

Sharing God's love through:



In May this year there were 16 participants from across the benefice attending the diocese training course 'Visiting and Befriending'. This included representatives from 5 of our churches. Following the course a core group of about a dozen have committed to form a pastoral visiting and befriending group.

There will be a commissioning prayer and dedication during September's benefice service at Rodmarton, where we hope that there will be a good attendance lending support and encouragement.

We have tried to address below some questions which you might have on the pastoral visiting and befriending ministry.

1. Who is this visiting service for?

- The service is open to everyone in the area covered by our churches (*of all faiths or none*) who would benefit from a personal visit, such as the housebound, lonely, ill, or people new to the area for example. It is envisaged that referrals will come from the clergy and leaders, church wardens, church members and personal request.

2. To whom are we accountable?

- We will be accountable to and supported by Trevor and his leadership team. All the visitors will be vetted (DBS checks) and will have undertaken safeguarding training where relevant.

3. What about existing visitor networks?

- We will respect, complement and supplement existing visitation networks and informal arrangements. Working together we can offer extra support to our clergy team.

4. How do I request a visit for myself, a friend or neighbour?

- In the first instance contact the rector, any member of the leadership team, or Aileen Shaw – see the contact details below. If the person to be visited is not yet known to the church then Trevor or David will make an initial visit and thereafter an appropriate volunteer may be assigned for further visits.

For more information contact:

Rev. Trevor Kemp tel: 01285 770550
rector@thamesheadchurches.org.uk

Aileen Shaw tel: 07807 199602 or
ASK@thamesheadchurches.org.uk

