Pastoral Worker Report (Yvonne Kerridge) – 2021

I start with the observation that, again, we've had another year coping with a myriad of difficulties and losses in relation to the Covid pandemic, albeit to a lesser extent than in 2020 due, for the most part, to the relaxation of restrictions and better therapeutics. Nevertheless, Covid-19 has still had a significant impact on people's lives, more so for those who have been coping with additional life difficulties and for those who have lost family members or friends due to the virus, for those battling long Covid, for those affected financially and for people who have needed to continue shielding.

Whilst some of us have become more resilient during the pandemic others have become more nervous or more isolated. I have been supporting people in prayer and in whatever other ways have presented themselves and regularly kept in contact with many church members, especially those who were unable to worship in church.

Suffering in its many guises will always be a part of our human condition. The profundity of suffering remains a mystery and there will never be a simple, all encompassing, answer to the enormity or the complexity of suffering but we have a God who is a God of love who experienced suffering at its deepest level and takes on the suffering of the world. So, let us draw near to God in prayer taking to Him our suffering and the suffering of others.

I finish with a lovely quote which, for me, says it all and is a reminder that we are called to work together in our pastoral ministry *"We are called to be "in Christ," which means we share— always imperfectly, and always in community with others—the call to be the embodiment of God's love in the world.* —Wes Granberg-Michaelson" Through our sharing of God's love we are able to reveal the epitome of Christianity in our encounters with others in both their suffering and in their joy.

If you have a situation that you would like me to pray about please have a quiet word with me.
Yours in Christ
Yvonne Kerridge