: 4-7 & Luke 2: 15-25

Prayer for Today (Collect)

God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ

January 2024 Readings and prayers.

Monday 1st *Naming and Circumcision of Jesus*

Psalm 103, Genesis 17.1-13, Romans 2.17-29

God of light, shed on the world through Christ, we pray that we bear Christ's light to the world. As the rising sun burns away the night's darkness to bring a dawn of fresh life, so we pray that we speak and live the gospel's promise of rising hope, of judgement and joy and of life reborn.

Sunday 7th January The Epiphany Ephesians 3: 1-12 & Matthew 2: 1-12

Prayer for the Day (Collect)

Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sunday 14th January 2nd Sunday of Epiphany Revelation 5: 1-10 & John 1: 43-end

Prayer for the Day (Collect)

Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sunday 21st January 3rd Sunday of Epiphany Revelation 19: 6-10 & John 2: 1-11

Prayer for Today (Collect)

God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed: anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord.

Sunday 28th January Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

Hebrews 2: 14-end & Luke 2: 22-40

Prayer for the Day (Collect)

Lord Jesus Christ, light of the nations and glory of Israel: make your home among us, and present us pure and holy to your heavenly Father, your God, and our God.

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This magazine may be read in full colour on our webpage!

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THE EMMANUEL BENEFICE HUDDERSFIELD

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