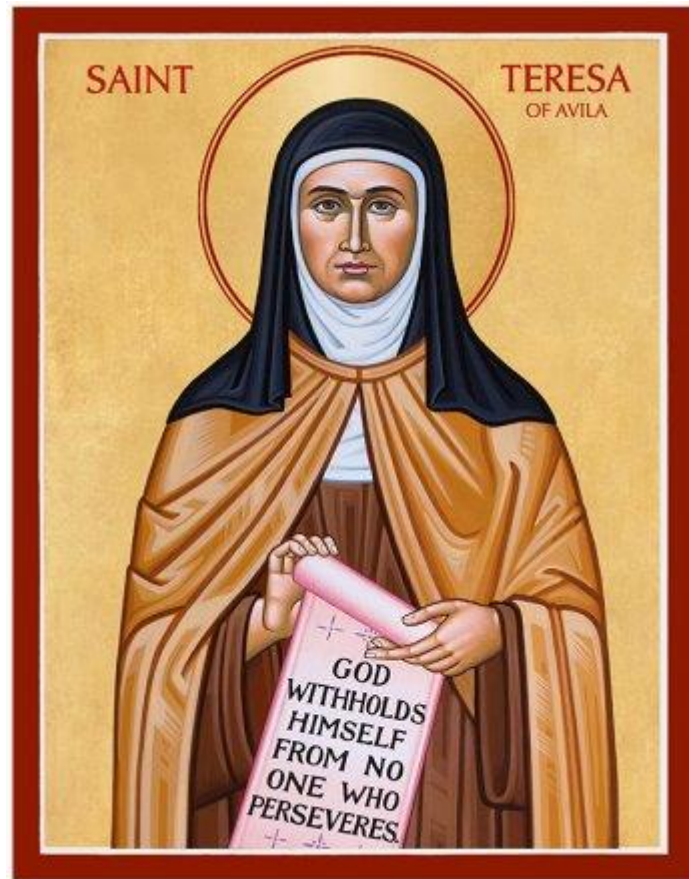


March 2021



'May today be there peace within.

May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.

**May you use those gifts that you have received,
and pass on the love that has been given to you.**

May you be content knowing you are a child of God.

**Let this presence settle into your bones,
and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.....**

St Theresa of Avila

Hello and welcome to the Yorkshire Plus Learning Network Report 2021

It's been some time since our last missive, mostly because we've spent oodles of our time adapting to moving online. It's been a rollercoaster ride! We've all learnt so much - as has everyone across the country - and we hope we got it right. We're still delivering online (who'd've thought, one year on!), and will be doing so for a wee while yet. It's likely that even as lockdown lifts and Covid begins to disappear into the mists of time, that a goodly portion of our offerings will continue to be online, or that we will offer online alongside physical gatherings. Either way, we can't wait to see you all face to face once more.

Meanwhile, please do peruse our newsletter to get your LN Yorkshire Plus fix. We'll give you a taste of some of what we've been doing, and we'll get you up to speed with what we'll be offering in the coming months.

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WHAT WE DID Regional Webinars

We've held a series of webinars on a range of subjects over past months. They've been hugely popular, and some of the subjects we covered have now become a series of webinars in their own right. You can read more about those in the '**What We're Up To Next**' section.



Online Retreats



Twice yearly we hold a Regional retreat for lay workers and ministers. Of course, in 2020 we had to cancel - but Debbie Lewer, who was due to lead us, offered up a one day online version. It drew more numbers than the physical event, and of course we could accommodate them in a way we couldn't have done had we met In Real Life. It was such a success that Debbie is going to hold a physical version in 2022. Take a look in the '**What We're Up To Next**' section for details.

Because the online Debbie Lewer went so well, we came over all bold, and decided to hold our March retreat online too. Aply led by Nick Helm, retreatants explored the writings of Julian of Norwich. 'All shall be well, all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well'. How

pertinent for the times we are living in! Nick has also offered to hold a physical retreat for us next year. Check out the deets in the '**What We're Up to Next**' section.

By the way, if you have any ideas or suggestions for future retreats, please do let us know. Our details are at the top of the newsletter.

Joined Up Conference

The 6th annual conference for Schools, Children's, Families, Youth, and Chaplaincy workers moved online this year, with over 300 delegates checking in from across the country. With excellent keynotes and a wide range of workshops, the day was a great success. If you missed out, or would like to revisit, you can access videos of the workshops [here](#).



A wee heads up for you: next year's Joined Up will be on **5 March**, so save the date.

Ruth Live!



In partnership with Whirlow Spirituality Centre in Sheffield, and linked with the Bible Month 2020 Book of Ruth, we held an evening event exploring the different themes that run through the Book. The event was graphically recorded; if you'd like to see a time lapse video, you can access it [here](#).

WHAT WE'RE UP TO NEXT

Bible Month

Bible Month has become quite the event for many of our churches, giving people the opportunity to dig deeply into various books of the Bible. This year its the turn of Mark's Gospel. And luckily for you, Bible Month is more like Bible Year, with a variety of online opportunities to engage with Mark's writing.



Why not visit the Bible Month webpage for more details? There is a very tasty [menu](#) of Gospelley yumminess to get your teeth into. Here you will discover the many ways in which you can explore the Book, and deepen your understanding. If you'd like to know more about Bible Month 2021 and the resources available to you, take a look [here](#).



Regional Retreat 16-18 November 2021

We're anticipating this will be a physical retreat, led by Debbie Lewer. Debbie is Senior Lecturer in History of Art at the University of Glasgow. She is a regular speaker and teacher in churches, theological colleges and at festivals and retreats on the rich relationship between art and faith. She is passionate about making art history accessible to all. You can learn a little more about what makes Debbie tick from her biography on the University of Glasgow [website](#).

This retreat will be held at The Briery, Ilkley. Keep an eye out for full details, which will be released later on in the year.

Regional Retreat 17-19 May 2022

We're anticipating this will be a physical retreat, led by Nick Helm. Nick is Advisor in Spirituality for Hereford Diocese. He has held roles with responsibility for spirituality and spiritual development in the Sheffield and Hereford Dioceses, and is chair of the Spiritual Exercises Network. Visit his [website](#) for more information.

This retreat will be held at Wydale Hall. Keep an eye out for full details, which will be released early next year.



Regional Webinars

Following on from our very popular standalone webinars, we have a few series on the go:

Positively Rural: for those whose ministry and churches are in the more rural outposts of the Region, these offer an opportunity to learn about issues specific to being out in the sticks, in a rural and agricultural community.

Dates:

'Festivals as Outreach' 18 May **book here: [May](#)**

'Countryside Challenges' 7 July **book here: [July](#)**

Inclusive Church: by popular demand, this series covers a range of issues from the Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Toolkit: race; gender; and disability to name a few. These webinars will help individuals and churches to become more aware of the difficulties people face; how to tackle them; and how to tackle people's biases with love and grace.

Dates: 29 April; 22 June

To book: [April](#); [June](#)



Ministry with Older People: these webinars cover a range of different ministries specific to older people. for example, how you and your church can minister to people living with dementia; support people in care homes, or those who are housebound; and understand older people's spirituality whether that be Christian or otherwise.

Date: 25 May **To book: May**

Online Safety : Pertinent to current times especially, now we are all spending more time online, we are holding this one-off webinar on online safety. This will cover online risks; common scams and how to tackle them; how to protect our reputation; and recognising the importance of an online policy.

Date: 17 June **To book: June**

OTHER REALLY USEFUL STUFF



Supporting Chaplains

A lot of work is going on at Connexional level to set up a supportive network of chaplains of all persuasions, including those who are interested in exploring what chaplaincy might look like for them. You can find out more on the [Methodist Church website](#).

As a part of this initiative, the LN Yorkshire Plus team is hoping to work together with chaplains and pioneer chaplains across our Region - how might we support you? What do you need to carry out your ministry well? What do explorers of chaplaincy need? We'd

love to hear from you.

Please contact [Siggy Parratt-Halbert](#).

Schools Chaplaincy and Training Beginning 29 April 2021

Continuing the theme of chaplaincy, if you think schools chaplaincy may well be your bag, there is a training course designed especially for you. This year's course begins on 29 April. It costs £50 and includes 18hrs of teaching from a variety of experts; commissioning; and access to the Sheffield School Chaplaincy Facebook.

Interested? Contact [Fiona Walton](#)

School Chaplaincy Training and Resourcing Course 2021

29 April, 12 May, 13 May, 26 May, 9 June & 23 June: 9:30am - 12noon — online
1 July: 10am - 3pm — in person (Venue TBC)

Topics include:

- The difference chaplaincy can make in the school community
- Generation Z
- Teenage brain
- Listening
- Issues children/young people face - drugs, identity, loss and bereavement
- Chaplain to all faiths and none
- Mentoring
- Children and spirituality
- Being professional in the school setting
- Support and resilience for school chaplains and those they serve
- Understanding the school staff
- Mental health
- Models and values of school chaplaincy
- School chaplaincy scenarios


A practical course facilitated by Fiona Walton (CaSS School Links Advisor) and Rachel McCallum (Methodist Connexional team) with input from a number of practitioners expert in their field. **Cost: £50**

For more information and application forms visit:
www.cass-su.org.uk/schoolchaplaincy-course

Questions? Email: fiona.walton@cass-su.org.uk

Feedback from previous trainees:

- "This training was invaluable."
- "This was the best training I've ever done."
- "A hugely informative, real and helpful course."
- "Such breadth and quality of input."
- "Well thought through and high quality."
- "I am so grateful for your shared wisdom."





3Generate 29-31 October 2021

As with everything else last year, 3Generate, the conference for young people bit the dust. This year, we're hoping it will go ahead on

29-31 October. You can get more info [here](#).

Like Bible Month, though, there is an app version of 3Gen that is running throughout 2021, culminating in the conference itself. The app is being updated constantly, so it's worth a look. Find out more [here](#).



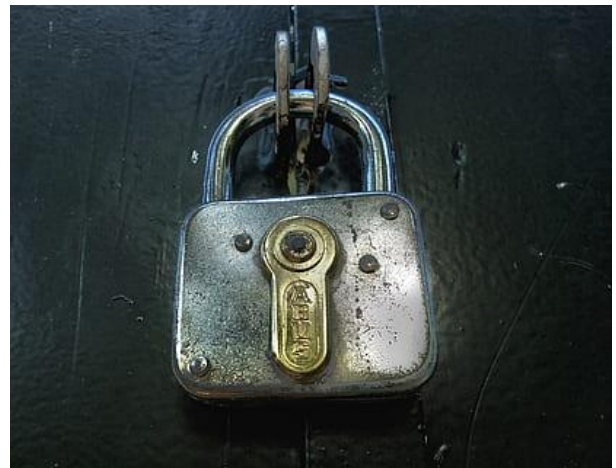
Evangelism and Growth Team

The Evangelism and Growth team has been doing some really exciting work, including training on digital planting; pathways to evangelism; webinars; reading materials; and a whole host of stuff to help churches and individuals fulfil their mission. It's well worth visiting their website for a really good trawl. Take a look [here](#), and let yourself get fired up.

Image courtesy Cake or Death, Alex Baker

Safeguarding Conference 10-16 May 2021

Usually this conference is over a weekend, but as Covid demands online only, we've decided to take advantage and hold it over a full week. You can attend as much of it as you like. Booking will be opening soon, and in the meantime you can get a few details [here](#). Watch out for further details in the District Newsletter.



Climate Sunday 5 September 2021

Two months before the COP26 Climate Conference in Glasgow, it is national Climate Sunday on 5 September. Churches are being encouraged to take part. You can learn more about it [here](#), or sign up and get your resources [here](#).

DATES ROUND-UP

2020

29 April Inclusive Church webinar: Disability

29 April Schools Chaplaincy and Training Course

10-16 May Safeguarding Conference

18 May Positively Rural webinar: 'Festivals as Outreach'

25 May Ministry with Older People webinar

17 June Online Safety webinar

22 June Inclusive Church webinar: TBC

07 July Positively Rural webinar: 'Countryside Challenges'

05 September Climate Sunday

29-31 October 3Generate

16-18 November Regional Retreat: 'Art, Faith and Transformation' led by Debbie Lewer

2021

17-19 May Regional Retreat: "All Shall be Well? Life, Suffering and the Love of God with Julian of Norwich" led by Nick Helm