

## Rural Isolation Fund – St Andrews

### Report on Distribution of Services/Reflections to those without internet.

Within a few weeks of Lockdown last March, it became clear that there were people within our Circuit who could not access the online Worship and Daily Reflections as they did not have internet access. This meant that they were excluded from the worship that was happening within the church and were isolated at home. In order to overcome this isolation, we decided to produce DVDs of the Service and the Reflections for these people.



The minsters, local preachers, worship leaders and others all take a part in recording their reflections, readings, prayers and sermons at home on their own computers, along with the musicians recording the songs and hymns. All the files are uploaded to a site and from there Neil Platt takes all of these elements and puts them together to create a coherent service. He uploads the reflections and service to the Church's Facebook, You Tube site and our Website weekly. When we were able to worship in the church building the Sunday Service was live steamed to Facebook and then copied onto the DVDs.

We have been distributing around 25 DVDs per week. Neil copies the service, plus the 5 daily reflections onto each DVD, a task that has been made easier, after we got funding for an 11 DVD copier.



Each week Neil drops off the DVDs to the homes of Vanessa Iliff and Rachel Coombes.

Vanessa then posts out around 15 DVDs to people who are isolating at home from around the Circuit and Rachel posts and hand delivers to those around Skipton.

Within a couple of weeks of distributing the DVDs it became apparent that there were people within the Circuit who not only had no internet, but also had no DVD player. So we began producing printed copies of the Daily Reflections and Sermons for these people. There are 5 who receive these at St Andrews

and Trinity and Rev. Tracey Darling also produces copies for those in some of her churches. Most of these are posted out, but a few around Skipton are hand delivered in a socially distanced way.



#### Effect of this ministry.

**Rachel Coombes** – As someone who was doing the delivering of the DVDs /Written reflections, it could be thought that as I was giving of my time to help keep people in contact with the church, I would not benefit. However, I would say I have got as much out of this work as those receiving the DVDs. During the first lockdown, last March, it gave me a legitimate reason to leave my house. I considered delivering the DVDs as work and combined it as a part of my daily exercise.

I usually hand deliver to at least 6 people, and have been doing so now for nearly a year on a more or less weekly basis!!! All of these people I knew to just say hello to at church, but that was all. Initially, I was a person who could speak to these people socially distanced at their doorstep and for some of them, I was nearly the only one they saw in person during the week. But as time went on, and the conversations continued we have got to know a bit more about each other and this has been as beneficial to me as them. They are certainly more than acquaintances to me now.

#### Comments received from some those receiving the DVDs/written reflections:-



‘I have really appreciated getting the reflections delivered to me. I look forward to the weekly chat at a distance on the doorstep and the reflections make me feel more a part of the church.’

‘Receiving the DVD each week has been really good. It has made us feel less isolated and it is as if we are talking to friends when we watch the services. We would had been lost without it, as we have no internet. It has been good to see each week.’



Arthur Rank  
Centre

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'I have enjoyed receiving the DVDs and enjoyed watching them. It has been like being at church, as I can take part in the service and sing the hymns. I always pass the DVD on to a friend who enjoying watching it and she then passes it onto her daughter to watch as well.'

'We have been thankful to receive the DVDs, we enjoy watching them and they keep us in touch with the church family'.

'I always look forward to the white envelop dropping through our letterbox, as we know it will be the reflections. Thank you.'

'I have enjoyed receiving the reflections and service. I enjoy reading them and think of the person who has written them. I have kept them all in a folder, so I can read through them again. They have been a great help.'