

## Too early in the year to nest?



This stunning, handcrafted window display was installed by Carol and Peter Thorn last weekend. It is so evocative of new beginnings, the promise of Spring; room enough for each and every person to grow in a safe place and one day....fly.

## Fledging time at The Well?

As mentioned before, this national pandemic has marked a huge time of change at The Well. Our centre of welcome, lingering conversation and embrace has been replaced with referral systems, hand sanitiser and facial coverings. It's been hard at times, but fresh opportunities have come; new relationships and growth through our offering to the community.

Returning to Well life in early 2021, straight back into a third national lockdown might understandably cause us to go to ground a bit. Our lovely new Cafe Manager, Toni, has made the brave decision not to work for us for a while in order to protect the extremely vulnerable people she is working with in a care home in Harborough, and others have quite rightly taken a step back to keep themselves and their loved ones safe. For some of us, this is a time to retreat and we understand that.

But many of us involved in The Well, and/or in positions of leadership, sense this could also be a time of further growth - in preparation for the time when we can once again fly with our vision of physical welcome and natural times of listening and accompanying. It is a time for gathering twigs and scraps - for being creative with anything and anyone we have to hand - regardless of the winter chill!

We've only been back in The Well two days, but I observe that most conversations have been centred around what we can do to make people feel remembered; to be assured that someone at least knows them by name and cares. Where the Well can't offer a physical place in quite the same way, it can offer a temporary container of hope and shelter where people can grow and move on.

As we work out what might be possible regarding takeaways and a physical 'hello' to people, we are also contemplating other, innovative ways for people to feel they have 'come home' to The Well. Many of these will be centred around our development of the food bank ministry as we look forward to training in areas such as supporting people with benefits, finances and the resources they need to get through the next two months. We are also looking at ways to deepen our Listening Team offering - for example being more intentional and regular about hosting weekly Zoom drop-ins for those shielding or with additional needs.