

Network

 **THE DIOCESE
OF SHEFFIELD**
Renewed | Released | Rejuvenated

The magazine of the Diocese of Sheffield

Issue 18 | Autumn 2022



**Cost of living
help**

**Social
Supermarket**

Faith story

www.sheffield.anglican.org

Diocesan Development Day 2022

Saturday 1st October

Location

**St Thomas Crookes, Sheffield
& online (hybrid event)**

Keynote speaker

Pete Greig

*Resources from the day will be available on our
website: www.sheffield.anglican.org/devday22*

Welcome from Bishop Pete



For almost a fortnight in late July and early August, Bishop Sophie and I had the great privilege of participating in the 15th Lambeth Conference in Canterbury, together with 650 Anglican Bishops from around the globe.

Often, people have asked if I enjoyed the experience. It was definitely an immersive experience, deeply enriching and hugely encouraging – but ‘enjoyment’ isn’t quite the word. Each day brought new glimpses into the lives of Christian people and communities, often joyfully living out their faith in Christ Jesus in

truly horrendous situations – in the midst of war, or famine, or flooding, or persecution. Each day brought new stories of how the Holy Spirit is at work in life-giving ways. It frequently made me feel humbled to belong to such a remarkable worldwide church family.

I hope that in a small but similar way, this issue of Network will be an encouragement to you – a reminder that you belong to a Diocesan-wide church family, in which the Holy Spirit is at work in life-giving ways, and offering you glimpses into the lives of Christian people and communities, joyfully living out their faith in Christ Jesus, in Goole, Rotherham and Sheffield, ‘effective in making new disciples and seeking to transform our society and God’s world’.

Our Diocesan Development Day (at St Thomas’ Church, Crookes, in Sheffield, on Saturday 1st October) is an excellent opportunity to gather as a ‘diocesan family’. The keynote speaker, God willing, is Pete Grieg and he will be speaking about prayer. With that in mind, as you read the stories in this edition of Network, why not pause now and then to pray, giving thanks to God for signs of the Holy Spirit at work among us, and praying for his blessing on the congregations, schools and chaplaincies of our Diocese?

The Rt Revd Dr Pete Wilcox
Bishop of Sheffield

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Tributes to Her Late Majesty The Queen

People across the diocese have been paying their respects to Her Late Majesty, who died on 8th September at the age of 96.

The Queen visited on special occasions such as the Royal Maundy Service at Sheffield Cathedral in 2015, where Maureen Benfold from the Mission Area of Warmsworth, Balby, Loversall and Wadworth attended:

"Such an honour to have met our Queen on this day. Humbled, honoured and privileged to have received Maundy money along with Frank my husband. I have such wonderful photos, and wonderful memories of an amazing day.

"You were beautiful inside and out, your Majesty. An inspiration to us all. Devoted, dignified, graceful, and faithful to the end. A mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Loved by the world. Thank you for your dedication. Rest in peace our wonderful Queen."

LJ Buxton was also at the service:

"One of my most treasured memories of my time working in the diocese is being in Sheffield Cathedral for Royal Maundy. It was an incredible atmosphere but what really stays with me is the way HM The Queen made the Maundy recipients feel as she handed out the pouches. You could see the personal connection with each person, she never showed tiredness, and never dropped her warm enthusiastic greeting to each. Queen Elizabeth II made it about them, which was so moving to see. It will stay in my heart forever."

Sheila Beatson remembers another visit to the city:

"In May 2003 the Queen came to Sheffield to open the Winter Gardens. I was so proud to present her with a bouquet made out of balloons! We were there to entertain the children."

You can read tributes from the Bishop of Sheffield and the Bishop of Doncaster here: <https://sheffdio.org/3SE5csf>



Sprotbrough Hot Spots helping with cost of living

'Hot Spots' have been set up in Sprotbrough to offer warm spaces to those in need

The local community has come together in Sprotbrough to help meet the needs of people struggling this Autumn and Winter with the cost of living crisis.

'Hot Spots' are being set up by the parish council, ecumenical partners, the local library and others to coordinate warm social spaces where people can gather.

A grant has been applied for, but the plan is to make the offer Monday to Friday.

The Revd Canon Amanda Barraclough is Rector of St Mary's Sprotbrough and is also Dean of Women's Ministry; she says the idea is to tackle loneliness as well:

"We're avoiding the term 'warm bank' because it has connotations of being driven by an agenda of need, which isn't always the case. Some people may want to use it to minimise social isolation. We're calling it a 'Hot Spot'.

"The idea came up during Lent group discussions earlier this year when it became clear that there may be a future energy crisis. It was the seed of an idea which grew, and I thought we could potentially offer a day a week in one of our two social spaces. However, we thought one day a week wouldn't go that far, so I thought about getting in touch with the parish council to help.

"Between us, we identified five different social venues across the parish who could potentially offer a space one day a week, on a Monday to Friday basis between us. We want to provide a warm social space where people might be struggling to heat their homes, or are just desperate to avoid social isolation.

"It feels like the flip side of what Covid has been, because Covid caused us to retreat into our own spaces away from each other, and this crisis is making us all gather together because of the challenge of heating. I know that Sprotbrough is a relatively affluent part of Doncaster and some may think there isn't a pressing need, but I think it is a pressing need. There are people who will be over-mortgaged and have got a lot of commitments financially."

The Stable is being offered as a warm social space every Friday from 10am-2pm, with free tea and coffee offered. The project as a whole will run from when the clocks change at the end of October to when British Summer time begins next March.

Amanda says it's a six-month commitment to do this week in, week out:

"It's been really encouraging to see partnership working come together, because we couldn't possibly have met that need alone. It makes sense to speak to other community spaces, and that's got to be a step forward in future working."



A Sprotbrough Hot Spot

New Congregations

"It's that sense of belonging to something bigger than yourself"



Revd John Marsh

"Starting new things...isn't a new thing". That's the message that is taking off in the Diocese of Sheffield as people from a diverse range of churches are being encouraged to set up New Congregations.

In 2022 various New Congregations are flourishing, including Saturday Gathering at Rotherham Minster, Garden Church at St Timothy's in Crookes and Messy Church Campsall.

Mission Development Adviser John Marsh explains why trying new ways of doing things can benefit the mission of the church in our communities:

"We have inherited a way of doing things, which is to meet on a Sunday morning for a service. That's served us well, and will continue to do so. However, some additional new patterns are needed because people are working now on a Sunday and there are lots of alternative activities going on during Sundays.

"One of the exciting things about New Congregations is that they can occur at a different time and place, and they can be focused more on the community.

"The biggest impact it's had on people is that

they've been able to join churches of a different style, or which meet at a different time and place. Any particular expression of the Kingdom of God is not one size fits all.

"People enjoy the community side of it, and generally the congregations we've got up and running are family-oriented. It's that sense of belonging to something bigger than yourself. Some of the people attending come to faith, and their lives are changed by Jesus. It's difficult to quantify the benefits as it includes a wide variety of things."

Since 2019, 13 New Congregations have started along with a further 6 in schools. Our target remains 50, which is just one in each mission area.

So what advice would John give to people thinking about setting up a New Congregation?

"Often in church we think 'we have a plan; let's pray and ask God for help', but actually it's the other way around! God has a plan and He wants us to help. If you know your purpose and what you're trying to achieve, then the vision is thinking about how to put that purpose into practice.

"Ask yourself 'why am I doing this?' Think about your context and what communities are nearby. Think about God's vision for your church and community; then it's up to you and your team to find out how to join in by starting a New Congregation.

"If it's worth doing, it's worth doing badly; don't wait for it to be perfect before you start. Just launch it; purpose, context, vision and team."

To find out more about New Congregations, visit our website here: <https://sheffdio.org/3CgaXXO>

Living out faith

Nichola Montgomery has shared the faith journey which led her to St John's in Goole and to an understanding of what it means to be a Christian

A member of the St John's congregation in Goole has given a powerful testimony of how a bible study and evening service brought her closer to God and strengthened her faith.

Nichola Montgomery is married with three children, and now regularly attends services. She says the journey she's been on through faith has had its ups and downs:

"I've always had religion in my life, although I've strayed away a bit at times. I never stopped believing, and all of my children have been baptised. Just before Christmas I found my way back to church, having searched for a long time.

"I was brought up Catholic but through my own choice; my parents didn't go to church but my best friend did.

"I always tried to go to church around religious festivals, as it was my way of acknowledging that I still believed despite not attending 'religiously'. This year I started attending St John's and I just felt calm. Things hadn't quite sat right on the inside at the other churches I tried, but something was calling me to St John's."

Nichola says she went to her first service at St John's during Christmas 2021, but felt a desire to go regularly from February of this year.

She goes every Sunday that she gets off work: "I felt drawn to St John's, and I can't quite work out why. I feel at home and I feel at peace.

"I'd started going to a Wednesday bible study but the pinnacle for me was Maundy Thursday, when I'd been encouraged to go and have my feet washed. I decided to go but without having my feet washed, but that feeling changed once I was there. I needed that to happen, and as I sat there whilst Revd Hannah Patton washed my feet I felt so open and vulnerable.

"I realised this is what it feels like to have the Holy Spirit in me."

"I felt stuck, but not in a bad way! Hannah washed and Josh Blunt the Curate dried, followed by a moment of prayer. I sat there crying afterwards and didn't know why, but I didn't feel upset or distressed; I was calm and happy. Hannah came over and prayed with me."



The Maundy Thursday service was the catalyst for a crystallising moment in Nichola's life, when she looked at a passage from chapter three of the Gospel of John.

In particular, Nichola says she was struck by John 3:3 when Jesus says "no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again".

Nichola's response was to ask:

"How can you be born again? Jesus goes on to say 'no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit', and after thinking about this I jumped – which made everyone else jump! Suddenly I had got it; I'd had that spiritual cleansing with my feet being washed, and I just needed to realise it. I realised this is what it feels like to have the Holy Spirit in me, and I don't need to die to be born again.

"I think Hannah and Josh already knew, but they needed for me to find it myself."

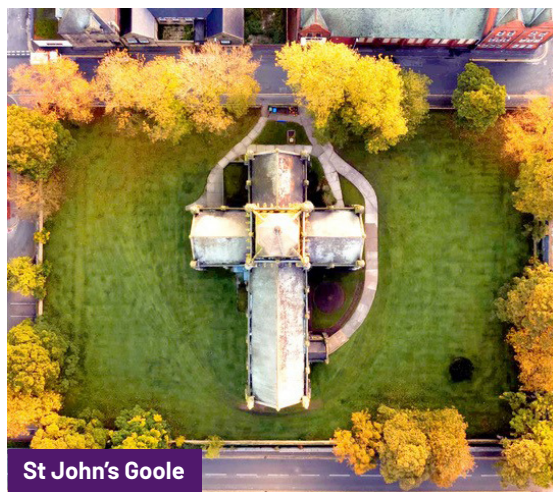
What advice would Nichola give to other people going through a similar journey with faith?

"When the time is right, it will happen; He will speak to you. It won't happen through words but through feelings and the spirit, just as it did for me on that Wednesday

evening. It doesn't come as a loud booming voice through the clouds saying "now you understand"; it's your own self-realisation that when you're there, you know you're there.

"It will happen when it's time, and probably when you least expect it! It's an amazing thing to know that I'm a little bit closer to Jesus and to God. Knowing that there's a path there that I can take makes it's so much easier.

"For those who are just starting, or don't feel it yet, all you need to do is prepare Him room in your heart; in your head; in your life. If you make room, He will fill it".



Social Supermarket in Rotherham

The building of a community

A community scheme helping people who are struggling to afford food is receiving praise for the impact it has had.

Those in need can become members of the Social Supermarket, which takes place every Wednesday and Thursday at Rotherham Minster and St Paul's Masbrough. For £3 a week, members can pick from a range of healthy food (donated locally) and get involved in activities.

A graduation service was held in August for members who have attended the full course of three to four months.

Jessica recently graduated from Social Supermarket with her partner, and says: "the

volunteers have been amazing here. We were recently asked if we would change anything about how Social Supermarket is set up, but we wouldn't! It's been spot on."

Fellow graduate Sarah said: "It's made such a difference, and I hope people can get the word out about the work that takes place. I'm not particularly religious but this has opened my eyes to it a bit."

Social Supermarket Manager Christine Batchford says the team there want to build confidence among people who are going through tough times:

"For some people they went from a place of stressing every night about paying the bills and getting food. Sometimes it was because a particular thing affected them, such as being rehoused or coming out of difficult relationships.

"The food brings them to us, but the thing they value most is the social contact of being able to come out and talk to somebody. One lady told me she loves the fact she can come with her little boy and do some activities together, especially during the school holidays when money is tight. She's really appreciated the



Social Supermarket helping people in Rotherham



social side of it and has been involved in the cooking courses.”

Donations of food, funds and time are needed to support the project. However, the journey doesn't stop for people who graduate from membership, with Christine and her fellow volunteers stressing that they want to stay in touch with those who they've helped:

“Just because you've finished your shopping, it doesn't mean you have to stop being a part of the community. We're very much of an attitude that we're all body, mind and spirit. People have different needs at different times; some people don't want to engage with anything spiritual, but some do. The fact that we're in a church helps, as it doesn't seem odd if we ask if we can pray for them in that building.

“We do it very naturally wherever we are, and don't make a big deal of it. It's just a part of the conversations and support that we provide. We see people every week, so it's nice that we can keep those conversations going and they don't necessarily have to come to a church service.

“It feels like the Social Supermarket is church, even though you don't do things like sing a hymn there. It's like an act of worship.”he cost

of living crisis has meant many people across the diocese and the UK are going through tough times, with concerns over energy and food prices.

Christine is expecting a busy period ahead for the Social Supermarket, and hopes the community can be there for those in need. “The winter ahead is likely to be a difficult one and the demands on us will increase. I do slightly worry that we will be overwhelmed. We are bespoke and do get to know everybody, and we don't want to turn into a machine by saying 'here's your food; off you go'. We want to continue that sense of people becoming a part of the community and being able to contribute.

“Part of the dignity of the Social Supermarket is saying 'you might have something that you can give to us.' Some of the folks here who speak English as an additional language have helped with translation for friends and neighbours, and in turn helped them to access our services.

“I just want to know that that community is going to continue.”

You can find more information on the Social Supermarket here: rotherhamminster.co.uk/social-supermarket

COP27

As we journey through the season of Creationtide, Diocesan Environment Officer Dr Cathy Rhodes looks ahead to the COP27 climate conference and the importance of protecting our planet

Listen to the Voice of Creation

This Season of Creation and beyond we are called to listen and respond together to the cry of Creation as the Christian family around the world unites to pray and protect our common home. Creationtide runs from 1st September to 4th October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

Soon after this, the 27th UN Climate Change Conference COP27 will be held in November in Egypt.

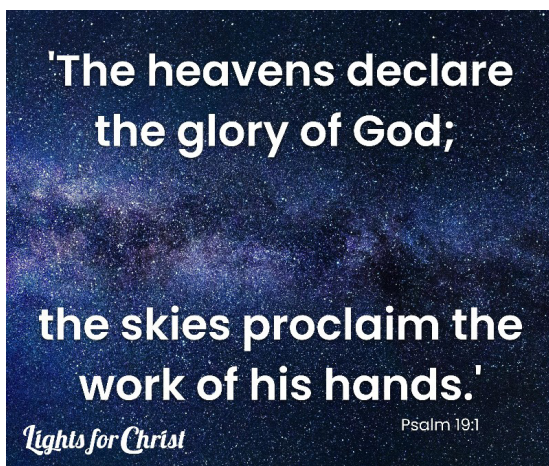
COP27 will review progress on mitigation: avoiding and reducing emissions of heat-trapping greenhouse gases. It will assess how far we have got on adaptation: changing behaviour, systems, and ways of life to protect communities, economies, and the environment from the effects of climate change.

Listen to people

Communities living with the impacts of climate breakdown are calling for an international fund for when extreme weather is expected and to deal with long-term impacts. By paying into an international loss and damage fund, countries and polluters who have done the most to cause the crisis could help people recover and rebuild when disasters strike, and compensate them for what is permanently lost.

Listen to Creation

Creation never ceases to proclaim, but do we listen? 'The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world'. (Psalm 19: 1-4 NIV)



The burning bush is the symbol for the Season of Creation 2022 (seasonofcreation.org). Today, wildfires are a sign of devastating effects that climate change has on the most vulnerable. This year, we saw these fires for ourselves during the most severe heatwave we've ever experienced in our country.

But the fire that called to Moses as he tended the flock on Mt. Horeb did not consume or destroy the bush. This flame of the Spirit revealed God's presence. Moses saw the flames, he felt the heat, and heard the fire crackle. This holy fire affirmed that God heard the cries of all who suffered, and promised to be with us as we followed in faith to our deliverance from injustice. As Lights for Christ and disciples of Jesus, the bringer of a gospel for all people, this symbol of God's Spirit calls us to listen and faithfully respond through worship and repentance. We need to act now and beyond the Season of Creation.

From small changes in our lives and every day

choices, in supporting our church communities to pray, work towards net zero carbon and become Eco Churches, to lobbying those in power and calling for change. For more ideas search for 'Lights for Christ Environment Pledges' or go to the link here: <https://sheffdio.org/enviropledge>

A longer version of this article can be found on the news section of our website: <https://sheffdio.org/3rgWjJa>

Contact: Sally Hunter, Environment Project Support at: environment.admin@sheffield.anglican.org



Generosity Week

Giving and Generosity Officer Luke Bunting shares his hopes for increased giving and a boost to discipleship across the diocese

A campaign to increase giving in our daily lives is hoping to shine a light on discipleship, to help encourage others. 'A Generous Jesus' is taking place across eight weeks from the end of September, and is a project by the giving team at the Diocese of Sheffield.

Eight different resources on the generosity of Jesus have been produced, including sermons and talks. Giving and Generosity Officer Luke Bunting has worked with both Bishop Pete and Bishop Sophie on the sermons, along with Archdeacon Javaid Iqbal and Archdeacon Malcolm Chamberlain. These materials feature the parables of Jesus and well-known stories from the New Testament, including The Good Samaritan; The Parable of the Sower and The Parable of the Talents.

Videos have been produced for each sermon, with questions provided afterwards to encourage discussions among small groups in parishes.

Luke says they wanted to do things a bit differently this year:

"The idea behind the campaign comes out from our Generous June projects in recent years, which is an ability to resource our diocese – and the people in it – with bible studies and resources that encourage generosity as a whole.

"These resources are both practical and theological, and include what Jesus said about generosity. The plans before were focused on discipleship, but the main change this year is to help equip people in small groups as that is how a lot of churches work now.

The rollout takes place during Generosity Week, which started on Sunday 25th September. Although the materials are standalone, it's hoped they can link up with the national Church of England team for a bigger impact.

Luke thinks the team has made a big impact in the diocese thanks to the generosity of others:

"We've done quite a lot to help practically in terms of the contactless rollout; digital giving; budgeting and help with grants. One of the main reasons I believed Jesus called me to this job was to help people with their discipleship and spiritual life, and I have learned in my time as a Christian and in this role how giving can help show how much God has done for us.

"Giving is so important, especially during a cost of living crisis. It's not just about giving money, but giving your time and your talents; think about where you can make the biggest impact in your community. It's a holistic approach that looks about helping the wider community and not just parishes.

"We've learned from last year and have listened to the feedback from both the diocese and people in the parishes. We've changed the time of when this campaign will run, and is done more along the lines of when people pass their budgets and cast their vision for the next year.

"We've also changed the way that we would communicate the generosity of Jesus, and have produced more video content. It's a pleasure to do this job and to speak about generosity, even during a time that is tough for many people. We want to thank the parishes for working with us."

Marathon for Mencap

Bishop Sophie Jelley will be taking part in her first marathon to raise money for Mencap, a charity close to her heart.

Bishop of Doncaster Sophie Jelley is running the London Marathon in October for charity, and it's believed she could be the first female bishop to run this race. She made the decision in 2019 to do the 26.2-mile run, but her plans were delayed several times due to the pandemic:

"I chose this run because Mencap were meant to be the big charity sponsoring the marathon in 2020, before the run was delayed. I find myself two and a half years delayed, but running for a cause that means a great deal to me."

The 42nd London Marathon will take place on Sunday 2nd October, and Sophie has a JustGiving page set up for Mencap. She has an older brother called Simeon who lives with learning disabilities and cerebral palsy:

"I've seen first-hand what a difference support can make. The charity Mencap does a lot of advocacy work, and a particular project that will benefit from the run is something called 'All Move', which is an activity for children both with and without disabilities. The idea of the project is for children to get used to being just children together, rather than disabilities being some scary unknown from a really early age.

"I think it's a brilliant idea because I benefitted from it in my family, but many children don't unless they have a relative with learning disabilities in their own personal circumstances.

Bishop Sophie has already passed the 20 mile landmark in her training and says she's looking forward to the challenge ahead:

"I'll be running without a playlist as I like to take in the sounds around me. I often take in the woods

around Doncaster, which are beautiful. I like to hear bird song, and I like the peace of running.

"I pray every day. I speak to God on my runs; I listen to God on my runs. I sometimes meditate on scripture and sing Taizé songs internally. On my 20-mile route I went through my own internal playlist of hymns and worship songs, which was a way of keeping company with God and growing spiritually."

Sophie is well on the way towards her fundraising target of £4,000, and she's giving thanks for the generosity of people who have donated during the cost of living crisis:

"I'd love people to pray that I don't get injured, and I'd like to say thank you to the people who have supported me. I've had some lovely messages of support and financial donations towards the fundraiser. I realise those donations are hard for people at this time, and I really want to note that generosity and give thanks."

You can donate to Bishop Sophie's fundraiser and find out more about the work of Mencap here:

sheffdio.org/3DZWccU



Bishop Sophie is ready!

Meet the new Rector of Thurnscoe

The Revd Sarah Maughan has been appointed as a Rector in Thurnscoe, and says she can't wait to get started

There's excitement in Thurnscoe and Wath, as a new appointee to a role several years in the making has shared her plans for the future.

The Revd Sarah Maughan is the new Rector of Thurnscoe and Oversight Minister for the Wath 2 Mission Area, having previously served as Assistant Curate in Armthorpe (at St Leonard's and St Mary's). She will work with the Vicar of Ardsley, the Revd Fiona Kouble, but her main focus will be at St Helen's. Sarah says she's delighted with the new role:

"I feel incredibly blessed and excited to get started. My husband and I feel there's a real missional opportunity there that we've been praying about for a long time. I never thought I'd change my status and my post, but I really think this was God-led. God always surprises me!"

The role has been on Sarah's mind for a while, especially during the steps she's taken in ministry over the years.

The opportunity was one she's had to be patient about, with an understanding of the local area a key part of the attraction to the job:

"I went into the ordination process as a Self-Supporting Minister and we felt it was the right choice as a family. Our son went to Robert Ogden School in Thurnscoe, which is a special school for children with autism, so over the last 10 years we've really gotten to know the area.

"A few years ago, we saw an advert for a Rector in Thurnscoe and I remember thinking it'd be a fantastic opportunity for a priest. Years later I was in my curacy and saw the post had been advertised again, but although I felt a real pull to

it I couldn't apply at the time as I was still a Self-Supporting Minister.

"I remember having that real pull in my heart and soul to go, so over the last few months I went through the process of changing my status to stipendiary. I was then able to really discern if it was the right thing to do after finishing my curacy."

Sarah will have responsibility for other churches in the area, but it's at St Helen's where she will carry out the majority of her work. She explains it's the only church in that place, with no other denominations present:

"There are some amazing missional opportunities there, and I'm really looking forward to working with Fiona Kouble. Thurnscoe haven't had their own Rector since 2011, so there's a real sense of change and hope. The people who have been working there have been doing a fantastic job, and I'm looking forward to working with them to build God's glory. I've always felt I'm a pioneer and have started up things in the past, so this role really fits with my pioneering mission.

"There will be things starting up, and am already looking at what we can set up quickly. We need to look at what we can do to bring some comfort, fellowship and warmth to the people of Thurnscoe during this difficult climate. I won't be in the role long before we've started something new!"

A service of welcome and licensing for Sarah will be held by Bishop Sophie on Thursday 20th October.

Revd Sarah Maughan



New Canons

Four clergy colleagues in the Diocese of Sheffield have been invited to become members of the College of Canons

The new inductees are the Revd Toby Hole, our newly appointed Director of Mission and Ministry; the Revd Eleanor Robertshaw, Team Rector of the Parish of Great Snaith; the Revd Mike Reeder, Chaplain at St Luke's Hospice, Sheffield and Chaplain to the Bishop of Doncaster; and the Revd Karen Cribb, self-supporting minister at St Mary, Bramall Lane, and Bishop's Adviser for Self-Supporting Ministry.



Revd Eleanor Robertshaw

Eleanor says it's a great privilege to have been asked:

"I am really honoured to be asked to be a canon at the Cathedral. It really means a lot because Sheffield is my home Diocese where all of my ministry has been. I'm really excited at the

prospect of being a Canon. Quite a lot of my predecessors in Snaith have been Canons. One of them has a memorial plaque saying 'in memory of Bertram Ramsker – a Canon of Sheffield', so it's really nice to join that group and to be alongside people you've looked up to and respected in the past."



Revd Mike Reeder

Mike hopes he can help to shine a light on the work of chaplains:

"I feel the reason I've been asked is because I'm a chaplain in many settings, from serving Bishop Sophie to serving St Luke's Hospice. My ministry has always been about chaplaincy, so I feel the role I've been asked to fulfil is to be a voice for chaplaincy across the Diocese. It is a great

honour for me personally, but it's a big honour for chaplains to be represented in the College of Canons."



Revd Toby Hole

Toby says he feels honoured by the news:

"I'm delighted and honoured by the Bishop's invitation to join the college of Canons for our cathedral church. I have lived with my family in Sheffield for twelve years and the city feels to me more of a home than anywhere else that I have lived. The Cathedral, with its worship, outreach to the homeless and its cultural impact, is such an important presence in Sheffield and I am so pleased to be able to play a small part in its life in the years ahead."



Revd Karen Cribb

Karen says:

"Throughout my 30 plus years in Sheffield, the Cathedral has been a place for reflection, healing and celebration for me alongside my family and many colleagues. I feel honoured to be joining the college of canons, remembering with thankfulness those I have known who were and are also members. I particularly value that this is also a recognition and affirmation of all that Self-Supporting Ministers bring to the life and mission of the Diocese."

A service of installation will take place this Autumn.

Parish Nursing Project

Hear about the Parish Nursing Project making a huge difference to people in Sheffield, and the need for it to expand further

A project giving support to the vulnerable in Sheffield says there's been an increased demand for help. The Parish Nursing Project is based at St Matthew's Church on Carver Street, providing outreach work; a drop-in service and health advice and support. There is also a stall inside the Moor Market open every Monday, Tuesday and Friday, where people can come and ask questions.

Two Parish nurses work with the project: Michaela Suckling is employed for three days a week and Marjorie Skidmore volunteers for 4 hours per week. Both are registered nurses with over 35 years of nursing experience working in hospitals, schools, GP surgeries, forensics, occupational health and teaching.

Michaela says 2022 has been a very busy year so far:

"We've seen a lot more people at the start of this year than we did last year. There's been an increase in people having crisis issues and not knowing where to go. We've been much busier than we expected, but we know we're reaching the right people at the right time."

There are plans for a third parish nurse to be appointed and there's already some funding from Sheffield City Council towards the goal, with over £13,000 put forward.

Michaela says a mental health nurse would help to meet a growing need:

"We really want a mental health nurse as a lot of what we're seeing is related to mental health issues. Although I'm trained in CBT and do group work, I think it's really good to have someone who knows the medical jargon a

bit better; can access help for people more quickly and set up specific groups to meet those needs. We're doing more funding bids to hopefully recruit someone to do three days a week to complement what we do already."

The Parish Nursing Project has made a big difference to people's lives, with Michaela adding that many people they've helped had nowhere else to go:

"Some people said it's saved their lives; they would have taken their own lives through Covid because they felt so lonely and desperate. They found it helpful to come and talk things through with us, and having that contact who will support them. We have the market stall and people who go out on the street, and they help with basic things that make a difference and build that trust. For example, giving people a mobile phone so they can get in touch with drug and alcohol or mental health services when they need to.

"One person was placed in a hotel through Covid and lost contact with his daughter, because he didn't have a phone. His drug worker got in touch with us and we provided a phone, and he rang the next day thanking us for giving him hope and purpose; he's now clean of drugs and doing really well."

The parish at St Matthew's is described as being in the top 7% of deprivation in the country (2018). Michaela thinks a boost in resources could go some way to help to ease that deprivation:

"I'd like the stall in the Moor Market to be open every day, and we're just in the process of drawing up volunteer job descriptions to help

with that. The prospective volunteers don't have to be medically trained; just someone who knows the system a little bit, and we can help to train with that. The biggest prayer request is for more volunteers, and for that funding to come through for another nurse.

"Most of our big funding finishes at the end of this year, but I do feel confident that we'll get more funding; we've got the data to prove that we're making a difference. "

A 6-month update report has recently been finalised, which shows men and women are being helped equally by the PNP.

Michaela stresses that there is no pressure for anyone to change their religion, or to be involved with church (parish nurses are bounded by the NMC Code of Conduct).

She adds that they've helped people from diverse backgrounds:

"We've seen and helped so many different men and women, from all faiths and no faith. The big stories have been around the phones and the difference they make. We've handed out twice the number of phones this year, and feel we're really getting to know the guys on

the streets now; they're starting to trust us more, and will come to us more for help now whereas they didn't in the past.

"We're building relationships with people and taking on students to come and spend time with us; we're a part of the community here."

Adrian attends the stall in Sheffield and has been helped by Michaela with various queries.

He says he thankful for the support that the PNP gives:

"The parish nurses are very regular and check my blood pressure regularly, which is important. I live in a council flat and Michaela rung to help sort a survey of the building.

"It's not just medical things, it's practical things that can really help."

For more information on the Parish Nursing Project, go to: <https://sheffdio.org/3fhHEuF>



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