



The Holy Trinity Church of England

Secondary School

Special Edition

Newsletter

March 2022

Holy Trinity School had the honour of a visit from the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, on Friday 4th March 2022.

The Most Reverend Justin Welby, who likes to be called Archbishop Justin, and other visitors, arrived to a brief but warm welcome in the Chapel. Following this, addressed Year 13 students in the hall. He told the story of how he became a Christian, and he, along with theologian Amy Orr-Ewing, answered students' questions. He later spoke to the Student Leaders (from all year groups) about leadership and how it helps to



know yourself well, and then he and Amy took questions from the students. Finally, the Archbishop gave a few words of encouragement to about 100 Muslim students who were gathered for their daily prayers, in a session led by the local Imam and assisted by our Head Boy, Joel.

In other locations around the school, Years 7 and 8 Student Leaders met with Lucy Moore, the founder of Messy Church and Head of the Growing Faith Foundation, in a workshop about being part of different communities; and Year 11 spent time with Reverend Andrew Smith, looking at issues such as persecution and reconciliation.



The Archbishop was really keen to meet with as many students as possible

On the 6th January 2022, after a very long, busy day filled with meetings, I arrived in my office to catch up with my PA and find out if there was anything that I needed to know that I had missed. 'Just one' she said, 'I have put a telephone conversation in your diary for tomorrow. The Bishop of Horsham needs to talk to you quite urgently'. Curious, I asked why. 'About the Archbishop of Canterbury coming to visit the school on the 4th of March' she replied.

I truly thought she was winding me up! Eventually she convinced me that she wasn't and we really were going to have the privilege of welcoming the Archbishop to the school. I was absolutely thrilled that we had been afforded such an honour. The Archbishop was visiting the Diocese for three days and so there was a great deal for them to organise, and it was some time before I could share the news in school. But when I did, the excitement I had felt was shared by all.

When I spoke to Bishop Ruth she explained that the Archbishop was really keen to meet with as many students as possible in the short time he was to be with us, and that he particularly enjoyed answering questions and talking about leadership. And so together we planned a programme which was further enhanced by the visit of the event organiser who was responsible for the three-day visit. In addition to the Archbishop himself, he was to be accompanied by others who would also welcome the opportunity to talk with students in different settings. He was to be with us for less than two hours yet, as you will see from the programme, we were able to fill every moment and so maximise the opportunity for as many students as possible to share in this special event.

The visit itself flew by. In total we had been able to

facilitate more than 350 of our students hearing the Archbishop speak. In addition, 100 Year 11 students had the opportunity to hear Father Swift speak about The Worldwide Church and its role in the world, and another 50 student leaders from Years 7 and 8 met Lucy Moor – Founder of Messy Church and Head of Growing Faith Foundation. Both are members of the Archbishop's College of Evangelists.



Throughout the students were engaged, thoughtful and presented all our guests with challenging questions. As always, I was incredibly proud of them all, and it was lovely to hear how impressed our guests were with them too. You will see this in the lovely letter of thanks I received from the Archbishop.

Throughout the visit we also had BBC South-East on-site filming, and were very excited to see the visit reported both on the lunchtime news and a longer piece that evening.

In this special edition newsletter, you will read about the impact the visit had on us. I am confident that we will remember this event for many years to come. I hope you enjoy looking at the pictures and reading the articles. A short clip can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i14fJryRE34>

*Rev Chrissie Millwood
Headteacher*

Programme for the Visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury To Holy Trinity Secondary School Friday 4th March 2022

10:45am Arrival

10:50am Archbishop meets with Head Girl, Head Boy, Chair of Governors, SIAMS Governors and other leaders from the school

10:55am Archbishop addresses Year 13 and Sixth Form Student Leaders, followed by a Q&A session

11:20am Archbishop is interviewed by the BBC

11:30am Archbishop talks about Leadership to Student Leaders from Years 9 to 13, followed by Q&A

12:10pm Archbishop meets with Imam Jogee

12:15pm Archbishop addresses Muslim students gathered for Jummah Prayer

12:30pm Archbishop and his delegation depart

"Archbishop Justin talked about his journey in faith and leadership. We were able to ask questions about deep topics to understand both his and Amy Orr-Ewing's opinions. It was particularly interesting to hear about his opinions on increasing the use of science and technology in the church.

"Student leaders were given the chance to listen to his three main areas for good leadership qualities: sacrifice, self-awareness and vision. Often leadership is thought of as sacrifice but to understand yourself in order to become a better leader was something that is not often thought about.

"Joel and I also had the opportunity to meet the Archbishop personally. We had a really good conversation with him about our future plans. Overall, it was an amazing experience and I learnt a lot."

Caitlin, Head Girl



The questions were well-answered in revealing and thoughtful ways

Holy Trinity was delighted to be able to welcome the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby. As part of his visit he spent time with Year 13 and Sixth Form Student Leaders. In a packed schedule, I was delighted that he had chosen to spend half an hour with this year group in a Q&A session.



Students spent time in tutor sessions in the days leading up to his arrival looking at the Archbishop's life (he has described it as "messy"), and his views on a

number of issues, to consider some meaningful and challenging questions to ask him. It was a real privilege to be able to quiz somebody so distinguished and influential, and with such an interesting lived experience. It's not just any day that you get to grill an Archbishop!

The event was set up like Question Time, with Bishop Ruth of Horsham hosting and Archbishop Justin, joined by theologian colleague Amy Orr-Ewing, fielding the questions from the audience. A Year 13 student, Willow, began proceedings by asking about what more could be done to increase the funding of faith schools such as Holy Trinity. Further questions were asked about the impact of technology on worship and the growing influence of new religious movements and what this means for the Church of England. All of the questions were well-answered in revealing and thoughtful ways. In addition, a question on how compatible science and religion are allowed for a fascinating insight into Amy's family history of a nuclear scientist.

After the Q&A session, Archbishop Justin spoke to Student Leaders across all year groups about the importance of leadership. Everybody who was privileged to be a part of the day has spoken about how interesting and informative they found the experience to be. I am personally very thankful that he spent so much of his time at Holy Trinity talking to Sixth Form students. And I am enormously proud of the excellent contributions offered by students.

*Alex Sheppard
Assistant Headteacher (Leader of Learning KS5)*



"I asked the Archbishop, "Over the last 9 years, since you became Archbishop of Canterbury, there have been massive leaps in the progress of technology and social media. What is your hope for how technology can evolve in the near future?"

"The Archbishop's response was very clear. He responded, " In the same way that the world now is very different from the world 30 years ago in terms of technology, I think that the world in 30 years will be unrecognisable in comparison to today, and I think that the shape of the future will highly depend on the decisions of world leaders, and if they don't get it right then the rich will do what they want and the poor will do what they need."

"Archbishop Justin was very engaging with the whole audience, he was able to speak calmly and simply without losing our attention, making him very easy to listen to."

Elliot, Deputy Head Boy

The Archbishop is not afraid to talk about his own mental health struggles and crises of faith

The Archbishop of Canterbury spoke to our Student Leaders from Years 9-13. They had been asked to do a little research on him and speak to their parents about the significance of his visit. One of the students said to their parents that the hierarchy is: God, the Queen, the Archbishop. Their parents were impressed.

Before his visit there was much excitement and anticipation of what this man, who it seemed had a direct link with God, would be like. Would he be a giant of a man, with booming a voice? Some thought he might be intimidating and they were nervous.

When he arrived with Reverend Millwood and the Bishop of Horsham, I heard a murmur of 'is that him?' Surely a man with such a powerful position and powerful connections could not be this rather timid looking, grey haired, middle-aged man? But then he spoke and the room was silent, suddenly we understood that this was indeed such a man. A man of humility, a man of service, a man of the people. His message was simple, great leaders do not promote themselves and are not vain, but

they serve others and it is this that makes them strong.

The Archbishop spoke about Jesus and his humility, about him washing his disciple's feet at the last supper. It was easy for us to see that this was a man who literally practised what he preached.

The Archbishop is not afraid to talk about his own mental health struggles and crises of faith. This is a message that we all need to hear, but one that our youth need more than ever. In a world where they see leaders who are full of ego and self-promotion, it is refreshing for them to see a leader who is full of humility and love for others. This is the message, though spoken in a quiet gentle voice, that boomed into our hearts and souls.

At the end of the session, one of Year 10 students, Success, gave the vote of thanks. She spoke from the heart and truly represented us all, when she said thank you, we are so grateful that you visited us today.

We will all look back on this visit and in challenging times we will recall the inspirational words of this man of God and they will lift us, reassure us and sustain us.

*Salie Clarke
Director of Intervention*





Success, a Year 10 Student Leader, said, "The Archbishop's words about self-awareness and sacrifice in leadership were inspiring. As student leaders and prefects, the majority of us don't actually have the confidence to go out and talk to people. But then he said that's okay because we're trying to find ourselves just as we are."

Success had the privilege of thanking the Archbishop for his visit and she thanked him for his inspiring address on leadership. She said, "I was really nervous but when I started speaking the words just came out. I thanked him for the message about sacrifice, being self-aware as a leader, and team-work."

Afterwards, Archbishop Justin spoke privately to Success, asking her where in Nigeria she is from, and thanking her for her kind words. Success said, "I was really overwhelmed. He's actually really humble and has a lively personality, even though he has been through some rough times."





He enthralled the crowd of students with humour

When I heard that the Archbishop of Canterbury was coming to visit Holy Trinity C of E Secondary School, I was thrilled to say the least. In actual fact, I had the privilege of meeting him before, two years ago (just briefly) with a group of student leaders. Back then, he wonderfully displayed a nice balance between his clarity of speech and sense of humour.

Two years ago, through his speech, myself and the other student leaders learnt about what it meant to be leaders in our community, what it meant to take up such a huge responsibility and most importantly, how to do that properly. With all the lessons we learnt from him, we came back home with a beautiful resolution to help our communities develop and blossom into the most beautiful of environments, where everyone felt that they belonged and had a role to play.

Unfortunately, the outbreak of COVID-19 quickly took its effect on our community, hindering this effort. Furthermore, once we were let back into schools, we were all still so divided and in a world of our own; we all wore masks and were split into Year group bubbles, making it really hard to instil a community spirit at Holy Trinity. However, in light of recent events, the future at Holy Trinity is looking very hopeful and positive.

Despite not having long left in my time at Holy Trinity, I was honoured to be given a second opportunity to meet the Archbishop of Canterbury, as well as getting the chance to showcase to him how supportive the school have been towards accommodating those Muslim students who had wished to fulfil their obligation to God while at school. That obligation being our prayers. United, shoulder to shoulder, together in the Ball Hall, there was an accumulation of over 100 students all gathered for worship. Although, he could not stay to witness the Jumma (Friday) prayers, due to scheduling conflicts, he was still nonetheless able to share a few

words of support and encouragement regarding the time and effort we have put into performing these noon prayers in school. There were particular moments where he took the opportunity to enthral the crowd of students with humour, for example he mentioned that a close Muslim friend of his told him 'You should be a Muslim, you have a very good heart, you have a heart of a Muslim', to which he responded, 'I would most likely be sacked from my job if I were to become a Muslim'.

Overall, I loved the Archbishop's visit. From the moment he began speaking, I could infer that his speeches and programmes have touched the lives of millions worldwide. I believe that the majority of students have benefitted from his Q&A sessions, as well as his words of inspiration. I still recall how fast and loud my heart beat the first time I offered a prayer in school, I found an empty classroom and I prayed alone, I was afraid of getting stopped by a teacher midway, and I hope now these students will never have to feel the way I did. In my mind I envision Holy Trinity as a school, as a peace haven where all students can thrive in unity; where they can come to learn, but also grow and find beauty in being true to themselves.

*Joel
Head Boy*





Andrew gave a real insight as to how Jesus' teaching and the work of the Church is as relevant today as it has ever been

Amongst all the other exciting events, Year 11 were able to welcome Rev. Andrew Swift to help with their exam revision. Andrew is a part of the Archbishop's College of Evangelists, so was well placed to add his thoughts to the key areas of focus. These were: the work of the World-Wide Church to stop persecution of Christians, the Ecumenical movement, and considering the extent to which reconciliation should be the most important thing for Christians today.

The students were able to explore how intertwined these areas are in that ultimately a Christian's focus is about

restoring relationship between themselves and God and with their neighbour – whoever that is. This means the Ecumenical movement is so important as it's bringing together Christians from all traditions so they might better understand one another and work more cohesively for the good of others both locally and globally. It also means engaging with those who persecute us as Jesus taught us to 'love our enemies'.

This led to a reflection on the events in Ukraine and the impact reconciliation would have there. Andrew was able to give a real insight as to how Jesus' teaching and the work of the Church is as relevant today as it has ever been.

*Marion Richardson
Subject Leader - Religion, Philosophy and Ethics*



Wherever you looked in the Chapel, there was the buzz of lively conversation

The Student Leaders from Year 7 and 8 were pleased to welcome Lucy Moore and Tom Price, for a workshop, which ran alongside Archbishop Justin's Q&A session with the older year groups in the Hall. Tom Price is a theologian, with a particular interest in religion, film and philosophy, while Lucy Moore was the founder of Messy Church, and has recently been appointed Head of the new Church of England Growing Faith Foundation, which aims to support church, school and households to work together to support faith development.

Part of the aim of the workshop was to reflect on communities we feel a part of, and the things that are important to us. As well as thinking of our home, school

and worship communities, we reflected on how our identities are also influenced by our culture, group we belong to (eg scouts) and our interests (eg sports teams). We also discussed what pressures we experience, and what we would change about life if we could. It was great to be part of such big conversations, and wherever you looked in the Chapel, there was the buzz of lively conversation. During the session, each small group explained what they had been discussing, and our answers will be used by Lucy to help her in her work.

Thanks to Year 7 and 8 for the way you got involved in the discussions, for all your thought-provoking feedback, and for playing your part in representing the views of young adults today. Thanks, too, to Lucy and Tom, for such an interesting morning!

Triona Horrocks, School Chaplain



ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

The Reverend Chrissie Millwood,
The Holy Trinity Church of England Secondary School
Buckswood Drive,
Gossops Green,
Crawley
RH11 8JE

LP Ref: CR/JH

11th March 2022

Dear Chrissie,

I was so grateful to have the opportunity to come to visit your wonderful school. Thank you so much for the welcome you gave, the opportunities you provided and the wonderful school community I was able to meet and interact with.

I was particularly grateful for the chance to meet some pupils and to hear their questions. I was so impressed by their level of engagement and will remember the quality of the Head Boy and Girl and the vote of thanks by Success for a long time. As you know there are few more invaluable, stretching and involving vocations than the shaping of young lives – and you should be so proud of your young people and the sense of community across the school.

Please do pass on my thanks to your staff team, the young people who were involved and all who made my visit so memorable.

*in Christ
Justin*

The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby
Archbishop of Canterbury

Lambeth Palace, London SE1 7JU