

The Oasis at Woodrow

The Oasis at Woodrow "A place where people matter" and "A place that's different"

Isaiah 25 v:4 For You have been a strength to the poor, A strength to the needy in his distress, A refuge from the storm, A shade from the heat.

God gave me the above words when we were opening the Winyates shop, and they have followed onto Woodrow, when we opened last May. At present I have been using The Message Bible and that version of Isaiah 25 says- "They'll see that you take care of the poor, that you take care of poor people in trouble, Provide a warm, dry place in bad weather, provide a cool place when it's hot" - which I think is appropriate for the weather we've been having! But I'm also sure, as Winyates did, that we are starting to make an impact on people's lives, and they can see we care about them, some who just need a smile or words of encouragement, and that we are God's voice, and helping hands in their troubled lives.

Definitely the last 9 months have been different! We tried to keep the appearance of the shops similar, but there has been a number of differences in managing this shop, and in the day-by-day running of it. We have been welcomed into the community and are building a rapport with the locals. We even have a mobile service, with one of our volunteers taking goods into the pub next door! I am looking forward to the year ahead and making stronger ties in the area.

Now for an SOS!- support our shops! We have a lot of community volunteers and a couple of members of St Johns Church have joined us, but we do struggle with enough 'Christian' people to share the Good News of Jesus, and also enough volunteers to run the shop on some days, -if we get any problems! I would be grateful if you could pray for enough reliable and committed volunteers to ease the workload of Managers and volunteers, of both shops. Maybe you could be able to help for a few hours a day, or an occasional time e.g. if we organise events, or to advertise the shops by posting leaflets around various neighbourhoods. But you can also lend some support by popping in for a cuppa and maybe a smile or word to encourage us or our customers. From the time of starting this new venture, God has been good, as he promised me through the words of a Michael W. Smith song, "help is on its way" and I am trusting he will provide all our needs".

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Pastor Robin and the Management Team for all their hard work in managing and development of the shops, and personal encouragement and guidance to me this year. Also our volunteers, for their commitment and some who have been of great encouragement to me during the storms of life -but no floods -even if a few tears-both of joy and sadness! Thank you to all of you who continually pray and support us.

God bless
Katrina Youster