

Care Home Pastoral Support

Prayer and News letter – Summer 2020



Dates for your Diaries

- All our planned meetings and training continue to be suspended - though Joanna and Karen meet up (on Facetime) to discuss, plan and pray for the Care Home Pastoral Support scheme and all our volunteers
- Please let us know how you are doing and any specific prayer requests for yourself, your family or your Care Home

Update on Covid 17 and Care Homes

The majority of Care Homes remain closed to visitors, with the continued Covid pandemic. Many have successfully managed to keep the virus at bay; others have managed to contain it and care for those who have been ill within the home; a few Care Homes residents have needed hospitalisation with the disease – we have not been told if there have been any deaths of Care Home residents from Covid 19. Understandably a few Care Home staff have suffered with Covid and very sadly, the manager of one local Care Home lost her life to the virus.

The government were slow to recognise the risks in Care Homes and ensure the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment was available to Care staff. This appears to have been remedied and there is now a recognition of the key and important care provided by our Care Home sector and the skilled and personal care provided to residents.

Please Pray For.....

- All of the Care Homes involved in our service (see over) – for residents who are currently unable to have visitors, those who are vulnerable to severe illness from Covid 19, those who have or are experiencing symptoms of the disease and those who may have lost friends or loved ones to the virus.
- Staff working in all Care Homes – as the pressures of the care workload increases due increased needs of residents, as they try and balance the need for safety measures of isolation and social distancing with maintaining the mental health and social care of their residents.
- Care Home managers and owners – that they may be able to support their staff through provision of appropriate equipment, practical advice and emotional support to staff, as the lock-down continues
- All of our Care Home Pastoral Support volunteers - that this time of lock-down may keep us all safe and well.
- Local churches to respond to requests from Care Homes for regular visitors – with 120 churches across Plymouth and 104 Care Homes, we should be able to offer Pastoral Support to all homes
- Churches Together in Plymouth – continuing to meet for prayer over Zoom on a weekly basis. That churches may remain united in their commitment to supporting communities through this pandemic crisis and be enlightened to the ministry needs of those living in Care Homes

Update on Care Homes and pastoral support

As you will be aware all residents in care homes are viewed as vulnerable and at high risk from this virus. The Care staff have done an amazing job, in continuing to provide appropriate care to their residents, whilst complying with infection control policies, isolation and social distancing measures.

Although we may not be able to visit our Care Homes to offer pastoral support, here are a few ideas from a few of you which we share to encourage you to think of ways in which you can reach out to the Care Home you usually visit, to show the love of God:

- Contact the Care Home to give thanks and encouragement for their work
- Offer to speak to residents or staff on the phone, if anyone is particularly distressed at this time
- Arrange to video-call individuals or groups of residents, where this may be appropriate
- Send the Care Home staff a Thank you card – reassuring them of your thoughts and prayers
- Hand-deliver cards to individual residents – either by name or ‘to a friend’
- Encourage your church membership to write letters or cards of encouragement to residents, at this difficult time – to remind them that they have not been forgotten.
- Remind your Care Homes that the BBC have reinstalled a weekly church service on Sunday Mornings, which residents may appreciate watching.
- Advise your Care Home how they could access your church service on-line (if available)
- Send chocolate – all Care staff appreciate a Kit-kat or such with their coffee!

Care Homes being supported

Amberley House - Plympton
 Ashleigh Manor - Plympton
 Astor Hall - Stoke
 Barncott Housing - Plympton
 Bethany - Greenbank
 Butterfly Lodge - St Budeaux
 Cann House - Tamerton Foliot
 Manor Court - Efford
 Michaelstowe - Plympton
 Nazareth House - Stonehouse
 Nutley Lodge - Plymstock
 St Anne's - Mutley
 Stepping Stones - Honicknowle
 Sunnymead - Derriford
 Tamar House - Derriford
 Valley View - Eggbuckland
 The Vicarage - Honicknowle
 Waypoints - Ernesettle

Churches supporting Care Homes

Higher St Budeaux - St Budeaux
 Plymouth Christian Centre - Cattedown
 Ridgeway Methodist - Plympton
 Live Well Church - Plympton
 Engage Church
 Hope Baptist - Peverell
 Derriford United Reformed - Derriford
 St Edwards - Eggbuckland
 St Francis - West Park
 St Pancras - Honicknowle
 St Marys - Tamerton Foliot

CONTACT US.... With your updates, ideas, questions or prayer requests.

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