

PASTORAL CARE

I was and am very pleased to see that Joan Bird has offered to be contacted by anyone - unable to get to church to receive a home visit from time to time, including sometimes receiving communion.

This is such an important part of our pastoral care and I particularly appreciate this as I know from two special friends, Lucy Neville, who died in April this year and Peggy Jordan who died in August and whose remains were interred in Holy Cross churchyard on the 23rd September that, whilst they had loving and caring families, they would so much have appreciated a home visit.

These ladies had for many years been members of Holy Cross, bringing up their children in the Christian faith and giving much of themselves to the church in so many ways. Lucy, apart from being involved in other church activities, ran the Women's Fellowship for years and Peggy also was active being part of the flower rota, craft circle when it was in being and conducting Lent groups from her home. They also both helped to run the Summer and Christmas fairs.

Lucy was unable to attend church because of her infirmity and Peggy who was stricken with rheumatoid arthritis was confined to a chair for much of the last years of her life. They received visits and communion from Penny Pedley, commissioned lay minister, but once Penny moved on visits from the church ceased and I know it was sadness to both of them when this happened. This is why, as I said earlier, I am so pleased and thank Joan for offering to try and arrange home visits to anyone finding it difficult to attend church.

magnaletters Reply from Joan Bird



The PCC Pastoral Committee met earlier in the year to discuss the gap which exists in our care for each other- a gap created by changes in staffing and other reasons. The offer of visiting was not just made by me but by the Committee, on behalf of the whole congregation.

Until recently, we had a rector, two curates and a lay minister all working in our parish. Now, we just have one clergy person and it is impossible to expect the same level of cover from one person as from four. That was why we decided to try and set up a system whereby those who wanted to be visited by a representative of Holy Cross Church could register their needs and then we as a congregation could respond.

We are hopeful that nobody will feel cut off or forgotten simply because they have become old or house-bound. We see our role as providing a much-needed contact between the individual and the congregation, including the possibility of home communion, and a fresh sense of being one community.

If anyone would like to be part of this project, including home communions, please speak to Joan Bird or Neil.