

# Deanery News

## May 2020 issue 5



Dear All

*It's a Wonderful Life...* a family film routinely shown at Christmas has James Stewart at his most acting finest playing George Bailey who unwittingly gets himself into a financial mess. Knowing that scandal and criminal charges will follow, he's a broken man. The famous scene of him praying whilst sitting on a bar stool is a classic piece of acting and a memorable Hollywood moment. With voice quivering and tears in his eyes, he prays: "Dear Father in heaven, I'm not a praying man, but if you're up there and you can hear me, show me the way... I'm at the end of my rope, show me the way". George's desperate call for help is heard. The angel who appears by his side on a bridge shows him what the local town would have been like without him in it and so saves him from the worst of all outcomes. It is a powerful piece of cinema.

As prayer mattered to Jesus, it must matter to us. But why is it that people outside the faith community are drawn to prayer at times of personal or national crisis? Recent research conducted by Tearfund found that just under half of UK adults say they pray, that's a staggering 23 million people. A third of those, around 8 million, say they've prayed since the lockdown because they believe it makes a difference. So why are we drawn to do this?

I like to think that the hard wiring God put into our DNA from the beginning of creation connecting us to him remains deep within everyone, dormant for long periods but awakened at particular moments. COVID 19 is one such moment.

Amidst the challenges of this crisis, we're also witnessing something deeply spiritual: the retreat of people from *our* places of gathering has encouraged animals to return to what was once *theirs*; the reduction in traffic on our roads has spawned cleaner air and pop-up cycle lanes; office working has become home working with many finding that transition beneficial; the 'unnoticed' are now being 'noticed'; where church was once only thought of as 'that building with the spire', church is recalibrating what it is *to be* church, re-thinking what it means to gather *as* church. The lockdown has forced all kinds of changes upon people. But I wonder if we're also witnessing a spiritual shift towards contemplating faith and prayer?

Rev'd Colin Pearson.

### Deanery Evening

On June 16th we had planned to have a 'Deanery Evening' with invited speakers from 'Hope for the Future' - Climate Change and the EAPPI Palestinian Project

On pages 3 and 4 there is a brief insight into both of these projects. Even in our current circumstances we need to remember these very important issues.

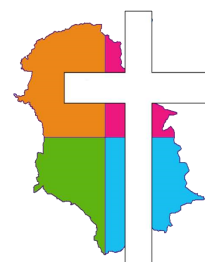
Our Deanery Synods can't meet officially at the moment, legislation needs to be passed by Government to enable the General Synod to meet virtually and make decisions going forward. We will be in contact soon.

### PEAK DEANERY NEWS

Eileen Burt, Deanery  
Administrator

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Contributions are very welcome  
from across the Deanery for our  
August edition



# From our Lay Chair, Canon Christine



## Life in Lockdown

Three months ago life seemed so normal.... Wet and cold , but normal.. Now I am not sure what normal is or may become.

However, lay leaders and Readers in the deanery have risen to the challenge and there has been a whole burst of compiling and assisting with worship, using skills we had hardly heard of last February. (Had you ever been to a Zoom meeting before last February or thought of streaming a worship service on Sundays??).

Now Readers and their friends are organizing worship for their church, for a congregation they cannot see, watching worship on-line from all sorts of 'churches', which until now had been unreachable. Some Readers are organizing telephone chains for people who don't do the electronic world, others have a list of people with whom to share prayer via a telephone,. Some Readers

organize monthly meditations and others take funerals... doing the visits on the phone observing the required distancing at the Crem where very few family are allowed to attend. Some people had to let their family member go away in the ambulance and then did not see them alive again... one of the saddest effects of the pandemic. On the other hand a quiet short graveside funeral with family groups standing around under the trees on a warm afternoon is something to treasure.

We have all been able to get to know our neighbours better... and they, you! 'You are very predictable, Christine,' said my neighbour as she set off shopping for me,' It's blueberries, wholemeal bread, milk and Chorley cakes again I see'.

When our churches reopen for worship, will all the people who have been joining in on-line, give church a new chance and give it a try? Will we welcome them warmly? Shall we look at worship differently? I have certainly found it strange to watch a communion service on-line. Not to receive the bread and wine is bad enough, but to have to watch the clergy give it only to themselves feels very odd. In 1980, the Church of England introduced Communion as the main service of the day, instead of Morning Prayer and we came to use first the ASB then Common Worship....but will the communion service be the best service for unaccustomed worshippers? And we may be able to afford fewer clergy anyway.....

Exciting times ahead!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine McMullen".

Christine McMullen



# Deanery Evening- Climate Change - Rachel

## Hope for the Future

Hope of the Future are running an exciting series of interactive and free to access webinars around climate change, running as five mini-series from May to July 2020. Each week has four webinars around different areas of the climate movement: media, political leadership, families, youth, and faith. The 'Keeping Faith in the Climate' webinars are running in mid-July. More information and sign-up can be found at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/hope-for-the-future-17742422623>

Hope for the Future have also released new church small group resources on their [faith page](#), including 'Being the Church in the coronavirus pandemic' and 'Covenant and climate through the lens of Haggai'.

Young Christian Climate Network (YCCN) is an action-focused community of young Christians in the UK choosing to follow Jesus in the pursuit of climate justice in its infancy. If you know any Christians aged 18-30 who would like to get involved, or would like more information, please email [mander.rachel@gmail.com](mailto:mander.rachel@gmail.com).

# COMMON HOME COMMON GROUND

**Webinar Series**

**Climate conversations with Hope for the Future**

**FAMILIES FOR THE FUTURE | 15TH-19TH JUNE**  
Parents, politicians, experts and campaigners come together to share their experiences and emotions around being a parent during the climate crisis.

**SEEN, BUT STILL NOT HEARD? VOICES FROM THE YOUTH CLIMATE MOVEMENT | 29TH JUNE - 2ND JULY**  
With young people often at the forefront of global climate activism this series will investigate the challenges they face in creating change, from mental health to inclusion and beyond.

**KEEPING FAITH IN THE CLIMATE | 13TH - 16TH JULY**  
Faith groups account for the largest civil-society organisations globally. What can we learn from different faith traditions about how we approach the problem?

IS MEDIA FAILING US ON CLIMATE CHANGE? | 18TH - 21ST MAY  
Media has long struggled to navigate the climate crisis. How can we better connect decision-makers and media to tackle climate change?

CLIMATE OF CRISIS: COVID, COP26 AND POLITICAL LEADERSHIP ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY | 1ST-4TH JUNE  
This series focuses on the national and international climate conversations we need to be having in response to COVID-19, and how we can have those conversations effectively.

#HFTFWEBINAR  
#COMMONHOME

# Deanery Evening—EAPPI by John Payne

## Palestine in the Pandemic

For 3 months last year, I was a human-rights monitor in Palestine on the West Bank with the World Council of Churches programme EAPPI (Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel). I had hoped to talk about my experiences to a Deanery meeting in June, and still hope to do so at a later date, but for the moment this article will have to suffice.

The occupied populations of the West Bank and Gaza are considered to be very susceptible by the WHO to the Covid-19 virus, as well as from its associated economic impact. Israel has reduced the supply of medicine to the West Bank. The severe reduction in US aid under the Trump Administration has meant that hospitals in East (ie Arab) Jerusalem are very under-prepared to respond to the pandemic. Preventative techniques like lockdown used in the UK can't be enforced in e.g Gaza. *“Overcrowding and a lack of living space characterize Jabaliya camp,”* the UN notes. *“Shelters are built in close vicinity and there is a general lack of recreational and social space.”* There are nowhere near enough testing kits, PPE and intensive care beds throughout Palestine.

There are also grave worries about the use of increased surveillance and the introduction of further repressive measures under the guise of ‘a state of emergency’ by the Israeli military in the West Bank. Since April there has been a marked increase in Jewish settler attacks on Palestinians, supported by the Israeli army, according to the Israeli NGO B'Tselem.

The consequences of the pandemic for public funding and the economy will be very severe for Palestinians, particularly in a city like Bethlehem, whose economy is largely built on tourism. The UK Ambassador to the UN recently spoke of *“the Palestinian Authority’s revenues, which come mostly from levies on trade, are expected to decline by between 60-70% as a result of the crisis. [Palestine is] excluded from most international mechanisms, including the World Bank’s \$14 billion COVID-19 fund”*.

In addition to all this, the new Israeli government plans to authorise the annexation of parts of the occupied West Bank in July. A cross-party group of MP’s have expressed their ‘deep concern’ about these plans in the UN ( <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/may/01/mps-press-for-sanctions-against-israel-over-west-bank-annexations>)

Most of the Palestinians I met have asked that we do not forget them at this time. Knowing that they have friends outside is very important for them, especially during this pandemic. One way to help, apart from sending money if we can, is to lobby our MPs so that they do not put the issue on the back burner for ever, asking that they increase pressure on Israel to achieve a just peace between Palestine and Israel and an end to the occupation.

**John Payne** (Churchwarden, Edale)



# Bishop Libby's Maiden Speech in the House of Lords

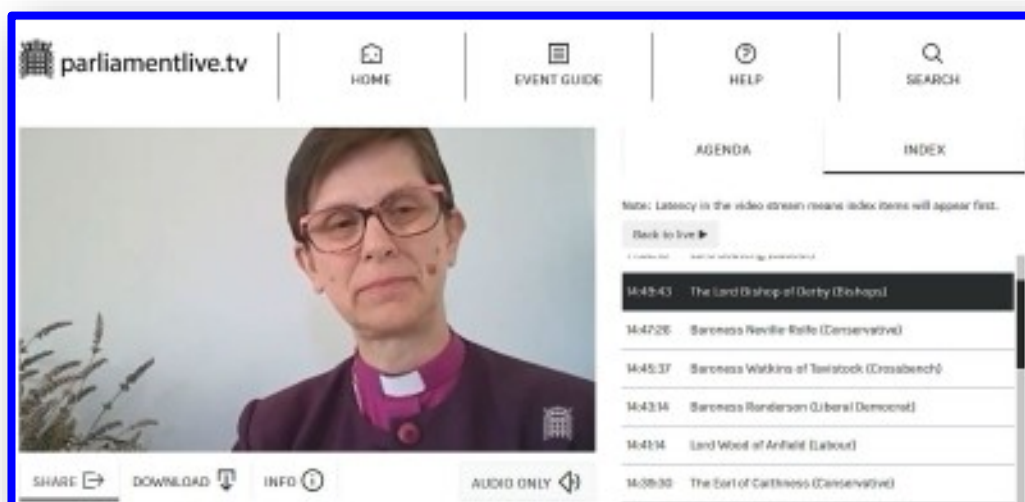
On May 25th 2019 Bishop Libby was installed as the eighth Bishop of Derby in a service at Derby Cathedral. On 6th May 2020 Bishop Libby was the first to make a maiden speech online.

Limited to two minutes, she drew particular attention to the disproportionate and detrimental impact income inequality and lack of sustainability has on children and their households, and the need to keep all our children and young people safe, to support the mental health and well-being of our children, and to protect children and their families facing increased financial insecurity as a result of the current crisis.

"The inequalities that affect the more than 4 million children in poverty in our country run deep and are systemic, so solutions need to be long-term and sustainable. When asked about the Kingdom of God, Jesus brought among them and said 'Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven'"

Bishop Libby also made reference to the work of The Children's Society and praised diocesan staff, clergy and congregations for their work during the Covid-19 outbreak.

You can view her speech here: <https://youtu.be/o84qhUP2-qc>



Donate to the Children's Society here: [https://donate.childrensociety.org.uk/page/46932/donate/1?\\_ga=2.158054202.1033029941.1590605796-1932080057.1590605796](https://donate.childrensociety.org.uk/page/46932/donate/1?_ga=2.158054202.1033029941.1590605796-1932080057.1590605796)

## A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy.  
Sustain and support the anxious,  
be with those who care for the sick,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may find comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
**Amen.**



# Moving On-line

Over the last few months our lives have moved 'on-line' and it has been an interesting time for us all as we have grappled with 'Zoom' 'WhatsApp' 'Facetime' 'Facebook' 'YouTube' to access our Sunday and Daily services, and our Small Groups.

The Church of England have responded quickly to the growing needs of accessing Social Media and engaging people with our churches. There are several webinars that may be of interest and can be accessed via the link: <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/church-resources/digital-labs/labs-learning-webinars>

Topics include:

- **Receiving online donations**
- **Five ways to keep your church connected**
- **Livestream question and answer session**
- **Make the most of your A Church Near You page**
- **Introduction to Instagram for churches**
- **Facebook pages for churches**
- **Paid advertising: Boosting a Facebook post**
- **Facebook groups: Keeping a church connected**

Engaging with your 'A Church Near You' page is strongly recommended. There are many resources available, it is relatively easy to set up, you can direct it to your Web page and it is free. If your church has a vicar, they will have the editorial rights to the ACNY page as it is based on the Crockfords directory. They will be able to make others also editors of the page. If your church is in vacancy and nobody has access to the page, you can make a request. Please see <https://achurchnearyou.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360002398413-How-to-become-an-approved-editor-of-a-church-Step-By-Step-Guidance->

## **Has your parish signed up to the Parish Giving Scheme?**

If it has then the new telephone service from PGS could be just what you are looking for. It is designed to enable prospective donors to set up a regular Direct Debit donation to your parish over the phone. How does this work? The service is live and operates weekdays between 9am - 5pm. Donors can set up a regular gift to your parish by calling the dedicated telephone line: **0333 002 1271**. The simple sign-up process takes approx. 15 minutes and the following information is needed:

Personal bank account details • the name of the parish they wish to donate to • they will need to confirm if they want to increase their gift in line with inflation each year • confirm if they are eligible for Gift Aid • the PGS code for their parish (donors cannot set up a PGS without this information), you will have received this code when your parish signed up to the Parish Giving Scheme .

What happens next? Donors will receive written confirmation (by email or post) of their Direct Debit, including details of the parish they are supporting, the amount of their gift and the date of their first donation. How will our parish be notified of the donation? The parish's Planned Giving representative will receive a monthly statement, detailing the names of those who have donated (unless they choose to remain anonymous) and all the gifts given through the PGS. Donors can make any changes to their Direct Debit by post, phone or by email to [info@parishgiving.org.uk](mailto:info@parishgiving.org.uk)

# Safeguarding

Advice regarding Safeguarding can be found on the Diocesan website:

<https://derby.anglican.org/en/safeguarding.html>

We need to be alert as there are also those at serious risk in their own home: from **domestic abuse**.

This abuse takes many different forms – economic, coercive, sexual, physical, technological or psychological. Whatever form it takes domestic abuse is contrary to the will of God and an affront to human dignity. All need to play their part in preventing or halting it.

Domestic abuse may affect anyone at any time, but the isolation resulting from COVID-19 is particularly affecting victims/survivors of domestic abuse. The National Domestic Abuse helpline has seen a 25% increase in calls and online requests for help since the lockdown, according to the charity Refuge. Victims/survivors of domestic abuse may be self-isolating with someone who is harming them, and they may feel they have no way out. Previous places of safety or respite, such as friends, family or local churches, may no longer appear accessible.

It is vital that victims/survivors of domestic abuse know that they are not alone and there is still help available in these challenging times.

Help is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week from the National Domestic Violence Helpline. Their telephone number is 0808 2000 247. All calls are free of charge. For those in immediate danger the police can be contacted on 999 even if you are unable to speak – when the call is answered press 55 and the operator will know what to do and that you are at risk.

Anyone who has concerns about anyone they believe to be at risk can contact Diocesan Safeguarding on 01332 3888682.

We were midway into our Peak Deanery Safeguarding Training when the Coronavirus Pandemic lockdown occurred and we had to postpone all our face to face training. There is a wealth of Safeguarding information on the Church of England Safeguarding Portal <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/> and if you create an account (i.e. a Username and password) you can access the **C0 Safeguarding Basic Awareness** and the **C1 Safeguarding Foundations** courses.

C0 –Basic awareness Recommended for anyone who needs a basic level of awareness of safeguarding. This module is also a pre-requisite for attendance at any other core training module. **This module is available on-line.**

C1 –Foundation Required for anyone who has safeguarding responsibilities/contact with children and/or vulnerable adults.

C2 –Leadership Required for anyone who has safeguarding leadership responsibilities and/or leads activities involving children and/or vulnerable adults. **PLEASE NOTE:** The on-line **C1** is only for those who are required to complete **both the C1 and C2—Safeguarding for leaders** i.e Parish Safeguarding Links, Church Wardens, Group Leaders, Deacons, Licensed Ministers (lay and ordained without Incumbent status), Diocesan Officers and all paid workers with youth, families, children or adults. If you only require face-to-face C1 Training, having completed C0 online, we are awaiting information.

# Flour Festival at St. Anne's Baslow, All Welcome

[www.flour4foodbanksbaslow.org](http://www.flour4foodbanksbaslow.org)

## Flour 4 Food Banks

at St. Anne's Church

is making all types of quality flour and yeast available in Baslow, whilst helping to supply essential food parcels to families in need across Sheffield during the Covid-19 crisis.

### Help make a difference

please consider purchasing your flour and yeast at cost price, and making a donation from:

[www.flour4foodbanksbaslow.org](http://www.flour4foodbanksbaslow.org)

### Easy collection:

simply pick up your flour from

**St. Anne's Church Rooms**

each **Friday** from 11.00am to 2.30pm *or*

each **Saturday** from 9.30am to 11.00am

Our team of volunteers will hand your flour order over to you in the church rooms car park - wearing face masks and socially distancing to ensure everyone's safety. Please note, based on feedback, we are now offering Friday **and** Saturday morning collection. If you live in Baslow and have trouble collecting the flour on the weekly collection days, or are shielding or not able to go out, please let me or one of the PCC know and we will be happy to arrange to deliver your order.

If you can, any help spreading the word - sharing this email or our Facebook posts from @St.AnnesBaslow - far and wide would be much appreciated.

**A prayer contributed by Hathersage, St Michael's for all pupils of all ages as some return to school next week and others remain at home**

Father God, we pray for our children and young people at this difficult time.

For those pupils that have found lock down difficult – especially the ones who thrive in company or who like an audience.

For those pupils who find the hustle and bustle of school difficult may have found the calm of lock down easier, but they may find it more difficult to return to school.

For pupils who were expecting to take GCSE or A levels this summer may feel a sense of loss/grief and anxiety about the future.

For pupils who may have found more opportunities to self – harm in lock down.

For pupils who are struggling at home, as they have longer exposure to family struggles.

For pupils whose depression has deepened with a loss of routine or their mental health has been compromised, as they have felt lonely and isolated.

For pupils worried about the health and safety of their key worker parents/other family members, and their lack of PPE.

For pupils who have felt frightened as they've heard death tolls on the news.

For pupils coping with grief or bereavement.

For pupils who have been disappointed about holidays and sporting fixtures that have been cancelled or postponed.

For pupils struggling to learn at home.

For pupils whose addictions/unhelpful behaviours have been exacerbated by lockdown.

For pupils who have found navigating social media in lockdown hard – who maybe have been bullied, pressurised or groomed.

For pupils and families that have found it hard to regulate their feelings and frustrations.

For pupils who now view the world differently - it is no longer a safe place.

Father, we place them all into your hands. Amen



# Reflections

## SONNET

(April is the cruellest month.....TS Eliot, The Waste Land (1922))

In Covid's cruel times the months expand.  
Now paschal moon shines brightly; full of light.  
The days draw on as death's grim figures land  
on graphs, to climb and etch out dark end's plight.

That lunar growth on Easter's risen grain  
now wanes and lessens, cools and curves concave  
to hide its show. Let Christ's own glory reign  
and bear corona's deadly crown to save.

Oh, stem the fall of lives before their time!  
Oh, drain the poison from the drowning lung!  
Breathe health, speak peace, assuage the rolling  
tide  
of anguished grief, lone cries from old and young.

Teach us your ways, O Lord. Raise us with you  
on healing wings that we may sing anew.

Hilary Benson  
April 2020

I think God will refresh the church

I think God will make a new start

All the weary, sluggish back story

Will become a new song

One of worship, dancing, singing, love

God saw the brokenness in the church

God saw the tears

God saw the unsatisfied

God saw the longed for

God saw the emptiness

And then as we reeled from this 'lock-down'

We became isolated

And vulnerable

Feared illness and death

Worried about money

But, this opened our eyes to those who were already reeling

And those who were always in lock-down

We became vulnerable

So we were alongside those who will remain vulnerable

We caught a glimpse of what it is like to fear illness and death  
daily

And be worried about money constantly

I knew I needed to be refreshed

I knew I needed a new start

The struggle of my worship effort

The recognition of my lacking prayer life

The ignorance of my unfulfilled spirit

Will become a new song

One of commitment, obedience and fire

God stepped in

God stepped up

We have had our eyes opened

Our hearts are unlocked

Our spirits released

A spirit of fire

Let us get ready!

I think God will refresh the church

I think God will make a new start

All the weary, sluggish back story

Will become a new song

One of worship, dancing, singing, love

Rev Liz England May 2020

Team Rector of Buxton

# In His Hands

Below is a story which might offer some encouragement to all who have concerns that, as a church, they may not be doing enough:

In the early twentieth century, the great missionary James Fraser began to preach the Gospel to the Chinese villagers of Lisuland, in the foothills of the Himalayas. In the Winter when the snow came James Fraser found himself unable to reach his converts in the most mountainous areas. James worked out that it would take a round trip of 5 days to travel up into the mountains to spend one Sunday service with them. He felt the Lord lead him to ask "What would happen if I decided to spend the time that I would have spent gathering with these Lisu people praying for them instead?" So James prayed continuously for three to five days for each of the highland villages instead of visiting them. Then, once the spring sun had melted the snow, he climbed the mountains to discover what had happened.

James Fraser discovered that his converts in the highland villages had prospered during the winter months in which he had found himself unable to gather them together. In fact, as he met with them to hear about their winter Bible reading and their isolated prayer times, he came to the remarkable conclusion that his converts in the highlands of Lisuland had grown far more during the winter than his converts in the lowlands - the converts that he had been busy visiting and gathering all winter long. James Fraser never knew the full results of his prayer experiment. Many missiologists trace back the enormous revival that has swept through China in the past fifty years to the revival that began amongst the highlanders of Lisuland during the winters when he stayed at home and prayed.

God bless,

Rev'd Nick Gurney, Dinting Vale

# Pray a Blessing over the UK

Such a powerful statement, click on the link below to watch



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUtl3mNj5U>