

Mission and Pastoral care update

The goal of our church is to attract, serve, invite, include, help, grow, and share Christ. In the last 6 months this vision has become practical outreach programmes.

This month our **Bereavement Support** group has launched! This is a fantastic service for all those in the community who are struggling with the loss of a loved one.

Our **After School** club at St. Mary's school is all planned and ready to go. Our plan is to go ahead as soon as possible but due to covid restrictions this may not be possible until after half term in February now. I know it's frustrating that we have not been able to move forward with this exciting outreach opportunity, but please be reassured that we are not losing momentum as soon as we can get going we will!

Finally, our **Pastoral Prayer Calendars** are ready to go and our pastoral visiting, letter writing and pastoral calling outreach are nearly ready to go! Watch this space.

I want to thank everyone who has offered to help with any of these outreaches and also encourage anyone else who thinks they can help it not too late!

As part of the training for all volunteers we are running some training sessions. We would encourage all volunteers to attend this training if possible. It will be a great opportunity to learn new skills and get to know others you will be volunteering with from around the team.

LISTENING COURSE

Saturday 19th February 2022 from 10am till 12.30pm at St Swithun's church Hall. For more information, please contact Di Wright on 07766564040.

"The gift of being a good listener, a gift which requires constant practice, is perhaps the most healing gift anyone can possess. For it allows the other to be, enfolds them in a safe place, does not judge or advise them, accept them as they are without desiring to change them, and communicates support at a deeper level than words." So writes Gerard Hughes SJ.

... / continued overleaf

Mission and Pastoral care update

This type of listening is something that is learnt and can become a powerful form of ministry. The 19th Feb course will help people to learn to listen in this more focused way. It is a skill which can be used in any pastoral situation, and even within a family!

It is to be run by Diana and Peter Wright, both of whom ran such courses for many years with the Acorn Christian Healing Foundation, helping groups of people to gain these skills to use in their pastoral work.

We hope that those interested in any kind of pastoral work, or who may just want to improve their listening skills and will consider joining this course.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

The National Safeguarding Team has created a range of safeguarding learning pathways for people with roles in the Church of England to complete.

Our Parish Safeguarding Officer, will be running a Basic Awareness training course. The course covers working with children and vulnerable adults. All volunteers will need to complete this to be able to volunteer for the team.

Dates of this training are Sat 26th Feb 2022 9am until 12pm; Mon 28th Feb 2022 1pm until 4pm and Tues 8th Mar 2022 9am until 4pm. The Venue is Beacon Church in Priory Lane. The expectation is that attendees will complete the 'on-line' Basic course prior to the introductory event. See the INSERT giving ONLINE instructions.

If you would like to sign up for the Listening Course and/or the Safeguarding Training please can you let Di in the office know asap. Her contact details are: t: 01308 424747 e: di@bridport-team-ministry.org

If you would like more information about getting involved please feel free to contact me on helencroud84@gmail.com or 07712481835

Thanks again for everyone's encouragement and support.

Revd Helen Croud