

Celebrating *faith* & *life* in Kent



THE
CHURCH
HAS LEFT
THE
BUILDING

YOUR INVITATION TO GO DEEPER

A word from Bishop Rose

Dear sisters and brothers,

Consider this your invitation to a deeper spiritual conversation this Autumn. The Coronavirus has had a terrible effect on our communities, on our nation, our world and on those most vulnerable in our society. It has also brought into sharper focus God's call on his Church to be a beacon of hope in dark times.

This period has presented us with the opportunity - the necessity, in fact - to stop 'life as normal' and spend time intentionally seeking God as a diocesan family, asking for his guidance for the next stage of our life together. It has been a 'kairos moment' (Kairos in the New Testament means 'the appointed time in the purpose of God') of learning for us in which we are seeing even more clearly than before, that the foundation of our life and ministry is God's loving and saving movement in the world.

We must not lose this moment. So I am inviting you - the individuals, young people, families and church communities of our diocese - to join me this autumn in engaging people in a prayerful conversation around three questions:

- **What are we noticing...**
of God's movement at this difficult time?
- **What are we learning...**
as we reflect on how God seems to be moving?
- **What might we let go of or allow to die...**
so that we may enter a new future with God?



I am hugely grateful to our wonderful Mission & Ministry, Communities & Partnerships and Children & Young People's teams who have worked hard to produce a range of resources to help us all to consider these questions, listening to God and to one another.

Please join the conversation, make use of the resources, and be creative in how you engage with these questions. Most of all, please tell us what you are hearing, tell us what you are learning, so that together we can shape our future life as a diocesan family together.

Thank you - be assured of my prayers for you all as we seek God afresh this Autumn,

+ Rose

Access all the resources online at
www.canterburydiocese.org/listening

EDITORIAL

Issue 43 - Summer 2020

Have you missed us?

We're so sorry that it's taken so long to get a fresh edition of Outlook to you. When the pandemic struck we had to completely rethink our plans for the magazine - as well as make time for all the other knotty communications issues caused by COVID-19. But it's good to be back - albeit in a digital-only format, for now.

Like many people during this period, I've been pondering whether we've found our fabled 'new normal' yet. It doesn't feel like it to me - and we know that more change lies ahead, depending on how the Government seeks to tackle both the virus and our looming economic crisis. I wonder if, instead of focusing on the 'new normal', in a time of so many speedy transitions it might be better for us to settle for the 'next normal'? To recognise that where we are is not where we're going to stay for long, but to seek to make the most of it and to meet God in that place.

I pray that, however unsettling these times may be, we would continue to seek God in all that we do - and to be blessed by his company on the road. This edition explores how many people have been doing just that - and offers insights and invitations that hopefully will aid you and your church community to go deeper with God this autumn.

Whatever your current 'normal' looks like, may you know Christ's peace and companionship now and always,



Anna Drew | Outlook Editor

Contact the editorial team

Outlook is the quarterly magazine for the Diocese of Canterbury.

Editor: Anna Drew | adrew@diocant.org

Sub-editors: Nadine Miller & Marilyn Shrimpton | nmiller@diocant.org / mshrimpton@diocant.org

Canterbury Diocese, Diocesan House, Lady Wootton's Green, Canterbury
CT1 1NQ Tel: 01227 459401

The editor and team welcome

submissions for Outlook magazine - do get in touch using the details on the left.

For advertising enquiries please contact Sandra Heyworth | 07747 116 875 / sandra.heyworth@hotmail.co.uk

The next edition will be published in November.

Feedback: We welcome your comments: communications@diocant.org

CONTENTS

NEWS

- 4 Headlines
News from across our diocese

FEATURES & VOICES

- 2 Your invitation to go deeper
Bishop Rose
- 8 Eanswyth found
The unearthing of a Saxon saint
- 10 Our new reality?
Reflections on faith & life during a pandemic
- 14 Life in Lockdown
Reflections from our Cathedral community
- 16 Called beyond
The interview: John-Francis Friendship
- 18 We are family
Our digital Day of Prayer & Pilgrimage
- 20 Interruptable disruptable
Lyndall Bywater

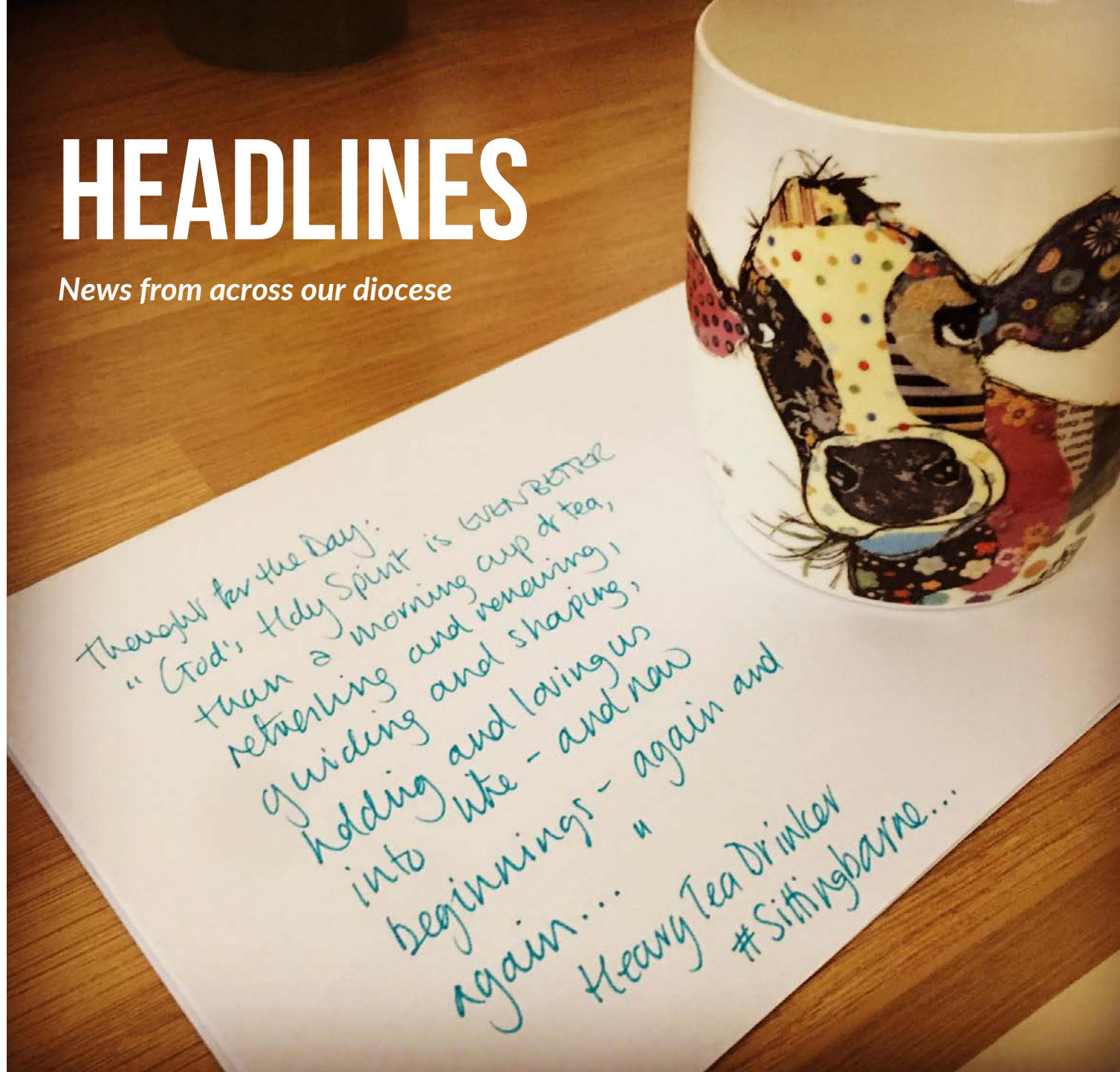
- 21 Boundless grace
Generosity & The Bible

RESOURCES & EVENTS

- 9 Shining a different light?
Christingle in 2020
- 22 Things to do online
Autumn 2020
- 24 Prayer

HEADLINES

News from across our diocese



DAY OF PRAYER AND PILGRIMAGE

Our Thy Kingdom Come Novena theme was 'Listening on the Way' and, before the Coronavirus pandemic struck, there were big plans for a Diocesan Day of Prayer and Pilgrimage, culminating in pilgrimages from each of our archdeaconries, meeting together at Canterbury Cathedral. In March it became clear that our plans would have to be completely revised in light of the risks and legislation related to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Instead of walking and worshipping together physically, we went online, with a fully digital Day of Prayer and Pilgrimage. Over 24 hours on the last weekend of May, we journeyed together in a specially-devised pilgrimage through everyday objects, with video reflections from each of our deaneries as we took part part in a pilgrimage around our own homes, yet all together. Find out more on page 18.



NEW DIOCESAN AMBASSADOR

Revd Dr Emma Pennington, Canon Missioner, has been formally commissioned by Bishop Rose as the Diocesan Ambassador for The Children's Society in the Diocese of Canterbury.

The role highlights and furthers the valuable work of The Children's Society with vulnerable young people and children within our communities.



REFUGEE WEEK 2020

Together with Canterbury Cathedral, Canterbury Diocese hosted a webinar for Refugee Week 2020, Imagine: Furthering the Church Response to Refugee Issues. Participants heard about the work taking place across the diocese, the country and the world and explored what more should be done. If you missed the live event, you can catch it again online at www.canterburydiocese.org/refugee-week



ALL SOULS' CELEBRATION

In February Bishop Rose preached and celebrated at the special service to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the consecration of All Souls' Church in Cheriton.

All Souls' School opened the service in song and hymns were included that were sung at the Centenary of the Consecration Service in 1995.

UNIVERSITY OF CHICHESTER

CELEBRATING 180 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

ENHANCE YOUR MINISTERIAL PRACTICE

Our MA in Christian Ministry is specifically designed to enrich your ministerial practice and develop your theological skills. We offer an affordable qualification which builds upon your experience and practice.

For more information contact Graeme Smith at g.smith@chi.ac.uk
chi.ac.uk/ma-christian-ministry

CATHEDRAL OPENS ITS DOORS

The first Eucharist at Canterbury Cathedral since lockdown measures were eased was led by Archbishop Justin Welby on Sunday 5 July. Due to Coronavirus restrictions, there could be no singing and social distancing measures and protective equipment were in use. However, Archbishop Justin commented how unique the occasion was: "Many emotions for us all this morning at the first Eucharist at Canterbury Cathedral since lockdown. Joy, sorrow, lament and - ultimately - the unshakeable hope we have in Jesus Christ."



Receiving online donations

A selection of free one-hour webinars for churches, covering setting up and receiving online donations, encouraging online donations, communicating with your community, as well as providing an opportunity to ask questions which will be answered live.

Go to www.churchofengland.org
and search 'Labs Learning webinars'



ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL

To celebrate the Season of Creation, which began on Tuesday 1 September, Canterbury Diocese is launching 'All Things Bright & Beautiful' - a new monthly digest of environmental news, blogs, campaigns, hints, tips and encouragement. Sign up online at www.canterburydiocese.org/environment

Diocesan Environmental Officer Teresa Redfern said: "We hope to show a fantastic mix of things that are happening, recent news (local to global), and things to do. We really can make a difference and we will be sharing ways in which we can all make this happen!"



WELCOME REVD JON MARLOW

Our new Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Vocations Officer, Revd Jon Marlow, will be joining us in October.

Revd Jon said "I am looking forward to moving from Devon to Kent to join the team in Canterbury, partly because I recently got a new personal-best for a 10 kilometre run on your flat streets, but more so because we are entering a new phase of church life living alongside COVID-19. At this time, collaborate ministry between all the people of God is more important than ever and the work of the vocations team is crucial in this."



CastlesTM
of Kent
Deal, Kent CT14 9PZ
www.castlesremovals.co.uk
info@castlesremovals.co.uk

- Removals
- Storage
- Shipping
- Self-storage units



plus **SECURITY SHREDDING SERVICE**

Prevent fraud and securely destroy ...

utility bills • credit card statements
bank statements • old credit cards
cheque book stubs • back-up cds


Shredders to Private and Commercial Customers




CastlesTM
SECURITY SHREDDING

Castles and the castle logo are trademarksTM of Castle Ltd


www.castlesremovals.co.uk 01304 373251
Deal Business Park, Southwall Road, Deal CT14 9PZ




We produce excellent sound using quality equipment and experienced engineers



Church Sound Systems



Schools Sound Systems



Restaurant Sound Systems

Old Barn Audio Ltd is a professional Sound Installation and Hire Company based in Kent. Our audio installation work has covered many aspects of the audio spectrum and we have supplied and installed many loop and public address systems in over 250 churches throughout Kent.

Call 01892 752246 for a FREE quote

BOSE PRO PARTNER
Better sound through researchSM

Unit 6, Sham Farm Business Units,
ErIDGE Green, Tunbridge Wells,
Kent TN3 9JA

M
MARTIN AUDIO
EST. 1977

UK Sub-Distributors for
Martin Audio range

www.oldbarnaudio.co.uk

EANSWYTHE FOUND

Late one Friday evening, back in March...



In March this year, Kent archaeological and history experts, working with Queen's University in Belfast, confirmed that human remains kept in a Church in Folkestone are almost certainly those of St. Eanswythe. The bones are thought to be the earliest verified remains of an English saint – and the only current verified remains of the Kentish royal dynasty.

Eanswythe is the Patron Saint of Folkestone. She was an Anglo-Saxon, Kentish Royal Saint and granddaughter of Ethelbert, the first English king to convert to Christianity under Augustine. St. Eanswythe is believed to have founded one of the earliest monastic communities in England, most likely around AD 660 on the Bayle - the overlooked historic centre of Folkestone.

These relics mark the period that saw the very beginning of Christianity in England - and signify a continuous Christian witness in Folkestone that stretches from her life to the present day. Eanswythe's remains might well have been destroyed in the Reformation (along

with those of her contemporaries), had they not been hidden away in the north wall of the Church of St. Mary & St. Eanswythe, where they were discovered in 1885.

The project was made possible thanks to funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and represents a conjunction of two projects:

- The Finding Eanswythe Project - which conducted the archival research and secured the church legislation to allow the moving and examination of the relics, led by Canterbury Christ Church University
- Folkestone Museum's work on the Anglo-Saxon period in preparation for a series of events for British Science Week

The Revd Dr Lesley Hardy, Director of the Finding Eanswythe project said: "As you walk through the streets of Folkestone, you are walking, layer upon layer, over ancient history that is now largely hidden from view. Finding Eanswythe was about bringing that forgotten history back to the surface."

www.findingeanswythe.uk



SHINING A DIFFERENT LIGHT IN 2020?

Christingle raises around one million pounds a year for The Children's Society to support this country's most vulnerable children and young people. It's one of the most popular services of the year, enjoyed by both children and adults alike. Due to the pandemic and with such uncertain times ahead, The Children's Society has started looking towards Christingle 2020 and how they might do things a bit differently.

While discussions are still happening, the Society can share some plans for this year, should Christingle need to happen online:

- They'll be creating bags for Christingle organisers and volunteers to pack Christingles, either for delivery to households or to be collected locally
- Incorporating a 'Christingle scavenger hunt' activity into the order of service. Those without Christingles in their home can be invited to hunt for something in their homes that represents each component of the Christingle
- They hope to provide a solution which enables people to donate directly to The Children's Society through virtual services, but still enables churches and communities to see their own personalised fundraising target and total
- There are plans to offer recorded content for use during online services
- The 'Register your Christingle' and 'Find a Christingle' features on their website will be adapted so that Christingle organisers can share details of their online services
- A range of adaptable Christingle resources will ensure that everyone can celebrate in a safe way this year

These new resources will be launched by the Society in September - keep your eyes peeled for more information. There is also a special Facebook forum for Christingle organisers which you can join at www.facebook.com/groups/Christingle

For more information or any further questions, please contact Jonathan Mann via 07725639446 or jonathan.mann@childrenssociety.org.uk

OUR NEW REALITY?

Reflections on faith and life during a pandemic

RE In a rural parish with six churches and villages, how do we stay connected when our buildings are closed and our usual ways of meeting and engaging with our communities have had to stop? How do we carry on being 'the Church' when all the ways we are used to being and doing church are suddenly gone?

Looking back, it's felt a bit like swimming against a torrent of reasons to give up, go home, and join my teenagers on TikTok... but instead I feel we found a way to feel rooted in our fellowship, faith and community - in spite of all that the pandemic has swept away.

I recall Mothering Sunday - posies of flowers had been donated to be given out in our services and these could have suddenly gone to waste with the churches closed. Yet our faithful volunteers delivered them to the doorsteps of mums, aunts and grannies in the village, and bunches were available to collect from the Church.

Whilst church buildings were still open, I began to live-stream morning and evening prayer on our Facebook Page from church and delighted in seeing who (virtually) turned up.



So, when worship services were no longer permitted, I used the same approach to stream a service live from an empty church - and our 'virtual church' was born. Our online services have viewing figures in the many hundreds and will definitely be a feature of our new worship pattern going forwards beyond the pandemic.

Having streamed a service live from the church, when the Prime Minister subsequently declared our church doors were to be locked, it was a natural next step to go 'Live from the Rectory.' The Rectory garden in the



spring sunshine and birdsong was a peaceful backdrop - well, usually. There was much amusement at the video-bombing pheasant (nicknamed 'Bert' by our online congregation). Bert was particularly good at timing his responses to the liturgy! The Rectory became a substitute church - as well as a home, a school, and sports field. My daughter was also promoted to Verger, Reader and candle-lighter-in-chief.

Holiday Club, 'Party Church' and 'Breakfast Church' all moved online, and so did post-service coffee via the video conferencing software Zoom. Those who can't access online worship can join Sunday worship by phoning in. Phone calls also helped us to keep in touch, with our more vulnerable parishioners. We continued to connect with our schools through YouTube videos of stories from the Rectory and by the Open the Book Team - recorded outside when restrictions permitted. We supported our communities by providing food parcels and essential items to families in need from generous donations.

I can see that in the Stour Downs there is now a wider appreciation and understanding of how the church is not a mere building, but the people of God, connected in faith. As a parish the re-imagining of how we worship has given us plenty of food for thought!



Rev Chris Denyer,
Priest-in-Charge, Stour Downs Parish



Sunday 22 March will be a day that I will always remember. We were still in Lent, looking forward to Mothering Sunday, Holy Week and Easter. Lots of celebrating to

be had in those few short weeks, but less than 24

hours later we all watched the Prime Minister telling us to stay at home.

We all knew it was coming, but somehow it was still a shock, and all

of a sudden we were thrust into a new way of living, a new reality had come upon us and we didn't have any time to prepare - it just happened.

On Tuesday 24 March my diary completely emptied - but I remember that whole week was frantically busy as the realisation dawned on all of us that - as people who had the 'care of souls' in our churches and community - we needed not only to provide something for Sunday, but also ongoing pastoral care in its many guises. Very quickly, we had to adapt to new ways of working, making decisions carefully but quickly. It was a great week - we achieved so much in such a short space of time. The PCC and churchwardens were just incredible, they were so supportive and endorsed all I wanted to do and seek to achieve with our online services, provision for children and young people, pastoral care and community engagement.

It was a good transition, the only downside being not seeing friends, and meeting as a church family - praise God for Zoom! We weren't sure what the future was going to hold, but we took a hold of God's hand and we

stepped boldly forward and invited a miracle, and many came!

We also discovered that all of our community partnerships came into their own. Partnering with local community groups to provide services to families continues to be a blessing. One of my favourite projects has been working with the Prince of Wales Youth Club in providing and delivering over 1,500 lunches to families in and around Canterbury over 18 weeks. We're still doing this project, and hope to continue over the summer holidays. It's been great getting to know the team and I hope for greater collaboration in the future.

My other favourite thing over lockdown is our 'Moment of the Week'. Members of the church sent in photographs of their daily lives which would be combined to form a video for our pre-recorded Sunday service - they brought great joy, laughter and a reminder of God's goodness to us.

Lockdown has changed me and my church family. My health has improved - having become a vegetarian, lost two stone, and started running again - but it has also made me more aware of God's goodness and provision to the Church. We have remained connected, we have continued to worship and serve our community in creative ways, and we have all participated. The people of God have been released and I have seen people do things they never dreamed of doing before. We must not lose this as we go forward. We have re-opened our church, it was a great celebration and we look forward to what God is going to do next.



Revd Phil Greig

Priest-in-Charge, All Saints Canterbury



During lockdown our online weekly services have been amazing in their production and connection. They're also produced as DVDs and delivered weekly in the Benefice to those who can't access YouTube, together with a monthly Benefice newsletter, created specially for the congregation and new contacts across our community. We circulate it to around 250 people by email and through letterboxes.

We found being socially distanced on the doorstep was equally as important - if not more so - than the newsletters and DVDs



themselves. We're so grateful to God for this opportunity and pray that we take this learning with us into the future. People are facing so many different situations in this strange time – and we've seen so many funerals take place in the Benefice. Revd Simon Rowlands has adjusted so well to this new and demanding situation, showing such love and care for those families affected.

On one hand, we are seeing how people are being affected by mental health problems and so much loneliness. On the other hand there has been such great joy in being made to slow down, hearing the birds sing and seeing changes in God's wonderful creation. We have a new found strength in the midst of all this difficulty, binding us together - we pray that God strengthens these bonds.

We have used every conceivable way we could think of to stay connected. Zoom for everything - Zoom home group, Zoom coffee, Zoom PCC, Zoom churchwardens meetings! Not to mention Facebook (where the number of our subscribers has quadrupled for some parts of our Benefice), emails, phone calls, DVDs, and a Church family

"Church is where the people are!"

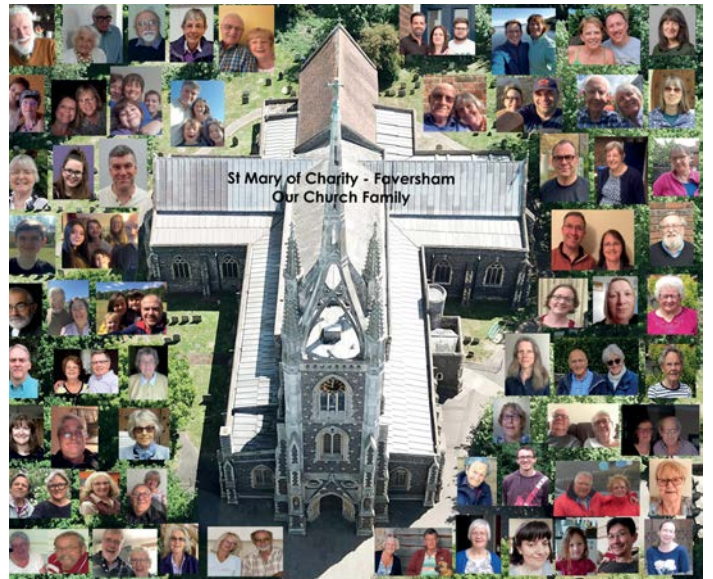


photo idea (above), which took off and became an expression of connectedness, pastoral care and mission in itself. We have approached this as a true opportunity - and we've learnt so many lessons along the way. One of the greatest is that *Church is where the people are!*

We've also stayed true to our identity as a very 'vocal' community. We might not be able to sing together in person, but we've built on the amazing work of Revd Dan Corcoran in creating community singalongs.

Right from the beginning of lockdown, the people of Faversham Benefice have been invited to sing at 6pm every night, connected together online. It has been so wonderful to enjoy singing with one another - and even with people from across the country.

No matter how few or how many, we joined in on Zoom and always found ourselves encouraged by Dan's cheery face and uplifting words. As time has moved on we still make time for this every Tuesday evening.



Miranda Ford
Churchwarden, St Mary of Charity,
Faversham Benefice
Lay Chair, Ospringe Deanery



Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is: develop a service for whoever will hear it.
Helping those isolating in lounges, kitchens, gardens or beds worship God: Father, Son and Spirit.
A service online enabling praise and worship, thanksgiving, confession, adoration,
Teaching, discipleship, intercession, lament, fellowship and Eucharistic consecration.

So quickly create your “Studio One” with cameras, lighting and microphone boom.
Choose pre-recorded, live, Facebook, YouTube, Teams, or like the Muppets on Zoom.
Use an auto-cue or bits of paper stuck to the wall to teach about the Kingdom of Heaven;
Beware, it doesn’t take much - the phone, the dog, the doorbell - before yelling, “Take 27!”

In church buildings services tend to have quite different liturgical styles;
Therefore keep in mind the word “accessible” when creating mp4 service video files.
Keep people’s attention but don’t reduce worship to soundbites. When watching online, people could -
Click on those icons they’ll now want in their buildings: you know, *Skip, Stop. Mute and Fast-Forward.*

Remember some prefer their God-time like Radio3 (or ClassicFM without jingles, ads, news, traffic and weather).
Some like it more Radio1 or Radio2 and some aren’t bothered how they worship together.
Include some Wesley, Crosby, Newton, Watts, Byrd - and others Christian history has seen,
Some Kendrick, Farrell, Townend, Redman, Rizza: God loves it all - and everything in between.

Include liturgy, modern and traditional, don’t forget Easter and Ascension.
An easily-read typeface will aid joining in, and will honour God’s Kingdom’s all-age dimension.
Don’t miss chances to discover afresh God’s not far from any of us: he’s near -
Always at his work, true to his Emmanuel name and nature with his most frequent commandment
“don’t fear”

Keep your hearts open to fresh mission and ministry: notice fresh engagement with God on the ‘net.
Is this really just temporary till we’re back in our buildings? Record the missional learning! Don’t forget!
As the editing hours tick by cutting footage, adjusting volume, syncing words, rendering through.
To all who’ve played, sung, read, prayed, made craft, delivered DVDs etc: a very big “THANKYOU!”

It’s for God - the Audience Of One - the One to whom our worship flows
Through services, fresh expressions, phone calls, foodbanks, prayer, assemblies
- his kingdom grows -
through loving one another, forgiveness, justice, joy - flavours of God’s
plans for creation;
Lockdown mission online, on the phone, in person still
proclaims God’s wondrous Salvation.




Dan Corcoran
Mission Priest,
Faversham Benefice

LIFE IN LOCKDOWN

Reflections, written in May 2020, from our Cathedral community

Caroline Plaisted
Friends Secretary:

 We have about 3,500 Friends all over Kent and the world and we are a busy community used to enjoying at least two events together each month. So it was with a very sad heart that on 17 March I put a 'Closed' sign on the Friends' Office door before saying farewell to my assistant, Charlotte. With no idea how long it would be before we could return, I had to think of a way that we could quickly adapt to maintain our Friendly community spirit.

On Friday 21 March, I sent out our first FRIENDly Friday Newsletter to members in central Canterbury. The following week, thanks to some hard work on Charlotte's part, our contacts list was complete and the newsletter was sent to every Friend we have an email address for across the world. Not wishing to miss our Easter coffee morning (and with the help of our Vesturer, the Precentor, the Head of Stained Glass, and our Head Gardener), I emailed out invitations to our Virtual Coffee Morning and Cathedral Quiz.

The FRIENDly Friday Newsletter contains news about our worship, the Cathedral, quizzes, armchair culture, a weekly city break (no passport required!), useful information, musical links, silly films, and a whole host of random ideas for passing the time and keeping in touch with the Cathedral and the world.

We have also enjoyed an online talk from our Precentor, and singing sessions as part of our



FRIENDly Music for Wellbeing project that we launched in January for the elderly and their carers.

The response and warm feedback from Friends about all of our virtual activity has been incredible. In some ways, going 'virtual' has meant that our Friends' community has grown even closer.

But I am sure that I am not alone in looking forward to the day when we can all meet together again in our Cathedral and sing the hymn written by the Dean for our 90th anniversary in 2017. As the first verse says,

'When life in all its fullness brings
A joy which never ends
We know its source in him who says
That he has called us Friends.'



Chris Crooks

Head Virger:



My work allows me to do some of it from home, but I still need to regularly check the building and its contents. It's usually only closed for a few hours over night, but in March suddenly the heating was turned off, the doors were locked, and the contents of the church - books, textiles, vestments, paintings, bells, organs - all previously in regular, sometimes daily, use - were suddenly shut-up in drawers and cupboards, silenced, and without the vigilance of colleagues to keep a watchful eye on them.

During the strictest lockdown measures, part of my week was therefore spent checking chapels, altars, vestments, vestries, paintings, flags, furniture and equipment for signs of mould (one outbreak so far), moths (two outbreaks), bodies (one large rat and three dead birds, the cast-offs of the Peregrines, whose table manners leave a lot to be desired)!

However, while the church buildings were closed, the Church certainly was not; worship was still being offered, streamed daily on the Cathedral website - and continues to be offered, even though some Coronavirus restrictions have been lifted. Many of the services needed some rather specific 'props' and so I had the new job of collecting liturgical items and delivering them to clergy houses around the precincts in time for their live-streamed liturgy.

Another part of my daily work is that of coordinating the list of names of those who are sick, and sadly those of our community who have died, so that the clergy have the most up-to-date information when they pray at home. The online services have certainly been popular, attracting large viewing figures, and the clergy have enthusiastically taken to this new way of offering visible forms of worship whilst observing social distancing!



Cressida Williams

Head of Archives & Library



My role in the Cathedral's Archives and Library is a combination of working hands-on with historic collections and interacting with members of the public in the Reading Room. Thus, lockdown and working from home meant a complete change of tack. During those weeks there was a regular flow of enquiries from members of the public with requests for information. In a few cases there has been an expectation that all of our collections would be available online - but with well over a kilometre of shelving in the Archives and over 50,000 printed books, we're a long way off that.

We are a close team and have maintained a WhatsApp group and a weekly Zoom coffee break and quiz. The WhatsApp group has a name which reflects the fact that we don't always talk about work matters: 'Becket's Biscuit Club'.



Chris Pascall

Head of Visitor Engagement



Trying to remember that my world doesn't begin and end at my laptop and dining room, learning to use new technology to keep meaningful contact with the people in my care, doing my best to keep inspire unity and confidence in a fragile environment... lockdown has presented many challenges, especially that of building a meaningful relationship with the hardware that we've become so reliant on!

We are developing innovative ways to communicate and take pleasure in responses from strangers and friends alike as they, too, buy in to this brave new world. We have forged new relationships whilst maintaining the old, we have learnt to communicate in ways we never thought of. You can't replace close human interaction but we are finding ways to move forward until it returns.



CALLED BEYOND

Interview: John-Francis Friendship

Who is God? A simple question perhaps, a question fundamental to issues of faith and life and self-understanding. Yet it's not a question we ask very often – perhaps it's more comfortable, less complicated to leave it unexplored. Christians often recite the Creed, saying 'I believe in God the Father, Creator of Heaven and Earth'...but how often do we explore what that really means?

For author and priest John-Francis Friendship, who has based his latest book about faith on the statements of the Creed, "Who is God?" is a tantalising question. And he got some interesting responses when he asked people to share their answers with him. "Perfect love", one said. Another: "A non-existent higher being." The answers came thick and fast: "Light in the darkness", "an ocean of love", "creator", "hope", "a wonderful compassionate mysterious being, holding me in love"...

"Wonderful, isn't it?!" he exclaims at the variety and passion of the answers.

The wonderfully named John-Francis Friendship is an Anglican priest, experienced spiritual director and retreat conductor. Having initially worked in the insurance industry, he became a Brother of the Society of St Francis, an Anglican religious order founded on the spiritual teachings and life of St Francis of



Assisi. He was a member of the order for 25 years and his writing and priestly ministry are marked by the order's commitment to compassion, prayer and a deep spirituality. And if he was asked to respond succinctly to the same question? "Oh don't ask me that, it's not

fair!" he jokes, before thoughtfully responding, "I think that God is that ultimate mystery, beyond which there is nothing more to know. And so, for me, God is that which calls me constantly beyond my own limits into that love and light which brought into being Creation. God is that which I feel called to seek. It's not a he or a she or a father or a mother even... all those are metaphors."

John-Francis' latest book, *The Mystery of Faith*, uses the Creed – the statement of beliefs shared by Christians the world over – as a basis for exploring and communicating what Christian faith is all about.

In part, the book is a response to what he calls 'the McDonaldisation of the Church,' alluding to a kind of spoon-fed, shallow Christianity that seeks primarily to cater for people's tastes, at the risk of losing its rootedness in the Tradition

"God is that which calls me constantly beyond my own limits..."

of the faith. Such Christianity, he says, is easy to consume but can be dangerous in larger measures. Additionally, the book was also an opportunity for him to explore his long-held interest in evangelism and communicating the faith. "I've always felt there was a huge need to communicate just what the faith was about, in very straightforward terms," he says. "Not least, there are some things which are very well known and some things which are rather 'hiding in the shadows' and have slipped away. I would, as a parish priest, really have valued a book that in a simple way just explored what faith was about."

The *Mystery of Faith* is that book – exploring Christianity in an accessible way so that it's not just a theology book for scholars, but is suitable for people coming new to the faith, as well as lifelong pew-sitters. Since its publication in 2019, it has been used in faith development groups, confirmation courses and Lent groups and it's structured to include questions to stimulate reflection and discussion.

In writing the book, John-Francis found himself challenged afresh by lines of the Creed that we often skip over and take for granted. "Particularly when it comes to difficult questions about judgement and heaven and hell, I had to really seek to understand," he comments, "to ask how can I get a grasp on what it is we say we believe - and then trying to share that. The other big challenge was suffering, which I've long felt is a rather grey area that people find difficult to talk about – why a good God would allow suffering. So I spent quite a bit of time just working with that as well. So it was also a really interesting, exciting exercise for me."

He's been pleasantly surprised by the book's reception, finding a real appetite in everyday

Christians for exploring their faith afresh: "My experience was that people were really thirsty to grapple with what it is that they say they believe. One woman said to me – and she's not the first – 'I'm really excited by the bit I read, it's really been helpful.' So I hope it's doing what it says on the cover and that's exploring our Christian belief, which in the end is a mystery!"

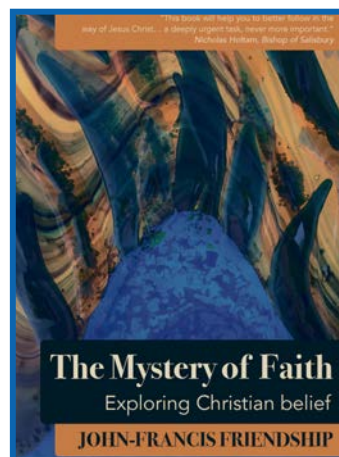
But how can you pin a mystery down between the covers of a book? John-Francis doesn't see the designation of aspects of the faith as

the designation of aspects of the faith as 'mystery' as some sort of get-out clause for those too lazy or cautious to examine their beliefs.

On the contrary, he says, "A mystery is something that seeks to be revealed, not just something which you can't actually understand."

He quotes St. Anselm of Canterbury, who said: "I do not seek to understand in order that I may believe, but I believe in order to understand," adding, "In exploring belief, I think it opens up the richness of our understanding. It's essentially revealing the wonderful complexity, the immense variety, the wonder of something which longs to be known."

"A mystery is something that seeks to be revealed, not just something which you can't actually understand."



The Mystery of Faith (RRP £12.99) is published by Canterbury Press



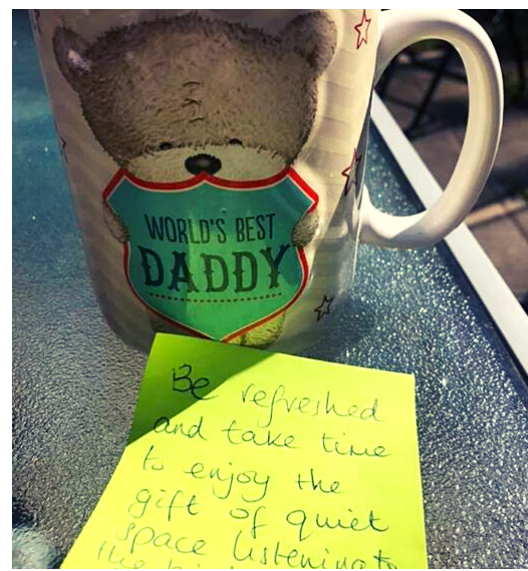
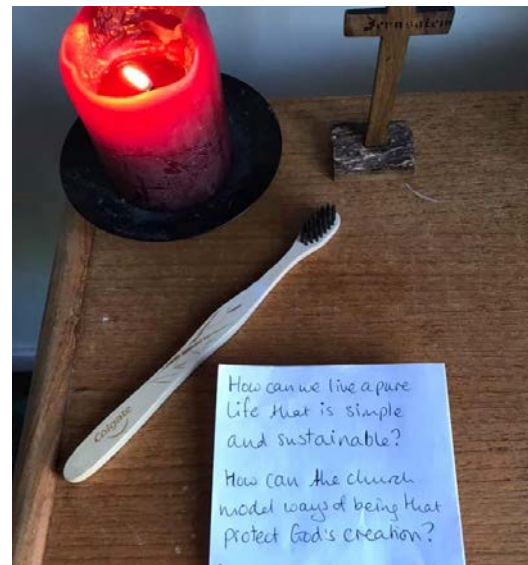
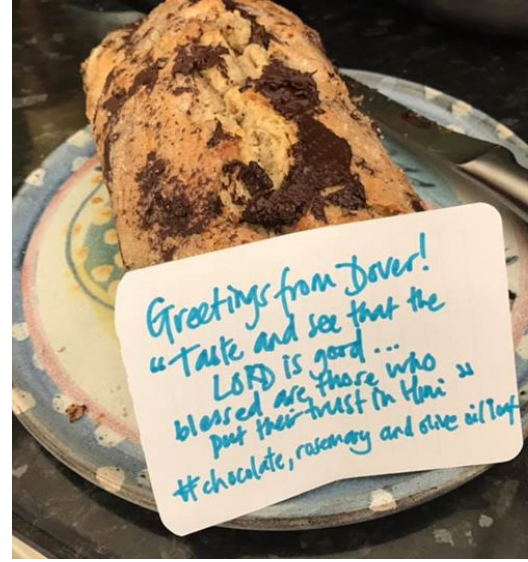
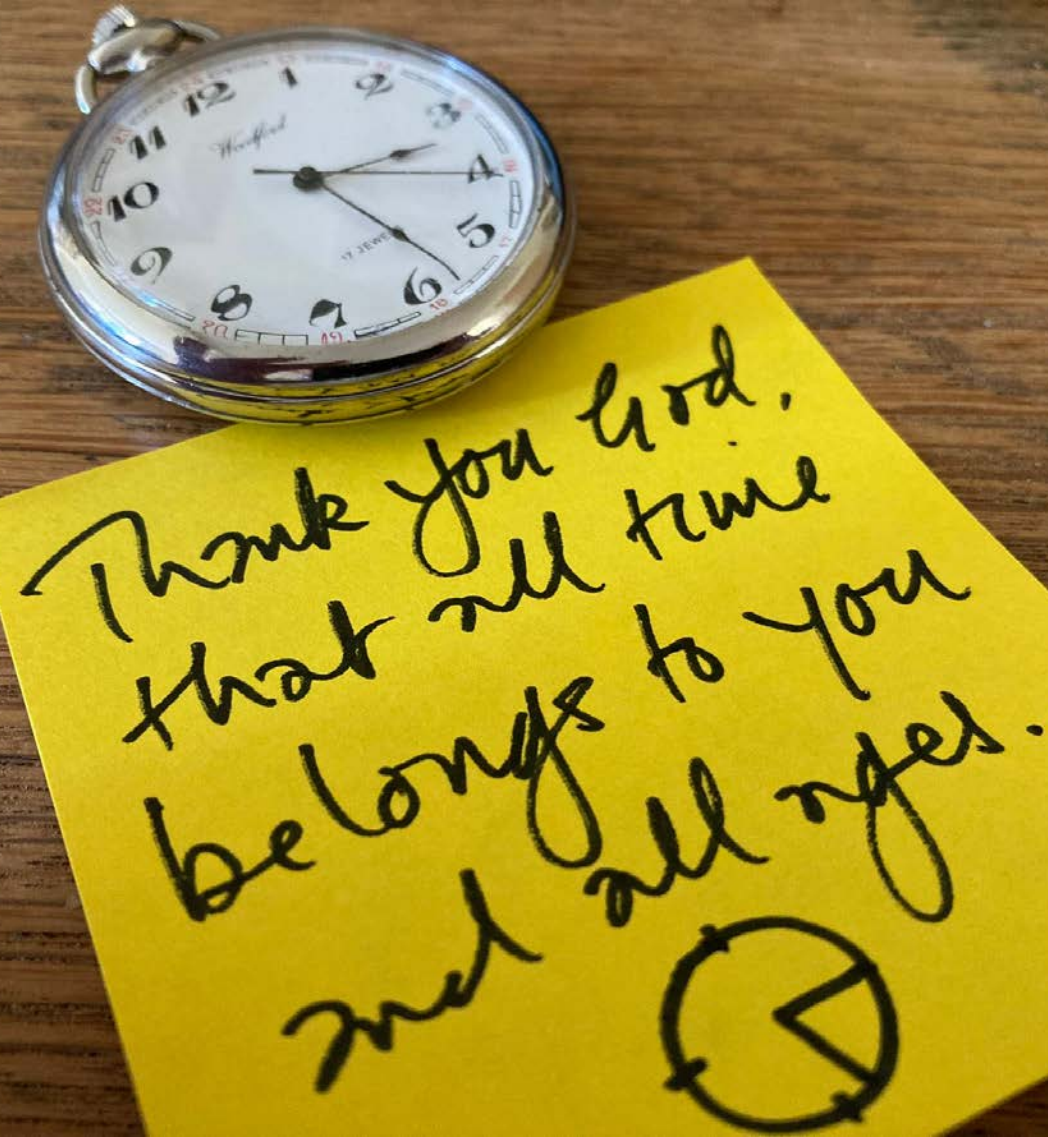
Our Day of Prayer & Pilgrimage re-imagined for lockdown

How, as a diocesan family, can we join together in prayer and pilgrimage to celebrate Pentecost in a time of pandemic? This was one of the earliest and biggest questions we had to face when the nation's lockdown became a reality in March, and when it stretched on into April and May... The answer, by coming together as a family of Christ online, with reflections from people across our deaneries, taking a 'virtual pilgrimage' together through household objects.

Across our diocese we were able to listen to one another and to God as we made the nine-day journey through our Thy Kingdom Come Novena resource which culminated in 24 hours of intentional prayer, beginning on the evening of Friday 29 May. In four one-hour sessions we joined people from each part of our diocese via Youtube as they made a pilgrimage through the home, reflecting on everyday objects and praying for God's guidance. The images on the next page show just some of the responses received from those who joined in - participating, praying, reflecting from their own homes.

Videos from the day, as well as written thoughts, prayers and reflections and our Novena resources are still available online at www.canterburydiocese.org/day-of-prayer-pilgrimage. As we continue our journey of listening and discerning on the way, may we once again thank everyone for taking part and sharing your talents, time and prayers with us all.

You can also continue the conversation this Autumn as we seek to hear and learn from God afresh - check out Bishop Rose's invitation on page two and find out more at www.canterburydiocese.org/listening





INTERRUPTABLE DISRUPTABLE

Our prayer journey continues...

As I sit here in my attic with my window open, the loudest sound I hear is the traffic on the Canterbury Ringroad. Four months ago, starting an article with a sentence like that would have been stating the obvious, but for the past 12 weeks, the birdsong has been far louder than the cars. In fact, when life first came to a halt, vast chunks of my day were interrupted by the beautiful strains of Blackbirds and Chaffinches, Songthrushes and Swifts.

Lockdown has been an interruption, but interruptions aren't always bad. Sometimes we need to be interrupted in order to hear clearly. For us, as for many others, lockdown has been a moment to get to know our neighbours – people we've lived beside for over a decade but whose stories and concerns we've never really stopped to hear. That hearing has changed the way we pray for our street. Others have heard the voice of creation: noticing the changes in the world which tell us how much healthier our planet could be if we exploited it less. That's a message we've needed to hear for generations, yet the background noise of our 'ordinary' lives has left many of us deaf to it.

And if the evidence of our Novena and Diocesan Day of Prayer and Pilgrimage is anything to go by, this interruption has left room for us to hear God in new ways, too. Sometimes that listening has been born of panic, seeking God's wisdom on the complex questions about how to 'do' life in this altered

reality - whatever the reason, many of us have found ourselves opening wide our spiritual ears.

If lockdown has been an interruption, it's also been a disruption. If you'd said to me four months ago that a whole nation would manage to come out on its doorsteps at 8pm every Thursday to clap, I'd have laughed. Yet COVID-19 has driven a bus through our timetables and our priorities. We've made room for things we think are important. Many have adopted the rhythm of gathering online for prayer, made time to phone one another more, new initiatives have sprung up to serve the most vulnerable in our communities... We've made time for things that matter, and perhaps have been able to let go of a few things that don't.

Being interruptable and disruptable are important spiritual disciplines. When life has us on a treadmill of busyness, our ears muffled by familiar preoccupations, it's not easy for the Spirit to catch our attention, let alone lead us somewhere new. Perhaps it says something about the spiritual health of the Church that it's taken a global pandemic to disrupt our patterns.

But how do we remain interruptable and disruptable when life gets noisier and busier again? What are the choices we need to make today, to ensure that we keep our ears open and our hearts hungry and responsive to the leading of the Holy Spirit?

Lyndall Bywater

Changing Lives Prayer Network Coordinator

BOUNDLESS GRACE

Liz Mullins reflects on the story of God's generosity in the Bible...

Our children are precious. We care for them and love them and don't stop worrying about them, even when they're grown up. When something goes wrong and a child is harmed we are, quite rightly, shocked and dismayed and want to right that wrong.

Our faith teaches us about a God who loves and cares for us so much that he gives us his only Son, so that we might live. This is a boundless generosity beyond our comprehension, and God's bounty is endless. All that we have ultimately comes from God - our world, our gifts, skills and resources - including our finances. The Bible is far from silent about what we should be doing with these gifts. It speaks frequently of generosity, money and possessions - more than 2,300 references in all.

The generosity of the Good Samaritan is a perfect example. Here was someone who owed nothing to the man he found on the side of the road, yet he gave his time and money to see that the injured man was safe and cared for. Or consider the feeding of the five thousand - how Jesus was able to turn the small gifts of a child into a satisfying feast. Or Zaccheus, who suddenly 'got it' and gave away half of all he had, in response to the compassion of Christ.

Some of Jesus pronouncements seem demanding. He says, "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me" (Matthew 19:21). We see in Acts how the early Church's determination to follow Christ led to a flourishing of their community: "All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any

had need" (Acts 2:16).

Billy Graham once described a cheque book as a 'theological document', saying that the way we use our money is the clearest indicator of what we worship and where our priorities lie. If God is important to us and if we truly seek to understand the nature of God's boundless generosity we inevitably will find ourselves challenged to take seriously this call to generosity in every part of our life - with our money, time, gifts and skills.

Part of the joy of my job is helping people to explore God's generosity and how they can creatively respond to that in their context. Many choose to give back to God through his Church, by offering their time and energy, but also by giving financially. Money is important in helping our churches to continue to flourish and serve our communities.

During the Coronavirus pandemic, like many charities, churches have found their usual sources of income disrupted - halls have not been available to hire and people have not been physically able to donate into collection plates. But I've been so encouraged by the creative ways in which churches have found new methods for people to donate and have embraced online giving.

Money is important for our churches - not because it is special in itself, but because it helps to enable our communities to meet and bless and serve one another in Christ's love. If your church needs help or encouragement in its stewardship, I would be delighted to hear from you.

Liz Mullins
Stewardship & Funding Adviser

WHAT'S ON THIS AUTUMN

The pandemic edition

1. BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT

A Quiet Day at The Living Well led by Roz Graham, Area Minister The Society of St. Francis. Cost £25, including lunch and refreshments. For information and to book, please contact the administrator on 01304 842847 or contact@the-living-well.org.uk.
Wednesday 16 September, 9am - 3pm, The Living Well, Nonington, CT15 4JT



2. SEEING IN DARKNESS

A Quiet Day at The Living Well led by Chris Chapman. Cost £25, including lunch and refreshments. For information and to book, please contact the administrator on 01304 842847 or contact@the-living-well.org.uk.
Monday 16 November, 10am - 4pm, The Living Well, Nonington, CT15 4JT

3. RIDE + STRIDE

Kent Ride & Stride is part of a national sponsored event in which people all over England walk or cycle between churches, exploring and enjoying towns, cities and the countryside, raising funds for historic places of worship.

Saturday 12 September, kentrideandstride.co.uk

4. COUNTY HARVEST

This year's County Harvest will be broadcast on Sunday 4 October across our social media channels. The pre-recorded service will be filmed at Brookland with Fairfield and will celebrate the work of the farming community throughout the pandemic and give thanks to those who have managed to get food on the tables for so many people.

Sunday 4 October, online at 5.30pm
[youtube.com/diocesefcanterbury](https://www.youtube.com/diocesefcanterbury)



5. RE-IMAGINING MINISTRY WITH OLDER PEOPLE

Learn from recent research on outreach to care homes during the pandemic. In partnership with Rochester Diocese, this online event will explore 'Anna Chaplaincy,' phone ministry, training information, FRIENDLY Singing and more. There will be presentations as well as opportunities to ask questions and share experience.

Wednesday 23 September, 5pm, register online at tinyurl.com/ministrywitholderpeople

6. ADMISSION AND LICENSING OF READERS

The annual Celebration of Reader Ministry service is usually held in Canterbury Cathedral but this year will take place online. A further celebration will be planned for a later date. For details please contact Nigel Collins (NCollins@diocant.org).

Sunday 20 September, 6.30pm, online

For more events visit canterburydiocese.org/events



7. GET CREATIVE

You have until Sunday 20 September to take part in the Catching Lives Arts Project. It's a competition for primary school children to design a poster on the theme 'Helping the Homeless'.

catchinglives.org/arts/schoolscompetition2020

8. ENVIRONMENT FORUM

This year's Environment Forum has evolved to become an online event featuring three workshops focusing on Eco Church, schools and our commitment to reach net-zero on carbon emissions. Dates have yet to be confirmed - email Karen Adams (KAdams@diocant.org) for details.

November - date to be confirmed, online

EST. 1869

Cleverley & Spencer

MONUMENTAL MASONS

Members of NAMM & BRAMM National Assoc. of Master Lettercarvers


**HAND CARVED INSCRIPTIONS
CLEANING & RESTORATION
INDIVIDUALLY DESIGNED MEMORIALS
ALL WORK GUARANTEED**



- Free brochures
- Home Visits
- 10 Year Guarantee
- Family Run Business
- Realistic Prices

Contact Ivor Spencer for friendly, helpful advice

Dover Workshop, Office & Showroom **01304 206379**
Ashford Showroom **01233 630600**
(Services also available in Sussex, London & Home Counties)
www.clevspen.co.uk • enquiry@clevspen.co.uk



UNIVERSITY OF CHICHESTER

CELEBRATING 180 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

ENHANCE YOUR MINISTERIAL PRACTICE

Our MA in Christian Ministry is specifically designed to enrich your ministerial practice and develop your theological skills. We offer an affordable qualification which builds upon your experience and practice.

For more information contact Graeme Smith at g.smith@chi.ac.uk
chi.ac.uk/ma-christian-ministry

PRAYER

Living God, whose voice brings creation to life,
Tune our hearts to receive your Word;
Open our eyes to notice your Spirit's action in our fields of
vision;
Renew our minds, that we might learn your ways.
Grant us grace to let go and courage to start anew,
As we bear witness to your Word within your wondrous
world.

Amen



Image: Journeying with God - Primrose Northrop, Watercolour 2020