

Pastoral Report

It is sad to report that our small team became even smaller in 2023 with the departure of John Terry from the parish to live with his family on the mainland. John was part of the pastoral team from the beginning and he will be greatly missed. He led a Bible Study and later a discussion group in the parish for many years that still continues with other people regularly attending. He was also a churchwarden and regularly offered lifts to people who otherwise couldn't have got to church. We wish him well in the future with his family close to him.

Other members of the pastoral team play specific roles in the parish as well as support the team's work. Hilary Baldwin is our parish's Anna Chaplain and offers spiritual care for older people. David Bennison, along with Hilary and Helen Hopper, visit Solent Grange once a month for a service of prayer and praise. This service is very well received and is an important aspect of the parish's outreach. David, Hilary and Steve Beynon are licensed Lay Worship leaders and during our interregnum have been enabling our pattern of services to continue. We thank them all, and also our PTO priests, Len Fox and Sandie Osborne, who have enabled the parish services of Holy Communion to remain consistent.

Yvonne Gilbert continues to be a very important but quiet member of the pastoral team. She is unable to consistently attend church services but will always send messages to people when asked, who are ill or in need of prayer. This is a very valuable form of outreach to those who may feel isolated or forgotten.

Because the team is so small and every member has other responsibilities, I have not called team meetings this year, but I have kept in regular touch with the team. I continue to visit people and take Holy Communion to those who ask for it.

If you would like to know more about the pastoral team's work or would consider supporting it, please contact me.

Margaret King