

Here4You for 2016-2017 AGM

Setting Up

From September 2016 onwards a lot of hard work went into reordering the shop, in particular by George. We received furniture from 'Serve' in Wollaston and from Spencer Contact. A new sink was put in with the permission of the council and new lino in the main walk-in area.

Permission for the change of use was finally obtained on 23rd November. We are permitted to use the premises Monday to Saturday 9am-5pm. The official opening was December 10th. There are 9 of us who are regularly on the rota, and others who help from time-to-time. The number of visitors has risen steadily since we opened.

Leaflets were distributed along with our church Christmas leaflets. We now have a Facebook page so that we can advertise events easily.

The Charity Shop, run by Lynn, has had a very positive impact in drawing people in, and providing help for people with specific needs. It also provides funds which cover our day-to-day expenses.

The Food Bank operated non-stop throughout the changeover. Sadly Sharon had to step down due to poor health, and Shirley and Jo now take the main responsibility for the food bank, assisted by Sue. We now receive monthly donations from Reynard's Way Church as well as Asda and the Manna House. Since our official opening we have given out a total of 82 food parcels and this has often led to further positive contacts.

A Walking group meets at Here4You at 9.30am every Tuesday and is attended by a small group of regular participants who benefit from both the physical and social aspects.

A monthly knitting and crocheting group led by Sharon has just got underway.

Friday Soup and French loaf lunches are proving popular with some regulars who are benefitting from the company and from discussion on health-related topics, and an invitation to explore faith.

Specific encouragements are Tina joining us, both as a volunteer at Here4You and now coming to church regularly. Tracey and Debbie are also regular customers at the Centre. Another positive contact has been with Caroline and Andy, who were at church last week. From a holistic health point of view there is evidence of positive movement towards a healthier lifestyle for some individuals. Also, and importantly, some informal exploration of the Christian faith has been possible both at the Centre and in individual's homes.

Parish Nurse for 2016-2017 AGM

After an initial training in May and a dedication in Church, I officially started my new role in June with participation in the Family Fun Day on the Estate. This was followed by different contact meetings with a number of individuals and organisations in order to understand what was already in place for residents of the Estate and to make my presence known to them.

Referrals have initially been slow to come but I now have had a number of patients referred through different channels: church members, self-referrals, GP Surgery, NPH (Northampton Partnership Homes) and so far seem to get positive feedback from my visits. Although some residents were not comfortable for me to pray with them, others welcomed my prayer offers and one of them even came to Church.

Participating in setting up Here4You has taken a significant part of my time during these past few months and 5 volunteers have been trained.

It is an encouragement to see how God has used all the work and contacts established by New2You to develop Here4You, thus providing a continuum of the "Church window" on the square. As the place offers a base for Parish nursing ministry, one can hope that this is only the beginning and that things will continue to develop in a positive way for the wholistic benefit of the residents.

As prevention is better than cure, I am keen to do health promotion & education in the broad sense; this includes the spiritual dimension. With that in mind, I have set up boards in Church & in Here4You. I printed a number of leaflets and have made them available to people.

From a general perspective, I stay in touch with the Parish nursing ministry network through participation in a regional parish nurse cluster group and I have met with a professional/spiritual mentor. With my attendance at this year's Symposium in Coventry in March, all these contacts provide a useful, stimulating and welcome connection with other parish nurses.