



Redditch Mission Area E-newsletter

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Welcome to our January 2026 Newsletter which contains:

- Welcome to the Leadership Team and details of their plans for the next few months
- 'Make Christmas Special' RMA led Toy Appeal - read the highlights from the report
- Events - two dates for your January diaries

Meet the RMA Leadership Team

The Redditch Mission Area (RMA) is driven by a singular vision: seeing churches flourish, communities served, and lives transformed by God. Our Leadership Team works collaboratively to turn this vision into reality through strategic partnership and sustainable growth.

Rev Canon Paul Lawlor – Mission Area Leader

Paul provides the spiritual and strategic compass for the RMA. Tasked with "apostolic oversight," he ensures our diverse churches move as one cohesive ecosystem rather than isolated parishes. With deep experience in navigating change, he balances tradition with innovation, mentoring both clergy and laypeople to step into their giftings.

In his dual capacity, Paul brings the following to the Mission Area:

As Area Dean

- Heads up Chapter and helps clergy to support each other.
- Contributes to the formation and implementation of diocesan strategy for growth and sustainability.
- Organises Deanery Synod alongside the DLT and Lay Chair.
- Handles Vacancies.

As Mission Area Leader

- Works with Church Leadership teams to focus on Mission Acceleration and Growth.

- Supports teams seeking to encourage New Worshipping communities and children/youth work development.
- Leads the Dedicated Central Team (Youth, Families, Community, Operations) and volunteer staff.
- Provides teaching to encourage an outward-looking culture and willingness to explore new pathways.
- Spends time with volunteers to provide coaching, equipping, and mentoring to develop collaboration.
- Ensures a sustainable future by encouraging generosity, securing funding, and maximizing income.

Alix Stockwell - Operations Manager

Five weeks into this new role, her current focus is three-fold:

- Operational Leadership: Leading the RMA charity both operationally and administratively.
- Strategic Recruitment: Supporting the recruitment and onboarding of the three funded roles (Children's and Families, Youth, and Community Missioner).
- Church Engagement: Visiting all 12 churches to see how each worshipping community, parochial structure, and mission is running.

Alix looks forward to meeting you, if she has not already! Please email her on alix@cofe-redditch.org.uk to introduce yourself.

Elaine Whitfield – Church & Mission Support Coordinator

Elaine is a catalyst for outreach, bringing a hands-on approach to implementing projects and supporting local initiatives. Her background in media, events, and community engagement makes her a key asset to our outward-facing team.

Elaine's core foci includes:

- Project & Event Leadership: Leading the annual "Make Christmas Special" Toy Appeal and other mission-critical projects.
- Creative Engagement & Research: Crafting compelling content for newsletters and social media; researching grants and fundraising opportunities
- Community Interface: Building relationships with churches and identifying local needs,

facilitating project delivery as a point of contact for mission activities.

- Mission Support: Assisting churches with outward-facing initiatives such as Eco Church and Chaplaincy, leading where appropriate.

She is passionately committed to walking alongside our churches to help more people encounter a living relationship with God.

One team, One mission

A Christmas Miracle in the Kingfisher: 1,520 Smiles

The 2025 "Make Christmas Special" Toy Appeal proved what happens when a community stands together. This wasn't just a gift-giving initiative; it was a "Town Square" mission that transformed a shop in the Kingfisher Centre into a place of dignity, hope, and connection.

The Impact in Numbers

We saw unprecedented growth in need this year:

1,520 Children supported (up 47%).

937 Families referred (up 105%).

Full participation from all 12 Redditch Mission Area churches.

Dignity at the Heart

By adopting a "Retail Model," we empowered parents to choose gifts tailored to their children's interests. As one parent, Amy, shared: "My daughter is more into football than 'girls' toys'... it's been great being able to choose for her!"

A Huge Thank You

This mission was a true team effort. Our deepest gratitude goes to:

- The Kingfisher Centre: For donating the retail space.
- Our Volunteers: The core team and volunteers from our 12 churches, the Diocese, and the public.
- Civic & Corporate Partners: Including Redditch Borough Council, Redditch Mayor Joanna Kane, MP Chris Bloore, Tesco, Coffee #1, and The Redditch Standard.

More Than Just Toys

The shop also served as a spiritual sanctuary. From our Prayer Tree to the high demand for Bibles, it was

clear that Redditch has a hunger for hope. One 14-year-old girl's request for her own Bible reminded us that we aren't just giving gifts—we are sharing the light of the Gospel.

This appeal serves as a "Mission Hub Prototype" for 2026 - God is moving in our town.

Thank you for being part of the miracle.

Dates for Your Diary: Mission and Creation Events

Join us for these two upcoming opportunities to learn, grow, and put our faith into action across the Redditch Mission Area.

Telling Your Church's Story: Interactive Workshop

Tuesday 20th January | 2:00pm – 4:00pm | Worcester

Every ministry has a story that can inspire others. This interactive session, hosted by Nexus and the Diocese, will help you discover your church's unique narrative and use personal testimonies to communicate your mission effectively.

What to bring: A laptop or tablet for the training.

Transport: Car share spaces are available!

Contact: To book or grab a seat in the car, contact Alix Stockwell at alix@cofe-redditch.org.uk or call 07418 095558

Creation Care: EnviroSort Visit

As mentioned in our October 2025 newsletter the visit has been arranged for:

Wednesday 28th January | Afternoon | Near M5, Junction 7

As part of our focus on stewardship and Ecojustice, Revd Martin Allen is leading a FREE 90-minute tour of the EnviroSort recycling facility. See first-hand what happens to our waste and how we can become better stewards of God's gift of Creation.

Impact: A practical look at the recycling process to inspire change in our homes and churches.

Transport: We are currently coordinating carpools.

Contact: To sign up or offer a lift, please contact Revd Martin or email Allnix@btinternet.com.