



Ripon Cathedral
here for us all

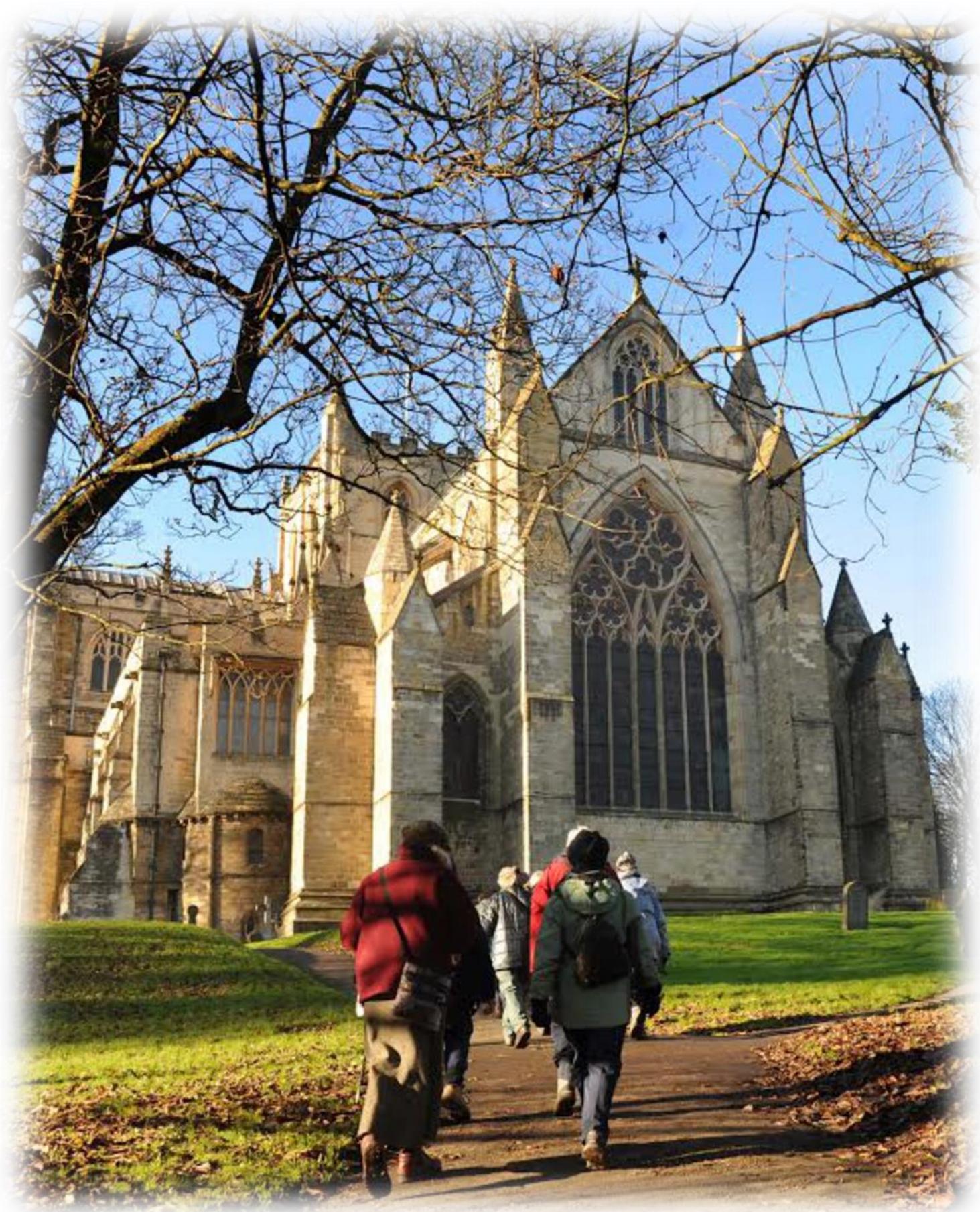
Growing God's Kingdom



A First Response to the Cathedral Consultation

15th February 2015

**Growing God's Kingdom
A First Response**



Foreword from the Dean

The content of this interim report reflects the force of what has been heard so far during the Ripon Cathedral Consultation. Thank you to everyone who has contributed. I was hugely encouraged when over four-hundred people came to the launch of the Consultation in the Cathedral on Saturday, 25th October 2014. They shared their views and vision with me and the members of the Chapter. I spent over six hours standing and listening – and learning. Since then, the Cathedral Consultation Steering Group has spent time listening to other groups, including the Cathedral Chapter and PCC, and reflecting on all that was said.

This brief report shares with you what we believe to be the emerging vision for Ripon Cathedral as one of the three cathedrals in the Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales. There is also another document available from the Cathedral that gives a summary of all the comments and ideas that we have received – the Consultation Summary Document.

I believe that through prayer and listening to you all, we are discerning the will of God for the next stage of this Cathedral's life and mission. As you can see, we feel that God is calling us to carry on Christ's work of growing his kingdom in this City, Diocese and beyond. This is the vision we have for the Cathedral.

The four major areas of mission through which we seek to make this vision a reality are:

- ❖ growing our worshipping community;
- ❖ promoting our spiritual and built heritage;
- ❖ serving the Diocesan Bishop in mission;
- ❖ engaging with the issues and needs of the world.

There is much that already happens in these areas. The Consultation is suggesting ways of developing them further with some first steps and a number of more significant, far-reaching aspirations. Over the next twelve months, four working groups will develop a detailed strategy that incorporate these aspirations. I can reassure you that we are listening to what people are saying about the need for toilets, visitor facilities and an education centre.

I commend this brief interim report to you and your prayers.

John Dobson
Dean of Ripon

**Growing God's Kingdom
A First Response**

Ripon Cathedral is committed to growing God's Kingdom in Ripon, the Diocese and beyond.

We seek to do this by:

- ❖ Growing our Worshipping Community
- ❖ Promoting our Spiritual and Built Heritage
- ❖ Serving the Diocesan Bishop in Mission
- ❖ Engaging with the Issues and Needs of the World

Growing our Worshipping Community

- Offering worship through the daily offices and celebrations of the Eucharist
- Nurturing discipleship and spirituality within the Cathedral community
- Sustaining, developing and broadening the Cathedral music
- Developing the Cathedral Parish

First steps

- Create a pastoral care scheme
- Develop home study groups
- Establish the Ripon Cathedral Music Trust
- Appoint a Canon for church growth and pastoral care
- Offer new styles of worship

Aspirations

- Growing the number of people in our congregation
- Growing people in discipleship
- Building the strength and breadth of our music



Promoting our Spiritual and Built Heritage

- Preserving and enhancing the Cathedral as a Holy Space
- Building on the spiritual heritage of the Cathedral
- Interpreting the building making its heritage accessible to all
- Welcoming all who enter

First steps

- Establish a chaplaincy scheme
- Install a phone app and touch screen
- Provide a quiet space for reflection and prayer

Aspirations

- Developing the Cathedral as a centre of pilgrimage
- Enhancing our ministry of welcome
- Developing visitor facilities





Serving the Diocesan Bishop in Mission

- Partnering with key regional organisations in education, heritage, rural affairs and music
- Developing relationships with civic and military authorities across the region
- Offering ecumenical hospitality and partnership
- Broadening the offering of theological education and spiritual development
- Extending joint mission with our sister cathedrals of Bradford and Wakefield

First steps

- Agreeing joint and complementary mission priorities with our sister cathedrals
- Implement a programme of parish visits
- Designate a Canon responsible for Education and Rural Outreach
- Develop suitable communications across all areas of our work

Aspirations

- Establishing the Cathedral as a centre of excellence in music, education and spiritual development
- Fostering our partnerships in the Ripon Episcopal Area and the Diocese
- Supporting the parishes and deaneries of the Diocese

Engaging with the Issues and Needs of the World

- Offer a rapid response of prayer and action on key issues of regional, national and international significance
- Sustain and enhance the St Wilfrid Lectures series
- Provide a focus for understanding the challenges faced by rural communities
- Develop the Cathedral as a forum for the exploration of local and regional issues

First steps

- Use the St Wilfrid lectures to explore and speak about rural issues
- Continue to support and work with local charities and organisations
- Use the media and practical efforts to highlight concerns

Aspirations

- Developing and implementing a strategy for social justice
- Reducing the impact our work has on God's earth by reducing our carbon footprint.
- To be known as a Cathedral that can speak with integrity on rural issues



Over the next year we will continue our work
to formulate a comprehensive strategy
that will take us forward to 2022
(the 1350'th anniversary of the dedication of St. Wilfrid's church)
and beyond.

Detailed action plans are being developed by
four working groups and will be published during the
Ripon Cathedral Festival in May 2016.

We welcome your comments on this report.
Please, contact the Steering Group via...

steeringgroup@riponcathedral.org.uk

or through the

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Minster Road
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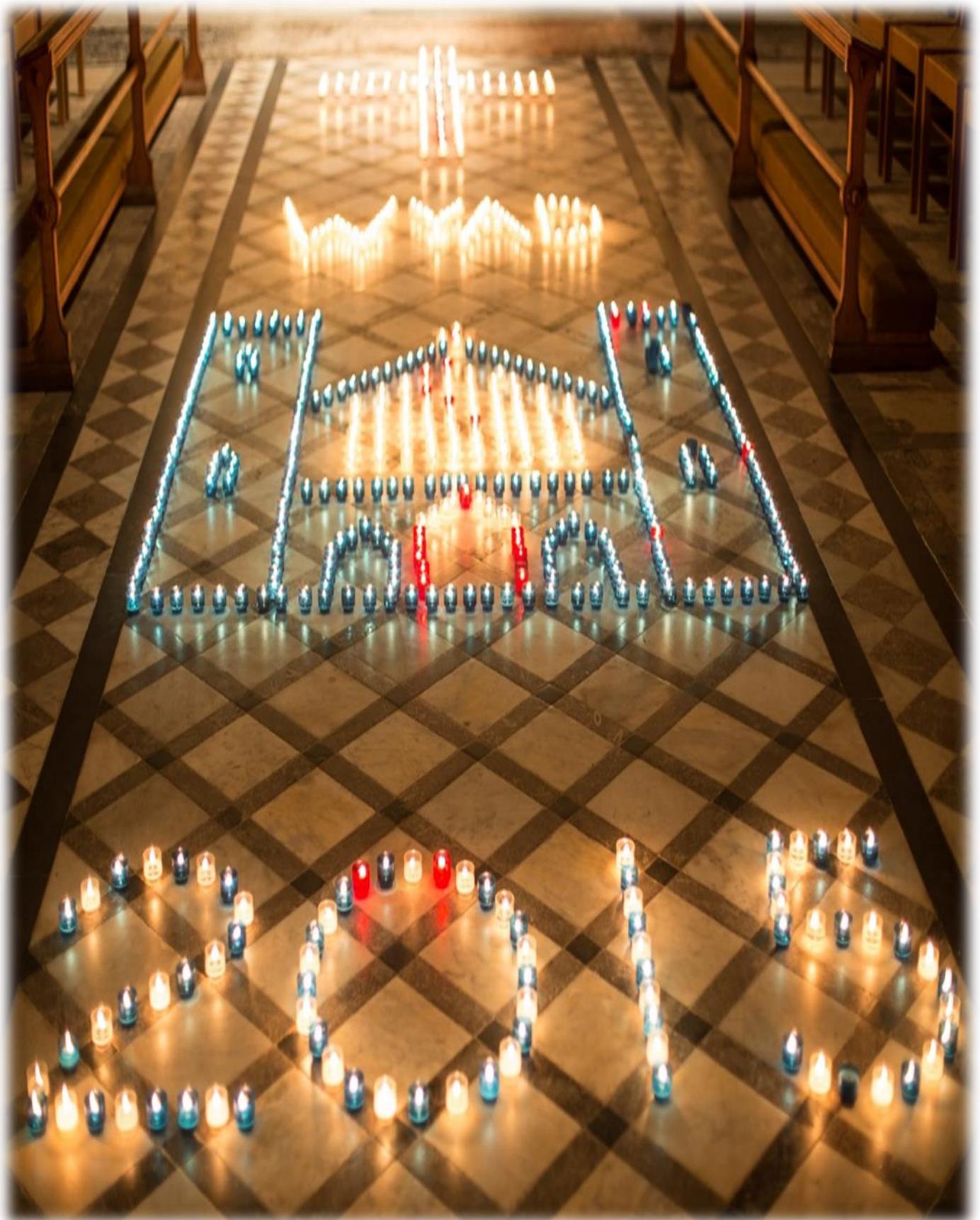
Strategy Steering Group

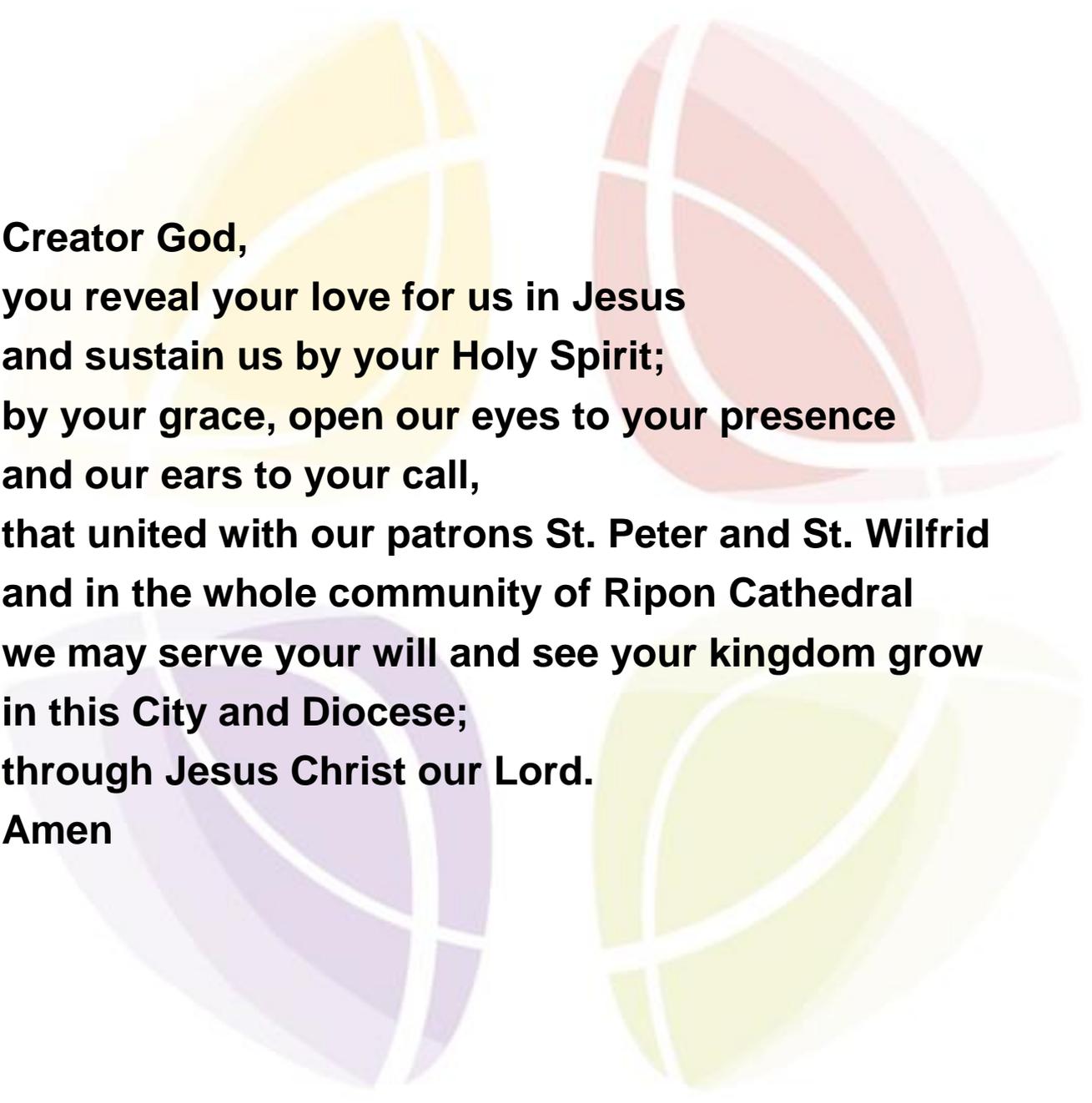
The Very Revd John Dobson
Colin Harrison
Julia Barker
Phyl Johnson
Philip Bustard

Chapter

The Very Revd John Dobson
Canon Paul Greenwell
Canon Elizabeth Sewell
Canon Myra Shackley
Canon Philip Arundel
Canon Joyce Hill
Canon Colin Little
Canon Nigel Rawlinson

Growing God's Kingdom
A First Response





**Creator God,
you reveal your love for us in Jesus
and sustain us by your Holy Spirit;
by your grace, open our eyes to your presence
and our ears to your call,
that united with our patrons St. Peter and St. Wilfrid
and in the whole community of Ripon Cathedral
we may serve your will and see your kingdom grow
in this City and Diocese;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen**