

Pastorates at St John's

sharing God's care with one another

Prayer

Welcome

Building
relationships

Social
activities

Practical
assistance

Keeping in touch

What are Pastorates at St John's?

The whole congregation at St John's is divided into smaller groups, called Pastorates, or about 30 to 40 people. Each Pastorate has three Pastorate Co-ordinators whose role is to pray for everyone in their group, welcome and get to know new people, keep in touch, facilitate social activities and co-ordinate practical assistance.

What do Pastorates do?

Each group is different, but all should have some kind of social activities to enable members to get to know one another better and have a sense of belonging. It is hoped that people will be able to keep an eye out for one another within their Pastorates, offering Christian friendship and support in times of need. Some Pastorates may also develop according to the interests of the group, sharing worship, learning together or reaching out to the wider community.

How do Pastorates fit in with the wider church community?

Pastorates are simply a way of getting to know and care for one another. They should in no way replace activities or relationships in the wider congregation.

What can my Pastorate Co-ordinator do for me?

Pastorate Co-ordinators are really there to enable God's care to be shared among the network of people in your group. They are able to be contacted in case of any need, and will endeavour to connect people to the help they require. They can arrange Home Communion for the housebound and put those who need help with transport to church in touch with those who are able to offer it. They may co-ordinate social visits to members of the Pastorate who are in hospital, and they will organise social activities for the group. They will keep in touch with people who are away from church for any reason, if that is wanted.

What choices will I have of how to be involved?

Everyone in a Pastorate can choose to be involved as much or as little as they prefer. Everybody will be prayed for and have named people to contact just in case and for some people that might be enough. Others might also want to be invited to socials or to have practical help of some kind or just know that someone will keep in touch if they have to be away from church for any reason. Still others may be excited about ebbing involved more actively in welcoming and organising social events, perhaps even developing the group in other ways.

What about confidentiality?

All Pastorate Co-ordinators are expected to keep what people tell them private. Because they are accountable to the Parish Priest, they are required to share some information with her, especially if they are concerned for someone. Additionally, they may routinely share information with the other Pastorate Co-ordinators in their team in order to assist the team in carrying out its activities. All these people are bound by confidentiality not to make the information public without first getting the permission of the person concerned.

What if I really need help or a visit from someone from church?

Pastorate Co-ordinators can act as Christian friends, just like any member of the congregation, but no more. If you want to talk to a church representative about a particular issue or problem, you should still contact your Parish Priest, Alison Bowman [01273 555033]

How can I join a Pastorate?

Simply fill out a form or speak to one of the Pastorate Co-ordinators whose names are on the Pastorate boards at the side of the church.