



CAAPA NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2020



Dear CaAPA members

As we approach Advent and this year’s socially-distanced Christmas celebrations, we hope this still finds all our members and their families, friends and loved ones continuing in health and safety during this interminably uncertain period - and particularly for anyone alone, as we draw towards the end of the year.

We hope that you are finding the courage and resilience to live with the changing guidelines, and able to keep spirits high despite the challenges.

And now - some very welcome words of comfort from Fr Alan, our National Chaplain:

Dear friends at CaAPA



Greetings from the Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament – your Catholic home.

What a time it has been, as the whole world has grappled with the Covid-19 virus. This time last year, none of us would have imagined what 2020 would be like. Over the last 9 months we have seen such changes in our society, in our own lives and in the whole world. There isn’t any one person who hasn’t been affected in some way by this pandemic. Who would have thought that something as small as a microscopic virus could have wrought such havoc universally. And I guess we all know people who have been infected – some of whom have recovered and some who have sadly died.

It was indeed a frightening time for many people. We knew so little about this illness and what could happen to us. And we had to cope with the pain of not being able to visit family and friends – and not being able to attend the Funeral Rites of those who had died. And then, having to cope with that loss without the normal support of people around us; shut away in our homes.

I feel very sorry for all those who have had to change plans of one sort or another: we’ve had a number of marriages cancelled, and one popped in 12 hours before the last lockdown started! And it was the most wonderful occasion – they just wanted to get married. That same day we also had four Masses for different groups attached to us, plus Exposition and Benediction, plus seeing another wedding couple to discuss their future plans. In spite of lockdown, ***Corpus Christi*** has provided lots of Catholic support for so many this year, through our social media pages on Instagram and Facebook, as well as our website and the live streaming there. I’ve had to learn to be quite adept with Zoom – the thought of which I hated before lockdown, but which has allowed me to carry on with spiritual guidance for so many, as well as marriage preparation and preparation for reception into the Catholic Church.





Now, as we prepare to come out of the present lockdown, we understand so much more about where we are. We also have within our grasp ethically produced Vaccines which have a high success rate in protecting those who are vulnerable. Life is beginning to feel much better; we can see more hope of “normality” before us. And I hope the experience of this year has taught us all a great deal about the value of life, not taking anything for granted, our own vulnerability, and the total reliance we need to place on God.

What we all know is, that through all of this only one thing has been constant, utterly reliable, and unchanging – and that is our Catholic Faith, leading us to God. Right from the very beginning we at the Shrine have been here for all of you – and for everyone else who thinks of Corpus Christi as their home in some way. I’m sure you all know that, reading our daily postings on social media – and being able to join us online.

Every day, all of you have been gathered up in our prayers at Holy Hour, Rosary and the Masses that have been offered. Each day, for several hours, prayers have been offered before the Blessed Sacrament for you, and all those people from all over the world who have asked for our prayers. It has been extremely moving to know that 1300 / 1400 people at a time have been at Mass with us via our livestream. We’ve had large numbers of requests for lamps and candles to be burnt here, Masses to be offered, prayers to be said. We have never been so busy, doing what this place was built for: drawing people to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament and making Him accessible to those who call out to Him.

And, of course, in the month of November, we remember particularly all those deceased members of CaAPA, whose names are recorded in the Book of the Dead at the back of the church. It has been strange opening up that little cabinet and turning the pages each month, knowing that only I would read those names. But they have been prayed for and let us continue to pray for their happy repose.

This weekend, we begin a new year in the life of the Church: Advent. And a few days later we will reopen our churches for public worship. It’s a great opportunity for all of us to come to the altar and give thanks to God – and to make a fresh start, aided by the Sacraments of Mass and Confession. It’s time to look forward, not back over our shoulders. Of course; we here will continue to keep you in our daily prayers – that is always ongoing and the heart of our ministry.

Wishing you all well as we begin Advent together, and journey towards the Nativity of the Lord. For in that act of humility God became man, and who now gives his very self to us under forms of bread and wine. May we all open our hearts to Him anew, so that He may draw us close to His Sacred Heart.

With affection, prayers and all good wishes

Fr Alan

Fr Alan Robinson

CaAPA National Chaplain





The appeal for playlets on our theme **Action for the Church in Need** is continuing to bear fruit, as scripts are submitted. We would still welcome more of your creative work conceived during lockdown! Please be daring and send in those masterpieces! (The intended date for the event has been pushed back to the new year, for all the obvious reasons - but, fear not, it will happen eventually!).

The following members of CaAPA are to be co-opted onto the Committee. We are unable to follow established procedure, as it isn't possible to hold an AGM at this time.

- **Gabrielle Lister**
- **Victoria Moir**
- **Lorna Reed**



We offer a warm welcome to all three, and this will rebalance the current male-heavy make-up of the Committee!

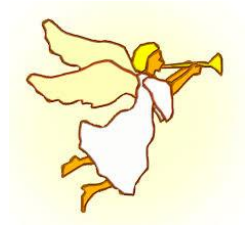
In other news: **Fr Alan Robinson** is now able to allow us to hold our future Committee meetings at Corpus Christi, Maiden Lane - now that the church's refurbishment is finished.

We are grateful to our chairman of Trustees **Mgr Vladimir** for making it possible to have held our meetings at Vaughan House.

Arrangements were well advanced in planning **CaAPA's Christmas Dinner**, but obviously we have been thwarted by the constantly changing situation! After the delay to the CAA reopening, it was suggested we might decamp to a lovely restaurant in Victoria at Epiphany. This too seems unlikely just now, as London is now in Tier 2 for the foreseeable future, and we would not constitute a 'bubble'!

MEMORIAL LIST FOR DECEMBER

- 1989 Eamon Andrews Chairman & Vice President
- 1991 Ida Forbes-Robertson
- 1996 Dame Joan Hammond DBE CMG Vice President
- 1999 Ian Bannen Vice President
- 2004 Derrie Hanley Honorary Treasurer
- 2010 Pauline Sitwell Committee member
- 2018 Jeanne Mockford Committee member
- 2015 Paul Randall Committee member

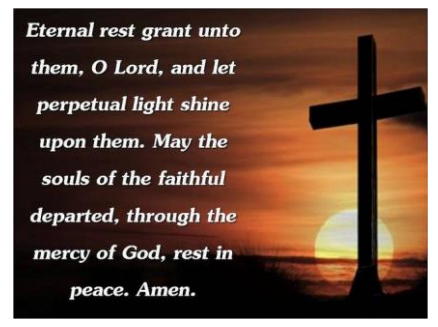




2018 Canon John McDonald National Chaplain

For all those Actors who died in both World Wars - they are remembered in the Memorial Book at the rear of Corpus Christi.

Michael Slater writes:



A Memory of **Ian Bannen** (from a biography by **Michael Coveney**):

Ian became very friendly with **Maggie Smith** and, together with a very stage-struck cleric **Fr Adrian Arrowsmith**, began giving Maggie instruction in the Catholic faith. There was even talk of a grand wedding at **Westminster Cathedral**. In the event the friendship petered out and Dame Maggie never became a Catholic - though it was a close-run thing! Ian married much later in life, to a lovely lady Marilyn, who used to keep in touch by sending lovely postcards. A few years ago, my wife Ann and I went on holiday to the Isle of Wight and quite by chance we attended a Mass at **Quare Abbey** and came across Marilyn after the service. We had a really joyful reunion - such a warm lady! Ian spent quite a lot of time at Quare Abbey over the years, on retreat.



Now, a letter from one of our faithful correspondents!

Thank you for the newsletter which I always look forward to reading here in Cork, waiting for my porridge to cool. I hope to send you next week, God willing, a piece about the celebration of the feast of **St Cecilia** that I organised in **SS Peter and Paul's**, Amwell Street, EC1 in 1964.

Have finished the screenplay adapting my autobiography and am now looking for a director or producer to take it on. It has Oscar potential, having NINE memorable scenes! Perhaps **Michael Slater**, once he has risen from the dead (a reference to his recent castings!), could put me in touch with someone? There will be many small parts for Guild members.

Keep well and God bless,
Martin Gordon.

The picture is of me on the ward of the Royal Free, Gray's Inn Rd., 1965.

SS Peter and Paul's, Amwell Street, London EC1.
My former room is marked with an X

We look forward to the blockbuster Martin – with some juicy roles for some of our members!!





CALL OF THE HEART - PRISON FELLOWSHIP'S PRAYER LINE Anita Boniface



People in prison have been experiencing difficult conditions in the extreme version of lockdown they have had to endure. Many were in their cell for up to 23 hours a day. And, with many activities suspended, they often had little to do.

Prayer and chapel services usually provide an outlet for prisoners. But, in lockdown, these also came to a halt.

Fr Bob Halshaw, Head of Chaplaincy at Lancaster Diocesan Prisons

Service explains: *"For many of our residents, Chaplaincy is an opportunity for them to recharge their batteries and it provided an outlet for their concerns, anxieties and fears. This need was not being met elsewhere in the prison because of the lockdown."*

To add to this, there was a great deal of anxiety about because of Covid-19.

Understanding the challenges prisoners were going through, the **Christian charity Prison Fellowship (PF)** prayed for a channel to reach prisoners and help them feel connected even during shielding and isolation.

The answer came in the form of the **Prayer Line**.

Prayer Line is a telephone service with a freephone number, where prisoners can request prayer - any prayers that are on their heart - by leaving their request as a recorded message.

The messages are then picked up by the PF Prayer Line team and then distributed to volunteers in PF local groups. PF volunteers receive a set of anonymised prayer requests, and set about joining the prisoner in spirit, praying to God for an answer.



Prayers that have been received through Prayer Line range from requests for freedom, prayers for victims, for family, prison staff, and Prison Fellowship volunteers to name just a few.

R wanted prayer for the Lord to give him strength so he *"can stay focused and stay strong so (he) can get through the period in (his) life with ease and with comfort"*.

M requested prayer that he would be reunited with his wife and children. He also wanted prayer for his parents and siblings, particularly two of his brothers who are also in prison.

A asked for prayer that his *"friends and family are safe during the Coronavirus pandemic."* He also asked that we remember in prayer *"those who have no food and water, nowhere to wash their hands and no support"* and he asked that *"everyone be kept safe."*

The prayer requests demonstrate some of the tenderness and gentleness of so many men and women in prison, expressing the deep yearnings of their heart, sometimes the regrets they feel, and the hopes they have. It is a rare opportunity to present the inner thoughts and feelings of these prisoners, to God.

Rev Sarah Parkinson is an **Anglican Prison Chaplain at HMP Low Newton, a women's prison in County Durham.**

Sarah talks of the advantages of Prayer Line for prisoners. She says: *"Prayer Line is a wonderful service. It is especially good for prisoners who are shy, who may find face-to-face conversation difficult. There are times when chaplains are not in, or times prisoners may not want to talk to us. Some prisoners prefer anonymity and so Prayer Line is a way of getting their worries heard, without revealing their identity."*





Stephen Hawkins is **Operations Manager at Prison Fellowship** and helps oversee the running of Prayer Line. He says: *"At Prison Fellowship, prayer is at the heart of our ministry. We put prayer first. Before we do anything, we pray. Prayer Line allows intercessory prayer which is a different way to connect with God.*



"Even when people are calling, they believe in prayer. They may have faith the size of a mustard seed. But they believe something is going to change and that God hears. We are joining in with that. Prayer Line allows another way of staying connected with God and prisoners."

If you would like to learn more about Prison Fellowship, visit: www.Prisonfellowship.org.uk or telephone 020 7799 2500.

FIGHTING POVERTY WITH KINDNESS Helen O'Shea



The Covid-19 pandemic has added a host of dreaded words to our everyday vocabulary; furlough, antibody test, social distancing, and self-isolation being the most frequently used. However, there is one word which refuses to go away - regardless of world events - poverty.

It is an inescapable fact that during the most challenging times, poverty becomes an uncomfortable and frightening reality for an increasing number of us. Anyone can fall into poverty; all it takes is an unexpected event such as a bereavement, relationship breakdown, loss of employment or income, or illness. But perhaps the most serious side-effect of poverty is that it can marginalize those affected, and lead to discrimination.

But what exactly is poverty? And how can we fight a shapeless spectre which has been our constant companion for millennia?

Offering support to those living in any form of poverty is at the heart of the services provided by the **St Vincent de Paul Society**. **SVP President Helen O'Shea** says: *"The first thing to note about poverty is that it is not as simple as having a low income; there are complex factors involved, both economic and societal. However, the reality of living in poverty is entirely different from the cold statistics. Poverty is a tangible state whose symptoms may include hunger, homelessness, fear, anxiety, mental health decline, drug and alcohol dependency, and a loss of dignity."*

The dictionary definition of the word 'poverty' is: the state or condition of having little or no money, goods, or means of support. For statisticians, the parameters for measuring poverty include the 'relative' method or measuring the resources people have in comparison to everyone else. For example, according to figures from the Money Charity, 4.8 million UK households live without at least one essential appliance, such as a cooker, a fridge or washing machine.



Another method of quantifying poverty is by looking at a definitive set of resources, such as food, clothing, heating or shelter. Using this method, a worrying 12.5 million people are classed as living in 'absolute' poverty in the UK.

Helen O'Shea continues: *"Drawing the 'poverty line' depends on a huge number of factors, but in many ways, this is an academic exercise. Being labelled 'poor' does not put food in stomachs, clothe, provide shelter, or offer comfort."*





"The government's support for people at risk of falling into poverty, and those already struggling with it, has been unprecedented, but it does not go far enough. The charities sector is struggling to cope with demand while its revenues are being severely squeezed. Charities are the safety net for the government's economic policies. They offer support where the government's efforts fall short. If the government does not recognize the impact the pandemic is having on charitable support services, many will fade away."

Asked what we can all do to help address poverty, Helen O'Shea responds: *"There are a number of options; volunteering, raising funds through a campaign such as the SVP's Rise to the Challenge, or donating time, goods or money, will all help. If you can do none of the above, then showing kindness and understanding for people who are struggling is the least any of us can do."*

According to figures from the **Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRT)** around 14.3 million people are living in poverty in the UK, and that figure is set to rise sharply as the Covid-19 pandemic grinds on. The JRT also estimates that £78 billion of public spending is linked to dealing with poverty and its consequences, which includes spending on healthcare, education, justice, child and adult social services. Significantly, over half of people living in poverty live in working households. This trend is increasing as living costs continue to outstrip wages.

Helen O'Shea continues: *"Our members work tirelessly in their communities, compassionately, diligently and without fanfare or fuss, to deliver support to anyone who needs it. Our members offer befriending to the lonely and isolated, they deliver food parcels and other essential items, and help with practical solutions to everyday problems, such as filling out online forms when you can't afford a computer, tablet or phone."*



"Meanwhile, our shops are firmly rooted in communities, supplying essential household items to those who otherwise would not be able to access them. They also provide vital funds for community support projects through the sale of donated goods. We need to support our charity shops - they are not only environmentally friendly, they also help to fund change for those who need it most."

*Additionally, the SVP operate support centres, which offer a range of services, including providing a hot meal or food parcel, education, and services for older people. **The SVP centres in Leeds and Bradford** are seeing increasing demand for essential support. **Centre Manager Sheena Eastwood** says: "The food banks in the area closed during lockdown, but the SVP decided to keep our services open. We have been serving 1,500 meals a week during lockdown, and our food isn't just wholesome and tasty, it adds to people's quality of life. It gives people visiting our centres some dignity."*

The SVP centres in Leeds and Bradford also offer books and activities for children, meals and food deliveries for those shielding, and on one occasion the team helped produce a CV for a beneficiary, who went on to get a job. The services are delivered in a non-judgmental, supportive environment. Sheena adds: *"We always say 'kindness costs nothing'. We never judge people who come to the centre. They all have names, they are all unique, and they each have their own reason for visiting us. They all deserve our support and kindness."*

The Leeds and Bradford support centres have experienced a drop in calls for debt advice over the lockdown period, though this is expected to rise sharply in the new year, as Sheena explains: *"During lockdown the furlough scheme, mortgage and rent holidays and the ban on evictions all meant that many people had a false sense of security. As these initiatives come to an end, the risk to households grows. We are bracing for a wave of calls for help as we near Christmas and the new year."*





The support and essential kindness offered by Sheena and her dedicated team at the SVP's Leeds and Bradford centres has an enormous effect on beneficiaries. "I am so grateful for the help you have given me making my life worth living again," said one beneficiary. Speaking about the centres' food provision, another added: *"People would have really struggled without you guys. You're angels."*

Meanwhile, the **SVP's Tower House in Brighton**, which supports older people and those who feel isolated, has had to adapt under strict government guidelines during the pandemic. Despite the temporary closure of Tower House, the centre has continued to supply around 30 people with weekly food parcels. **Centre Manager Lindsay MacRae** says: *"I am aware how many of our guests live frugally. We offer essentials to our older guests in a stimulating environment. Nothing goes to waste. Any spare food we have we donate to two other Christian led projects in the city."*



One recipient of the care at Tower House said: *"It is my first taste of heaven. Everyone is so welcoming and kind."*

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the SVP has seen demand for its services increase at a time when funds for its vital support services are being squeezed. People who have never before accessed SVP or other charitable services are now using them, swelling the number of people in need as the pandemic continues to bite.

SVP President Helen O'Shea concludes: *"In a wealthy country such as ours, poverty should not exist, yet it does, and it continues to grow. We need to end this unjust, marginalizing of people on economic grounds. We all need to tackle the causes of poverty, find new ways of supporting those who cannot support themselves, and rediscover the dignity of work. Only with that approach will we ultimately be rewarded with a fairer society for all."*

For more information or to donate go to www.svp.org.uk. @SVPEnglandWales or telephone 020 7703 3030.

LIFE IN LOCKDOWN: VIEW FROM A MONASTERY

Tree planting to mark the simple profession of Sr Mary Gabriel in February 2019.



Sisters from the **Monastery of Our Lady of Hying, near Carnforth, in Lancashire**, have shared their thoughts on how monastic life has changed during coronavirus. Their congregational website indicates how significantly they've been impacted:

"Normally September would start the new Bernardine year in the guesthouse, and we would be advertising a whole range of events. This year everything is a lot different and we are still waiting for guidelines to ensure everything is safe for us and guests. We are looking at using the time to update building work etc. So, at the moment we will remain closed for large residential groups and events."

The garden is producing a mountain of vegetables and we are busy making jams, marmalades, and chutneys. In the absence of guests, we hope to sell these things online soon. "

Sister Elizabeth Mary leads the Community, having recently moved there from Brownhill, in Gloucestershire: *"As the novelty of lockdown began to recede and the reality of the presence of Covid 19 sank in, I shared the desire to DO something to help the nation's effort, over and above the 'little things' we were doing: Community's increased*





weekly contributions to our local foodbank, 'staying safe' so that we did not add to the burden of the NHS, sowing extra vegetables to reduce our dependence on food supplies, extra time of Community prayer together for the pandemic etc.. I think that this was a natural human reaction, shared by so many who helped produce PPE, delivered essential items to the vulnerable, kept an eye on elderly neighbours.....

All I seemed to have to offer was my prayer and the day to day commitment to my vows and monastic living. Then, a conversation from years ago flashed through my mind. Weeks before entering, I was trying to explain my life decision to a friend whose reply was the all too familiar phrase 'what a waste'. After all, 30 years ago the shortage of secondary maths teachers drew financial government incentives to attract newly graduating mathematicians - I was 'useful'!



The friend then reflected: "I suppose the difference is that you believe in the power of prayer and I don't" but, after a moment's pause, she added "but then I would never not say a prayer whenever one of my children has an exam." The pandemic brought an opportunity to deepen my prayer, particularly the prayer of intercession and to live the 'starkness' of my vocation.

During the first months of lockdown I was also facing the probability of being asked to move to a new Community. I knew this would feel like an 'uprooting' with an inevitable journey through grief. In solidarity with all those for whom the pandemic has brought the ongoing suffering of uncertainty, loss, and bereavement, I have tried to live this generously in faith, trusting in God's goodness and love."

Reflections from **several other Sisters at Hyning:**

"In one sense monastic life is a classic 'lockdown scenario'. We've chosen a life of prayer, solitude and some degree of separation from the world. We are a Community of 12 sisters, three of whom are sisters in temporary profession, comprising five different nationalities. The oldest sister is 95 and the youngest member is 29. This broad mix ensures a balance and richness in our community life together. Work and prayer form the basis of our life. We celebrate the Divine Office daily; it is sung five times a day in our Chapel. This is our life 24 hours a day, seven days a week, all year round we are 'in lockdown' with each other. Of course, for us the main difference is that we chose this life, whereas during 2020 the various ways of lockdown have been enforced on the world-wide community because of the pandemic.

*None of us is perfect and we accept each other's weaknesses, knowing that we are stronger together, than alone. When we are open, we are all involved in the work of the guesthouse in our different ways, from welcoming people at the door, domestic work and in retreat giving. The main focus of our life is prayer and work at the service of God. **As Bernardine Cistercians** we seek God through the work of hospitality and prayer. When we hear our bell ringing it is a call to rise, to prayer, to eat and meet together as community. The daily timetable during lockdown hasn't changed, we still pray and work together.*



*What has been the biggest impact? Our welcome of guests. As a monastic guesthouse we welcome guests into our home, into our chapel. Receiving guests isn't just about making ends meet or ensuring an income, it's about living out our Rule that reminds us 'that we see in our Guests the face of Christ'. (cf. **Rule of St Benedict Chapter 53.**) So apart from limited family visits under ever changing rules, we have not received guests, given talks to groups or welcomed retreatants to the peace and beauty of our home and garden. This has been very hard for us on many levels, it is as if a fundamental aspect of our life has been ripped out - so a large part of our daily life has changed during lockdown.*





We have tried to reach out in various ways during this time. Several of the sisters have been involved in Zoom retreats and giving online sessions. We have also used technology to accompany guests and give spiritual advice and support. Numbers in our Facebook group and page have risen dramatically over the past few months. Some weeks, thousands have tuned in to our Facebook talks, other weeks several hundred. It has been a learning experience to be able to reach out to people in different ways. We've set up equipment for future streaming, though for us, it's not about being a performance but singing the praises of God.

Over the past few months, we realise how fortunate we have been to have the grounds to walk in and pray, aware of the suffering of those locked down in high rise flats on council estates, individuals with no human contact for months, those in dire financial restraints etc.,. Each day we gather together for an extra time of prayer to pray for those affected by Covid 19, for those who have died, for those who grieve and for all those who have worked so hard to help all those suffering at this time.



On a practical level we have looked at ways of simplifying our life, decluttered the house where possible and tried to find ways of replacing some of the income lost from the guesthouse. Like other people we've struggled on a financial level but are fortunate to have a garden and have been touched by the generosity of those who've helped us. We've been converting the fruits and vegetables in our garden to jams and chutneys to sell on our Facebook page, looking at simple crafts to sell as well.

It hasn't been easy separated from our friends and families at this time, unable to help in many practical and spiritual ways. We share in the suffering of our world, and we try to follow the rules imposed upon us. Not being able to share our public worship for many months was very difficult and it is still limited by regulations. We know so many people who have suffered so much that we know we cannot complain."

Another Sister reflects: "Lockdown for me was/is a call to intensify intercessory prayer through our monastic routine where we meet as a community for the Divine Office, meals and some shared work in the garden and preparing gluts of fruit and veg. We pledged 15 minutes as a community before Vespers for those suffering from Covid 19- which we have done faithfully and gladly.

The weather was beautiful and allowed me to do much needed outdoor painting of multiple exterior doors and fascia boards. Much intercession for Carers and the NHS. Much reflection on what we can learn from this pandemic and to prepare for future guests with upgrading of facilities and services."

Another Sister reflects: "Our monastic life is mostly lived within the monastery and grounds, so in some ways the lockdown was not too difficult. We have had time to deepen the essentials of our life and to appreciate even more the beauty that surrounds us. But it has been very hard not to be able to welcome here our guests, volunteers, Oblates, friends and family. So many come here for the peace of the monastery and the garden, and to join us in our Divine Office and Mass. All this has been denied them, and some have been lonely during these last months. We have kept in touch in different ways.

I have certainly increased and deepened intercessory prayer. Each day we take a short time together before Vespers to pray for all affected by the pandemic, and this has been a good thing to do, especially all of us together. In addition, I have been trying not to grumble but to remember all the millions who are living with much greater sufferings than we have known here."







CATHOLIC CHURCH IN ENGLAND RECEIVES LIFELINE GRANT FROM GOVERNMENT'S CULTURE RECOVERY FUND



All Saints, Urmston, Manchester

The Catholic Bishops' Conference is one of 445 heritage organisations across the country set to receive a lifesaving financial boost from the government thanks to the £1.57 billion **Culture Recovery Fund** to help them through the coronavirus pandemic.

445 organisations will share £103 million, including the Catholic Church in England, to help restart vital reconstruction work and maintenance on cherished heritage sites, keeping venues open and supporting those working

in the sector.

The Catholic Trust for England and Wales has been awarded £3million from this fund, to distribute to Grade I and II* historic Catholic churches across England. This will provide much needed support for these important historic buildings - helping them fund essential repairs and remain open both for their regular visitors, and the wider community. This vital funding is from the Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage and **the Heritage Stimulus Fund** - funded by Government and administered at arm's length by **Historic England** and **the National Lottery Heritage Fund**. Both funds are part of the Government's £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund which is designed to secure the future of Britain's museums, galleries, theatres, independent cinemas, heritage sites and music venues with emergency grants and loans.

433 organisations will receive a share of £67 million from the Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage to help with costs for operating, reopening and recovery. This includes famous heritage sites across the country, from **Wentworth Woodhouse in Yorkshire to Blackpool's Winter Gardens, Blyth Tall Ship to the Severn Valley Railway, the International Bomber Command Centre in Lincolnshire to the Piece Hall in Halifax**. The funds will save sites that are a source of pride for communities across the country.



12 organisations, including **English Heritage, Landmark Trust, Historic Royal Palaces and the Canal and River Trust**, will receive £34 million from the **Heritage Stimulus Fund** to restart construction and maintenance on cherished heritage sites to preserve visitor attractions and protect livelihoods for some of the most vulnerable heritage specialists and contractors in the sector.

Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden said: *"As a nation it is essential that we preserve our heritage and celebrate and learn from our past. This massive support package will protect our shared heritage for future generations, save jobs and help us prepare for a cultural bounce back post Covid."*

Duncan Wilson, Historic England's Chief Executive said: *"It is heartening to see grants, both large and small, from the Government's Culture Recovery Fund helping heritage sites and organisations across the country which have been hit hard by the effects of Covid-19. These grants range from giving skilled craft workers the chance to keep their trades alive to helping heritage organisations pay the bills, and to kick-starting repair works at our best-loved historic sites. The funding is an essential lifeline for our heritage and the people who work tirelessly to conserve it for us all, so that we can hand it on to future generations."*





The Most Rev George Stack, Chair of the Patrimony Committee for the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales said: "We are hugely grateful for this magnificent award. With our churches closed during lock down many planned repair projects were unable to go ahead. Other churches have simply not had the resources to carry out much needed repairs. Grants from this award will bring new hope to congregations struggling to raise funds at this very difficult time."

Nadia Ostacchini, who does such creative and colourful design work on the Newsletter, has suggested the following:



FILM: OPUS OF AN ANGEL

When a suicidal man finds a blind girl lost and wandering the streets of LA, he is torn between getting her home safely and keeping his appointment with death.

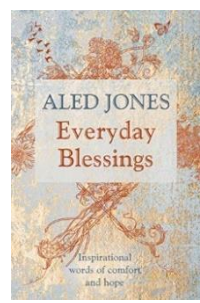
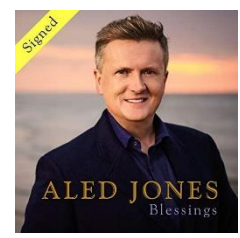
To watch the trailer for Opus of an Angel, click [HERE](#)

For information on how to rent Opus of an Angel on Amazon for only £4.49, click [HERE](#)

NB: Rentals include 30 days to start watching this video and 48 hours to finish once started.

MUSIC: BLESSINGS BY ALED JONES

For more info & to purchase click [HERE](#)



BOOK: EVERYDAY BLESSINGS: INSPIRATIONAL WORDS OF COMFORT AND HOPE BY ALED JONES

For more info & to purchase click [HERE](#)

STORY: A CHRISTMAS STORY: WHERE LOVE IS, GOD IS BY LEO TOLSTOY

Translated by Louise and Aylmer Maude ** NB: translation was first published in 1906

To READ, click [HERE](#)

GIFT IDEA: A He or She Rosary or Rosalet would make the perfect gift for someone special!

For more info & to purchase click [HERE](#)



All our future events are, of course, subject to the government's Covid restrictions.

We still hope to hold a CaAPA dinner early next year and our annual Playlets evening when safe to do so.

Our CaAPA Carol Concert will, unfortunately and predictably, be missed this year.



If any member would be interested in joining a **Zoom play reading group**, that meets **fortnightly on Thursday evenings**, please email me (Kennethmichaels@hotmail.com). You can join either as a reader or observer.

A reminder that archive copies of the Newsletter are available on the CaAPA website Members' area.





You can access this only if you have a login and password. Do set up an account next time you visit if you haven't already registered.



Lastly, please do send in any items you have written, or may be of interest to members, for inclusion in future Newsletters to kennethmichaels@hotmail.com

Feel free to send us any accompanying **photos** too!



Until next month stay safe and God Bless,

Kenneth Michaels
(Hon.Secretary).

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coordinator@caapa.org.uk



[@Wearecaapa](https://www.instagram.com/wearecaapa)

www.catholicassociationofperformingarts.org.uk/



Our diverse group of members, whom are comprised of actors, directors, writers, singers, musicians and other entertainers, share in a creative community where they can also grow in their spiritual values. We also aim to serve the wider community by presenting productions for charitable causes or by taking productions on tour to schools, local theatres, parishes and elderly homes.

