



### **Inspiring Everyday Faith Webinar – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

John MacMahon and Andrew Presland from Peterborough Diocese were among almost 170 people who took part remotely in the above webinar, which replaced a physical gathering that had been arranged in south London before the Covid-19 lockdown necessitated a quick change of plan.

The webinar comprised short talks relating to different aspects of everyday faith from about ten people spread around the country, with other participants being able to submit written comments and questions in real time.

The following comments give a flavour of what was covered:

Rachel Treweek (Bishop of Gloucester)

- With Coronavirus, we've made a big shift in our thinking about church in just a few days; although live streaming services is good, virtual worship is only a small part of the church, and we risk not learning to be church in new ways.

Alison Coulter (Lay Chair, Winchester):

- Are you a peach or an orange person? – i.e. someone who's life is fully joined up or split into segments?

Tina Molyneux (Discipleship Enabler, Diocese of Oxford):

- Personal discipleship plans are good things, even if you think it better to call them something else: including the questionnaire on gifts for everyday life.

Cal Bailey (former Sustainability Director, NG Bailey engineering and Diocese of Leeds):

- Belonging can come before believing, such as the man who comes to Alpha because the Christian way of talking and behaving helps in his challenges at work.

Hayley Matthews (Director of Lay Training, Diocese of Leeds):

- We need to recognise that fear of getting put on a rota prevents many people from engaging with church.

Chigor Chike (Vicar, Chelmsford Diocese):

- BAME people tend not to split life into sacred and secular: it's comes from a Western worldview, based on modernity.

Nick Shepherd (Setting God's People Free Programme Director):

- Having a clear Christian worldview is important, as highlighted in the latest Every Day Faith booklet.

Mary Hawes (National Children and Youth Advisor, Church of England Education Team):

- Every day faith can often get segmented in the church: for the best outcomes, we need to bring together connecting communities, spiritual encounters and imaginative practices, for young and old together.

**John MacMahon** said that he is heartened that the Church of England is at last looking at initiatives on a diocesan level to encourage every day faith.

*“We started looking at this again in 2012 in Peterborough, with a Bible Day focussed on the topic the following year. Following those efforts, we have a mixed position across our Diocese. Many parishioners are still uncertain how or even whether they should share their faith with others. And church for many is a Sunday-only event. What I think is evident is that it is time to focus again on this fundamental feature of Christianity being all week and not just on Sundays and empowering Christians to tell their story.*”

*The current situation is an opportunity for Christian communities to serve their communities and show the relevance of Christianity through everyday life rather than looking for volunteers to maintain the current system/ status quo.”*

**Andrew Presland** thought that the webinar was largely a positive experience.

*“It was good to hear from a wide range of people around the country on practical ways of encouraging everyday faith. Although the complexities associated with the various overlapping national work streams were also evident, we can hopefully navigate our way through those within this Diocese – largely by working in a bottom-up way to build a critical mass of church members who ‘get’ the idea of everyday faith.*”

*Such people would then live it out in their own spheres of influence – e.g. by bringing everyday life into prayer topics and sermon illustrations if they are involved in organising public worship; or seeing being a school governor, sports team member or similiar as a natural outworking of their faith, if they haven’t previously thought of their Christianity as extending beyond a Sunday church service.”*