

## **Pastoral Care at St. Cuthbert's**

We are blessed in having a very caring congregation here, along with more formalised methods of care for those who need it. It has been brought to my attention lately that not everyone knows what is available, so here is an update.

**The Pastoral Care Group** (previously the POG) is a small group of people who meet monthly and check on the welfare of the congregation, particularly those who may have missed church for a couple of weeks, are housebound, ill or in hospital. If you know of anyone who falls into this criterion, could you please inform me or Margaret Holmes, Peoples' Warden, who will ensure the necessary contact is made.

**Pastoral Visitors** (a new group established in my time) are lay members of the church who have been PVG'd, receive training and support, and visit congregational members as arranged by me. When this group was initiated, a number of people were asked if they would like to receive a pastoral visitor in addition to either attending church or receiving Communion at home. Currently there are about 16 homes receiving visits. If you would like to receive a pastoral visitor, please contact me.

**St. Raphael's Prayer Group** – a group of 12 people that meets monthly and prays continually. They pray for those most vulnerable and may have long term illnesses – people who are ill at home, grieving, in care homes, in hospital, those caring for others and those who have died. The prayer list is compiled, either by people asking to be on it, or through knowledge of people being in hospital etc. If you would like to be on this list please contact Judith Mackintosh.

**Intercessions** for the sick each Sunday focusses on recent events, not on long-term illness. For example, if someone is taken ill and asks to be prayed for on Sunday, they will stay on the intercession list for approximately three weeks. After that, if necessary, they would transfer to the St. Raphael's prayer list for continual prayer.

The three groups involved in pastoral care within the congregation all abide by confidentiality guidelines. To receive the necessary pastoral support, it helps that somebody informs me. Very often I hear 'through the grapevine' that someone is in hospital or has been ill at home, so please do contact me. Alternatively get in touch with Margaret Holmes or Judith Mackintosh who will inform me.

If you are unable to attend church due to illness and would like to receive Communion at home, please contact myself or Revd Margaret, our NSM.

Revd Nicki McNelly

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