

PRESS RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Archbishop of York leads nearly 30 Bishops to Newcastle Diocese

The largest gathering of Church of England Bishops seen in Newcastle Diocese in our lifetime has taken place on Holy Island.

A total of 26 Bishops and their missional teams travelled to the Northumberland coast, accompanied by the Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu to launch the 'Pathways Mission' weekend.

Nearly 300 events are taking place across Northumberland, Newcastle, North Tyneside and parts of Cumbria, organised by parishes and deaneries to strengthen their relationships with local communities. It also gives people of all ages the chance to hear more about how faith and Christianity can touch their lives.

Pathways Mission is part of the Diocese of Newcastle's five-year vision 'growing church bringing hope'.

The events will feature a range of interesting, fun and spiritual concepts, including:

- The blessing of fishing boats at Craster
- The Archbishop to host 'An Evening with John Sentamu' at Newcastle Cathedral
- Dr Sentamu will visit a Tall Ship at Blyth about to embark on an Antarctic voyage
- He will also bless runners and stage open-air baptisms at the start of the Great North Run
- A 'Beer, Balls and Bishops' night in Cramlington focusing on men's sexual health
- Event at the Sill on Hadrian's Wall focusing on St Cuthbert and his heritage, in partnership with Northumberland National Park
- Other events include outdoor baptisms, pub quizzes, social evenings, fun days and guest suppers
- Bishops for Breakfast in Etal village hall
- Service commemorating the Battle of Flodden at Cornhill-on-Tweed

The weekend began with a Commissioning Event on Holy Island led by the Archbishop and attended by the Bishops, including the Bishop of Newcastle, the Right Reverend Christine Hardman and the Bishop of Berwick, the Right Reverend Mark Tanner. The Bishops then move out into the Diocese to attend many of the planned events.

Bishop Christine said: “The Pathways Mission is a significant opportunity for us to grow church and bring hope as we invite people to explore for themselves the transformative relationship of love and hope that is found in Jesus Christ. We are very blessed that we will be joined by the Archbishop of York and nearly 30 Bishops and their teams from across the Northern Province, and I am very much looking forward to working alongside them in our deaneries and parishes.”

Bishop Mark said: “I am really looking forward to the Pathways Mission. It is just wonderful when the church gets together and finds ways of celebrating the wonderful gift of life God pours out in Christ. We already have a rich, joyful and varied programme of events on offer throughout the diocese and I am looking forward to being part of some of them. Honestly, these weekends are great fun and I want to encourage everyone to get involved, to pray, to invite friends along, to join us in the celebration events, and even to plan an event of your own.”

The weekend concludes with three ‘Celebrating Hope’ events taking place simultaneously at 4pm on the Sunday – at Newcastle Racecourse, Hexham Mart and at St Michael’s Alnwick. These events are not ticketed and everyone is welcome.

Ends

Media inquiries: Roderick Stuart, Head of Communications, Diocese of Newcastle 07825 777386 or Beth Hemming, Communications Officer, 0191 270 4100 (Mon to Wed)

Social media

You can follow the weekend on social media @ncldiocese – Twitter, Instagram and Facebook – using #PathwaysMission

Visit our website www.pathwaysmission.org.uk for more details.