



COMMUNITY UPDATE & PRAYER NEWSLETTER



January 2023

This is the first of our quarterly community and prayer newsletters planned for the year. These are intended to give a quick update into our work and areas of thanks and requests. The start of the year is traditionally when we spend planning the year ahead between the busy Christmas period and before our fuller Spring programme. Our regular activity groups have now resumed after their Christmas break.

Giving Thanks

- Our Christmas lunches where almost 100 clients enjoyed a Christmas meal.
- Our Christmas Carol Service where almost 50 people attended including from Gostrey Day Centre and Bournemouth Care Home.
- Delivering Christmas cards and goodie boxes to 66 volunteers and 156 clients.
- Positive feedback received from clients that have attended our activities and events over the year.
- Grants received since the start of 2023 from the Woodroffe Benton Foundation (£500) and the Bourne Show (£250).

Looking Ahead

We have a busy time over the coming weeks as follows: -

- Our Daffodil Church Service on Thursday 16th February. This is a joint partnership service with Spire Church where we remember loved ones that have passed away.
- A day trip to Brooklands Museum on Tuesday 21st March.
- ASSIST Week – an opportunity to raise awareness and funds starting Monday 27th September.
- Our Board of Trustees will be meeting in March to consider financial & staffing matters as we close our 2022 financial year.
- Easter Church Service on Monday 3rd April
- Our regular weekly and monthly activity groups.

Suggested Prayer points: -

- For ongoing safety to our clients, staff and volunteers with winter flu and illnesses.
- For our trustees as they consider our plans for the next few years and finances.
- For us to be a positive witness to the wider community as we serve them at local community events.
- For safety and good conversations during our upcoming events and activities.

Wider requests:

As with many charities, 2023 is likely to be a challenge in terms of inflation and our other general running costs. We are blessed with many kind donors and supporters as well as

having success in various grant applications. However, our current budget for 2023 is still forecasting a deficit. We would therefore encourage prayer in terms of particularly encouraging those called to help fundraise or submit grant applications on our behalf.

Transport is also a challenge as we seek to support our most vulnerable. We have an ongoing need for drivers particularly for the Hale Community Lunches held monthly on Saturdays. We would therefore love to hear from people who may be willing to help transport people to those lunches on a few Saturdays a year so people can enjoy one meal a month in the company with others. All drivers would require a DBS check and mileage is offered to our volunteers so they do not lose financially.

Prayer Meetings

Trustees have recently agreed to discontinue the general monthly Prayer Zooms but will now instead hold an extended and focused prayer time before all trustee meetings. Our next trustee meeting will be held on the morning of Wednesday 8th March.

Best wishes *Rodney Bates*

