



September 2019 Update ([stacey.bains@covcofe.org](mailto:stacey.bains@covcofe.org) Tel: 07507 722537)

### **Older Adults Wellbeing**

#### **Care Homes**

A core group of inspirational volunteers from across the churches are developing ideas for a session that will engage residents and staff in multisensory worship. We are working with Warwickshire County Council to engage care homes/residential and sheltered housing providers with our offer. When we have fixed our session content and bookings we are going to have another recruitment drive for volunteers when it is clear on exactly what roles and availabilities are required to support the project. We aiming to pilot the sessions with the team at the new Woodside facility when it opens in a few months.

**Bereavement Support Service** Our monthly Monday evening group is running brilliantly with people leaving the group because they no longer need the support! We are also getting a steady stream of new attendees particularly through referrals from Cruse. Our Tuesday afternoon group at Chase Meadow Community Centre has not had any attendees in the last few months and we are looking at how we can boost numbers or make changes (e.g. day/time/venue) to make it more accessible for people. If numbers do not pick up by the end of the year we will be looking to end the group. Please continue to sign post people to the groups and let me know if you need any invitation cards.

### **Secondary Schools Team**

I am amazed at how well this project is going in terms of favour and partnership with local schools. Next week we will be holding mentoring training for the team and 3 members of staff from Aylesford will be joining us for this which is brilliant for developing relationships and for us to be able to bless the school with training. The team will then start mentoring the waiting list of pupils we have been given at Aylesford.

The Strong course will be running in two local schools by the end of the year and we will be piloting our first Lost (bereavement course) next term in Aylesford.

### **TLG Primary School Team**

I am helping to support the development of a TLG Early Intervention Team that will work in primary schools mentoring children. St Pauls & St Michaels are piloting the project in their local primary schools and I am supporting their very capable teams to get the project up and running with one eye on whether it could work across other churches/schools in the town.

### **Child Mental Health**

Our pilot **SEND Parent/Carer Support group** at Chase Meadow Community Centre that ended in July benefited 28 families. *'There was a really productive and supportive ethos created and people were able to leave sessions feeling empowered and inspired to advocate for the needs of their child or young person. We had parents coming back with success stories of how they had gone to meetings with professionals and come away with the support they needed agreed.'* Lots of lessons were learnt on how best to develop the group and it is very likely to secure external funding for its continuation.

### **Geographical Area – Woodloes**

**Social Enterprise Café/Community Hub** – Over the summer I felt like the Lord say to me to do something about this but I didn't know what to do so I thought I'd set aside some time to fast and pray about it. The following week I had a God incidence and met Roland Norman Founder and former Director of Kingdom Coffee who knows all things about Coffee, coffee shop enterprises and how Jesus works through them! He has kindly agreed to use all his expertise to help develop a viable plan for the enterprise we can submit to Team Council/TFC board for consideration. We also still

have the support of the landlord of the vacant shop we would be looking to run the café from. Thank God I don't need to fast or pray as neither are particular strong points of mine!

**Messy Church** begins again in September with a Science themed session Messy Church and we are excited to get back up and running again after what seems like a very long break! We are going to have some changes in the current team so need extra pairs of hands to help particularly with crafts so please let me know if anyone is interested in joining this fantastic team.

**Homelessness and begging** We organised a meeting for churches where P3 who are responsible for delivering support/services to the homeless in Warwickshire, Helping Hands Café @Castle Hill and the local police gave an update on the current situation and services available to help those we see in need. I will be producing an up to date information sheet for local churches listing services and helpful information. I will also be working on an emergency accommodation solution in preparation for the winter months. I will be looking at funding accommodation at a local B&B for those who present themselves in need at local churches and will let you know more about this as it develops.

**Small Grants Fund** We are always looking for new applications for our small grants fund so please get in touch if you know of any church partnership projects that need funding.