

Prayer

Leadership Team member



Lorna Roberts

Responsible for:

Developing and promoting our corporate and personal prayer life.

Highlights from 2017:

- Prayers to start the week has had loyal support throughout the year.
- We have continued with the on-line circulation of a prayer list which is derived from individual requests for prayers and has been appreciated by many people. Marjorie Cole is stepping down as co-ordinator after many years of diligent service and we would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all she has done. It is also an opportunity to review the place of this important prayer support in our corporate prayer life.
- The monthly Prayer Diary's development has continued and now takes account of national and international issues as well as our local activities. Uptake remains around 30 people and is circulated on line.
- Our Novena during Ascensiontide is becoming an annual event and for the second year we linked it to Archbishop Welby's 'Thy Kingdom Come'. The theme was 'In Between' derived from the time between Ascension Day and Pentecost when the Novena takes place. Each day focussed on a meditation based on a picture. Participation in the Novena still takes two forms. Every day at 12.45p.m. in St. James's a small group meet to meditate on the suggested text and follow this with prayer whilst others unable to attend, did so individually at home. We were delighted that more people attended the daily meeting this year and the material prepared for us provided much food for thought.
- On three Sunday afternoons in February, we ran training sessions to help people to pray aloud and to pray together and to pray for one another. Those present included some members who have a lot of experience of praying together and also attracted some who had never done anything like this before. It was well received and we propose to take up this theme and develop it further in the autumn of 2018. Our thanks go to Helen Holmberg for this initiative and for her sensitive leadership of the three sessions. We were also pleased to learn from the experience of some of our young people.
- Once again, we linked the lighting of the Advent candles in Church with some ideas for personal reflection and prayer during the weeks of Advent as part of our preparation for Christmas.
- For several years now we have been seeking to develop our Prayer Ministry by offering to pray with people if they so wish at local events such as the Donkey Derby. There is also a regular

prayer group who meet at the station in the summer and in the church in the winter to pray for those with mental illness drawn to the station.

- We ran a Quiet Day in September in Finchampstead Parish Rooms led by Rev Helen Charlton. Our theme was 'Mosaics of Mercy'. In the morning, we had a talk by Nick Procter, followed by meditation at several prayer stations. In the afternoon, we were joined by some young people and there were activities in the grounds and Becci March ran an art and craft session based on the theme.