

# The Parish of Louth

Served by the Louth Team Ministry  
and the Parochial Church Council of Louth  
Reg'd Charity No. 1132658



## NEWSLETTER: June 2020

[www.teamparishoflouth.org.uk](http://www.teamparishoflouth.org.uk)

### Caring for others - Prayer and Worship - Growing in our faith

Welcome to our second lockdown newsletter! We seem to be looking forward with mixed expectations, but perhaps a little more hope than was the case a month or two ago. As with our last newsletter, I hope that this newsletter finds you comparatively fit and well!

Things continue to change very quickly, and I hope that the Weekly Notes and this Newsletter will help to keep you up to speed with things as they change. In this newsletter, there is an letter from me giving thanks, and asking for help from those who are able to give it, a look in a little more depth at the work of the Pastoral Care Network, and an update on the work of the Community Larder

As I mentioned last time - if there are any ways that we might improve what we are doing, or serve people better please do let us know!

*The Rev'd Nick Brown, Rector of Louth*

## NO FOOD, NO MONEY?



**The Community Larder Food Bank can supply a food and hygiene parcel containing enough food for up to 3 days.**

**Referrals (to confirm genuine need) are made via statutory services, including local Town Councillors and local Church Ministers.**

Donated items can be taken to the Trinity Centre, Eastgate, Louth LN11 8DJ from Monday – Friday 9am - 10am.

[www.teamparishoflouth.org.uk](http://www.teamparishoflouth.org.uk)

Tel: 01507 605803



**Louth Churches Together Community Larder Food Bank**

**Tel: 01507 605803 trinity@teamparishoflouth.org.uk**

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This letter from: The Rev'd Nick Brown, The Rectory, Westgate, Louth, LN11 9YE.

1<sup>st</sup> June 2020

Dear all

First of all could I thank those who have thanked the Ministry Team for the work that we have done over the past weeks, as the life of the Church (along with all our individual lives have seen such change. It is always good to know what works and what more could work, and that our efforts to maintain a life of prayer and worship at the heart of our community, to provide resources for people to use in their own personal prayers and reflections, to maintain contact among those in our pastoral care, and to serve those in need in the wider community. **Could I thank all those in the Ministry Team (including the extended team of volunteers) without whom none of this would be possible.**

Over the coming weeks we are likely to see further changes to our shared life, as some of our church buildings may be able to open for private prayer, and it may become possible to involve more people in our streamed worship. However, everything is uncertain at present, and I am keen that we do not rush into anything before we are ready. However, the Ministry Team are actively exploring what may be possible, and planning for the various possible eventualities. **As soon as changes to our life are possible we will share this via the website, facebook page and Weekly Notes.** It is also important to recognise that many of our community may not wish to join gathered worship when it is possible (so as to protect themselves of those near and dear to them), and we will maintain the resources we are currently providing as long as they are needed.

As always, there is one practicality that I need to ask everyone to consider – that of enabling our work to continue! The past months have seen much of our regular income disappear (this includes the money we normally receive from hiring out rooms, weekly collections and, at St James, donations from visitors and those using the Coffee Shop). **This does mean that we are currently living beyond our means and are currently only meeting our costs by drawing on reserves.** Fortunately, we are lucky that we have had a policy of holding sufficient cash reserves for just such an event as we are now experiencing, and we have been doubly fortunate in the level of support that we have received for the community outreach work of the Pastoral Care Network and Food Larder.

However, we need to explore how we can meet our other costs – especially as we look to taking staff out of furlough so that we can open our facilities for use when this is both permitted and sensible to do. **I know that many already give sacrificially to the Church, but if you are able to support the church further financially this would be much appreciated,** and will allow us to maintain our offering of prayer and worship, our pastoral care, and our support to those in the local community into the future. Many people beyond the immediate church community believe that the ministry of the Church of England is provided on the basis of rich endowments – it is only those of us within the church who fully understand the reality that all our work need to be paid for by what is a local community charity serving the Parish of Louth (with grateful thanks for the support we receive in subsidising the cost of stipends for clergy).

Once again, many thanks for all that is done to make Christ known amongst us – and best wishes as we continue to adapt to living in new ways.

Yours, faithfully,

Nick Brown  
Rector of Louth

**The Parish of Louth**  
St. James, Louth – St. Michael's, Louth – Trinity Centre, Louth  
All Saints, South Elkington – St. Andrew's, Stewton – St. Martin's, Welton-le-Wold  
[www.teamparishoflouth.org.uk](http://www.teamparishoflouth.org.uk)

## **In more depth...**

## **...the Pastoral Care Network**

In more depth...with the Pastoral Care Network

The Pastoral Care Network (PCN) came into being a mere two months ago. Yet it has proved so essential to parish life and work under pandemic conditions that for those who helped put it together its conception is beginning to seem a distant memory. Certainly, by now, many people who will be reading this Newsletter will have some awareness of its work. Like so much at St James' the PCN's apparent ease of function is underpinned by many determined feet paddling below the surface. In this article we will to shine a light on how the PCN came to be, share something of what it means for the parishioners it involves, and celebrate its successes.

There was an critical need as we moved towards the full lockdown of March 23rd for a revision to the well-established framework for pastoral visiting. The modus operandi of the pastoral visiting team, which worked largely through one to one visits in the home, had to be reshaped overnight in the light of guidelines preventing all but the most essential face-to-face contact. We had to respect the necessary need to shield those identified as 'vulnerable' to the COVID-19 virus (whether or not they appreciated being placed in this category!) and there were clearly further degrees of lockdown on the horizon.

Where once clergy and visitors simply knocked at a door, sometimes finding a house more by nous than number, and met monthly in person to liaise and coordinate, now there was an urgent need to centralise and find a means of 'phone or email contact for a huge number of people. It is fair to say that there were gaps in the contact details held, and substantial effort went into drawing together the missing contact information: with our Parish Secretary Tiffany Noden put to work cross-referencing many existing data systems and sending dozens of letters to known addresses.

There was, to begin with, a strong sense of urgency to ensure that any parishioner known to the team should be supported, especially were they to fall ill. Initially practical needs dominated. But always we knew there was a very important underlying aim. Where the Body of Christ could no longer meet together as a worshipping community, or in the many radiating ways in which we as a parish are bound together, we had to maintain a sense of connectedness to one another and to God. Even when we began to hope we might escape too much direct infection by the virus for the moment, there was a huge challenge still to come in the potential isolation that shielding and eventually, later social distancing measures posed to all.

With two hundred and more parishioners on the compiled database, and an aim initially of weekly or fortnightly calls, new recruits were soon needed to extend the pastoral visiting team's capacities. The parish had a duty of care to one another, when so many had found their daily routines and support networks drastically altered. Each volunteer makes regular

'phone calls to a small group of individuals, building on existing relationships and forming new ones. Discussions were initially scaffolded to ensure that the individual called had a strong and stable personal support network and that they had access to medical deliveries, shopping, hobby and pet supplies. As we began (and continue) to build our virtual worship provision, it was important to make sure all were aware of how we were trying to sustain and support the prayer life of the parish. The idea of 'phone in' Sunday Worship, now possible through the video conferencing company PowWow, arose directly from responding to needs discerned through the PCN. As the weeks pass by, and some relationships and trust deepen, the conversations have become richer also.

Individuals called frequently express their gratitude for the regular contact and the wider ongoing work of the parish, but equally there is also a great sense of privilege from the volunteers making the calls. Some calls are light-hearted catch ups akin to a cup of tea with a friend. Some are more challenging. Naturally mood fluctuates and there are calls that are profoundly vulnerable, moving and ultimately very much needed. Some calls are extremely spiritual; reconnecting and redirecting both caller and called in new directions. For many, the relationship has become symbiotic and a great sense of personal and spiritual wellbeing follows from a call.

Through its conception to present, the PCN has grown rooted in the value of connectedness and we hope it continues to do so. The volunteers deserve a great deal of recognition, given how emotionally varied the calls can be, especially having never envisioned at the beginning of this endeavour how strong some of the relationships could have developed. However, we are assured that in our eventual coming together, there shall be joy in their as well as all our meeting. Hopefully, the sense of connectedness that we initially sought to preserve will have been sustained and, possibly for those encountering the PCN, ultimately increased through this experience.

*'I ask...that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.'* John 17



**PASTORAL CARE  
NETWORK**

- providing regular contact by phone
- delivering food and medication

Contact [louthparishpastoral@gmail.com](mailto:louthparishpastoral@gmail.com), or leave a message on 01507 605803 if you know someone in need

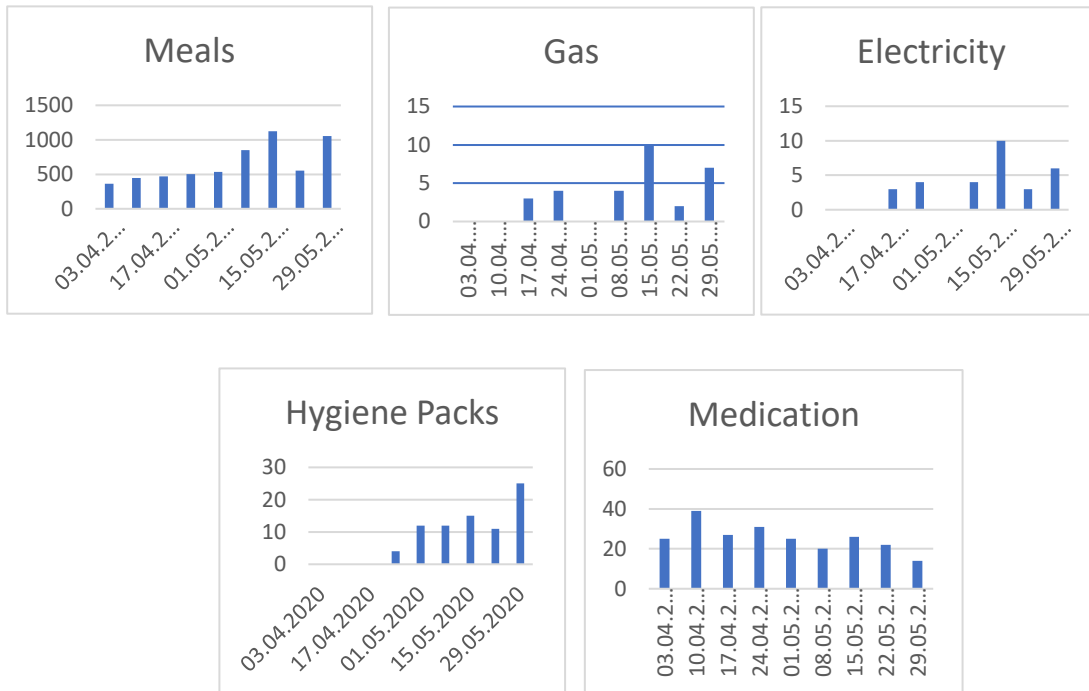
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## **Caring for others: Community Larder**

The Community Larder continues to be available to serve those in need. Our aim is to ensure that no-one in genuine need goes without food.

The charts below give an indication on the way that demand has increased over the last couple of months (although as people have got used to the situation we are in and the NHS volunteer service has begun to kick in, the need for medication deliveries by volunteers has started to drop off a bit):



We continue to be grateful for the huge generosity of so many, without whom our work would be impossible – private individuals, families, businesses, councillors and grant-making bodies have all played a part in sustaining our work at a time when demand has increased by more than twofold, and is still rising. Thank you to everyone who has helped make this possible.

## **Caring for others: Pastoral Care Network**

At the beginning of the restrictions on daily life that came with Coronavirus, we reframed the work of our Pastoral Visiting Team and expanded the scope of its work to try to provide regular contact with those known to us as part of our worshipping congregations, and to meet the needs of those in the wider community needing to self-isolate or becoming isolated in other ways. Rebadged as the Pastoral Care Network, the existing Pastoral Visitor ALMs - have been joined by other members of the church to carry out this vital role of keeping in touch. Whilst many people have other networks of support (including within individual congregations) the aim of the Pastoral Care Network is to provide a central and accessible 'safety-net' should anyone be in pastoral need – and it has been especially useful in providing a point of contact for those who do not regularly worship in one of our churches.

***See page 3 onwards for more information on the work of the Pastoral Care Network.***

## Prayer and Worship

Prayer is the heartbeat of Christian life, and we offer of ourselves in worship as a response to receiving the grace of God. As well as the prayers and praises we may offer as individuals, the Church maintains a regular round of daily prayer and worship for and on behalf of the whole community. At a time such as this – when we cannot gather as we normally do, pray as we normally might and worship as we normally can – the regular prayer of the Church continues, and can be joined by individuals praying together (either using the same words, or joining at the same times).

All these services can be joined in at home – orders of service and details of the psalms and readings are contained in the Parish Notes so that anyone can join together in prayer through the Spirit. For those able to, services can also be accessed in the following ways:

- all services are being streamed to [www.facebook.com/louthchurch](http://www.facebook.com/louthchurch)
- the Sunday eucharist is also available as a video on [www.teamparishoflouth.org.uk](http://www.teamparishoflouth.org.uk)

From the beginning of May, people can also dial in to listen to the Sunday eucharist via PowWowNow (contact the Pastoral Care Network for details of how to access this!).

The following pattern is a framework for our life at present:

<b>Monday to Friday:</b>	<b><i>Matins (Morning Prayer on Tuesday)</i></b> at 9 15am
	<b><i>Holy Communion (BCP)</i></b> at 11am on Tuesdays
	<b><i>Compline</i></b> at 7 30pm
<b>Saturdays:</b>	<b><i>Midday Prayer</i></b> at 12 30pm
<b>Sundays:</b>	<b><i>Eucharist</i></b> at 10am
	<b><i>Evensong</i></b> at 6pm

In addition, Evening Prayer is being said each day, either in one of the village churches in the Deanery or by means of the weekly BBC broadcast of Choral Evensong.

## Growing in our faith

In the first weeks of the new ways we are working, as our energies were focused on changing things to meet the new situation, the resources for people to grow in faith were focused on the printed material provided each week in the Parish Notes.

Activities that are now taking place:

- Two online homilies each week - available on the Confraternity of St Herefrith and Parish of Louth websites, and the Parish of Louth facebook page.
- A weekly session to explore different ways of praying – taking place as a Zoom meeting that is then available for people to catch up on the Parish of Louth Facebook page.
- Weekly Diddy Disciples activities – accessible on the Diddy Disciples facebook group.
- Online assemblies – produced by James and Arabella and used in several of the local schools

We are still looking at other ways to help people explore faith – if you have any ideas, please let us know!

## Supporting our work: Please help if you can!

Far from relaxing during the lockdown, the work of the church locally has been continuing at full pace (albeit very differently to normal!). This can only take place thanks to the support that so many people give. However, with a significant amount of our regular income (from visitors, hiring of community space etc.) now stopped, we need to ask those who are able to support our work in praying for and service the community of Louth and its surrounding villages.

- One-off donations can be made by BACS transfer to:

*Bank: HSBC Bank plc*

*Account name: DCC of St James*

*Sort code: 40-30-26*

*Account name: 60650005*

- Regular payments to help support and develop our work can be made through the **Parish Giving Scheme**.

Please let us know if your donations are eligible for Gift Aid. We can benefit further at no cost to you!

Please contact the Deanery Office or Rector (details below), and they will be happy to send you a joining pack for PGS and answer any questions.

**Thank you for your support, without which our work could not continue!**

## DIRECTORY OF CONTACT DETAILS

**Ministry Team** (based at St James and serving the wider Parish and Deanery)

**Rural Dean and Team Rector:** Nick Brown

[nick.brown@teamparishoflouth.org.uk](mailto:nick.brown@teamparishoflouth.org.uk)

01507 603213/07901 852198

**Assistant Curate and Priest Lecturer of St James:** Arabella Milbank Robinson

[arabella.robinson@teamparishoflouth.org.uk](mailto:arabella.robinson@teamparishoflouth.org.uk)

**Associate Priest and Priest Warden of the Confraternity of St Herefrith:** Chris Wedge

**Rector of Legbourne Woldmarsh:** James Robinson

[james.robinson@lincoln.anglican.org](mailto:james.robinson@lincoln.anglican.org)

**Community Outreach Manager:** Greg Gilbert

[greg.gilbert@teamparishoflouth.org.uk](mailto:greg.gilbert@teamparishoflouth.org.uk)

01507 605803

**Deanery Office** (currently working remotely, but still the main point of contact for Baptism, Wedding and Funeral enquiries)

[louthesk@lincoln.anglican.org](mailto:louthesk@lincoln.anglican.org)

01507 610247 (Please leave a message!)

**Deanery Administrator:** Julie Speakman

[julie.speakman@lincoln.anglican.org](mailto:julie.speakman@lincoln.anglican.org)

**St James' Administrator:** Tiffany Noden

[tiffany.noden@lincoln.anglican.org](mailto:tiffany.noden@lincoln.anglican.org)