

21st November 2025

A Joint Statement from Christian Leaders in Leeds

Regarding the Actions of West Yorkshire Police at the New Testament Church of God

As Christian leaders in Leeds, we write to express our full support and solidarity with Bishop Tony Parry and the New Testament Church of God following the incident on 13th November.

We are deeply concerned with the actions of the police who disrupted worship, tributes, and prayers for a recently deceased and much-loved member of the church, where more than 300 people had gathered to pay their respects.

We are saddened to hear of the distress caused, including reports that several people were pushed and that Bishop Tony Parry, a respected spiritual leader in our city, was among those affected. At a moment of vulnerability, grief, and sacred worship, the actions of the officers were wholly inappropriate and have left many in our community shocked and distressed

We welcome the unreserved apology offered to Bishop Tony by the Chief Constable of West Yorkshire and the referral of this matter to the Professional Standards Board.

We are pleased to confirm that the public apology requested by Bishop Tony has now been agreed. This apology will take place at **NTCG Leeds, 3 Easterly Road, Leeds LS8 2TN, on Saturday 22nd November at 2pm**. All those who were present on 13th November, along with the wider community who have stood with the church, are warmly invited to attend.

We believe this moment is a beginning, not an end. The public apology is an important first step in a broader process of restoration, rebuilding trust, and supporting the healing of those who were harmed. It also presents our city with a vital opportunity to examine the deeper issues involved—including the experiences of Black communities and the ongoing reality of racism in Leeds.

We therefore call for the processes already initiated to be followed through with transparency, courage, and commitment, ensuring that meaningful change emerges from this painful incident. We stand ready to work together with civic leaders, police representatives, and community partners so that our city becomes a place where every community is treated with dignity, respect, and fairness

We also ask the Mayor of West Yorkshire and her Deputy Mayor for Policing to continue to ensure that these concerns are addressed with urgency and to raise them directly with the Chief Constable of West Yorkshire and the Superintendent of Leeds. We emphasise that this public apology should form part of a broader process of accountability, dialogue, and restorative action.

Signed,

Christian Leaders in Leeds

The Right Reverend Arun Arora, Bishop of Kirkstall, Church of England

Pastor Ebenezer Aryee, Lead Pastor, The Mount AoG Church

The Rev. Dr Joseph Cortis, Deacon Leeds Cathedral

Mrs Kären Gray, Chair Churches Together in East Leeds, Leader Crossgates Community Church

Mr Dwayne Hutchinson, Community Leader and Racial Justice Consultant

Mr Paul Lancaster, Hope for the Nations, New Life Church, Otley.

Ms Siao-Liane Mathurin Chief Officer Wellsprings Together

The Revd Canon Paul Maybury Rector Leeds Minster

Mr Dave Paterson, Gather Leeds / Unity in Poverty Action

The Right Reverend Marcus Stock, Bishop Leeds Cathedral

Rev Dr Christopher Swift, Director, Leeds Church Institute

Reverend George Asomaning, Minister Willow Green Church
Major Michael Barker, Church Leader, Leeds Central Salvation Army
Major Nicola Barker, Church Leader, Leeds Central Salvation Army
Mrs Emma Chaldecott, Manager, Leeds Christian Community Trust
Rev. Kim Chan, Lead pastor, Leeds Chinese Christian Church
Mr Ben Cordy, Charity Lead, Leeds Faith In Schools
Pastor Ranti Dasaolu, In His Presence Foursquare Gospel Church, Leeds
Dr John Davy, Deacon and Pastoral Associate, Gateway Church, Leeds
Reverend Canon Graham Ensor, Regional Minister, Yorkshire Baptist Association
Friend Robin Fishwick, Ecumenical Lead, Leeds Area Quaker Meeting
Mr Jonathan Gray, Leader, Crossgates Community Church
Rev Lynne Grey, Associate Priest, All Souls (Hook Memorial) Church Leeds Church of England
Rev Heston Groenewald, Vicar, All Hallows Leeds
Rev Mark Harlow, Vicar St Paul's Church, Ireland Wood
The Rev'd Dr Claire Honess, Vicar of Whitkirk, St Mary's Church, Whitkirk
Pastor Raphael Ibiyeye, Senior Pastor, RCCG Power Connections Leeds
Mrs Laura Ime, Team Leader, Transformations Leeds
Mrs Angela Jane Joy, Ministry Leader, Our Fathers House Recovery Ministry
Bishop Robert Majonga, City Wide Family of God Church Leeds
Rev Daniel Miles, Vicar of St James the Great Manston
Pastor Duncan Moynihan, Associate pastor, Harehills Lane Baptist Church
Revd Andy Muckle, Bishop's Chaplain to the Homeless in the Diocese of Leeds
Pastor Simon Mudada, AFM IM UK Leeds Central House of Prayer
Rev. Gladys Mudada Pastoral AFM IM UK Leeds Central (House of Prayer)
Rev. Sally Nartey, Senior Pastor, Thyword Chapel
Dr Charlotte Naylor Davis, Minister, Revive Baptist Church
Rev Joseph Nelson, Senior Pastor, St Luke's and St Matthew's Lutheran Church Leeds
Miss Elizabeth New, Church Community Worker, Harehills Lane Baptist Church
Canon Ann Nicholl, Licensed lay Minister, All Souls Church, Blackman Lane, Leeds
Pastor Ian Nundy, Lead Pastor Vision Church
Pastor Itohan Odekunle, Resident Pastor, Cloverleaf Christian Centre
Senior Pastor in charge, Charles Onasile, Spiritual and Administrative Head, Jubilee Christian Church
International House of Notable Miracle Branch
Evang. Joseph Onokuah, Missioner, Communities Evangelistic Crusader
Pastor Isaiah Oyedele, Lead Pastor, Chosen Church Ministries
Bishop Tony Parry, District Bishop, New Testament Church of God
Pastor Oswald Pfupa, Leader, Leeds Worship Centre
Mrs Alison Phelps, Secretary of Churches Together in Chapeltown and Harehills
Reverend Olusola Ransome-kuti, Senior Pastor, The Amazing Grace Christian Centre
Revd Canon Anne Russell, Team Rector, The Parish of Seacroft
Mrs Kulwant Sandhu, CPC Member New Testament Church of God
Rev'd Jon Swales, Mission Priest, Lighthouse West Yorkshire
Mr Philip Thomas, Director, Transformations Leeds
Pastor Joseph Tomomewo, Pastoral Universal Family Centre
Albert Twumasi-Ankrah, Associate Pastor, The Mount AoG Church
Pastor Alison Wain, Community Pastor, Middleton Park Baptist Church
Lay Minister, Sunita Wasson Lay Minister (Ps), New Testament church of God Leeds
Pastor Neruka White, Senior pastor, Church of Jesus Christ Apostolic
Reverend Gloria Wilson-Andoh Senior Pastor, Calvary International Christian Centre
Rev Canon Lizzy Woolf, Team Rector, St George's Leeds