

As we await details of the start date for our new team member ...

A Message from Rev Nicky Davies – Team Vicar in Waiting

Hello to everyone in the Axe Valley Mission Community.

I have been holding you in prayer throughout lockdown and trying not to get too upset that the arrangements for my move to be with you there, are postponed at present.

I have been delighted to see the online content being produced there, as well as centrally at the Cathedral and diocesan input too. We are all learning about the joys and challenges of zoom and online streaming! It's also great to see the caring that's going on.

As a ministry team here, in the Avon Valley Churches in the New Forest, we've been incredibly busy. I have oversight of three churches in our group of seven and have been working with others in the communities to ensure that everyone who may be isolated or vulnerable for any reason is cared for.

We set up Local Support Groups and in one village set up a Helpline number. We've also got 'care-rings' going on with people keeping in regular phone contact with others in their church community. I've played my part in delivering prescriptions and shopping and other tasks.

We've also been broadcasting a Thought for The Day and services... it's been an incredibly busy time and I've had my moments of feeling overwhelmed with it all but I know that the God who made and loves us, is always there, to comfort us and inspire us to keep going!

We also launched Behind the Hedge, a scarecrow competition, to help raise spirits.... And I attach a photograph of one to make you smile. The creativity involved has been astounding.

It is heart-breaking to see the way the Foodbank here, and nationally, is needed more than ever and I get first hand experience of this when I volunteer, once a fortnight.



Looking to the future I am hopeful that our attitude to the care of God's world will forever be changed following this? It's exciting to see people growing their own fruit and veg and gardening at this time. In our garden, the rhubarb is doing well and beans, courgettes, tomatoes etc are all getting going now!



I am very much looking forward to being there with you, when it is safe and possible to do so... may we all find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

x

24 May 2020