

CARING AS A FELLOWSHIP TEAM

REPORT TO THE ST MARY'S CHURCH CONGREGATION

2nd April 2017

This team is led by Morag Davies with team members Val Burgess, Elizabeth Hawkins, Mandy Fifield, Eve Phillips, Christine Bright and Manny Holden.

We would like to thank all members of the Healing Support Team, Pastoral Visiting Team, Volunteer drivers, our Emergency Meal Chefs, and Hospitality Team who give so generously of their time and talents

Objectives for year commencing April 2016 Achieved

Holidays at Home

We plan to hold the first of these events in 2018 possibly

Over three days. This would include a mid day meal. The Team are all very enthusiastic about this project with many ideas for speakers and entertainment

Progress during the year

Pastoral Visiting

Requests from housebound folk, for someone from the team to visit have all been met. Referrals come via the Clergy and totally confidential.

Transport

The Church Office volunteers co-ordinate any requests for transport. A big "Thank you" to all who help in this ministry

Healing Ministry

A Healing Service is planned for 8th October 2017

Ministry with the Laying on of Hands takes place at the 9.30 service. The prayer cross and net and the votive candles have been a huge comfort to many folk. The prayers that are left on the cross, taken down on a Sunday and blessed and then prayed through each Tuesday by a small prayer group that meet in St. Peter's Chapel. There is also a "Care Card" system with a box on

the table at the main door for anyone wanting to leave a request for prayer/clergy visit

Several members of the Healing Support Team attended a weekend training course last May. This was run by a group known as "The Well" and hosted by Holy Trinity, Rudgwick.

Prayer Chain

The Prayer Chain is an effective and efficient way of holding up prayers in the event of an emergency, sickness or need. The message gets round the Parish very quickly. It is started via the Church Office and in a very short space of time over 50 intercessors will be praying.

Emergency Meals

We can provide meals in the event of illness, bereavement or similar emergencies.

St. Mary's House, Normandy

Sirpa Camp looks after the wellbeing of the residents and we thank her for her loving care. Sadly Rita Haines passed away this January following major surgery. All the other residents are fit and well.

Hospitality Team

Please check on the "Events Card" for forthcoming plans.

Informal Coffee Morning

Meets fortnightly in the Manor Room on a Thursday. This is very well attended and numbers continue to grow.

Sunday Lunch Club

Once a month a team of volunteers from St. Mary's turn the Manor Room into a temporary restaurant, to prepare and serve a two course 'Traditional Sunday Lunch' for 30 people. This very popular event is designed to provide food and fellowship to those who live alone. It is always fully subscribed, and the 'feed-back' is always positive and complimentary to the chefs. A modest charge of £5 is made, which covers the food costs and contributes to replacement kitchen equipment. New volunteers to join the rota will always be welcome.

Objectives for the year to December 2017/18

Holidays at Home

We would like to explore the possibility of holding an event similar to the Holiday Club for the more mature but young at heart members of the Church family. All members of the team were enthusiastic about this project and an informal meeting with Arch Deacon Fiona is planned to gain from her experience, as she has run several of these events.

Pastoral Visiting

To ensure that young families who may need help are not missed.