

## Sector Ministry in Liverpool Diocese Annual Report 2021

Our activities over this past year are summarised in the attached chart and shows that in spite of everything that has been happening, Sector Ministry has continued to flourish and in fact grow numerically this year, mainly due to the increase of volunteers and the successful replacement of ordained Chaplains.

Many Chaplains have remained at their places of work throughout the year and those who were furloughed (mainly in the retail sector) have kept in touch. I am immensely grateful to all of our Chaplains who have worked so hard under such stressful conditions for so long, yet still remaining so upbeat about all that they do, and in the care and practical help that they bring to people. They have found opportunities to share their faith, particularly with people facing bereavement and loss.

Communication has been mainly by Zoom through the year and we have devised different types of meeting to reach as many as possible. Several Chaplains have requested one-to-one Zooms and we also found the sector-by-sector meetings useful. We all really appreciated the Zoom version of a Commissioning Service with both Bishops engaging with us. The Away Day was more difficult but we very much hope that next year we may be able to do that together in person which is preferable for that type of meeting.

As restrictions lifted in the Summer, I was able to meet a few Chaplains in their workplaces and that was really good. The two Remembrance Services I attended in St John's Market and at James Street station were particularly moving and very well received.

Emma Howarth and MITE have been very proactive in running several Chaplaincy Today courses through the year and together with the vocational Zooms we participated in with Life Call, we have had a steady stream of people interested in knowing more about Chaplaincy and several have engaged with us as volunteers in retail and in Alder Hey though the latter have not yet been able to start due to Covid restrictions. We are hoping that next year we may be able to find volunteers to help out at Broadgreen and the Royal when permitted, as those Chaplains really need more support.

We have now completed the compilation of Chaplains on CMS so that this information is available throughout the Diocese and are hoping that we will see the completion of those requiring licensing in some institutions, in the foreseeable future. We have worked on the new Diocesan website and are hoping to include more Chaplaincy 'stories' throughout the year.

We have continued to forge links with other bodies and are now part of the Diocesan Advisers Group organised by the Chaplaincy Development Officer of Bath and Wells. This advocates Chaplaincy at all levels. Our Sector Ministry group is asking that the Church of England may give favourable consideration to people being ordained in to Chaplaincy as well as into the parish setting and it would be good to make connections with specific people in more Dioceses to pursue this. In Liverpool, we have looked to develop stronger links with the Cathedral and were glad to be part of the Key Workers' Commemoration service.

We were been invited to represent our work in the Lay Ministry network and I have subsequently been asked to write an article about it in the 'Transforming Ministry' (formerly 'The Reader') magazine. Liverpool Diocese Sector Ministry has also featured in the 'Church Times' this year. On a

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personal note, my book written about Prison Chaplaincy has been accepted for publication by Waverley Abbey Resources and is due out next Sept/Oct. They have also commissioned me to write a set of Bible Reading notes for 'Inspiring Women' using my work as a Prison Chaplain as a foundation. I am hoping that all this will continue to raise the profile of Sector Ministry in general.

## Sector Ministry in Liverpool Diocese activities 2021

