

AGM report 2010

Firstly, I must say **thank you** to the pastoral care team and all those others who have helped with the pastoral work this year. Your hard work, time, efforts and most of all prayers make all the difference to everything we do. I know for a fact we couldn't do it without you and thank you so so much. I was off work for a few months following an unforeseen operation which rudely interrupted my plans but thank you to everyone who helped me through that and filled the gaps in the pastoral work and especially the visiting- I am very grateful for all your support, encouragement and prayers

This year has been very exciting and here are a few reasons why....

Nursing home teams We currently have teams going to Aldridge Court Nursing Home (1st Tues morning of each month; Contact: Maureen Main); Homebell House (3rd Wed morning of each month: contact Amanda Orr); Rectory Gardens (1st Tues morning of each month: contact Joan Gorman & Richmond Hall (Contact Jim Chalmers). We are keen to also find volunteers to also support a service at Alrywych court- although please pray as we await an invitation to go there as we are unable to without the support and invitation of the residents committee, If you wish to join any of the above teams PLEASE come and mention it to me- we are particularly looking for people for rectory gardens and Homebell. The team at Aldridge Court has now been running for over a year and we are making some lovely relations with the home. Richard and I were even asked to run a memorial service for the relations of those residents who had passed away. The team are also now running two services as they have begun a second in the dementia wing. Please pray for each of the teams and the relationships they are building.

Visiting, home communions and the visiting team – In last years report I noted that there was a great need for a visiting team. I am over the moon to say that we now have one. Please come along to the 11:15am service on 25th April as they are all being commissioned. There are 20 people who are visiting many of the housebound, lonely and poorly people in our congregation. I really can't tell you how excited I am they are such a lovely and enthusiastic group and I know God is really going to use them to be such a blessing. Richard, Gavin and I continue to take communions out about 4 times a year to our congregation at home. The list of people needing visits has been particularly long for most of this year somehow but always a privilege to do. There has been an extensive list of illness & bereavements in our church family this year and some very valued members in particular whom we will sorely miss.

Pastoral care team- carers lunches/ tickled pinkers etc! The Pastoral care team are fantastic and have worked very hard this year (thank you). The big highlights have been the carers lunches we have done- The tea at the Ritz was fantastic- the sun was glorious and the marquee looked amazing and the people who came felt thoroughly spoilt – hurrah. We also held a brunch a few weeks ago which was more relaxed and especially encouraging as we had a particular aim to pray with people which people responded and was very special. Recently the tickled pickers group has been reactivated to support some of the members of our congregation having cancer treatment- thank you Elaine and Lynne especially for your help.

Meals- Jenny wiedeman superbly continues in her role and Rachel Wolffsohn is about to replace Sarah Nowell working with her. Thank you Sarah for your commitment and love over the time you have filled the role.

Vulnerable adults policy- This was completed by the working group and we have adopted the CCPAS policy which is being co-ordinated by Lynne Trew. We are now beginning to implement it through the nursing home and visiting teams.

Freedom in Christ- Gavin & I have over time been praying and supporting several people we were and very very encouraged by the way God has moved and worked in the lives of many of these people in significant and life healing ways. With this encouragement we have felt it would be beneficial to have a vehicle to move more deeply into this area and, after advice and looking at various courses, we are planning to pilot a course with a small group called 'Freedom in Christ'. This will probably begin very soon and we are very excited with its potential.

Lastly, the bereavement, baptism and marriage work continues to feed into the apastoral work although I myself am not especially involved with it. We are very excited particularly about the marriage course which has just run. Both the marriage and baptism courses are feeding people into alpha and church which is very exciting. Thank you to all the people involved in those. The growing prayer opportunities and the very important work of the smallgroups, welcome teams and many other groups are really creating a great supportive and loving network for our congregation. Thank you to each one of you who has prayed, provided a meal, an ear, a shoulder or any help no matter how small, for your family in church it is a privilege be serving Christ alongside you. Thank you for your example and witness.

With love from Maxine XXX