

# SR NEWS

WORKING TOGETHER IN RESPONSE TO GOD'S CALL TO  
LOVING SERVICE OF THE WORLD.

JUNE

Issue 1.



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## Meet The Panel *A Welcome by Kat Gibson and Emily Williams*

Hello! We are Kat and Emily and we will be bringing you the latest updates and resources from The Diocesan Social Responsibility Panel. The Social Responsibility Panel gathers together a wide range of people for the purpose of encouraging and joining up the many ways in which we as a diocese are engaged in loving service of the world.

We hope that SR News will be a place where we can easily share updates from across the whole SR panel. There will be everything from awareness raising, to opportunities to get involved with, to resources you might find helpful.

This first issue will introduce you to the panel and the different areas it covers. This issue will essentially become a contact directory for you to keep and refer back to. This means that when a situation arises where you want to quickly and easily identify who to get in touch with or where to search for more resources you'll be able find the answers here! Keep a look out for the second issue coming very soon which will be full of resources and articles...



# Who Are We?

As we mentioned earlier, the Social Responsibility Panel is made up of individuals each with a specific 'area' to champion. The individuals may have a role as a specific diocesan advisor, be a chaplain in their context or be from a subgroup representing their area. The panel members are here to support local churches, fresh expressions, chaplaincies and schools. They are here to enable a co-ordinated response across the diocese in a number of key areas of social need. Without further ado, let's meet the panel members!



"I've been privileged to be the Chair of the SR Panel for the past 2 ½ years. I love Leicester-shire having served for over 25 years in a variety of suburban, semi-rural & urban parishes across the diocese. In all of these contexts I've seen how the local parish church can be a catalyst for bringing people together from all kinds of background & culture to serve local communities & demonstrate active concern for creation care & social justice. I see my role as chair of the panel as being to encourage joined up thinking & mutual support within the panel &, through my role as Archdeacon on Bishop's Leadership Team, to contribute to the integration of our loving service response within our diocesan strategy for mission." Richard Worsfold



## Intercultural Ministry Enabler

Suzanne Hanson was appointed as the Intercultural Ministry Enabler to assist churches in the diocese to adopt a more intercultural ethos by helping churches journey towards becoming intercultural worshipping communities. She seeks to do this by raising awareness, equipping churches with the necessary intercultural skills and accompanying them. This project, led by Lusa Ngoy, is linked to the wider vision of promoting racial justice and tackling discrimination within the diocese. Suzanne's role on the Social Responsibility Panel is to enable the wider dissemination of this vision.

[suzanne.hanson@leccofe.org](mailto:suzanne.hanson@leccofe.org)



## Community Worker

Lois Davey oversees the Foodbank and the weekly Soup Kitchen while supporting members of these communities who join the church family at HTL. "Triangle" serves hot meals every Friday evening to the homeless and vulnerably housed, along with some food cupboard items and some bits of toiletries & clothing if they need. The emphasis is for them to find a sense of community and acceptance. For those that are not specifically homeless, they can also provide life skills training to include budgeting and basic cookery, along with a debt counselling service called Trinity Money Advice Leicester.

[ldavey@htl.church](mailto:ldavey@htl.church)



## Rural Mission Enabler

Mary Gregory is the rural Mission Enabler for the Diocese. Her work is around the Shaped by God Together review of the diocese, commenting, especially, from a rural perspective. Later, when the preferred Diocesan model has been agreed, Mary will be working with groups of rural church communities to understand how this model will reshape their life together.

[revmarygregory@aol.co.uk](mailto:revmarygregory@aol.co.uk)

# Who Are We?



## Deprivation Panel & Estates Churches

Clare King has been a Parish Deacon in the diocese since 2001, having previously been a hospital chaplain. She represents the Deprivation Panel and Estates Churches on the SR Panel and has spent most of her ministry in inner city and estates ministry. She is also a Trustee and Executive Board Member of the National Estate Churches Network which works to support people active in Christian ministry on social housing estates in England and Wales.

[cmking@leicester.anglican.org](mailto:cmking@leicester.anglican.org)



## Leicester & Leicestershire Citizens

Karen Rooms represents Leicester & Leicestershire Citizens which is a broad based alliance of civil society institutions - schools,

Leicester University, faith institutions, community organisations and charities - in the City and close County that work together for the common good. After running listening campaigns through their institutions they establish priorities for our work to effect change within the community. The 3 areas of current focus are, Youth Employment; Mental Health provision for young people, and asks in the housing sector. The alliance is part of Citizens UK and a new professional organiser has just been appointed after the previous organiser moved on.

[karen.rooms@leicestercofe.org](mailto:karen.rooms@leicestercofe.org)



## Disability Awareness Advisor

Emily Williams has championed Disability on the SR panel since 2019, having completed a small scale research project looking at how effectively individuals with additional needs are included within the Christian church. Emily also sits on the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) offering suggestions and advice to make our buildings more accessible and offering site visits to churches within the diocese.

Emily is passionate about creating a wide range of resources and training to equip churches within the diocese to not only welcome individuals with disabilities but for them to be active members of their church family.

[emily.williams@leccofe.org](mailto:emily.williams@leccofe.org)



## Deaf Development Worker

Karen Sly's role within the Social responsibility panel gives an insight into the everyday lives of a marginalised community and leads

us towards becoming more accessible. Karen is a child of Deaf Adults & is a registered BSL Interpreter with more than 25 years' experience. This role continues to develop ministry to Deaf People in our City and County along with empowering and enabling Deaf people to live independent lives.

The Diocese of Leicester has roots of providing ministry, pastoral care and support to the Deaf, Deafened and hard of hearing community that date back to 1897. The Deaf Ministry space remains based within the heart of the local Deaf BSL community based in Frog Island Deaf Centre.

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# Who Are We?



## Social Responsibility Support Worker

Christina Mottram has been the Social Responsibility Support Worker since 2016. She works to network and promote social action within the diocese in response to the 'loving service of the world' question within the diocesan vision. She's a lay Catholic hospital chaplain, and leads the Mental Health Awareness Group promoting actions in the community. The group has recently trained a number of Mental Health First Aiders. Christina has lived in Leicester for many years, so brings a connection into wider networks in the city and county.

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## Modern Slavery

Kat Gibson represents "Christians in Leicester & Leicestershire Against Modern Slavery" (CLLAMS) on the SR Panel. CLLAMS is a fairly new group that started meeting in Autumn 2020. They long to see modern day slavery eradicated from our communities. Coming from both Christian and professional backgrounds, they have 2 main aims. One, to engage with modern slavery charities, local organisations, representatives from retail and manufacturing and the police. Two, to increase awareness in our churches of the prevalence and ubiquity of modern slavery, enabling fellow Christians to both recognise instances of potential slavery, and giving them the confidence and information they need to report them.

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## Homelessness

Alison Adams provides leadership into the city's homelessness Charter on behalf of the diocese. Alison draws together strategic and operational leaders from both the statutory and voluntary sectors - including healthcare, housing, the police, business, the council and significant delivery partners - and also attends the excellent Housing and Homeless Forum, which includes district councils and, like the Charter, other relevant organisations.

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## Global Concerns

Peter Yates has a long-standing interest in issues of Social Justice having been World Development Adviser to the Diocese of Leicester since 1992. Peter's area of support for the SR Panel is Global Concerns and he represents the areas of interest supported by the global mission agencies including Christian Aid, CMS, and USPG. He is Bishop Martyn's representative on their councils. These agencies are supporting God's mission to enliven faith, strengthen relationships, unlock potential and champion justice throughout the world and especially in developing countries. All these agencies acknowledge that we are in a time of climate and ecological emergency and ambitious action upon this is urgent.

**[pyates@talktalk.net](mailto:pyates@talktalk.net)**

# Who Are We?



## Financial Inclusion

Lots of us are acutely aware of the financial pressures on many households, where ends just don't meet, and the searing effect of poverty and deprivation. What are often less clear are the additional unseen obstacles and barriers - lack of digital access, not understanding how loans work, inability to access a bank account, and many other such issues. For some years a group called the Fair Finance Initiative has served the City and County. The Social Welfare Cell, chaired by Alison Adams, works to enable local groups to develop responses to some of these issues, including supporting people with debt advice, financial literacy, safe borrowing, budgeting.

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## Mothers Union/Family Life & Gender Based Violence

Ruth Fryer works as a midwife and has been an Mother's Union member for more than 20 years.

MU is a Global, women-led movement with over 4 million members worldwide and around 900 in Leicestershire. Our vision is of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships. Much of our work is in the area of supporting stable family life and the protection of children. MU has a strategic focus on countering gender injustice incorporating Violence Against Women & Girls in all forms (VAWG). MU campaigns have helped bring amendments to the Domestic Abuse bill currently going through UK parliament.

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## Environment Officer

Andrew Quigley is passionate about God's gifts in the wonders of the natural world, and how we show our love for Him and all people in how we take care of them. As Diocesan Environment Officer, Andrew convenes the Environment Group for the diocese. Together they have a wealth of ideas for how our worship, buildings and lives can better reflect our care for God's creation. In particular, helping churches work towards their Eco-church awards and the Diocese achieve Eco-Diocese status are our main focus. Members of the Environment Group or myself are always happy to speak to PCCs, synods or other groups to give advice.

[revdaquigley@gmail.com](mailto:revdaquigley@gmail.com)



## Prison Chaplain

Helen Stokes is the Anglican Chaplain at HMP Leicester and is part of a multi-faith team representing the major faiths.

Together we provide pastoral care and support for those of all faiths and none, both residents and staff. Some of our duties are laid down in the Prison Service Instructions – ie they are statutory duties, such as visiting every new resident. There are duties on top of the statutory such as supporting residents through bereavements or family problems. It is a privilege to walk alongside people at these times.

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# Who Are We?



## Together Leicester

Sian Rigby is the Development Worker for Together Leicester. Her job is to support churches across Leicestershire to serve their local

communities. This includes:

- Asset-mapping & community listening projects to help identify strengths and gifts God has given your whole community, and the needs to which you are called to respond.
- Regional/themed projects focussing on particular issues eg food poverty, cooking confidence or isolation.
- Cheering you on in the ways you are serving your local community, whatever that may be.
- Short training courses eg Covid Cash Recovery, Grief & Loss workshop.

**Sian.Rigby@leccofe.org**



## Mission & Communications Enabler

Jon Barrett's role on the SR panel is to liaise with other panel members to ensure that the work

of the SR panel, and the various projects in which it is involved, are well represented in the diocese's media channels, and to provide media, press and PR advice.



## Chaplain and Social Policy Advisor to the Bishop

The Chaplain to the Bishop of Leicester sits on the Panel to report back to the Bishop. They are also responsible for producing the quarterly diocesan calendar of prayer, which usually includes two or three Social Responsibility Sunday features.

## In The Next Issue:

- Short articles from a couple of the panel members
- Reflections on news headlines
- Resources from different panel members to use in household and church settings
- Save the date!



What sparks your interest from this brief overview of our 'loving service of the world'? Do feel free to get in touch with someone on here who shares your passion - it would be great to connect with you and make use of your God-given gifts! Please also pray for the different areas of work, and for the many people involved in each of them. We look forward to sharing more with you in the next issue!