# The Gift of Community, led by Deacon Tracey Hume

10 May 2021

**Summary of Zoom chat**

It’s not the same as meeting face to face I know but how good is it that folks from across the country effectively cane meet up virtually.

Community evident at the very beginning of the pandemic, coordinated help, church foodbanks ramped up their efforts. New ways to support people.

At beginning of pandemic - collective cause we all identified with and it drew us together as a whole.

The Nazareth Manifesto speaks clearly about the need to come along side people - not to help them because we don't hold all the answers, but to get to know them and their need really well so we can help each other. Recommended reading!

Also thoughts on power and marginalisation and the wheel of privilege we are all part of: <https://twitter.com/lydimoo/status/1371109970205368324?s=20>

God of all, make the roof of our house wide enough for all opinions, oil the door of our house so that it opens easily to friend and stranger, and set such a table in our house that all may speak kindly and freely. God, as we strive for success. For wealth, for stability, for status, Turn our eyes down from the top of the mountain that we may see to wash the feet of the world. For if we pray we believe If we believe we will love If we love, we will serve. Lord help us to take good care of the paths between the houses, to use them to meet each other,

for if they are not used they will become overgrown with thistles and even harder to pass. Make us communities of love, strong enough to include others. Amen

I think Tracy's outline was very helpful, however, not sure I'm as hopeful for divisions having been reduced, given the elections’ results this weekend.

Also seeing new volunteers in the village, especially in litter picking/ environmental projects.

Sheffield circuit was very good at supporting those of us who had been good at using our buildings and thus missing our lettings income, and gave us grants.

I have done so many funerals..... Most of the Anglicans in this area were self isolating.

To consider how we can make changes in policy requires us to be more politically engaged and challenging.

Are Church Action on Poverty involved in this Gateshead poverty /truth commission scheme- as they were in Sheffield?

Questions for breakout discussion:

1. Has anything struck you about the process of the Poverty Truth Commission?

2. How can we try and listen to the experiences of our local community from the last year not just our congregations?

3. How do we ensure we listen safely?

Developing partnerships with other community organisations is a really positive way forward that enables a much wider understanding of local issues

Acorn Christian Healing Trust do a fantastic listener training course

I have done that course. was very helpful

Thank you, Tracey for giving us insight into the Poverty Truth Commission and for providing information and challenge that we can take away and consider what we can do as ‘church’. Thank you

Thank you. Tracey and everyone. May God show us what we should be doing where God has placed us . Bless you x