



Friday Round Up

This email has been sent to all Clergy, PTOs, Churchwardens, Secretaries, and all those on our Friday email list.

Friday Update from Bishop Cherry

Last week, I mentioned that we had sent some money to our link diocese, The Highveld, to support them as they tackle the impacts of the Coronavirus out there. The money came from the Lent Appeal in 2018 which we were going to add to whatever comes in for this year's Lent Appeal. But we thought that they needed at least something sooner rather than later. Bishop Charles was thrilled to receive the money and his letter of thanks can be read [here](#).

Many churches, I know, are busy helping with Foodbanks and seeking to support those in most need with essential food and toiletries. This is vital work and one of the few ways at the moment that we can show our care for the poor and those most in need. In a letter to the Archbishop, the Trussell Trust records its thanks and appreciation for the ways in which the church is supporting this work. However, they also raise some important points about tackling the injustice of poverty and deprivation that we need to hear. Very often, we are much better at helping the poor than striving to combat the unjust structures of our society that lead to poverty in the first place. The letter can be read [here](#).

Meetings have started happening again and it is good to see how many are embracing the wonders of modern technology. It is strange meeting people for the first time via Zoom, but that is how it has to be for now.

The Equality and Diversity Group was one of those that I 'attended' this week and I was encouraged to learn about their work. Up until now, they have been looking at the representation of women at all levels of our church's life (following the Todd report that was brought to the Governing Body) and seeking to ensure that women make up a good proportion of the membership of our boards and committees, as well as our ordained and lay ministers. We are now looking at broadening out the agenda to look at how we become a more diverse church where everyone feels that they are welcome and respected for who they are.

I also met with the Spirituality Group that are doing such important work in the areas of prayer and spirituality; helping people to grow in their relationship with God and deepen their prayer life. This work is foundational for all of us if we are to be able to work with God in drawing people into faith and discipleship.

May has arrived and it is now three months since my Enthronement at the Cathedral. How time flies! I continue to thank God for leading me to serve here in the Diocese of Monmouth. Let us continue to pray for one another as we seek to discern where God is leading us and what God is asking of us in this strange time of isolation.

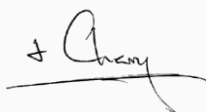
New Appointments

I am delighted to share with you the news that

Fr Tom Bates-Bourne, currently Associate Priest at Abergavenny St Mary with Llanwenarth Citra and Abergavenny Holy Trinity and also Sub-Prior of the Holywell Community, has been appointed Associate Priest of the Benefices of Grimethorpe with Brierley, Ryhill, Havercroft with Cold Hiendley and Winterset and South Kirkby in the Diocese of Leeds.

The Revd Rebecca Stevens, Ministry Area Leader of Newport North, has agreed to take on the role of Diocesan Director of Vocations in a temporary capacity when the Revd Canon Dr Paul Thompson retires at the end of June.

Please keep Tom and Becca in your prayers as they prepare to take up their new ministries.



Quarter 1 Share Payment Thank-Yous

Bishop Cherry has written to incumbents, treasurers and wardens across the diocese to thank them and their congregations for paying their parish share in full for the first three months of the year.

During this difficult time, this is a tremendous achievement and the Bishop is “extremely grateful.”

She writes: *“this readiness to give signals your willingness to share what you have to support the life of the wider church and does much to cement our life together as a Diocesan family.”*

This commitment by our churches during such challenging times has also been recognised by the Representative Body of the Church in Wales. In a recent meeting of their Trustees the principle was established for them providing some financial support to the Dioceses.

The details are still being worked out about what this means for us in Monmouth, but we will keep you posted. We are all in this together!

Live-streamed Services & Reflections:

11am 3rd May Easter 4 [Eucharist](#) from Bishopstow

11am 10th May Easter 5 [Eucharist](#) from Bishopstow

Catch up on Bishop Cherry's Tuesday reflection [here](#).



Introducing Mission Monmouth's #BeTheLightChallenge

Throughout May, Mission Monmouth is encouraging everyone to engage in small acts of kindness to build hope in our communities. Each week will have a different theme; but your acts of kindness are entirely up to you – be creative!

Please join us in sparking some joy this month! Be sure to share photos and tag us on social media using @MissionMonmouth and #BeTheLightChallenge

This week's theme is: Loving thy neighbour

Diocese of Monmouth Vocations Sunday – Easter 4 Sunday 3rd May 2020

Please Pray for those:

to be ordained Priest in 2020

Bronwen Summers

John Thorne

Lea Ryder

Lisa Taylor

Matt Sellers

Cwmbran

Cyncoed

Chepstow

Upper Islwyn

Newport North

Samuel Patterson

Magor

Heulwen Rees

Upper Islwyn

to be ordained Deacon 2020

Liz Houghton

North Newport MA

Kay Denley

Wentwood (*Caerwent, St Stephen & St Tathan*)

Mary Moore

Abergavenny (*Grosmont, St Nicholas*)

to be licensed for Reader in 2020;

Paul Stafford

Monmouth (*Llandogo*)

to continue in training for ordination;

Julia Durham

Newport North (*Malpas, St Mary*)

Mandy East

Caldicot (*Rogiet, St Mary*)

Ruth James

Magor (*St Mary*)

Tina Parry

Rumney (*St Augustine*)

Karin Pardoe

Cwmbran (*Pontnewydd, Holy Trinity*)

to continue in training for Licensed Ministry;

Andrew Nelmes

Upper Islwyn (*New Tredegar, St Dingat*)

Hilary Williams

Wentloog (*Marshfield, St Mary*)

Paul Taylor

Upper Torfaen (*Trevethin, St Cadoc*)

to begin training for ordination;

Paul Dunning

Machen (*Bedwas, St Barrwg*)

Rachel Nelmes

Upper Islwyn (*New Tredegar, St Dingat*)

Please also pray for: those continuing in discernment and especially those Discernment Conferences are delayed because of Covid-19, and also for

the Diocesan Vocations Advisors

the St Padarn's Theological Training Institute

Lord, as you called your disciples, call us now. Open our ears to listen to you calling; Open our eyes to see you; Open our hearts to your love. Help us to hear you, to experience your presence with us and to love you. And loving you, let us serve you, our servant King. Amen

Click [here](#) to see the CofE Vocation Sunday resources.



0800 804 8044
DailyHOPE

A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.

The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind. Find out more [here](#).

#goodnewsworthsharing



Treats for Welsh Ambulance Service – Magor Ministry Area

Magor Ministry Area was one of five organisations which donated over a car full of treats to our heroes on the front lines. These donations will be split amongst Gwent stations as a well deserved thank you for those working so hard to protect us all.

Foodbank Collections - St Julians, Newport

A big thank-you to everyone who's getting involved by donating, packing, collecting and delivering to the Distribution Point to continue their long-established and recently enhanced Food Bank Collection.



Virtual Meetings



It's not just services which have moved online. The Diocesan office building may be shut but meetings are continuing to be held, via Zoom, to ensure we can keep supporting parishes.

Some Splendid School Stories

All of our schools are working tremendously hard during these difficult circumstances to ensure our children continue to grow into the beautiful people God calls them to be. Here are some highlights from this past week.



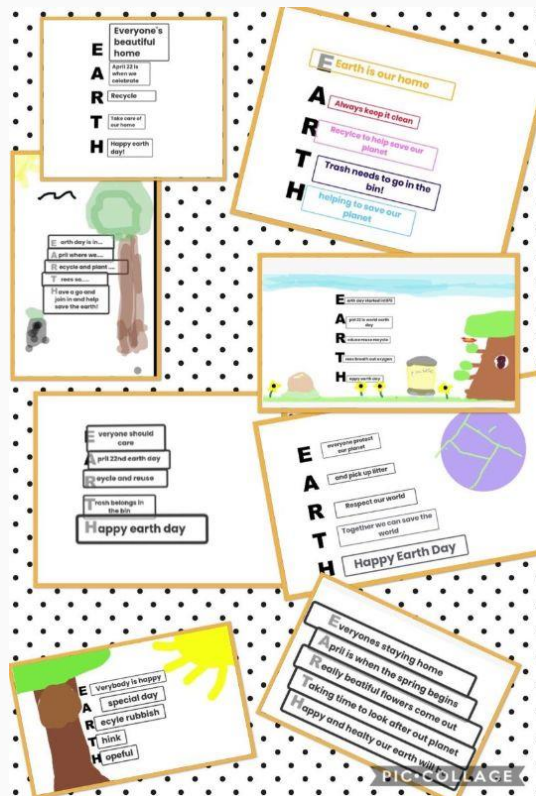
2.6 Challenge – Raglan CiW Primary School

Raglan CiW Primary is doing its part to support our nation's charities by joining the 2.6 Challenge.

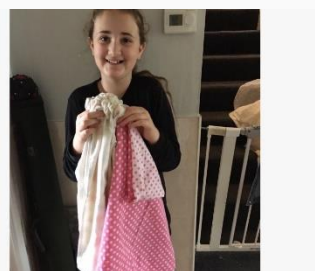
The children in the Raglan Hub School (established to take care of the children of key workers) will scoot 260km each to raise funds for the Aneurin Bevan Local Health Board. Their goal is to raise £260 – to support their effort, follow this link: <https://justgiving.com/fundraising/raglanhub>

Malpas Church in Wales Primary

The children learnt about and celebrated World Earth day last week.



And Bethany Bassett, a year 6 pupil, has been showing great kindness in spending her time in lockdown creating scrub bags fro the NHS.



Add your story to #goodnewsworthsharing

Please send anything you've been doing to debragoddard@churchinwales.org.uk or share on social media with #goodnewsworthsharing

Children & Families Resources



Cyncoed Ministry Area - Online Sunday School

The First Church – Acts 2:42-47

<http://cyncoedministryarea.org.uk/the-first-church-acts-242-47/>



A session all about animals. Bring three unbreakable beakers/tumblers and three unbreakable bowls of similar size.

On Vimeo <https://vimeo.com/410548129/e0b57671c1>

On YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kUXZGvj9ekg>