

Pastoral care group

Volunteers update meeting

3rd February 2026

Donald Mitchell opened the meeting with prayer

Over twenty volunteers were present and Brian Elder opened the meeting and gave a brief outline of the agenda and a summary of what has been happening over the last year.

Mhairi Moore gave an update of the current situation regarding safeguarding and answered questions.

Janice Lindsay then gave an update on what has been done regarding cards to people in care homes, hospitals and their own homes. Notelets had been produced to be sent to those in long term care, hospital care, those moving into care homes and those with severe health issues. Outing cards had to be left in homes when taking anyone on excursions or to events and removed on return. Visitors' guidelines and Guidelines for drivers. A discussion took place and clarification given following questions. The matter of a shortage of drivers was discussed and it was decided that this issue could be addressed by approaching the congregation at a later stage.

Volunteers were issued with a job description which was to be read and signed by all. Janice distributed the necessary documents and the meeting broke for teas and coffee to allow everyone time to read and sign the necessary documents. One copy for Janice and one for Mhairi.

Janice continued after the break to give an explanation regarding the visiting cards issued to volunteers and when and how to use them. The subject of reporting back following any visits at which problems or issues arose was discussed and volunteers were advised to contact Brian Elder.

Brian Elder spoke regarding the area of matching volunteers with those requiring visits in their care home, their own home or hospital. A good discussion took place on how this should be done and it was agreed that we should address this issue in more detail in the near future. Some matching took place at the end of the meeting.

Eileen Mc Naught raised the possibility of supplying some practical help for those

coming out of hospital, new mothers etc. This would be explored further at a later date.

The necessity for accurate details of those going into hospital etc. And the need for the congregation to pass on information to the group was emphasized.

Brian intimated that the next Tuesday Fellowship lunch would be on 14/4/2026.

Margaret Elder then addressed the meeting and spoke on what pastoral care is.

I googled “Pastoral care”. It said “The provision of emotional, social and spiritual support, offering a listening ear, companionship and reassurance”.

That’s what we do for each other in our church family. However, we all volunteered to ensure that everyone who is in particular need has all the care they require.

Most of those we will be visiting are going through perhaps the hardest time of their lives. They can be ill, in pain, very anxious, feeling their lives are completely out of their control. Some of them have few family members nearby and so are lonely too.

We are their church family. We remind them they are not forgotten. Jesus loves them. they are precious to God the Father and heaven is our destination! Words are good but just being there to visit helps us to say that.

Can you imagine how awful it must be, you fell, the pain was terrible, you needed an operation, you couldn’t get out of bed, your legs can’t hold you now. You’ll never be home again, you’re in a care home with a bunch of strangers. Then – how wonderful to know your church family are caring and praying for you. God is surely with you.

Pastoral care is vital work. It’s God’s love in action.

But it’s not for wimps! Hospital visits can be physically tiring and emotionally draining. It’s hard to make conversation in care homes with someone who has dementia.

But these are all God’s precious children, our brothers and sisters and you will be doing vital kingdom work.

We do this in God’s strength and for his glory.

Brian Elder thanked everyone for their attendance and their contributions to the meeting.

Alan Meikle closed the meeting with prayer.