

Pastoral forum

In April last year we founded our pastoral support forum after the PCM pastoral care committee was drawn to a conclusion. The basis for this group was to offer support and connection for those who are themselves offering pastoral support within the church and the community. Whilst part of the Christian life is to 'carry one another's burdens' (Gal 6:2) which means that we are all involved in pastoral care within the community of believers, there are some who have a particular calling to wider pastoral care within the church. This group brings together those wonderful people who do so much unseen visiting and supporting as an expression of their gifts and heart outside of the other small groups and organised teams. We meet together every few months for the purposes of encouragement, support, prayer, and, where appropriate, training. This forum is separate from the Small group leader system who are overseen by Jon Morley through their own meetings, & also distinct from pastoral support given within small groups.

We came together for the first time on 24th April 2023 so have been functioning in this way for a year. We have set up a WhatsApp group for communicating what visiting has happened each week and to pray. Since we have been meeting the Visiting team has also been re-established and Pauline Stanford has taken charge of co-ordinating that team.

Maxine Roberts

Visiting team

For many years we had a lovely group of people who visited members of our congregation who for various reasons could no longer share fellowship with us in church. This ministry inevitably stopped during Covid and given the vulnerability of those who were visited it wasn't something we could restart too quickly in the post Covid world.

A few months ago, we began the process of getting a team of visitors together and at the start of the year we relaunched the visiting team. Our aim is to visit at least once a month to chat with, listen to and pray with those members of our church who can no longer join us at our services.

Our team consists of myself, Mo Bytheway, Joan Gorman, Lisa Hall, Carole Anderson, and Andrea Potter. Please pray for us as we continue with this very important ministry. If you are interested in getting involved, please speak to myself or Maxine.

Finally, a massive thank you to Maureen Main who for many years co-ordinated the visiting team - it is so appreciated.

Pauline Stanford

Meals Rotas

We also need to express enormous thanks to Rachel Wolffsohn who for many years has coordinated with great efficiency and capability the meals rotas. Kath Bowyer has since taken on the reins, and we have had a new influx of people offering to be part of that amazing team which has been a wonderful encouragement. These lovely people provide occasional meals in moments of pastoral need to people in (and sometimes outside) of our congregation. This is on a short term, and mostly adhoc as-needed basis (we aren't social services!!) The meals are offered on the premise that they are home cooked meals, prepared with care and given in goodwill. So, for example, if someone has been in hospital or had a baby and some meals would be a good support, then we arrange, cook & deliver! (Food hygiene courses are available but not a necessity:) If you are interested in joining us or want to find out more, please contact Kath Bowyer or Maxine Roberts.

Maxine Roberts