

HARDWICK DEANERY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2023



This Lent Archbishop's Justin and Stephen are inviting us to explore how we can live well with the mess of everyday life. Dust and Glory encourages us to take a fresh look at the frustrations and failings that every day brings and, rather than pretending we can always avoid them, seek to learn from them and grow closer to God through them.

The weekly themes of the Archbishop's Lent Book are also explored in daily reflections from the Church of England. Dust and Glory: A Lent Journey of faith, failure and forgiveness offers a daily Bible reading, a short reflection, and a practical challenge, as well as a prayer linked to the week's theme. The book is co-written by Bishop Emma Ineson and Abbie Martin and is designed to be used either in parallel with the Lent Book or independently.

There is a children's version available to help children and their families explore how we can live well together, offering a simple daily activity designed to explore the weekly themes.

Both the booklets for adults and children are available from Church House publishing at:

<https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/>

Life on the Breadline Lent Course

The Life on the Breadline Lent course has been developed following 3 years of Life on the Breadline research as a result of engaging with Church leaders, Christians, and community groups across the UK.

There are 6 sessions which can be followed individually or in a group. Each of the sessions takes an hour and combines prayer, a short video, a Bible passage, guided reflections, discussion questions, and take-away actions. The sessions cover:

- Christian responses to poverty
- Love thy neighbour – poverty and inequality
- Race, ethnicity, austerity and faith
- Deficits and assets
- Housing (in)justice
- Poverty and structural inequality

The project that led to the development of the Lent course started in a bid to understand how austerity has affected Christian engagement with poverty in the UK and the theological motivations which underpin it. The project has produced the first evidence-led academic theological analysis of the impact that austerity has had on the Christian engagement with urban poverty. Understanding how austerity has affected Christian engagement with UK poverty will help by facilitating the development of:

- Better informed government policy
- More effective faith-based activism
- Reductions in urban social exclusion and inequality

The project joined forces with organisations in Birmingham, London and Manchester, each focusing on a different aspect of poverty to form six case studies, there was a wide-ranging online survey of regional church leaders across UK Christian traditions and interviews with national church leaders from a range of Christian traditions.

The research engaged with six case studies which each focus on a different aspect of poverty or response to poverty. Each case study involved spending time with the project/community group, carrying out one-to-one interviews, and photo elicitation in focus groups.

The case studies included Hodge Hill Church and the Open Door Community Foundation – Firs and Bromford estate, Birmingham learning about the approach of asset-based community development, Levenshulme Inspire Community Hub – who work on a wide variety of projects that take place in the local community – from a community cafe and meals to a pantry, and a toddler group.

The project also engaged with B30 Foodbank – Cotteridge, Birmingham a Trussell Trust foodbank which provides food parcels with three days worth of food to local people and the Church Action on Poverty – Salford, Greater Manchester. Church Action Poverty is a national ecumenical Christian social justice charity, committed to tackling poverty in the UK. The charity works in partnership with churches and with people in poverty themselves to find solutions to poverty locally, nationally and globally. As well as being involved as a case study, Church Action on Poverty is an official Life on the Breadline project partner.

You can find out more about the project and the Lent course at:

<https://breadlineresearch.coventry.ac.uk/about-the-project/>



The Bishop of Derby has announced the new diocesan secretary will be Will Hagger, who is currently the diocese of London's director of housing and investment property. Will brings with him a wealth of experience, having worked for the London Diocesan Fund for eight years. He is a chartered surveyor and has previously worked for property fund management business, Newcore Capital.

Will said: 'I am really excited by the opportunities and challenges that my new role in Derby will present, both professionally and personally.

Whilst I will be sad to leave the Diocese of London, I am looking forward to getting acquainted with the Diocese of Derby and the whole of Derbyshire.'

On announcing the appointment, Bishop Libby said: 'I know you will join me in warmly welcoming Will to the Diocese of Derby. He will be a great asset to the diocese and in leading DBF colleagues from Church House. Please keep him and his family in your prayers as they prepare to move and through all their transitions.'

Will's first day with us will be 1st May.

Goodbye!

In March we will be saying goodbye to The Ven Carol Coslett Archdeacon for Peak and Dales, and of course formerly Archdeacon of Chesterfield. I am sure that we will all wish her well in her new ministry as Assistant Director of Lay Ministry in the Diocese of Southwark.

In her final senior staff message in the Diocesan monthly news Archdeacon Carol wrote:

As archdeacon I have been privileged to serve you, and have grown to love the county of Derbyshire, experiencing great joy in the many visits to parishes, community events, rural agricultural shows and schools, through the peaks and dales.

I am the richer for sharing in ministry with you all, and I thank you for your partnership and support over these years.



I have found warm, loving, spirit filled and faithful people in all parts of the diocese. There is much to be encouraged about for God is at work amidst us all and will lead us onto the next part of the journey.

Lent will soon be here and that leads us on the spiritual journey of exploration. As we prepare for Ash Wednesday, through 40 days and nights, through Holy Week and the last hours of Jesus ministry on earth, we can reflect on our own calling to be a follower of Christ. What do we personally bring to the life of our parishes, communities and schools that can make a difference and change lives?

What change of heart would we hope to leave when we journey on? My prayer is that in some small way my time with you will be remembered fondly and you can build on what we have developed together: being good neighbours, building up relationships with one another in the many different villages, towns and farms, to show the love of Christ for all those who come to visit.

My family and I (Martin, Clara, David and Abbie) wish you the very best for the future, and we will remember with happiness our journey, like the hobbits - "There and back again".

Every blessing
Carol



Amazing GRACE is a resource for Lent that has been written and arranged as part of a joint initiative between the Diocese of Derby and the Diocese of Coventry. It is a six-week learning community for small groups, cell groups or church communities.

Initially, it is a resource for Lent, however it would work well at any time of year. So, what is Amazing GRACE and why is it in capitals?

Along with other explicit meanings, GRACE is an acronym of:

Growing
Racial
Awareness
Champions for
Equality

The Amazing GRACE learning community is committed to understanding the problem of racism, the experiences of those who have experience racism, the privilege of those who do not experience it and the ways in which racism undermines the mission and ministry of the church.

Amazing GRACE is a learning community committed to taking intentional action - in whatever way is appropriate to each member's circumstances - to promote race equality in our personal and ministerial contexts.

The vision given in Revelation 7.9 is of a multitude of every nation, tribe, people and language worshipping God together, yet this vision is far from fulfilled in the life of the Church today. The sin of racism can prevent the full and equal flourishing of God's children and barriers exist for those who identify as UK Minority Ethnic (UKME) / Global Majority Christians which are invisible to their white church family. It is the responsibility of the whole people of God to tackle this injustice. The learning community aims to be a supportive yet challenging space where participants can reflect on racism through engagement with Scripture, resources, guest speakers, and stories, then work together to identify ways that we can act for race equality in our different contexts. You can find our more information and access the materials for the six week course at:

<https://amazing-grace.co.uk/>

Eco Church:

A Rocha UK's award scheme for churches in England and Wales who want to demonstrate that the gospel is good news for God's earth.

Eco Church is a free online survey and supporting resources that are designed to equip your church to express your care for God's world in your worship and teaching; in how you look after your buildings and land; in how you engage with your local community and in global campaigns, and in the personal lifestyles of your congregation.

There are three levels of Eco Church award: Bronze, Silver and Gold. The actions you take will count towards a prestigious Eco Church Award. By complete the Eco Survey you can gauge where your church currently is in relation to the three different levels; you may find you already qualify for an Eco Church Award!

The vision of Eco Church is for churches of all denominations to care for creation as an integral part of loving their neighbours and following God faithfully.

You can find out more about Eco Church at:

<https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>



Environment – Supporting your Church

Stella Collishaw is the Community Action Officer in the Discipleship, Mission and Ministry Team in the Diocese of Derby.

You can contact Stella at Stella.Collishaw@derby.anglican.org with any environmental queries and/or if you register as an Eco church or obtain an award. It would be great to tell your story. If you want to receive her Eco Church newsletter, send her your name, parish and an email address.

Send in notice of your local events, good news stories, photos and events to share on the What's Happening page. The national church is actively seeking Environmental case studies from this area: focus renewables, transport, schools, and community activity. If your PCC are talking about making Environmental changes, there are a number of people who are willing to support you and who will preach on environmental issues, both licensed readers and clergy.

Stella can also talk to your PCC about Eco church and can offer training to you locally.



Thank You for Remembering.....

Thank you very much for entering your statistics for mission – we now have the return of parish finance to look forward to!

If you need any help, please get in touch with Ailsa at:

ailsa.cooling.derby.anglican.org

The Coronation of King Charles III



The historic Coronation ceremony for King Charles III will take place at Westminster Abbey on Saturday 6 May and will be conducted by The Archbishop of Canterbury. This will be the centrepiece of the Coronation weekend 6th – 8th May, and it will be a service that is rooted in Christian symbolism and longstanding tradition, reflecting the King's role today whilst also looking to the future.

Building on themes of community, faith and service, the Coronation weekend will be a celebratory moment, a chance for people to come together and for churches to share an invitational message about the Christian faith.

As the King and Queen Consort prepare to solemnise the promises and commitments they make to the nations and people they represent, the Church will begin 28 days of prayer and spiritual preparation alongside the King – praying with and for the King from Easter Sunday to the Coronation (Sunday 9th April – Saturday 6th May). You can join in these prayers by ordering the Book of Daily Prayers.

The Church of England is sharing a range of resources for churches, individuals, and families to use to mark the Coronation weekend including Coronation reflections, resources for churches, young people and families and community celebration and volunteering.

The Church of England has produced an information pack that gives parishes a host of resources ideas and information to mark the Coronation. Among other resources you will find resources on:

- prayer and worship
- guidance on how to run your events taking into account safeguarding and pastoral care and well being
- how to share what your church is doing
- building community
- information and guidance on how to support people in your local community
- information and guidance for bell ringers
- the Coronation Big Lunch
- information on the Coronation Champions Award
- information on the Big Help Out

You can download the information pack and find other resources for the Coronation weekend on the Church of England website at:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/coronation/churches>

God's Garden

THE Lord God planted a garden
In the first white days of the world,
And He set there an angel warden
In a garment of light enfurled.

So near to the peace of Heaven,
That the hawk might nest with the wren,
For there in the cool of the even
God walked with the first of men.

And I dream that these garden-closes
With their shade and their sun-flecked sod
And their lilies and bowers of roses,
Were laid by the hand of God.

The kiss of the sun for pardon,
The song of the birds for mirth,--
One is nearer God's heart in a garden
Than anywhere else on earth.

For He broke it for us in a garden
Under the olive-trees
Where the angel of strength was the warden
And the soul of the world found ease.

Dorothy Frances Gurney

And finally...



Monty enjoying the Spring snowdrops on his daily walk.