

BISHOP'S BULLETIN No 37

To the Licensed Clergy of Peterborough Diocese

31 January 2021



Dear friends

Silver Linings

I keep hearing, either in zoom chats or in writing, of good initiatives (large or small) to reach people in these covid days. My thanks to those who are sharing these with me. I do encourage such conversations. This is not a matter of bragging rights, but of sharing lessons learned, ideas of interest, perhaps pointers for the future.

Leprosy Appeal

The last Sunday in January is World Leprosy Day, and today is just a year since I was flying back from visiting leprosy projects in Bangladesh (and surprised to see covid warning posters, but not even temperature checks, at Heathrow!)

The Leprosy Mission has launched an appeal to do significant work in Mozambique, and the UK government has agreed to match-fund any donations until 24 April. Details are at www.unconditionalappeal.org.uk.

If you are interested, you can watch or make use of any of three videos:

- A 50 minute service with Pam Rhodes
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Td1-fa14nU4>
- A 30 minute service with Helen Walton
<https://youtu.be/2xSV8Bujlp8>
- A 5 minute film (included in both services) with Dame Darcey Bussell
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UARsiHkoZhY>

Archbishops' Call to Prayer

You will have seen that the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, noting the dreadful milestone of 100,000 covid deaths, are calling us to pray at around 6pm every evening, starting tomorrow. This does not imply opening church buildings if they are otherwise closed, but is something you may want to publicise to your people. Resources can be found [here](#).

Cathedral Morning Prayer

The Cathedral says Morning Prayer on zoom each weekday at 8.30 am (9.00 on Saturdays) and welcomes clergy and lay people from across the diocese to join them. If you would like the link, please email [Tim Alban Jones](mailto:Tim.Alban.Jones) and he will send it.

Archbishop's Housing Commission

Poor housing affects all our parishes; eight million people in this country live in substandard or unsuitable accommodation. Archbishop Justin has made this a priority as the Church speaks and acts to serve the poor and unify the nation.

The Archbishop's *Housing, Church and Community Commission*, launched during his visit to our diocese in April 2019, has started to report. Its goal has been to re-imagine housing in this country, and to ask, first, what the Church can do to alleviate the crisis and, then, what others might do. Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani has been given the role of Bishop for Housing, leading the Church's response to a major crisis.

The Commission's [website](#) offers resources, including bible studies, case studies and guides for churches. There is also a useful three-minute [video](#) which sets out five core values for good housing. The Archbishop asks us all to have a look, and make what use of these we can, but above all to pray that as a Church we will make a good impact in this vital area.

Covid Deaths

I am sorry to report the recent deaths of two of our retired clergy, Canon Hilary Davidson and Fr Francis Rodriguez-Veglio. Please continue to pray, especially for all the vulnerable in our communities.

APCMs

I am being asked about the arrangements for APCMs and elections. I wish I had an easy answer. Fortunately, in the latest revision of the Church Representation Rules, the timeframe for APCMs was extended to include May as well as March and April. Therefore, I suggest that you book and plan a date in the second half of May.

Next week, I think, one of my wider-circulation letters instead of a bulletin.

With love in Christ

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