

Sharing God's love with all people

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? (James 2.14-16)

The remit of the deanery interest group 'Sharing God's Love with all people' was to discuss how we already do this and how we can do it better. Initially six members of Deanery Synod gathered to talk about what they did or what was going on in their parishes to actively demonstrate the love God has for individuals and communities.

Much along the lines of the letter of James it was suggested we should be doers of the word not just hearers and so if a neighbour is in need, help them. It was expressed that the problem of isolation and loneliness can be a real problem in small villages just as in large towns or cities and so being aware of others and getting to know them is a way of showing that you care for them. On an individual level it could be taking someone shopping or doing it for them, visiting someone you know to be on their own or simply chatting to someone at the school gate. On a community level it may be setting up a shop or post office where there isn't one, having a community café or setting up a toddler group.

