

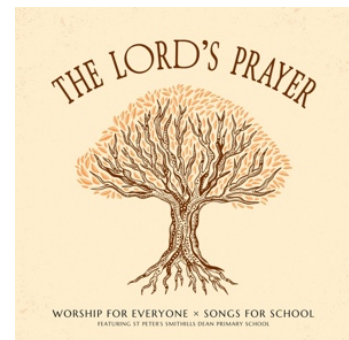


We welcome our readers to this newsletter which will bring you up to date with recent events in connection with our Trust and Archbishop Stephen during the year so far. As all Bishopthorpe Charitable Partners will know, our purpose is to enable the advancement of our religion and religious education; the relief of those in need; financial assistance to people who have been employed by the Church of England or a similar body; and furtherance of the ministry and mission of the Archbishops of York. In this newsletter we cover some of the grants we have recently made and bring you a snapshot of some of Archbishop Stephen's recent activities.

Grants made

From the Trust's conception we have had a regular dialogue with Archbishop Stephen's Faith in the North programme manager Theo Sheridan-Watts, looking at gaps in funding for this ambitious, Province-wide initiative which runs across 4 years. This year the focus is on the Lord's Prayer including the Archbishop's accompanying tour stopping at most cathedrals and several major churches across the north. The Trust has a presence at most of these events. The following years will see a focus on Being a Pilgrim (2026) and work on renewal of faith marking the celebrations around the fourteen hundredth anniversary of Paulinus baptising King Edwin in 627 (2027). The work looks to see the renewal of prayer, storytelling and church planting. Some of the work in this programme attracts grants from elsewhere, but there are gaps which our Trust has filled.

The Lord's Prayer Journey is the first in a series of resource boxsets created by Faith in the North to support schools across the Northern Province. The resources invite children and young people to explore the words of the Lord's Prayer through the lens of "Living Well." Some of these resources are musical and the Trust made a grant towards the production of *The Lord's Prayer Song*. This original piece of music comprises the specially commissioned song, complete with sheet music, lyrics and a video designed to engage children with the power and the meaning of the prayer Jesus taught his disciples. This song was intended to be used in over 200 schools across the North reaching thousands of children in the process. With the benefit of Bishopthorpe Partners' grant the basic song received higher quality production (with a band for the recording), accompanying sheet music, a lyric video with BSL/Makaton versions to increase accessibility and a downloadable school package that could be used to teach the song and values associated with it. To date it has been played more than 10,000 times and we have received very positive feedback from Theo about the impact it has made. The charity 'Count Everyone In' ran several sessions for adults with learning difficulties and additional needs at the Keswick Convention and The Lord's Prayer in Makaton became an anthem for them that week.



Another Lord's Prayer resource received a grant from our Trust. Thy Kingdom Come partnered with Faith in the North for the delivery of resources around the Lord's Prayer with a particular focus on children & young people. Together they commissioned a video series exploring prayer with the creators of the Cheeky Pandas, producing video and print resources for



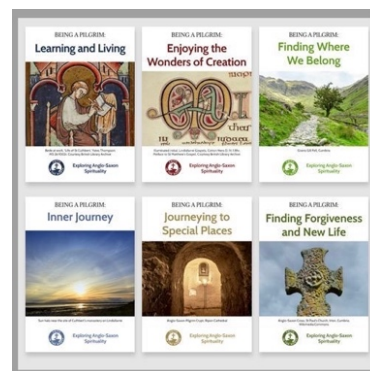
children, for wide use in churches, homes and schools. Bishopthorpe Partners contributed 50% of the project's costs.



Four episodes were produced based on the Lord's Prayer. Using the magazine-style layout of the Cheeky Pandas and Friends series, the series explores the theme 'How do I pray?' examining 4 different styles of prayer for children and families to try. They are presented by CBeebies, Gemma Hunt and include short, animated excerpts of the Cheeky Pandas, Bible

based teaching, songs and activities. The episodes, which cover creative prayer, praise-filled prayer, physical prayer and scriptural prayer are available on YouTube. The style of the episodes is short and snappy, moving quickly between segments, in keeping with the research that children today consume content more effectively in smaller, bitesize pieces. Alongside the episodes are accompanying activity packs which will include practical ways for children and families to explore the prayer styles. Widget versions of the activity packs will also be made available for children with additional needs and there are BSL versions of all videos.

More recently, the Bishopthorpe Partners made a full grant for the production of a series of prayer cards the purpose of which is twofold: to encourage churches of all sizes to engage in mission and to enable people who want to explore faith to do so. These prayer cards *Being A Pilgrim* form part of a wider tool kit of exploring faith trails, welcome signage etc which will enable churches right across the Province to develop and deploy simple but very effective and sustainable strategies of welcome and outreach. Experience has shown that when given such tools churches respond with growing confidence and creativity. Our grant enabled an initial print run of 450,000 cards. These are packaged into 1500 sample launch packs containing 300 cards (50 x 6 topics) to be offered to the first churches expressing interest. Subsequently, the cards will be available for churches to purchase at reasonable cost.



The cards are a key part of the key Faith in the North strategy. The themes relate clearly to the faith, spirituality and extraordinary mission achievements of Anglo-Saxon Christians across the North. They also echo key areas of need among people today, showing that Christianity still offers meaning and new life. Research has shown clearly that visitors with little or no church background will pick up attractive prayer cards, use them, and take them home as mementos to reuse and share with others. They signpost the website which then offers further stepping stones to exploring faith. All that is required to launch this mission cycle is for churches to put the cards out, something well within the capacity of the tiniest congregation but also very time-effective for those managing cathedrals and major churches!

Internal developments

During the year work has continued to complete the policies and procedures needed to ensure the Trust is governed in accordance with both the expectations of the Charity Commission and requirements of good practice and the law. All necessary policies are now in place, including risk management and data protection (we are recently registered with the



Information Commissioner's Office). We are also registered with the HMRC for Gift Aid purposes, allowing us to recover from the government an additional 25% of donations made to us out of taxed income.

To support the work of the Board of Trustees and the Chair, a volunteer has been recruited to assist with the administration of the Trust. Lin Brown, who has many years' experience working as Bursar with St Peter's Saltley Trust in Edgbaston, was appointed as our Trust Executive at the beginning of the year. Lin has been instrumental in organising meetings and events, and readers who were present at the Trust's Carlisle Cathedral reception in June will have seen her there.

At Carlisle with the kind permission of the Dean and Chapter we held a Bishopthorpe Partners' reception in the cathedral's Undercroft between Choral Evensong and Archbishop Stephen's Lord's Prayer evening. Lasting just under an hour, it provided us with the opportunity to meet local people and introduce them to the Trust, as well as an opportunity for them to network with others present. It also gave the guests an exclusive opportunity to meet and hear directly from Archbishop Stephen prior to his main teaching event. This was the first reception we have organised away from Bishopthorpe and the cathedral's own events team provided great support.



Archbishop Stephen

The sudden, early departure from office of Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby has meant significant additional diary commitments for Archbishop Stephen. Since the start of the year, he has been leading both Provinces and undertaking many duties that would otherwise fall to his counterpart in the south.

In **January** he was present at the Guildhall in London with The Prince and Princess of Wales, the Prime Minister, other faith and civic leaders and celebrities to join survivors from the Holocaust and subsequent genocides in the ceremony marking Holocaust Memorial Day and the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. He also visited Rome that month for the Christian Week of Unity and to say farewell to Archbishop Ian Ernest, the archbishop of Canterbury's personal representative to the Holy See. In **February** Archbishop Stephen consecrated new Bishops at Canterbury Cathedral for the southern Province, and presided at the meeting of General Synod in London (and the subsequent July meeting of Synod in York). The Lord's Prayer Tour started in **March** with Choral Evensong in York Minster, followed by a presentation on the Lord's Prayer attended by several Bishopthorpe Partners. At St Martin-in-the-Fields in London, Kathleen Snow was formally commissioned as Worldwide President of Mothers' Union, by Archbishop Stephen.



Photo Credit: Mothers Union 1

The Lord's Prayer: A Beginner's Guide was published by Hodder & Stoughton as part of Archbishop Stephen's drive to spread God's Word afresh across the northern Province. This book is for 'beginners' of all ages: Whether they know this simple prayer already, or this is their first encounter, this easy-to-read guide is intended to inspire its readers to learn more about how and why we pray these words.



In **April** Reparatory Justice and Institutional Accountability: the Church of England in Dialogue at the United Nations on Historical Injustices took place in New York with Archbishop Stephen in attendance. This event was part of the United Nations Permanent Forum on People of African Descent which focused on reparatory justice and institutional accountability, with the Church of England offering a case study. At the end of the month Pope Francis' funeral took place in St Peter's Square, Rome and Archbishop Stephen attended. The following month, **May**, saw His Holiness Pope Leo XIV celebrate the inauguration Mass of his pontificate, and Archbishop Stephen travelled to Rome again for this great occasion in the life of the Roman Catholic church. Afterwards he also joined the official ecumenical and interreligious delegations at a private audience with Pope Leo inside the Vatican. For both of these events Archbishop Stephen was part of a delegation from the Anglican Communion which consisted of primates and Anglican leaders, representing the prayers and support of Anglicans around the world. Later this month he was in London at St Paul's cathedral for the Clergy Support Trust's 370th Festival Service. This festival was an afternoon of celebration and reflection, recognising the contribution that clergy and their families make to their communities. In the previous year, almost 2,800 Anglican clergy



households relied on grants and services from the Clergy Support Trust to get by and Archbishop Stephen is one of their Honorary Presidents. At the end of the month the Armenian Heritage Conference, hosted by World Council of Churches in collaboration with Protestant Church in Switzerland, took place in Bern, Switzerland. Archbishop Stephen was there to participate and address the delegates.

Lastly, for this part of our newsletter, we note Archbishop Stephen has been appointed to the Crown Nomination Commission for the next Archbishop of Canterbury, participating in the demanding selection process for Archbishop Justin's successor.

Opportunity for new Trustees

If you have enjoyed this newsletter and would like to be considered for possible appointment as a Trustee of our Trust, do please get in touch and ask for a copy of our Trustee Person Specification which we will be pleased to provide.

Getting in touch

Contact us by email to info@bcptrust.co.uk or trustexecutive@bcptrust.co.uk
Visit us at www.bcptrust.co.uk

The prayer for BCPT

Loving Father, bless your Church in the North.

Give us the wisdom, courage and resource we need to build your kingdom in the world.

Thankful for the generosity of your grace towards us in Jesus Christ, may we give freely in return.

Led by the Spirit, may we give ourselves in service to you through Christ our Lord. Amen

Archbishop Stephen, May 2024