

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. And now as Rev Mark leaves and we await the arrival of a new vicar, we are even more dependent on supporting each other. 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. In the Draycot Benefice we have a named person for each village, for the times when people may need more particular help. 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 <u>clairfairley@hotmail.co.uk</u>	01249 721728
Kington Langley:	Fiona Buchan: <u>fionabuchan@aol.com</u>	01249 750458
Seagry:	Tim Harle: <u>timharle@aol.com</u>	01249721706
Sutton Benger:	Jenny Palusinski	01249 720443
Tytherton Kellaways:	Katherine Bloomer	01249 721569

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

Galatians 6:2