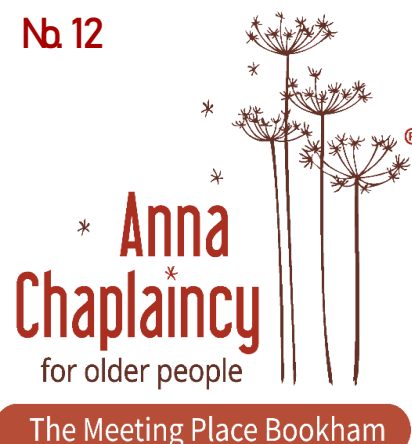


Autumn 2023



## Dear friends

As our Anna Chaplaincy enters its 3<sup>rd</sup> year we want to thank God for the way in which he has blessed this ministry amongst us in our community. We hope and pray you will be uplifted by what you read here, and most importantly that you will be led to pray for our future direction.

### Holiday at Home - A virtual tour of Scotland

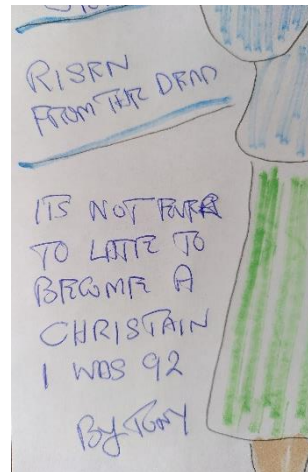
Over 2 days in August nearly 70 guests and volunteers enjoyed a visit to Scotland, its cities, its islands and highlands, its songs, dances, culture and humour, while being firmly located in Bookham. On both days there was a buzz of friendly companionship and we welcomed many contributors who brought our Scottish visit to life. Special thanks go to Kim from "Move It or Lose it" for her exhilarating and hilarious chair exercises. A big thank you to the Bookham Scottish Dancing Group who took us for a journey around Scotland with its variety of dances and invited us to join in some of the simpler ones. Grace Notes gave us an inspiring concert partly made up of Scottish melodies. And then there were the personalities - Anne took us to Edinburgh and Glasgow, John to the highlands and islands with wonderful photos and some special songs, Jim and Peter dressed up in their full Scottish regalia, Robert got us singing a song in Glaswegian dialect that brought home the reality of life in the Gorbals when folk were moved to high rise flats. The catering teams and volunteers served us all a delicious lunch as well coffee and shortbread and tea and cakes.



Clockwise from top left: Move it or Lose it, Crafting boxes, Scotland the Brave, Dancing round Scotland

## Tony's story

Tony, aged 92, was referred to our AC befriending service last winter. Through his contact with Anne and David, an Anna Friend, he started coming to Golden Years at the Baptist Church. He would make the journey on his mobility scooter. Tony loves drawing and painting and he always took his place at the drawing table. He then decided to start coming to church and one Sunday witnessed a baptismal service. This really moved him and he joined the baptismal class that Steve Elmes, the minister was running, a group of about 7 which included 4 generations with Tony as the oldest. His faith and understanding deepened and on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October he was baptised, making a public declaration of his decision to follow Jesus. What was amazing was that Tony had been in hospital for the previous week and had only come home on Friday, but he was adamant about sticking to the planned date. Tony was unable to get down into the baptismal pool and so he sat in a chair and was baptised by pouring water over his head. Tony's depicted his journey to faith in Jesus in drawings which were projected onto the overhead screen. A great cheer went up as the water was poured over him and we joined in singing "Amazing Grace", Tony's choice of hymn. Tony now says "Church has become my family".



Left: Tony being baptised.  
Above: Part of one of Tony's drawings about his journey into faith in Jesus

## Liberham Lodge

There have been 7 sessions since our last newsletter. Our latest was the first multigenerational event as our Praise and Craft Team led alongside the Chatterbox Preschool children and helpers. The children sang some lovely worship songs, we provided a craft activity - making sunflowers - and after the children left we had a short talk and prayers. As a team we enjoy getting to know the residents, and we have been able to offer the BRF notes for older people to those who want them and have started to visit outside the monthly service. Mandip, the Activity Coordinator took some great photos of our last morning.



Getting creative with sunflowers - Barbara and Charles, Judith looking at her BRF notes

## Upcoming events

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 10.30 -12 noon in Bookham Library - Our next Living Well in Older Age event:** A session on Coping with Dementia , addressed by Robin Thomson, who has written a book called "Living with Alzheimer's: a life story".



**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December is our Advent Service.** Join us for coffee and mince pies at 10.30 at Eastwick Road Church, followed by a short service "Getting the Message" at 11am. How did God let us know about the birth of his Son? Well, there were shepherds ....

**Spiritual Care Course:** We are running an 8 week course, starting on 23<sup>rd</sup> January with a break for  $\frac{1}{2}$  term from 3 - 5pm in the Pastoral Centre. We are privileged that Anne will facilitate this course. She has become a national trainer of this course which has been developed through the national Anna Chaplaincy network. Anyone who is working pastorally with older people will appreciate what this course can offer.

## Farewell to Anne

We are sad to be saying Goodbye to Anne, our founder Anna Chaplain. In just over 2 years she has put our Anna Chaplaincy on the map. She has established an annual pattern of events including our Advent Service, Living Well in Older Age, and the famous Holiday at Home. Alongside this she has supported our Praise and Craft sessions at Liberham Lodge, worked alongside TMP Coffee Shop Teams, and with the Golden Years sessions at all the local churches. She has also received referrals for Befriending and visited all these people to decide what support we can offer. She has led our team of Anna Friends. How has she fitted all this into 10 hours a week? Answer: by working far more hours than 10! Thank you Anne for all you have done. We are so fortunate that even after you leave you will be facilitating the Spiritual Care Course.

We are now looking to recruit a new chaplain. Please pray with us that we will find the person God wants for this important role.

For more details of any of the above please ring or message Anne on **07518 735729**, or email her on [ac@themeetingplace.org](mailto:ac@themeetingplace.org). Given that Anne is leaving in December you may need to contact Elaine Crutchley, the Anna Coordinator, after this. Her phone number is 07792 178539.

### The Anna Chaplaincy prayer

Faithful God, you have promised in Christ to be with us to the end of time.

Come close to those who have lived long and experienced much.

Help them to continue to be faithful and, within the all-age kingdom of God,

to find ways to go on giving and receiving your grace, day by day.

For your glory and your kingdom. Amen.

