

## Welcome to our new Diocesan Patron, the Right Reverend Dr Helen-Ann Hartley, Bishop of Newcastle.



President Margy with Bishop Meltha of Botswana, his wife Thalepo, and Barbara Packer at the Bishop's Inauguration.

Helen-Ann Hartley is the 13th Bishop of Newcastle and the youngest diocesan bishop in the Church of England. Her appointment was approved by Her Late Majesty The Queen. On 6 March she paid homage to His Majesty King Charles at Buckingham Palace and installed in Newcastle Cathedral on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2023.

The Inauguration Service in the Cathedral was inspiring, creative, and inclusive. Following the traditional 'knocking at the door of the Cathedral', the new bishop was admitted. She was led down the aisle by a group of children from a local school, Helen-Ann walking hand in hand with two of them.

We sang a hymn from New Zealand, where Helen-Ann once served. We sang for God's caring in this land and **'for ahora to let each other's mana stand'**. ('Ahora is Māori meaning 'all-embracing love' and 'mana' is Māori for 'dignity')

Bishop Mark and Bishop Midttomme from Norway anointed Helen-Ann for her service as bishop whilst Dara, a volunteer from the West End foodbank, asked God's blessing on her. Bishop Meltha from Botswana blessed the new bishop as she was installed in her 'Cathedra'. Our President, Margy, led the intercessions with a prayer for family life and for children whose homes offer neither security nor love.

Born in Edinburgh, her early years in the Scottish Borders, then schooled in Sunderland, where her father was a minister, Helen-Ann says, "This is a region that shaped and formed me as a child growing up, and also shaped and nurtured my faith." "I am inspired by the example of the Northern Saints, whose engagement in God's mission lies deep in the contours of the land."

Helen-Ann was ordained in 2005 in the Diocese of Oxford and taught Biblical Studies at Ripon College, Cuddesdon, where she met her husband Myles, a musician from Cumbria. In 2010, they moved to New Zealand where Helen-Ann served as a Dean in Auckland, then as Bishop of Waikato. In 2018 she returned to be Bishop of Ripon. Bishop Helen-Ann brings back from New Zealand some old Māori wisdom about care in society: an ancient Māori proverb translates *'With your basket of food and my basket of food the people will thrive.'*

She is an enthusiastic supporter of Mothers' Union and is looking forward to engaging with us on our local projects.

Let us continue to pray for her ministry amongst us and for her husband Myles.

*Anne Marr, MU Diocesan Chaplain*