



Lend an Ear

How has your past year changed the future?

Introducing the inaugural listening campaign of Caritas in the Diocese of Nottingham Summer 2021



Many parishioners in the Diocese of Nottingham have already taken the [online survey](#) exploring how Covid-19 has affected them. From Pentecost 2021, **Caritas**, our diocesan network for social action, invites you to engage people in the wider community in some of the same questions, this time in a personal conversation.



Find a few people to have conversations with – ideally people different from you (for instance, a different ethnicity, religious background, generation or living situation). Depending on the timing and progress through the government's [Covid-19 roadmap](#), the conversation could be:

- one-to-one
- in a small group (if the Rule of Six is in effect)
- in the park
- on a walk
- by video conference
- in a phone call



Invite them to meet you, and pass on this explanatory document with your invitation.



Check that you both agree that insights from the conversation can be passed on in order to build social understanding of the impact of the pandemic



Listen to each other in turn, interrupting only to seek clarification, as you answer these questions:

- What positive longer-term impacts could the pandemic have?
- What negative impacts could the pandemic have?
- What lessons can be learned from the last year?
- And how should society, the Church and Caritas act on what we've learned?



Agree the key points you have learned from your conversation and enter them anonymously into the [insight form](#) which you can reach from www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/lend-an-ear.



Why a listening campaign?

- **Build bridges** to repair the estrangement caused by a year of social distancing
- **Increase understanding** of the impact of Covid-19 on our neighbours
- **Foster a 'culture of encounter'** to heal our fractured society
- **Start with listening** as we develop the Church's ministry of charity in the Diocese of Nottingham.

"Every now and then, miraculously, a kind person appears and is willing to set everything else aside in order to show interest, to give the gift of a smile, to speak a word of encouragement, to listen amid general indifference."

"To speak of a "culture of encounter" means that we, as a people, should be passionate about meeting others, seeking points of contact, building bridges, planning a project that includes everyone. This becomes an aspiration and a style of life."

Pope Francis, *Fratelli tutti*,



If you are taking part in the Caritas programme *The Word and the Common Good* on Monday evenings in June and July 2021, we will have time at the beginning of each session to listen to each other as well.