

## Hope on the Horizon

A look back and a look forward



2016 was probably our busiest year yet! Alongside our usual daily emails and prayer resources, we worked with other Diocesan Departments on events associated with the Year of Mercy... remember that?!

Over 2500 people attended 14 Liturgies of Mercy around the Diocese, planned with the Evangelisation Team. This was far beyond anything we could have anticipated. It entailed people visiting parishes to distribute over 30,000 invitations—others, in the parishes, providing hospitality, readers and music—clergy coming to offer listening, Reconciliation and anointing—and lay people again offering listening and creative ways of reflecting on God's mercy. We have heard of people who had carried heavy burdens for long years being blessed and healed by the services and feel privileged to have been part of such a great work of God.

With the Departments for Interreligious Relations and Justice and Peace, we planned a series of evenings on the theme of Voices of Mercy, inviting people involved in various Corporal Works of Mercy to share what they do. One of the most successful of these was "Visit the Imprisoned" - a session which led to other parishes asking the speakers to come along and talk about their work and the difference mercy makes to people's lives. A very significant success was the Interreligious Gathering at Cardinal Hume School when Jews, Muslims, Christians and others got together to listen to insights from the three Abrahamic faiths on the theme of the God of Mercy—a very powerful experience.

We were very involved in preparing materials to go alongside the packs put out from *Forward Together in Hope*.

It has been very satisfying to hear of parishes commissioning Anchors—people who serve their communities by the prayer at home. Other places organising prayer vigils and finding that they are able to meet the challenge and hold a 24 Hour Prayer and find themselves very blessed by it. The ideas and

resources were designed to have a long shelf-life and could be worth revisiting as the next stage of the process gets underway.

After a very busy time of parishes looking at potential Partnerships., things will seem to be a bit quieter—though there may be some anxieties around about how things will turn out! This is precisely the time that prayer is most needed—so you might like to think about how you and your prayer group or parish might mark this time of discernment and decision-making. It could be as simple as having a Mass said with the intention of the Diocese and its future. Or, you might hold a Holy Hour or similar vigil for the Bishop and Directors as they take a step back and reflect on the life of the Diocese now—and take a long view as to what it might become. This is much more than an administrative exercise and needs to be underpinned by collective prayer.

Another initiative that went well was a series of "Exploring Prayer" - looking at different ways of praying. This was so successful at St Andrew's, Newcastle, that a second series is organised!

Looking ahead to what is planned so far for 2017—well, more with Forward Together and supporting the new Partnerships—an idea percolating for 24 Hour prayers around the Diocese—supporting people during bereavement and loss—and an interfaith Pilgrimage of Peace to Flodden Field!

And more...

So—thanks be to God for 2016—and on 2017, God's blessing!

### Weavings 2017

In order to focus on getting the Lent resource materials and CDs copied and ready for distribution, we have decided that our next copy of Weavings will be out **late January/ early February 2017.**

Apologies for the inconvenience but having just sent out over 300 CDs for Advent—and knowing that we will need more for Lent—we think we will have our work cut out!

### Date for the Diary

The Diocesan Festival will be held at Emmaus Village on **Saturday 24 June – Sunday 25 June 2017.** More information and booking forms will be available in the New Year—but please get the date into your new diary!

### Contact Details

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**0191 243 3302 or 0753 0917 219**

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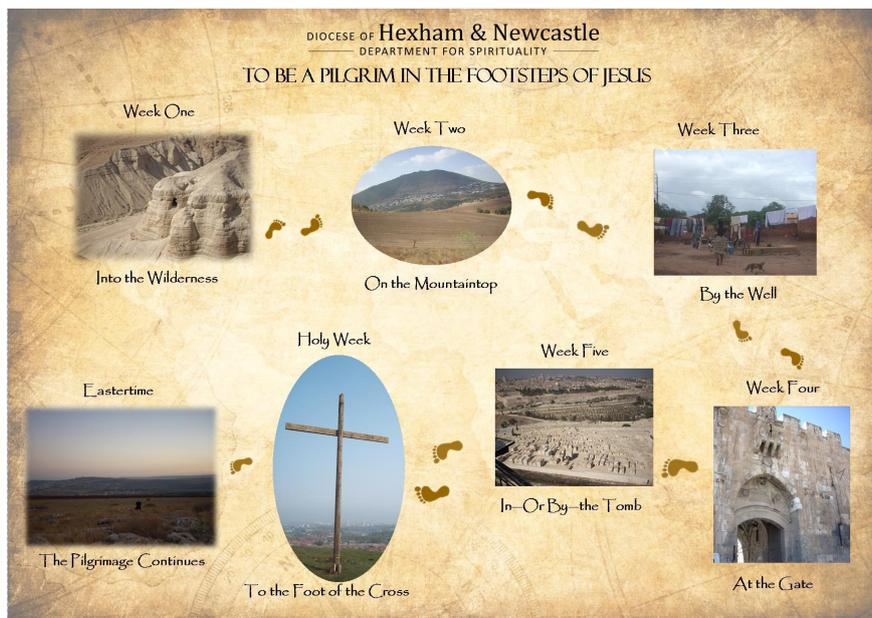
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# Lent Resources 2017: To be a Pilgrim: In the Footsteps of Jesus

It often causes some amusement when we tell people that we are working on Advent resources in the summer and autumn and have the Lent resources all but tied up by Christmas! Experience has shown us, though, that we are on the right lines and that, almost as soon as people are back from Christmas breaks, they will be looking for ideas for Lent. A few have already mentioned that they are looking now! If this applies to you, you will be glad to know that we are well on the way to having the resources for Lent ready. Our theme is "To be a Pilgrim: In the



prayer stations, daily e-mail reflections and more will be available from us around 16 January and, hopefully, online at around the same time. If you would like anything earlier, please get in touch but note that the diocesan office is closed from 24 December to 2 January inclusive. Lent Days of Reflection are planned for:

Footsteps of Jesus". It is designed to take on a pilgrimage to some of the places Jesus visited in the gospels and to link them to our own lives. The meeting planners and leaflets,

Saturday 4 March—Alnwick  
Saturday 25 March—Ushaw College  
Saturday 29 March—Minsteracres  
More information in our February Weavings.

## Upcoming Events in the Diocese and Local Centres

DIocese of Hexham & Newcastle

**Voices of Mercy**

### Bury the Dead

Wednesday 7 December 2016  
7.00pm  
(Refreshments from 6.30pm)

*Listen to the voices of those who offer dignity to those who have died, and comfort to those who mourn.*

St. Anne's Parish Centre  
Hylton Road  
Pennywell  
Sunderland SR4 9AA



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:  
Department for Spirituality,  
Telephone 0191 243 3302 | email spirituality@diocesehn.org.uk

Centre for Prayer and Mission,  
Tuesday evenings at 7.00pm  
**Advent Light:**  
an in-depth Scriptural approach to the beautiful season of Advent

Dec 6: Fulfilment  
Dec 13: Advent Taize:  
prayer, music and reflection

More information from Sr Michael  
marymichael.lee7@googlemail.com  
(0191) 581 3249

DIocese of Hexham & Newcastle  
DEPARTMENT FOR SPIRITUALITY



### HOPE ON THE HORIZON

SATURDAY 17 DECEMBER

10.00am—12.30pm  
1.30pm—3.30pm

*Take a short time out from your shopping, to rest, relax, and reflect with the One whose birth we celebrate*

St Andrew's  
Worswick Street  
Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 6UW

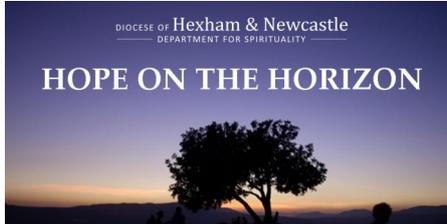
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TELEPHONE 0191 243 3302 | email spirituality@diocesehn.org.uk

### St Antony's Priory

Saturday 10 December,  
10.00am -11.00am, 11.30am-12.30pm  
Together in Meditation  
Two separate hours of silent meditation rooted in the Christian tradition.

More information from St Antony's Priory  
info@stantonypriory.co.uk,  
0191 384 3747

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DEPARTMENT FOR SPIRITUALITY



### HOPE ON THE HORIZON

AN ADVENT DAY OF REFLECTION  
*a place to pray, and space to be ...*

SATURDAY 10 DECEMBER 2016  
(10.00am—4.00pm)

Sacred Heart and St. Cuthbert  
37 High Street  
Able, NE65 0LE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT  
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### Date for your Diary

Following the very successful Interfaith gathering reflecting on the Mercy of God, another event is being planned. It is some time away but please get the date in your diary!

**Interfaith Peace Pilgrimage to Flodden Field and Crookham Peace Centre**  
21 October 2017