

**Holland House in Collaboration with Archway & the Retreat Association**  
**"Covid, Spirituality and the future of Retreat Houses Pt2"**  
**Notes taken at a gathering via Zoom on 7th August 2020**

There were 46 participants representing 41 organisations (Archway members in bold):

Maggie Le-Roy	Anglican Diocese of Cyprus & Gulf
<b>Jeff Witts</b>	<b>Archway Administrator</b>
Demelza Henderson	Association for Promoting Retreats
Marianne Anker-Petersen	Bield at Blackruthven
<b>Rt Revd Alison White</b>	<b>Bishop of Hull and President of Archway</b>
<b>Revd Alison Hobbs</b>	<b>Brancepeth Castle</b>
Ann Morley-Fletcher	Chemin Neuf
Mair Jones	Coleg Trefeca
Joanne Evans-Boiten	Colomba le Roc
Oliver Holt	Douai Abbey
Margaret Rose McSparran	Drumalis Retreat & Conference Centre
Fr Ed Martin	Edenham Regional House
<b>Revd Ian Spencer</b>	<b>Holland House</b>
<b>Ian Andrews</b>	<b>Launde Abbey</b>
<b>Ven David Newman</b>	<b>Launde Abbey</b>
Steve Banks	Living Well
<b>Janet Haynes</b>	<b>Llangasty Retreat House</b>
Sr Anne Mullan IBVM	Loreto Centre
<b>Revd Jane Taylor</b>	<b>Mill House Retreats</b>
Ian Ambrose	Nicholaston House
Tony Jaques	Othona Community
Jo Craven	Parcevall Hall
<b>Jo Hall</b>	<b>Pleshey Retreat House</b>
Amanda Fogg	Rydal Hall
<b>Michyla Hickling</b>	<b>Scargill Movement</b>
<b>Jo Penn</b>	<b>Scargill Movement</b>
<b>Revd Phil Stone</b>	<b>Scargill Movement</b>
<b>Simon Hudson</b>	<b>Shallowford House</b>
<b>Claire Sowerbutts</b>	<b>Shallowford House</b>
Sr Mother Mary Joy SSB	Sisters of Bethany
Sr Marie-Christine	Sisters of St Andrew
Rachel Moore	St Chad's House
<b>Stuart McCredie</b>	<b>St Katharine's, Parmoor</b>
Charles Randall	St Mary's Monastery
Sr Susan CSC	St Michael's Convent
Jonathan Wileman	Stanton House
Judy Cannan	Thie dy Vea Retreat House
Rob Weston	Tinhay Retreats
Judith Leckie	Turvey Abbey
Frances Lock	Well Centre for Spirituality
<b>Amanda Kimberley</b>	<b>Whitchester Christian Centre</b>
<b>Simon Kimberley</b>	<b>Whitchester Christian Centre</b>
Clive Morton	Umbrian Retreats
Fr Peter Williams	Worth Abbey
Richard Ellis	Wychcroft Retreat Centre
<b>Mark Rance</b>	<b>Wydale Hall</b>

Apologies were received from:

**Alison MacTier**  
**Carol Rider**

**Retreat Association**  
**Royal Foundation of St Katharine**

**Ian Spencer** welcomed everyone, and then **Bishop Alison** gave an introduction to our opportunity to network and make community together.

Participants were then divided into **break-out groups**.

After re-convening, three Retreat Houses talked about their current situation:

David Newman & Ian Andrews spoke about the first week of opening at **Launde Abbey** after postponing their planned mid-July event. They opened their cafe and had some individual guests in August. They've produced a document called "*Keeping you Safe*" which is available on the Launde and Retreat Association websites. Other centres are welcome to use it as a template. They are taking temperatures when guests arrive and not allowing guests to move furniture. An installation has been introduced into the chapel to allow God into the empty spaces left by reducing capacity. Some nervousness has been noticed amongst housekeeping staff as they get used to new protocols and working in bubbles has introduced new communication challenges.

Amanda Fogg informed us that the teashop at **Rydal Hall** had opened for takeaways in mid-June, the campsite on 1<sup>st</sup> July and the Hall on 20<sup>th</sup> July. Staff wear face coverings when in communal areas and guests have staggered mealtimes and allocated spaces. All chairs have been removed from the large entrance hall and non-residents are asked to ring the doorbell.

Phil Stone told us that the **Scargill Movement** are still closed but plan to reopen for individual retreats in October. They have been concentrating on their community and developing an online ministry. Several people have turned their fees into donations.

In the **Plenary** session people mentioned the tension between opening social spaces and keeping people safe. Room capacities have been reduced to minimise mixing multiple households. One centre has closed all their public toilets so can no longer offer day events. There was a request to share risk assessments and to hold one another in prayer. Attention was drawn to the predominant use of *Should* rather than *Must* in the Government guidelines.

In her **Summary & final blessing**, Bishop Alison talked about identity and ethos, maintaining what we have been and what we are being changed into. These provisional circumstances are dependent on a mutual contract between us and our guests. It was recognised that we have a lot to learn about online presence and some financial concerns to address as we are still offering provisional programmes.

It was suggested that we hold another meeting at the end of September.