

# Pastoral Care

## **Vision**

Since taking up the post of Pastoral Worker my vision has always been to widen the church perspective of what pastoral care is and improve communication across all aspects of church life. This has not been without its challenges but I believe there is some progress. I have sought to improve communication by keeping a confidential record of visits/contacts so that I can update Pastor Robin on who the team has been in touch with. We are in the process of updating this system so that team members can report back confidentially through the church website. Let me assure you that all team members are aware of issues of confidentiality and nothing is kept on record of a sensitive nature. Records are literally just who has been contacted and by what means e.g. a home visit, telephone call or social meeting for coffee.

While we are blessed as a church to have a Pastor and a team of people who want to come alongside others to give support and encouragement I do believe that we all have a responsibility to care for each other. Part of that is letting the team know when you are ill or struggling, or if you are aware someone has not been at church for a while, as it is impossible for the team to see everything that is happening. I am aware that others do meet and support each other across the church and want to encourage this. We are a church that believes in and encourages **Every member ministry**.

## **Team Training and Development.**

Over the last year we have continued to develop the Pastoral Care Team. Part of the development has been the training that most of the team have completed. The course was the Pastoral Care Foundation Course from the Association of Christian Counsellors which proved to be challenging and thought provoking in many ways. My thanks go to all who committed to the 9 sessions and all the home work! There will be ongoing training in the team meetings and any relevant external training days.

Team meetings are now set up on a regular bimonthly basis where, we can not only meet for training, but also for mutual support and group supervision. Everyone on the team is seen as a valued contributor not only to the role they have in serving the church but also in developing how the team works and develops.

## **Counselling and Prayer Ministry.**

Counselling and Prayer Ministry has continued to be offered to church members over the last year. This is a confidential service provided by myself, Hazel Withey and Esther Baker. However, Esther has had to take a 'back seat' in recent months.

## **Aims for the coming Year.**

- To continue to support Pastor Robin in pastoral areas.
- To continue to support and develop the Pastoral Care Team.

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- To continue to develop good communication and support networks across the church.
- To review the prayer chain and look at how this can be developed.
- To continue to offer counselling and Prayer Ministry alongside Hazel Withey and Esther Baker.

Jane Deane