

Pastoral Group Report for AGM 2016

Members: Pauline Hinge (Chair), Rosemary Thomson, Rob Klincke, Sheila Bridgewater, Gill Pigram, Margaret Trickett

Transport A system has been established whereby parishioners who need transport to church or hospital can obtain this help.

Prayer ministry.

There is the opportunity for people to come to the Lady Chapel after the main service for prayer for themselves or for others. This is proving to be very helpful for those giving and those receiving prayer and a way of strengthening faith and community. We have two people ready to pray with those who come and, if no one comes, it is a special time to pray for all who have been worshipping and those we know who have special need of prayer.

Services in Residential Homes

Care homes are required to show that they are providing spiritual care and it is an opportunity to be the church outside the church building.

We continue to take a service at Conewood Nursing Home on the second Thursday of each month. This is welcomed by residents and staff. The residents respond to the singing; it is acknowledged that folk whose minds are not so clear can be reached through music. The vicar of All Saints, Rev. Simon Mansfield, now comes to the service and leads our time together every other month.

Our input at Elmhurst is under review at the moment. We have held a time of reflection and singing there for a number of years. Circumstances have changed so we are deciding the best way forward.

Home groups.

Several groups meet regularly to study the Bible. There are always fresh truths to learn which enable us to grow in our understanding of our faith and how that faith is worked out in our daily lives. Sometimes the groups will focus on particular questions which are relevant to our society and how we should be relating our faith to the world and everyday life. Importantly the home groups are places where we can share any problems and experience love and support. We pray together for each other and for our concerns.

Baptism follow up.

We continue to arrange parties for the families of the children who have been baptized in the last year. We hope that each family will become more deeply involved in the life of the church.

Newcomers

We have a steady stream of new people joining our church and it is for all of us to help them feel part of our fellowship. We are holding a Welcome party to get to know some of our new members and we welcome any of you who can to come along to get to know them. The date is Sunday May 22nd at 3p.m. in the WCC.

As some established people move away, it is important to draw newcomers in, encourage them to grow in faith, and to breathe new life into our fellowship.

Teas, Tots and Toys

This has resulted from a request from school mothers and carers to have a meeting place between leaving older children at school and the start of Tiny Tots at 10.45 on a Wednesday morning. We meet in the WCC where the little ones have space to play and the adults can chat. Other young Mums and Grandparents come along and it is a good opportunity to make contacts and help them get to know others. Some of the Mums and carers have taken over the organization and they are taking the group from strength to strength.

Alpha Course We are holding another alpha course at the moment. Those taking part are finding it somewhere to take their faith to a deeper level and ask questions about matters which puzzle them.

Pauline Hinge