

DEBBIE ORRISS

Gloucester & Forest Centre of Mission



New Year Prayer Letter 2021

Thank you for partnering with me in my ministry to pioneer engagement in Coleford and the surrounding area that brings Christian hope and builds new worshipping communities amongst groups not normally touched by the church. 20% of my time is dedicated to wider Diocesan training around mission and evangelism. It's extremely difficult times for all of us so thank you for taking the time to read this and to pray, much appreciated and needed!

Encouragements and Answers to Prayer

- The relationships I'm making in the town are slowly deepening - although the current lockdown means that I am limiting my brief visits to once a week - I'm contacting the folk whose shops have closed via social media where possible
- I am getting to know the care workers who live next door a little (they're in and out a lot)
- Sarah, the Vicar here, and her husband Mark (a Licensed Lay Minister/Reader), are great to work with and we're continuing to explore possibilities for mission in the parish
- My Licensing Service was a joy, and it was so great that we were able to meet in the school as well as via Facebook

Opportunities

During Advent I asked for **angels** to be knitted so that we could have a Spot the Angel Competition in the shop windows - I ended up with 266! So, as well as the competition, some were hung up in people's windows, some were bagged up with a blessing card and given to care home residents and people in sheltered accommodation. The rest were given out (or rather taken) from my wall. I had some encouraging conversations during those times. One of the shopkeepers is 'into' angels and we had a really good conversation where I was able to share something of the Christian understanding of them as God's messengers.



COLEFORD COMMUNITY MEALS
FROM CAFE SIXTEEN

Sixteen Community Cafe

Coleford Community Meals

Order line: 01594 835954

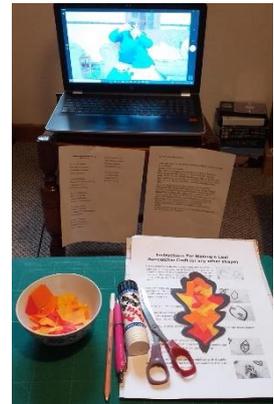
email wozencroftsally6@gmail.com, find us on Facebook
@sixteencommunitycafe

Another ongoing project is 'Coleford Community Meals' which I coordinate: meals are cooked in the local community café, and then delivered to those who are in need at this

time - maybe isolating because of Covid, or suffering fuel poverty, or been made redundant. A humbling experience, but an opportunity to demonstrate God's love. I'm gradually getting to know some of the folk referred by a local council officer.

I'm currently supporting 'Mustard Tree', an existing Fresh Expression of church which had been struggling during the first lockdown. We held 4 Zoom gatherings before Christmas, with craft activities, song and story.

I'm developing a **Facebook presence** for the ministry here in the Forest - 'Care Coleford Plus', through a page with posts and regular short videos of 'thoughts' intended to reach local people who may be seeking at this time.



Prayer requests

- wisdom for myself and the Mustard Tree community as we seek a way forward in being a community of support during these challenging times of lockdown, and to develop the leadership so that I can withdraw
- that God will use my Facebook page to reach those who need to discover his love and hope
- safety as we continue to deliver meals, and continued opportunities for me to share God's good news through this initiative
- deepening relationships with those in the town through personal contact and social media
- inspiration for a way of blessing the town as we approach Easter in a similar way to the angels
- wisdom for my colleague Andy and I as we develop ways of enabling pioneering, mission and evangelism in the diocese

Financial support

Part of my role is to raise funds for the costs of the Centre of Mission, but I really do appreciate that we are in extremely difficult times, and that finances are tight for many people. However, if you already give to Church Army, it would be lovely if you'd like to focus your giving on this project. If you don't currently give to Church Army but would like to start, that would also be great!

Either way, to support the Gloucester & Forest Centre of Mission please quote ref: **1997DOR**
You can donate in the following ways:

- **Online:** www.churcharmy.org/donate
- **By card:** Phone 0300 123 2113
- **By cheque:** Payable to 'Church Army' and sent to Wilson Carlile Centre, 50 Cavendish Street, Sheffield, S3 7RZ
- **Regular giving:** Please contact me and I will send you a direct debit mandate

But please know that I appreciate hugely however you partner with me in my ministry - THANK YOU!

God Bless,

Debbie