

Pastoral Care - Looking after one another in the Draycot Benefice

The Church of England operates on a geographical basis, so it is the local parish church which is given the responsibility for the pastoral care of all who live within the parish boundary, whether or not they are regular members of the congregation.

Pastoral care comes in a variety of ways: supporting baptism families and wedding couples, visiting those who have been bereaved (before and after a funeral), welcoming new villagers, bringing communion to those who are housebound, or visiting at times of sickness or crisis.

The traditional view (although probably a myth!) used to be that it was the vicar who would and should carry out pastoral visits. That would be a challenge in one parish, but impossible today across 5 villages, even with a ministry team. One of the strengths of rural communities, which we are lucky to share in, is that neighbours do look out for one another in our villages.

All Christians are called to help and serve the community they are part of, caring and helping when and where they can, as a practical sign of God's love for everyone. However, the Draycot Benefice has also established pastoral visiting teams for each village, for the times when people may need more particular help. It is about being more than a good neighbour to people we know; it's offering a specific ministry by caring for all members of the community. Our pastoral visitors visit on behalf of the local church, working under the guidance of Rev Alison. Each one is DBS checked, attends regular training and is supported by the team. They are available to help anyone who could do with a willing ear, to share their joys and sorrows, listening confidentially, taking seriously their hopes and fears.

If you or someone you know, would like a visit from a pastoral visitor, please contact the named person below in the first instance:

Christian Malford: Clair Fairley clairfairley@hotmail.co.uk

Kington Langley: Rev Mark Siddall: drmarksid@gmail.com

Seagry: Tim Harle: timharle@aol.com

Sutton Benger: Rev Mark Siddall: drmarksid@gmail.com

Tytherton Kellaways: Katherine Bloomer: katherinebloomer100@btinternet.com

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ"

Galatians 6:2