Dear Friends

I hope you are all keeping well and managing during these strange days of lockdown. At least it gives us a good excuse to stay home and keep warm when we’ve had lots of snow flurries and showers. It has been so encouraging to hear how many people have had their first vaccine and that your experience has been positive of places being well-organised and people kind and friendly. This gives us something to cling on to – the hope that we have in Christ that things will improve and the darkness will not overcome us. I recently re-watched the film ‘The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel’ the mian character in that film has a saying that all will be well in the end and that if all is not well then it is not the end. We trust that God holds us through the ups and downs, the good days and the bad and that he promises us that all will be well in the end. As Julian of Norwich wrote, all will be well and all manner of things will be well.

This will be my last newsletter to you all. It has been a privilege to work with you and get to know you over the past four and a half years. I have enjoyed my time here and am grateful for the kindness that has been shown me. AS I leave, I am confident that you will all be ok, partly because I believe this is the right thing to do and therefore God is in this and will work for the good as his plans are to give us a future and a hope not to harm us. Also, I have been very impressed by the amazing team -work being shown by our PCCs and the number of people stepping up and taking responsibility for different aspects of church life.

You are all in my heart and in my thoughts and prayers as I prepare to leave.

**Party Invitation**

Since we can not meet face to face, I would like to invite anyone who is free and would to drop in to a coffee and cake morning on Friday 12th February when we can enjoy some social time together and chat before my leaving service that coming weekend. Everyone is warmly welcome to that too which is 11am on zoom on Sunday 14th February. We will use the zoom link that we have used for the last year for this event as it is my personal zoom room and we won’t need to disturb Natasha while she is working.

Once a date is arranged for my installation at the cathedral (probably after lockdown) I can let the wardens know and they will pass that information on to you so that anyone wanting to attend will be able to (whether that is in person or virtually).

**Shrove Tuesday**

**Loved beyond measure, to love without restraint… - Tuesday 16th February, Shrove Tuesday half day of prayer and reflection 9:30-12:30 on zoom.**

The struggles of recent weeks and months have shaken us all. Plans have been put on hold. Nearly everything has changed. We have learned to live from day to day. The crisis threatens everyone, confronting us with our vulnerability and mortality. How do we find our way through, and how are we to be faithful to Christ in these dark days? How are we to know the love of God and share that love with others in this time? At a deep level, can we cope?

Malcolm Macnaughton, Bishop Designate of Repton will be leading our morning of reflection, as together we seek to root the life we share as disciples in the love of God poured out for all in Jesus.  The morning will include brief addresses, worship, video interviews, meditation, candles of hope, violin music and optional creative activities, lent poems, individual exercises and group conversation. All are invited, everyone is welcome.

Please email halina.johnson@bishopofderby.org for access to the link.

**Ash Wednesday**

This year we are joining in with the service Bishop Libby is hosting from her chapel. More information will be available on the diocesan website about how to join in. Alternatively, there are livestreamed services from the cathedral and on the Church of England website and the A Church Near You general website that you can watch. Daily Hope are also offering a telephone service on 0800 804 8044

### ****Lent Hope****

As we continue to experience the restrictions of lockdown and enter Lent, we focus once more on the self-giving love of Christ. During this season, we turn to Christ in penitence and faith, seeking to build our own discipline and spiritual strength to enable us to love without restraint in a way that is life-giving  just as Christ loved us.

Between 18th February and 25th March, Bishop Libby and Bishop Designate Malcolm invite you to join them each week for an hour of prayer and reflection together based upon seasonal Bible passages and collects.

Lent Hope is open to all and will be held on Monday morning from 8am - 9am and repeated on Thursday evening from 8pm - 9pm. Do pass this invitation on.

 Please email halina.johnson@bishopofderby.org for the access link.

**Franciscan Prayer** – **10th March 9:30-1 with Simon Cocksedge.** This workshop is open to anyone and will help you explore the Franciscan model of prayer. For more information and to book contact nicky.fenton@derby.anglican.org

**Franciscan Creation Spirituality – 10th May 9:30-1 with Simon Cocksedge.** This workshop is open to everyone and will help you think about creation and your relationship to the world God has made through the eyes of the Franciscan spiritual tradition and disciplines. For more information and to book contact nicky.fenton@derby.anglican.org

**Concerns during the vacancy**

If you have concerns during the vacancy, the wardens are here to help and they are responsible for the life and worship of the church. The area dean and Acting Archdeacon are also available and the wardens can give you their contact details.

**Holy Trinity, Milford**

The Church Commissioners have now given us a date when Holy Trinity church Milford will formally close. That will be 1st March. Due to lockdown restrictions, it has been agreed that there will be the possibility of a final service later in the year once the restrictions have lessened and it is safer to gather together. Francine is the person who will be the lead contact with that and Bishop Libby will attend and oversee the service. Responsibility for pastoral care of the community will become the responsibility of Hazelwood PCC as the parishes join together and form a union and new parish.

**New Zoom Link for Worship from Sunday 7th onwards**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6941804688?pwd=dm9CdU8rL3JDVy9yaXRKQXRFaVBGUT09>

Meeting ID: 694 180 4688

Passcode: tash13

My with ongoing prayers and best wishes and gratitude to God for the time I have spent with you

Nicky