

Derby City Deanery NEWSLETTER

July 2020 /#025



Derby City Deanery
*Rooted in Prayer,
Serving Derby,
Sharing the Gospel*

From the Deanery Administrator, Jo Simister:

Dear friends,

Do you have a pet nigger? A phrase or something that infuriates you every time you hear or see it?

Despite the re-evaluation of much of the minutiae of existence under lockdown, my top irritation phrase is still up there. You will probably be surprised when I tell you it is 'thanks for all you do' which is a pity, because it is probably meant as a loving thought. But I hear it as a 'have a nice day' throw away. I feel it would be so much better to say "thank you so much for doing that task" or "I really appreciate your patience with this".

During the progress of the coronavirus pandemic we have become much more appreciative of the specific jobs that our key workers have kept doing to bring us the essentials of our everyday lives, whether in public services or healthcare or spiritual support or many other roles. I am so grateful for my smiling bin man, the long-suffering checkout staff in Lidl's, the chatty lady in the post office and the cheery postman who always has word while leaving my items. Thanks also to my colleagues and friends for honest sharing of trials and tribulations while we are negotiating the ever-changing lockdown landscape so that we can all get through the coming weeks with grace and patience.

And thank you, Lord, for reminding us what the world can be like when we can hear the birds and bees because there is no background hum of traffic. (On which note, please would you help one of our local university students with her research about how our feelings of connection to nature influence our thinking – see page 15 for the details? All our students, whatever age, need every encouragement at this time!)

I am truly and humbly grateful to all of you for all you are doing. I don't know the specifics of what each one of you is able to do to ease our passage through this extraordinary time, but I do know that every prayer, every good wish, every howl of fury and every tear adds to the sum that binds us together as the Body of Christ. So, thank you for all that you are and whatever you are able to do.

With my love and prayers,



This bi-monthly newsletter comes from Derby City Deanery – the group of Anglican parishes which fall within the city boundary – and is for sharing around churches and communities. Please see the back page for details of future publications, deadlines, etc.

Acting Area Dean: Revd Dr Simon Cartwright revscartwright@gmail.com
Deanery Administrator: Ms Jo Simister jo.simister@derby.anglican.org

DEANERY ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICES:

Jo Simister, Deanery Administrator jo.simister@derby.anglican.org

FINANCE RETURNS:

from Mary Kemp, Derby Diocesan Board of Finance, mary.kemp@derby.anglican.org

As a response to the current lockdown, we received an update from Archbishops Council regarding the submission of the Parish Returns which supersedes some of the information that was in Martyn Marple's letter of January 2020. For your reference, here is the relevant extract:

1. The deadline for receipt of online returns is extended to 31 July 2020.
2. Please do submit the returns as soon as your parish figures are ready.
- a. The deadline for receipt of online returns is now extended to 31 July 2020. After that, late returns will be processed by paper or email: if they do not arrive in time for inclusion in the 2019 report they will flow through in future updates;
- b. Their Return of Parish Finance should agree with the figures in the accounts, and the accounts should be independently examined. However, if the returns and accounts have both been prepared, and the accounts are ready to be examined, please do submit the returns before the deadline if independent examination is likely to be significantly delayed. You can use Comment Box E of the return to note that the accounts have not been formally examined;
- c. There is no need to wait for the APCM before submitting the returns.
- d. The PCC should approve the accounts on which the returns are based. However, to avoid delay caused by the lockdown, the accounts can be approved at an online meeting of the PCC or be recommended for approval by the Finance or Standing Committee.

There will be no need to send in the accounts again after your APCM if this has been delayed.

Thanks to all parishes who have completed their returns.

Please email Jo at jo.simister@derby.anglican.org if you need a new login, etc.

There is also an Energy Footprint Tool 2019 for which you can download a form to help you gather the required information at <https://parishreturns.churchofengland.org/>. However, this return is available only for those churches who wish to track this data at this stage. There is no deadline for these returns.

STATS FOR MISSION: CORONAVIRUS AND RECORDING ATTENDANCE

Every Statistics for Mission return asks for a range of attendance data throughout the year; both an 'average' Sunday attendance throughout the year as well as a more detailed account of October attendance across a range of categories. But how do we do that when people are attending online church?

Measuring attendance of online church is difficult and problematic. Online platforms such as Youtube, Facebook and Zoom do allow content creators to view an analysis of who has viewed their output. However, these figures don't equate well to 'attendance'. Many of those who view will do so only for a few seconds and it still counts as a view; in addition, one single 'view' might represent the attendance of several people who are watching one device in a household.

The national Research and Statistics team of the Church of England have produced some forms and guidance on what and how you can keep track of attendance and they are asking for feedback from churches on how useful and easy to collect this information might be. You can download the following at these links, or connect via the Stats of Mission page on the Diocesan website – where there is additional guidance <https://derby.anglican.org/en/our-mission/statistics-for-mission.html>

- An email to churches explaining what the team are asking for and how to offer feedback

https://derby.anglican.org/en/our-mission/statistics-for-mission/download/3311_abfd8b582f54c416228d3337079f8092.html

- A guidance document on what to collect and how to collect it https://derby.anglican.org/en/our-mission/statistics-for-mission/download/3312_83dd25daf0cb3da37366e451e0ee4345.html

- A simple Excel form that can be used to record information on your online church and attendance at services https://derby.anglican.org/en/our-mission/statistics-for-mission/download/3313_0ccb2ac029b79931a723e0b322d0f74e.html

FACEBOOK PAGES AND GROUPS: “EVERY BENEFICE SHOULD HAVE ONE”

From the CofE explanation of what each of these can do:

Pages

Pages are open for all to see and have plenty of other features and functionality which make them perfect for churches to use. You can create a page through your profile account but people visiting the page won't be able to see your profile unless you want them to.

Not only can you post videos, images, polls and notes (blogs) on the page, Facebook provides you with advanced metrics on how the posts are performing and the demographics of your audience which helps you to produce more relevant content for them.

Pages also have a helpful 'About' section which means your church can provide contact information, links to other social networks and your website (or A Church Near You page) and tell people a little bit about what kind of church you are.

It's recommended that each church in the benefice has an individual page. This helps people to easily find their local church and be provided with more relevant information to them, though you can share one post across other pages easily.

Don't forget to make sure you have at least three administrators for your page. The admin can add and remove people from editing the page and if you only have one and something happens to that person, you will lose editing access to the page. There are plenty of other settings and permissions which are important to set up before you start posting. Find out more on the Help Centre.

Groups

Groups are designed for small community or interest groups to communicate with each other. Though they might seem ideal for churches, they are more closed off than pages which again makes them less welcoming to newcomers. It can feel like you need to be part of the club already to join the group. Smaller groups inside a church might make use of groups however, such as the youth group, parents and toddlers or choir group as a way of easily passing on news and information.

HEALTH and HYGIENE CHECK LIST:

See next page for a sample checklist if you are intending to open your church.

HEALTH and HYGIENE CHECK LIST FORCHURCH*Please enter dates at top of columns and initial actions below***MONTH:****WEEKLY CHECK:**

Date					
Open church doors					
Flush all toilets					
Run all taps					

PRAYER TIMES CHECK:

Date					
Check outside/inside for animal waste					
Empty bins in toilet/church – replace liners					
Prep all areas with hand sanitiser/wipes + lined bins					
Check handwashing facilities in toilets in the Centre have adequate soap and paper towels and lined bins					
Put out Entrance Door and Exit Door notices					
Check Seating arrangement and spacing					
Open church doors - Wipe handles					
Ensure no books or toys, etc are accessible					
Ensure any paperwork is taken home					
Note who comes in and where they sit: (name and contact details)					
Wipe down all relevant areas at end of session					
Close and lock all doors					

DERBY CITY DEANERY: ROOTED IN PRAYER



THY KINGDOM COME 2020: THE WRAP-UP VIDEO

<https://youtu.be/yUkGC3c1z-k>

Thank you once again to everyone that took part in this year's event and we look forward to next year's.

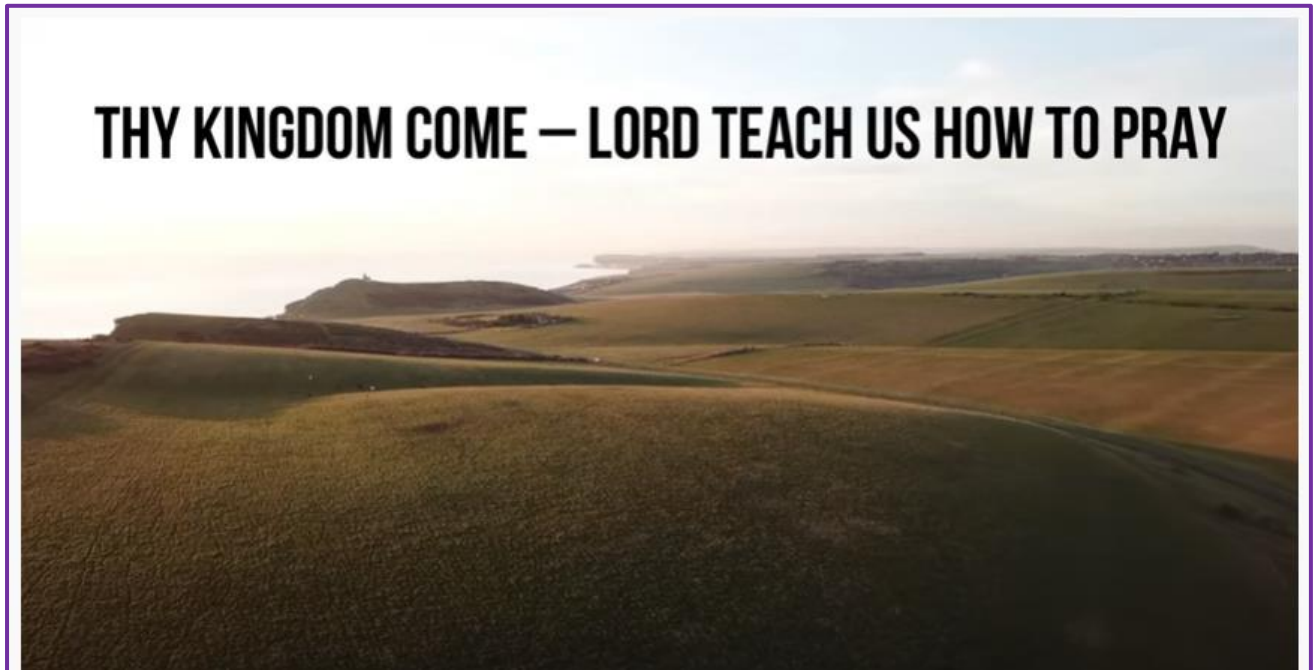
People from across 170 countries took part in this year's Thy Kingdom Come event.

To celebrate, a special video has been released that showcases the variety of activities and brings us together as one. Of course, it is also a great opportunity to hear the Thy Kingdom Come song for 2020!

And if you would like to listen to the 2020 Anthem, it's at <https://youtu.be/CWhL6v8oQZ0>



THY KINGDOM COME — LORD TEACH US HOW TO PRAY



CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR 5

The 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come may now be over for this year, but we can continue praying for our 5 people. On day one of Thy Kingdom Come, we were reminded of the life-transforming love of Jesus, and why we want others to experience this for themselves. Here are some resources that you may find helpful as you pray.

'The Father's Love' - 2020 Prayer Journal: Click here to find various versions of the Prayer Journal on our website. <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/resources/key-resources-2020>

'PRACTICING THE PRESENCE OF GOD' BY BROTHER LAWRENCE

"This book always brings me back to being aware of God in the every moment of everyday." Emma Buchan. You can click here to find a free download of this helpful book.

<http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/5657>

RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES: JUNE UPDATE

Resources to draw on as you are aiming to keep in touch with children and their carers/families from Derby Diocesan Children's Advisor Sarah.brown@derby.anglican.org

CHURCH OF ENGLAND RESOURCES - There are weekly themed Collective Worship times for Primary and Secondary schools available on the Oak National Academy website at this address:

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/activity-clubs/faith-at-home/#>

There are also resources to support Faith at Home linking with each of the themes on this page of the CofE site.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-action/faith-home/i-am-school-leader>

(go to the bottom of the page to find the resources)

DERBY DIOCESE RESOURCES - <https://derby.anglican.org/education/children-2/>

from this Sunday (14th June) I am going to provide one A4 sheet for families/ households which is based on one of the Lectionary readings for the week. I will produce a short video clip every few weeks from now, rather than every week. this is to give me time to prepare for on-line training that I will be offering. The resources and videos from the beginning of the Lockdown remain on the site and you are welcome to use any of them.

ROOTS - are offering free Worship at Home resources at the

moment: <https://www.rootsontheweb.com/i-am-looking-for/public-copies/worshipathome14jun>

MESSY CHURCH - has also added free resources for use at home. Find them here:

<https://www.messychurch.org.uk/resources/messy-church-home-ideas>

DIDDY DISCIPLES - has free resources to use at home aimed at Babies and Toddlers, Under 5s and 5-10s. The resources can be found here:

<https://www.diddydisciples.org/thechurchathome>

TOGETHER AT HOME - is available on

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/613930636117980/>

GODLY PLAY - YouTube has many films of Godly Play sessions to use. Search for the story you are interested in.

GODVENTURE - <https://godventure.co.uk/>

REFLECTIONARY <https://reflectionary.org/>

MENTAL HEALTH resources are available from **Scripture Union**, endorsed by the Mental Health Foundation, they can be found here:

<https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/mentalhealth>

BEREAVEMENT RESOURCES

Very sadly, there will be those in your group, congregation or local area who have had a bereavement and lost someone they love. The Lockdown circumstances will possibly mean that no goodbyes were possible and people of all ages could be feeling as though they are in limbo and need space and resources to help work through their grief. There is a page on the Derby Diocese website with links to resources which could be useful.

<https://derby.anglican.org/education/children-2/2-resources-available-to-you/>

Details of Diocesan and Church of England support resources can be found on this page, as well as links to organisations such as Winston's Wish and Child Bereavement UK.

DERBY CITY DEANERY: SERVING DERBY

WORKPLACE CHAPLAINCY DURING A PANDEMIC

Revd. Canon Paul Morris, Vicar, St. Peter's in the City and Principal Chaplain, Workplace Chaplaincy in Derbyshire and Derby City Centre Chaplaincy

One way to tell the story of Covid-19 is with statistics. Comparing the number of deaths in Derbyshire from March 1st to June 14th in 2019 and 2020 shows there were 1034 more deaths. Also, there are 30,244 people on the NHS Shield and Protect list.

But this is not the whole story. I oversee voluntary workplace chaplaincy and even though many workplaces have closed, chaplains have still served a variety of situations. Here are three stories from different contexts.



1. Care home

Many care homes have had a torrid time, with staff on their knees in terms of morale as they deal with huge amounts of death. One chaplain has been providing phone support to staff and relatives following 13 deaths in 10 days.

From another chaplain, I received this letter: Our care home has been hit by the reality of Covid-19, and in addition to the heartache of losing residents, a staff member in his 20s died suddenly. It has left the team heartbroken.

I know it is a big ask under current rules but it's important to get help for those who need it now. Please can one of your chaplains visit a small group of staff who would benefit from talking things out at the care home where there is space for social distancing to be adhered to.

After the chaplain met with this group, I received this email: Thank you for arranging for a chaplain to come to our aid. Her visit was so appreciated and all the staff were very positive and felt better for the opportunity, in a safe space, to express not just their grief but in some cases, their anger at the situation. I can't thank you enough for your support and help when it was most needed.

2. GP surgery

For the past year, two chaplains have been supporting staff and patients at a GP surgery in Ilkeston in the Erewash Primary Care Network. Soon, there will be chaplains in all 13 Erewash surgeries.

During the pandemic, several bereaved patients have told the GP's they have appreciated speaking to the chaplains. Here is a comment from one GP: These are very stressful times for everyone, but I feel quite excited with all the GP Chaplaincy opportunities. God is sovereign in all these things. I had a lovely email tonight from a retired GP who has been praying for our chaplains every week since they started, and she wanted to know how they and we as a team are doing.

I shared some feedback from individual patients, it has been really encouraging. Here is my favourite quote, "Thanks for asking the chaplain to phone me. I didn't realise what a heavy burden I was carrying until it had been lifted." That GP says this person's diabetes is 'massively better, because there is such a strong link between mental and physical health.'

3. Hospital ward

It quickly became apparent there was a need for chaplains to liaise between patients and their relatives. So in hospitals in Ashbourne, Clay Cross, Ilkeston and Ripley, I appointed 14 Ward Volunteers to provide pastoral support to the patient, set up phone and video calls between patient and family members, provide bereavement support, and support staff also.

A daughter of one patient wrote to thank the Ward Volunteer: "We really appreciate the help you gave mum. You lifted her spirits when we were unable to see her. At times she was so low we wondered whether she would have any reserves to pull through but to know you were there caring, supporting and encouraging her, and liaising with us, was so appreciated by myself and my siblings. For her to hear our messages and see the photos you printed off and showed her, brought us closer to her as she knew we were there and were missing her."

This week one of the matrons confirmed she would advocate Ward Volunteers to continue in the future because they really got on with what was needed, were very interactive with the patients and had the experience and skills to effectively support patients and their families as well as being able to integrate with the ward staff.

For doing something noteworthy and going above and beyond during the pandemic, another of our Ward Volunteers has received the Covid-19 Colleague of the Month award by the NHS panel.

This week one of the matrons confirmed she would advocate Ward Volunteers to continue in the future because they got on with what was needed, were interactive with patients and had the experience and skills to effectively support patients and their families as well as integrate with ward staff.

Our story of Covid-19 has themes of prayer, compassion, sharing the love of Jesus and the church in action. Lockdown has not stopped our chaplains, instead it has provided many opportunities to engage in faithful and fruitful ministry.

Our chaplains provide a confidential, pastoral,
listening service with spiritual care.

It is free for anyone
experiencing grief, stress,
anxiety, struggling with illness,
making difficult decisions or
overwhelmed by life.

The chaplain will listen to
you without judgement,
respecting your beliefs
and experience.



You can make an appointment
with a chaplain via reception at
your GP surgery





FOOD 4 THOUGHT ALLIANCE

In the last newsletter, we spoke about the community emergency response to COVID-19 and in particular, a new coordinated approach to the supply of free food within the City. Revd Dr Simon Cartwright, Acting Area Dean and Chair of the Food 4 Thought Steering Group, brings us up to date with the plans to continue this new way of working into the future.

CONTEXT

The worst consequences of hunger amongst the poorest in our communities are currently alleviated by the community and voluntary sector, with the churches leading the way. People are not starving because they can access emergency food at food banks stocked with food donated by individuals or private sector companies. Hundreds of children eat healthy meals at holiday clubs staffed by volunteers. Homeless people access hot meals because voluntary groups cook regular meals.

There are currently in excess of twenty known formal and informal food providers within the city and very little coordination. There is a mixture of providers who are un/regulated, and some aren't registered with Environmental Health. They provide a range of different services but predominately their main purpose is to provide access to free food and a listening ear.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED DURING COVID 19 CRISIS?

During COVID 19, a Central Supply Unit was established with ten Local Food Distribution Hubs (which included established food banks and pop-up food banks in areas identified as gaps). People requiring free food parcels were referred to food banks via Derby Direct and the Ward Coordination teams. This more coordinated approach to food provision has ensured that the people accessing the services really are in need, and this has prevented people from abusing the system.

We recognised there are many excellent community food projects operating within the city, providing essential support to people at risk of hunger. However, it has become obvious that the majority are operating on limited and insecure funds, often moving from grant to grant, and being unable to plan long term. So, we began to think differently. Could providers be better coordinated? Could we retain a network of support across the city? Ensuring that people in crisis can have access to the appropriate support whenever they need it?

PROPOSAL FOR THE FUTURE

The Food 4 Thought Alliance brings together the food providers in the Derby Food Forum, Community Action Derby and Derby City Council. It provides for more sustainable funding and encourages coordination and collaboration across the city. Services can be adjusted to avoid duplication and fill gaps.

It will also allow for pooling and exchanging of resources, including sharing food supplies, joint training of volunteers, better sharing of learning and a better connection to services to help individuals address the causes of their need.

The Food 4 Thought Alliance is promoting a new way of thinking about food provision based on:

- Helping everyone to shift the focus towards people and their needs, moving away from giving food as being seen as the solution.
- A universal approach across all 17 Wards of the City which varies dependant on need.
- An Environmental Health kite mark for provision, and quality training for volunteers and specialist support offers.
- Access to resources including funding and training for all involved in the partnership

- A permanent Central Storage Unit for all providers.
- A reduction in the number of unregulated providers who have not engaged productively and created problems within the city linked to the distribution of free food.
- A focus on reducing / eliminating food waste.

The Food 4 Thought Alliance will coordinate and support four different types of provision which are detailed below. The provision offered will be based on the individual's personal circumstances and the level of support they require:



Emergency

There may arguably be groups who will always need emergency food support, including those in complex crises and homeless rough sleepers. However, we want the number of emergency food projects in the city to be scaled back dramatically and return to their originally intended role of providing support in a crisis to a small population in extreme need.

We want to only offer emergency short term access to free food when there is an urgent situation. Service users will be offered a package of food and toiletries and required to access further support at next available opportunity. Access to this support is very time limited and in majority of cases a one off. Instead, a package of support will be put in place that will focus on advice, engagement and signposting to relevant agencies.

The criteria for emergency provision will be defined as a person in a crisis situation. This may be due to the approach being made out of hours and for example may include a request for support for someone at a homeless hostel, domestic violence unit or a prison release.

Assistance

We want to work with the existing range of food banks in the city (including church based groups like Derby City Mission, Hope Centre and Alvaston Food Bank) to shift the focus to a new network of community shops as a more sustainable, more dignified step on from the food bank.

This will change the emphasis from entitlement to empowerment and from storing and giving out food, to supporting people. While having access to the community shop, people will also be offered advice and support to help them address underlying issues, move into employment where appropriate, and build stronger resilience.

The community shop will operate within a network of wider food support in the city, including working with existing food projects and local charities and services to jointly offer a package of wraparound support to members. The criteria for assistance will be through completion of a needs assessment and the service user will be required to engage in the agreed support.

Community

Eating well is not only about having the money to buy food, but also being able to enjoy food with others. Particularly for older and socially isolated people, the prospect of eating alone, or lacking the cooking skills or facilities to do so are huge barriers.

Churches have for a long time understood the value of eating together. Luncheon Clubs, coffee mornings, breakfast clubs, and food drop ins all target specific vulnerable groups. They bring people together to jointly cook and eat, providing good food and company are hugely beneficial. They can encourage fellowship, friendship and follow-up.

Community meals also address the underlying causes of many people's needs: loneliness, isolation, anxiety and boredom. There will be no specific criteria for this provision as all will be welcome, based on the target audience for the provision. The package of support which will be offered through this provision will be advice, engagement and signposting to other groups.

Initiatives

There are a range of campaigns and based initiatives around food. These include cooking skills, nutritional advice, health advice, practical support and opportunities for self-development.

A range of community schemes are being delivered in the City which aim to remove the stigma associated with accessing free food. Again, these range in what services are provided and who they are aimed at. Examples of these schemes are Sporting Communities, Cook, Eat, Play scheme and Disability Direct's Plot to Plate project.

The package of support here is based around learning, training, volunteering opportunities, qualifications and coaching. Food can be provided to help achieve each project's objectives and like the community meals, there will be no specific criteria for this provision just the service user being willing to engage with the community provision.

TIMETABLE

Summer 2020

The emergency response put in place via the Covid Community Response Hub will change to an Alliance response. Funding has been secured via Community Action to create a three-day Project Coordination post. A six-month scoping exercise will take place to identify any gaps in the city

Autumn-Winter 2020

It is hoped that a full time Project Co-Ordinator post can be established and a permanent central supply unit become fully operational.

Summer 2021

We hope to have Community Shops within the wards which require this service and begin to reduce unregulated food provision in the city.

DERBY CITY DEANERY: SHARING THE GOSPEL

CITY OF SANCTUARY AND REFUGEE WEEK:

Revd Maureen Priddin mpriddin@ntlworld.com writes:



Dear Derby City of Sanctuary network friends,

A very big thank you to everyone who was involved in organising refugee week activities over the past week and to all who supported events. Despite the restrictions, there's been a great programme of events in Derby/s, that have raised awareness at the same time as providing great entertainment. So many thanks to you all, and we look forward to refugee week 2021!

The week ended with a special service at Derby Cathedral which was streamed live on facebook. Inderjit Bhogal, co founder and President of City of Sanctuary, was the invited speaker and here is what he had to say:

SERMON PREACHED ON SANCTUARY SUNDAY, DERBY CATHEDRAL, 21 JUNE 2020

"And There Were Other Boats" (Mark 4:36)

We are all in our Noah's Ark in our own homes with our families (and pets if we have them), our sanctuaries.

Life away from others is a daily reality to people who have been housebound for years. Religious communities have developed spiritualities that have required the need to "come away" for a while. We are familiar with the value of "retreat".

Every household, every individual, in their own "cocoon" is a new place for us all, and requires us to come to ourselves, and imagine a new world.

Noah and his wife Naamah were in the Ark, with their family, and the animals with them, when it rained for forty days and forty nights. They were in the stormy rain and turbulent waters of the flood which eventually did subside (Genesis 6:14-7:12). They did not have a garden they could take a walk in, or social media for entertainment and communication. The story gives us the beautiful image of the Dove with an Olive leaf in the beak as a sign of cessation of conflict (Genesis 7:11), and then the rainbow (Genesis 9:13), with a spectrum of colours in an arch, as a symbol of hope for all creation. I like the image of a rainbow, insisting that there are many colours, not just one. And it looks like a bigger roof providing a more inclusive shelter.

The next Ark we come across in the Bible is the Ark as a "sanctuary" for God (Exodus 25:8) to symbolise God dwelling in the midst of people. This is image we have to hold in our mind when we read the words of John 1:14 "and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us", a development of the words of Exodus 25:8.

The Ark represents a sanctuary for its inhabitants. Noah's Ark is a sanctuary for all those in a safe space with him.

This image grows into the Biblical vision that everyone will have their own Ark, a house in fact, with their own garden (see for example Isaiah 65:21), so that no one is without a roof over their head; and no one is afraid that their house will be destroyed or their livelihood plundered.

This ideal remains a dream that has not been achieved. History is littered with stories of exactly the opposite. Homes and gardens destroyed.

The shameful fact is that today there are 70 million refugees, a new all-time high, an unprecedented global situation. This includes 28 million people who are internally displaced,

trapped in their own countries (of these 11 million are conflict related, and 17 million are disaster related. Disasters include storms, floods, landslides, droughts, wild fires and extreme temperatures). Their homes and gardens have been destroyed.

People who have lost their homes and the protection of their countries value sanctuary and safety expressed in welcome and hospitality and shelter. The global image that has been before us has been of refugees in boats in sea waters, and at border fences and walls, desperately seeking sanctuary. All people with names and families, and histories. There are heart breaking images of children whose lives are in danger, and many people in the water. A traumatic situation for anyone to be in.

In Mark 4:35-39 is recorded the story of Jesus in a small boat with his disciples. They are caught in a storm. In this storm we read that there were "other boats" with him. There was not just one boat as in the Noah story. They were not all in the same boat. There were other boats, carrying other people, all in the same storm. They all went through the fears expressed by Jesus' disciples.

Now, in the deep and choppy waters of the coronavirus, we are all seeking or taking sanctuary in homes and rooms and apartments. We all have fears and anxiety about the wellbeing and safety of ourselves, and our families. Others are going through a similar situation to us. No one is immune to the virus, from rulers to the ruled, rich and poor, women and men, whatever our nationality or ethnicity. Our equality in our humanity, and frailty, and desire to be safe is clear.

The reality of our world is that there are those who have "homes" and many who do not. There are those with lovely gardens, and those without gardens. There are those for whom being in a confined environment will be difficult, and for others this will hold dangers of intimidation and abuse from oppressive others.

The rain stopped in the Noah story. Coronavirus will pass. But as we take sanctuary ourselves, we will keep in our hearts and minds all those in their own other sanctuaries now, with all the surrounding concerns. And we will not forget those who are without homes, or away from homes, and refugees who continue to be "the least important" internationally, and uphold them in our work and prayers. The poorest communities will be the hardest hit by all the circumstances surrounding coronavirus. We will maintain our solidarity with those who feel most excluded and vulnerable.

We are in challenging times.

The awful murder of George Floyd has rightly provoked protests at racism.

How refugees and people seeking sanctuary are treated so often, with hostility, is a manifestation of racism.

Resist and challenge racism.

Build virtual sanctuaries within your virtual congregations, to ensure that refugees and those seeking sanctuary are not left alone or isolated. Support then through local sanctuary charities and networks. Search out your local City of Sanctuary group. Donate financial support through their website. Offer other support as you are able in the circumstances.

When we come past Coronavirus, we must maintain the priority of protective hospitality for the most vulnerable while we ensure that care workers, local and those who are here from other countries, have greater justice in terms of worker rights and wages. We must not lift the pedal off the need to love more those who have been valued the least.

I live in Sheffield. I am well aware that the Sanctuary Centre in Sheffield which has provided a hub for meeting and friendship has had to close owing to COVID-19 and government guidelines.

City of Sanctuary Sheffield, and City of Sanctuary Derby have built up vast networks of partners, volunteers and supporters.

We can work with them now to build the idea of “**virtual sanctuary**” to nurture and sustain the sense of belonging, friendship and support by:

- Developing ways to keep people connected and supported, and ensure all asylum seekers in accommodation have WiFi connection
- WhatsApp Groups with personal messages of encouragement and practical tips, food deliveries, financial support and learning languages
- Maintaining contacts for legal and health matters through remote service delivery, critical in ensuring pathways to justice and guidelines on rights are not disrupted
- Maintaining telephone check-ins
- Supporting home schooling with teaching support and laptops
- Directing supporters to online petitions

You and your congregation and organisation can support work like this with offers of help and donations through the website, and join campaigns like Lift the Ban aimed at giving asylum seekers the right to work. Link up and maintain contact with refugees as you are able to.

Within all their other priorities refugees and asylum seekers have a great spirit of helping and surviving. One of my friends, a refugee from Liberia, has mobilised people to form a choir, and arranges worship and pastoral support. He is providing training on mental wellbeing. He is a dedicated worker providing incredible support to other refugees from a knowledge of personal trauma. He insists need to create empathy more than sympathy.

I thank you for all your good work.

Bless you, **Inderjit Bhogal, 21 June 2020**



Derby CoS at <https://derby.cityofsanctuary.org/> ; and @DerbyCoS

- an umbrella group working to create a climate of welcome for asylum seekers and refugees in the city
- see the organisations working with displaced people in Derby,
- make Derby a welcoming city for refugees and asylum seekers.



Please see the moving picture montage at the link below from Derby Refugee Solidarity for Refugee Week, with beautiful music in the background by Rey on his Santur.

<https://youtu.be/MNzYC08etjo>

SAVE THE DATE:

DERBY PEACE WEEK 20 -28 SEPTEMBER 2020

Following a successful meeting with QUAD, Artcore, Quakers and a variety of progressive groups (including Amnesty, CND, Derbyshire Refugee Solidarity, Extinction Rebellion, Stand up to Racism, Stop the War) , we're inviting you/your organisation to organise an event during Peace Week. We run on a very small budget, but plan to launch a Crowdfunding appeal. We are open to all suggestions. OR SEE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE www.en-gb.facebook.com/derbypeaceweek/ and email imti@myphone.coop , moyra_jean@yahoo.co.uk , viv.carnea@gmail.com

Best wishes, Imti, Moyra & Viv

BREATHING SPACE:

PLEASE HELP WITH A RESEARCH SURVEY:



DOES HOW CONNECTED YOU FEEL TO NATURE INFLUENCE YOUR VIEWS ON NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS AND LOCAL CONSERVATION PROJECTS?

Louise Wright MSc Conservation Biology Student (naturalderby@derby.ac.uk) writes:

To all Derby City and Suburbs Residents

I am a post graduate student on the MSc Conservation Biology course, and I am conducting a survey to explore how connected you feel to nature and how this might influence your views on natural environments and local conservation projects.

Participation should take 10 - 15 minutes. The survey closes on 26th July 2020.

You will be asked a series of questions that measure how connected you feel to nature, your views on environmental issues, on how natural environments and wildlife should be managed and your opinions on local conservation projects. Finally, you will be asked to provide some information about you; no identifying data will be collected.

Your responses will help understand how human-nature relationships and attitudes to natural environments can help customise specific interventions and management actions in local conservation projects to benefit people and wildlife.

Please click the link below to access the study

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=OrvxmPpegkelur2JfbYOYgYzbeV1XZJCohuw8SQcb9FUN0IVNUYOR1Q2MzNIR0NFWTk0MUpCSIVCNy4u>

or <https://tinyurl.com/naturalderby>

Thank you for your time and interest in my study.

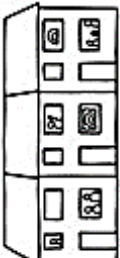




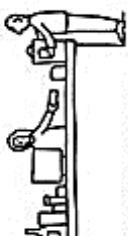




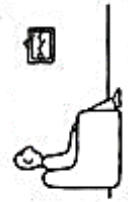





NOTICEBOARD

Deadline for the next issue: Friday 28 August, to be available mid September (covering autumn activities, into Advent). **Items to:** jo.simister@derby.anglican.org.

BEATITUDES

FOR A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

<p>BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO STAY INDOORS</p>  <p>FOR THEY HAVE PROTECTED OTHERS</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE THE UNEMPLOYED AND THE SELF-EMPLOYED</p>  <p>FOR THEIR NEED OF GOD IS GREAT</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE THE CORNER SHOPKEEPERS</p>  <p>FOR THEY ARE THE PURVEYORS OF SCARCE THINGS</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE THE DELIVERY DRIVERS AND THE POSTAL WORKERS</p>  <p>FOR THEY ARE THE BRINGERS OF ESSENTIAL THINGS</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE THE HOSPITAL WORKERS, THE AMBULANCE CREWS, THE DOCTORS, THE NURSES, THE CARE ASSISTANTS, AND THE CLEANERS</p>  <p>FOR THEY STAND BETWEEN US AND THE GRAVE, AND THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS SURELY THEIRS</p>
<p>BLESSED ARE THE CHECKOUT WORKERS</p>  <p>FOR THEY HAVE PATIENCE AND FORTITUDE IN THE FACE OF OVERWORK AND FRUSTRATION</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE THE REFUSE COLLECTORS</p>  <p>FOR THEY WILL SEE GOD DESPITE THE MOUNTAINS OF WASTE</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE THE TEACHERS</p>  <p>FOR THEY REMAIN STEADFAST AND CONSTANT IN DISTURBING TIMES</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE THE CHURCH WORKERS, THE DEACONS, PRIESTS AND BISHOPS</p>  <p>FOR THEY ARE A COMFORTING PRESENCE IN A HURTING WORLD AS THEY CONTINUE TO SIGNPOST TOWARDS GOD</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE THE SINGLE PARENTS.</p>  <p>FOR THEY ARE COPING ALONE WITH THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND THERE IS NO RESPITE</p>
<p>BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE ALONE.</p>  <p>FOR THEY ARE CHILDREN OF GOD AND WITH HIM THEY WILL NEVER BE LONELY</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE BEREAVED.</p>  <p>FOR WHOM THE WORST HAS ALREADY HAPPENED. THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE ISOLATED WITH THEIR ABUSERS</p>  <p>FOR ONE DAY - WE PRAY - THEY WILL KNOW SAFETY</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE ALL DURING THIS TIME WHO HAVE PURE HEARTS: ALL WHO STILL HUNGER AND THIRST FOR JUSTICE; ALL WHO WORK FOR PEACE AND WHO MODEL MERCY</p>  <p>MAY YOU KNOW COMFORT. MAY YOU KNOW CALM. AND MAY THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THE LOVE OF GOD, AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, BE WITH US ALL. AMEN</p>	

TEXT: JAYME HANFREDI

CARTOONCHURCH.COM

See <https://cartoonchurch.com/content/cc/the-new-cartoonchurch-website/> for these beatitudes, and many other cartoons, currently free to use!