

Oxenhope Community Café

It's been an interesting year for Oxenhope Community Café, the project that I set up with Revd Cat Thatcher and Deacon Jackie Fowler more than two years ago now. There was, and continues to be, a great need in this and many other rural communities to address the issues of social loneliness and isolation. The café went from strength to strength and we regularly gathered more than 30 people of all ages, from six months to 95, but sadly we had to pause the meeting because of the pandemic. We have continued to try to

connect with people across the area but this has not been as easy as the café's simple but effective way of offering out a welcome by just putting up a sign and putting on the kettle. We greatly miss the multi-generational contact that was a great by-product of our endeavour.

Rank Trust's Germinate movement has continued to be an inspiration as we read their very helpful online resources. Their work, producing a toolkit to assist churches in setting up



events to address this issue, was of course one of the drivers that encouraged us to set this community café up in the first place.

We are of course very keen indeed to resume our activities and as soon as it is safe to do so we will be working hard to get going again; however in the interim we

must remember that at the moment social gathering is not recommended. We are trying, with varied success, to keep people connected in different ways. Our main focus is to care and also to be safe.



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