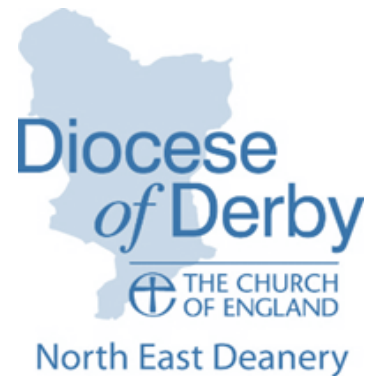


# In Between

*Issue 12½, June 2020*

*Stories of our time.....*

*Karen writes.....*



Dear Friends,

God is faithful, steadfast and loving (amongst many other things) and those characteristics are reflected in Jesus and then through His followers – as they serve and love His world in the power of the Holy Spirit.

In this 12 and a ½ version of Inbetween (so numbered because it replaces a meeting of Synod (July 1<sup>st</sup>) and doesn't fall in-between Synods as usual) we have chosen to tell stories of our time. These are stories from the North East Deanery, stories that reflect the faithful love and service of God's people and thus the faithfulness of God Himself and we offer them to encourage, strengthen and reassure, to give us hope as we step into a world that is very different to what it was just 3 months ago.

There will be many, many more stories similar to these – people have been amazing in the midst of hard and difficult times and I hope reading Inbetween leads to more storytelling.

We give thanks for God at work in and through his people, we pray for those who struggle, we ask for God's healing for those who continue to be ill and His comfort and strength for those who grieve. More than anything, we pray 'Your Kingdom come, your will be done' as we continue to pray, learn, serve and tell.

Peace be with you,

Karen



## ***Novena for "Thy Kingdom Come" at All Saints, Wingerworth***

Every year after Ascension we usually clear our Lady Chapel, apart from a small ring of chairs around a central candle where, over nine evenings, we wait on the Holy Spirit with the disciples of 2,000 years ago.

It is a time of waiting and of intimacy. People ask questions, others share their day and we finish with a short service after which most people say "I'll see you tomorrow".

This year was very different. With lockdown it was looking like it was going to be an individual affair. I'd been asked to take a Morning Prayer as part of the 'Thy Kingdom Come' initiative in the Diocese and I was really pleased to be a part of this with fellow churches. But I also knew that the usual folk who attend our post Ascension Novena would miss it, so I decided to commit myself to evening livestream sessions for those who were interested.

I wanted us to really get into the atmosphere of waiting with the disciples so I structured sessions where we – with the disciples – looked back at the events leading up to Ascension. A time to think over them, to engage with them in visualised meditation, to unfold their meaning and to prayerfully ask what meaning they have for us today.

The evenings covered: the ride into Jerusalem; the Betrayal; the Trial; the Crucifixion; Mary Magdalene and the Risen Christ in the Garden; Thomas encountering Jesus; a Breakfast meeting on the Beach; What is the Holy Spirit? and Can we consciously accept the Holy Spirit?

One member of our congregation said that she didn't tune in at 6pm when it was live but used to watch later, sitting in bed every night with her ipad and enjoying the meditation where she could relax and engage with it before going to sleep.

One good thing about the Live-streaming (and I know other clergy have noticed this too) is that it attracts others who don't normally come to church. I was surprised how many followed the nine sessions over the nine days. Even when we are fully open again I intend to broadcast at least once a week to continue to link in with others in the parish who connect with us on-line.

In the same way as when we used to meet physically, these 9 days built up an atmosphere that crescendoed with a powerful Pentecost Service on the Sunday.

Our new technology doesn't replace what we do but it opens up a new avenue.

I no longer feel alone staring at myself on my iphone as I recite familiar liturgy because I know from conversations I've had that many people say the responses and actually listen to my sermons! Even in the midst of our difficulties, nothing stops church from happening.

***Rev Jonathan Poston***

## ***Spiritual care at Ashgate Hospicecare during COVID-19***

COVID-19 has been exceptional in many ways. Everyone has been finding their way and developing new ways of working. In order to reduce the risk of infection, Ashgate Hospicecare understandably decided to have as many non-clinical staff working offsite, including volunteers and staff from the Spiritual Care Team. This is very frustrating because at the heart of our role is a desire to be with and amongst people. But frustration leads to creativity. My colleague Siobhan Hoyes led the way producing a beautiful online 'Service of Thanksgiving' which is normally held in St Thomas's Church, Brampton. I produced a similar bereavement ceremony called 'Time to Remember' with the help of the Communications Team. The online services were good but not the same as being with people in their grief.

We have tried using an iPad to talk to people on the ward but this hasn't worked. Siobhan and I can't attend the ward for various reasons. However, we are introducing two of our experienced volunteers from the Spiritual Care Team to the ward.

Siobhan and I have been involved in many activities, for example, offering spiritual and emotional support to people at home via telephone and WhatsApp, facilitating staff support groups at Chesterfield Royal Hospital and virtual support groups for care home staff and for Ashgate staff too.

Prayer points:

Please pray for all staff at Ashgate Hospicecare who have had to work so hard and adapt the way they work. This has been very tiring and emotionally demanding.

Pray for a sense of peace for those in the final days of their lives and their relatives who have had a lot of the usual care and bereavement rituals interrupted.

***Tim Wheeler Lay Reader/Spiritual Care Practitioner***



## ***A Reflection in Lockdown from the United Benefice of St Giles, Killamarsh and St Matthew, Renishaw.***

All churches were officially closed on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March. I think at that point dawned the stark reality that the Coronavirus was far deadlier and insidious than anyone could possibly conceive.

Our Rectory is generally an Open House with all welcome at all times. Now the Rectory gates remain closed with people speaking to us in the garden with no invitation to come in. How utterly sad!!!!



Amidst the lockdown we have sought to offer a Christian presence in different ways. Many within our two congregations are elderly and non-computer literate therefore we have sent out our shortened monthly newsletter via the post which offers directions to the Daily Hope phone line. Our website manager has successfully skilled various people to use Skype which we now use for Bible Study on Tuesday evening, a group chat over a cup of coffee or tea on Wednesday morning and for Holy Communion on Sunday morning. Revd Michael and I write a prayer on alternate days specifically based on the current Coronavirus situation for the day which is posted with a verse or two of scripture on our Church Facebook page and our website [www.stgiles-killamarsh.org](http://www.stgiles-killamarsh.org). Additionally, our website manager has developed a Spirituality Garden page and if you click on each heading a list of very important links emerge. I have enjoyed researching some of these links. The telephone remains an essential contact with people for pastoral care.

For those visiting St Giles Churchyard there is a beautiful display in the church porch, pertinent to the current liturgical season.

Ministry continues to be a very different way of being and as the lockdown restrictions continue to lift we await the permission to open our church buildings once more in whatever format that takes.

Moving forward there will be a new sense of being church, a new sense of serving the community.



***Rev Helen Guest***

Rector

## Christian Aid Camp Out Challenge

Lockdown does not have to mean locked out of supporting the NHS and Key Workers with our neighbours as we joined in on a regular basis with the Thursday clap-a-long. But I was concerned about our global neighbours and how to raise money during Christian Aid Week given that the “envelopes through the door and collect again” routine was not going to happen, nor was the “gather over a coffee and cake and buy some jam”.



What I should have done was check the weather forecast, but I didn't, and so that is how I came to be camped out in our garden for not one, but TWO nights – and for those two nights to be the coldest in May! But, as I said to my neighbour as she watched me struggle with poles, the vast majority of people Christian Aid is supporting live in tents all the time, and have no choice.

With the spread of Covid 19 across the world, and into refugee camps where conditions are horrible all the time, I put a post out on Facebook, pushed a letter through my neighbours' doors, and sent out e-mails. Then I donned my base layer, PJs, found my sleeping bag, and persuaded my husband to come wild camping with me. Little did I know that my original target of £200 would be passed so quickly, so I doubled it, and then watched in amazement as people donated on line, sent cheques through the post, and pushed envelopes through our door.

Working from home on the middle day took on a whole new look, and I did find my woolly hat and hot water bottle for the second night, and slept remarkably well. The problem with having a husband who goes wild camping a lot is he has all the gear, and so for my early morning cup of tea I had to go to the stream (ok, the outside tap), load the base of the kelly kettle with twigs I had collected the day before and then light it with a flint stick. Never has a cup of tea tasted so good!

Christian Aid Week 2020 challenges us all to work out what we can do, at this moment in time, with the resources that we have, to support our global neighbours - “Love never fails. Coronavirus impacts all of us. But love unites us all.” [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)



If you would like to donate,  
the page is still open

[https://  
uk.virginmoneygiving.com/  
JulieLomas2](https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/JulieLomas2)

Last time I checked, the  
amount raised (plus Gift  
Aid) was £1,953.44 (thrilled!).

**Rev Julie Lomas**

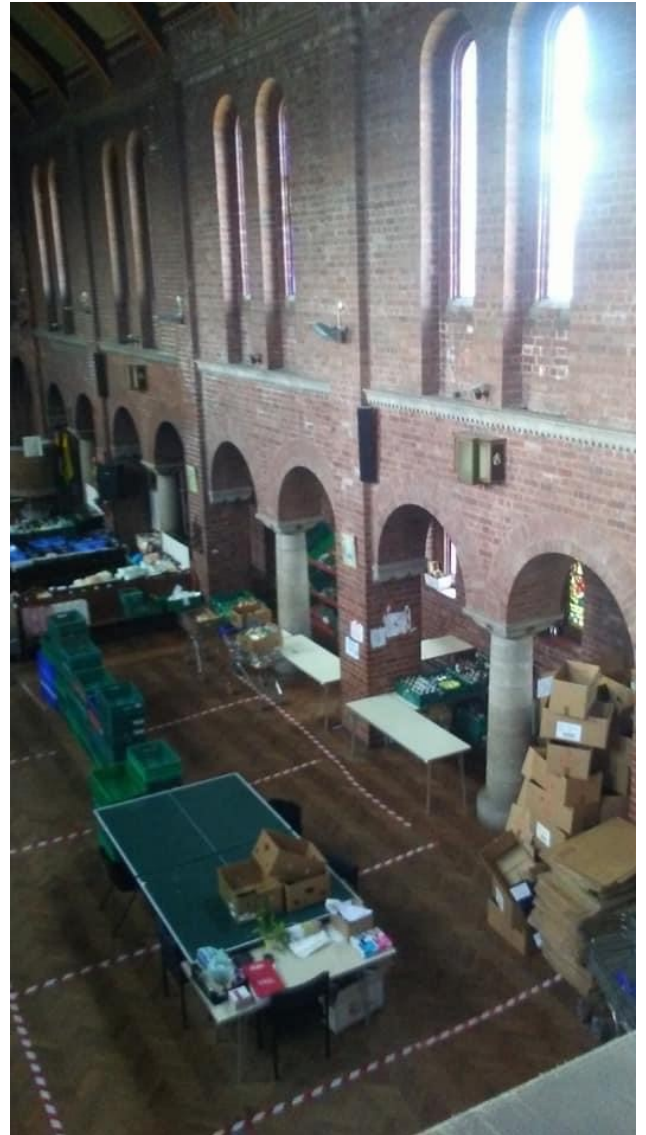




## ***Gussie's Kitchen, SS Augustine Church***

Over the past year as a Deacon I've had the privilege to serve at Gussie's Kitchen social eating café each week at SS Augustine's Church, providing meals and support to those who are struggling financially. Like everything, the Covid-19 outbreak turned this project on its head, however, when most churches were asked to close their doors, SS Augustine's had an exemption to stay very much open. Overnight Gussie's Kitchen became one of the food distribution hubs for Chesterfield. Over the past 10 weeks a large team of volunteers has prepared food boxes and delivered to over a thousand households. My job as Chaplain has been on the phone, giving out information and offering pastoral support. I've also been able to deliver new baby packs to those in need, and we are setting up a 'Friends of Gussie's Kitchen' so that we can remain in contact with folks once all this is over. It's been an incredible opportunity to reach out into the community, and I've had many significant conversations and built up relationships that I pray will continue in the future. Despite the many challenges, the shift in focus has created opportunities to model faith that were not present before and it's exciting to dream about how these can be progressed. I'm being reminded every day that Jesus' model of relationship building is crucial and is what our communities are crying out for, and I'm excited to see what God has in store for us next.

***Rev Sally-Anne Beecham***



## ***Chesterfield Foodbank***

The team at Chesterfield Foodbank have been working hard to ensure that people in financial crisis can still receive support during these challenging times. By employing additional, appropriate hygiene and social distancing measures we have been able to ensure that distribution centres in Brimington, Chesterfield town centre, and Loundsley Green have been able to continue to serve clients. For the duration of lockdown, and while vulnerable people need to self isolate, we have set up a delivery service for those clients who are not able to attend at a centre. We have also begun a trial opening of a new centre at St Barnabas Church in New Whittington, meaning that people from this area do not need to travel as far to collect food. Donations of food have slowed inevitably, but thanks to generous supporters providing financial donations we have been able to source and purchase food to ensure that we have enough food supplies to serve our clients. Due to strict social distancing measures we have not been able to discuss and explore additional sources of support for clients, and the current distanced method of handing over food is less personal. We are looking forward to being able to provide a more pleasant, welcoming experience to clients again in the future once it is safe to reduce some of the precautions that we currently need to have in place.

***Rev Daniel Cooke***

## Creswell Breakfast Club

When the UK was put into lockdown on 23 March in an unprecedented step to attempt to limit the deadly spread of coronavirus, everything as we knew it was turned upside down, public buildings closed, people lost their jobs even our churches closed and some of us never left the security of our homes.

The hardest hit were those who were already vulnerable before the coronavirus lockdown and especially the children.

Creswell Breakfast Club opens when our local schools close for holidays; we had already ordered our food for the Easter Holidays before the lockdown measures that everyone now is familiar with, were in place. No one would be allowed into St. Mary Magdalene's for our normal school holiday activities. A re-think was needed.

We moved our operations to the church room, we collected the food from FareShare in our cars, the four of us in preparation for the handing out day, put one of each food items into a Tesco shopping bag, apart from the cold items keep overnight in the fridge. The Covid-19 signs were put up, our Facebook page updated, 55 take-away bags filled, and we opened at 10 am - the bags were all gone by 10.45..... One thing we picked up on was mothers saying it was impossible to get milk for their babies as the supermarket shelves were empty.

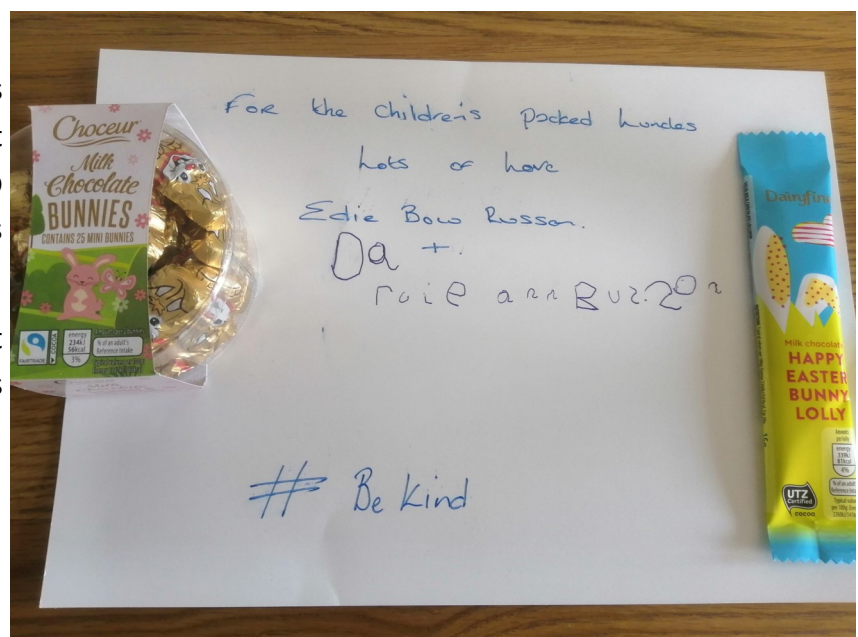
We repeated the take-away food bag on the next school holiday.

One example of community spirit - I was in Tesco's, Worksop at the checkout and enquired if I could buy 80 shopping bags as it was only three items per customer back then, "I'll check with my line manager," she said.....

The line manager came but it was above her pay grade to make that decision; she moved the decision up the pecking order to the top and was granted an audience with "him".

After explaining what we were about and what we did, he put 100 bags into my trolley and said, "No Charge"

**Continued.....**



## *Continued.....*

We started getting phone calls from our schools requesting food for their vulnerable families; we don't store any food, apart from a few loaves in the freezer - "that'll do, as they don't have anything". We've all got tins from the back of our cupboards, quickly made up a bag, bread out of the freezer and delivered it.

The request for help started to become more regular, we were able to get one off help from "Living in Hope" foodbank for two families, but it became apparent something permanent needed to be set up. Getting in contact with DCC public Health they let me have all the details of the foodbanks in Derbyshire.

Sending out a fishing email requesting help from four of the nearest, I got two hits - only too glad to share what they had.

Back talking to our schools, we set up the lines of communication and 23 families had food delivered.

A week later one of the other Foodbanks emailed to say they had some babies milk to share with us, it was a big "thank you please". Referring to my vulnerable families list (GDPR) we collected/delivered milk and other items to five families with babies.

DCC public Health have now set up a foodbank in Creswell making 23 foodbanks in Derbyshire.

Offers of help comes from the unexpected - possibly forgotten are the pets and "Pets at Home" donated a car boot full for the pets in our parish.

Two children eager to help donated money and sweets. At the Breakfast Club we have watched with pride these children grow to be loving and caring; it doesn't take many like these to ensure the future is in safe hands.

Many thanks to all our volunteers, businesses and all who have supported us these last four years - we couldn't have done it without your help.

Creswell Breakfast club is supported by many but the foundation stone is the Elmtun Creswell PCC.

***R H Glassey, Churchwarden, St. Mary Magdalene, Creswell, St. Peter, Elmtun***



**Do you have any news, ideas, events, interesting information to share with the Deanery?**

**Please send items to include in the next edition of Inbetween to Kathy Crawshaw-Moore:**

kathy.crawshaw-moore@derby.anglican.org, 07852 324885  
Chesterfield Parish Church Office, 3 St. Mary's Gate, Chesterfield, S41 7TJ



## ***Report from Informal Gathering of Diocesan Synod***

An informal gathering of the **Diocesan Synod**, for the purpose of discussion and information sharing took place, Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June 9.30 am via Zoom. No formal work could be undertaken. (Synodical Measure 1969.) Bishop Libby welcomed 62 members. The gathering opened with Readings and Prayer.

### **The Agenda :-**

Three reports of activities during the lock-down were presented.

1. Rev. Sally-Anne Beecham, SS. Augustines, Derby Road, reported that social media had been used, over 2000 people had used the food bank and a new relationship has been forged by working with the Methodist Church.
2. Rev. Canon Paul Morris. Workplace Chaplain Co-ordinator, Vicar, St. Peter's Church, Derby City. Much valuable ministry has been offered by a team of Chaplains during the lock-down by networking with doctors' surgeries and the hospital to identify those in need. This will continue as a long term outcome.
3. Rev. Bryony Taylor, Rector at Clowne and Barlborough.  
Congregations have been engaged with – a booklet delivered to parishioners, 'streaming services,' telephone sermons used and 'Phone Church' introduced via 'WhyPay.' Sharing faith on-line, for some this may continue in the future for evangelising. In reality it may be a mixed economy for the future, physical church and on-line facilities to continue after lock-down.

**Diocesan Vision.** Introduced by Steve Tarpey an Advisor to the Diocese - a conversation about resourcing congregations and worshipping communities, engaging discipleship and transforming local communities. What will be the shape of the Diocese in the future? Bishop Libby gave a heart rendering response with these words, "We are loved by Jesus beyond measure, and-sure in the hope that gives us-we have the courage to love without restraint for Jesus' sake." We are advised to proclaim the Kingdom of God and yearn to grow, using prayer, particularly with The Lord's Prayer. Members then met together in groups through Zoom to consider three possible vision statements. Although there was no legal vote taken, Synod members were asked to indicate their initial preference so that further discussion could later identify a purposeful statement of a shared vision. The general consensus was for short memorable sentences in language that was not too 'church wordy,' which would be easily understood by everyone.

**Finance.** The Annual Report 2019. An operational deficit of £102,000 against a proposed £330,000 deficit budget – a significant achievement. Common Fund receipts £142,000 - a short fall of 2.9% offset by savings through staffing and property. Financial Investments £48.3m an increase of £7.2m over 2018.

**Derby Board of Finance update 2020.** Covid-19 presents serious problems with funding. 27% of Common Fund shortfall so far this year. £1m funding from Church Commissioners to offset financial shortfall. 50% of staff on 80% income. A projected end of year shortfall of £1.7m. Some optimism remains of some recovery for 2020. Funeral fees remitted until August 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Registrar Updates.** Weddings. No Banns at the moment but Special or Common Licence instead. For advice contact the Diocesan Registrar. Church Wardens remain in post until 31 October, 2020. (2 months notice to the Bishop required for resignation). Extended period for APCM's to 31 October 2020. Deanery Reps also to continue at the moment.

**Bishop of Repton.** Appointment hopefully by January 2021. The Ven. Dr, Peter Robinson will be licensed on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July, via Zoom, as Assistant Curate of the Parish of All Saints (Derby) to be known as **Dean -Designate of Derby.**

*John Gascoigne/Canon Christine Holmes-Elener*

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- What are you looking forward to after lockdown?
- Revd Beth Honey lights candles in her garden to help unite the local community
- Crich and South Wingfield churches on smart speaker
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