



# Our Diocese Together

July 2022



# Ordinations 2022



# Visit to support Ukrainian Refugees in Krakow, Poland, April 2022

**By Revd Canon Tony and Rachel Kaunhoven**

Moved by the images, accounts and personal stories of the war in Ukraine, and those whose lives, families, homes, communities and way of life have been destroyed and so badly affected by the invasion, we have all felt a degree of helplessness and yet desire to do something.

Initially it was through offering prayer and responding to the many requests for aid and financial donations to support the displaced and those crossing the borders to safety. Having visited Krakow, the ancient Capital of Poland on many occasions as a tourist, hearing of the city trying to respond to the needs of over a million refugees passing through to other parts of Poland and Europe, or looking to stay to remain close to Ukraine, Rachel, my wife, and I, decided to respond to requests for help.

On Easter Monday we took over 70kg of aid, including medicines, toiletries, children's knitwear, and small welcome packs to hand out to those arriving at the main railway station, together with nearly £3000 of donations. The packs were put together from donations gathered by students of Lady Manners School in Bakewell and other items were donated through the community of Bakewell and beyond.

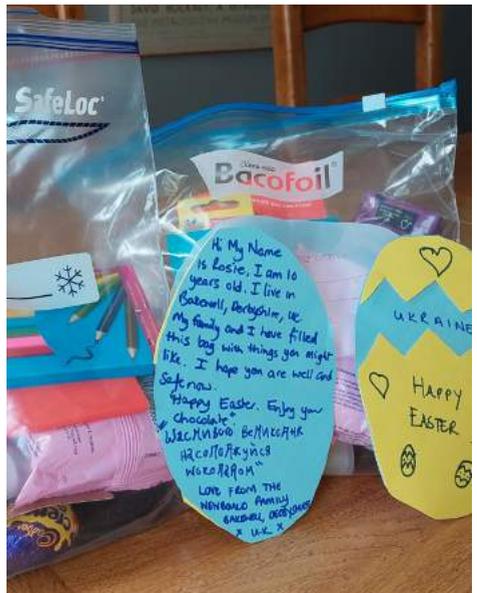
Having made contacts via social media before we went, we were blessed by offers to meet us and translate, as well as taking us to the places we had highlighted. We were able to visit and support one of the many hostels and community support centres that have been established in the city since February 24th to support Ukrainian families (90% of those who arrive are women and children as men under 60 have to remain in Ukraine) who are being hosted by Polish families or are resident temporarily in hostel accommodation.

The Berka Joselewicza Hostel was established by Isaak a Ukrainian living in Krakow and is home to 40 mothers and children with a shop which is free for families in the community to use and access essential items, all donated from within Poland and Western Europe. Many of the residents are deeply traumatised by what they have witnessed and with the uncertainty of where family members are and what they will do in the future.

St Vincent de Paul School run by the Sisters of Charity in the city has created space for 29 Ukrainian children and young people (some orphans) to help them to access education and help them to understand Polish. Therapeutic care and support is also offered to help and support the children. The Albertine Sisters with a long history of supporting the homeless have created with their retreat house and facilities a home for 30 Ukrainian families with the emphasis on meeting their immediate needs and creating an oasis of calm, peace and holistic support to enable fear, anxiety, loss and trauma to be recognised and in a safe space to be addressed.

The Nidaros Foundation was founded by a successful Ukrainian builder on 24th February who immediately entered Ukraine to rescue his employee's families and converting a gym in Krakow to shelter them, help them to find more permanent accommodation in Krakow, or help families to move into other parts of Europe. To date, Kristoff has brought over 1500 people from Ukraine (most from the most dangerous places under bombardment) and the Foundation is dedicated to creating a Community for Ukrainian families to help some of the 17,000 living in the city to begin the rebuilding of their lives with hope.

Lastly, we visited, shared, and listened to the welcome and support given to people arriving in Krakow, many after some very dangerous journeys. The Railway Station is a hub of registering, offering food, accommodation, clothing and support for families and individuals. The Scouts run a reception centre which hand out food packages and sign post people to those ready to offer the necessary support and welcome.



# Meet the Ordinands!

This year, eight people will be ordained at a special service at Derby Cathedral. Here we meet each of them and find out a little about their journey, how they came to faith and what they are most looking forward to in their new roles.



## Fiona Barber

Hi, I'm Fiona. I will be ordained deacon and serve my curacy in Sinfyn Moor. I have just finished an amazing three years studying a BA in Theology, Ministry and Mission at St. Mellitus College, East Midlands and The Good Shepherd, Loughborough.

Although I spent my childhood attending church, I didn't come to faith until my mid-thirties through an Alpha course. I have had a passion for mission from the outset because I felt that I'd missed out on so many years with God and I wanted others to have the opportunity to know God's story and to be able to choose to follow Him. My favourite Bible verse is John 1:14 in the Message "*The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood.*"

This verse is my inspiration to share my faith in my neighbourhood and encourage others to do the same so I'm thrilled to be serving my curacy in a pioneering setting on a new housing estate in Sinfyn Moor working to build community amongst those who come to live and work there.

I am creative at heart having studied Jewellery and Silversmithing at art college and having used my creativity later as a primary school teacher and then as Children's and Families Leader in my sending church.

I move to Derby with my husband Martin and our two daughters Alice (21) who is at Leeds University and Rosie (18) who will be heading off to university this autumn. We are looking forward to the adventures and opportunities that God has for us in this new place and with these new people.



## Lisa Taylor

I am excited to be joining the United Benefice of Atlow, Bradley, Hognaston, Hulland and Kniveton in July.

I am originally from Birmingham and I grew up in a secular family. I came to faith in 2011 and felt a call to ordination soon after that, although I did not seriously explore ordination until 2016. I have just completed two years ordination training at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford.

I joined the Royal Air Force (RAF) after I left school as a telecommunications operator. I had a great career and enjoyed doing many sports including fencing and luge. I left the RAF after 28 years to answer my call to ordination.

Whilst I was working with the Oxford Diocesan Director of Ordinands (DDO) I worked in Aylesbury Prison as a teaching assistant, helping the young men who had learning difficulties with their education. I felt it was a blessed time, where God helped me to work with people who I would not normally have had chance to meet.

My sending church is: Church of the Holy Spirit in Aylesbury. I have been on PCC and Deanery Synod along with a number of other roles within the church. I was also a Street Angel for the Aylesbury Church Network, where we go out as a team of three on a Friday or Saturday evening in Aylesbury Town centre representing God's presence and to care for the night time economy.

I enjoy walking, so a move to Derbyshire is exciting as I am looking forward to exploring the five parishes of the benefice in the glorious countryside. I also enjoy gardening and cooking, although baking is not something I have been able to master - yet.



## Faye Price

My home town is Cheltenham in Gloucestershire and I was hugely privileged to grow up in a Christian home. I had various life challenges and got a bit angry with God in my teens, but God continued to pursue me and I returned to church age 20 and sensed a call to ordination in the first year of my return to faith, so have been carrying the call for about 22 years now! It's a delight to start my curacy at St Alkmunds this year and hope that God will use me as He sees fit! I have a career background in theatre in education and education administration which involved my last five years prior to ordination working for the Diocese of Gloucester education team.

I am passionate about helping people to understand something of the depth of God's love for them and the world and am motivated by discipleship, mission and supporting people to draw close to Christ in the midst of all types of suffering and grief. This is much of my own personal testimony and I believe it's part of why God has called me to His church. I'm grateful that no tear is ever wasted by God.

Other passions include, in no particular order: coffee, cheese, prayer, my cat Bundle, my family and gorgeous Godchildren, lego, reading. I also have a hugely eclectic music taste which can make people chuckle. Does anyone else remember and love the Wombles?!



## Sam Mackie

Hi, I'm Sam! I'm originally from down south in rural Gloucestershire, you may be imagining cheese rolling and Hot Fuzz, and I wouldn't want to stop you thinking that!

For the last three years I've been living in Birmingham and training at the Queen's Foundation. From the breadth of study within Theology, Ministry and Mission and my own research, I have particularly been able to focus in on Disability Theology.

This comes from my own identity as a disabled person but also the joy of exploring the vastness of Jesus Christ.

Gradually travelling north, I left for Herefordshire to train in graphic design. Perhaps unsurprisingly I have developed a lot of church branding, websites and posters over the years. It was also during

this time I started to discern where God was calling me.

Having explored religious life (being a nun!), and working full-time praying for people over the phone, I decided to work for a year in a parish church in Hereford. The idea of being a priest completely terrified me but I kept exploring what this might look like!

[Somewhere in this time I had my next-door neighbour tell me that she didn't believe women should be ordained. Rather surprisingly, this is the clearest moment I felt God calling me. Instead of feeling threatened by this, it lit a fire in me, giving me a deeper knowing that God was calling me to become a Priest.]

Before moving to Birmingham, I had the joy of getting to be a part of the Chaplaincy team at Keele University. It was here that I started to more seriously embrace God's call to ordained ministry, where I had the privilege and the invitation to travel with those in their everyday experiences. A ministry of reaching those on the margins and a practicing to be a visible reminder of God's love through hospitality.

On days off I'm likely to be exploring Derbyshire countryside with my trusty camera, cooking with friends, or print making. It's with this mixture of experience that I come to be ordained deacon, very excited and possibly a little less terrified than before. I look forward to serving as curate across Swadlincote Minster.



## Rhiannon Singleton

My name is Rhiannon. I was brought up in the Salvation Army until my parents moved us to a Presbyterian church when I was 15. This started theological reflection and questioning as I started trying to reconcile very different understandings of some Bible passages. I chose to attend an Anglican church aged 17, but after marrying we attended one of the new churches for many years.

We moved to Glossop in 1999, convinced God wanted us in an Anglican church and have been part of Whitfield Parish since then. During this time, I have been a member of and led small groups, been on the prayer ministry team, on PCC and Deanery Synod and helped with a variety of church events, particularly enjoying helping with Messy Church and holiday clubs.

### **[Rhinannon Singleton profile continued]**

I was a Street Pastor for nearly a decade. It was a privilege to show God's love in this way and fascinating seeing and hearing what unchurched people thought about faith and the church.

I learned a huge amount, including that many non-Christians are comfortable asking faith questions when they are 'on their own turf' but would not consider entering a church to ask them.

I worked for the NHS most of my working life, as a children's physiotherapist working with children with disabilities and their families in the community. My passion was trying to help children and families have the best possible quality of life, given the disabilities children had and I took on roles which allowed me to forward this agenda.

I retired early when occupational health decided my health was not compatible with working with these children.

My husband Geoff and I met as students and have been married for 40 years and we have 2 (or 3) children, depending on how you count, our birth sons Barney and Pete and Myrle, who we fostered decades ago and remains part of our family. I love walking in the country, gardening, reading, sewing and knitting, when time allows.



## Elliot George

I'm Elliot, and for almost all of my 32 years I've lived in Swadlincote, South Derbyshire. I'll be ordained as the new curate for the Dronfield with Holmesfield Parish.

Megan and I are really looking forward to seeing what God has in store for us up there! We're particularly looking forward to engaging with young people, music, and bridging connections with the parish's five churches.

Although I've been a "Christian" for my whole life, it wasn't until I was 13 when I first encountered the Holy Spirit that I began to have a true relationship with Jesus – showing me the errors of my adolescent mischief but surrounding me with his love and grace. God has never failed to be with me even through my darker days, and more than ever I know that he is strong when I am weak.

To some extent, I've always had a sense of calling to ordained ministry, but assumed that either God or I had got it wrong! For a long time I wanted to be a psychiatrist/therapist, hoping to help people by helping them understand themselves better; but academia wasn't my friend as a teenager and I never went to uni, instead I worked in electronics for a decade.

During this time, my role at church grew and expanded – worship leader, youth leader, PCC member, preacher, etc – but it wasn't until I proposed to Megan in 2016 that I felt the call to ordination reawaken, and felt a fresh outpouring of God's grace amongst my many failures and weaknesses.

Three years of patience, discernment, support from friends and family, and finally a thumbs-up from the Bishop's Advisory Panel, and we were off to train at Trinity College Bristol, and earn that degree I'd missed out on the first time around!

So here we are, on the brink of ordination, (which is both exciting and terrifying!) and I've never been so sure that God has amazing plans for us to bring His kingdom on earth, alongside amazing people to share this calling with.

A particular passion of mine is helping others to see their own calling, and hopefully helping them grow into the person God made them to be, so let's get started together!



# Cathie Watson

Hi I'm Cathie. I've lived in various places across the UK but this is my first time living in the Midlands. I'm from South Wales but I've also lived in Surrey and most recently in Bristol.

Growing up I never would have dreamed of getting ordained. The only female minister I'd ever seen was Geraldine Granger, the Vicar of Dibley! I thought that because it was a TV programme women vicars were also fictional as I'd only seen men in church leadership roles!

I remember once, in the independent church I attended when I was 17, that the son of one of the elders was getting the chance to preach. As one of the only other young people there I found myself thinking: "Why does he get to share the things God shows him about the Bible with others but I don't just because I'm a girl?"

But I quickly smothered that thought down because I was taught and genuinely believed that girls and women were not allowed to preach or teach if there were men around because it was sinful.

When I went away to university I saw a couple of women preaching for the first time. Sadly, this was not an eye opening moment that it was okay because they were not the most enigmatic preachers! I thought it must be a sign that God doesn't want women to preach rather than perhaps those individuals may benefit from extra training!

A few months later a friend of mine convinced me to go to the student version of Soul Survivor for the first time. Here I heard Ali Martin preaching. She was such a gifted communicator who preached amazing things about Jesus, I couldn't believe it.

But I still wrestled with the fact that proof exists (1 Timothy 2:12) and figured Ali must be an exception, not the rule.

Years later, after I met and married my husband, he was exploring ordination. He kept telling me that I should be looking too and used to leave copies of the ordinal around the house for me to read. One day, when clearing up (a rare occasion!), a copy caught my eye and I decided to read it to see what Aidan was signing himself up for.

As I read it I couldn't understand why the ordinal was just for ordained people - surely all Christians are to live this way? I said as much to him and to a lecturer at Trinity and they both confirmed separately that no, sadly not all Christians do feel called to this.

I started wrestling with God and felt very annoyed at him. The conversation/prayer went like this:

*Me: "God, Why have you made me feel like the ordinal resonates so much and why give me certain gifts that could bless the church and world if I'm not allowed to as a woman!?"*

*God: "Why do you think it's not okay for you to do these things as a woman?"*

*Me: "Because the Bible says so."*

*God: "Don't you think I know what the Bible says better than you do?"*

*Me: "Touché."*

*God: "Go read and listen to what other Christians who accept women in Christian leadership say the Bible says and then let's talk about this some more."*

*Me: "Bit pointless because I already know what it says but okay..."*

That day I found a talk from a previous Soul Survivor festival where Krish Kendiah simply laid out different bible passages side by side which complementarians and egalitarians draw their understanding from.

I had no idea there were so many Bible passages and examples of Jesus' treatment of women that affirmed women in leadership.

As I heard them side by side, I was increasingly gobsmacked.

I distinctly remember that when he read out Galatians 3:28 - *"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus"* - that I felt like a bolt of lightning of understanding go through me from holy spirit.

I wept with inexpressible joy, peace and freedom. I felt God say *"I told you so, now I want you to use those gifts and calling for me."* The road since then has been strange with a mixture of highs and lows.

After completing my time at Trinity College Bristol, having my son during that training, and my husband finishing his curacy in Bristol, I'm so excited to get to serve Jesus in an ordained capacity at St Werburgh's Derby (STW).

I'm looking forward potentially to a Church plant as part of my curacy along with helping university students grow in faith and confidence in the gospel and to show Derby that the gospel is good news for all.

Favourite Bible verse: I don't actually like to pick out individual verses because I think the lack of context can confuse or muddy the meaning! But for the sake of this I'd probably go with Phil. 4:6-7: *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*

Favourite Christian song: I'm going to cheat and use two - Good Good Father by Chris Tomlin because I'm always reminded what a good Father God is, and Reckless Love by Cory Asbury because I think it's a great proclamation of truth about God's love for us.



## Jo Harbidge

I'm Jo Harbidge and I have just completed two years training at Trinity College Bristol, where I completed a Post-graduate diploma in Theology, Ministry and Mission and have begun a research Masters (MTh) in Mission. I'm currently exploring hospitality as a model for mission and have a particular interest in the church's response to refugees and asylum seekers.

I will serve my curacy in the parish of St John's Walton, close to Chesterfield.

I grew up in St Albans and have had a faith since my earliest days in Sunday school. As a teenager this faith developed through trips to the Taizé community in France and Soul Survivor summer festivals and church.

I love connecting with God in different ways and finding out where the Spirit is at work amongst those who know Jesus.

I have sensed a call to serve in the church since my teens but it has been a long journey of gaining experience in different areas to finally bring me to full-time training and ordination. There hasn't really been a 'lightbulb' moment so much as a steady and growing awareness in those around me, and in myself, that this is where God is asking me to go next.

Prior to training, I worked in mid-Wales, in secondary education, for more than 15 years.

I love learning and helping others to learn, a theme that has continued through my time at college and I hope to be able to help support and inspire others in their learning about God and faith in the future.

I enjoy spending time outside and connecting with God through the natural world. I like trying to grow things and am excited by how the church can connect with local communities through outdoor activities such as prayer walking, community gardens and allotment spaces. I'm looking forward to exploring the Peak District and learning more about a beautiful area of the country!

# Teach us to Pray - workshops

Organised by the 2027 Community of Prayer, Teach Us to Pray is three evenings of free prayer workshops being held between 7 pm - 9 pm at Derby Cathedral on Thursday 14, 21 and 28 July 2022.

The workshops are aimed at helping people explore a range of different types of prayer. Everyone is welcome, whether you have lots of experience of prayer or none at all. No need to book, just turn up.

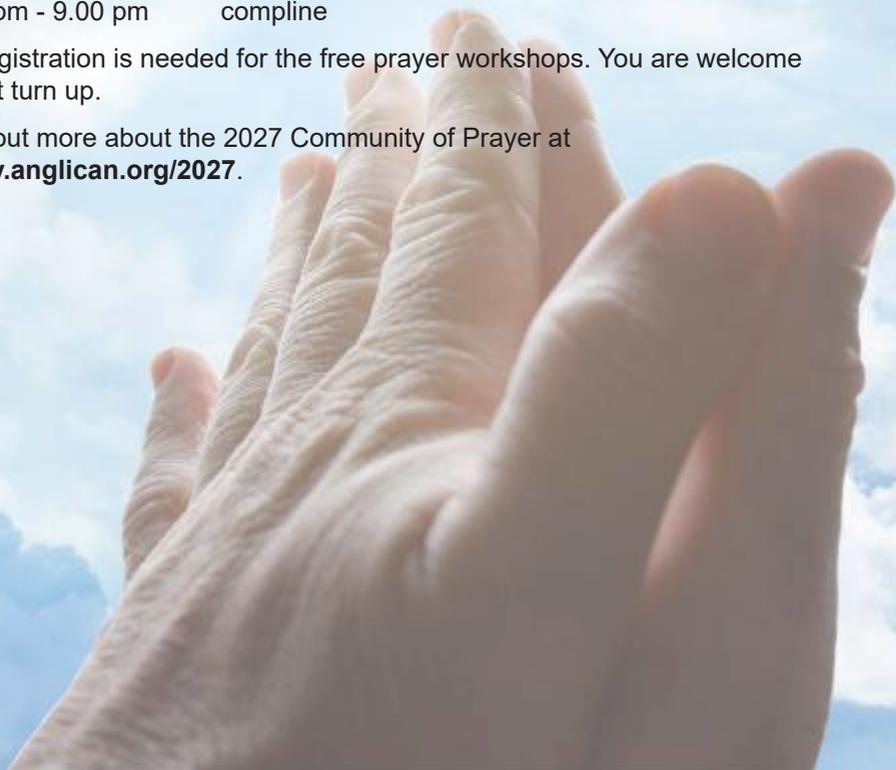
Thur, 14 July	labyrinths, Jesus prayer, praying with poetry.
Thur, 21 July	Ignatian meditation, adoration of the blessed sacrament, prayer beads.
Thur, 28 July	lectio divina, icons, centring prayer.

Each evening programme will run like this:

7.00 pm - 7.15 pm	Welcome, teaching, explanation of the evening.
7.15 pm - 7:45 pm	move to workshop 1, intro to that type of prayer, 20 mins to have a go, 5 mins to reflect on the experience with the group.
7.45 pm - 8.15 pm	move to workshop 2, as above.
8.15 pm - 8:45 pm	move to workshop 3 as above.
8.45 pm - 9.00 pm	compline

No registration is needed for the free prayer workshops. You are welcome to just turn up.

Find out more about the 2027 Community of Prayer at [derby.anglican.org/2027](http://derby.anglican.org/2027).





## Caring for our carers

Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust has a truly community-led feel to it. It's all about the people that live, work and visit – it's focus is on the patients it cares for every day of the year.

Supporting the Trust is Chesterfield Royal Charity: Giving the gift of understanding, thanks to the generosity of patients, visitor, local business and partner organisations – the charity helps patients to receive the very best care and treatment; and provides colleagues with a great place to work.

All the donations and support received mean the Charity can achieve even more – offering more than what might be possible through 'normal NHS funding'.

The NHS has faced – and continues to manage – its biggest ever challenge; a global pandemic, which has resulted in major system and ward-level changes for all doctors, nurses and supporting colleagues. The carers have continued to deliver throughout it all.

It's now time to ensure we support our carers, so we can ensure they are resilient and ready for the next challenges. The Charity is backing a £2m Health and Wellbeing Hub for all colleagues at the Trust – caring for the carers.

The brand-new, purpose-built Hub, which would be based on the hospital site, would be the first of its kind. Offering all working

at the hospital from porters to radiologists, physiotherapists to cooks, financial accountants to receptionists, a real haven to actively look after their health and wellbeing – supporting them care for the people of Chesterfield. A combination of corporate, community, individual and external funding are needed to achieve our most ambitious target.

Set to open seven days a week, the fully accessible Hub will offer those working at the Trust a variety of modern health and wellbeing facilities and services around the clock. Once established, the Hub may be developed further to include a special Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) pitch, which will be booked in advance and allow for team games and bonding such football, hockey etc. There will also be counselling rooms and complimentary therapies as well as talking therapies and areas for group and individual reflections after traumatic incidents, like those seen during the pandemic.

A state-of-the-art gym will give colleagues the opportunity to keep healthy and strong, contributing to preventing illness and injury, as well as reducing stress levels. There will potentially be pop-up facilities too - cookery demonstrations, dancing, specialist training and holistic therapies to ensure a full package is offered and our colleagues have access to the very best facilities.

You can support the project through donations – any amount is welcomed:

Care for the Carers Appeal (Health & Wellbeing Hub) - JustGiving

Text 5CRHCARES to 70450 to donate £5.

Text CRHCARES to 70450 to donate £10.

Chesterfield Royal Charity is a registered charity: 1052913.

## The Bishop of Derby writes



Like many of us, I'm looking forward to the start of the Commonwealth Games at the end of July. I know I'll be glued to the screen watching our athletes compete in and around Birmingham. Drawn together from the 54 countries of the Commonwealth, these women and men will have each worked incredibly hard to get to the starting line. And this year, perhaps more than others, they have overcome significant hurdles. Persisting in training throughout the pandemic and facing many challenges in their home contexts.

The last time I played competitive sport was at university (I rowed). I remember the hours of practice and the sacrifices it took to stay focussed. I know that even individual sport is always a team effort. From diving to badminton, wheelchair basketball to judo, most competitors at these Commonwealth Games will have a team behind them of physios, trainers and sport psychologists helping them to stay focussed and injury-free. There will be families and communities back at home cheering on their sister, neighbour or dad as they compete. A huge collective effort that even includes all of us as spectators, if only from our armchairs.

We know that taking part in a group activity or sport is good for our bodies – it can connect us to others and is beneficial for our mental wellbeing too. There's lots of evidence of how exercise positively impacts mood, decreases depression and leads to a more balanced lifestyle. Lots of us would probably admit to being less active during the pandemic than before - unless you were one of the ones who took up running, cold water swimming or workouts with Joe Wicks! Whatever our age or ability, sporting and physical activity does us good. I hope that the Commonwealth Games will inspire you to get moving. Maybe you won't take up rhythmic gymnastics or Triathlon (though you might) but perhaps more of us will be motivated by the sportswomen and men at the Games and resolve to move our bodies more and in the process find our minds and spirits are healthier too.

I hope, as well, that the Commonwealth Games encourage your church or worshipping context to consider ways sport and physical activity could be good news for your community

Recognising the common good – and the opportunity to build relationships that may bring opportunity to share the good news of the Kingdom - many of our churches and worshipping communities offer sport and physical activity in some form as a resource to their local community - bowls in the church hall, five-a-side football team, walking clubs and running groups, space for wrestling clubs, badminton, and toddler play. We have sports chaplains supporting elite and local clubs and events. Holiday clubs for children, and the more elderly, sometimes have sport and physical activity as their focus.

The author of the Hebrews writes of Christian life as running with perseverance the race marked out for us. It was written to encourage and challenge believers to persevere in their faith. We all know seasons in our lives where we need more stamina or commitment to stay on course. Post-Covid, in the midst of a cost-of-living crisis, let's hear that encouragement again:

*"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." Hebrews 12:1-3*

+ *Libby Derby*

The Rt Revd Libby Lane  
Bishop of Derby