



## *Pastoral Visiting Team*

The team are Rev James Pennington, Cathy Ratcliffe (leader) and Margaret Large.

The Pastoral Care Policy emphasises the important role of helping those in the Parish 'by listening, responding, praying and providing caring support' according to the example of Jesus as in John 10 vs 10b – 11. The Policy adheres to the principles and practices of HT Safeguarding Policy.

It is a privilege and a responsibility to carry out this role within our Parish. Contact has been made through personal requests from both churched and unchurched people, particularly during this time of lockdown due to Coronavirus.

We keep a record of all visits and telephone contact. The team discuss the regularity of visits in our meetings which are held every 2 months – on zoom since lockdown. The content of a visit is confidential except in certain circumstances which are referred to in the Policy.

We offer Communion as needed and as appropriate. We send 'Thinking of You' cards as needed.

Inasmuch as we are a team of 3, we have involved the Connect Group Leaders to be the eyes and ears for the caring and praying for their Connect group members and others in the congregation, community and family. We encourage them to refer any concerns they have to us so that no one feels isolated and that appropriate action can be taken if needed. There is a 'traffic-light' system we discuss in our meetings to ensure all are served. This system ensures all members of the churches who are not in a Connect group are also cared for.

Over the year, regular visits on doorsteps, walks and phone calls have developed as a way of life. Helping with shopping, giving lifts where necessary to hospital or surgery are important aspects to outreach and mission. We should always be outward-looking to encourage others in providing this help. Indeed, everybody in both congregations can be seen as pastoral workers.

Similarly, the monthly Prayer Hub serves as another means of Connecting with the needs of the Parish and others we care for. Praying for one another is all part of serving God's family.

Catherine Ratcliffe  
April 2021