

## Pastoral Care Annual Report

(for year ending 30 September 2009)

### Area of Responsibility

The purpose of the pastoral care team is to support and enhance the care we give to one another within the church family. Its role is to assist the clergy in offering listening, encouraging and giving support to members of the church family.

The past year has been used to develop the team. The team is made up of Myra Martin, Rhona Gough, Shirley Cook, Jaqui Kerr and Joan Mackel.

### Remit of the team developed in 2008-09

Members of the team should, be clearly identified and commissioned by the church within the context of a service.

The team will be:

- available to anyone in the church family and will have a role in trying to ensure that those on the fringe or who for a variety of reasons cannot be part of a supportive small group offered by the church, can be offered support and be helped to feel a part of the church family.
- It will also have a role in responding to people during times of crisis such as illness, accident, hospitalisation or particular times of stress.
- It will have a role in identifying practical needs (both long and short term) and planning how these can be met.
- It will keep links with counselling, prayer ministry, small groups and welcome team recognising that there will often be overlap.
- It will meet regularly for mutual support, development of skills, sharing ideas, reflecting on emerging needs and prayer.

In the current vacancy Myra Martin will have responsibility for co-ordinating the team and ensuring that the clergy are kept informed appropriately.

It is important for access to the team to be easy and discreet. It would be helpful to have a variety of routes.

- 1) An email address at the church office.
- 2) A slip on the notice sheet that can be passed on to a member of the team.
- 3) Direct approach to a member of the team by anyone in the church family.
- 4) Any of these methods could be used by members of the church family on behalf of another.

Members of the team will respect privacy and treat matters discussed as confidential except where information revealed shows that there is a risk to the health, well-being or safety of that person or another, or that it is a breach of the country's laws.

Members of the team will also need from time to time to share information with the co-ordinator or another colleague to ensure they are offering appropriate help and to contribute to the understanding of changing needs within the church family.

A simple record system of names, addresses and dates of contact will be kept.