

# COME + SEE

Northern Bishops' Mission in the Diocese of York

Thursday to Sunday, 12-15 March 2020



## MISSION PREPARATION LEAFLET

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?'

He said to them,

**'Come and see.'**

*John 1:35-39*

## The Diocese of York: the journey so far...

The Diocese has a growing strategy for worship, prayer, mission and evangelism and they are all linked together:

- 2010 we launched our vision of *Generous Churches Making and Nurturing Disciples*
- 2015 we began sponsoring parishes to attend the *Leading your Church into Growth* conferences (LyCiG)
- 2015-16 the Archbishop made a Pilgrimage of Prayer, Witness and Blessing throughout the Diocese
- 2017 we adopted the goals: **Reach** people we currently don't; Move to **growth**; Establish **sustainable** giving
- 2017-18 we held the Deanery Missions
- 2018 we took new steps to reach 20-40s
- 2020 we look forward to the *Come and See* mission.

Just like the Deanery Missions, *Come and See* is an opportunity for us to unite in local mission and evangelism: we pray, we invite, we celebrate and we offer hospitality, all in the power of the Holy Spirit, telling the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Archbishop Sentamu, together with the Bishops of the Northern Province and their teams, will be working in our Diocese from Thursday to Sunday, 12-15 March 2020. We anticipate being joined by about 30 Bishops each with a small team of lay people, children and youth workers and clergy. Each Bishop will be allocated to a deanery.

## How will *Come and See* be organised?

### Local leadership: Deanery and Parish

**Each deanery** is asked to begin planning the weekend of services, events and activities. This might be either through the Deanery Leadership Team or a specially formed Deanery *Come and See* Planning Team. Just like the Deanery Missions, some of these events will be in each local church; others might be deanery-wide. Each Bishop is bringing a team of 3-5 people, providing the opportunity for a range of activities to be happening at the same time: visits to schools, children and youth events, breakfasts, quizzes, morning coffees, music evenings and Sunday morning services each with testimony and Good News... whatever works best for you and those you invite.

**Each parish** is invited to form its own *Come and See* Planning Team which will work alongside the Deanery Team (it might be the PCC). Each parish is encouraged to host its own *Come and See* activities during the weekend, making use of the Bishops and their Teams. You might also invite other churches in your area to be involved.

Think and pray about what went really well during the Deanery Mission:

- could you do this again?
- could you do something different too?
- think about what you have in the church diary – how might you tweak it and give it an outreach focus?
- whom might you invite – family, friends, neighbours, all your church contacts?

Jesus said 'you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' Acts 1:8

## Diocesan Planning Team

There is an overall Diocesan Planning Team ready to liaise with each Deanery. This Team will also work with the Archbishop planning where he goes over the weekend.

The Planning Team will offer support for deaneries and parishes in organising *Come and See* – watch out for details. Many parishes have already attended a LyCiG conference, the Manual has excellent advice on organising evangelistic events.

Chair: Archdeacon John Day with Anna Berry

Dean Jonathan Frost

Archdeacon Sarah Bullock

Diocesan Officers: Revd Dr Gavin Wakefield, Revd Richard White, Martin Sheppard

Local leaders: Revd David Dixon - Scarborough, Ste Corner - Middlesbrough,

Lucy Willshaw - Helmsley, Revd Ben Norton - Hull, Revd Richard Carew - York

## Finance

The Diocesan budget includes money for *Come and See*, covering things such as diocesan provided support and resources. The visiting Bishops and Teams' travel costs are paid from their own diocesan budgets. We hope that local church costs would be met from the PCCs' budgets for mission for 2020. Each deanery is asked to provide accommodation for the Bishops and their Teams.

## Most important of all: Prayer

When Billy Graham was asked to name the three most important things about a mission, he did not include preaching, nor the use of a big venue or big numbers attending. The first thing he singled out was prayer, the second ... prayer; and the third... prayer.

Prayer is essential in preparing for mission: we are dependent on God who gives growth. A mission will not bring people to faith unless Christians are actively praying for and making friends with people outside the household of faith. You might like to use the *Thy Kingdom Come* prayer resources to help you ([www.thykingdomcome.global/resources](http://www.thykingdomcome.global/resources)).



The Archbishop invites us to use his Pilgrimage Prayer as our prayer for *Come and See*:

Father in Heaven,  
mould me into Christlikeness;  
and stir up in me,  
the fire of your love.

Holy Spirit,  
fill me with your power;  
and help me to tell  
of the love and salvation  
in Jesus of Nazareth.

Lord Jesus Christ,  
Son of the Father,  
renew my friendship in you;  
and help me to serve you  
with a quiet mind  
and a burning spirit.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
please keep me  
in the joy, simplicity, and compassion  
of your holy Gospel. Amen.

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