

### Journeying Together Through Lent

Unlike journeys we make every day for one reason or another, our journey of life – or the journey of faith is different to any other as there is no set starting point, direct route or prearranged destination. The journey is not always easy; you might travel through a few storms and take some pit stops from time to time, have to tackle some flat tyres and call for assistance and sometimes be stuck in a traffic jam, but always moving forward toward our final destination. No one makes this journey alone. God is our spiritual satnav; he shows us what to do and tells us when we are going the wrong way (through His Holy Spirit and His Word). He is with us on our journey always and we are all connected spiritually with the Christian family throughout the world and throughout time.

As we progress through Lent, we will reflect on our shared journey and how we help and support each other along the way – and sometimes, how we do not. We will also think about how we might do it better – particularly for those who feel like outsiders or who are unsure of their welcome. We will look at how our Lord did it through the Gospels of Lent and how he reached out and welcomed all kinds of people – meeting them at the stage of faith they were at and helping them to move on.

Allow your journey to glorify God.



Resources to help guide our journey through Lent are available on the Diocesan website at: <http://www.rcdhn.org.uk/spirituality/spiritlent18.php>

### Partnerships in Harmony



The Diocesan Church Music Association (DCMA) is the music committee of the Diocesan Liturgy Department. Its aims are to develop the skills of parish musicians and foster the best practice and highest standards of music in the liturgy of the churches and schools of the diocese.

How can they help parishes and partnerships? They can:

- ♪ Signpost and provide suitable resources to enhance the quality of liturgical music.
- ♪ Up-skill musicians in parishes and partnerships by leading cantor workshops.
- ♪ Organise singing days and workshops focusing on particular aspects of music, or seasons of the Church's year.
- ♪ Help support partnerships if they wish to learn some core repertoire, e.g. Mass settings that can be used across the partnership.
- ♪ Offer leadership support to musicians at deanery days of reflection.
- ♪ Support schools by holding music workshops for pupils and music leaders.
- ♪ Organise composers' days to give a voice to the composers of our diocese who wish to share new material.
- ♪ Offer advice on copyright issues.

They also consider special requests for workshops e.g. a 'have a go at the organ' day, or maybe you know of a budding keyboard player who would like to develop their skills. Then please contact:

**Alison Purvis** (Chair) ☎ 0191 371 9184

Email: [alisonpurvis1@hotmail.com](mailto:alisonpurvis1@hotmail.com)

**Frances Simmons** (Secretary) ☎ 01325 308 045

Further information can be found on the Diocesan website at:

[www.rcdhn.org.uk/liturgical\\_formation/churchmusicmain.php](http://www.rcdhn.org.uk/liturgical_formation/churchmusicmain.php)

or on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/dhndcma/](https://www.facebook.com/dhndcma/)



## Property and Community Review

One of the medium-term tasks for all partnerships is to undertake a review of all buildings and land within their area so that proposals can be developed to maximise their use and sustainability.

While preparing plans for the future use of property, it became clear that it was necessary not only to examine sustainability and worship patterns, but also to clarify the needs and views of the wider community. Therefore the toolkit now also involves a 'community context' - hence the new title *Property and Community Review (PCR)*.

The PCR will be implemented through three stages which consist of a Property Review, a Community Review and a Proposal.

### 1. Property Review

This stage will ask partnerships to look at all buildings and land to determine sustainability, suitability of use and capacity to support the worshipping and wider communities. This will involve considering various factors including:

- Geography and demography
- Accessibility
- Legal obligations
- Condition
- Current usage
- Flexibility for multiple uses

### 2. Community Review

The Community Review will use a clear framework to examine the communities where our churches are located.

The Know Your Church Know Your Neighbourhood (KYCKYN) framework has been chosen as it is an easy to follow faith based process designed to help church communities think about themselves in relation to the wider community they seek to serve.

It gives participants the tools to listen to the wider community, celebrate its strengths and have a deeper understanding of its needs.

Recognising that there are diverse communities and neighbourhoods within partnerships, it is recommended that community reviews are carried out at *parish* level.

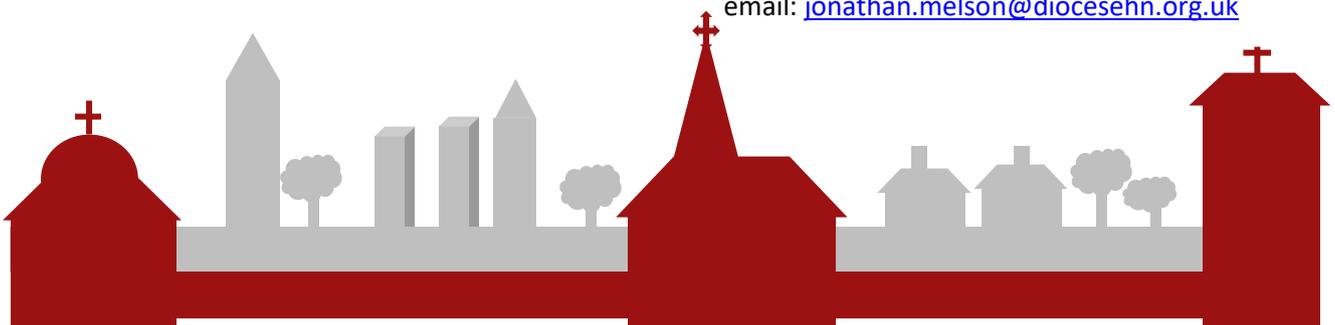
### 3. Proposal

The proposal stage asks partnerships to combine the findings and summaries from the property and community reviews. Each building and piece of land will then be considered against a variety of key factors to help establish possible options. This forward planning will inform the future use of a partnership's property and land to maximise its benefits for worshippers and the community.

### Training and How to Get Involved

In the near future, we will be asking Partnership Development Groups to nominate two representatives to receive training in the Property and Community Review process. One representative will then coordinate the property review while the second will coordinate the KYCKYN activities within the partnership. Both coordinators will work together to develop the proposal. The training will be based upon a detailed toolkit to help guide partnerships through the process.

Particular knowledge and experience in property, construction, community development, outreach projects etc. would be most useful. However, a strong desire to make a difference for the benefit of the Church and community is just as important. If you would like to be involved in the Property and Community Review as either a property or community 'lead' or even contribute to the KYCKYN project within your parish; please contact the Department for Property on 0191 243 3303 or email: [jonathan.melson@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:jonathan.melson@diocesehn.org.uk)



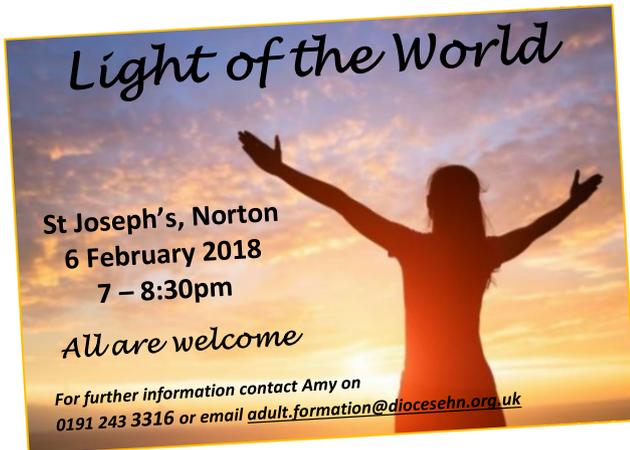
## Developing Discipleship

A Diocesan Approach to Renewing Our Mission

Here are a couple of events for your diaries.

### 'The Summits'

The next 'Summit' entitled 'Light of the World' will be an evening of teaching, testimony, praise and worship led by Expedition Worship and Andrew Brookes OP.



### Partnership Development Groups Get Together

Are you a member of a Partnership Development Group (PDG)? Have you wondered how other partnerships are moving forward? Here is an opportunity for you to meet with others on this partnership journey.

PDGs are invited to an informal participant driven gathering on Thursday 26 April 2018. In an environment of support and encouragement this event will provide the space for you to talk to others who have the goal of partnership in mind.

There will be opportunities to hear good practice, share practical innovations and listen to personal insights of the journey into partnerships.



To book places for your PDG by **1<sup>st</sup> April 2018**

Please contact Amy at

[adult.formation@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:adult.formation@diocesehn.org.uk)

or telephone 0191 243 3316

## The Pontop Partnership Mission

Area Missions are now underway in the Diocese. Jeremy Cain describes the Pontop Mission experience.



School and parish representatives at the Family Night

Coming together as a new partnership seemed like the right time for a new challenge. For years, our Youth Ministry Team has been visiting secondary schools to deliver week long missions, so widening this to include the parishes and primary schools in the partnership seemed like the obvious next step. But this was no old-style mission, with a visiting priest preaching a sermon every day. Instead, the community took it upon themselves to minister to each other - and to the wider world - through a programme of events and activities. It's fair to say that some were daunted by this task but people committed themselves to it nonetheless, trusting in the Holy Spirit to guide them.

Our objective was to offer every individual an encounter that would help them grow closer in their relationship to Christ and the community, with particular emphasis on groups that sometimes feel excluded: children, young people and families, young men, the elderly, sick and housebound and the poor. It was also seen as a chance to strengthen our links with other Christian traditions and to develop leadership within the partnership.

The mission took place over three weeks, starting on the feast of Christ the King. The first week saw numerous activities aimed at the children and families in the 9 primary schools in the partnership. From Advent-wreath crafts to prayer stations, from Mass to a mission themed bake-off, there was something for everyone.



At a Partnership Meeting discussing... "what next?"

For the second week, the focus moved to the 10 parishes and, again, a variety of events: a pub talk with Gram Seed, a healing and mercy service, an ecumenical reading of Mark's gospel and a musical extravaganza, to name only a few. Last but definitely not least, the mission moved to St. Bede's, the Partnership's secondary school, who not only engaged their students with lively presentations of gospel stories and many other activities, but invited parishioners in to share them. The question now is... what next?

## Religious Houses in Partnership

In nearly every partnership in the diocese there are houses where religious men and women live out their mission. They represent 12 different orders of men and 16 different orders of women. All have a specific gift or charism to bring to the church, and they share this through the many different ministries in which they are involved and through the way they work and worship together with other partners in the parishes. Some are more visible than others.

With the next edition of 'Partnership Matters' we will be presenting more about the presence and role of religious in the diocese and exploring what they have to offer in our Partnerships. In the meantime you may wish to consider what opportunities might be available to link with the religious communities in your partnership.



## News from around the Diocese

We are always delighted to hear what is taking place in partnerships so that we can share this through 'Partnership Matters' and on the Partnership pages of the diocesan website. This time we share some ideas from the Heavenfield and Monkwearmouth Partnerships.

**Heavenfield** issued their first partnership newsletter in January. Items included:

- The contact details and who's who in each parish in the partnership.
- A list of Mass times in every church.
- A message from the Partnership Development Group (PDG) Chair, Joe Ronan and a summary of the PDG meeting held in December.
- A short update on recent activities in each parish.
- A 'prayer corner', and
- A short item about the history of St Oswald's church in Heavenfield on the B6318 (Military Road).

The **Monkwearmouth** Partnership published the first edition of their colourful quarterly partnership magazine in December. It provides a brief history of each of the worshipping communities, partnership news and events, including news from the partnership youth and some of the local Catholic schools. It is the intention of the PDG to use the magazine as a way of strengthening communication links between the church communities.



### Your Points of View!

In an effort to improve how we communicate we would welcome your views on 'Partnership Matters.' If you could complete this short on line survey we would love to hear from you.

[www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/QXBKXSF](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/QXBKXSF)

Alternatively, feel free to get in touch with your feedback. Our contact details are below. Thank you.

**Partnership Matters** is produced by the Department for Development and Renewal.

To provide contributions or feedback, please contact Nancy Gash or Tony Sacco on

0191 243 3304 or e-mail: [hope@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:hope@diocesehn.org.uk)