

Lark Valley and North Bury Churches

Retreat at Launde Abbey 29 to 31 July 2021

'Travelling with Jonah'

Bishop John Flack

We are delighted that Bishop John has agreed to lead our retreat again this year. He tells us about himself:

"I was born and bred in Hertfordshire, but later moved north to Leeds University, where I obtained a BA degree in Latin and English Literature. After training for the ministry at the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield, I served as curate at St Bartholomew's Armley and then in Northampton. Following this I was Vicar of three parishes in West Yorkshire - in Wakefield, Halifax and Brighouse. For four years I taught English, Latin and RE (and cricket!), whilst Chaplain at Rishworth Grammar School in Halifax.



After this I served as Archdeacon of Pontefract for five years and then moved south again when I was appointed Bishop of Huntingdon, the Suffragan Bishop in the Diocese of Ely. In 2003 I was asked to represent the Church of England in the headquarters of the Roman Catholic church - the Vatican in Rome, finishing my five year term of office there in 2008.

On returning home I served for 4 years as Vicar of the rural benefice of Nassington in East Northants. In 2012 I officially "retired" and was appointed an honorary assistant Bishop in the Dioceses of Peterborough, Ely and Europe. In 2017 my wife and I decided to move back to Wakefield and buy a bungalow for our retirement as I have some mobility problems. Then Bishop Nick Baines appointed me as an honorary assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Leeds.

I am still used widely as a Spiritual Director and confessor. I have been a keen ecumenist since 1972, when I shared ministry with a Roman Catholic priest in a West Yorkshire mining parish. Being appointed to the 'Rome position' was a very important stage in my understanding and I have kept up with the personal and official links ever since.

I have been married to Julia since 1968. We have 2 grown-up children and 4 grandchildren. Both my children are Theology graduates. My 19 year-old grandson Adam is the Organ Scholar at Portsmouth Cathedral. For 30 years I was a cricketer in the Yorkshire leagues. Fast bowling has left me with a permanently damaged knee. I am a 'bit of a linguist' and speak Italian, French and Spanish, and read Latin and classical Greek. I am currently learning Hebrew. I have a life-long passion for music and play the organ and piano, and have written and spoken about the music of Mozart."

LAUNDE ABBEY is a Grade One listed Elizabethan Manor House, built on the site of a Priory founded in 1119. It is surrounded by beautiful gardens, parkland and woodland. The very fine Chapel is thought to be all that remains of the original Priory Church and is used for daily worship by the resident community and guests.

THE ABBEY offers a very high standard of hospitality; all rooms are en suite. The food is excellent and special diets can be provided. Launde's atmosphere of tranquillity and prayer makes it an ideal place of spiritual refreshment, and Covid-wise the staff do everything they can to keep their guests safe, secure and protected.



MUCH OF THE TIME during the retreat will be spent in silence. If this is a new idea or experience for you, please don't worry. Full guidance will be given and people are often surprised and delighted to find just how gentle, restful and restoring the experience of being together in silence can be.

THE WEEKEND RUNS from Thursday evening until Saturday afternoon - please note this timing change from many previous retreats - enabling us to avoid Friday evening traffic and to return home before Sunday. The guide price is £196 per person. Please note that this price is *for guidance only* - the cost is underwritten so that *anyone who wishes to go can feel free to do so*. Donations are welcome from anyone wishing to support us in this policy.

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Travelling with Jonah with Bishop John Flack

BOOKING FORM

Please reply to: Adrian Mann, 13 Orchard Street, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1EH
01284 753984 07771 593403 adrian.mann@btinternet.com

Please book me/us in for 29-31 July 2021. I/we enclose a deposit of £96 per person.
(Please make cheques payable to 'PCC of St John')

Name and address

Telephone..... Email

Special requirements (eg diet, no stairs)

We travel in cars. Are you a driver or do you need a lift?