The Archbishop of York is to be joined by representatives of charities he founded in the weekly online service for the Church of England marking his last day as Archbishop of York.
Dr John Sentamu will preach in the service to be broadcast this weekend.

As in previous weeks, the service will be available from 9am on Sunday on the Church's website, Facebook page and on YouTube.

In the service, to be led by Revd Hannah Madin, of St Mary's and Holy Apostles, Scarborough, Dr Sentamu will reflect on his lifetime of Christian faith.

The service will hear contributions from the Archbishop of York Youth Trust which nurtures leadership skills and character virtues in children and young people and Acts 435, an online giving charity providing small grants to people living in poverty. Both charities were founded more than a decade ago by the Archbishop.

Jenny Herrera, of Acts 435, will speak of how the charity has distributed £2 million in small grants to 22,000 people in need since it was founded.

“We are well placed for such a time as this to meet so many different needs, whether that be a mobile phone for an isolated person living alone, support for someone suddenly out of a job without savings and awaiting Universal Credit, or a tablet to enable a child to keep accessing school learning from home,” she will say.

“This is alongside the ongoing general needs that people in our country are facing. We have been humbled to see our donors give even more generously at this time.”

Dan Finn, from the Archbishop of York Youth Trust, will speak of how its Young Leaders Award has reached more than 100,000 children and young people. Over the past two years, as the work of the Youth Trust has begun to spread across the whole country, more than 20,000 young people have completed over 100,000 hours of volunteering and social action in their communities, as part of the charity's work.
Other contributors to the service include broadcaster and newsreader Huw Edwards who will read George Herbert’s poem Love Bade Me Welcome, with prayers read by Archbishop Sentamu’s wife, Revd Margaret Sentamu. Tariro Matsveru, who is studying at Cranmer Hall theological training college in Durham, will also contribute.

The service will start with an archive recording by BBC TV of the opening hymn at Archbishop Sentamu’s 2005 inauguration service at York Minster The God of Abraham Praise. It will conclude with a 2019 recording of Alle Alle Alle – a jamaican melody adapted by the Archbishop in 1985 and verses based on the “I Am” sayings of Jesus of Nazareth. The song is performed by children from Heworth Church of England Primary School in York. The Archbishop joins in by playing congas.

The service will be interpreted into British Sign Language throughout and subtitles are also available. All the contributions were recorded separately in accordance with the rules on physical distancing.

An audio service of Night Prayer for Sunday led by Archbishop Sentamu will also feature in the Church of England’s Time to Pray podcast to be made available from 7pm on Sunday evening. The service includes a reading by Mrs Sentamu as well as music from the University of York Singers recorded in the chapel at Bishopthorpe Palace last year.

The service will be available online and on the Church of England’s smartspeaker apps. It will also feature on the free Daily Hope telephone service.

Notes to editors

- Read biographical details for Dr Sentamu.
- Bishop Stephen Cottrell will be confirmed as the next Archbishop of York on Thursday July 9.
- Thousands of people around the world watch the Church’s weekly services either live or on playback throughout the week. Explore the Church’s full range of online resources.

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