



## Minster News

Happy New Year to everyone associated with the Minster as we enter 2023. This communication is the first of our new monthly Newsletter which we will send to everyone on our data base via email every month. It will include a short reflection from one of the Clergy Team, some pictures of events that have already taken place, and some notices of things that are coming up and dates to put in the diary. New technology, new computers in the Office, and an Operations Manager means these things can happen.



Many of you will know that the Minster is now using Church Suite which is a modern IT software package that supports large and growing Churches. This enables us to stay in touch with people more easily about what is happening in the Minster and to try and improve our communication internally. More and more people are joining the worshipping community and so we need to respond to the changing environment as we continue to grow the community.

As it's the New Year, we shall be soon ready to publish the Year Planner for 2023 mapping out what the year is currently looking like. I'm delighted that Jens - Peter Bentzin, Deputy Superintendent (bishop) of the Lutheran Diocese of Aachen is coming to lead Holy Week this year, and we also plan to re launch the Minster Summer Festival, with a number of concerts already lined up. Plans for Lent and Holy Week are nearly ready to be finalised and shared with the whole community.

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Bishop Stephen Platten is coming for his first visit following his retirement and will dedicate the new Nave altar and Lectern on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May.

I hope this email will be received by everyone in the spirit in which it is being sent. No doubt there will be a few initial teething troubles as we launch something new, but we will always do our best to improve things as we progress.

Happy Epiphany to everyone!

## *Hilary*

The Revd Canon Hilary Barber  
Vicar of Halifax Minster

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## Dates for the Diary

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January** 10.30am: The Feast of the Epiphany

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January** 10.30am: Plough Sunday with Calderdale Young Farmers

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January:** Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.  
10.30am Sung Eucharist - preacher The Revd Jo Williams, Blackley Baptist church  
4pm The Epiphany Carol Service

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January:** 10.30am The Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas). Preacher Bishop Tom Butler

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February:** Halifax Minster Youth Brass Festival - All Day event

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March:** Thursday @ One Organ recitals begin their new season for 2023

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March:** Concert - Halifax Choral Society, Halifax Young Singers, The Minster Choir - Faure Requiem and Britten St Nicholas



## December in The Minster

Huge numbers returned to The Minster during December with numbers back to pre-pandemic levels. Many special services and events were held throughout the month including the annual Christmas Tree Festival.





This raised an amazing £6500 towards the running costs of the Minster. Huge thanks go to all the Minster staff and volunteers who worked incredibly hard for the duration, providing the best Benedictine hospitality that we could supply. This year over 3000 people joined The Minster Choir to sing Carols around the Christmas Tree in The Piece Hall on Christmas Eve, followed by the Christingle Experience which raised a whopping £5K for The Children Society!



For details of all future events at the Minster please click [HERE!](#)



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