

Pastoral Care Group Meeting  
Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March

Present were group members and volunteers.

Donald Mitchell opened the meeting with prayer

The group felt that it would be beneficial to have a meeting where those who had volunteered to carry out care work and those who were already involved could meet and be brought up to date with what stage we were at. This would also give an opportunity to meet others involved in the work and have an opportunity to exchange ideas and make any suggestions to further the work.

As well as meeting with others we took the opportunity to hear from speakers as to what other work was being carried out in our area and neighbouring ones.

We had three speakers at the meeting . Our own coordinator Janice Lindsay brought us up to date on what was happening regarding the overall administration of our own group and covered a wide range of subjects from Lanyards for visitors, to confidentiality, cards to folks at various times of the year to visitor cards when no response at visit, information gathering and keeping up to date with an ever changing situation. We are very grateful for the work Janice carries out, not only for the way she does it but for the huge amounts of time she allocates to ensuring no one is left out or forgotten.

We then heard from Marlene Finlayson the care group coordinator for Moodiesburn Parish Church. Marlene gave us an outline of the work carried out by our neighbouring church and it was clear that they face many of the challenges we do. Marlene gave us a comprehensive and clear picture of the work carried out by her team and we wish her well in all her endeavours to continue serving those in need in her parish.

We then heard from Mhairi Robertson who is a project manager with a programme run by Citizens Advice in Coatbridge which goes under the title of Older Persons Project. This entails going into the community and assisting to older people with the tasks that can be confusing for many, never mind the older section of our communities. Mhairi is involved in going to peoples home and assisting with forms to change power suppliers, welfare rights, the many forms following the passing of a loved one, guiding them to appropriate agencies to get help with pensions and social care for the elderly such as home help. It was good to hear that such assistance is available and we were assured that if we came across people in need of such assistance we could call on her for help. It was also good to know that expertise was available to advise us.

Many of our volunteers expressed that it had been a good opportunity to meet others and find out what was happening and what was available from various resources.

Alan Meikle thanked our speakers and closed the meeting with prayer.