

OUR NEWS

CHRISTMAS 2020



[SIGN UP TO OUR MAILINGS HERE](#)

@charliemackesy

BLESSING OF HOPE THIS CHRISTMAS

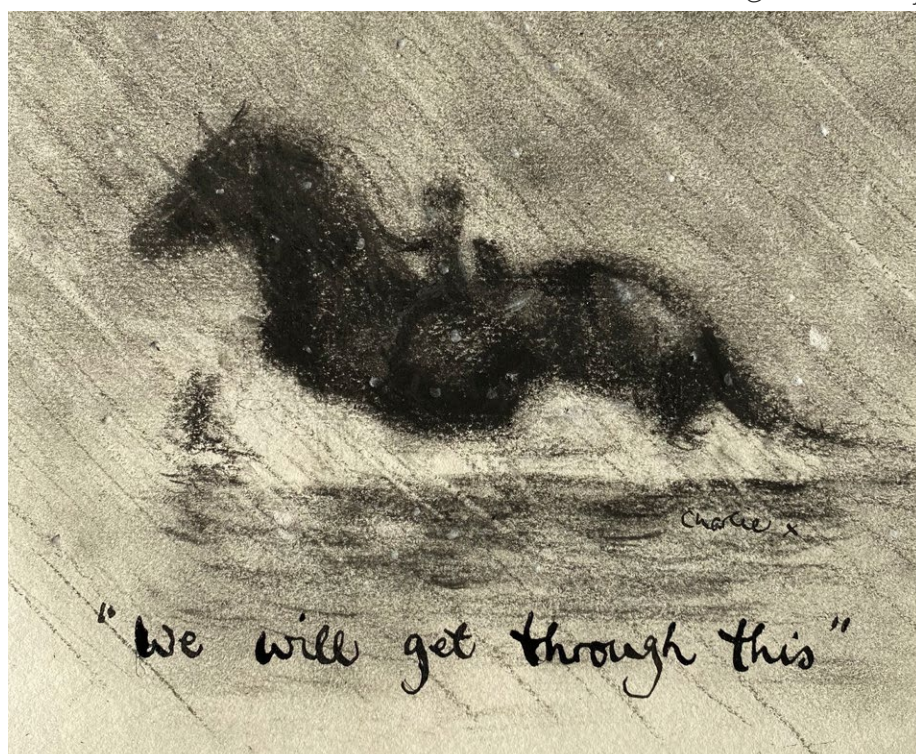
Bishop Philip shares his Christmas message.

What words would you use to describe how you've felt during 2020?

Frightened? Anxious? Poorly? Hard up? I expect these words feature for many of you, and I know only too well that there will be other words that aren't quite suitable for a bishop to use in his Christmas message. But the truth is that 2020 has been like no year in living memory.

As I come to write this message, there is a great deal of uncertainty. People's patience and resilience have been stretched to breaking point this year, and sadly but understandably, some of us do feel broken.

However, there are now at least clear



signs of hope. A herculean task lies before us, but we now know that vaccines can be effective. We have every reason to think that life can return to what we regard as being largely normal. Quite which bits of 'normal' we actually want back remains to be seen, but while we're not there yet, I suspect many of us

can relax slightly and sleep better at night in the knowledge that science is coming up with a solution for us all.

It does feel symbolic to me, as we approach Christmas, that we can begin to feel hope.

Watch Bishop Philip's message [here](#).

STATEMENT FROM THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY: 'WE NEED THAT LIGHT NOW'

A statement from the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, and the Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, who chairs the Church of England's Covid recovery group.

"The news of fresh restrictions in many areas will be a bitter blow. For many people, it will mean spending Christmas Day alone. None of us has experienced a situation quite like it in our lifetimes.

"We recognise the increased risk we face from the coronavirus - which has already taken so many lives and has now developed a new, more easily transmissible, strain - and we recognise our duty to look out for our neighbours and protect the vulnerable.

"We know that public worship - both in person and through remote means - has brought comfort, hope and inspiration to so many.

"Even though attending public worship is permitted, many people may feel it is currently better they do not do so. Clergy and others who are shielding should certainly feel no compulsion.

"At this time of year - even this year - we celebrate the birth of Jesus with joy and hope. Jesus came to bring light that shines in the darkness.

"We need that light now and always."



COOKING UP A STORM WITH A WOODEN SPOON NATIVITY

Hope rises from the stress of this pandemic and its lockdowns in the shape of wooden spoons.

Four years ago, Margaret Stevens wrote an ambitious nativity play in rhyming couplets. Performed in a barn near Ludgvan, with requisite farm animals, the play was a triumph. But repeating the event in these Covid times just isn't possible.

So stirring through the possibilities with the original team, Margaret came up with the idea of wooden spoons taking the starring role. In a fabulously creative burst of activity and collaboration, the team have re-cooked the script, described by Margaret. Together, they have produced a fully portable wooden spoon nativity **film** that can be used by schools and churches across the advent season.

It's been an inspiring community effort

SECOND PHASE OF CULTURE RECOVERY FUNDING OUT

A second round of Culture Recovery Funding (CRF) has been announced. This will be a mix of grants and repayable finance and, as with the CRF rounds over the summer, will have a number of strands. Most relevant to churches is the Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage, administered jointly by Historic England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF). This

for the Mount's Bay Benefice, worked through with Covid restrictions in place. Jane Goodhead from Marazion, the original wardrobe mistress, has dressed all the spoons in glorious detail. Daughter Izzy helped with the stick-on facial expressions, and husband Clive made little stands to keep the performing spoons in place.

Diana Purchas, an artist based in Perranuthnoe, has painted the beautiful backdrops, inspired by the Victorian Bible story illustrator William Hole. Revd Linda Garthwaite has revived her role as narrator, this time with husband Mark, Margaret directed the puppets and took the photos and Ed Oates has bound the recipe with audio and visual IT skills.

The resulting film is delightful. For more information and details on where to see the full film, visit the diocesan website [here](#).

stream has £36m available, in grants from £10k to £3m. It is predominantly revenue funding to support reopening, but there are elements of capital that can be included – such as minor repairs and maintenance needed to make the building safe for visitors.

You can read the advice for applicants [here](#).

HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM YOUR DIOCESAN TEAM

Your diocesan team would like to wish you all a peaceful, safe Christmas.

The team's main office, Church House in Threemilestone, will be closed from December 24 until January 4, 2021.

For those who may require safeguarding or emergency communications support over the festive period, arrangements have been put in place. Simply call the main number 01872 274351.

Staff will have out of office replies on emails and these will also provide information on where you can get assistance if your message is urgent.

We look forward to seeing you all in 2021.

HAVE YOU HEARD THE CALL TO CHAPLAINCY?

Have you ever thought about becoming a chaplain? Are you a good listener? Do you have a heart for meeting people where they are, no matter how difficult that place might be, and helping them to find a way back?

Chaplaincy is a very special role. It's about listening, being watchful and sensitive to other people's feelings and situations. And it's about seeing the presence of God, even when it's late at night, the young person you are dealing with is drunk, bank card lost, phone out of charge and would really rather you weren't there.

There are so many places where chaplains are present from the obvious to the obscure. From hospitals, the police, and our armed forces to our city streets late at night, music festivals, lifeboats, fishing boats, rural farms, cattle-markets. As Chris Batt, chaplain to farmers said, "The nature of (famer's) work and life style often means they have few people to share a pint with, never mind their worries." In these Covid times, sharing even a cup of tea has been off limits.

Read more [here](#).