



*Dear friends*

I started this newsletter when the temperature was 34°C outside. Liz had just come back to work after a 4 week visit to India and told me it was much hotter here than it was in India! I hope you managed to cope with the heat. I am sorry for the time lapse since the newsletter last autumn. Liz has been in post over a year now and we have seen God blessing the work in tangible ways. I have also had a lot of problems working with an updated version of Church Suite and this has led to further delay. I will therefore be sending out another newsletter to tell you all about events that have occurred since I wrote the original version. Watch this space!

## Advent Service 2024



This was our best attended yet with 40 people present to share seasonal refreshments, friendship and the story of God's gift of Jesus. Thanks to all who helped - the knitting group especially, to the ERC for hosting us and to Ginny Poole and John Leonard for leading the singing.

## Our work in Liberham Lodge

We now lead 2 events every month. On the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday Liz leads "Hymns we Love which has morphed into "Hymns we Enjoy". We meet in one of the lounges, a space that allows for sharing, for questions and for prayer. The original series was based on material produced by Pippa Cramer but it has proved so popular that Liz has developed her own material to include many other well loved hymns. It has been a time when God has met with many of those coming in a special way,

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month the Praise and Craft Team led by Val Lomax bring a short worship service with a reflection and then a craft activity, finishing with prayer. We meet in the bistro so there are people wandering through and sitting in other areas. It is a privilege to share a gospel reflection in a public space. Our guests sit in a horseshoe arrangement so we can chat as we make a craft. This time opens up all sorts of conversations and again there have been times when we can pray with someone who



has a specific need or concern. The Liberham Lodge staff post pictures of these events on their Facebook page so do have a look. This month the theme was "Journeys". Making Lighthouses was a great way of reminding us all of the dangers entailed on sea journeys. We sang the lively song "My Lighthouse", a great reminder that Christ is the one that steers us on our journey of faith.

## Living Well in Old Age

Our meeting in May was the best attended yet. We had a great speaker talking about "Decluttering". On 30<sup>th</sup> July Mole Valley Life speaker, Tracey, updated attendees on the devices and support available to promote safety and independence. We have wanted to increase the frequency of these meetings so that they become a feature of Bookham and Fetcham's community life and Liz was thrilled to announce on the 30<sup>th</sup> July how a monthly programme has come together in an amazing way for the autumn term. We will be sending out details in the near future. Please pray that our AC will become known as a go-to organisation for older people in the community.

## Befriending

This is what goes on quietly behind the scenes - visiting those who are confined to home for reasons of health or caring responsibilities. We value prayer for Liz and the team of Anna Friends as we seek to walk alongside and to share God's love with people in their difficult situations.

## Village Day

We couldn't overlook our success as The Meeting Place at Village Day in Bookham on 20<sup>th</sup> June. The theme was "Teddy Bears' Picnic". Our wonderful Knitting Group and others



knitted enough teddies to decorate the stall with Teddy Bear Bunting and lay out a Picnic for all our Meeting Place Activities. See if you can spot the AC teddy bear in this picture. We were thrilled to be awarded the Cup for Best Dressed Stall, due, we understand to the community emphasis of our stall. We are now home hunting for all the Teddy Bears. Two thirds

will go to Romania in Shoebox Christmas appeals. The rest are going to homes in exchange

for a donation to our Anna Chaplaincy work. In the photo are 3 of us who are trustees of TMP, but we are grateful to everyone of our volunteers for taking part, ensuring we had many great conversations about our work as well as providing fun and prizes for guessing the number of teddy bears on the stall and the age of the oldest teddy.

**Holiday at Home:** This is the 4<sup>th</sup> year we have run these events and the 1<sup>st</sup> year we have run one for our friends who are residents at Liberham Lodge. This was on August 12<sup>th</sup>. Following this our community event was held at the Eastwick Road Church on August 20<sup>th</sup>. We give thanks to God for some very special memories. One volunteer told me that after the day at the ERC she walked home on air! I will include a full report with pictures in our autumn newsletter.

### **Stop Press:**

We are holding a **thanksgiving service to celebrate our 4 year anniversary** on September 20<sup>th</sup> at 2.30 when we will gather together with all the churches in Great Bookham and further afield. You are invited to come along in the afternoon at Bookham Baptist Church to listen to the story of our journey, how we have been led, what we have learnt and where, we believe God is leading us. This will be a short service, accessible to everyone and will be followed by refreshments.

### **Volunteers**

We have a great team of volunteers who help at Liberham Lodge and with Holiday at Home. Our Anna Friends are like "mini chaplains" visiting people in their home and offering spiritual support. If you feel God is calling you to this ministry to the elderly please contact Liz. We would also value someone with admin skills to support Liz with some basic office tasks for no more than an hour a week. Again, if you think this might be you do give Liz a call or message her on **07518 735729**, or contact her by email at [ac@themeetingplace.org](mailto:ac@themeetingplace.org).

### **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.

