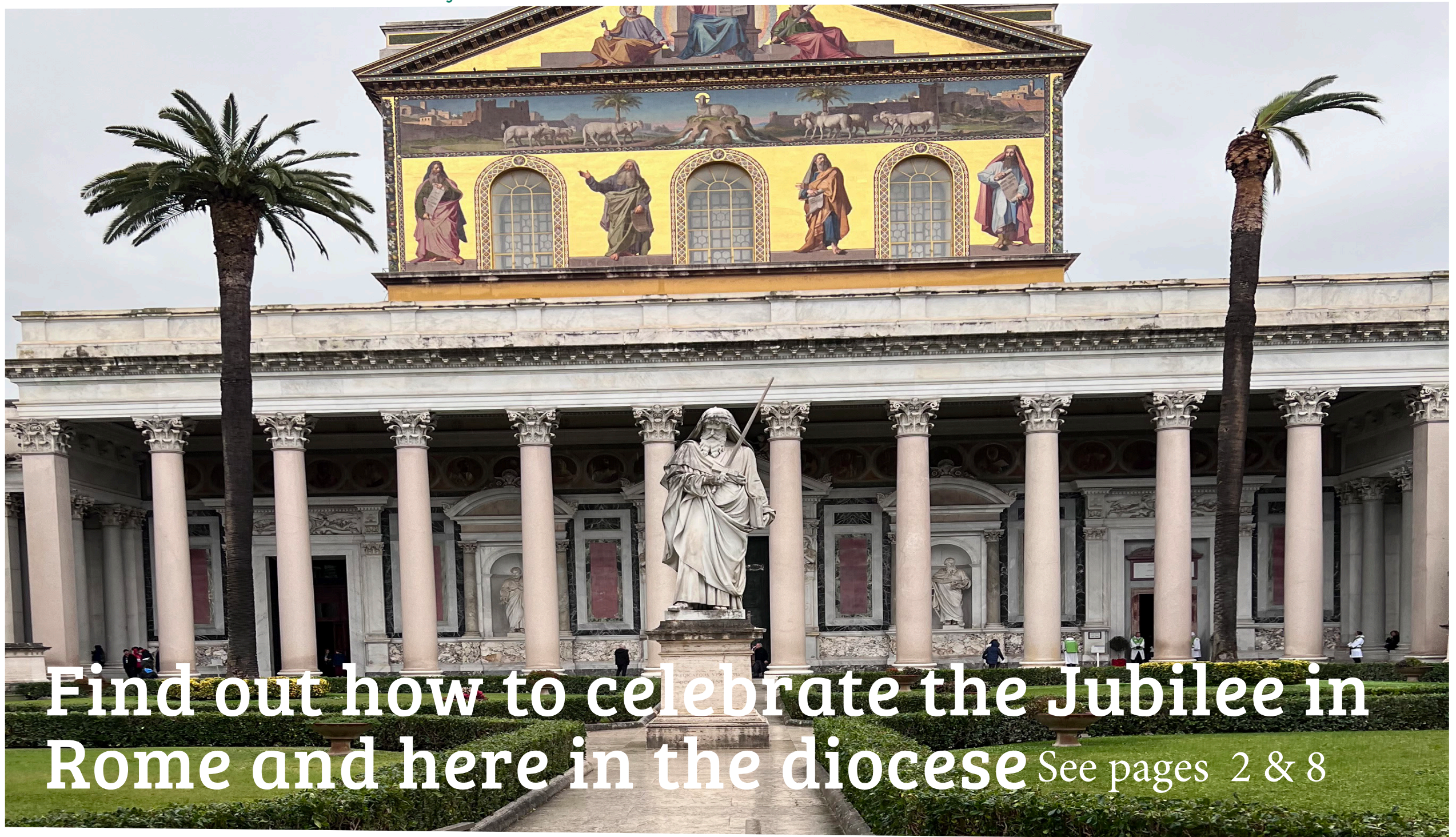




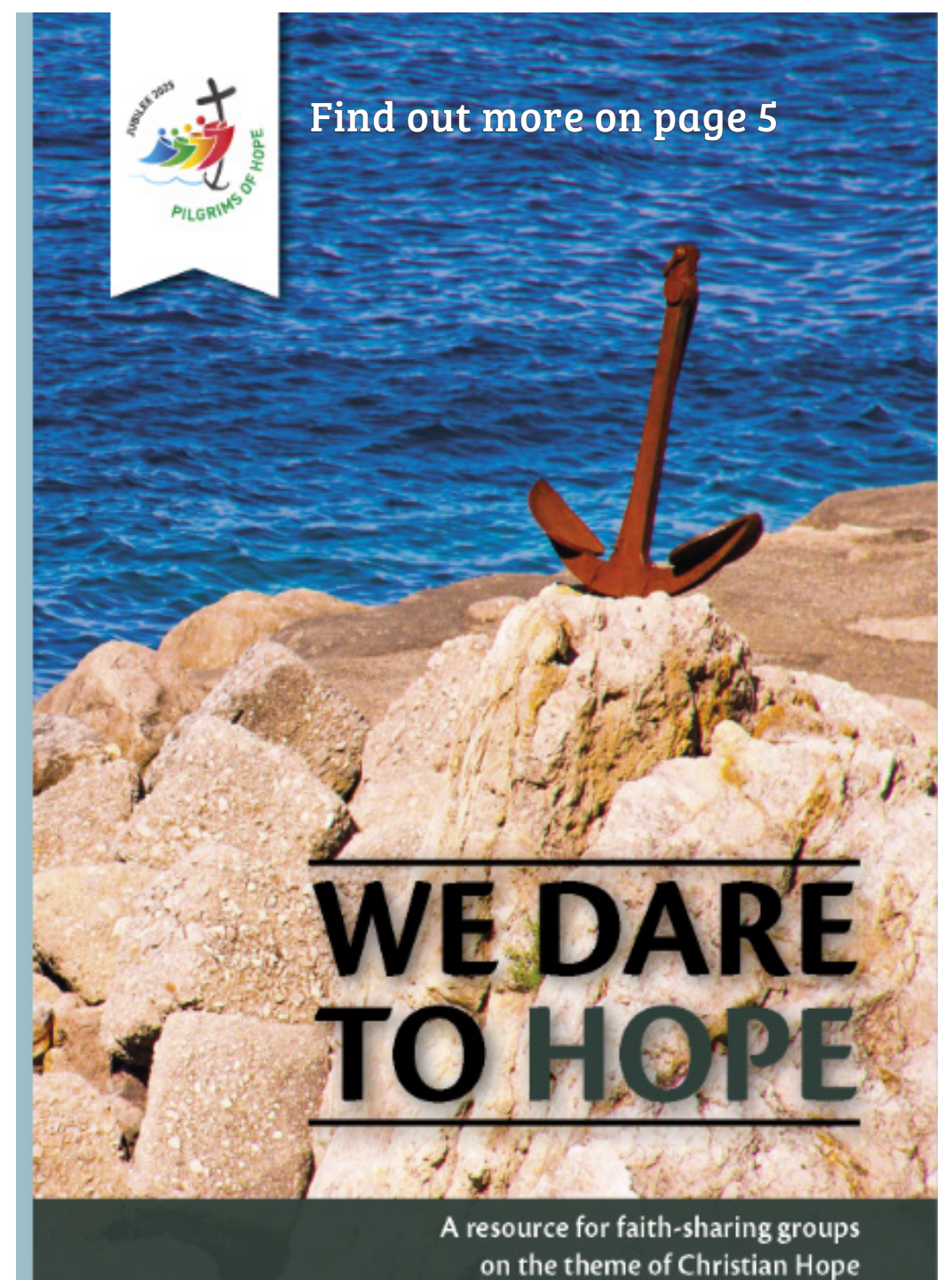
A Community called to love one another as Christ loves us.



Find out how to celebrate the Jubilee in Rome and here in the diocese See pages 2 & 8

Seven Women Were Enrolled As Members Of The Union Of Catholic Mothers find out more on page 4

Bishops' Conference produce Lenten Prayer Resource for the Jubilee Year



Upcoming Events

- 3 March** CCRS - Christology & CST Pastoral Centre
- 5 March** Ash Wednesday
- 8 March** Listening with the Heart Pastoral Centre
- 22 March** Lent Day of Recollection with Bishop Ralph Pastoral Centre
- 8 June** Summer Day of Recollection TBA
- 27 June - 3 July** Hallam Lourdes Pilgrimage
- 6 July** Interdiocesan Padley Pilgrimage
- 25 July** Hallam Walsingham Pilgrimage
- 8-10 September** Holy Cross Pilgrimage (Catherdral & Padley)



Jubilee Events in the Diocese

- 16 April** Jubilee of Priests and People St. Marie's Cathedral
- 31 May** Jubilee of People with Disabilities Our Lady of Doncaster Shrine, St. Peter-in-Chains
- 4 June** Jubilee of Marian Spirituality Our Lady of Doncaster Shrine, St. Peter-in-Chains
- 22 June** Eucharistic Procession from St. Marie's Cathedral
- 6 July** Padley Pilgrimage and Mass Padley Chapel
- 20 July** Annual Hallam African Community Mass TBC
- 20 September** Jubilee of Altar Servers Holy Rood Barnsley
- 15 November** Jubilee of Volunteers Immaculate Conception, Rotherham

Follow all the Hallam news and stories on:

- Diocese of Hallam
- @HallamDioceseCC, @SynodHallam1
- Hallam Diocese
- @HallamDiocese

This is a publication by Hallam Diocese. Please send your articles or Feedback to communications@hallam-diocese.com or to Hallam Pastoral Centre St Charles St, Sheffield S9 9WU

CONTACT

Welcome to the February edition of Hallam Bridge

The year of Jubilee gets underway, perhaps to a cold start because the weather still feels like hibernation weather. However, we are hoping for many accounts from you the readers about all of your Pilgrimages of Hope. We have one this month from a member of the Formation and Mission team who made an early pilgrimage to Rome and went through two Holy Doors, praying for you all. See page 8.

We hear the call to be a prophetic group, opening doors to welcome those estranged, excluded and disadvantaged. This is a task for all of us, as the People of God assigned to us at our baptism and renewed every time we participate in the Holy Eucharist. The Justice and Peace article offers suggestions for Jubilee events for you to join. See page 3.

Continuing the journey of Synodality, we encounter another responsibility that comes by virtue of our Baptism, to participate in the life of the Church and the call and invitation from Pope Francis to learn about becoming more synodal and practice at every opportunity to put it into practice. There are training sessions available and events where the method of Spiritual Listening can be used. The Jesuit Institute with the Formation and Mission team are offering a way for you to develop your listening, see page 10.

Gathering others on our journey, we welcome the new recruits to the Union of Catholic Mothers (page 4).

CAFOD reminds us of the consequences if we don't take care of creation and our brothers and sisters (page 5) and of the opportunity for Lenten giving.

As we publish, Pope Francis is in hospital for treatment. We pray for him and his journey to health.

As always, keep us informed about your events and especially pilgrimages this Jubilee year.

Blessings on your month.

Editor

Free Wellbeing Course for Men

In Person at St Gerard's Church Parish Room , Thrybergh, Rotherham **Starting 4th March Tuesdays 6.30 - 7.30**

A free six-week course for a happier and more relaxed you.

Join us to explore;

- Emotional Self-care - Emotional self-care allows us to take time for the benefit of our health and well-being.
- Thinking about putting your own needs first - building your resilience.
- Being more assertive and setting boundaries-so that you can communicate better and more effectively at home and work.
- Stress and relaxation techniques - learning new skills for a more relaxed you.
- Build resilience and recover from trauma - To move forward in our life.

Come and join us for these relaxed, friendly and supportive sessions!

What previous participants have said about the course:

"This has been a great opportunity for me to think about how I manage stress in my life. I've learnt new strategies and skills to cope better"

"I've really enjoyed being a part of this group, all the other members were great, I learnt a lot from them!"

"I would recommend this course to anyone who wants to think about looking after themselves better, it's been great, particularly in improving my communication skills"

"This course has helped me to say 'No' which has had a big impact on my mental health and wellbeing"

For more information and to book in please contact Janet Kent on 07927657462 or email jkent@hallam-diocese.com

You can subscribe to receive the Hallam Bridge when is published here: <https://hallam-diocese.com/bridge/>

Subscribe

Around the Diocese

Synodal 'next steps' – an interview with Bishop Nicholas Hudson



The School for Synodality, a project based in the Diocese of Northampton, recently held an online event called

From Rome to Home: Next Steps for Synodality in Our Parishes

One of the key components of the two-and-a-half hour event was an interview conducted by the project's Co-Director, Avril Baigent, with Bishop Nicholas Hudson, Episcopal Secretary of the Bishops' Conference, and a papal pick for the recent XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops – the Synod on Synodality.

From Rome to Home was held on 25 January 2025, and explored what steps need to be taken to bring synodality into our parishes and communities. As well as the interview with Bishop Hudson, attendees heard from those who have already experimented with practices of listening and discernment, shared in small groups using the 'Conversation in the Spirit' methodology, and discussed the resources and routes available to begin the synodal way in their local contexts.

The full interview with Bishop Hudson can be watched here or on the School for Synodality's YouTube channel.

The next event to be hosted by the School of Synodality is titled:

Synodality 101: Conversations in the Spirit Workshops. It's a free three-part series held online across three Thursdays in March – 13th, 20th and 27th March from 2pm – 4pm. This workshop series will introduce the principles of holding prayerful, truthful and safe conversations which value gracious listening and courageous speaking. CBCEW

Moving from a 'Just Politics' to a 'Just Peace'



Pope Francis has declared 2025 to be a year of Jubilee – We are called to be pilgrims of HOPE. If we think of the story in Luke's Gospel when, at the beginning of his public ministry Jesus went to the synagogue in Nazareth and was given the book of the prophet Isaiah, he began to read:

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour. Isaiah 61: 1-2

In Luke's Gospel 4: 20 we read – 'and he sat down' On how many occasions do we hear this phrase during Christ's public ministry. He sat down to pray, to teach, to listen, to feel the earth beneath his fingers, to give his listeners time to grasp the impact of what he was saying. Sitting down implies relationship, community, reciprocity, on a level. With whom did he sit down, not usually the great and good, rather the marginalised the unacceptable ones. In biblical terms then Jubilee offers a vision of economic and environmental justice and liberation, release from debt and slavery. A time for renewal of the land with people returning to their roots. A time for celebration of the whole of creation. For J&P activists the Jubilee year will be a time to reflect and refocus, offering a huge challenge but also opportunity to look carefully at what we are about, especially for NJPN, as a network, how we work in partnership with so many inspirational groups, agencies, organisations and individuals who are committed to working for justice and peace in a very volatile world.

A key element of the Jubilee 2025 will be the opening of Holy Doors, and for many people this will resonate very powerfully both liturgically and spiritually. The Jubilee Year will formally conclude in Rome on the feast of the Epiphany, 6 January 2026, when the holy doors will be closed.

I would like to reflect for just a moment on the opening of doors – a powerful image – Doors can form very effective barriers in our Churches, keeping people with closed minds (the hardest thing to unlock) safely inside or ensuring that outsiders can't get in and disturb our complacency. The Jubilee Year will formally conclude in Rome on the feast of Epiphany, 6 January 2026. As NJPN it seems to me that we need to be pushing those doors open and making sure they don't close again.

We must ask

Who are the doorkeepers and the keyholders? How do we challenge the keyholders and the ideas the keyholders represent. Who is holding the key that excludes, is it a lack of welcome?

We need to challenge those perceptions that don't sit well with a vision of a more just and peaceful world, a 'kingdom' world. We can't just accept 'what is.' Do we grab hold of the key? We need to 'sing a new song' live out a different story, a story of welcome and hope for a common future. Should we be outside, knocking on the doors. Do we find Christ in the people of God, whatever their situation?

We shut so many people out, so when we open our Holy Doors who will feel welcomed and accepted? How can we be a prophetic group, opening doors to those who are other than ourselves, who are estranged, excluded, disadvantaged?

'As pilgrims of hope NJPN resolves to open wide the doors for future generations ensuring as we go that no one is left behind

We invite you to Journey with us this jubilee year as we open the doors to a just peace for current and future generations We invite you to join us as we commit to taking restorative action to bring about peace and justice for migrants, or people living in poverty and inequality and for a world in climate crisis. We owe it to future generations to make this Jubilee permanent'

We proclaim Jubilee through our actions, words, communication, events, publications, by speaking truth to Power. 'Showing up', 'speaking out'

We proclaim jubilee when campaigning with allies for a 'Real Living Wage' – a major concern at our conference

We proclaim jubilee when campaigning for liberty and Freedom for enslaved workers, refugees, victims of trafficking, for those affected by climate change - environmental refugees.

NJPN Focus for the year of Jubilee is 'Opening Doors' with a programme of open meetings.

Events already planned include:

Thursday 6 February: Opening Doors to those affected by slavery and Trafficking Evening via Zoom -- Brian O'Toole

Monday 7 April: Opening Doors to Refugees and Asylum Seekers Evening meeting via zoom

Saturday 10 May: Opening Doors to a sustainable future for all people Networking Day in London (CAFOD) – NJPN Environment Group to facilitate the event

Conference 25 – 27 July – 'A Just Peace' – Challenging the inevitability of violence.

Thursday 30 October 2025: Evening via Zoom – Post Conference Catch Up Anne Peacey February 2025

Seven Women Were Enrolled As Members Of The Union Of Catholic Mothers

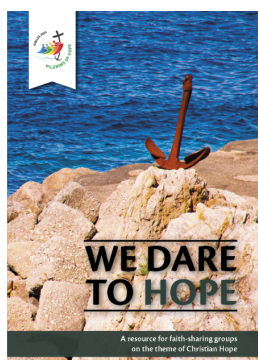


On Sunday 2 February 2025 seven ladies of the Parish of St. Joseph's, Handsworth in Sheffield in the Diocese of Hallam were enrolled as members of the Union of Catholic Mothers.

This took place during Holy Mass celebrated by the Parish Priest Father McManus and was attended by other parishioners, as well as UCM Officers of the Diocese.

It was a lovely occasion with refreshments and friendships made and renewed. Dorothy Anderson (Diocesan President)

We Dare to Hope Lent Resource



A new resource to use during this Jubilee Year is now available

We Dare to Hope

is a five-week resource on Christian Hope and includes a foreword by Bishop David Oakley, Bishop of Northampton and Chair of the Department of Evangelisation and Discipleship

The resource has been developed by the Bishops' Conference and follows on from last year's companion resource,

We Dare to Say,

which was based on the petitions of the Our Father.

It is a resource for small group faith-sharing and for individual meditation, featuring five sessions on the jubilee theme of Christian Hope:

- 1 Christian Hope
- 2 The Decision to Hope
- 3 The Prayer of Hope
- 4 Hope Against Hope
- 5 Christ, Our Hope

Each session includes scripture, prayers and a reflection with questions.

We Dare to Hope Download available on the Jubilee pages of the website

Finding Hope Through Devastating Drought

"One day, two of them died," Lokho tells us of her goats. "A day after that, another. A week later, another three. Now I have zero livestock."

When Lokho's animals died in the drought, she had no other way to feed her family, no safety net to fall back on. That was when Lokho teamed up with a group of women and reached out to Wakera, one of our local experts. Wakera made sure that the next time disaster struck, no one would lose hope.

Wakera shared his skills for growing food in harsh climates and provided Lokho's community with seeds and tools to plant their own kitchen garden. Crucially, together, they built innovative shade nets which protect plants from the scorching sun, whilst still allowing every drop of precious rain through.

Building a better World for All

Now, Lokho sells the produce in her small shop and splits the money between the women. "These savings will help us when we go through a time of emergency," says Lokho, "At a time when there's a food crisis, we can purchase food to save people. I feel like I'm now safe and secure."

Lokho's eyes turn to her children playing in the yard. "The littlest one was born towards the end of the long drought," she says. "It makes me smile now to see her walking about. I feel great pride."

Lokho has hope for her family's future. She tells us:

"I turn to God through prayer. I pray for a better life in which to raise my children."

A Better World Needs All Of Us. A Better World Needs You.

Help families around the world survive emergency conditions and build a better future.

Please donate this Lent

Give online at cafod.org.uk or call 0303 303 3030 or send a cheque to: Freepost CAFOD (no address or stamp needed) Angela Powell

Fr James Shryane RIP



Fr Jim Shryane's Funeral Mass was celebrated on 12 February at Holy Rood, Barnsley before his burial in Kilcolman cemetery, Ballaghaderreen. We share with you the homily preached at his funeral by Fr Declan Brett.

Today, we gather with heavy hearts to bid farewell to a cherished priest: Fr. James Alphonsus Shryane. A priest who led a life deeply rooted in spirituality, with a profound devotion to Our Lady and St. Therese. I first met Fr. James when he travelled to Rome for his Jubilee. He along with the other jubilarians came to the Beda College where I was studying, as part of their celebration... even if only for a cup of tea. I got to know Fr. James after he had moved to Darton. We'd meet up every once in a while. Sometimes, talking about our parishes and what was going on. Sometimes talking about spiritual matters. But always with RTE radio on in the background: whether it was the races or hurling: Up the Cats! His unwavering faith and love for God is reflected in the beautiful readings we have just heard from the books of Jeremiah, Romans, and John.

In our first reading, we hear the call of Jeremiah, a call from the very lips of the Lord: "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you; before you were born, I consecrated you." This divine calling echoes in the life of our departed priest. From his youth, he felt the gentle but firm hand of God leading him to His service. Like Jeremiah, he may have felt apprehensive, feeling unworthy or incapable. Yet, he answered God's call with humility and faith. In his dedication to Our Lady, he found a maternal guide who comforted and encouraged him in his journey. He often said that it was through Mary that he truly understood the depth of God's love and mercy.

Her intercession was his source of strength and consolation, especially in times of trial..

Paul's letter to the Romans reminds us that none of us lives for ourselves alone. "If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord." Fr. James tried his best to exemplify this truth in his ministry. His life was a continuous offering to God, a life lived in the service of others. His devotion to St. Therese, the Little Flower, inspired him to seek holiness in the ordinary, to perform even the smallest acts with great love. He told me about his trip to Lisieux and how he managed to get a first class relic of St. Therese while there. This story was also recounted in his book: Souls for Jesus.

St. Therese taught him that sanctity lies not in grand gestures but in the quiet, faithful living out of God's will each day. He embraced her "Little Way," finding joy and purpose in the mundane, believing that every act done with love and for God's glory was a path to sanctity.

In our Gospel reading, Jesus speaks of the grain of wheat that must die to produce much fruit. Our priest understood this mystery profoundly. He lived a life of self-sacrifice, continuously dying to himself so that Christ might live in him. His spiritual journey was marked by a deep love for the Eucharist, where he encountered the mystery of Christ's sacrifice and resurrection daily.

He often spoke of how the Eucharist nourished his soul, enabling him to serve with Christ-like love and patience. His life, like the grain of wheat, bore much fruit-nourishing the spiritual lives of those he ministered to, bringing many souls closer to God.

As we commend his soul to the loving embrace of Our Lord, let us remember the legacy he leaves behind-a legacy of faith, hope, and love. In his devotion to Our Lady and St. Therese, he found role models who guided him on his spiritual journey, leading him ever closer to the heart of Christ.

May we find inspiration in his life to deepen our own faith, to live with the same fervour and dedication, and to trust in the intercession of Our Lady and the saints. As we celebrate this Requiem Mass, let us pray for the repose of his soul, confident that he is now in the presence of the Lord he so faithfully served.

I would like to conclude with a little poem:
 hat shall I say about the Irish?
 The utterly impractical, never predictable,
 Sometimes irascible, quite inexplicable, Irish.
 A strange blend of shyness, pride and conceit,
 And a stubborn refusal to bow in defeat.
 He's spoiling and ready to argue and fight,
 Yet the smile of a child fills his soul with
 delight. His eyes are the quickest to fill up with
 tears,
 Yet his strength is the strongest to banish your
 fears.
 His hate is as fierce as his devotion is grand,
 And there's no middle ground on which he will
 stand.
 He's wild and he's gentle, he's good and he's
 bad.
 He's proud and he's humble, he's happy and sad.
 He's in love with the ocean, the earth and the
 skies,
 He's enamored with beauty wherever it lies. He's
 victor and victim, a star and a clod, But mostly
 he's Irish --- in love with his God.

God rest you, Fr. James.
 Fr Declan Brett

The Pilgrimage of Hope Lifts High Our Cross



In the middle of November 2024, St Wilfrid's Centre were asked if they could make a large wooden cross for the procession marking the start of the Jubilee Year. Although most organisations might have been very concerned by the timescale and size of the project, St Wilfrid's Centre, as always, rose to the challenge and set about designing the cross. The workshop team and clients put aside the existing orders for mediboxes. These are made at St Wilfrid's Centre and distributed around the country to help the work of drug support organisations. They then began constructing and sanding the cross.

A secure removeable base also had to be constructed so that the cross could be stationed vertically. Staff and clients were very proud of what they had achieved. That was, however, not the end, as a further request was received to make the cross look weathered/old. Again, they rose to the challenge and after carefully burning and staining the wood, the results were amazing. As Bishop Ralph said in his pastoral letter for the Opening of the Jubilee Year, "Our Christian witness has, perhaps, never been more needed. Let us reach out to those who are suffering, those who are lonely, and those who are in need." As St Wilfrid's Centre continues to reach out to those who are suffering, lonely and in need, we are very grateful to the parishes, groups and individuals within the Diocese of Hallam who support us in our work.

With increasing costs and need, £550,000 now must be raised each year to keep St Wilfrid's Centre going. Our regular donors provide security, but do not match our costs. This year we are, therefore, planning several events to raise additional funds and increase the profile of the valuable work we do. More details about events and the work of St Wilfrid's Centre can be found on the website. www.stwilfridscentre.org
 Ruth Sheldon, Director

Bacon Butties raise over £600!



Bacon butties, cakes and Christmas cards were sold at a fundraiser held in November at Mother God Church, Abbeydale Road, Sheffield. The event was organised by the Sheffield Branch of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children SPUC

Since 1967, SPUC has been at the forefront of the global pro-life movement, advocating for the right to life from conception to natural death. The Society was founded in sponse to the presentation of the Abortion Act, which was introduced as a Private Members Bill by David Steel MP, and given royal assent on 27 October 1967. It is the UK's largest and leading pro-life organisation which aims to make abortion unthinkable. They aim to achieve this through advocacy, community engagement, education, and compassionate care, guided by their core values of integrity, courage and compassion. It is the SPUC's mission to protect the most vulnerable- unborn babies, the elderly and those facing end of life decisions. They work with schools and universities to educate and empower our future generations, policymakers to influence pro-life legislation to ensure every life is valued and respected, and support women and families make life affirming decisions.

The Sheffield SPUC branch meet four times a year at Mother of God Church, and its youngest member, Luca, publicised the occasion by speaking at Masses at Mother of God and St Vincent's Crookes. The event raised more than £600 for local and national activities. Sincere thanks to everyone who attended and contributed towards its success; special thanks to a generous Mother of God parishioner who donated the bacon! - not forgetting Luca's brother, Raphy, who showed his keen support on the day. For more information about Sheffield SPUC meetings and events please contact: Rachel 07368297872 Rachel Wood

Making the most of Jubilee Year



Does anyone need a reason to go to Rome this Jubilee Year? Have you looked at the programme to see which category you might fit into

March 8-9th Jubilee of World of Volunteering Mar 28th 24 hours for the Lord
 Mar 28-30th Jubilee of Missionaries of Mercy
 April 5-6th Jubilee of the Sick and World of Healthcare
 April 25-26th Jubilee of Adolescents
 April 28-29th Jubilee of People with Disabilities
 May 1-4th Jubilee of Workers
 May 4-5th Jubilee of World of Business
 May 10-11th Jubilee of Marching Bands
 May 16-18th Jubilee of Confraternities
 May 30-June 1st Jubilee of Families, Children, Grandparents and the Elderly
 June 7-8th Jubilee of Movements, Associations and New Communities
 June 9th Jubilee of the Holy See
 June 14-15th Jubilee of Sports
 June 20-22nd Jubilee of Public Authorities
 June 23-24th Jubilee of Seminarians
 June 25th Jubilee of Bishops
 June 25-27th Jubilee of Priests
 June 28th Jubilee of Eastern Churches
 July 28-August 3rd Jubilee of Youth
 September 15th Jubilee of Consolation
 September 20th Jubilee of Those who Promote and Defend Justice
 September 26-28th Jubilee of Catechists October 4-5th Jubilee of Migrants and Missionary World
 October 8-9th Jubilee of Consecrated Life
 October 11-12th Jubilee of Marian Spirituality
 October 31-November 2nd Jubilee of the Educational World
 November 16th Jubilee of the Poor
 November 21-23rd Jubilee of Choirs and Choristers
 December 14th Jubilee of Prisoners
 You can download the calendar from the Vatican Jubilee Office website.

Hallam Diocese Formation and Mission team were slightly disappointed not to find a designated Jubilee Day in Rome for Formation and Mission. While contemplating whether 'workers' would fit, or if it was too late to join a choir or marching band, a surprise Christmas gift of a trip to Rome turned January 16-17th into a Jubilee for Mothers and Daughters. It was

a strange reversal of roles not to be the responsible adult. Not quite John 21:18 but slightly unnerving. Nevertheless, we got to Rome, we walked through the Holy Door at St Peter's. There were two queues, one for tourists and one for pilgrims. I was surprised by a sudden rush of emotion, joy and fellowship as I identified myself as a pilgrim and was respectfully ushered along the route with the other pilgrims. We prayed for the Diocese of Hallam and we admired the new arrangements for crowd management, security, toilets, gift shops and catering that are in place for the Jubilee Year. We went through another Holy Door at my favourite, Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls, where we joined in a Mass for the opening of the Jubilee. It was a blessed time of Jubilee for me so far. Maybe make the most of this Jubilee Year ahead, it's 25 years until the next one!

F Frances, Formation and Mission Team

National Jubilee Pilgrimage of Hope - September 2025



What does it mean to be a 'pilgrim of hope'?

In the Papal Bull *Spes Non Confundit* which proclaimed the 2025 Jubilee Pope Francis wrote: "Pilgrimage is of course a fundamental element of every Jubilee event. Setting out on a journey is traditionally associated with our human quest for meaning in life. A pilgrimage on foot is a great aid for rediscovering the value of silence, effort and simplicity of life. In the coming year, pilgrims of hope will surely travel the ancient and more modern routes in order to experience the Jubilee to the full."

We are blessed that the St Mark's Way (North route), of the 'Holy Cross Pilgrimage' September 2025, will be travelling from the Cathedral of St Anne (Diocese of Leeds) to the Cathedral of St Barnabas (Diocese of Nottingham) via the Cathedral of St Marie (Diocese of Hallam).

The route is a fitting tribute to the history of the Diocese of Hallam, formed 30 May 1980, from its two 'parent' dioceses of Leeds and Nottingham. The 45th anniversary of the creation of our Diocese, is in the Jubilee 'Year of Hope', with 'St Mark's Way' travelling through the Valley of Hope.

'One of the four Ways, St Mark's Way, starts at Leeds Cathedral and takes disused railway lines and towpaths to Wakefield and Wombwell. After visiting St Marie's Cathedral in Sheffield, the Way climbs to the Chapel of the Padley Martyrs in the Hope Valley. The path follows the River Derwent to Matlock, Ripley and then along the former Cromford Canal to Eastwood and Nottingham's Catholic Cathedral.'

Follow the link for more details.

<https://www.pilgrimways.org.uk/national-pilgrims-of-hope-walking-pilgrimage>

The Hallam Diocesan Shrines, of Our Lady of Doncaster, St Marie's Sheffield and Padley Martyrs' Chapel, are all preparing for a busy year of welcoming Pilgrims.

To ensure that we can meet requests for Pilgrimages in 2025, Padley Martyrs' Chapel needs additional 'Welcomers'. If you could offer a couple of Sunday afternoons, Easter to early October 2025, that would be a blessing. You would be fully supported in welcoming both Pilgrims and general visitors. Welcomers of all ages, would help us to 'build for the future' and ensure that our Diocesan community is able to contribute to and gain from the spiritual experience of making the Shrine available to others, in this Year of Jubilee. Please contact: Sheila 07855 039711 Gerard Bonner

Hard Cases Don't Make Good Law



The Catholic Union is holding a webinar on the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill on Thursday 3 April. Chaired by Baroness Hollins, President of the Catholic Union, it will give members and supporters the chance to unpick the Bill guided by three experts: Dr Matthew Doré; Dr Philip Howard and Professor Julian Hughes.

Dr Matthew Doré, Consultant Palliative Care Physician, says: "Many concerns about bad deaths raised at the impassioned Second Reading of the Bill by MPs evoke emotion but are not addressed by the Bill itself. There is a stark mismatch between the emotional rationale and the Bill's content. This false premise written into the Bill will inevitably kill many erroneously."

Dr Philip Howard, former Gastroenterologist & Senior Lecturer in Medicine says: "There would be an enormous change in the practice of medicine should the Bill become law. It would reverse the declaration within the Hippocratic Oath that "I will give no deadly drug to any, nor will I counsel such." Deadly drugs will be given to many and suicides will be encouraged. The Leadbeater Bill is at odds with the fundamental Right to Life enshrined in Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights."

Professor Julian Hughes, Former Consultant Old Age Psychiatrist, says: "With the NHS struggling to keep up with demand now is not the time to introduce assisted suicide. The answer is to invest in well-coordinated end-of-life care - not to take an attitude of therapeutic nihilism".

The Bill will return to the Commons' Chamber for Third Reading on 25 April.

To sign up for the webinar at 18.30 on Thursday 3 April, please register on Eventbrite and a link will be sent to you in due course. Louisa Collyer-Hamlin

Looking Ahead

Listening with the Heart



Hallam Formation and Mission with
The Jesuit Institute present



Listening with the Heart

This is a series of 5 sessions, (one in person and 4 on-line) to explore LISTENING WITH THE HEART through prayer, reflection, discussion and practice.

A series of 5 sessions, (one in person and 4 on-line) to explore LISTENING WITH THE HEART through prayer, reflection, discussion and practice, with themes of

- Listening as welcome
- Listening to the Word of God,
- Listening with compassion,
- Listening to the cries of the voiceless

Register Here:



WHEN?

- Day 1. March 8, 2025 10 am-5 pm In-person
- Day 2. Thursday 13 March 7-9 pm On-line
- Day 3. Thursday 20 March 7-9 pm On-line
- Day 4. 27 March 7-9pm On-line
- Day 5. 3 April 7-9 pm On-line

or contact
formation-mission@hallam-diocese.com
tel 0114 256 6410

WHERE? Hallam Pastoral Centre, St Charles Street, Sheffield S9 3WU
Participants will need to be able to commit to attend all of the sessions.

"The Good News of the Gospel spread throughout the world as a result of person-to-person, heart-to-heart encounters with men and women who accepted the invitation to "come and see", and were struck by the "surplus" of humanity that shone through the gaze, the speech and the gestures of those who bore witness to Jesus Christ." (Pope Francis, Message for World Day of Social Communications, 2021)

We all have opportunities to 'listen' in our lives and to do that well involves learning the art of encounter. In order to be bearers of Good News, to share our faith with those around us, we first have to allow a space for real listening. This can happen with friends, family, neighbours and during the course of everyday activities. It also finds its place in the context of a working life or ministry where we seek to support others. These four online sessions will explore through prayer, reflection, discussion and practice, the place of conversation at the heart of our daily lives and service.

Themes include:

- Listening as Welcome,
- Listening to the Word of God-
- Listening with compassion-
- Listening to the cries of the voiceless-

Listening as Welcome

To be in conversation we need to be open to welcome others into a space where we can be surprised by what we experience together and to be changed. Creating that welcome is itself a gift and something to practice.

Listening to the Word

Words are an essential way in which we communicate with God and with people. The Word dwelled among us in Jesus. We look at him and learn from him in order to let the Word be encountered again through us in conversation with others.

Listening with Compassion

Listening with the heart to another's story opens us up to share more deeply their joys and sufferings. It is choosing to stay alongside the person with love in times of difficulty and shadow.

Listening to the Cries of the Voiceless

In a world that can drown out the cries of the poor and the helpless, how do we invite a space where they can be listened to and out of which they can speak?

Committment

Participants will need be able to commit to attend all of the sessions.

How do I sign up?

Places are limited. As soon as you know you want to participate, complete the online form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeWtWlosdxC3pV6XoDFoEfbllz4UrOsl3FtM4zlivBiofBaVw/viewform?usp=sharing>



or contact: formation-mission@hallam-diocese.com

tel 0114 256 6410 before 6 March 2025

Cost

The programme is subsidised by the Jesuits and Hallam Diocese Formation and Mission Team but offerings are welcome to help us with the costs of these events. Offerings can be made to:

Account name: Diocese of Hallam Formation and Mission Sort Code: 40-41-07 Account number:

91147633 and add reference: Listen

Lenten Day of Reflection with Bishop Ralph Heskett CSsR



Diocese of Hallam
FORMATION AND MISSION



Saturday 22 March 2025 11:00-4:00 pm Hallam Pastoral Centre

The event is free. Participants should bring their own packed lunch. Please book on the diocesan Eventbrite page

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/hallam-formation-and-mission-46212155433> or using this QR Code



Inter faith dialogue Study Day



What Good News Study Day



Inter Faith Dialogue

The Second Vatican Council encouraged dialogue both with different Churches and with other Faiths. 2025 marks sixty year since Nostra Aetate, the Council's document on other Faiths.

Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald, a member of the Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers), taught Islamic studies and Arabic in several locations, and worked for many years in the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. He was posted to Cairo as Apostolic Nuncio, the representative of the Pope. He now lives in the White Fathers' community in London. Saturday 22 February 2025 11:00-2:00

Those interested are invited to attend in person. The event is also available on live stream free of charge at www.whatgoodnews.org No prior booking necessary. A recording of the talk will be available subsequently. More details on website.

Cycling Pilgrimage July 2025



Caring for our Common Home



Why should we consider this pilgrimage in 2025?

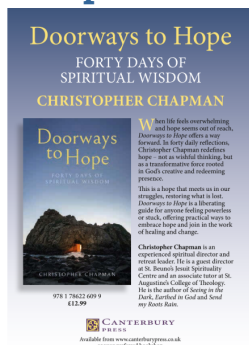
For a start, cycling outdoors is a great way to explore the countryside and enjoy nature at its best. It is not only an excellent form of exercise, but nourishes the mind and soul. Hence it is becoming an increasingly popular option for those who want to enjoy something more meaningful than just a beach holiday. It is easy to slot cycling into a busy routine. Plus, let's not forget, swapping the car for a bike is great for our planet.

But we want to highlight the obvious- the spiritual benefits. Whilst cycling has emotional and mental health benefits as well as physical he environment. Out on the path, pilgrims need only pay for the food that they eat, and the place that they sleep. Both of these basic requirements can be attained at a minimal cost. Whatever your personal circumstances, we wish to encourage pilgrims of all backgrounds and cycling skills to join us. Starting from the Shrine of Our Lady of Doncaster, some of the pilgrims will be pedalling through Lincoln---Boston---Kings Lynn and finally arriving Walsingham. Other pilgrims might set off from their own parishes or deaneries in smaller groups. Cycling is a low-impact physical activity that can be enjoyed at any age. But we would encourage pilgrims to be reasonably fit, so the experience can be enjoyed to the full. The cycling pilgrimage will take place during the summer school holidays 2025, with planned arrival in Walsingham on Friday 25 July to coincide with our Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham. For more details please TEXT: 07350 585998 OR Email: gocyclinghallam@gmail.com

"For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope" (Pope Francis). J. Aylookunnel

St. Vincent's parish was recently awarded the Cafod 'Live Simply' award. A welcome acknowledgement for the on-going ways that the Parish is trying to care for this beautiful world that God has entrusted to us. This quest continues as we try to embed the essence of living simply into our daily lives. There is a myriad of ways that we can try to care for the environment and live more sustainably. Fostering and encouraging understanding and respect for nature in children is always worthwhile. Myself and Pauline Delamere have been working with the reception class in St. Marie's school garden. It has been wonderful to live through the seasons with the children. The children have enjoyed working in the garden. Some of the children live in flats so don't have their own garden at home. In the last few months we have planted bulbs, made bug hotels, cleared weeds, made fat balls for the birds and have done some potato chitting. In September they enjoyed collecting, sorting and eating the apples. The whole idea of compost was new to most of the children. Using the discarded apples for compost was helpful to illustrate that lots of things that are thrown away can be used for another purpose. We got children to identify different herbs by their smell and to search for the herbs growing in the garden. Every week nature gifts us with new experiences. It was lovely to see the snowdrops making an appearance last week and to spot all the green shoots emerging after all the recent snow. It is a privilege to be with the children and to help them grow in their understanding of nature and the changing seasons. Here are some recent photos that show the children's activities in the garden. Ann Burke

Doorways to Hope



Forty days of spiritual wisdom Christopher Chapman Canterbury Press, 2025

The 40 reflections explore the nature of hope, hope's roots in the activity of God, and ways of stepping into hope. While each reflection is freestanding, I have arranged them with an order in mind: I begin by exploring the shape of hope from the perspective of the Christian tradition and how this compares with the different ways we use the word 'hope' within our everyday speech.

I go on to look at how hope has its source in the God of hope. Is God 'out there' waiting for us to get our act together, or is God 'here' and 'now', working alongside us from the place where we are?

The reflections then examine the relationship between hope and struggle. Our persistent experience is that we cannot wholly manage the course of events, or resolve our own difficulties unaided. As we look for mastery, we meet the challenge of mystery, and the God who meets us there. Hope is connected with vision, yet sometimes we do not see the way ahead. How might hope be at work for us when the road ahead is unknown and unseen?

Hope connects with the way of pilgrims. The Holy Spirit in our spirit stirs us into movement. From confinement and fear, we are drawn into the wider horizons of faith, hope and love. Hope is a matter of choice and activity as much as feeling. Rather than passively waiting for things to change, we step into hope. No matter how great the challenges facing our time, hope invites us to do what belongs to us to do, and to trust that we are part of a larger story. Each reflection is accompanied by suggestions for prayer and action.

Although primarily organized for individual reading Doorways to Hope can be used with groups and a suggested method for this is included. Christopher Chapman

If anyone would like to write a review of this book, please get in touch with the Editor at communications@hallam-diocese.com

The insider's guide to visiting Rome for Jubilee 2025

2025 is an historic Catholic Jubilee year. 60 million visitors are expected to visit Rome for a series of events and celebrations. Demand for affordable accommodation is sky high, but a leading travel expert's pro tip is highly appropriate: stay in a monastery!

Record numbers of visitors are expected to make the pilgrimage to Rome to join the celebrations for this year's historic Catholic Jubilee. It's one of the world's oldest celebrations, tracing its history back to the year 1300. However, tourism experts are cautioning that available accommodation will struggle to meet the number of anticipated visitors.

Lily Smith, a leading travel expert from Monasteries.com, says: 'In 2024, 30 million people flocked to the Eternal City but that number is set to double for the Jubilee celebrations. 60 million visitors are likely to visit the Eternal City over the year and that's going to completely stretch Rome's available accommodation and infrastructure.

'Vacant hotels and Italy's traditional "pensiones" will be in extremely short supply, particularly at the peak of celebrations in May and June. However, our Jubilee insider's online guide reveals there is another option. In keeping with this year's events, visitors can stay in one of Rome's many monasteries or convents. 'It's not hard to see why accommodation will be so sought-after. With just a few breaks for events such as the Napoleonic Wars, the Jubilee has become one of the world's oldest regular celebrations, farRead fullticle on the website. eclipsing traditions such as the modern Olympic Games, which only began in the year 1900.

'Last held in the year 2000 (excluding 2015's 'Extraordinary Jubilee' event), the 2025 celebration is likely to be the biggest Jubilee ever staged, with people making their way to Rome from all corners of the world. This year's Jubilee has a special theme, Pilgrims of hope, chosen by Pope Francis to spearhead a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war and recovering from the effects of the Covid pandemic . See full article on the website.